

# Nyagak III hydro dam for Dec 2019

ZOMBO

By Benedict Okethwengu

The Government and Dott Services Ltd, the firm undertaking construction of Nyagak III Mini Hydropower dam, have agreed to redesign the project to generate 6.6 megawatts (MW) from the initial 5.5MW.

Nyagak III power dam is being constructed downstream of the 3.5MW Nyagak I along River Nyagak, in Paidha sub-county, Zombo district.

It is estimated that upon completion, the dam will supply power at an affordable price to over 8,500 households in the region.

According to Simon D'ujanga, the state minister for energy, the move to redesign the dam followed a change in the position and face of the penstock.

"A penstock is a gate or intake structure that controls water flow, or an enclosed pipe that delivers water to hydro turbines and sewage systems.

D'ujanga said after the penstock was changed by the contractor, KfW Bank, the financier, demanded a review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project.

D'ujanga said the Government and contractor then agreed that the review should not be for the EIA, but also in the project design to enable it to generate more power.

"When the contractor asked us to review the EIA after the change of the position of the penstock, we felt it necessary to come up with another design. It was agreed upon that the dam be redesigned to produce 6.6MW from 5.5MW," he said.

He, however, did not state the reason why the direction of the penstock was changed from the original plan.

Over the weekend, D'ujanga met



Officials inspecting Nyagak III hydro power project site. Photo by Benedict Okethwengu

***"Compensation for those affected by the project has been completed with exception of one or two who are to be compensated soon."*** D'ujanga

top officials of Dott Services, including managing director Reddy Mahesrwa, to harmonise their positions.

They had a tour of the site and agreed to have the dam commissioned by December 2019.

According to D'ujanga, the changes in design means bigger machines will be installed.

"We shall have bigger machines installed, but that will not affect the cost of the project and people should expect a constant flow of electricity,"

he said.

D'ujanga said the team working to review the EIA has up to Monday to submit a report on environmental impact caused by the new design.

He assured the neighbouring communities that plans for the establishment of a primary school and a health centre are in final stages.

He also said compensation for those affected by the project has been completed with exception of one or two people who are to be

compensated soon.

Mary Mwogeza, the project coordinator Nyagak III UEGCL, had also said the project would affect 310 persons and sh630m had been set aside for compensation.

Mwogeza added that the project is at its peak of construction and will create over 300 jobs.

Mahesrwa said the firm is ready to beat the deadline to have the power dam commissioned by December 2019.

Kathrin Kaestle, a senior project manager of energy KfW, in an earlier interview said the project was important to the region because it would lead to building capacity for social and economic development.

"We have a strong focus on West Nile region to develop generation capacity and grid connection and extension to households. There is a big need for electricity supply in the region," Kaestle said.