



MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF UHURU HYDROPOWER PROJECT ALONG RIVER NILE IN KIRYANDONGO AND NWOYA DISTRICTS

1. The NDP II prioritized investments in energy infrastructure with a focus on the exploitation of the abundant renewable energy sources including hydropower, so as to increase power generation capacity from 825MW in 2012 to 2,500MW by 2020 and expansion of the national electric power grid network.
2. In that regard, considerable progress has been made in the area of increasing electricity generation capacity through construction of large hydropower plants such as; Isimba Hydropower Plant (183 MW) that was commissioned in March 2019 bringing total installed capacity to 1202 MW; and Karuma Hydropower Project (600 MW) to be commissioned during the 1st Quarter of 2020.
3. Other Projects under construction include; Agago - Achwa hydropower projects (83MW) and a number of renewable energy projects under the Global Energy Transfer - Feed-in-Tariffs (GETFiT) program totalling over 72 MW and these are Siti II 16. 5MW, Kyambura HPP 7.6MW, Sindila HPP 5.3MW, Nyamagasani I 15MW, Nyamagasani II 5MW and Kikagati HPP 16MW.
4. According to the most recent UBOS electrification survey, the national electricity access rate now stands at 50% with 26% on the grid and 24% on the off-grid.
5. According to Vision 2040, for Uganda to achieve the desired socio-economic transformation, it will require to have 41,738 Mega Watts by the year 2040 thus increasing the country's electricity consumption per capita to 3,668 kWh. In addition, access to the national grid will also have to increase from the current 26% to over 80%.
6. The 25 Industrial parks across the country to be constructed will need huge volumes of power to accelerate industrialisation, value addition and job creation. The excess

power we are currently having will be absorbed as soon as these industrial parks are completed.

7. The demand for power is growing at about 10% per annum implying continuous development of renewable energy sources including hydro which is one of the cheapest forms of renewable energy.
8. In the effort to realize these targets set in Vision 2040, a number of projects are being studied. These include: Kiba Hydropower Project (400 MW), Oriang Hydropower Project (392MW) and Ayago Hydropower Project (840MW).
9. The Government of Uganda signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/S Bonang Energy and Power Ltd from the Republic of South Africa leading a Consortium that includes among others Norconsult and JSC Institute Hydro project to undertake detailed feasibility studies. The company applied for a permit to ERA to carry out a detailed feasibility study to guide the decision on the development of the proposed Uhuru Hydropower Project.
10. The Electricity Regulatory Authority received a Notice of Intended Application for a Permit to undertake feasibility studies and other related activities in respect of the proposed Uhuru Hydropower project along River Nile in Kiryandongo and Nwoya Districts from Bonang Power and Energy (Pty) Limited.
11. When processing an application for a permit in line with the Electricity Act, 1999, ERA has to consider the impact of a proposed project on public and private rights. This includes consideration of the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of a proposed project on the existing power and eco-system and also undertaking consultations among the various stakeholders.
12. On 26th August 2019, Cabinet was apprised of the Power developments in the country among which was Uhuru falls and halted the process of the development of the Uhuru Site.
13. In order to make a scientifically informed decision, Cabinet reviewed its decision yesterday 2nd December, 2019 and agreed that a feasibility study is undertaken on the Uhuru falls site.
14. Uhuru Falls and Murchison Falls are separate falls that are adjacent to each other. Coordinates for Murchison Falls is 2°16' 22.99 N 31°41'0.02 E while Coordinates for Uhuru Falls (The proposed HPP site) is 2°16' 42.6 N 31°41'08.8 E. (See attached location map).
15. In making the decision, Cabinet considered the need to have the feasibility study undertaken because that is the only scientific way to determine the impact of the project on the environment, tourism and ecology at the proposed site.

16. The feasibility study will include assessment of the technical, environmental, socio-cultural, economic and financial viability of the project.
17. Government will ensure thorough supervision of the feasibility study so that that its interests are taken into consideration including bench marking where similar projects have been previously undertaken in ecologically sensitive areas.

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LOCATION MAPS FOR UHURU FALLS AND MURCHISON FALLS

