

connects to four
South Sudan,

Kenya and Rwanda)," Kyamugambi
said.
The building of the control points is

He said the levelling (walking on foot
between control points) might require
surveyors to walk through people's
gardens or land with equipment.

mosques, schools, health centres upon
the engagement of the administration
and leadership of these facilities right
from Tororo to Kampala.



Presidents John Pombe Magufuli and Yoweri Museveni shake hands during the commissioning of the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project at Ruzinga village in Kyotera district on Thursday last week. Photo by PPU

Uganda wants pipeline to tap into Tanzania's gas

By John Odyek

Uganda and Tanzania have agreed on the possibility of constructing a gas pipeline to be laid near the 1,445-km East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project running from Hoima district in Uganda to Tanga port in Tanzania.

Energy minister Eng. Irene Muloni told *New Vision* that total gas reserves in Uganda are about 670 billion cubic feet and this gas will be used to generate power to run equipment, such as pumps, in the oil fields.

"Uganda's gas is not enough to support the conversion of iron ore to sponge iron to make steel. At the Joint Uganda-Tanzania Permanent Commission in March in Arusha, Tanzania, the development of a gas pipeline was one of the areas considered. Development of iron ore resources was the impetus for this," Muloni explained.

She said the Government plans to develop the iron and steel industry in an integrated manner. This will involve establishing integrated iron and steel facilities to reduce

the import burden of steel products.

Muloni said Guangzhou Donsong Group Co Ltd was on course to process iron ore into steel products from the carbonatites around Sukulu Hills in Tororo district.

The energy ministry is to undertake a study that will inform the setting up of an integrated iron and steel mill in Kigezi region and related industries in Uganda.

Tanzania's President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli was in Uganda Thursday last week for a three-day state visit.

"The heads-of-state exchanged views on the proposal to develop a gas pipeline between Tanzania and Uganda and directed their respective ministers to undertake the necessary preparatory work," a joint statement said.

Magufuli and his host President Yoweri Museveni laid a cross-border markstone in Lusinga village, Kyotera district, where the \$3.5b (about sh13 trillion) pipeline will cross the two countries.

Catherine Nyakecho, an energy ministry geologist, said iron ore occurs in form of

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magnetite, hematite, goethite, limonite and siderite. She said magnetite and hematite are used in the steel industry due to their superior quality.

"Uganda is endowed with conventional iron ore reserves in form of hematite and magnetite. However, there has been limited production of iron ore. What is produced is mainly for use as an additive in steel scrap smelting in Jinja for special cement by Hima Cement," Nyakecho said.

Hematite is found in Muko and Butare in Kabale district and in Kashenyi, Kyanyamuzinda and Kamena in Kisoro district. It also occurs in Mugabuzi in Mbarara district and in Nyaituma in Hoima district.

Magnetite is in Sukulu in

Tororo district, Bukusu in Manafwa district, Toro in Kotido district and in Napak district. Magnetite in Uganda is associated with the carbonatite complexes.

Over 400 Ugandan artisanal and small-scale miners work in the iron ore industry, of whom more than half are women.

Natural gas was first discovered in Tanzania in 1974 on the Songo Songo Island (Lindi region).

Natural gas annual production and consumption has increased significantly and Tanzania is looking to export the gas to earn revenues for development.

When natural gas is refined it produces compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, for both domestic and industrial use.

Don Binyina, the executive director of African Center for Energy and Mineral Policy, said if well managed, mining can provide lasting opportunities for economic growth and development. "The conditions in which mining is carried out should help benefit the mining communities, the environment and the Government," he said.