



Sher Baluch, Mutikanga and the project manager Isimba hydropower project Prof. Wang Yongtian inspecting the progress of works at the hydropower plant yesterday in Kayunga district. Photo by Benin Ojiambo

# Isimba gets caretaker

By Benin Ojiambo

The Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) has hired a team of experts to fill the vacuum that was left by Energy Infratech pvt Limited, the former project supervisors.

This was revealed by Eng. Dr Harrison Mutikanga, the UEGCL chief executive officer during a quarterly inspection tour by the UEGCL board of directors at the project site in Kayunga district, yesterday.

The contract of Energy Infratech, who were supervising works at the 183 mega watt project expired in September, but was not renewed over failure to meet UEGCL expectations.

The eight-man transition team is led by Sher Baluch, who according to Mutikanga, is an experienced hydro power engineer who has worked in the sector for more than 35 years on 20 different projects in 18 different countries across the globe.

"We had to reorganise and bring in experts to give us support so that we effectively supervise the project within this transition period before we finalise the procurement of a new owner's

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

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engineer," Mutikanga said.

He explained that during the transition period, they listed down all the nonconformities and they are engaging the contractor to make sure that they are corrected by the time construction is completed.

The over two trillion shilling project is implemented by the China International Water and Electric Corporation and it is expected to be commissioned by August next year.

"We are waiting for additional resources from the energy ministry before the owner's engineer can be deployed on site. The ministry is the employer of the owner's engineer. They asked us to

procure a new owner's engineer, which we have finalised. The project has not stopped," Mutikanga said.

However, he declined to name the new owner's engineer as they finalising the whole process that includes contract signing.

About sh13b is needed to recruit the new owner's engineer and discussions are ongoing between the finance and energy ministries to avail the funds.

## Works on schedule

Mutikanga said they have so far attained 75% progress in physical works.

"We have done the second stage river diversion, which means that we are getting close to doing the impoundments that shall lead to the final stages before power generation starts," Mutikanga added.

Currently, installation of the hydro mechanical equipment in the powerhouse is ongoing and they have installed some of the equipment, such as generators.

"All the works on this project are on schedule. We are confident that we shall meet the August 2018 delivery of the project," he added.

Business News

FTSE  
Down at  
7,375.57  
CAC  
Up at  
5,408.47

DAX  
Up at  
13,119.71

DOW  
JONES  
Up at  
23940.68

## OVER 800 MILLION TO LOSE JOBS TO ROBOTS

By Vision Reporter

Up to 800 million global workers will lose their jobs by 2030 and be replaced by robotic automation, a new report from a consultancy has found.

The study of 46 countries and 800 occupations by the McKinsey Global Institute found that up to one-fifth of the global workforce will be affected.

It said one-third of the workforce in richer nations, such as Germany and the US may need to retrain for other jobs.

Machine operators and food workers will be hit hardest, the report says.

Poorer countries that have less money to invest in automation will

not be affected as much, according to McKinsey.

India, the authors write, will only have about 9% of jobs replaced by emerging technologies.

The authors see tasks carried out by mortgage brokers, paralegals, accountants, and some back-office staff as especially vulnerable to automation.

Jobs requiring human interaction such as doctors, lawyers, teachers and bartenders are seen by McKinsey as less prone to automation.

Specialised lower-wage jobs, such as gardening, plumbing and care work, will also be less affected by automation, the study predicted.

In developed countries, the need for a university education will grow, as jobs that require less education shrink.

The authors believe the world will see a transition on the scale of the early 1900s when much of global industry switched from farming to factory work.

But they caution that new technology will yield new types of jobs, similar to the introduction of the personal computer in the 1980s which led to technology support work, and online business.

The report's authors urge governments to enact plans to retrain their citizens.