Govt must invest in clean energy

I recently read a story that three members of one family have died after five days of battling burns suffered following a reported candle fire that razed their rented single room in Kizungu cell, Kasese Town.

Initiative such as the Sustainable Energy for All and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal Seven highlights the need to have equal access to clean, affordable and reliable energy.

The government is making heavy investment in construction of hydropower dams and extending electricity to the rural communities. However, while hydropower is cheap in other countries, it is quite expensive in Uganda. The government is executing a free connections for all that is going to cost Ugandans Shs174 billion every year. At a national level, Uganda has one of the lowest electrification rates in Africa as only 20 per cent of Ugandans have access to electricity. This drops to 10 per cent in rural areas.

President Museveni always tells Ugandans that the country has excess power. Therefore, people would want to know why many Ugandans do not have access to electricity. My view is that the government should invest in alternative energy sources such as solar to ease access to affordable and reliable energy that can benefit all Ugandans.

Cyrus Kabaale,
Kampala