



Press Statement:

February 21, 2022

Seven arrested for erecting gabions in Lake Victoria without NEMA approval

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has stopped a private developer from constructing gabions in Lake Victoria at Kasenyi landing site in Entebbe.

The intervention follows routine inspection by the Environment Police Protection Unit during the weekend of February 19-20. Inspectors discovered that the developer did not have the requisite approval documents to undertake such an activity, contrary to provisions of the National Environment Act, No. 5 2019.

A total of seven people were arrested from the site and investigations to identify the proprietor of the activity are ongoing. The seven suspects will be taken to court for prosecution once investigations are complete.

Degradation of lake shores by unregulated activities such as this, can have deleterious impacts on the lake including; flooding, strong wave activity that can cause property damage, destruction of plant and animal habitats, and loss of breeding grounds for aquatic species.

Therefore, NEMA calls upon all developers to always seek due approval and guidance from the Authority, on how to sustainably undertake projects that could impact on our environment and natural resources. The public should remain vigilant and continue reporting environmental breaches and incidents within the communities. Together, we shall ensure sustainable socio-economic transformation of our nation.

Ends

For more information:

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ANNEX 1: Letter from the area local government