

Five power projects to be commissioned

By Vision Reporter

From Tororo to Soroti, Gulu, Hoima, Kasese and Kabale, there are different electricity-generation projects undergoing construction, which will be due for commissioning in less than six months.

The projects include Tororo Solar North (10MW), Siti 1 (6.2MW), Siti 2 (16.5MW), (Soroti Solar plant (10MW), Achwa 2 HPP (42MW) and Waki HPP. The projects were recently inspected by a team from the Electricity Regulatory Authority.

About 33MW in offing

About five small electricity generation plants with a total installed generation capacity of about 33.6MW are expected to be connected to the national grid before the end of February next year.

They include Tororo Solar North plant (10MW), Siti 1 (6.2MW), Rwimi HPP (5.5MW), Lubilia (5.4MW) and Muvumbe power plants.

Their commissioning will bring Uganda's total installed generation capacity close to 960MW.

Currently, Uganda's installed generation capacity



Bujagali hydro-power plant. The new hydro-power plants will add 33MW on the national grid

stands at 924.9MW. Of this, large hydro account for 69%, while thermal, co-generation and small hydro account for 15%, 9% and 7% of the installed capacity, respectively.

Progress registered

Tororo Solar North
The project construction kicked off in December last

year and has been completed. The project is undergoing performance tests by the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) and Umeme, the distributor.

Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako expressed optimism in the reduction of technical losses that are incurred during transmission due to short distances.

Technical losses are normally incurred during the transmission of power, from the generation plant to the transmission substation. The longer the distance, the higher the technical losses, and vice-versa.

The plant is located less than two kilometres away from the UETCL Tororo substation. "It is implemented near the

UETCL load centres and this contributes to reduction in technical losses that may be incurred during transmission over long distances," Waako said last week.

Siti 1 and 2

Siti 1 construction has been completed and it is ready to be commissioned. On the other hand, Siti 2 project, whose construction

commenced in May this year, is 40% complete ahead of its expected commissioning in July next year.

Rwimi

According to Raviwama Katugampola, the 5.5MW-capacity project engineer, it is almost complete, with 95% of dam (intake) complete, machine installations at the power almost done and about 50 metres of the 1.8km water pipeline left.

"We are ahead of the scheduled October 2017 deadline," Katugampola says.

Muvumbe HPP

The project construction and technical tests have been completed and are awaiting official commissioning.

Lubilia hydro project

The project that commenced in July this year is on schedule ahead of its expected commissioning in December next year.

Currently, the weir (a barrier) and intake are expected to be completed in September, the power house is expected to be completed next month while the 2km-headrace canal has been completed.

"We are very much optimistic that we shall deliver the project as scheduled," an official says.

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