Karuma dam supervisor to be replaced

By John Odyek

The Government is looking for a new supervisor for the construction of the sh6 trillion Karuma dam.

This follows concerns about the quality of supervision of the project owner's engineer, Energy Infratech PYT Ltd, the Indian-based company.

This was revealed by Margaret Proscovia Njuki, the board chairperson of the Uganda Electricity Generation Company (UEGCL), during the annual general meeting of the company (UEGCL). The meeting took place at the finance ministry boardroom in Kampala yesterday.

Njuki cited the recent Auditor General's report for June 2017, which cast doubt on the competence of the supervising engineer on several quality assurance issues identified on site during an 18-month audit period.

The project is left with 11 out of 60 months to the completion deadline.

China's Sino Hydro Corporation is the main contractor.

Energy Infratech's contract for the supervision of 183MW Isimba dam project was not renewed in September, following similar quality concerns.

In the audit report, the AG raised issues about the concession management for the Nalubaale and Kiira hydropower stations as well. The audit report said the plants are deteriorating due to poor maintenance by Eskom Uganda Limited.

Karuma dam is 11 months to the completion deadline

Evelyn Anite

But Njuki said Eskom had five years remaining on its concession period. "There are milestones they have to put in place before they hand over the plant to UEGCL," Njuki said.

Evelyn Anite, the privatisation and investment state minister, said UEGCL had made good progress by in increasing the generation capacity in Uganda.

"I want to give assurance that we are working on the issues of the owner's engineer for Karuma and Isimba," she said, adding that the power that will be generated will lead to more job opportunities.

David Bahati, the planning state minister, said UEGCL was one of the top performing government parastatals.

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