

NBL donates to conserve River Rwizi

Kampala August 13: Nile Breweries, through its parent company AB Inbev has donated Shs250 Million (\$68,000) towards a project to conserve River Rwizi located in Mbarara.

The one year project (April 2019-April 2020), “Multistakeholder partnerships for water stewardship and community livelihoods in the Rwizi catchment” is being implemented by The Ministry of Water and Environment through its Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM) & Victoria Water Management Zone (VWMZ) in partnership with World Wide Fund for nature, Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO).

“The project aligns with AB InBev (ABI) sustainability goal of Water Stewardship for securing water access. By 2025, we want 100% of the communities in high-stress areas to have measurably improved water availability and quality,” said Thomas Kamphuis, Country Director NBL.

“This calls for managing water sources, reducing risks to the water sources and improving lives of communities around the water sources given that water is a critical raw material for our beer. No water, No beer,” he added.

NBL’s Mbarara plant, a USD 90M investment with a brewery capacity of over 650,000 hectolitres per annum is based in the Rwizi catchment and relies on water from River Rwizi. According to findings from a water risk assessment undertaken in the Rwizi catchment the area faces risks such as municipal water shortages, competing water demands, flooding, poor water quality and insufficient water supply.

“This project aims at developing collective stakeholder driven approaches and implementing site catchment-based interventions to address water risks to enable improved community livelihoods and water quality and quantity,” said Dr Callist Tindimagaya, Director, Directorate of Water Resources Management.

“There is high demand for water use and a lot of pollution today. Given that sustainability is the backbone of our company, we are supporting watershed management so that we reduce water risks and improve water management for production of our beer as well and local communities,” said Onapito Ekomoloit, Director Legal & Corporate Affairs.

“Given their previous work in Catchment management programmes on Lakes Victoria and Albert and rivers including Waki, Nkusi, Wambabya and Semuliki, WWF-UCO and (DWRM) are commendable partners,” he added.

Among the interventions initiated in the pilot phase that form the foundation for up scaling catchment management for R. Rwizi are; corporate water stewardship partnerships that were created and stakeholder led catchment governance structures already initiated.

DIRECTORS

Roberto Jarrin (Ecuador), Thomas Kamphuis (Netherlands), Onapito-Ekomoloit (Uganda)