

Nyabarongo I Hydro Power Plant in its final stage



Nyabarongo I Hydro Power Plant (28MW)

Muhanga 9th July, 2014-The Ministers from the Ministry of Infrastructure Honorable Professor Silas Lwakabamba, Honorable Emma. Françoise Isumbingabo in charge of Energy and Water and sanitation and EWSA Ltd officials visited Nyabarongo I Hydro Power Project to monitor the progress of the project.

The project is power plant located in Mushishiro sector-Muhanga District and is expected to produce 28 MW, and when connected

to the National Grid, the plant will serve the big part of the Country with electricity and many households and other neighboring sectors will benefit from the project.

The project is being financed through the Government of India (EXIM Bank of India) and the Government of Rwanda. The Project is contracted by two Indian based companies, Angelique International Limited (AIL) that performs all Civil and Electrical works (Transmission)

and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) responsible for the Electro-Mechanical and Hydro-Mechanical works.

The commissioning and pre-commissioning of the project to the National grid is expected soon before the end of the year. The First machine will produce 14MW and the second machine is expected to produce other 14MW by August.

This will change the standards of living of people of Rwanda by providing electricity to neighboring trading centers

of Kibirira, Kivumu, Bulinga and Mushishiro in the Southern Province, hence social and economic growth of the Nation.

After connecting the 28MW to the national grid, a lot of difference will be created through reduction of the excessive power cut offs, enhanced business environment by minimum load shedding, promoting rural and urban electrification hence reduction of power tariffs leading to sustainable development.

8.5 megawatt peak solar PV power plant to be on-line by end July

Rwamagana, 9th July, 2014 –The Minister of Infrastructure, Prof. Silas LwKabamba, visited the Gigawatt Global Rwanda Ltd construction site, the utility-scale solar power plant located near Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (ASYV) in Rwamagana District. The visit was meant to assess the progress of the project.

At present, less than one in five households in Rwanda have access to electricity, and this will increase the country's production capacity by up to 8%.

Access to electricity is crucial for economic growth and development in Rwanda, and similarly in the rest of Africa. Schoolchildren need electricity so that they can do

ity for the Government of Rwanda. This initiative to produce 8.5 megawatts of clean energy is an important addition towards closing Rwanda's current energy gap," said the Minister when he visited the plant.

The Norwegian company Scatec Solar is the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) company responsible for building the power plant, and Remote Partners is the local management and support firm. The project has been funded by Norfund (Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries) and KLP. The Dutch company Gigawatt Global is the developer of the project. Once the plant is on line, Scatec Solar will operate and maintain the plant which will feed electricity directly into the national grid. The price is lower than for electricity generated by diesel oil.



Solar PV panels installed at Gigawatt Global Project

The project is the first utility-scale solar PV power plant in East Africa with a production capacity of 8.5 MWp. The project has commenced testing phase of up to 20% of its total capacity, and plans to commission the plant before August 2014.

their homework, and electricity is essential for better health services, communications, and for growth of the private sector. To put it simply, without electricity there can be no development.

"Generation and provision of electricity to all Rwandans is a prior-

The Government is encouraging private sector involvement and private-public partnerships as part of its development policy. In addition, energy for all is an important goal in the fight against poverty. Energy must be affordable, energy supplies must be reliable, and last but not least, energy is ideally clean and renewable. Solar energy is an important part of the energy mix along with hydropower and other sources of renewable energy in Africa.

The Minister of Infrastructure's visit to Gigawatt Global Rwanda Ltd constitutes his efforts to advance progress towards the Millennium Development Goals on poverty.



Hon. Minister of Infrastructure, inspecting the progress of the project

Rukarara II Hydro Power Plant inaugurated



Nyamagabe -26th June 2014-Rukarara II hydro power plant located in Nyamagabe district in the Southern province was inaugurated today by the Honorable Minister of Infrastructure, Prof.Silas Lwakabamba.

The ceremony was also attended by H.E.Ambassador of Belgium Marc PACSTEEN, European Union representative Daniel Schaer Chief of Political Affairs, Southern Province governor Mr.Alphonse Munyentwali, EWSA Ltd by Mr. Robert Nyamvumba Deputy Director General in charge of Energy and Nyamagabe residents.

The project started in January 2011 and commissioned March 2014 with the installed capacity of 2.2 MW (megawatt) with interconnection lines of 4.2 kilo meters connecting the plant to the national grid.

The project was financed by the

government of Rwanda, Kingdom of Belgium and European Union respectively.

During three years period of the project, residents in Buruhukiro and Uwinkingi sectors got part time jobs since 2011 to date and 750 households in the two sectors will get electricity, 60 in Gahira sector will also be electrified hence improved standards of living.

The power produced by Rukarara II will enhance small business growth such as barber shops, welding workshops, grain mills, internet facilities and other small business activities to operate for long hours hence economic growth towards meeting vision 2020 targets and millennium goals.

The project comes as an opportunity for creation of off-farm jobs for youth and women this will contribute to the local and national economy at large.

The project will increase access to energy as the cornerstone of social and economic development, by offering opportunity for improved lives and economic growth for families and communities.

Much of millennium development goals will be achieved through sustainable modern source of energy reducing poverty, improving children and women's health and broadened education.

Rwanda has set ambitious plans to increase production and distribution of electricity for its population to accelerate Vision 2020 and ED-PRS to provide quantifiable targets with strong commitment.

Rukarara II power plant was successful due to continued partnership between three governments and they are aiming to have full connection to rural centers, schools for socioeconomic development.

The Ministry of Infrastructure signs MoU with SCE



The Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Prof. Silas Lwakabamba and Mr. Kong Wy Mun, CEO / SCE signing bilateral MoU

Kigali, 8th July, 2014-The Minister of Infrastructure, Honorable Professor Silas Lwakabamba, and Mr. Kong Wy Mun the Chief Executive Officer Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of partnership to set strategic ways of transforming infrastructure sector.

The Ministry of Infrastructure signed an MoU with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to further strengthen the existing relations and promote mutual understanding and goodwill between the two parties as a basis of collaboration.

Hon. Minister of Infrastructure

pointed out in his remarks that, the Ministry of Infrastructure, in its efforts aims to ensure sustainable development of infrastructure and contribute to economic growth with a view to enhance the quality of life of the population.

It is in this regard the MININFRA aspires to work together with SCE to promote technical cooperation by sharing Singapore's developmental experience and expertise.

According to Mr. Kong Wy Mun, the Memorandum of Understanding will be a corner stone for the relationship between Rwanda and Singapore acknowledging bilateral relations as a base to promote the

mutual social and economic development through possible private sector participation.

The two parties are looking forward to improving areas to foster infrastructure sector such as housing and urban development, energy, transport, water and sanitation, project management, contract management and capacity building initiatives.

The bilateral relations will in turn bring a long term impact of changing the current infrastructure picture towards sustainable development and socioeconomic transformation.