

**SPEECH OF THE REGIONAL
COMMISSIONER BUKOBA:**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TRAINING AND
CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME OF THE
LAKE VICTORIA WATER AND SANITATION
INITIATIVE (LVWATSAN) 28TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

Honorable District Commissioners from Bukoba,
Muleba, Missenyi and Bunda
Your Worship, the Mayor of Bukoba,
Chairmen, District Councils
Municipal Director of Bukoba
District Executive Directors
Managing Directors of the Water and Sewerage
Authorities of Bukoba, Muleba and Bunda
Representative from UN-HABITAT and his team,
Representatives from the four international partners
Chairpersons of the Multi-Stakeholder Forums
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would first like to welcome our visitors who have
come from as far away as Canada and Europe as
well as other African Countries. Please feel at home
and enjoy our beautiful town of Bukoba.

It is an honor and a real pleasure for me to address
this distinguished gathering.

On behalf of the Regional Commission of Kagera, the
population in the participating towns and, on my
behalf, let me express our gratitude to Professor
Anna Tibaijuka the Executive Director of UN-
HABITAT, and her team, for initiating the Lake
Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme in

partnership with the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

We are also grateful to the Government of the Netherlands, the Government of Canada and other Development Partners who have supported this programme by providing funding through UN-HABITAT.

The Kagera Region, which borders Lake Victoria, is critical to the economic development of our Country and to the sustainable development of the resources of the Lake. We are very happy that the water and sanitation programme is already benefiting a number of towns in our region, especially Bukoba and Muleba and we look forward to seeing a further expansion of the programme to additional towns.

This programme also presents a great opportunity for promoting East African Cooperation through shared common interests that lie in our region. Furthermore, the Programme contributes to the protection of our shared water resources, for the benefit of both present and future generations.

It is now four years since the initiative was launched and numerous accomplishments in the first phase of the programme activities have been realized, resulting in increased water supplies, improved capacity to manage water services and expanded access to sanitation. We have noted that a number of new projects have commenced including the sanitation micro-credit for women headed families, and rainwater harvesting for Orphan-Headed Households.

Although the programme continues to improve the lives of our people in the area of water and sanitation, several challenges remain. We need to ensure that the facilities are well maintained and that the organizations which are responsible for their operation and maintenance, such as the Municipal Councils and the Water Authorities in the towns, have the necessary capacity to keep them in good condition so that they will last for a long time.

We are very pleased that the Lake Victoria Programme will now give greater attention to training and capacity building in important areas such as the management of water services, protecting the water catchments, delivering better solid waste management services and promoting more effective governance arrangements to address the needs of the poor.

As the Programme moves to the next phase, we must build a consensus on key issues, such as identifying priority training needs, finding better ways to improve service delivery and promoting a stronger sense of ownership in the communities for the facilities that are being provided by the programme.

I would like to reiterate our promise and commitment for dynamic participation in the implementation of the next phase of the capacity building programme. I can assure UN-HABITAT and the Implementing Partners of our full support in implementing the training and capacity building Programme. We will do our best to ensure that the recommendations and suggestions from the training activities are fully put into practice to improve the systems and capabilities of our Local Authorities and water utilities

I would like to invite every person present at this occasion to start reflecting on the following questions as we move forward to the next level of the programme and clearly suggest tangible solutions and come up with answers to various questions such as:

- What are the capacity needs associated with community involvement and active participation to this programme?
- What can the training and capacity building programme of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative do to better strengthen skills and knowledge of women and men from poor neighborhoods in your towns?
- What would community groups contribute in terms of skills to make this programme a success?

With your permission, allow me to declare that the Lake Victoria Water Sanitation Initiative capacity building programme is officially launched. Let me conclude by saying that Water is life and sanitation is dignity.

Thank you very much.