



LVBC Monthly Review

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LVBC ENGAGES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AT COP 29

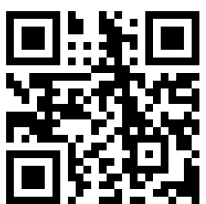


Deputy Secretary General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, East African Community, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, makes his remarks at a side event during cop 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

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The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) participated in a series of discussions with various development partners during the 2024 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The East African Community (EAC) hosted a pavilion at the conference, organizing side events with diverse stakeholders and partners. Hon. Andrea Ariik, the Deputy Secretary General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors, led the delegation. LVBC organized two side events at the EAC pavilion, which were attended by numerous

delegates. The first side event was titled "Promoting Sustainable Development of Inland Waterways Transport in East Africa," hosted by Hon. Ariik and moderated by Eng. Coletha Ruhanya, the Deputy Executive Secretary of LVBC.

Panellists included Hon. Abdi Dubat, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development, Mr. Marco Yamaguchi, Manager of the Transport and Logistics Division at the African Development Bank; Dr. Raissa Ada Allogo, Senior Policy Officer for Maritime Affairs at the African Union Commission; ...**Contd Pg2**





EAC/LVBC delegation led by Deputy Secretary General responsible for Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, East African Community, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, poses for a photo after a side engagement at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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Dr. Eng. Hannah Ngugi, Acting Kenya Country Director for TradeMark Africa (TMA) and Mr. Jonah Mumbya, Transport Expert at the Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern, and Northern Africa (MOESNA).

In his opening remarks, Hon. Ariik emphasized the crucial role of inland waterway transport in advancing sustainable development across East Africa, highlighting the transformative potential of this eco-friendly transportation mode. Additionally, LVBC hosted another side event titled "Regional Cooperation for Resilient Transboundary Ecosystems and Landscapes." This panel featured Mr. Paul Kariuki, Environment and Natural Resources Officer at LVBC; Mr. Julius Mwabu, Director of Productive and Service Affairs in the Ministry of EAC Affairs, Republic of Kenya; and Mr. Robert Sunday, Assistant Director of Water Resources, United Republic of Tanzania.

Other notable speakers included Dr. Callist Tindimugoya, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda; Dr. Alain Ndoli, Regional Programme Manager for Land Systems at IUCN; and Mr. Eric Oyare, Leader of WWF's Blue Heart of Africa initiative. Furthermore, LVBC delegation engaged with several development partners, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Ramsar Convention, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Additional partners included the African Development Bank, Climate Investment Fund, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, NDC Partnership, BirdLife International, United Nations Environment Programme, Global Green Growth Institute, and Wetlands International.



CALL FOR GENDER COMMITMENTS AT COP 29



Ms. Milcent Opiyo, Principal Administrative Officer and Gender Focal Point - LVBC in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Delegates at COP29 have been urged to make decisive commitments to climate finance that specifically address the needs of women and girls. The importance of gender-responsive climate financing was highlighted during the recently concluded COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

This financing aims to ensure the inclusion of women and girls in climate adaptation and mitigation plans and programs, making it essential to advocate for gender-responsive approaches. Ms. Milcent Opiyo, the Principal Administrative Officer and gender focal point for the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, emphasized the need for the Commission to focus on reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience.

"To effectively address climate risks and empower communities, we must collaborate closely with Partner States to understand their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and evaluate the effectiveness of their climate action plans," She stated.

LVBC has developed its Draft Gender Strategy and Action Plan which await approval by the PSs before rolling out their implementation. This action plan is built on two key principles related to gender equality: ensuring gender equality in development and decision-making and fostering equity, partnership, collaboration, and social justice.

The Strategy aims to create a foundation and culture for integrating gender considerations at both the institutional level and within projects and programs coordinated by the Commission. Its scope also extends to Partner States through regional projects facilitated by the Commission.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HAILS LVBC'S PROGRESS



Finance and Administration Committee members pose for a photo at the LVBC headquarters under construction.

The East African Community members of the Finance and Administration Committee have praised the Lake Victoria Basin Commission for the progress made on the construction of its new headquarters.

Led by Honorable Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC Deputy Secretary General responsible for infrastructure, productive, social, and political sectors, the committee commended LVBC for its advancements in the construction of the new headquarters.

Honorable Ariik praised the commission for the progress made in constructing the state-of-the-art LVBC headquarters, which is approaching completion. Currently, the overall progress of the building stands at 72%, with external works at 68%. Electrical installations are at 62%, while mechanical installations are at 68%. Office Block Wing B is 80% complete, and 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, expected to cost approximately USD \$2,560,718.68, is fully funded by the East African Community Partner States.

Honorable Ariik stated, "I am pleased with the progress so far and commend the leadership of LVBC, led by Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire, for working tirelessly towards the realization of this project. This project will be a milestone not only for LVBC but for the entire East African Community, as it has been fully funded by the partner states."

The new headquarters, overseen by the State Department of Public Works under Kenya's Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, will house various departments... **Contd Pg5**



LVBC headquarters under construction

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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 of the Republic of Kenya in 2016. Once completed, the Headquarters will enhance regional integration by streamlining and coordinating the Commission's activities across the Great Lakes region. Additionally, Honorable Ariik participated in the opening session of the four-day extraordinary meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee that took place in Kisumu from 4th to 7th November 2025.





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Programme Co-ordinator for Integrated Water Resources Management Programme Eng. Arsene Mukubwa makes his speech during the World Toilet Day celebration in Kisumu on 19th Nov 2024.



LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire poses for a photo with representatives from WWF Tanzania, Dr. Maurus Msuha and Prof Noah Sitati, WWF-Kenya together with a section of LVBC Staff at the LVBC Headquarters in Kisumu on 14th Nov 2024.



LVBC Deputy Executive Secretary Eng Coletha Ruhamya makes her submission during a side event at the COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Panellists at the side event meeting at the EAC pavilion in COP 29.

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Hon. Christine Mutimura, Deputy Registrar East African Court of Justice plants a tree during a visit at the LVBC Headquarters construction site on 5th Nov 2024.



A section of delegates at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting in Kisumu on 5th Nov 2024.



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire gifts Mr. John Mathiang Mathuc the Chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee at LVBC headquarters on 7th Nov 2024



Executive Secretary Dr Masinde Bwire with EAC Deputy Secretary General Hon Andrea Ariik tour LVBC Headquarters construction site on 5th Nov 2024.

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