



Hand over. Officials from Artelia EAU & Environment and KKATT Consult Limited (left) receive the Isimba Dam project hand over report from Energy Infratech's Sher Baluch (right). PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

Isimba dam gets new consultant

Time line. UEGCL says the dam will be completed according to schedule.

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KAMPALA. The Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) yesterday said the plethora of challenges, ranging from lackluster supervision, poor workmanship, quality assurance and physical defects, which have previously affected construction of the 183-mega-watts Isimba Dam will not alter its completion schedule.

UEGCL's chief executive officer Harrison Mutikanga told journalists at the company's offices in Bukoto that although they have a "big task ahead" the completion schedule remains August this year.

"We are currently at 75 per cent in terms of progress and the remaining 25 per cent can be completed in the next seven months," Mr Mutikanga said.

He was speaking at the hand over ceremony of a new Owner's Engineer (consultant) for the project, a joint venture of Artelia EAU & Environment from France and local company KKATT Consult Limited, from Energy Infratech PVT Ltd, an Indian firm.

Isimba and Karuma dams (the later expected to be 600-mega-watts) came under spotlight in 2016 following reports of shoddy works by their respective contractors coupled with poor supervision.

The two hydropower projects cost a combined \$2 billion-dollar (Shs6.7 trillion).

Both dams are expected to be ready by end of this year, although some experts at the time of revelation of the shoddy works and infighting between UEGCL and ministry of Energy officials, cast doubt on the timeline.

Mr Mutikanga, however, said they were yet to receive any no-

tice from the Isimba dam contractors indicating otherwise.

"Contractually, if there is a delay a contractor notifies the owner that there is going to be some delay. We have not had any notice so we are sticking to the schedule of August," he said.

Energy Infratech's, the supervisor on Isimba dam, firm's woes started in 2016 on the heels of the shoddy work reports and consequently President Museveni ordered their termination.

Upon expiry of their first 40 months contract in September last year, the project site was handed back to UEGCL.

Officials of the new Owner's Engineers, Artelia Eau & Environment, boast of experience in supervising quality technical work and standards from working on dam projects in countries such as Netherlands, Ethiopia and Pakistan.

Shs6.7 trillion

Cost. The construction cost of Isimba and Karuma dams combined.

The company is also supervising construction of the Rusumo Dam project along River Kagera to be used by Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Meanwhile, last month reports from Karuma dam alleged that a section, underground tunnels and caverns, were improperly aligned in conformity to the required dimensional design which work the contractor Sinohydro was told to redo.

However, yesterday Mr Mutikanga referred queries on the Karuma defects to ministry of Energy which he said employed and is responsible for site supervisor.

He also said they had encountered some encumbrances in acquisition of land along the proposed corridor for the eviction line of power from Isimba.

BY JOSEPH KATO
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90% police officers fail UN job interviews

KAMPALA. A total of 411 out of 430 police officers, who did interviews for the United Nations Assistance Mission Service (UNMS) jobs in October last year, have failed, police have said.

A communication by police director of peace and support operation Grace Turyagumanawe copied to other directors and heads of departments in the Force indicates

that 90 per cent failed the interviews that were held at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole.

"The under listed officers who sat and passed the UN interviews have been selected for deployment. They will travel to Mogadishu, Somalia, starting January 19 to February 12 as guided by the UN," Mr Turyagumanawe's com-

munication reads in part.

During the October 2017 interviews, more than 200 police officers failed aptitude tests on report writing, driving, shooting, ICT and international languages.

The UN jobs needed more than 100 officers of which 30 per cent were supposed to be women.

According to Mr Turyagu-

manawe's communication, only four of the 150 female police officers who sat the interviews passed.

When asked why a big number of officers had failed the interviews, Mr Turyagumanawe said: "I think that can be explained by a UN official. My job was to inform and prepare the officers for interviews."

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