



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024, ISSUE



RWB AWARDS THE WINNERS OF THE WATER RESOURCES MODELLING HACKATHON

P3

WATER MODELING HACKATHON WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN- PARTICIPANTS

P4

RWB CONSTRUCTS TWO DETENTION PONDS IN MUSANZE DISTRICT

P6

RWB INTRODUCES NEW WATER PERMIT FEE PAYMENT SYSTEM

P7



FORWARD

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present our latest newsletter, highlighting key events and activities undertaken by the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) throughout July 2024.

We are proud to have started the new fiscal year 2024-2025 on a positive note with the successful conclusion of our inaugural Water Resources Hackathon.

This event provided a platform for young water managers to apply and practice the theoretical knowledge gained in their studies.

We are confident that this hackathon will foster the development of skilled water modelers in Rwanda, addressing the current shortage in this crucial field.

The construction of detention ponds for

flood control in Cyuve is underway, and we have already observed their effectiveness even before the project's completion. These ponds are expected to play a significant role in mitigating flood risks in the area.

Additionally, our Water Permit Division has made significant strides by introducing a new cashless payment system for water permit fees. This innovation will streamline the payment process and enhance service delivery, making it more efficient and user-friendly.

Our commitment remains steadfast in ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water resources for the continued development of our nation. We will continue to work diligently towards achieving this vital goal.

DR. EMMANUEL RUKUNDO
DIRECTOR GENERAL



RWB AWARDED THE WINNERS OF THE WATER RESOURCES MODELLING HACKATHON

Claudine Umutoniwase made history by becoming the first winner of the Inter-Universities Water Resources Modelling Hackathon, organized by the Rwanda Water Resources Board and ARCOS Network. She walked away with a prize of one million Rwandan Francs.

This hackathon aimed at promoting sustainable water resources management, building capacity among talented youth, fostering innovation for resilience, and encouraging data-driven decision-making. This event was launched in conjunction with the celebration of World Water Day 2024, attracting over 80 students from various universities across Rwanda.

During the Awarding Ceremony on July 30, 2024, Deputy Director General of RWB, Evariste Nsabimana, underscored the importance of the hackathon.

He stated, "There is a large consensus that industry and academia need to collaborate to generate not only innovation and knowledge responding to the country's

critical issues but also to identify the profile of future technical personnel or professionals. Hackathons are one of the areas where such collaboration can be realized through small contests for students."

The CEO of ARCOS Network reiterated the hackathon's significance in empowering future water resources managers.

He remarked, "It is therefore imperative that we invest in the next generation of water experts. By empowering young minds with the knowledge and tools to address water-related challenges, we are not only securing a sustainable future but also inspiring a new generation of leaders."

Among the 18 participants who submitted their models, the top six were awarded. The winners were Umutoniwase Claudine in first place, followed by Singirankabo Emmanuel, Iradukunda Olivier, Fidele Mwizerwa, Hodari Jean Pierre, and Jean Bosco Ntirenganya.



WATER MODELING HACKATHON WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN- PARTICIPANTS

University students who participated in the inaugural Water Resources Modelling Hackathon affirm that it was a golden opportunity for them to learn.

In collaboration with ARCOS Network, the Rwanda Water Resources Board organized the first inter-universities water resources modelling hackathon. This initiative aimed to promote sustainable water resources management, build capacity among talented youth, foster innovation for resilience, and encourage data-driven decision-making.

Claudine Umutoniwase, who emerged as the first winner of the competition, underscored that the hackathon motivated her to learn the HEC-HMS software used in water resources modelling.

“I had HEC-HMS software installed on my computer, but I was not motivated to learn about it. When the hackathon came around, it was the perfect opportunity for me to learn and practice,” Claudine said.

Emmanuel Singirankabo, the first runner-

up, reiterated that the water resources modelling hackathon improved his knowledge about the HEC-HMS software.

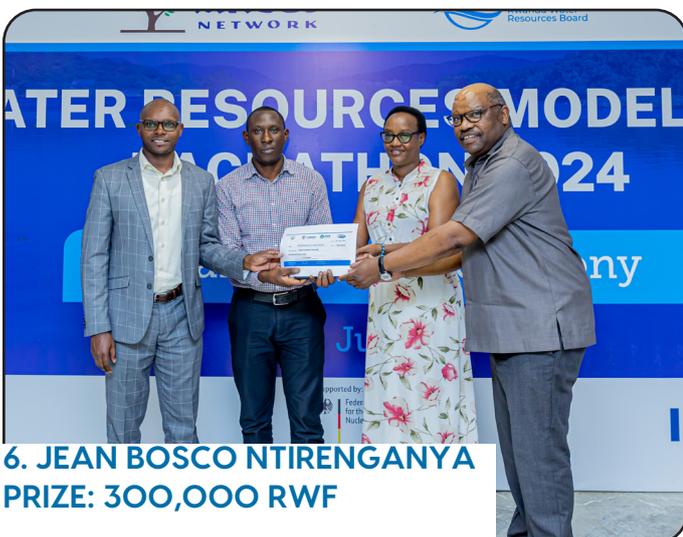
“We usually learn about HEC-HMS in classes. This hackathon provided me with further insights on how to effectively use it, understand the quality of data needed, and interpret the results,” Emmanuel explained.

The fourth runner-up, Hodari Jean Pierre, saw this hackathon as an opportunity to network and exchange knowledge with his peers.

“This hackathon helped me meet other students from the University of Rwanda, interact with them, and share knowledge. It sharpened my skills, and I am grateful for this experience,” Hodari shared.

The Water Resources Modelling Hackathon was launched as part of the celebration of World Water Day. Seventy-three students from universities across Rwanda were eligible to compete, though only 13 submitted their models.

MEET THE WINNERS





RWB CONSTRUCTS TWO DETENTION PONDS IN MUSANZE DISTRICT

The Rwanda Water Resources Board is implementing the project titled “Construction of Detention Ponds for Flood Control in Cyuve” in Musanze District which aims to protect communities from flood damage.

The Cyuve Flood Control Project involves the construction of two detention ponds aimed at mitigating flood risks in the Cyuve Gully area.

This initiative is critical for managing flood water, protecting local communities, road Musanze-Cyanika and enhancing water management in that volcano region.

The first pond located in Nyange Sector, has the storage capacity of 8,000 cubic meters of floodwaters.

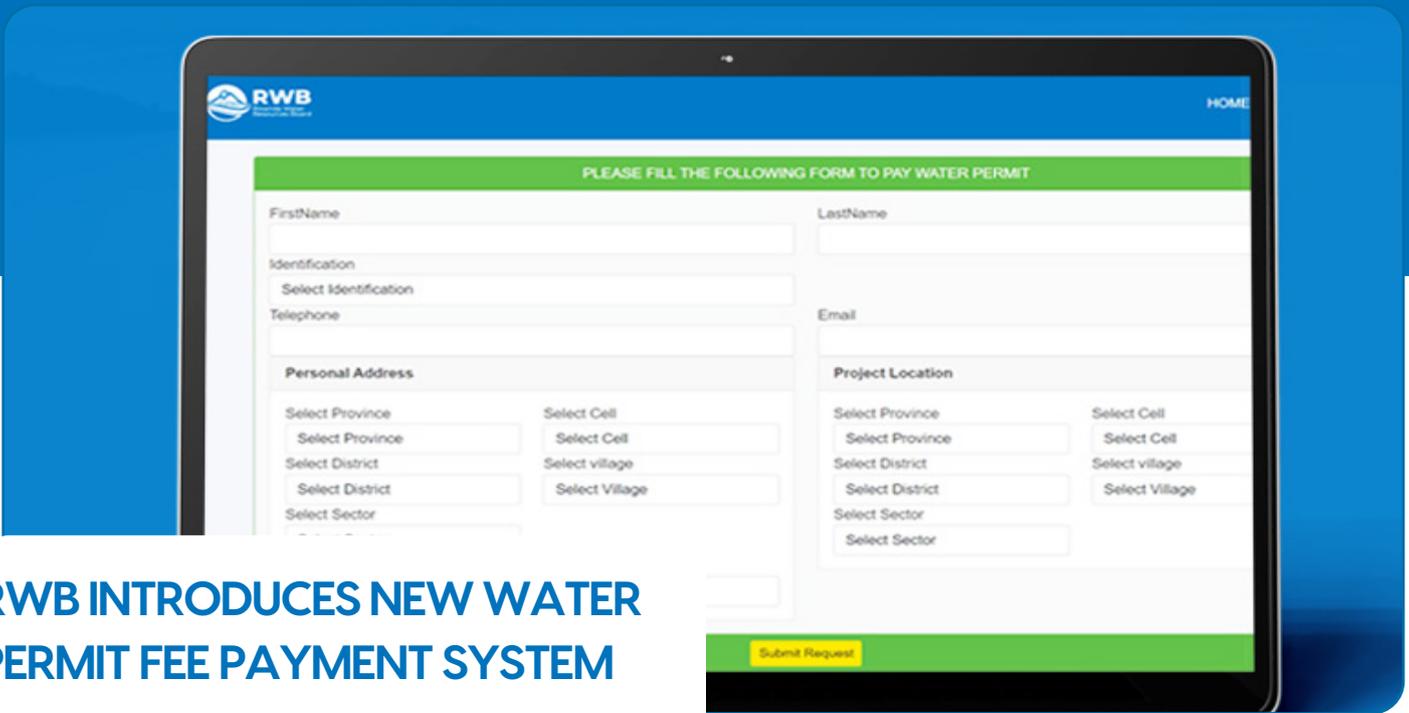
It is situated upstream, before any tributaries flow into the Cyuve Gully. It is designed to capture and store floodwaters at the source, thereby reducing the volume of water entering the gully downstream.

The Second one, is located in Cyuve Sector where it is strategically positioned downstream after all five tributaries flow into the Cyuve Gully. With the storage capacity of 15,000 cubic meters, It has already started serving its purpose of retaining floodwaters and mitigating flood risks for the downstream communities.

This pond is nearing completion with 97% of the work finished, and it has already demonstrated its effectiveness in real-time flood events.

The construction works of these two ponds are expected to be completed in October 2024.

The Rwanda Water Resources Board is committed to put to an end the hazardous flooding in the volcano region. The remaining intervention areas will be covered through the Volcano Community Resilience Project, which has already started.



RWB INTRODUCES NEW WATER PERMIT FEE PAYMENT SYSTEM

Starting from August 1st, 2024, the Rwanda Water Resources Board will implement a new digital payment system for water permits.

This system aims to streamline the process for water users when applying for permits. Instead of queuing at banks to pay fees, applicants can now conveniently pay using digital cards and mobile money services through IREMBO.

The water permit application fee is 35000 RWF, as outlined in The Water Law n°49/2018 of 13/08/2018, which governs the

use and management of water resources in Rwanda.

Payment can be made through IREMBO at www.waterpermit.rwb.rw.

Works subjected to water use permit include irrigation, construction of Ports or Infrastructures, construction of dam, fish farming, domestic water supply, water supply for livestock and to community settlements, Coffee washing station, Industries, Hydropower, Mining, Gas extraction, Recreation activities, among others.

WHY IS RAINWATER HARVESTING IMPORTANT?

The Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is calling on all Rwandans involved in building houses this summer to include rainwater harvesting systems in their construction plans.

Rainwater harvesting, which involves collecting and storing rainwater for future use, offers multiple benefits including:

Water Conservation: It reduces reliance on groundwater and municipal water supplies by utilizing an abundant natural

Cost Savings: Homeowners can lower their water bills by using harvested rainwater for non-potable purposes such as irrigation, flushing toilets, and washing.

Flood Mitigation: Capturing rainwater decreases runoff and potential flooding.

Environmental Impact: Harvesting rainwater lessens the strain on water resources and promotes sustainability.

PICTURES: MUVUMBA MULTIPURPOSE DAM UNDER CONSTRUCTION



MEDIA REVIEW

- PHOTOS: Muvumba multipurpose dam under construction
[READ MORE](#)
- Nyagatare: Kubaka urugomero rwa Muvumba ruzatanga amazi n'amashanyarazi byaratangiye. [READ MORE](#)
- Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Water Management: The Rwanda Water Resource Modeling Hackathon 2024. [READ MORE](#)
- Imishinga itandatu y'urubyiruko igamije kubungabunga umutungo kamere w'amazi, yahembwe. [READ MORE](#)
- Imishinga y'urubyiruko yahize iyindi mu kubungabunga amazi yahembwe. [READ MORE](#)
- Abaturage baturaye Sebeya nyuma yo gusubizwa uburenganzira bwo gukorera mu nzu zabo barashimira leta. [WATCH VIDEO](#)



RWB

Rwanda Water
Resources Board

Nyarugenge Pension Plaza

Toll Free: 9977 | www.rwb.rw | info@rwb.rw X: @RwandaWater

