

Electricity



The improvement of the transmission system will also lead to the construction and renovation of sub-stations

Govt seeks sh450b loan for Kampala power line

By Moses Mulondo

The Government is seeking parliamentary approval to borrow \$125.1m (450b) from the Japan International Agency to finance

the improvement of the Kampala metropolitan electricity transmission system.

The loan request is premised on a power flow simulation study carried out by the energy ministry, which established that at the current rate of growth in Kampala metropolitan area which also includes Wakiso, Mukono, Mpigi and some parts of Luwero, the area's transmission system will lack capacity within 15 years.

RENOVATING POWER LINES

While justifying the loan request before the parliamentary committee of the national economy, state minister for energy, Simon D'ujanga, said the project would lead to the construction and renovation of the sub stations, improvement of transmission lines and introduction of a mobile substation.

The minister said the project would also facilitate the absorption of electricity generated at Karuma Dam into the Kampala metropolitan grid.

Another key objective for the project is to improve the capacity of the industrial park stations under construction in Namanve, Mukono,



Syda Namirembe Bbumba



Minister Simon D'ujanga

10-15 years

A study carried out by the energy ministry established that at the current rate of growth in Kampala metropolitan area, the area's transmission system will lack capacity in the 10 to 15 years

Luzira, and the Standard Gauge substations.

The same project is expected to provide adequate capacity and reliable supply to the oil pipeline terminal

planned at Buloba.

The project comes at a time when the Government has just unveiled a grand plan for the development of Kampala metropolitan districts of Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, and Mpigi, which will involve tarmacking all the key roads in the area, establishing a light railway network, constructing flyovers, express high ways, ring roads, tourism centres, and many other projects.

Business support flagship projects, will include development of artisan parks, workshops and markets for street vendors, business engagement centres, business incubation and job centres for the youth, micro-enterprise workspace programme and attracting further investments in Greater Kampala.

The National Planning Authority director for planning said the greater Kampala development plan is premised

on the fact that 65% of Uganda's GDP comes from this area and, therefore, massive investment will enhance the country's economy.

The committee chairperson, Syda Namirembe Bbumba, said the project would greatly help factories and other businesses in Metropolitan Kampala which depend on electricity.

Bbumba advised the Government to ensure that electricity generation and transmission was matched with distribution.

"There is a big mismatch between electricity generation, transmission and distribution. We have excess power generation, yet the majority of Ugandans have no access to electricity. That is why the power generated is expensive," Bbumba stated.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Mwenge South MP, Aston Kajara, raised concern over poor loan absorption and slow project implementation which he attributed to government's failure to provide counterpart funding for projects.

Busiki County MP Paul Akamba said parliament would require the ministry of energy to explain why after exempting Bujagali power dam from paying taxes the power tariffs have not come down.

"When the Government was seeking Parliament approval for the tax exemption of Bujagali about a year ago, we were told it would bring down the power tariffs. But the power tariffs