

**REMARKS BY HON. JESSICA ERIYO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AT
THE NILE BASIN RESEARCH PROGRAMME BOOKS' LAUNCH, MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY – 9TH APRIL 2010**

Your Excellencies, The Ambassadors

Representatives of Government Departments and Authorities

Representatives of UN Missions and Non-governmental Organisation

Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University and Vice-Chancellors of Other Universities

Development Partners

Makerere University Management, Deans and Directors

Members of Civil Society Organisations

Members of the Private Sector

Guests from the Nile Basin Initiative

Researchers and Scholars

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

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National competence and confidence building across the region through environmental protection and water service provisioning is a mandate for the Ministry of Water and Environment. As the longest river in Africa, the Nile is a source of livelihood to all the countries it passes through on its long journey to the Mediterranean. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is therefore a key partnership, which seeks to develop the river in a cooperative manner, share substantial socioeconomic benefits, and promote regional peace and security.

The Council of Ministers of Water Affairs of the Nile Basin Countries ([NILE-COM](#)), of which I am a member, serves as the highest decision-making body of the NBI. NILE-COM therefore provides policy guidance and makes decisions on matters relating to efficient management of the Nile and its resources. The Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP): a research component of the Nile Basin Initiative, is by its

multidisciplinary nature a very key ingredient in generating research necessary to the successful operations of the NBI.

At recent celebrations to mark the World Water Day on 22nd March 2010, we emphasized the need to provide for an effective and sustainable means to maintain the improved water sources to ensure continued access for all by 2015. Unfortunately, environmental degradation and climate change impacts threaten to undo achievements made in as far as improving access to clean water in rural and urban areas. To protect our water resources and environment, we need the active participation and contribution of everyone.

We therefore are pleased that, the Uganda government in collaboration with Nile Region Governments and well wishers are supporting such initiatives that aim to contribute to the Nile resources and water sharing commission and pact. The initiative of knowledge generation and development that we are celebrating today to inform the process leading to this pact is especially crucial at this point when we are yearning for evidence based policies to inform National and Regional planning.

As an institution, I do congratulate you upon joining government and international efforts to bring to the fore the importance of water in your own capacity by authoring these books. This gives me great joy to know that I have supportive partners at institutional level who are interested in concretizing and making known the efforts of the ministry I lead.

The Makerere motto gallantly reads "WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE". With research and publication efforts such as these, the Nile Basin Initiative has the apt regional partners to help it realize its mission "to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources." I thank you for listening.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY