



NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

SPEECH

NILE DAY Dar es Salaam - TANZANIA

Theme: “Our Shared Nile – Source of Energy, Food and Water for all”.

Dr. Nadir Mohamed Awad
Board CHAIR PERSON

Honourable Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania,
Honourable Ministers Present,
Nile-TAC Chair and members
Members of the Diplomatic Corps present,
Representatives of Development Partners,
NBI Executive Director,
NBI staff,
NBD and NDFs Management and staff,
Stakeholders,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear citizens of the Nile, On behalf of the Nile Basin Discourse and on my own behalf, allow me to express my deep pleasure on being part of the celebration of the 11th regional Nile Day. I say thank you to NBI and the Republic of Tanzania for hosting this historical Day here in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. NBD considers this commemoration as the opportunity to all stakeholders, governments and communities to reflect on the role of the river Nile, that we all have to share sustainably in the energy, food and water it provides.

Distinguished guests, the theme of this year: *Our Shared Nile – Source of Energy, Food and Water for all*, is pivotal to everyone here, to think about joining efforts of the state and non-state actors, to collectively fast-track the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to enhance the access and sustainability of energy, food and water, as quality benefits to citizens.

Citizens of the Nile, NBD is pleased to celebrate this Nile day 2017 which is an indication of possible achievements related to potentials of power interconnections for energy, irrigation for food security, and access to quality water.

Distinguished guests, Since NBD supports inclusive and participatory stakeholder engagement processes in development investments and Nile cooperation, it is currently partnering with the three centers of NBI and the Governments of the Nile Basin countries, to bring in the fore front the engagement of citizens especially the communities, in the agendas. Based on the grassroots consultations, NBD firmly believes that successful development investment and cooperation on the Nile will lead to undisputable success of the three sub-sectors of this year's theme. In this year 2017, the Nile Basin Discourse has planned face-to-face citizen engagement in capacity building on Climate Risk Management, in all the ten (10) Nile Riparian States. This is to contribute to agendas of partners and Governments, towards achieving the SDGs related to Climate Change impacts on food security, energy and water availability.

Ladies and gentlemen, Allow me as I conclude my speech, to reiterate that the Nile Basin Discourse is ready and will continual to work closely with NBI Centers and Governments of the Nile Basin to foster cooperation and support initiatives that lead to enhanced access to water, food and energy at minimal costs to citizens especially grassroots communities.

As we celebrate this historic day reflecting on the role of the Nile, as civil society, we assure you our focus is in fostering and advocating for two emerging issues touching on grassroots communities, thus:

- (i) that Governments make efforts in providing the enabling environment for trans-boundary development benefits to reach communities; and
- (ii) that development partners implement trans-boundary agendas with minimal costs to the communities.

Thank you all

“One-Nile One-Family”

Dr. Nadir Mohamed Awad
February 22nd 2017
Dar es Salaam - TANZANIA