

OPINION

Fast track energy conservation law

The Government is in the advanced stages of drafting an energy efficiency and conservation Bill. This is good news and it comes at a time when there is mounting pressure on our more traditional energy sources, which, in their current state, cannot be stretched further.

Energy minister Irene Muloni, in a statement read for her on Monday during the launch of the Energy Week, urged the public to adopt alternative renewable energy and energy-saving technologies for sustainable use of our already over-burdened energy sources.

The week-long event being held at Kampala Capital City Authority grounds in Lugogo is an annual event which brings together exhibitors, conservationists and the general public.

With the current population explosion and the attendant increased demand for energy, a law to provide a legal framework that will facilitate the regulation of the nascent sector is long overdue. With the proliferation of both fake and counterfeit products on the market, energy efficiency and conservation is one aspect which the Government cannot leave to the whims of the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

Without an enabling law to regulate the sector, current efforts aimed at energy conservation would be futile since there are no established standards. All stakeholders, therefore, need to examine the draft energy efficiency and conservation Bill with a view of improving it in order to develop a progressive energy sector. The current narrative in the energy sector is inclined towards the adoption of clean and renewable sources of energy. It is hoped that this will, in the long run, help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

It is, therefore, not a matter of choice, but rather necessity for the Government to fast track the process of passing the energy efficiency and conservation Bill into law. The Government and development partners also need to continue making huge investments in clean energy infrastructure and advocating for its use. Additional incentives such as tax cuts on energy-saving technologies will go a long way in making these products more affordable for the average Ugandan.

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