

What ISO certification means for the authority

By Benon Ojiambo

Having attained the ISO 9001:2015, quality management standard recently, the sky is the limit in terms of what the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) can achieve.

The quality management standard is issued by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), an international standards setting body.

According to Dr. Ben Manyindo, the executive director of Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), this standard does not change many things in an organisation's operations. However, it

requires documentation of an organisation's work processes and procedures in accordance with guidelines given by the standard.

"Most organisations do not have documented work procedures and processes despite the fact that they have job descriptions," he said.

"At times, you may find out that there is too much waste in what you do in your processes and procedures. The standard comes to align those bringing efficiency and effectiveness in the organisation," Manyindo said.

He further stated that the overall benefit of this standard is the efficiency and effectiveness of your services.

"Currently, if you are to be deemed a reliable supplier of a world service or production worldwide, you should be able



The electro-thermo plant in Tororo. The oil and gas sector has grown to different technologies which include thermal

to get the ISO 9001 standard. This will result in trust and reliability of your output," Manyindo added.

However, he describes the process of getting such a certification as costly, something he says has kept many organisations away.

"It costs between \$10,000 (about sh37) and \$15,000 (about sh55.5m) to get this standard which is expensive for most organisations," he said.

Manyindo said uptake of any standard is encouraged. "When you are implementing standard, there is value addition, efficiency and high reputation added to your organisation," he said.

According to Eng. Ziria

Tibalwa Waako the sector has grown from just one electricity generating plant in 2000 to 26 plants of different technologies like hydro, solar, thermal and bagasse currently.

This has resulted into increase in generation capacity from just 180MW in 2000 to about 930MW currently.

However, despite the considerable achievements that have been registered in the generation segment, access to the utility remains low at about 22% of the population.

She further explained that as the electricity industry approaches a generation capacity of 1000MW at the end of this year, ERA shall be focusing on sustained

adequacy of power supply and strengthening the transmission and distribution infrastructure to promote uptake of the electricity generated.

"Implementation of measures for growing demand for electricity and accelerating access to clean energy will remain prominent on the ERA's agenda, as we make our own contribution to the achievement of the Uganda Vision 2040," Waako said.

She also noted that measures in that direction like the Electricity Connection Policy (ECP), Energy Rebate Policy, and extension of power for industrial use have already been rolled out.

"I encourage potential beneficiaries (industries)

to maximally utilise these mechanisms to increase uptake of the electricity generated for industrialisation and social economic transformation," she said.

Waako explained that her agency regulates a dynamic industry characterised by players that have been previously ISO certified. These include Eskom Uganda, Bujagali Energy Limited, UEGCL, Kakira Sugar Limited, SCOUL, and Kinyara Sugar Limited.

"Therefore, the aspect of quality management is pivotal to our operations to ensure standardization, efficiency, stakeholder satisfaction and sustainability of the industry," she said.



Hydromax Limited
A Renewable Energy Company

Kabalega Hydro Power plant(9MW) - Hoima District Status: In operation



THE Board of Directors, Management, Staff of **HYDROMAX LTD** wishes to **CONGRATULATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ERA)** upon being ranked No. 1 in the 2018 Africa Development Bank Electricity Regulatory Index and pledge continued partnership to develop and deliver clean and reliable electricity supply for National Development.

ON-GOING PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY M/S DOT SERVICES LTD

Waki Hydro Power Plant(4.8mw) - Hoima District
COD: October 2018

Nyagak III Hydro Power Plant (6.6MW) - Zombo District under Public Private Partnership
COD: September 2021

Under Construction

