



Sher Baluch, Mutikanga and the project manager Isimba hydropower project Prof. Wang Yongtian inspecting the progress of works at the hydropower plant yesterday in Kayunga district. Photo by Benin Ojiambo

# Isimba gets caretaker

By Benin Ojiambo

The Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) has hired a team of experts to fill the vacuum that was left by Energy Infratech pvt Limited, the former project supervisors.

This was revealed by Eng. Dr Harrison Mutikanga, the UEGCL chief executive officer during a quarterly inspection tour by the UEGCL board of directors at the project site in Kayunga district, yesterday.

The contract of Energy Infratech, who were supervising works at the 183 mega watt project expired in September, but was not renewed over failure to meet UEGCL expectations.

The eight-man transition team is led by Sher Baluch, who according to Mutikanga, is an experienced hydro power engineer who has worked in the sector for more than 35 years on 20 different projects in 18 different countries across the globe.

"We had to reorganise and bring in experts to give us support so that we effectively supervise the project within this transition period before we finalise the procurement of a new owner's

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The eight-man transition team is led by Sher Baluch, an experienced hydro power engineer who has worked in the sector for more than 35 years on 20 different projects in 18 countries across the globe.

engineer," Mutikanga said.

He explained that during the transition period, they listed down all the nonconformities and they are engaging the contractor to make sure that they are corrected by the time construction is completed.

The over two trillion shilling project is implemented by the China International Water and Electric Corporation and it is expected to be commissioned by August next year.

"We are waiting for additional resources from the energy ministry before the owner's engineer can be deployed on site. The ministry is the employer of the owner's engineer. They asked us to

procure a new owner's engineer, which we have finalised. The project has not stopped," Mutikanga said.

However, he declined to name the new owner's engineer as they finalising the whole process that includes contract signing.

About sh13b is needed to recruit the new owner's engineer and discussions are ongoing between the finance and energy ministries to avail the funds.

## Works on schedule

Mutikanga said they have so far attained 75% progress in physical works.

"We have done the second stage river diversion, which means that we are getting close to doing the impoundments that shall lead to the final stages before power generation starts," Mutikanga added

Currently, installation of the hydro mechanical equipment in the powerhouse is ongoing and they have installed some of the equipment, such as generators.

"All the works on this project are on schedule. We are confident that we shall meet the August 2018 delivery of the project," he added.