

Solar distributor partners with banks to increase solar uptake

By Benon Ojiambo

With access to electricity among the people being low, in Uganda attributed to high connectivity costs, there is need to consider alternative sources of clean energy.

According to the 2014 national population and housing census, 52% of households use local paraffin candle (locally known as *tadooba*) as the main source of energy for lighting while 20% use electricity.

Use of paraffin candles is disadvantageous as it can cause severe burns and injuries in case of fires in informal settlements.

In addition, to the high connection costs, monthly bills that users have to incur are also discouraging connections because the majority of the rural people cannot afford.

To increase the uptake of solar which does not have additional costs, Mwafrika Solar, a solar distribution company has partnered with different financial institutions to enable the people especially the rural dwellers to be able to acquire the products even without ready cash.

Mwafrika Solar has partnered with financial institutions, such as Pride Microfinance,



Mwafrika Solar executive director Peter Mubanda (second-left at back row) and associate brand manager Marianne Mubiru (third-right standing) with their agents at the launch of SunKing Solar. Photo by Nicholas Oneal

Opportunity Bank, Postbank and Vision Fund, a microfinance institution. Clients of the financial institutions shall have an opportunity to buy solar products on credit.

"These financial institutions are in the business of providing the services our clients are

looking for," Peter Mubanda, Mwafrika Solar's executive director said during a media launch in Bugolobi, a Kampala suburb recently.

Mubanda explained that the company shall operate 'a supermarket-like chain' that sells many products to give

clients the freedom to choose what product suits their demand.

"We aim at creating a platform that allows everyone, irrespective of their financial standing, to shop because we have suppliers who serve both the low and high-end clients,"

Mubanda said.

"We are going to operate like a supermarket. We want people to walk into our shops and choose the solar products they want," he said adding that they aim at serving over 50 major towns of the country.

Jumia Food, KFC partner

Jumia Food, Africa's leading online food delivery service has announced that customers in Kampala can now get KFC meals delivered to their doorstep through the Jumia Food App.

Ron Kawamara, the managing director for Jumia Food East Africa said: "KFC is one of the most loved food brands in Uganda and globally. We are delighted that Jumia Food can now make delicious KFC meals just a tap away for people in Kampala."

Some of the popular KFC signature meals, such as the Streetwise 2, Twisters and the famous chicken buckets among others will be available on Jumia Food.

Kawamara further added: "Whether you are at office or home, Jumia Food now has the finger licking meals you are craving, ready to be delivered with just one click and with no delivery fee. Effortless and quick!"

To celebrate the partnership, new customers ordering through the Jumia Food App for the first time can use voucher code JFK4, which gives new users 30% off their first order.

Orders can be placed between 11:00am and 10:00pm.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Kisoro elderly to get free health insurance scheme

By Wilson Manishimwe

Over 170 elderly people from the Kisoro district are to benefit from the free health insurance scheme initiated by

