

most political infrastructure in the country to take state power, but instead settling for small political portions and backing

shall not support him for the fifth time.”

The UYD alumni agreed to pursue the DP agenda of taking

lock ourselves inside a room to pick a candidate whom we would jointly stand behind and support.

including Kenyan politician Raila Odinga, did not, however, attend the meeting.

MPs query Chinese electricity company contract

By John Odyek and Moses Mulondo

Parliament has deferred the approval of a \$212m (about sh763b) from the China Export and Import Bank (EXIMBANK), after concerns about the quality of a Chinese contractor, TBEA Co. Ltd, which was selected to construct the power lines to 287 sub-counties countrywide which are still in darkness.

Syda Bbumba, the national economy committee chairperson, yesterday presented the committee's report to Parliament on the request by Government to get the loan.

Bbumba said as a requirement for Chinese financing under concessional

terms, the borrower is required to secure an Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contractor for the project.

“To that end, Rural Electrification Authority contracted TBEA Co. Ltd to carry out construction works under the project after securing the relevant procurement and contracting clearances from Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDA). The contract shall become effective upon approval of the loan by Cabinet and Parliament and signature of the loan between the Government of Uganda and EXIMBANK,” Bbumba said.

Bbumba said the project dubbed: “Bridging the demand supply balance gap through the accelerated Rural

Electrification Programme (REA)”, seeks to connect the sub-counties that are not on the national power grid.

According to the loan agreement, the Government is expected to provide \$13m (about sh46.8b) as counterpart funds. Access to electricity in rural areas in the country, stands at 10.6%, one of the lowest in the world.

Bbumba said the project was targeting over 170,000 customers, that would be connected directly to the grid, during the three years of implementation.

Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga, who chaired the House, instructed said it would only be fair that 10% of the 30% local content component which was meant for Ugandans goes to women and the youth.

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