

**For immediate Release;**

14<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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## **FLOATING ISLAND AT NALUBAALE POWER STATION**

In the early morning hours of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, a floating island docked at the dam of Nalubaale Hydro Power Station. This floating Island originates from the Lake Victoria basin as a result of the current rising Lake water levels.

The presence of this Island at the dam reservoir created extensive debris and waste material that blocked the water intake screens through which water for power generation is transported. In addition, it also caused the blockage of the cooling pipe systems that draw water from the dam reservoir for purposes of cooling the generating machinery.

As a mitigation measure to prevent plant and equipment damage, Eskom Uganda Limited (EUL) shifted some power generation from Nalubaale Power Station to Kiira Power Station. The reason for shifting some of the generation was to minimize the risk to the generating units, which could arise due to the large amount of floating debris that is accompanying this floating island.

At 12:40 hours, EUL lost generation from both plants due to unstable system frequency. In collaboration with the System Operator (Uganda Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd), we managed to restore three (3) units by 13:30 hours, providing 85MW of much needed power to end the black out, and currently efforts are continuing to stabilize the grid.

EUL is working around the clock to address the issues brought about by the floating Island in collaboration with the various players namely Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Works and Transportation, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited and other Electricity Supply industry sector players to reinstate the safe operation of the Nalubaale and Kiira Hydro Power Stations.

The Ministry of Works and Transport in particular is mobilizing the necessary equipment to support the effort to harvest this island at the earliest time possible.

EUL would like to reassure the general public that the dams and hydro power equipment are currently in safe working condition and being closely monitored by the technical teams.

We remain committed to providing reliable Electricity for the Nation.

**\*\* End\*\***