

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION**



**THE REGIONAL LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE LAKE VICTORIA
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT PHASE II, AT THE TOM MBOYA
LABOUR COLLEGE, KISUMU, KENYA,
ON 5TH MARCH 2010**

**STATEMENT BY PROF. MARK MWANDOSYA (MP), MINISTER FOR WATER AND
IRRIGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON,
SECTORAL COUNCIL OF LAKE VICTORIA BASIN**

**Honourable Ministers and Members of the Sectoral Council of Lake Victoria Basin;
The Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza;
Your Worship the Mayor of Kisumu City;
Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II) Regional Policy Steering
Committee;
Permanent Secretaries;
The Secretary General of East African Community (EAC);
The Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC);
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors present;
Development Partners representatives;
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

It is with much pride and great honour that I stand before you here today to launch the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (or LVEMP II) at the regional level. Let me take this opportunity to thank my colleagues of the Sectoral Council, the Secretary General of the East African Community, members of the newly constituted LVEMP II Regional Policy Steering

Committee, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and, indeed, all focal point ministries in the five Partner States for the role you have played to make this key regional project come to life.

I would also like to thank the Government of Kenya for hosting us this week and helping to organise our field trips to the Kisumu Water and Sewerage Company (KIWASCO) and the Kisumu harbour. The challenges at KIWASCO and the Kisumu harbour provide a good hint at the potential of their facilities and the difficulties they face. These challenges are not any different from those faced by similar facilities in Mwanza, Kampala or Jinja, and I feel confident that LVEMP II shall make a positive contribution in rehabilitating such selected facilities as part of its concrete outputs.

Dear Guests:

The LVEMP II has been prepared as a US\$252.7 million project to upscale the successful interventions of LVEMP I by strengthening both regional and national institutional capacity for managing shared natural resources, and investing in cost-effective pollution and erosion mitigation and prevention measures. These measures aim at reducing environmental stresses at their source and are expected to: (a) increase economic efficiency in the utilisation of shared transboundary natural resources; (b) generate positive externalities to the downstream countries; and (c) improve livelihoods of the participating local communities.

The project that has brought us here today shall lead to serious, long-term improvement in the environmental status of the Lake Victoria Basin, if we all play our part in its implementation. One of the key resources, that is required for guaranteeing project success is funding. I am glad to note that under the first Adaptable Programme Loan (APL1), involving Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and scheduled to last until 2013, LVEMP II will be financed by the World Bank to the tune of US\$90 million, with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) providing US\$10 million, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) providing US\$7million, and we, the Borrowers, another US\$7.8 million.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to thank the World Bank, SIDA and GEF for committing themselves to supporting the project. I anticipate that at the end of this Project, our partnership will have grown from strength to strength.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As mentioned by the previous speakers, LVEMP II has been organised under four main components, including: (i) strengthening institutional capacity for managing shared water and fishery resources; (ii) point sources pollution control and prevention; (iii) watershed management; and (iv) project coordination and management.

I would like to elaborate the roles of each of the components and their sub-components. In the first place, the project has got a component on strengthening institutional capacity for managing shared water and fishery resources. This component will have two sub-components. The first sub-component will provide for harmonisation of policies and regulatory standards, to ensure harmonised policy, legal and regulatory standards of water (in terms of water and fish quality), management (of water and fisheries) frameworks, and the Fisheries Levy Trust Funds for the sustainable use of shared transboundary natural resources. The second sub-component will provide

for ecosystem monitoring and applied research, to ensure that the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) and the Partner States use reliable environmental health and natural resources data of the basin ecosystem for policy decisions and planning sustainable development and management.

Secondly, the component on point source pollution control and prevention shall have three sub-components. The first sub-component shall provide for the rehabilitation and improvement of wastewater treatment facilities to ensure a reduced amount of untreated wastewater discharged into the Lake by targeted lakeshore cities, towns and communities. The second sub-component shall provide for the promotion of cleaner production technologies to ensure increased adoption of cleaner production technologies by targeted industries. The third sub-component shall provide for pollution risk management and safety of navigation to ensure enhanced environmental protection and safety of navigation in Lake Victoria.

Thirdly, the component on watershed management shall have two sub-components. The first sub-component shall provide for natural resources conservation and livelihoods improvement to ensure (i) increased adoption of sustainable land management and natural resources conservation practices by participating in the targeted sub-catchments; and (ii) reduced harvesting pressure on the fisheries and other natural resources. The second sub-component on community capacity building and participation is to ensure enhanced communities' ability to plan, implement, and monitor watershed management interventions in the targeted sub-catchments.

Finally, the component on project coordination and management shall have two sub-components. The first sub-component shall provide for project coordination and communication to ensure increased accountability of both regional and national institutions responsible for managing the Lake Victoria Basin resources. The second sub-component shall provide for monitoring and evaluation to ensure improved management of the project by the implementing agencies and local communities through utilisation of monitoring and evaluation and Geographical Information System (GIS-based management information system) for management decision-making and development planning.

Let me emphasise the fact that the role of Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations in the implementation of Community-Driven sub-projects will be vital to the overall success of LVEMP II. The contribution of these organisations to this Project cannot be overstated. Let me take this opportunity to encourage those NGOs and CBOs that are going to implement the Community Driven Development initiatives under LVEMP II to make maximum use of the "Guidelines for Preparation and Implementation of Community-Driven Sub-projects" as the best way to deliver desired results.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to conclude by re-affirming that the Sectoral Council of the Lake Victoria Basin will continue to play its role of providing overall policy direction for the implementation of projects and programmes in the Lake Victoria Basin. My call, therefore, is upon the newly-constituted LVEMP II Regional Policy Steering Committee to provide overall guidance to the Regional Project Coordination Team to ensure that project components and activities implemented at both regional and national levels blend, as intended. On the other hand, I would like to encourage the Regional

Project Coordinator and his team to plan, initiate and provide day-to-day management of LVEMP II in a manner that shall produce the desired outputs.

Honourable Ministers, Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is not given to many people an opportunity to preside over such an historic event.

**IT IS THEREFORE, AN HONOUR AND A RARE PRIVILEGE THAT I SHOULD NOW
DECLARE THE LAKE VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT
PHASE II, REGIONALLY LAUNCHED.**

“Water is Life and Sanitation is Dignity”

I thank you for your kind attention