

# Tororo gets new 10MW solar plant

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**KAMPALA.** The government is today expected to switch on the Tororo Solar North plant.

The plant in Tororo District, about 200 kilometres east of Kampala, will generate 10 megawatts (MW).

Tororo Solar North is the second solar power plant, after Access Uganda Solar Ltd, to feed Uganda's national electricity grid.

FMO, a Dutch development bank, loaned Italian firm Building Energy Spa and Uganda's Simba Telecom Ltd \$14.7 million (Shs53.6 billion) to build the plant.

According to FMO, Tororo Solar North will meet the energy needs of about of 170,593 people.

Uganda can generate 200MW from solar, according to The Renewable Energy Policy 2002.

So far, only 10 per cent of that potential has been exploited.

For long, it was because the equipment and the feed-in tariff for solar power were comparatively high.

With improvements in technology, the cost of solar equipment has come down. So has the feed-in tariff. This is partly because the government and development partners



**New.** Soroti PV Solar farm. The Tororo Solar North plant will generate 10 megawatts. FILE PHOTO

such as the European Union and Germany's Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) are now promoting solar, wind and hydro as energy sources - to minimise greenhouse gas emission from power projects.

During Uganda's Independence Day celebrations in Bushenyi District last week, President Museveni said his government has increased Uganda's electricity generation from 60MW in 1986 to about 900MW.

Mr Museveni added that upon the

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PRESIDENT MUSEVENI

completion of the Isimba, Karuma, Ayago and Aswa hydro power plants

in the next two to five years, generation will be 2,600MW.

“With enough electricity, for the first time since 1969, Uganda is set to take off as far as manufacturing is concerned...” Mr Museveni said.

#### Tariff

He said the next issue the government would address will be the retail tariff for electricity; he will work to reduce it from averagely Shs364 to Shs182 - for manufacturers.

## briefly

### VP advises on skills

**KAMPALA.** The Vice President, Mr Edward Ssekandi, has called on universities and tertiary institutions to redesign their courses to suit the current labour market demand. “Uganda requires entrepreneurial skills sustainable for the private sector-led development for the improvement of service delivery,” Mr Ssekandi said at the graduation of Team University in Mengo where 384 students graduated with degrees, diplomas and certificates last Friday. He hailed the university for championing integrity as one of its core values. [Stephen Wandera]

### Bypass nears completion

**KAMPALA.** China Railway Seventh Group (CRSG), a firm constructing Mbarara Northern Bypass, the 14.5 kilometre road that bypasses the northern part of Mbarara town, has set November 8, for commissioning the road. Mr Onesmas Byamukama, the public relations officer at CRSG, said in an interview last week that the road will provide an alternative route for large cargo trucks destined for Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The road will start from Makenke in Kakiika Division then northwards to Rwebishuri before reaching Nkokonjeru. He said the road will then pass through a valley next to Ruharo hill. A bridge will be constructed at the River Rwizi. Rwizi regional traffic officer Justin Opus said the new road will ease traffic flow in Mbarara. [Stephen Wandera]