



LVBC Monthly Review

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LVBC LAUNCHES MARITIME SAFETY CAMPAIGN



LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire donates life jackets to Bunda DC Dr. Vincent Naano

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The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) has initiated an extensive campaign to educate communities around Lake Victoria about the importance of maritime safety in an effort to reduce the increasing number of boat accidents.

Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire emphasized the urgent need for relevant authorities to take action to address the accidents occurring in the lake, which result in numerous fatalities each year in the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Dr. Bwire noted that the commission has already begun implementing measures, including the

establishment of rescue coordination centers in all three countries, with the main facility being constructed in Mwanza, in the United Republic of Tanzania.

He highlighted that once these centers are operational, they will enable faster reporting of accidents and prompt rescue efforts, among other advantages.

“This lake should not be a gateway to the grave, it should not be a source of loss of life for the East African Community, but rather a source of economic prosperity. We want to come here for significant development and economic ...**Contd Pg2**





A resident of Igundu village is taught how to use a life jacket

Contd from Pg1

projects, not just to mourn deaths,” stated Dr. Bwire.

He expressed concern over the tragic incidents in Igundu over the past two years, which resulted in the deaths of 20 individuals, including 13 students from Bulomba Primary School, stressing the need to prevent such occurrences in the future.

The Commission provided twenty SOLAS-approved life jackets, which were handed over in Igundu for use by residents engaged in water transport.

Bunda District Commissioner Dr. Vincent Naano, who received the life jackets at the district headquarters, acknowledged that a significant portion of the local population depends on Lake Victoria for their livelihoods. Consequently, transportation and activities on the lake are common, despite the frequent accidents that lead to fatalities

“Accidents occur during travel or other activities, resulting in many losses; indeed, there are deaths every month. We have identified that some of these fatalities are due to non-compliance with safe maritime transport regulations,” he remarked.



LVBC HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION HITS 72% MILESTONE



LVBC headquarters currently under construction

The construction of the state-of-the-art Lake Victoria Basin Commission Headquarters is nearing completion. Currently, the overall progress of the building stands at 72%, with external works at 68%. Electrical and mechanical installations are at 62% and 68%, respectively.

Office Block Wing B is 80% complete, while Wing A has reached 70%. The central core is currently at 35% completion, and external works are 68% finished.

The second phase of construction began on August 7, 2023, following the official handover to a new contractor on July 25. This phase is expected to cost approximately USD \$2,560,718.68, fully funded by the East African Community Partner States.

Dr. Masinde Bwire, Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, expressed satisfaction with

the progress and urged the contractor to expedite work to meet the deadline.

The new headquarters, overseen by the State Department of Public Works under Kenya's Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, will accommodate various departments responsible for managing projects of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. It is being built on a 2.8-acre site along the shores of Lake Victoria, which was donated by the government in 2016.

Once completed, the headquarters will enhance regional integration by streamlining and coordinating the commission's activities across the Great Lakes region.





PARTNER STATES COMMIT TO SWIFT COMPLETION OF MRCC IN MWANZA



MRCC under Construction

Partner states from two East African Community countries have agreed to accelerate the completion of the ultra-modern Maritime Rescue Coordination Center in Ilimela, Mwanza Region, United Republic of Tanzania.

The Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have committed to promptly process payments for the Regional MRCC construction work certificates to ensure timely project completion and avoid contractual penalties. Additionally, the two countries will allocate additional funds for regional PIU staff during the no-cost extension of the MLVMCT project.

The LVBC Secretariat has been assigned to follow up with the Republic of Kenya regarding the

reimbursement of USD 19,771 for regionally implemented activities under the MLVMCT project.

The Secretariat has also been requested to prepare a draft roadmap for integrating the Republic of Kenya into the operationalization of the MLVMCT project, with a presentation expected by December 2024. Furthermore, the two countries agreed to expedite the implementation of code 110 as a toll-free number within Lake Victoria waters by June 2025.

These recommendations were made during the 3rd Regional Technical Committee meeting for the MLVMCT project in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania on 3rd and 4th October 2024. Delegates from the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania attended the meeting.



PICTORIAL



LVBC's legal officer Mr David Mlote makes his intervention in the steering committee on collaboration of the Basin Management Organizations (BMO) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFO) facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization in the International network of basin organizations world general assembly in Bordeaux, France.



LVBC Dep. Executive Secretary Eng. Coletha Ruhmya makes her submission at the African Water Week in Cairo, Egypt. She highlighted the challenges facing the LVBC in transboundary Water Management of the LVB as well as the available opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.



MRCC centre under construction in Mwanza, Tanzania.



Executive secretary Dr Masinde Bwire addresses a meeting at the MRCC site in Mwanza Tanzania.

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PICTORIAL



Mr Paul Kariuki, Ag Environment and Natural Resources Officer receives a recognition award from Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire presents cash donation to bereaved families of boat tragedy in Igundu village, Bunda District in the United Republic of Tanzania.



LVBC's legal officer Mr David Mlote makes his presentation during the side event on climate finance organized by INBO alongside the 10th meeting of parties organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Participants at the 8th NCCR Implementation support meeting in Entebbe Uganda.

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