...standards. Seninde applauded the teachers for the good ... all subjects were done well with an overall percentage pass rate of over 87%, with the exception of ... 2017 as well as improved supervision.

The academic registrar of Kyambogo University, Dr Peter Okello, said last year the best ... the release of the examination results, PTCs that performed well were given trophies, while the best three candidates from different PTCs were also recognised.

Mugagga that if the allegations are found to be true, apart from breaching public service standing orders and teachers' code of conduct, they would also have a criminal bearing

Assessing Child Protection Safety and Security Issues for children in Uganda found that teachers are responsible for 24% of the teenage pregnancies, early marriages and defilement.

Govt loses sh2b in solar power project

By Nicholas Wassajja

The Government has lost $796,885 (about sh2.8b) in the delayed implementation of a solar power project for a chunk of rural schools and health centres, a parliamentary committee has heard.

According to the Auditor General's report, although the contracts indicated 2009 as the deadline for completion, the installation of the solar energy packages had not been completed by as late as 2014 for targeted schools and health centres, while in other instances there were no installations had been made at the time of auditing by March 2016.

Rural transformation project

In 2001, the Government secured a total of $102m (about sh363b) loan from the World Bank to implement the Energy for Rural Transformation (ERT) project which included the installation of solar energy packages in 560 rural schools and 464 health centres in the second phase.

"The delay in implementation of the installations was due to the delays in effecting the contracts, even when the funds had been made available at the time of contract signing," the report reads.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

Osegge observed the failure of the implementing officials to follow the selection criteria meant that schools in dire need of energy were left out and costs incurred on institutions that already have power.

This was revealed yesterday during an interface between the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chaired by Angelline Osegge (Soroti Woman MP) and energy ministry officials as the project co-ordinating unit.

The meeting was also attended by senior government engineers from the education ministry and health ministry as key implementing entities.

The project co-ordinator in the education ministry, Eng. Brian Odongo, laboured in vain to explain the delay was due to changes in the beneficiary schools. He said this affected contracts that had to carry out new assessments in 25 schools hence affecting works at about 100 beneficiary schools.

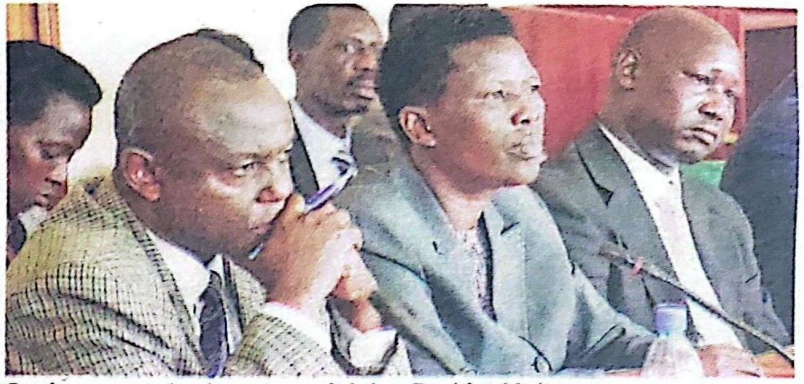
Ineffectiveness

However, Gerald Karuhanga (Ntungamo Municipality) pointed at ineffectiveness on the part of officials, saying the delay was caused by poor planning by the contract implementers.

MPs heard that the responsible government officials also procured what was dubbed junk solar equipment in several instances where benefiting institutions got the chance for the project to roll out.

The report says in a range of institutions where the solar packages were installed, the AG noticed reduced functionality of the equipment and non-replacement of bulbs and fuses, rendering the packages useless.

The lawmakers wondered why the contracts shifted the responsibility of energy equipment purchase and installation from the line energy ministry to the education and health ministries.



Senior accountant energy ministry Brahim Mukwaya, undersecretary in energy ministry Prisca Boonabantu and Samuel Oketayot, the energy for rural transformation project co-ordinator before Parliament on Tuesday. Photo by Maria Wamala

The Government's officials couldn't provide ready answers, prompting PAC to ask them to return the following day with documentary evidence.

There were also queries about eligibility of some of the education and health institutions that benefited from the programme. For example, it was noted that 15 schools got solar energy packages worth $162,599 (about sh590m) yet they didn't meet the eligibility criteria.

The report says 12 potentially eligible schools located in the same districts visited were not selected to benefit from the project although they met the eligibility criteria.

"They were deprived of the opportunity to obtain solar energy packages out of either negligence or collusion on the part of some of you officials. These schools were situated more than 3km away from the existing low-voltage power lines but you denied them a chance," Osegge said.

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