

Kalangala power company stuck with excess electricity

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KALANGALA. A 1.6 MegaWatts Hybrid Power plant constructed in Bukuzindu, Mugoye Sub-County in Kalangala District is stuck with excess power, according to officials from Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS).

Mr John Opondo, the KIS managing director, told journalists on Monday that the 1.6 megawatt plant only utilises 30 per cent of production capacity, which is mainly supplied to households.

About 2,600 lines are connected to the plant servicing 16 landing sites on Bugala Island.

"When we generate much power and it is not utilized it flows back to the power plant which later damages the machines at the power source. This has affected our capacity to supply power to far away landing sites," he said.

30%

THE PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING UTILISED

In 2013, the government contracted KIS to generate thermal and solar power for both commercial and domestic consumption to residents on Bugala, Kalangala's main island.

Currently, KIS, according to Mr Joseph Mulindwa, the company's public relations officer, is working out modalities to attract large commercial consumers such as Oil Palm Uganda, Kalangala Fish Processing plant on Mwena Landing Site, who would play a critical role in driving up consumption.

However, according to Mr Willy Lugoloobi, the Kalangala District chairperson, there is concern, in regard to the cost of connection to rural and remote residents.

"The company needs to look into the issue of costs of power connection to the far away localities such that business owners at different landing sites can be able to get power at a relatively cheaper cost," he said.

KIS is a subsidiary of Infraco UK, NedBank South Africa and Uganda Development Corporation.

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