

Installation Of Radial Gates Commences At Karuma

ARUA: The Karuma (600MW) hydro Power project has commenced the installation of the radial gates at the dam section. The installation commenced on January 26, 2018 according to Deng Changyi, acting project Manager, Sinohydro Corporation the project contractor. The spillway of Karuma hydropower station is designed (with) 9 radial gates, whose main function is to control orifice flow, undertake blocking main water, and can be opened and closed during flood conditions to prevent overtopping of the dam. Each of these gates has a height of 9 metres, is 10m wide and weighs 54 tonnes. "Despite this huge size and heavy weight, these gates are designed to flip and hold a huge resistance to water pressure. The installation of all the gates was done successfully and within the agreed project time-



Engineers working on Karuma Hydro Power project

lines," Deng said. Karuma Hydro power project which commenced in 2013 was scheduled for a 60 month construction period. Today, it's crossed the 50th month mark and is expected to be commissioned in December this year. By the end of January 2018, the overall progress of physical works (civil, hydro-mechanical and electrical-mechanical) at Karuma HPP was about 74%. Concrete works for dam blocks #1 to #16 are practically completed

paving way for the installation of spillway sections at blocks #1, #2 and #3. At the intake, work progress is at 95% with concrete casting nearing completion. Installation of Hydro-mechanical equipment for gates at intake block 1 and back filling are the main activities currently on-going. The 600 Megawatt Project is financed partly by China's Exim Bank and the government of Uganda at 85% and 15% respectively. The total

cost of the project is USD 1.7 billion catering for the generation and transmission components at USD 1 billion and USD 400 million respectively. There will be three transmission lines to evacuate the Karuma Power; the longest being Karuma-Kawanda, Karuma-Lira and Karuma-Olwiyo. Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited UETCL is implementing the transmission component of the project.

(By Our Reporter)

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