

Telephone Gen :+256-414-320101-9

Tel.Dir :+256-414-320026

:+256-414-320940

Fax :+256-414-236369

E-mail: mowt@works.go.ug

Website:www.works.go.ug

In any correspondence on this subject

please quote No.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE (TRANSPORT)

Ministry of Works and Transport

Plot 57-59 Jinja Road

P. O. Box 7174

Kampala - UGANDA

MARINE NOTICE NO. 001 /2026

COMPLIANCE TO INLAND WATER TRANSPORT SAFETY MEASURES AND MANDATORY USE OF LIFE JACKETS

Safety of Inland Water Transport in Uganda is regulated under the Inland Water Transport Act 2021, the Lake Victoria Transport Act 2007 and the International Maritime Conventions which Uganda acceded to.

During the months of July, August, September to October, our inland waterways experience strong Easterly Monsoon winds and turbulent waves which explain the increased incidences of marine accidents within this period.

To mitigate the consequences of marine accidents, it is a requirement for all passengers/water travellers to take strict extra precautions by following the issued safety guidelines during this period.

It is in this regard that, the Ministry of Works and Transport has issued this Marine Notice number 001/2026 for the mandatory usage of Life Jackets and the other related safety measures as follows:

- (a) All boat owners/operators MUST provide sufficient Life-Saving Appliances (LSA)/ LIFE JACKETS on board boats at all times while navigating on water;
- (b) For all SOLAS / Conventional vessels, the LIFE JACKETS should be placed in easily accessible locations on board;
- (c) A vessel owner/operator who does not provide Life-Saving Appliances/Life Jackets on board a boat while on voyage will be prosecuted in Courts of law;
- (d) All passengers/persons moving on boats powered by outboard engines are required to WEAR LIFE JACKETS from the TIME OF DEPARTURE and DURING THE ENTIRE VOYAGE;
- (e) Any passenger/person who fails to wear a LIFE JACKET shall be prosecuted in the Courts of Law;
- (f) Any boats that are not registered and licensed by Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) found operating within the inland water ways will be impounded, and owners prosecuted in accordance to the applicable laws;
- (g) Sailing of all boats with outboard engines is restricted to operate between 6:30AM to 6:30PM. Any such boats found sailing at night shall be detained and operators prosecuted;
- (h) Overloading of boats is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

HON. MACANDA JULIUS WANDERA (MP)
MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT)
KAMPALA – UGANDA
AUGUST 2026