

The project aims to strengthen the reliability, stability, and resilience of Uganda's electricity transmission network.

BY PHILIP WAFULA

The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Ms Ruth Nankabirwa, has described the Kampala Metropolitan Transmission System Improvement Project as "very critical".

The multibillion shillings project at the Maya Sub-station in Mpigi District is being undertaken by the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL), together with the Consortium of Toyota Tsusho Corporation and China Machinery Engineering Corporation.

It aims at strengthening the reliability, stability, and resilience of Uganda's electricity transmission network. The UEDCL is constructing the 33 KV lines to quickly integrate to this new substation so the customers can enjoy the benefits as soon as possible. The project is being implemented in two strategic lots, with Lot 1 expected to be completed by June 2026 and Lot 2 by February 2027.

So far, critical equipment has been installed, including 132kV and 220kV transformers; major switchyard equipment such as circuit breakers, disconnectors, and there is progress on the control building infrastructure.

Ms Nankabirwa said upon comple-

UEDCL Maya Sub-station to improve power supply



Energy minister Ruth Nankabirwa (centre) during a tour of the Kampala Metropolitan Transmission System Improvement Project at the Maya Sub-station in Mpigi District. PHOTO/GEOFREY MUTUMBA

tion, the project will significantly improve power reliability and system stability within the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, reduce transmission constraints, improve voltage performance, minimise outages, and create the additional capacity required to sup-

port future economic growth and industrial expansion.

The project also touches critical areas around Kampala and as far as Masaka, Jinja and Mbale Cities.

"This network will help us to improve Masaka by having a line going there

through Kabulasoke Sub-station, and also the Nkenda line. This arrangement involves installing a new sub-station which will help in stabilising, containing and stepping down the power, as far as Jinja and Mbale Cities, for onward transmission," Ms Nankabirwa said.

As for northern Uganda, she said it will rely on the new sub-stations constructed in Nebbi and Arua.

Mr Daniel Kisira, the head of projects implementation at the UEDCL, said the Maya Sub-station is one of those under the Grid Development Plan of the UETCL, designed to cater for the rising needs of Kampala City and its surrounding area. It currently consumes over 60 percent of the national demand.

Benefit.

The project will also strengthen investor confidence in Uganda's energy sector and reinforce the country's position as a competitive and attractive investment destination within the region."

Ms Ruth Nankabirwa, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development

"The only issue is we have to schedule the projects, look at the available financing and load growth. We don't want to have stranded assets. We, therefore, need to do things in a timely manner to supply power in time to support other government programmes like agriculture, tourism, health and education."

Ms Qin Yuchi, the site manager of the consortium, said despite being the main contractor, some of their work was done by the sub-contractor.

"We are very keen about environmental issues; environment and safety are the most important, that's why we train, and educate the workers how important the environment and safety are," she added.