

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Egypt as the downstream country is totally dependent on the Nile water as their main water resource. Unlike any other countries in Africa, Egypt receives the least rainfall. Egypt annual water supply from the Nile is about 55 BCM that is saved in the High Aswan Dam. However, nowadays the needs of water and the availability of water in Egypt are unbalanced. The demand of water is higher than the availability of water. That what makes Egypt could not afford it if the supply of water from the Nile is reduced. The reduced supply of water from the Nile would be detrimental to Egypt survival.

The ability of GERD to control the Blue Nile that flows to Egypt is threatening Egypt survival. On the other side, Ethiopia declares that the dam would not cause harm to the Egypt's share of Nile water, since the dam will regulate the Nile flow, control seasonal floods and increase the flow of water because it is less evaporated. However, Egypt main concerns is how Ethiopia will manage the filling process of their huge dam reservoir if the capacity of the dam is equal to more than a year's flow of the Blue Nile.

Egypt believes that the renaissance dam would negatively impact the country's agriculture, since the dam will have the possibility to lead Egypt experience a severe drought because the water that flows from the Blue Nile is contained or controlled by Ethiopia. Currently, Egypt has suffered from lacks of self-sufficiency in food production and has to be dependent on the food import to

meet the need of Egyptian people. The decline of the Nile water to Egypt will lead to the shortage of the food production from the agricultural sector and force the country to raise food import even more. The raise of the food import will lead to the economic destabilization and weaken the country's fiscal position.

Ethiopia's purpose in building the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile is mainly for the economic development of the country. Hydropower generation of the dam that produces electricity is used for fulfilling the demand of domestic power which currently increases and to earn substantial foreign exchange needed for the country economy by exporting the electricity to the neighbouring countries. However, the impact of the Ethiopian dam is not line with Egypt economic interest and will disturb Egypt economic stability which economically Egypt needs the Nile water to run its economic activity. Even so, Egypt could not lose its share of Nile water that is saved in High Aswan Dam, because the main purpose of High dam is for safe keeping the country's economy which needs water supplies to sustain the country stability.