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The technical team constructing the 600mw \$1.7b (sh6.3 trillion) Karuma Hydro Power Plant has successfully synchronised the fourth turbine unit.

The plant has six turbine units with each producing 100m giving a total of 600MW when all the units are operating at full capacity.

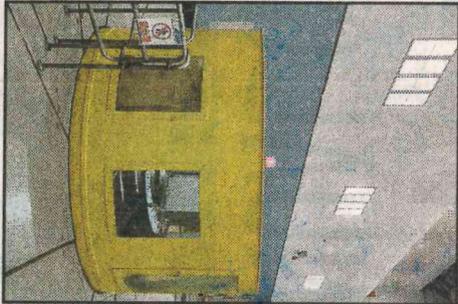
Enock Kusasira, the head of communication and corporate affairs at the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL), told *New Vision* yesterday that on Monday at 9:41am, the technical teams successfully launched the fourth of its six turbine sets and synchronised it to the national grid.

Kusasira said the power could not be transmitted through the high voltage 400kv Karuma to Kawanda due to vandalism and ongoing repairs of this section, adding that the repairs are expected to be completed by the end of September this year.

"The plant is ready to put additional power on the national grid once the Karuma to Kawanda line is ready," he said.

The synchronisation was witnessed by teams from UEGCL, SinoHydro Corporation Limited, the Chinese contractors,

# KARUMA HYDRO POWER PLANT ADDS 400MW TO NATIONAL GRID



The new unit

## ABOUT THE KARUMA POWER PLANT

The plant is one of Uganda's flagship projects financed by the Export-Import Bank of China, which finances 85% of the project, while 15% is funded by the government.

The plant is critical in meeting Uganda's increasing electricity demand in efforts to fast-track the industrialisation and meet domestic consumption needs by supplying reliable and affordable power.

Karuma is the second power plant financed by China after the 183MW Isimba Hydropower Plant.

The project includes the construction of three high voltage transmission lines, which are near completion. These are the 400kv Karuma to Olwiyi line and the 132kv Karuma to Lira line.

The 132kv Lira-Gulu-Nebbi-Arua transmission line will connect to Olwiyi substation and, therefore, West Nile (Nebbi and Arua substations) will have a second option of getting power from Karuma through Olwiyi substation.

AFRY (Owners Engineers) and the energy ministry.

Kusasira explained that the power being generated is transmitted through the 132kv Karuma to Lira city line.

"One unit is generating and transmitting between 65MW to 75MW through the Karuma to

Lira city line. This is what the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited can take at the moment due to the available transmission lines and load capacity," Kusasira said.

Ding Tingqiang, the project manager of SinoHydro Corporation Limited, the

construction contractor, told the media that Monday's launch of the fourth turbine was a success, and that the remaining two sets will be launched before the end of the year.

"Right now, the four units can generate power anytime. Production depends on the

demand of the national grid, which now takes power from one unit as the country awaits completion of the reinstallation of transmission lines that were vandalised," he said.

Albert Byaruhanga, the project manager of the plant (UEGCL), said the power plant is critical in addressing Uganda's inadequate power supply and supply cheap power at 4.8 cents per kWh.

"Some years back, we were suffering from persistent power cuts and that is more or less a thing of the past," he said.

### PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE

President Yoweri Museveni, during the State of the Nation Address, recently directed the energy ministry to ensure the completion of the high voltage transmission lines for Karuma.

Some of the construction activities for the lines have experienced delays due to challenges of access to land and

right of way.

Uganda's access to the national electricity grid stands at 19% and off grid connections mainly, solar power connection, stand at 38%.

The current national levels of electricity connectivity access stands at 57%.

Access to electricity is at the heart of socio-economic development. It impacts on a wide range of development indicators, including health, education, food security, gender equality, livelihoods and poverty reduction.

Uganda will have generation capacity of about 1,868MW once the Karuma Hydro Power Plant is launched by the end of the year.

Currently, there is surplus electricity generation capacity.

According to the energy ministry total demand for electricity, including exports, stands at 680MW, providing a surplus of close to 1,160MW. There is suppressed demand of about 500MW due to the absence of transmission lines and rising demand for electricity consumption.

The extra generation capacity is targeted to supply emerging industrial parts, factories, increased grid connections to rural areas and other domestic consumers.