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BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

Kisoro to be connected to national grid

KABALE. The government has unveiled plans to connect Kisoro Town to Uganda's national electricity grid, in a move aimed at ending decades of reliance on imported power from Rwanda.

Officials from Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) say the shift is expected to improve reliability, reduce costs for businesses, and support economic growth in the southwestern district.

Mr Ian Namanya, the UEDCL territory manager for the southwestern region, disclosed the plans on Wednesday during a media dialogue held in Kabale.

"Plans have been approved to connect Kisoro Town to the national electricity grid to avoid challenges of import-

ing power from Rwanda," Mr Namanya said. "Electricity was sourced from Rwanda for many years because it was the nearest option, but with the establishment of a substation at Karukara, Rubanda District, it is now feasible to integrate Kisoro into the national grid."

Uganda began importing electricity from Rwanda in the early 1990s to serve Kisoro due to the absence of reliable infrastructure linking the area to the national grid. This was further encumbered by technical and reliability challenges.

Mr Namanya noted that recent upgrades in the region have already im-

proved power stability. These include the replacement of a 2.5MVA transformer with a 5MVA unit at Kabale substation and the replacement of deteriorated electricity poles with new ones.

Since April 2025, UEDCL has registered 1,768 new electricity connections, replaced 437 meters, and achieved full revenue collection.

The company has further enhanced customer engagement through public outreach and digital platforms, including a WhatsApp communication channel. Looking ahead, UEDCL plans to refurbish the Kabale substation and the Kabale West 11KV feeder, alongside ex-

panding government-supported electricity connections.

The Member of Parliament-elect for Kisoro Municipality, Mr Sam Byibesho, welcomed the development, describing it as a long-awaited solution to persistent power challenges in the area.

"Connecting Kisoro to the national grid will boost industrialisation and business growth," Mr Byibesho said. "The imported power from Rwanda was unreliable and was often at low voltage, forcing businesses and service providers to rely on expensive generators."

He added that the move would signif-

icantly reduce operational costs for enterprises and improve service delivery across sectors.

Kisoro Municipality, has an estimated population of about 26,000 people, according to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census. More than 17,000 households are currently connected to electricity.

Energy experts say integrating Kisoro into the national grid will not only stabilise power supply but also enhance regional development by supporting small industries, tourism and cross-border trade.

The planned connection marks a significant step in Uganda's broader efforts to expand electricity access and improve service reliability across underserved regions.