



# 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

NATIONAL REPORT

Musinguzi Brian, Uganda

Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission



# MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

- The Ministry of works exists to formulate policies, plans, set standards, build capacity, regulate and monitor works and transport sector.
- The works and transport sector is a cluster of priority of the sectors of the economy comprising public building works, road, railway, water and air transport.
- The ministry is headed by a cabinet Minister and 1 state minister of works and the other for transport.

# MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

The Ministry has 2 directorates headed by a Director which include,

- i. Directorate of transport
- ii. Directorate of engineering & works

The Directorate of Transport has consists of 3 departments that include;

- a) Transport regulation & safety
- b) Maritime administration
- c) Transport services & infrastructure

# Background of maritime administration

- Maritime administration is one of the departments in the ministry of works and transport with the mandate to regulate water transport in the country.
- The maritime administration was formulated in 2017 and is headed by a commissioner.
- It has 3(three) main divisions which include;
  - i. Ships, ports and security division
  - ii. Safety of navigation and training
  - iii. Registration licensing and inspection division

# **Achievements of Maritime Administration**

Uganda became a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2009 and also acceded to 8 (eight) maritime conventions including MARPOL and SOLAS.

In addition to the existing L. Victoria transport Act 2007, the president assented to the Inland Water Transport Act 2021 to cater for all inland water ways in Uganda. Regulations to support enforcement are being drafted.

# Achievements

In a move to promote maritime safety, the ministry has embarked on distribution of LSA around the lakes and carrying out safety awareness campaigns around these areas

To further boost safety around the inland waters, the ministry has now set up a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre with a call code number 110.

# Achievements

In terms of Search and Rescue, the Ministry has planned to establish a Search and Rescue centre coordination centre and 9 other local search and rescue stations around inland lakes in Uganda

And many others.

# Water bodies in Uganda.

Lake Victoria the largest fresh water lake in Africa and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world. It has an Area coverage of 69484sq km and is shared among the 3 east African states. Uganda covers 45% of the lake which is 12,000sq miles with its maximum depth of 82m.

Lake Kyoga the large shallow lake of maximum depth of 5.7m and about 660sq miles area coverage. River Nile flows through it up to Lake Albert. It is a swampy lake with a high level of water hyacinth.

Lake Albert shared between Uganda and D.R.C with surface area of 5300sq km with a depth of 51m and River Nile flows through it.

Lake George in the western part covers an area of 250sq km and its connected to Lake Edward with the Kazinga channel.

Lake Edward located in the Albertian rift valley. It is also shared between Uganda and D.R.C with a surface of 2,325sq km.

Lake Katwe a crater lake which is salty with a depth of approximately 100m and it is considered the deepest lake in Uganda

River Nile the north flowing river with its source on Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean sea. Longest river in the world flowing a distance of 6650km.

**NB: Water bodies cover 18% of Uganda's surface area with 5 major lakes and over 160 small lakes and large network of rivers.**

# Navigable Water bodies in Uganda



## **Challenges in terms of hydrography**

The maritime administration is still a young department in the ministry and that call for a lot of challenges that are highlighted below.

Absence of a hydrographic office within the Ministry of Works to coordinate hydrography matters on our waters

Inadequate skills and training in hydrography and charting.

Lack of Government commitment and resources towards hydrography matters.

# **Actions from SAIHC 18**

To take note of this report

Consider Uganda in capacity building programs of IHO and SAIHC.