

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

### **Background:**

In the early morning hours of 14th 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 a number of issues.

1. Extensive debris and waste material blocked the water intake screens through which water for power generation is transported.
2. 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 causing a nationwide blackout.

### **Action Taken**

Our immediate concern was the restoration of power. In collaboration with UETCL (Uganda Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd), the team of Engineers managed to restore three (3) units generating 85MW within 40 minutes of the blackout and restore nationwide supply.

Secondly we began to address the issues brought about by the floating Island in with teams from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Works and Transport, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited, Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited and Electricity Regulatory Authority to reinstate the safe operation of the Nalubaale and Kiira Hydro Power Stations.

The Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) and Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) have provided the necessary equipment to support the effort to harvest this island and secure the dams. This work is on-going.

### **Next Steps:**

Initial investigations indicate this island broke off a bigger island that is currently approximately 7 Kilometres from Nalubaale. Our team has been joined by a contingent from Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL), Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Directorate of Water Resource Management (DWRM) and they were dispatched to its current location to assess the risk it poses and recommend remedial action.

EUL would like to reassure the general public that the dams and hydro power plant equipment are currently in safe working condition and being closely monitored by the technical teams. We thank all the stakeholders that offered EUL assistance in clearing the Island to ensure reliable electricity supply.

We remain committed to providing reliable Electricity for the Nation.