

What Rwakakooko brings to UEDCL

She has served within the company's senior management team and accumulated more than 20 years of experience.

BY PHILIP WAFULA

The newly appointed chairperson of Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL), Ms Stella Marie Biwaga, has named Ms Joselynn R Rwakakooko as acting managing director, replacing Mr Paul Mwesigwa, who has been sent on forced leave.

"The Board of Directors of UEDCL wishes to inform the general public, stakeholders, and partners of the recent governance and management changes at the company. Effective May 2, the Board has appointed Eng Joselynn R Rwakakooko as acting Managing Director of UEDCL," Ms Biwaga said in a statement dated May 2.

According to Ms Biwaga, Eng Rwakakooko brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served within the company's senior management team and accumulated more than 20 years in electricity distribution, commercial operations, and large-scale utility management.

"She has a proven track record of leading institutional transformation, im-

proving operational performance and delivering sustainable growth within complex and evolving power sector environments," Ms Biwaga added, extending appreciation to Mr Mwesigwa for his service.

Ms Rwakakooko is a registered engineer and a member of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers. She is credited as one of the key figures behind UEDCL's emergency response teams and grid expansion initiatives aimed at stabilising electricity distribution during the sector's transition.

Prior to her appointment, she served as Chief Commercial and Operations Officer, a role in which she oversaw core operational functions and revenue performance across the national distribution network.

Her elevation comes amid broader changes in the energy sector. On Saturday, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Ms Ruth Nankabirwa, sent Mr Mwesigwa on forced leave and appointed Ms Biwaga as interim board chairperson, replacing Ms Lydia Ochieng-Obbo, whose contract was terminated.

Ms Nankabirwa said the changes were part of "governance measures" intended to pave the way for a comprehensive review of the company's management and operations.

UEDCL was established under the Electricity Act, 1999, as part of reforms that unbundled Uganda's power sector into generation, transmission, and distribution.



Joselynn Rwakakooko, acting managing director. PHOTO/COURTESY

On April 1, 2025, the company took over the electricity distribution licence from Umeme Limited, ending a 20-year concession that expired in March 2025.

Following the takeover, UEDCL retained existing tariff structures, including lifeline tariffs, declining block tar-

iffs, and time-of-use arrangements. It also inherited a significantly expanded power system, with national generation capacity standing at 2,052.6 megawatts, up from about 300 megawatts at the start of the Umeme concession.

The government also oversaw a workforce transition that created 2,712 em-

HER CAREER IN BRIEF

- Previously Chief Commercial and Operations Officer at UEDCL
- Former senior manager at Umeme Limited, including roles in network operations and customer service engineering
- Registered professional engineer and member of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers

ployment opportunities for staff drawn from both UEDCL and Umeme, in a bid to maintain continuity in service delivery. However, the transition has not been without challenges. Given its central role in electricity supply, governance instability within UEDCL carries wide national implications.

The latest leadership changes follow an internal administrative review ordered by the Ministry of Energy last year into the company's performance. The review came amid reports that Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja had blocked earlier plans by Ms Nankabirwa to dismiss some senior managers at the utility.

In a subsequent statement, Dr Patricia Litho, assistant commissioner for communications and information management at the ministry, said the UEDCL Board had been directed to conduct a thorough investigation into concerns raised by the Electricity Regulatory Authority.