



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL
DEVELOPMENT

PRESS BRIEF

ENERGY & MINERALS WEEK 2019

Hon. Peter Lokeris, Minister of State for Minerals

VENUE: MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 | TIME: 10:00 A.M – 11:00 A.M

Government Officials present,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

1. I am pleased to welcome all of you to this press briefing for the 1st Energy and Minerals Week 2019 that will take place from Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th September 2019. You may note that my Ministry has been holding an annual event known as the Energy Week, which has been happening for the past 14 years, and now we have rebranded it to the Energy & Minerals Week, to cover all aspects of the Ministry which I head.
2. The Energy & Minerals Week is an awareness centered week that is organized as part of our campaigns to encourage the sustainable utilization of energy and minerals in our country.
3. The theme for this year is “Energy & Minerals, the Drivers for Uganda’s Economic Transformation”.
4. The theme was chosen in relation to the 7th goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which calls for universal access to affordable and clean energy by 2030. Energy is vital for economic development and all key sectors of economy namely: Transport, industry, commerce, education, health, agriculture, Information Communication Technology (ICT), tourism, mining, and all other sectors need adequate reliable and affordable energy for them to function effectively.
5. The general objective of this campaign is to promote sustainable usage of energy as well as sustainable extraction and utilization of Uganda’s mineral resources. This is good for the environment as well as for the consumer who gets a lower energy bill and increased revenues from the minerals.

6. The specific objectives for the Energy & Minerals Week 2019 are:
 - a) Disseminate information on the sustainable management of energy and mineral resources;
 - b) Create awareness of the opportunities in the Energy and minerals sectors;
 - c) Promote private sector involvement in the development of the energy and minerals sectors;
 - d) To support private sector in the sale and marketing of technologies related to energy and minerals.
7. A number of activities have been planned to take place during the Energy & Minerals Week.
8. During this year's campaign, we shall do the following:
 - i) Create awareness among the general public on behaviours that promote sustainable energy utilization and mining;
 - ii) Promote the Electricity Connections Policy by encouraging Ugandans to get connected to electricity;
 - iii) Promote the use of energy saving technologies to reduce energy cost;
 - iv) Promote the use and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies;
 - v) Encourage electricity users to change from non-efficient appliances to efficient ones (an example is the change from using incandescent lamps to LED lamps).

EXPECTED BENEFITS OF GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ENERGY AND MINERALS WEEK 2019

9. By the end of this campaign, we expect the following benefits:
 - i) Information dissemination regarding sustainable energy options as well as Minerals in Uganda by a number of stakeholders who will be taking part in the exhibition;

- ii) Awareness on the available alternative energy technologies and Minerals in Uganda will be created through information dissemination, demonstration sessions and display of technologies;
- iii) Ugandans will have an opportunity to access the alternative energy technologies such as renewable energy and energy efficient technologies such as saving lamps and energy efficient cookstoves;
- iv) Companies participating in the exhibition will have a platform to sell and market your products and services.

THE PROGRAM FOR THE ENERGY & MINERALS WEEK 2019

10. The program for the energy & minerals week 2019 will involve the following:

- i) Media activities: Radio adverts and TV appearances have been planned to take place during the Energy and Minerals Week.
- ii) The Road drives in Kampala city especially in the market centres are starting today Thursday the 19th of September 2019 and will continue until the 23rd of September 2019. The road drives will be used to raise awareness about the week-long activities;
- iii) The Energy & Minerals Exhibition at KCCA Grounds: The Energy exhibition will run from Monday 23rd September to Sunday 29th September 2019 at KCCA Grounds, Lugogo. Various stakeholders in the Energy and Minerals Sector will show case their products and services. Technologies to be displayed include; Solar PV systems, improved charcoal stoves, LPG technologies, charcoal briquettes and energy saving bulbs such as LED bulbs. Over 100 companies with new energy technology are expected to exhibit.
Entrance to the exhibition is FREE;

- iv) The Launch ceremony for the Energy & Minerals Exhibition will take place on Tuesday, 24th September 2019 at KCCA grounds, Lugogo, starting at 10:00 a.m. We would like to invite the media houses to come and cover the launch ceremony;
- v) Power Forum 2019: Power Forum 2019: This will happen on Wednesday 25th, September 2019 and is a one day forum where stakeholders in the power sector have convened to discuss various issues in the power sector. The venue for the power forum is Pearl of Africa Hotel in Kampala and attendance is by invitation.
- vi) Biomass Energy Dialogue 2019: This will happen on Thursday 26th, September 2019 and will be a high-level conference that will be focusing on sustainable utilization of biomass energy resources. The venue for the power forum is Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala and attendance is by invitation.

KEY UPDATES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UGANDA'S ENERGY SECTOR

- 11. Government has prioritized the energy sector and I can inform you that we are investing in electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructures. Allow me to give you some updates on what my Ministry has achieved for Uganda throughout the FY 2018/19.
- 12. In power generation, a total of 231MW of power was added to the grid. On 21st March, 2019, we launched the 183 MW Isimba HPP. Through the Global Energy Transfer Feed in Tariff (GETFiT) projects, 18 MW were added to the grid. Furthermore, in a bid to diversify the energy mix, 10MW from Mayuge solar plant and 20MW from Kabulasoke Solar power plant were commissioned and are feeding power into the grid.

13. Construction of the 600 MW Karuma HPP is on-going and commissioning is expected at the end of 2019 and the total installed generation capacity is expected to increase to over 1800MW by the end of December 2019 after the commissioning of 600MW Karuma Hydropower Plant and other small hydro plants under construction.
14. In transmission, 630km was completed and commissioned bringing the total length of High Voltage grid coverage to 2569.8km arising from a number of transmission projects.
15. In rural electrification, Government has expanded the grid to 12,127Km of Medium Voltage networks and 9,013Km of Low Voltage networks.
16. All district headquarters have been connected to the national grid with the exception of Kotido, Kaabong and Buvuma.
17. Through the Electricity Connections Policy, we have so far provided access to electricity 149,831 Ugandans.
18. In addition, Government is also promoting the adoption of other renewable energy technologies such as:
 - Biogas systems especially in schools for cooking applications.
 - Solar PV technology under Energy for Rural Transformation for lighting health centers and schools, water heating and water pumping.
 - Wind energy technology which is currently under study in the Karamoja region.
 - Geothermal energy which is estimated to have a potential of 450MW.

19. Regarding mineral exploration, development, production and value addition; Sukulu Phosphate and Steel fertiliser plant and brick factory commissioned in October 2018 is producing bio-organic fertilizer which has been distributed to tea, sugarcane and other commercial farms for one-planting-season test. After this planting season, commercial production will commence.

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ENERGY SUPPLY AND RELIABILITY

20. In November 2018, Government introduced the free Electricity Connections Policy which provides for free electricity connections for electricity consumers who are within a 90-meter radius of an existing low-voltage pole. Now the only cost to customers is an inspection fee of UGX20,000. People with premises that require up to one electricity pole can apply and will obtain a free connection once they have wired their premises using a certified wireman.
21. Government has a keen interest to grow demand for energy through creation of industrial parks. Government has prioritized construction of twenty-five (25) Industrial Parks, with four (4) already at construction stage expected to increase the industrial demand by 200 MW in the short term and 500 MW in the medium term.
22. Industrial consumers can benefit from the rebate system through the design, finance and construction of the electricity distribution infrastructure to their facilities and then be reimbursed in terms of energy consumed to cover the cost incurred. The Energy Rebate applies to line constructions and extensions by industrial Consumers. More information concerning the rebate system can be obtained from ERA.
23. In the mineral sector, government has planned to undertake the following:
 - Conduct geological studies to quantify mineral reserves and generate bankable projects for investment and development;
 - Strengthen and implement the legal, regulatory framework and fiscal regime of the mining industry to generate more mineral revenues from mining activities;

- Conduct geothermal energy studies to enable the country generate electricity and applications in direct use;
- Strengthen the geo-hazards monitoring networks in prone areas and update hazard maps for sustainable planning and development of infrastructure in the country.
- Strengthen Mineral analysis, testing and value addition infrastructure in the country

CONCLUDING REMARKS

24. In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the Energy & Minerals Week 2019 including GIZ, USAID's Power Africa Uganda Electricity Supply Accelerator, Umeme Limited, Eskom Uganda Limited, Bujagali Energy Limited, WWF and Environmental Alert
25. We hope that our partnership with you will continue so that we can continue to educate the public on alternative energy sources that complement electricity.
26. The general public are invited to the Energy Exhibition at KCCA Grounds to learn about the various energy efficient appliances and renewable energy technologies so that they can make informed decisions while choosing between the energy alternatives for use in their homes and businesses. Come visit the Energy Exhibition for more and better experience.
27. I encourage you the media fraternity to invite the general public to come and visit the exhibition at KCCA Grounds in Kampala. Please join Government in sensitizing the General Public about Sustainable Energy Utilization Options such as the renewable energy options for homes.
28. I thank you for your attention and look forward to meeting you in at KCCA grounds.

For God and My Country!