PRESS RELEASE

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Eyes on the Rusumo Power Plant

Rusumo Border, Kirehe Rwanda - Ngara, Tanzania (February 4, 2019). The Burundi Minister for Energy, Hon. Eng. Come Manirakiza, Rwanda Minister of Infrastructure, Hon Amb Claver Gatete Tanzania Minister for Energy and Hon Dr Medard Kalemani, constituting the Project’s Council of Ministers (CoM) visited the 80 MW Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project on 4 February 2019 to take stock of the Power Plant construction progress.

The main constructions of the Power Plant are located at the Rusumo border between Tanzania and Rwanda. The switchyard is located on Rwanda side and the workers’ camp is located in Tanzania at 5km from the Rusumo Border. The Ministerial delegations first met at the Rusumo One Stop Border Post and visited the progress of the power intake construction and the powerhouse.

The overall Project implementation status is at 35%. The civil and electromechanical works have made good progress: the first phase of the dam spillway, the headrace tunnel, the powerhouse excavation works, the tailrace channel, the switchyard excavation as well as the RPCL residential camp are on the right track.

The Rusumo Project CoM appreciated the progress recorded so far. The CoM urged NELSAP to speed up the construction works in order to complete the Project on time and have the 80MW Power Plant operational with the Transmission Lines by February 2020.

“We are expecting NELSAP to put in place a recovery mechanism in order to catch up with the delay made so far”, stated the CoM Chairman, Hon Dr Kalemani.

“We, as beneficiary countries need the 80MW Power Plant functional on time”, said CoM Member, Hon Amb Gatete.

“This Project is of a paramount importance to our countries; we will do the needed to enhance timely implementation”, mentioned Hon Manirakiza.

Furthermore, the Project has so far employed about 231 Rwandans, 254 Tanzanians and 81 Burundians; majority of casual laborers are from the neighbouring districts. The Project has established a workers’ camp at 5km from Rusumo Border in Tanzania that provides casual laborers with the best living and leisure environment after working hours with well observed environmental social health safety measures for a conducive atmosphere during working time and after work.
The Project has successfully implemented the Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) for Persons Affected by the Project which started in February 2017 and is on-going for about $670,000 has been earmarked in Kirehe and Ngara districts.

The Local Area Development Plan (LADP) is a benefit-sharing program worth 15.5 Million US Dollars designed to enhance regional economic and social development in the Rusumo area as an extended program related to the construction of the project. LADP is expected to improve community livelihoods and promote socially sustainable outcomes of the riparian citizens of the affected districts.

For Burundi, both Giteranyi and Busoni Communes are implementing the rehabilitation and extension of water supply systems, the integrated agricultural production for key crops (cassava, beans and maize) and livestock intensification for cows, goat and pigs as well as soil and water conservation and the construction and support to a youth training Centre.

For Rwanda, Kirehe District rehabilitated the 30 km of feeder road in Kigarama and Musaza (Cyagasenyi-Gasarabwayi-Nganda Road) as well as construction of the Kigina Health Center.

Ngoma District is constructing 28.7 km of mixed water pipeline supplying 10,500 populations of Gatonde-Gahima cells and 33 km of Gituku-Murama water supply system and 9.54 km of Kigabiro-Rurenge-Gatore Feeder Road awarded.

In Tanzania, Ngara District in Tanzania will increase livestock intensification and cattle milk production, bee keeping increase honey production, increase agricultural production for key crops (cassava, sunflower, banana and horticulture), rehabilitate water systems in 4 villages (Mshikamano, Kasharazi, Kasulo and Rwakalemela), construction of water supply systems in Rusumo village and support to the Remela Vocational Training Center.

The RRFHP is recognized by the three energy-strapped beneficiary countries as a good buy that will improve its socio-economic benefits. Once operational, the project will bring 80 MW of renewable, clean, relatively low-cost power to the national grids of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania, shared equally, with each country receiving an additional 26.6 Megawatts.

The additional power will benefit a total of 1,146,000 people in the three countries; 5.4% (520,000) in Burundi, 4% (467,000) in Rwanda and 0.34% (159,000) in Tanzania. Improved access to renewable clean energy will substitute thermal generation and lead to an increase in economic activity as well as private sector development in areas such as agriculture and related processing, water supply, health, education, commerce and tourism. The Project will reduce fuel wood dependency as most rural population in the three countries continue to heavily rely on charcoal or wood fuel, consequently save the biomass/deforestation.

This project will lead to an increase in economic activity, improved access to renewable clean energy will have positive effects on the environment, while the relatively inexpensive electricity will contribute to foreign exchange savings and improved balance of payments since the power generated will replace imported petroleum products.

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About the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP)

The Governments of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania have agreed to build up a joint development project and established the Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) with the primary objective of generating 80MW hydroelectric project that will be shared equitably among the three countries.

The RPCL delegated and authorized the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) to implement the Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFHP) with 340 million USD funded by the World Bank.

NELSAP Project Implementation Unit is now following up implementation of two main Contract Packages 1 and 2 (CP1 and CP2). CP1 was signed between Rusumo Power Company Limited (RPCL) and CGCOC Group Ltd – Jiangxi Water & Hydropower Construction Company Ltd Joint Venture (CGCOC – JWHC JV) of P.R. China as an agreement to execute the Civil Works which includes the dam, waterways, power station and other associated civil engineering works. The contract for Civil Works is 75 million USD and includes the Design, Supply & Installation of Hydro-Mechanical Equipment.

The CP2 Contract was signed between RPCL and the Consortium Rusumo Falls Andritz Hydro GmbH (Germany) and Andritz Hydro PVT Ltd (India) as an agreement to carry out Mechanical and Electrical Works for power generation. The CP2 Contract is at 47 million USD and includes the Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of the Electro-Mechanical Equipment.