



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

The Uplifting Africa Program

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The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project Photo Credit: Reuters

Leila Akinwumiju

The Uplifting Africa Program

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The Uplifting Africa Business Coalition

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, a hydroelectric project created by the Ethiopian government, has been a source of contention with the riparian states of Sudan and Egypt. Both states fear that one consequence of Ethiopia's damming will be increased water scarcity for upriver countries. Despite this concern, Ethiopia has continued the constructing, filling, and promoting of The Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Kifle Horo, the Project Manager of The Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, recently acknowledged dam construction may impact water resources for Sudan and Egypt. ¹ Besides discussing the implications of dam construction for Egypt and Sudan, Horo stated the third filling of The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam would occur in August and September 2022.



Kifle Horo, Project Manager for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
Photo Credit: Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporate

During an on-air interview with Al-Arabiya, Horo reaffirmed Ethiopia had followed stipulations for dam filling as described in multilateral agreements which were signed in 2015 between

¹ <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/116356/Ethiopia-s-Renaissance-Dam-general-manager-says-no-water-to>

Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt. Furthermore, Horo also asserted that Ethiopia has no intention of stopping the dam's construction.²



The New Ethiopian Dam Photo Credit: Amanuel Sileshi/AFP

In response to Horo's comments, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry released a statement on May 28, 2022. The Foreign Ministry proclaimed, "Perhaps it is surprising that the Ethiopian official did not care about the potential damage to the Sudanese side, despite his recognition of the possibility that both Sudan and Egypt would be affected by the third filling process."³

Since The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam first produced electricity in February 2022, Ethiopia's ongoing dam development has posed an increasing challenge to Egypt and Sudan. Despite opposing beliefs, Ethiopia has reaffirmed its commitment to improving relations with both Egypt and Sudan as well as being open to finding a mutually beneficial solutions to issues facing these nations.

² <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/116356/Ethiopia-s-Renaissance-Dam-general-manager-says-no-water-to>

³ <https://www.theafricareport.com/210075/sudan-calls-out-ethiopia-for-irresponsible-comments-on-filling-of-the-gerd/>

On May 17th, Demeke Mekonnen, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister, said Ethiopia was continually committed to creating peaceful negotiations concerning dam construction with Sudan and Egypt.⁴



Demeke Mekonnen, Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister
Photo Source: The Ethiopian Embassy

⁴ <https://www.fanabc.com/english/ethiopia-continues-to-withstand-foreign-pressures-enhance-diplomatic-relations-with-courtiers/>

