

11,000 homes to get free power connection in Masaka

MASAKA

By Dismus Buregyeya

At least 11,000 households in Masaka will access free electricity connection in Masaka by next year, the state minister for energy, Simon D'Ujanga, has said.

Speaking on Saturday during the commissioning of the Masaka streetlights in Liberation Square in Masaka municipality, the minister said 5,000 households had already been connected to Umeme's pre-paid Yaka network, so far.

D'Ujanga said the beneficiaries would be those located 5km from the Kawanda-Masaka power substation construction project. The minister said under the sh550b project, the Government resolved to support the peri-urban street and market lighting project, of which Masaka municipality is a beneficiary.

He said the Government is aiming at propelling growth and development in Masaka, by providing lighting of markets and streets, so as to extend the working hours of the people.

"The market vendors will safely work day and nights to improve their incomes," he said. He urged the people to utilise the use of energy-saving bulbs under the project, to save money.

He said the Government is focusing on the increase of power generation to empower small-scale and industrial development.

However, the resident district commissioner, Lt Joe Walusimbi, said the Government has injected over sh40b into infrastructure development, which include roads and drainage systems construction.

Walusimbi said the streetlights have



Kayemba, Mathias Mpuuga, the Masaka Municipality MP and D'Ujanga during the launch of the Masaka municipality streetlights at the Liberation Square. Photo by Dismus Buregyeya

improved security in the area, adding that the panga-wielding thugs are no longer a threat in the area.

The Masaka Municipality Mayor, Godfrey Kayemba, said they had saved at least sh200m to cater for the streetlights bills.

He said some of the streetlights under the World Bank-funded road projects were solar-powered.

Kayemba thanked the Government for the improvement of the town's image.

The Masaka District Woman MP, Mary Babirye Kabanda, asked the Government to construct the Nyendo-Masaka road which is in a sorry state.

"The road, which is full of potholes, is at the entrance of Masaka town. It paints a bad image of the town; Uganda

National Roads Authority should save us from this embarrassment," she said. She urged the traders in Masaka to pay taxes to support service delivery.

The Masaka Municipality Market vendors Association chairperson, Nakayizza, asked President Museveni to fulfil the sh40m pledge he promised the vendors in Nyendo and Masaka central division.