



LAKE VICTORIA BASIN WATER BOARD



HYDROLOGICAL BULLETIN March 2026

OVERVIEW

Lake Victoria Basin covers an area of about 115,400 square kilometers. The Basin is located on the Northern side of Tanzania and lies between 1° 00' S, 3° 45' S, and 30° 15' E 35° 45' E. The Basin is divided into five catchments known as Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Isanga and Magogo-Moame (**Figure 1**).

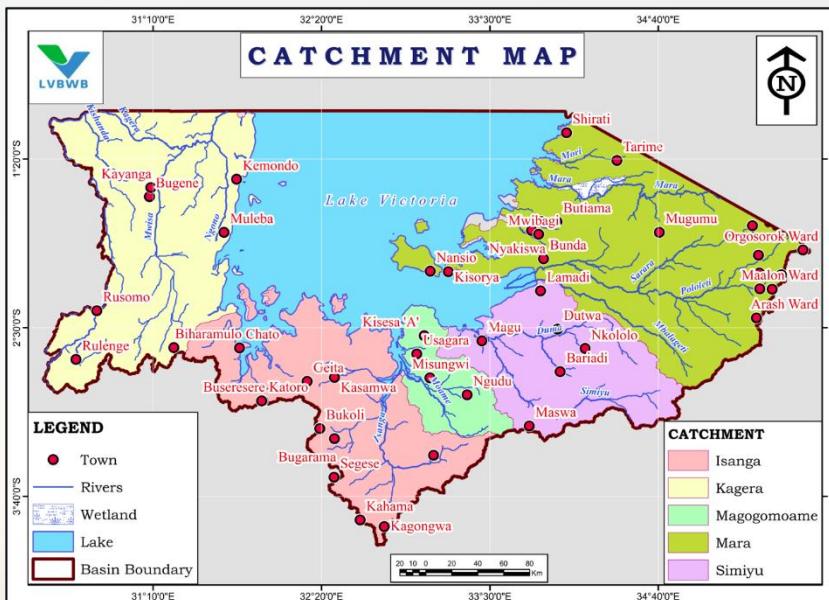


Figure 1: The five catchments in the basin

RAINFALL TRENDS



Lake Victoria Basin is in the rainfall season; each part of the basin in march received normal to above normal rainfall. In March 2026 the basin received rainfall ranging from 54mm to 590mm, with an average of 225mm which is 72% higher than its normal or LTA. This condition caused an increasing flow trend in rivers, Lake and Dams. Spatial distribution of rainfall is well described in Figure 2 below.

Figure 3 below shows that the long-term average (2010–2025) rainfall recorded in the month of March is **130mm**.

The observed rainfall during this reporting period was approximately 72% greater than the Average LTA recorded at each station.

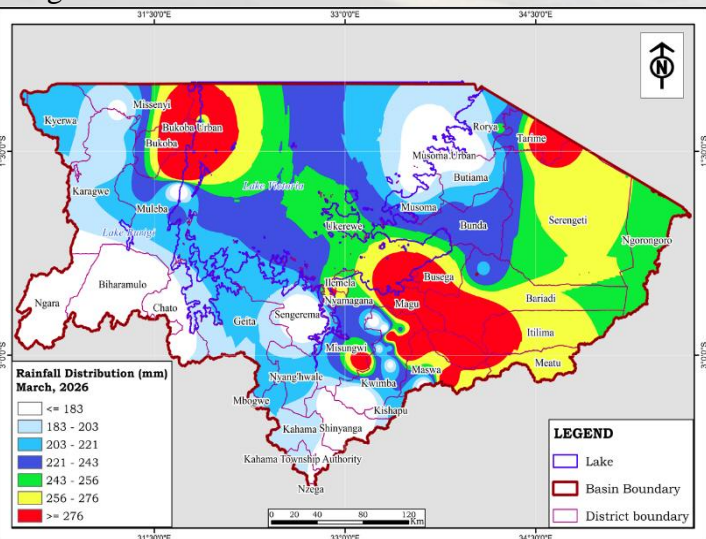


Figure 2: Spatial variation of Rainfall for March 2026

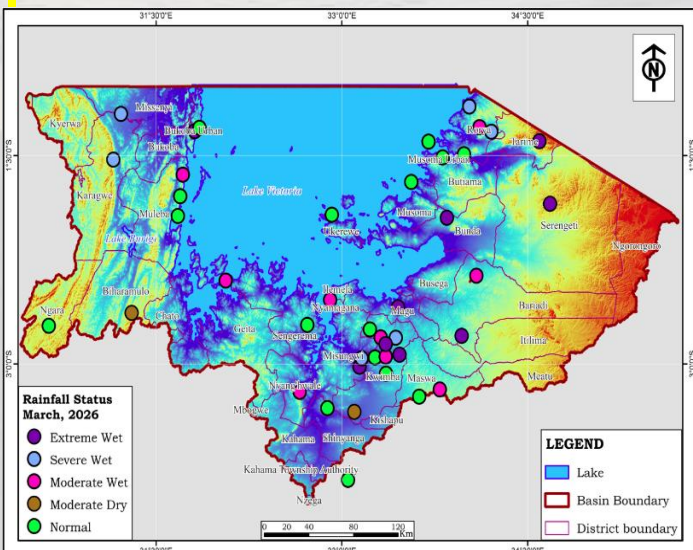
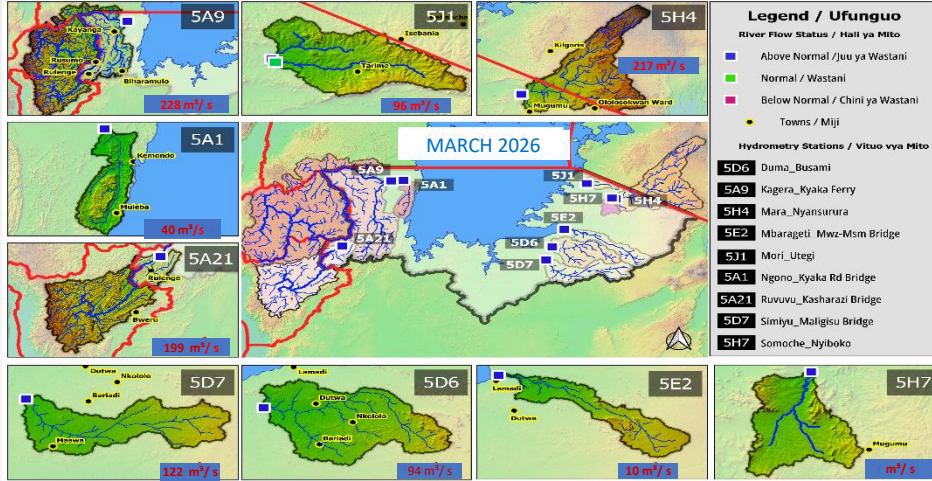


Figure 3: March Rainfall Characteristics at each station.



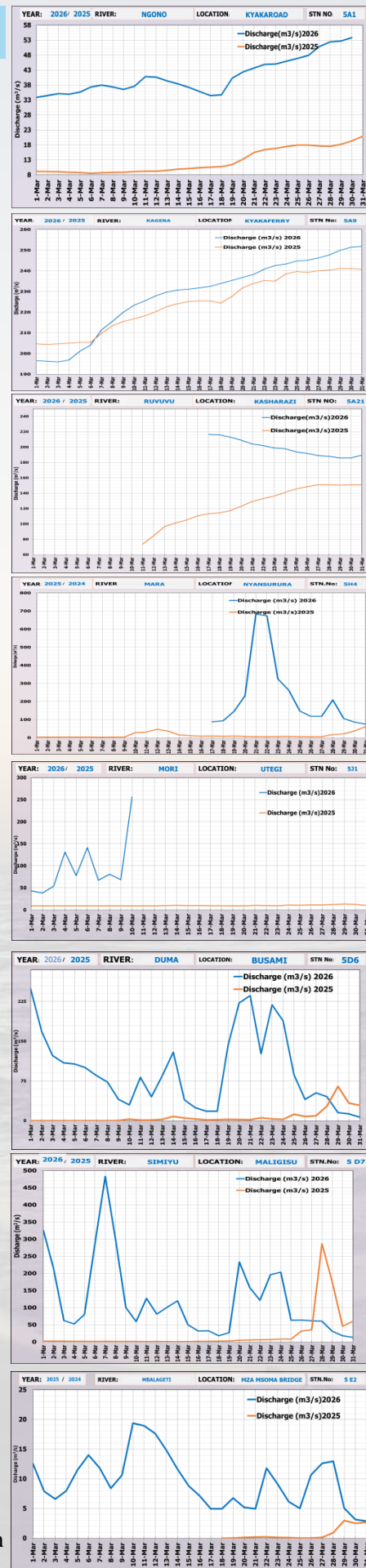
FLOW IN RIVERS

Figure 4: Daily flows variations

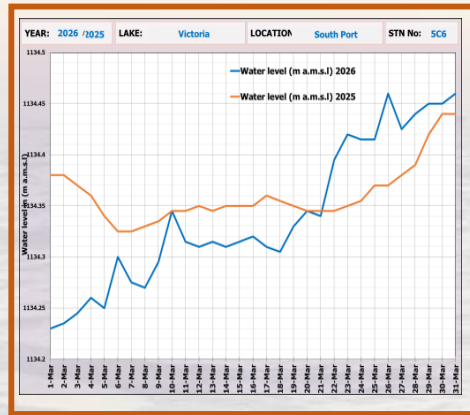


Analysis of river gauging stations in March 2026 indicates that recorded flows in all rivers, were higher than those observed in March 2025. Figure 4 illustrates the average flow per second for each river.

The analysis of inflows for each river is further presented in Figure 5, which shows a comparison between inflows recorded in March 2025 and March 2026.



WATER LEVEL IN LAKES



Overall, Lake Victoria experienced no change in water levels (Figure 6). Compared to March 2025, the lake's water levels in March 2026 are equivalent equal in average. However, it remained 0.09% higher than the long-term average for March over the period 2010–2025.

Figure 6: Water Level in Lakes.

VOLUME IN RESERVOIRS

The water volume in New Sola Dam during the current reporting period was 17% higher than the volume recorded in March 2025. Similarly, Manchira Dam exhibited the increase of 13% in water volume compared to the same period in March 2025, as illustrated in Figure 7 (left)

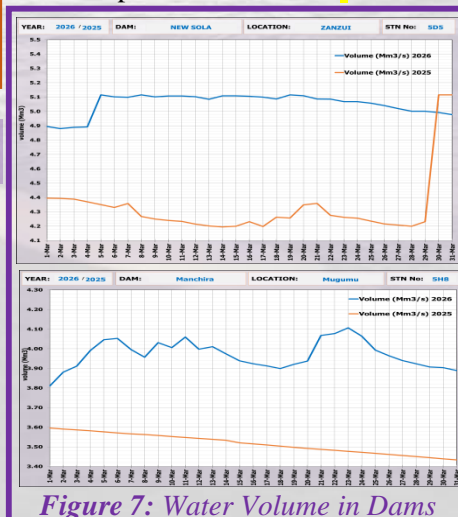


Figure 7: Water Volume in Dams

CONCLUSION

Intense rainfall across the basin during March has led to increased river flows. With rainfall and high flow conditions expected to continue until the end of the wet season, there is an elevated risk of flooding. As such, precautionary measures are strongly advised, particularly for populations living near water sources and in flood prone areas.

Figure 5: Daily flows variations



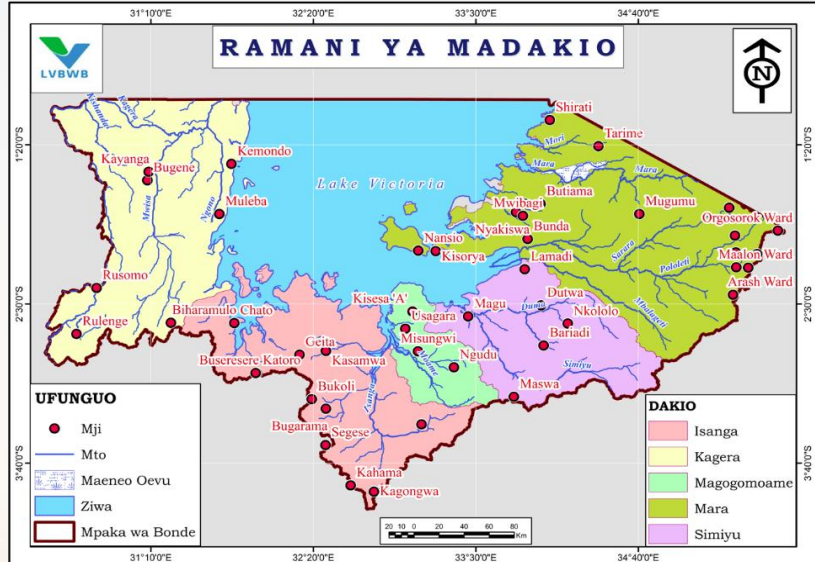
BODI YA MAJI BONDE LA ZIWA VICTORIA



JARIDA LA HALI YA MAJI MACHI 2026

UTANGULIZI

Bonde la Ziwa Victoria lina ukubwa wa Kilomita za mraba 115,400. Bonde hili linapatikana ndani ya nyuzi za latitudo 1° 00' Kusini, 3°45' Kusini, na longitudo 30° 15' Mashariki 35°45' Mashariki. Usimamizi wa rasilimali za maji katika Bonde la Ziwa Victoria umegawanyika katika Madakio matano (5) ambayo ni Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Isanga na Magogo-Moame (**Kielelezo Na. 1**).



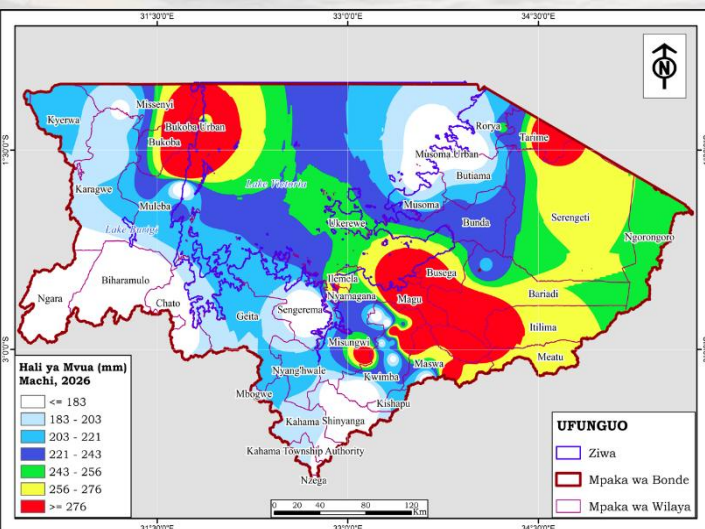
Kielelezo Na. 1: Madakio tano katika Bonde la Ziwa Victoria

HALI YA MVUA

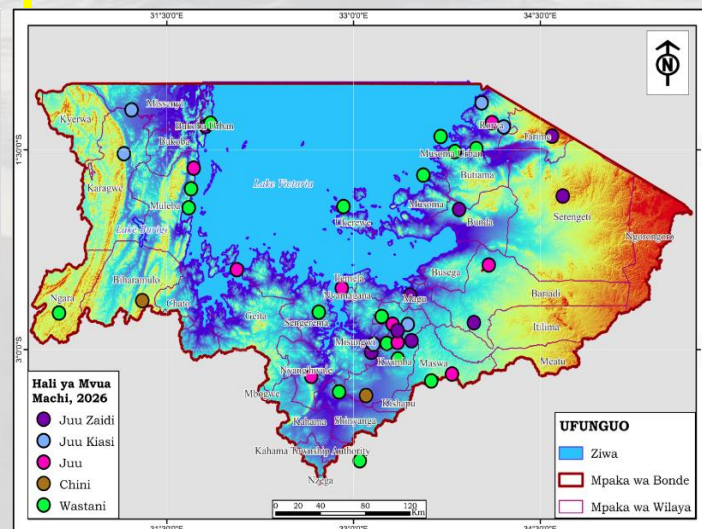


Bonde la Ziwa Victoriamlimo kwa sasa kwenye msimu wa mvua; maeneo yote ya bonde yanapokea mvua ya wastani mpaka juu ya wastani. Katika mwezi wa Machi 2026, bonde lilipokea mvua kati ya milimita 54 hadi 590, kwa wastani wa milimita 225, ambayo ni asilimia 72 juu ya kiwango cha kawaida (wastani wa muda mrefu (LTA)). Hali hii imesababisha mwelekeo wa kuongezeka kwa mtiiririko wa maji katika mito, Ziwa na Mabwawa. Mtawanyiko wa mvua imeoneshwa katika Kielelezo Na.2 hapa chini.

Kielelezo Na. 3 hapa chini kinaonyesha kuwa wastani wa muda mrefu (2010–2025) wa mvua zilizorekodiwa mwezi Machi ni milimita 130. Mvua zilizorekodiwa katika kipindi hiki cha taarifa zilikuwa takribani asilimia 72 zaidi ya wastani wa muda mrefu (LTA) uliorekodiwa katika kila kituo.



Kielelezo Na. 2: Hali Ya Mvua Mwezi Machi 2026

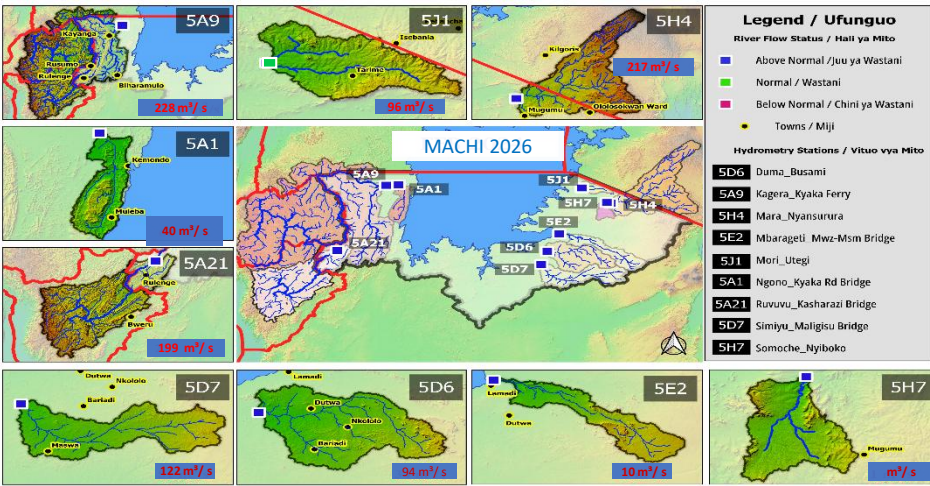


Kielelezo Na. 3: Mvua za mwezi Machi kwa kila kituo cha uchunguzi.



WINGI WA MAJI KATIKA MITO

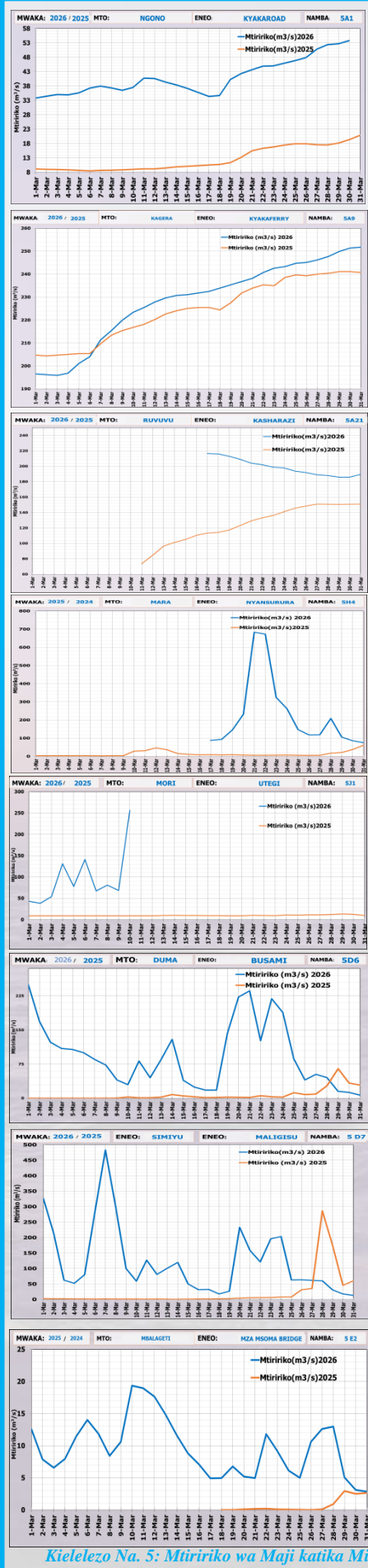
Kielelezo Na. 4: Hali ya Maji Mitoni



Legend / Ufunguo

- River Flow Status / Hali ya Mito
 - Above Normal / Juu ya Wastani
 - Normal / Wastani
 - Below Normal / Chini ya Wastani
- Towns / Miji
- Hydrometry Stations / Vituo vya Mito

- 5D6 Duma_Busami
- 5A9 Kagera_Kyaka Ferry
- 5H4 Mara_Nyansurura
- 5E2 Mbarageti Mwa-Msm Bridge
- 5J1 Mori_Utegi
- 5A1 Ngono_Kyaka Rd Bridge
- 5A21 Ruvuvu_Kasharazi Bridge
- 5D7 Simiyu_Maligisu Bridge
- 5H7 Somoche_Nyiboko

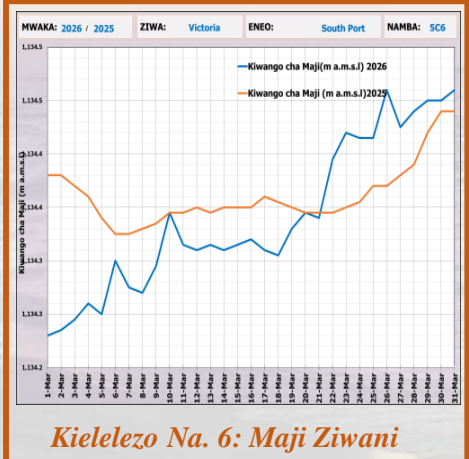


Uchambuzi wa maeneo yanayotumika kupima mtiririko wa maji mitoni kwa mwezi Machi 2026 unaonesha kuwa mtiririko uliorekodiwa katika mito yote ulikuwa mkubwa zaidi ikilinganishwa na ule wa Machi 2025. Kielelezo Na. 4 kinaonesha wastani wa mtiririko wa maji kwa sekunde kwa kila mto.

Aidha, uchambuzi wa maji yanayoingia (inflow) kwa kila mto umeoneshwa katika Kielelezo Na. 5, kinacholinganishwa kati ya kiasi cha mtiririko wa maji kilichorekodiwa mwezi Machi 2025 na Machi 2026.



WINGI WA MAJI KATIKA MAZIWA

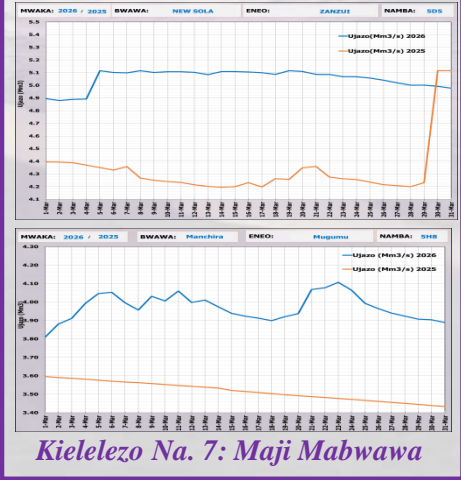


Kielelezo Na. 6: Maji Ziwani

Kwa ujumla, Ziwa Victoria halikuonyesha mabadiliko katika viwango vya maji (Kielelezo Na. 6), ikilinganishwa na Machi 2025, viwango vya maji vya Ziwa hilo katika Mwezi Machi 2026 vilikuwa sawa kwa wastani. Hata hivyo, vilibaki juu kwa asilimia 0.09 ikilinganishwa na wastani wa muda mrefu wa mwezi Machi katika kipindi cha 2010 hadi 2025.

WINGI KATIKA MABWAWA

Kiasi cha maji katika Bwawa la New Sola katika kipindi hiki cha taarifa kilikuwa juu kwa asilimia 17 ikilinganishwa na kiasi kilichorekodiwa mwezi Machi 2025. Vilevile, Bwawa la Manchira limepanda kwa asilimia 13 ikilinganishwa na kipindi kama hicho cha Machi 2025, kama inavyoonyeshwa katika Kielelezo cha 7.



Kielelezo Na. 7: Maji Mabwawa

HITIMISHO

Mvua kubwa katika bonde zima wakati wa mwezi Machi imesababisha kuongezeka kwa mtiririko wa maji kweye mito na kina cha maji kupanda kwenye Maziwa na Mabwawa. Kwa kuwa mvua na hali ya mtiririko mkubwa zinatarajiwa kuendelea hadi mwisho wa msimu wa mvua, kuna ongezeko la hatari na mafuriko. Hivyo basi, tahadhari zinashauriwa kuchukuliwa kwa umakini mkubwa, hasa kwa wakazi wanaoishi karibu na vyanzo vya maji na katika maeneo yanavokumbwa na mafuriko mara kwa mara.

Kielelezo Na. 5: Mtiririko wa Maji katika Mito