

Rates

BUY	SELL
3687	3707
4532	4648
5231	5331
36.3	36.8
.62	1.66
.95	320
3.59	35.24
72	1020
	4.3
50	3707
RE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	

Sh30b secured for new electricity projects

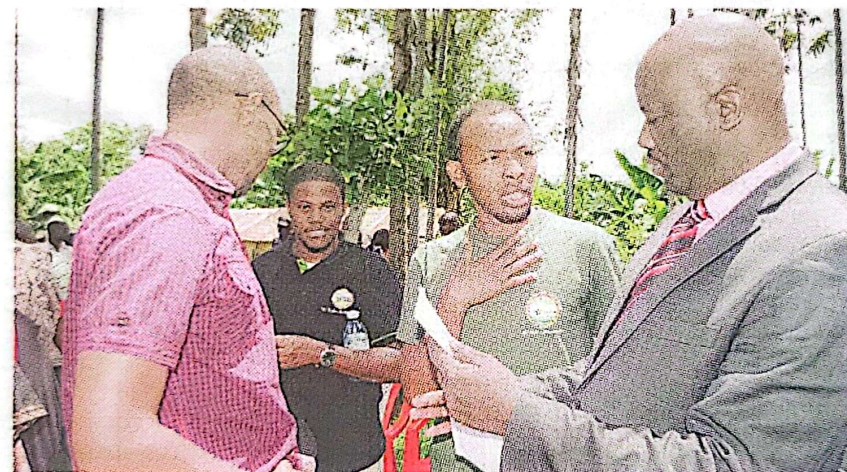
By Vision Reporter

The Government has secured \$8m (about sh30b) funding from Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to expedite expansion of electricity in nine districts in Uganda.

The districts are Kabarole, Kabale, Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Sheema, Buliisa, Hoima and Masindi. The project, under rural electrification, has been contracted to two local companies; Haso Engineering Ltd and Multi-Konsults, to execute in 15 months, according to the project manager, Samuel Bishop.

Bishop introduced the contractors and consultants on the project to the leaders of the districts last week.

He said a total of 137km of low voltage networks, 52.14km of medium voltage and 294.27km of high voltage networks are to be constructed in the selected districts. He requested the district leaders to



Rwabuhinga (right) chatting with Bishop (second-right) and project co-ordinator Kenneth Kahuma (left) in Kabarole

convince the people in the project areas not to ask for compensation for crops.

"The projects we are going to implement are scattered in nature and our humble appeal to the district leadership is to inform the

beneficiaries that we don't have funds for compensation for all the crops that shall be destroyed in the process of constructing the networks," Bishop said.

He said most of the projects were lobbied for by the area politicians,

local communities, and business establishment owners while others are a fulfillment of presidential pledges.

He, however, explained that priority would be given to establishments like agro-processing facilities, health centres, schools and commercial agricultural farms.

He said the government's 10-year strategy is to scale-up rural electricity access to at least 26% by 2022, from the current 7%.

According to Bishop, community-initiated electrification schemes could also help in scaling power extension. He said in some areas, communities have mobilised funds and offered to meet part of the cost of power extension to their areas because they wanted the power faster.

He said such communities have contributed 30% of the project and the government has contributed the rest.

IT WARS: PENDED

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