



Presidents Magufuli and Museveni shake hands after signing the Oil Pipeline Agreement at State House in Tanzania recently. The parliament of Tanzania ratified the pipeline treaty on Monday

Tanzania legislators ratify oil pipeline treaty

By David Lumu

Tanzanian lawmakers have ratified the multi-billion Hoima-Tanga crude oil pipeline agreement ahead of President John Pombe Magufuli's visit to Uganda for the official laying of the foundation stone in Hoima.

The parliament of Tanzania ratified the pipeline treaty on Monday, citing the need to speed up the construction process, which is expected to commence at the beginning of next year.

In May, President Yoweri Museveni and his counterpart, Magufuli, signed the oil pipeline agreement, paving way for the joint construction of the 1,445km pipeline.

The pipeline, which is estimated to cost \$3.55b (about sh12 trillion), will transport crude oil from Kabaale in Hoima district to Chongoleani near Tanga port in Tanzania.

In an interview with *New Vision*, yesterday Eng. Robert Kasande, the acting permanent secretary in the energy ministry, said Cabinet has already approved the pipeline treaty that Museveni and Magufuli signed in May.

"We have presented it to Cabinet, and they have approved. Now, we have sent it to the foreign affairs ministry, which will do the ratification. We expect it (the ratification) this week," he said.

Kasande said on October 19, Magufuli

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ In May President Yoweri Museveni and his counterpart, Magufuli, signed the oil pipeline agreement, paving way for the joint construction of the 1,445km pipeline. The pipeline will transport crude oil from Uganda's Hoima district to Chongoleani near Tanga port in Tanzania.

will visit Uganda to lay a foundation stone for the pipeline construction in Hoima.

According to the project report, the 24-inch diameter pipeline, which will be pre-heated and covered 1.2 metres underground, will be transporting 216,000 barrels of oil per day.

In August, Museveni laid the pipeline's foundation stone in Tanga during an official visit to Tanzania, where he described Tanga as a major development key to the East African region because of its geographical location and security.

Museveni also urged citizens to explore the opportunities that the construction of the pipeline is expected to bring to the region.

Three oil firms, CNOOC, Total E&P and Tullow will help Uganda and Tanzania execute the East African Crude Oil Pipeline

project, which will enable Uganda's oil to access international market.

In Tanga region, Magufuli said, more than 45,000 youth will benefit directly and indirectly during the implementation of the giant oil pipeline project. A similar number of jobs is likely to be created in Uganda.

When construction starts early next year, experts have projected that it will take 36 months and that when it is completed, over 10,000 jobs for the East African citizens will be created.

According to Uganda's ambassador to Tanzania, Richard Kabonero, Article 9 of the intergovernmental agreement between Uganda and Tanzania emphasises national content, especially the need to reserve contracts for certain goods and services to be provided by the state enterprises and companies.

"This project, which is one of the most important projects ever undertaken by Uganda and Tanzania, is expected to bring tangible benefits to citizens of the two countries and the region as a whole," he said.

Of the 6.5 billion barrels discovered in Uganda, 1.7 billion is recoverable. Government has set 2020 as the production deadline. By 2020, all major oil projects, including the oil refinery, are expected to be in place or at least in final stages.

ESKOM REPLACES EQUIPMENT AT NALUBAALE

By Nicholas Oneal

At about 5:48pm on June 22, the country was plunged into darkness when power went out at the Nalubaale and Kiira power stations. The incident happened during stormy weather conditions, which loosened an overhead earth shield wire, which broke and fell on the equipment.

Uganda and Partners; the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) and Umeme, have embarked on replacing the old earth shield wires on both 33kV and 132kV substations at the Nalubaale dam.

The joint task took place on Sunday and are expected to be finished.

a communication to state Eskom Uganda's manager Thozama Gangi, urged to notify customers on the areas affected.

IN BRIEF