

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

November 2 – 14, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

November 2-14, 2014

AFRICA & REGIONAL NEWS

[Norway Investments in Clean Energy for Africa](#)

November 7 | SouthAfrica.info (Johannesburg)

Norway will therefore contribute 300-million krone [about R500-million or \$45-million] to Green Africa Power, which is intended to encourage commercial actors to invest in sub-Saharan Africa

[Africa: Time to Upscale Renewable Energy](#)

November 7 | Southern African News Features (Harare)

Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany for the International Conference on Solar Energy Technology in Development Cooperation, energy experts said it was time the world up-scaled the use of renewable energy sources to ensure that socio-economic development is sustained.

[Africa's Largest Wind Farm Enters Construction Phase](#)

November 6 | Ventures Africa
Lake Turkana Wind Power project (LTWP), Africa's largest wind farm, is inching closer to becoming a reality following the commencement of the construction phase.

The project, the biggest after Ethiopia's Ashegoda Wind Farm project and the largest private investment in Kenya to date, will provide reliable and low-cost wind power to boost overall energy supply.

[East Africa - Rwanda: Symbion Enters Rwandan Electricity Sector](#)

November 10 | East African Business Week (Kampala)
Symbion Power, an American firm, has entered the Rwanda electricity generation market. The company was awarded 50MW Independent Power Production (IPP) project using methane gas from Lake Kivu by the Rwanda Energy Group.

[East Africa - Rwanda: 'Prepaid Energy' Launched in Eastern Province](#)

November 12 | The New Times
A project expected to help light hundreds of households in Eastern Province was yesterday launched in Rwamagana District. Dubbed 'Prepaid Energy', the project is being funded by The European Union (EU) in partnership with the Government of Rwanda and Mobisol, East Africa's largest provider of rent-to-own solar power for low-income rural households.

ETHIOPIA

[Ethiopia Electric Power Developing 300 MW Of New Solar Projects](#)

November 5 | CleanTechnica
The East African country of Ethiopia will be seeing a pretty substantial solar energy buildout in the next few years, based on the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between

Ethiopian Electric Power and Green Technology Africa. The deal will see US-based Green Technology Africa (GTA) aid Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) in the development of 300 MW of new solar projects in Ethiopia — with the aim of helping the country hit its goal of expanding electricity capacity from the current 55% coverage to 75% by the end of 2015.

[Off-Grid Communities to Test Solar Energy Solutions Via Microfinances](#)

November 1 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)

A study made by a local microfinance institution revealed that most rural communities living in remote areas and are off-grid of the national electric power system, are disappointed in not having at least electricity for their children at school.

GHANA

[General Electric to deliver power ahead of schedule](#)

November 5 | Ghana Web
American firm, General Electric (GE), has stated it is currently selecting the site to locate the Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU), a floating natural gas vessel, to produce 1,000 megawatts (MW) of power to supplement the country's power needs.

[Solar Power Project commissioned at Winneba](#)

November 14 | BusinessGhana
A 12,000-Pound Solar Power Project, initiated by the management of Radio Peace, a Community Radio Station based in Winneba, has been commissioned. It is the first Community Radio Station in the country to have adopted such useful energy system to buttress its desire to provide cherished listeners nationwide with credible and uninterrupted service.

[Three Ghanaian companies win Power Africa energy awards](#)

October 31 | Ghana Web
Three Ghanaian companies have emerged winners in the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge sponsored by General Electric (GE), the U.S. Africa Development Foundation (USADF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The companies are, Solar Light Company Limited, Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture and New Energy. Each one of them received a grant of \$100,000.

KENYA

[Five Kenyan Firms Win Clean Energy Challenge](#)

November 3 | Capital FM
Boma Safi Limited, Kitui Industries Limited, Pfoofy Power & Light Limited, SCODE Limited and Sollatek Electronics Kenya Limited are the Kenya winners of the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge. They will each

receive a grant of \$100,000 (Sh8.9 million) for initiating off-grid solutions that deploy renewable resources and power socio-economic activities.

[Gura Power Plant to Be Completed](#)

November 5 | The Star
THE Sh1.3 billion Gura Hydro Power, is an initiative of four tea factories in Nyeri county will be completed by June next year. Kenya Tea Development Agency board chairman Peter Kanyago said the power project will be operational by mid-next year.

[Kenya to Generate 7,000mg By 2016-KPLC Boss](#)

November 10 | The Star
Kenya will generate 7,000 megawatts of power by the end of 2016, Kenya Power managing director Ben Chumo has said. He said several power generation projects will be commissioned between now and 2016. The country's power generation capacity is at 2,025mw.

[State Could Waive Power Entry Fee for Poor Homes](#)

November 11 | The Star
Power connections may in future be free for poor families that cannot afford the current minimum fee of Sh35,000, Energy Cabinet secretary Davis Chirchir has said. Chirchir said this will be possible under the ambitious, \$800 million (Sh71.96 billion) 'Last Mile Connectivity' project targeting to increase electricity access rates to 75 per cent in 2017 from about 32 per cent

presently. The project, to be funded by the African Development Bank in phases, will "ensure the grid is next to your home".

LIBERIA

[Mount Coffee Rehab Setback - Minister Says Ebola Stalls Plan](#)

November 11 | FrontPageAfrica (Monrovia)
The Mount Coffee Hydro power plant project has become the latest casualty of the deadly Ebola outbreak in Liberia. Lands, Mines and Energy minister Patrick Sendolo made a frank confession when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Lands, Mines & Energy Monday, suggesting that the project may not be up and running by December 15 of this year.

NIGERIA

[Coleman Builds High Voltage XLPE Factory](#)

November 14 | Daily Independent (Lagos)
The Managing Director/CEO of Coleman Wires and Cables, Mr. George Onafowokan, has described the multi-billion naira new mega high voltage XLPE factory built by the company as the first of its kind in the West Africa region.

[FG Has Potentials to Save U.S. \\$1 Billion From Efficient Energy Use](#)

November 11 | Daily Independent
Nigeria has the potential to save about \$1 billion from the rising energy bills, if the electricity supply in the

country is efficiently managed and utilized.

[Meter Distribution Begins in Kaduna](#)

November 13 | Daily Trust

The World Bank is working together with the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company to install 40,000 pre-paid electricity meters for customers in Romi, Kaduna State, free of charge. The smart meters will regulate energy usage and enable customers' power supply to be remotely blocked when their accounts run dry.

TANZANIA

['Gas to Propel Tanzania to Middle Income Economy'](#)

November 13 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Energy and Minerals Minister, Prof Sospeter Muhongo, is optimistic that Tanzania will generate between 10,000MW and 15,000MW of power by the year 2025 to enable the country attain a middle-income economy.

[Treasury - No Plans for VAT On Solar Panels](#)

November 14 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

There are no plans by the government to reinstate value added tax (VAT) on solar panels, which are an important source of green energy especially in rural areas. Assistant Commissioner of Budget at Ministry of Finance, Mr Emmanuel Tutuba, told a national climate change conference held in Dar es Salaam between Tuesday and

Wednesday this week that the decision to waive VAT on solar panels still stands.

[VP Touts Natural Gas Use to Curb Climate Change](#)

November 12 | Tanzania Daily News

Availability of funds from the United Nations Green Climate Funds will help the country finance adaptation projects, including connecting most households to natural gas as source of energy. The Vice-President, Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, said rolling out natural gas use to households will help wean the society from fossil fuel such as firewood and charcoal dependence which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

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1. Africa: Norway Investments in Clean Energy for Africa | November 7 | SouthAfrica.info (Johannesburg)

More than 700 million people in Africa lack electricity, and the continent is in urgent need of investment in renewable energy, according to Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Børge Brende. "Norway will therefore contribute 300-million krone [about R500-million or \$45-million] to Green Africa Power, which is intended to encourage commercial actors to invest in sub-Saharan Africa," he said.

Green Africa Power was set up to stimulate private investment in renewable energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa. The fund's capital will be equivalent to about 1.3-billion Norwegian krone, of which Norway is to provide 300-million krone. Green Africa Power will offer long-term loans for private investments in the lowest-income groups of countries in Africa.

"The UK has already made a substantial contribution to the fund. With the additional funding from Norway, our two countries will be joining forces to fund renewable energy projects, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve access to clean energy for millions of people in Africa," Brende said.

Green Africa Power is run by the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), which Norway has joined. The group mobilises private sector investment to help developing countries in providing infrastructure vital to boosting their economic growth, and combating poverty. PIDG has established seven other companies in addition to Green Africa Power, all of which customise solutions to ensure that planned infrastructure projects are carried out.

"Access to energy is essential for economic and social development. It is also vital to a country's ability to generate income, provide jobs and stimulate trade and development."

Brende announced Norway's support during his address at the fourth Norwegian - African Business Summit in Oslo on 31 October. It is the largest Nordic business conference on Africa.

Source: APO

2. Africa: Time to Upscale Renewable Energy | November 7 | Southern African News Features (Harare)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411071693.html>

By Kizito Sikuka

Frankfurt, Germany — It is no longer a secret. The world is fast running out of traditional energy sources such as coal. Furthermore, emissions from these fossil fuels have increased climate warming and caused environmental damage.

Therefore, the global community needs to start preparing for the future by embracing the use of renewable energy services and sources.

In addition to being affordable, secure and reliable, renewable energy will not be depleted and is less polluting to the environment compared to fossil energy.

Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany for the International Conference on Solar Energy Technology in Development Cooperation, energy experts said it was time the world up-scaled the use of renewable energy sources to ensure that socio-economic development is sustained.

"To significantly decrease the greenhouse gas emissions, the only possible way is to rely on energy systems based on renewable energy sources," Werner Weiss, managing director of the Institute for Sustainable Technologies, said.

He added that the world, particularly Africa, has an abundance of renewable energy sources, which needs to be tapped to improve access to energy for all.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), southern African alone has the potential to become a "gold mine" for renewable energy due to the abundant solar and wind resources that are now hugely sought after by international investors in their quest for clean energy.

For example, the overall hydropower potential in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is estimated at about 1,080 terawatt hours per year (TWh/year) but capacity being utilised at present is just under 31 TWh/year. A terawatt is equal to one million megawatts.

The SADC region is also hugely endowed with watercourses such as the Congo and Zambezi, with the Inga Dam situated on the Congo River having the potential to produce about 40,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity, according to the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

With regard to geothermal, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility estimate that about 4,000MW of electricity is available along the Rift Valley in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique.

Research coordinator for the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), Rana Adib said it was pleasing to note that Africa and most developing countries were fast embracing renewable energy.

She said exploring renewable energy sources is generally a complex and expensive process but is nevertheless important for socio-economic development.

There is, therefore, need for the private sector to partner with governments because the latter alone cannot improve access to energy.

"Partnership between the private sector and government is very critical in increasing the uptake of renewable energy," Adib said.

Other energy experts attending the conference said it was also important for Africa to craft attractive policies that lure investors into the energy sector.

These incentives include a predictable and stable regulatory environment, access to finance, as well as economic stability.

In a separate interview, Technical Advisor to the SADC Secretariat Energy Division, Wolfgang Moser said efforts are underway to establish the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE).

The proposed centre would, among other things, spearhead the promotion of renewable energy development in the region.

SACREEE is expected to contribute substantially to the development of thriving regional renewable energy and energy efficiency markets through knowledge sharing and technical advice in the areas of policy and regulation, technology cooperation, capacity development, as well as investment promotion.

The International Conference on Solar Energy Technology in Development Cooperation ran from 6-7 November in Frankfurt, Germany.

A number of energy experts from Africa and other developing countries took part in the conference that aims to discuss and share knowledge and experiences on how to boost the uptake of solar energy and technologies.

3. Africa's Largest Wind Farm Enters Construction Phase | November 6 | Ventures Africa

Source URL: <http://www.ventures-africa.com/2014/11/africas-largest-wind-farm-enters-construction-phase/>

VENTURES AFRICA – Lake Turkana Wind Power project (LTWP), Africa's largest wind farm, is inching closer to becoming a reality following the commencement of the construction phase.

The project, the biggest after Ethiopia's Ashegoda Wind Farm project and the largest private investment in Kenya to date, will provide reliable and low-cost wind power to boost overall energy supply.

Once the facility becomes operational, it will provide approximately 15 percent of the total energy needed for local consumption in Kenya. This is equivalent to approximately 330,000 households.

Ketraco, the Kenyan national grid company, has begun constructing a 450km transmission line to connect the outskirts of Nairobi to neighbouring rural towns where electricity is considered a much more luxurious service.

With funding from wide range of funders including the European Investment Bank, East African Development Bank and the African Development Bank, the wind farm is expected meet estimated completion date, slated for the first quarter of 2017.

4. East Africa - Rwanda: Symbion Enters Rwandan Electricity Sector | November 10 | East African Business Week (Kampala)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411102234.html>

Kigali — Symbion Power, an American firm, has entered the Rwanda electricity generation market.

"Our message is that we have arrived," Symbion Power Chief Executive Officer Paul Hinks said during his presentation at the recent iPAD Rwanda Power and Infrastructure Investment Forum.

Symbion is also one of the leading partners in President Obama's Power Africa Initiative which intends to double access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The company was awarded 50MW Independent Power Production (IPP) project using methane gas from Lake Kivu by the Rwanda Energy Group.

Hinks said, "This is a very big step for Symbion since we have been targeting a long term investment in Rwanda for several years."

The Forum was aimed at discussing in details Rwanda's energy sector with particular focus on key investment opportunities in the country's dynamic and thriving energy sector.

Hinks said after signing an agreement with the government and the Rwanda Energy Group the company will proceed with engineering work and further studies which will take about four months. This will eventually lead to a Power Purchasing Agreement.

"After that we will begin with the site work first phase for 14MW coming on line after 15 months," Hinks said.

Jamil Korked, the deputy General Manager STEG International Services Tunisia and one of the companies operating in Rwanda, called on investors to come invest in the country.

He said Rwanda has an efficient bureaucratic system, a good political system and security stability, high human resource Skills among other qualities.

Several other companies expressed in starting up energy projects in the country.

5. East Africa - Rwanda: 'Prepaid Energy' Launched in Eastern Province | November 12 | The New Times

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411121785.html>

By Stephen Rwembeho

Rwamagana, Rwanda — A project expected to help light hundreds of households in Eastern Province was yesterday launched in Rwamagana District.

Dubbed 'Prepaid Energy', the project is being funded by The European Union (EU) in partnership with the Government of Rwanda and Mobisol, East Africa's largest provider of rent-to-own solar power for low-income rural households.

The launch was presided over by the EU ambassador to Rwanda, Michael Ryan, and Germaine Kamayirese, the Minister of State for Energy, Water and Sanitation at the Ministry of Infrastructure.

The ceremony was preceded by official switching on of the system at Umunini Village, Uruhimi Cell, Gishari Sector, Rwamagana.

The Government, Mobisol and the EU have agreed to jointly facilitate access to clean and reliable energy for 49,000 households and 1,000 schools across the country.

According to authorities, 50,000 high quality solar systems will be supplied and installed to reach approximately 645,000 beneficiaries in the Eastern Province in four years time.

Amb. Ryan said the EU will provide a grant of 6m Euros (about Rwf5.2 billion) that will be supplemented by private and governmental investment - bringing the project budget to over 22m Euros.

"We commend the government in its efforts to reduce poverty and transform the lives of citizens. This can be consolidated through increased access to sustainable energy. The EU is proud to be associated with such an innovative project," he said.

Ryan said Mobisol project aims at enabling rural households in Rwanda access electricity.

Thomas Gottschalk, Managing Director of Mobisol, said the company will facilitate access to solar energy for low-income households through an easy mobile money payment plan.

He said an extended warranty and a full service package, including free maintenance for three years, would be provided.

"This project will make a difference in people's lives. It paves way for sustainable ecological and economic development. Rwanda indeed has the historic opportunity to leapfrog costly electrical grid systems and environmentally damaging fossil fuels and become a model for a sustainable renewable energy future worldwide," he said.

"We are happy to join forces to bring power to thousands of Rwandans," Gottschalk said.

Minister Kamayirese said the project would boost the country's target to increase community access to electricity to 70 per cent. Currently, the national power access is at 22 per cent.

"We shall use other sources like solar energy and not depend entirely on the national grid," she said.

Mobisol has been operating in Rwanda since January 2014 and has since connected more than 2,000 households.

6. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Electric Power Developing 300 MW Of New Solar Projects | November 5 | CleanTechnica

Source URL: <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/11/05/ethiopia-electric-power-developing-300-mw-new-solar-projects/>

November 5th, 2014 by [James Ayre](#)

The East African country of Ethiopia will be seeing a pretty substantial solar energy buildout in the next few years, based on the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between Ethiopian Electric Power and Green Technology Africa.

The deal will see US-based Green Technology Africa (GTA) aid Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) in the development of 300 MW of new solar projects in Ethiopia — with the aim of helping the country hit its goal of expanding electricity capacity from the current 55% coverage to 75% by the end of 2015.

Further details about the deal have yet to be publicly revealed. Though it's part of the country's new \$600-million-strong solar energy investment plan.

The solar push follows pretty closely on the heels of the country's recent (substantial) investments into hydro, geothermal, and wind energy projects.

As per GTA, the recent moves by the Ethiopian governments are worth lauding, as the country has been “supporting organizations that have been launched internationally by Ethiopians that have acquired years of training and professional expertise overseas and choose to return home to go with local specialists to demonstrate best practices and solutions for a greener Ethiopia.”

The company's president, Dereje Mesfin, speaking to the Ethiopian newspaper *The Reporter*, noted that the company was planning to seek project financing via the US' Power Africa initiative — launched back in 2013 with the aim of increasing the number of people in Sub-Saharan Africa with access to electricity.

As per the new deal, GTA is set to develop projects in the cities of Dire Dawa, Kombolcha, and Desse — following on the completion of feasibility studies. The current expectation is for the project to begin construction in around six months time.

7. Ethiopia: Off-Grid Communities to Test Solar Energy Solutions Via Microfinances | November 1 | The Reporter (Addis Ababa)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411031385.html>

By Berhanu Fekade

A study made by a local microfinance institution revealed that most rural communities living in remote areas and are off-grid of the national electric power system, are disappointed in not having at least electricity for their children at school.

Teshome Yohannes, general manager of the Buusaa Gonofaa microfinance institution, which operates in the Oromia Regional State, told The Reporter that rural communities are pressed by the lack of access to electricity. Other sources of lighting, for instance kerosene are costly and most of the time unaffordable for the smallholder farming society in the region. A liter of kerosene costs 24 birr and such inflated prices forces societies and institutions to the likes of Buunsaa Gonofaa to look for other alternatives.

During a conference dubbed "Innovation in Clean Energy and Water Access through Microfinances", Teshome presented a market survey with results conducted on existing clients. According to the results, 88 percent of the 100,000 clients are not connected to the national grid system; which according to the World Bank it amounts to 91 percent. According to Teshome, the most common source of energy for lighting for those clients are cellular batteries, firewood and charcoal, and of course kerosene. Hence the study claims that 95 percent of the clients are dissatisfied by the existing sources of energy for household purposes. A greater number of business operators remain unhappy and by far, 97 percent of the clients according to Teshome expressed the high cost of energy.

For those reasons the microfinance is set to provide solar energy lighting solutions to some 500 clients for credit, Teshome said.

Such approaches were very much appreciated by the participants of the conference where microfinances elsewhere in Africa will be tasked with filling the gap for the most marginalized communities. Yet as microfinances truly operate for profit, to the likes Michael Hamp (PhD) who is the lead technical specialist the international fund for agricultural development (IFAD), doubt how they really will make money out of clean energy spectrums. IFAD is best situated in providing funds for microfinances in Africa. According to Michael, for three years from 2013 to 2015, USD three billion was availed for the industry in Africa. Out of that amount half of the fund goes to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Michael argues that access to clean water mostly fails in the political sphere and it is duteous. "When we talk about water, I have some concerns. It's a politically sensitive issue. Access to clean water is a human right. I think this cannot be addressed truly by commercial means." If it's for productive purposes, Michael said that's a different story. The agricultural producer or agro-process must make an investment like any other product. And microfinances can access the viability of the investment. That way water can be commercially transacted, Michael noted.

Despite making it easier for vulnerable communities' to access microfinances for credit, Michael is of those individuals against institutions that require higher interest rates -sometimes as high as the rates of commercial banks- to cover operational costs. Many local microfinances are well known for such practices. "Interest rates should not be there to cover the insufficiencies of finance institutions. We as development agencies working with microfinances on the supply side, have to work on the operational self-sufficiency to bring down the price for clients." He stressed that clients should pay by no means the price for the insufficiencies of microfinances.

The two day conference was organized by the African based Pamiga (Participatory Microfinance Group in Africa), which brought up participants from various African states where microfinances operate. Microfinances in countries like Cameroon and Burkina Faso presented the alternative

approaches they provide for clients and communities.

8. Ghana: General Electric to deliver power ahead of schedule | November 5 | Ghana Web

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=333556>

American firm, General Electric (GE), has stated it is currently selecting the site to locate the Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU), a floating natural gas vessel, to produce 1,000 megawatts (MW) of power to supplement the country's power needs.

The Regional Manager of GE Ghana and West Africa, Mr Leslie Nelson, told the GRAPHIC BUSINESS that the first phase of the project, which is expected to add 360MW power to the national grid by September 2016, would come between four to six months ahead of schedule.

"We have finalised our partnership arrangements and we are about to select the engineering, procurement and construction company. And the partnership with the government, as well as our other partners seem to be working very well," Mr Nelson said.

Off-grid challenge

He spoke with the GRAPHIC BUSINESS in Accra shortly after a ceremony to present a total of US\$300,000 to three private Ghanaian companies which will use the money to implement innovative power interventions to benefit off-grid communities, mostly in rural areas.

The winners, which took home a cheque for US\$100,000 to implement their innovations, are part of a larger Off-Grid Energy Challenge introduced by GE in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) to support US President Obama's Power Africa initiative.

The prizes will help support off-grid energy and renewable energy solutions to meet the energy needs of rural Africa. Under the first round, US\$600,000 was awarded to six winners from Kenya and Nigeria. In the second round which falls this year, a total of US\$2.2 million will go to 22 winners in Ghana, Ethiopia, Liberia and Tanzania, as well as countries that started last year.

The companies are Solar Light Company, which will prototype a solar-powered mobile cellphone charging kiosks called 'Susana'. The solution can also be worn by hawkers on their umbrellas and used to charge batteries for people for a fee or for LED lighting to work at night or for the home.

The rest are the Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (KITA), which will pilot a waste to electricity solution using biomass from oil palm and palm kernels, and New Energy, based in the north, will help the 800 inhabitants of Nabogo to use solar to treat water and light the community.

Partnerships

"We have partnered with the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Second Compact, World Bank, IFC and the African Development Bank to support our investment partners, Endeavor Energy and Eranove (formerly Finagestion)," Mr Nelson explained.

Distribution and transmission system have to be revamped and the off-taker, the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), has to be strengthened and the MCC would help make their operations bankable so as to evacuate the power produced under GE's Ghana 1,000 Project.

When completed, the project which will use natural gas from the Jubilee Field, is expected to lower the costs of electricity. The four-year project will boost the country's power generation capacity by 50 per cent from the current 2,125 MW installed capacity.

GE is offering a unique multi-fuel technology which can 'burn anything' – natural gas, liquid fuel, distilled and heavy fuel.

Instead of having various splinter generating systems with varying designs and technology, GE's power park will generate the 1,000 MW over the next four years using a single mega-plant with partners, an initiative that is estimated to save 20 per cent of what would have been spent building individual generators.

Mr Nelson said GE was very proud of the calibre of talent that emerged from Ghana, saying "this further validates our belief at GE that the indigenous people on the ground have valuable insights on what works best for Africa and innovative solutions to meet the power needs of the continent."

US Ambassador

Speaking at the event, the US Ambassador to Ghana, Mr Gene Cretz, applauded GE and its partners- USADF and USAID for taking on an active role in lighting Africa and in particular Ghana, through the power Africa initiative.

The ambassador was pleased with the quality of the winning projects, which he described as "innovative home-grown solutions for the local environment."

Mr Cretz said the "off-grid challenge, like Power Africa, represents the best of what partnerships can accomplish, when we set our focus on a common goal."

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=333556&comment=0-com>

9. Ghana: Solar Power Project commissioned at Winneba | November 14 | BusinessGhana

Source URL:

http://www.businessghana.com/portal/news/index.php?op=getNews&news_cat_id=&id=201682

News Date: 14th November 2014

A 12,000-Pound Solar Power Project, initiated by the management of Radio Peace, a Community Radio Station based in Winneba, has been commissioned.

It is the first Community Radio Station in the country to have adopted such useful energy system to buttress its desire to provide cherished listeners nationwide with credible and uninterrupted service.

Commissioning the project at a grand durbar at Winneba on Wednesday, Mr. David Ghartey-Tagoe, former Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), and Chief Advisor to the Management of Radio Peace, commended foreign donors who contributed funds to support the implementation of the project.

According to Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe, the Solar Power supply facility is an automatic change over, that monitors Solar Power and the National Grid (ECG) and affords Solar Power for the station to operate 24 hours non-stop, only by changing over to ECG in times of inadequate sunshine.

He mentioned the Federal Ministry for Economic and Development (FMED) of Germany, via North-South Foundation and Bridges for Environment and Development (NSFBED), via the Environmental Lottery BINGO and the community Radio Partners, LHORO in Rostock, Germany, as the organizations which provided funds for the successful execution of the project.

Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe said the acquisition of the Solar Power supply system for the station is particularly an important gain now, considering the erratic electricity supply system in the country".

"We can now generate our own source of electricity through Solar Panels potentially enabling us to be on air even during ECG outages' The Chief Advisor added."

He was full of praise for NAIKO Engineering Company based in Accra which installed the solar system for the excellent service it provided.

Source: GNA

10. Ghana: Three Ghanaian companies win Power Africa energy awards | October 31 | Ghana Web

Source URL: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=332852>

Three Ghanaian companies have emerged winners in the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge sponsored by General Electric (GE), the U.S. Africa Development Foundation (USADF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The companies are, Solar Light Company Limited, Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture and New Energy. Each one of them received a grant of \$100,000.

All three submitted entries for innovative energy solutions that can be deployed to power socio-economic activities within communities in Ghana that are not connected to the country's national grid.

The Ghanaian companies joined 19 other grant winners from Liberia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya. Over 300 entries were received from across the continent.

A release from the Public Affairs section of the United States (U.S) Embassy in Accra signed by Mrs Joyce Asiedu and copied to the Ghana News Agency (GNA), explained that the Off-Grid Energy Challenge was part of Power Africa, President Obama's initiative to increase access to reliable, affordable, clean and sustainable power in Sub-Saharan Africa.



“Power Africa is also helping ensure responsible, transparent and effective management of energy resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. The three year initiative was launched in 2013 with 6 winners drawn from Kenya and Nigeria receiving \$100,000 each, toward their renewable energy projects”, it stated.

On the award-winning companies, the release said Solar Light Company Limited planned to improve the livelihoods of Ghana’s informal street vendors, who often work for less than \$3 a day for long hours in the sun. The company will be prototyping and locally manufacturing the “Sunana” system, a portable solar unit that street vendors can use to charge phones and provide lighting.

“Another winner, the Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (KITA) is a Ghanaian NGO which serves as a leading center for research, technology transfer and education in farming, agriculture, agribusiness, and environmental resources management”, it said, adding that KITA was installing a 20-kilowatt biomass gasifier unit to use discarded biomass to power processing equipment that turns palm seeds into palm oil in an off-grid community in Ohwimase, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

The third winner, NewEnergy is installing a solar-powered water pumping, filtration, and purification system, as well as a drip irrigation system, to be managed sustainably by a local water cooperative in the off-grid town of Nabogo in northern Ghana.

Speaking at the event, the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Gene Cretz, applauded GE and its partners - USADF and USAID - for taking on an active role in lighting Africa and in particular Ghana, through the Power Africa initiative.

The ambassador was pleased with the quality of the winning projects, referring to the projects as “innovative home-grown solutions for the local environment.”

He noted, “The Off-Grid challenge, like Power Africa, represents the best of what partnerships can accomplish, when we set our focus on a common goal.”

The CEO of GE Ghana, Mr. Leslie Nelson, expressed pleasure at the outcome of the event, saying that GE was very proud of the calibre of talent that emerged from Ghana in the competition.

“This further validates our belief at GE that the indigenous people on the ground have valuable insights on what works best for Africa and innovative solutions to meet the power needs of the continent.”

Mr. Robert Buzzard, manager of USAID/Ghana’s Energy program, noted that USAID, as a member of the Power Africa initiative, contributed \$700,000 in support of the Off-Grid Challenge partnership.

“Much of USAID’s technical and financial support to the energy and power sectors in Ghana works on big-picture, upstream links in the chain of energy to power. For example, we’re helping the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum remove road blocks to the flow of natural gas flow from Ghana’s Jubilee field to power generation plants. The three projects we’re celebrating tonight add to that work and provide immediate impact on the lives of those not living on the grid”, he said.

Additionally, the President/CEO of the United States Africa Development Foundation (USADF), Shari Berenbach said, “USADF is pleased to be supporting economic growth at the grassroots level, by addressing the energy poverty that many communities face. These grants represent the innovation

and 'can do' attitude of Ghanaian renewable energy ventures that is spurring on growth across the country."

Already the winners from the maiden edition of Off-Grid Challenge in Nigeria and Kenya have started impacting their respective communities with energy solutions. Green Village Electricity is providing solar powered energy to over 70 homes and hundreds of inhabitants of Egbeke community in Rivers state in the southern part of Nigeria, the release stated.

It said Mibawa, a winning company from Kenya, is also using the "Indigo" solar energy system to provide charging capability for two lights and cell phones for rural households in Eastern Kenya, and that the Indigo lighting system had now replaced the use of kerosene lamps in those communities.

It announced that the final round of the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge will take place in 2015.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=332852&comment=0> - com

11. Kenya: Five Kenyan Firms Win Clean Energy Challenge | November 3 | Capital FM

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411040174.html>

By Margaret Wahito

Nairobi — Boma Safi Limited, Kitui Industries Limited, Pfoofy Power & Light Limited, SCODE Limited and Sollatek Electronics Kenya Limited are the Kenya winners of the Power Africa Off-Grid Energy Challenge.

They will each receive a grant of \$100,000 (Sh8.9 million) for initiating off-grid solutions that deploy renewable resources and power socio-economic activities.

They join a list of 22 winners from Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania who beat a field of nearly 300 entries and will also receive grants of \$100,000 each.

The Off-Grid Challenge is part of Power Africa, a President Obama initiative to increase access to reliable, affordable, cleaner and more sustainable power in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Boma Safi's winning entry was a proposal to use its tested distribution system to roll out five energy hubs in Kenya's rural regions, aggregating sales and increasing the distribution of solar lanterns and efficient cookstove products.

Kitui Industries Limited is proposing a "small-scale industrial revolution" by using cotton seeds from local farmers to produce bio-diesel fuel which is then sold along with multipurpose engines at a discount to the surrounding community.

Pfoofy Power & Light Limited submitted a proposal to expand its innovative 'Ecotran' electric motorcycle, installing two ten-kilowatt service stations to charge 40 electric motorcycles for rural transportation hire in Kisumu County.

SCODE Limited's project proposal utilises custom metering devices to sell solar home systems integrated with efficient micro-gas stoves on an affordable instalment plan to Kenyans in Embu, Meru, and Uasin Gishu counties.

Sollatek Electronics Kenya Limited submitted a proposal to install 'solar centers' with cold storage, phone/battery charging, and solar lantern rental capabilities in fifteen fishing villages along the Indian Ocean coast in partnership with local fishermen communities.

The challenge has been sponsored by General Electric (GE), United States Africa Development Foundation (USADF) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

12. Kenya: Gura Power Plant to Be Completed | November 5 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411051275.html>

By Wambugu Kanyi

THE Sh1.3 billion Gura Hydro Power, is an initiative of four tea factories in Nyeri county will be completed by June next year. Kenya Tea Development Agency board chairman Peter Kanyago said the power project will be operational by mid-next year.

"It will enable factories to diversify their revenue sources," he said. The project of under Gathuthi, Gitugi, Iria-ini, Chinga tea factories in the county started in December 2012, and will generate six Mega Watts of electricity The contract is undertaken by the VS Holdings of Sri Lanka.

"The four factories will only use 2.8 megawatts and the rest will be sold to the national grid. We can also think of providing power to the nearest tea factories in Murang'a county," Kanyago said.

This will reduce the high cost of electricity to the benefit of farmers, he said. Kanyago was speaking to the press at Chinga Tea Factory in Othaya constituency on Monday.

Each factory will save about Sh40 million every year on electricity costs. "This is a strategy meant to mitigate the rising costs of production particularly in labour and electricity as the per-kilo cost of processed tea keeps rising over the years," Kanyago said.

13. Kenya: Kenya to Generate 7,000mg By 2016-KPLC Boss | November 10 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411102441.html>

By Hilton Otenyo

Kenya will generate 7,000 megawatts of power by the end of 2016, Kenya Power managing director Ben Chumo has said.

He said several power generation projects will be commissioned between now and 2016.

The country's power generation capacity is at 2,025mw .

"Soon we have more than what we need and we must create demand for the excess power," Chumo said.

He said Kenya Power has spent Sh1.7 billion in rehabilitation and upgrade of its supply network in 23 towns across the country under the boresha umeme viwandani programme

Chumo said the company will inject 140Mw of geothermal power to the national grid on December 11.

He said another 163Mw of diesel-generated power will be fed into the national grid between now and December.

Chumo spoke in Kakamega town when he paid a courtesy call on the office of Governor Wycliffe Oparanya where he was received by Deputy Governor Philip Kutima on Saturday.

14. Kenya: State Could Waive Power Entry Fee for Poor Homes | November 11 | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/2014111111037.html>

By Constant Munda

POWER connections may in future be free for poor families that cannot afford the current minimum fee of of Sh35,000, Energy Cabinet secretary Davis Chirchir has said.

Chirchir said this will be possible under the ambitious, \$800 million (Sh71.96 billion) 'Last Mile Connectivity' project targeting to increase electricity access rates to 75 per cent in 2017 from about 32 per cent presently. The project is however behind schedule

The project, to be funded by the African Development Bank in phases, will "ensure the grid is next to your home", he said in an interview with a local television station on Sunday.

"That way, we will be able to connect customers even for free if they are not able to afford that small connectivity charge," he said, without making reference to earlier suggestions the charges will be recovered through monthly bills in staggered payments.

At an earlier engagement on October 16, Chirchir promised to slash the connection fees for single phase customers by as much as 42.9 per cent to Sh20,000 from Sh35,000.

This is pegged on Kenya Power's Single Wire Earthing Return project, an initiative chief executive Ben Chumo said on October 24, would cut connection costs to homes by up to three times the current rates.

Under the SWER project, KPLC will connect homes using cost-effective materials including single and thinner cables. The supply tender for this opened on October 22 and closes this morning.

"This project is intertwined with the Last Mile project through which we are targeting to connect a million customers every year including 10,000 large consumers whom we classify as industrial," Chumo said.

The first batch of the Last Mile loan amounting to Sh12 billion, earlier expected last September, is now due this month, Energy principal secretary Joseph Njoroge said on October 16.

He said separate negotiations were ongoing with the World Bank for another \$150 million long term loan facility towards the same project.

Natural resource-rich areas, Chichir said, will be prioritised in new connections to the grid, whose capacity is projected at over 6,500 megawatts on successful implementation of the 5,000MW-plus-project by 2017.

The proposed additional capacity will be tapped from geothermal steams (1,600MW), coal-powered plants in Lamu and Kitui (1,920MW), Liquefied Natural Gas power station in Mombasa (700MW), wind turbines (650MW) and hydroelectric dams (420MW).

The government expects the new sources to gradually retire the expensive diesel-powered thermal plants, resulting in lower cost of electricity to \$0.09 (Sh8.09) per kilowatt-hour, from the current \$0.18 (Sh16.19).

Energy Regulatory Commission on Friday said the fuel charge component in electricity bill will this month fall to Sh3.47 per kwh- a 51.9 per cent decline from Sh7.22 in August, thanks to the additional 140MW capacity from KenGen-owned Olkaria IV geothermal plant.

Another 140MW is set to be added to the grid by end of the year, KenGen managing director Albert Mugo said last month.

The resultant savings from displacement of thermal with geothermal power estimated at Sh11 billion a year, he said, would be ploughed back into developing more steam fields.

"Geothermal plants run on a base load meaning they work 24 hours and can only be shut for maintenance," Mugo said. "This means the fuel charge will continue falling towards the promised 30 per cent drop in the power bill early next year."

15. Liberia: Mount Coffee Rehab Setback - Minister Says Ebola Stalls Plan | November 11 | FrontPageAfrica (Monrovia)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/2014111111052.html>

By Henry Karmo

Monrovia — The Mount Coffee Hydro power plant project has become the latest casualty of the deadly Ebola outbreak in Liberia. Lands, Mines and Energy minister Patrick Sendolo made a frank confession when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Lands, Mines & Energy Monday, suggesting that the project may not be up and running by December 15 of this year.

Making a presentation before the Senate Committee, Minister Sendolo said the contractors who should be implementing the project have all pulled out of the country because of the outbreak.

"In order to prepare to start the project, we needed to start doing the civil works and in order to do that, they should by now be mobilizing to do it but because of the health situation, no mobilization has taken place."

Minister Sendolo also said the period used to fight the deadly Ebola virus will be added on to the December 15 deadline and because of that the Mount Coffee project would not be completed in the next six to nine months.

Minister Sendolo said, like the Mount Coffee Power project, other projects in the energy sector have also been halted because of the epidemic. "All the generation projects were on course but cannot because most of our contractors have pulled out," Sendolo said.

Cross border electrification

The minister disclosed that the pace of the West African power pool cross border electrification is slow and expressed personal dissatisfaction about the way it is being done. He however said it is the way it is because contractors have pulled out.

"I don't care how we put it, nothing will change if the contractors don't come back. They need to mobilize and start doing the work or stay exactly to where we are. We need to change the current situation from where we are," Sendolo said.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf last year set December 15 of this year as a targeted date to turn on the Mount Coffee Power Plant that was looted during the civil war.

16. Nigeria: Coleman Builds High Voltage XLPE Factory | November 14 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411140115.html>

By Phillip Oladunjoye

Lagos — The Managing Director/CEO of Coleman Wires and Cables, Mr. George Onafowokan, has described the multi-billion naira new mega high voltage XLPE factory built by the company as the first of its kind in the West Africa region.

Onafowokan, who said this during a facility tour of the factory in Sagamu, Ogun state, said the company had so far invested more than N3 billion in the factory so as to enable it achieve its target of meeting demands of wires and cables not only in Nigeria, but across Africa.

He said the objective of the company in building the magnificent factory was to ensure the production of quality wires and cables as well as other products for customers at all times, in line with the Federal Government local content law. This, he said, comes with a great social impact of providing employment opportunities for over 650 people.

"This is a project that has cost us over N3 billion, though the overall expectation is about N10 billion. It is a Nigerian focus and it is in line with the local content law. As the pioneer wires and cables manufacturers, we expect to meet the requirements and capacity of customers at all times.

"We are targeting 48,000 at full capacity for cables and 30,000 at full capacity for aluminum. We also aim at over 50 billion capacity in the next 24 months. Our expectation is not only in Nigeria but across Africa. We give kudos to Fidelity Bank, which made this possible and it is coming at a time when most banks shy away from such venture," he said

The Managing Director/CEO, Fidelity Bank, Mr. Nnamdi Okonkwo, commended Coleman Wires and Cables for the initiative, saying that such activity engaged by the company had provided employment opportunities for more than 650 people, thereby improving the social impact of the economy.

Okonkwo added that the company was keying into the visions of the Federal Government by focusing on social impacts through engaging people in productive exercise.

"We are excited to be part of this initiative. Coleman has taken the game to a higher level. If we have five companies like this on this axis, social impact of the economy would be improved and crimes would also be reduced.

"The kind of massive investment we are seeing here today shows that the future belongs to the youths and Fidelity is fully interested in this transformation because this company has keyed into the vision of industrialized countries and we need a lot of more entrepreneurs like Coleman," he said.

Coleman managing director, Mr. George Onafowokan and the executive director, Engr. Micheal Olusegun Onafowokan, later conducted the fidelity Bank MD/CEO round the massive factory, which boasts of the latest state-of-art equipment.

Agric Ministry to enhance funding access to 20,000 cooperatives

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, has said that 20,000 cooperative societies would be encoded in the ministry's data base from the current 17,000 so as to give appropriate assistance where needed.

The minister also tasked cooperatives to educate their members on the process of due diligence standards required for eligibility to access funds saying, "The apex federation was also complementing the efforts of the ministry to significantly improve on current low access of agricultural credit from financial service providers by agric cooperatives and farmers groups."

The minister, who was represented by his counterpart, minister of State, Mrs. Asabe Ahmed, made the call at the 5th National Council on Cooperative Affairs with the theme: "Building an Enduring Cooperative Movement for Sustainable Growth," in Abuja.

According to Adesina, "We have introduced the cooperative data analysis system as part of our efforts to make the cooperative societies become more hard-working in order to be self-reliant, progressive and competitive.

This system will enable us track their individual performances and their respective needs so that appropriate assistance can be given to those that require help."

She added that cooperative societies are potential tools for empowerment and job/wealth creation, particularly for rural people who need a lot of support, adding that "the world's top 300 cooperatives are reputed to have an annual turnover of \$2.2 trillion."

17. Nigeria: FG Has Potentials to Save U.S. \$1 Billion From Efficient Energy Use | November 11 | Daily Independent

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411120110.html>

Nigeria has potentials to save about \$1 billion from the rising energy bills, if the electricity supply in the country is efficiently managed and utilised, Mr. Reginald Ifionu Mr. Reginald Ifionu, Chief Operating Officer, Powtech Power International Limited, has said.

Ifionu, in a statement made public over the weekend said the presentation of ES-25 energy saver equipment, has the capacity of saving about 25 percent of the use of energy both at home ,office ior factory nationwide .

"At the country's current generating capacity of 4,000 megawatts and the ability of ES-25 to save energy by 25 percent, the country will be saving at least \$1 billion from energy efficiency," he said.

He said that the energy saving equipment is meant to regulate energy consumption, especially as the country is yet to achieve regular power supply one after privatization.

"The ES-25 is a high efficiency voltage controller installed in series after the electricity meter has been installed to optimize energy levels by reducing the wasteful energy and convert the same into direct savings. Energy bills are steeply rising and there is an urgency of usage of various energy conservation retrofits to save energy on different electrical equipment available at home. The best technique available is to install ES-25 energy savers, which will reduce the energy bills up to 25 percent," he added.

Managing Consultant/Chief Executive Officer of Powtech, Mr. Goody Duru-Oguzie, was quoted as saying the technology is designed to benefit private, public and industrial concerns.

He explained that the device when metres have already been installed, regulates the use of electricity converts wasted energy into use thereby saving all the stakeholders energy loss.

18. Nigeria: Meter Distribution Begins in Kaduna | November 13 | Daily Trust

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411131084.html>

By Misbahu Bashir

Kaduna — The World Bank is working together with the Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company to install 40,000 pre-paid electricity meters for customers in Romi, Kaduna State, free of charge.

The smart meters will regulate energy usage and enable customers' power supply to be remotely blocked when their accounts run dry.

General Manager of the Project Monitoring Unit of the distribution company, Engineer A. J. Chiroma, made the remarks during a sensitization campaign on 'pre-payment meter pilot scheme' yesterday in Kaduna.

19. Tanzania: 'Gas to Propel Tanzania to Middle Income Economy' | November 13 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411130463.html>

Dodoma — ENERGY and Minerals Minister, Prof Sospeter Muhongo, is optimistic that Tanzania will generate between 10,000MW and 15,000MW of power by the year 2025 to enable the country attain a middle-income economy.

"At present, electricity consumption stands at just 100 units per person compared to 12,000 units in the United States and 4,400 units in South Africa. We aim to increase the rate to 3,000 units by 2025," Prof Muhongo told the National Assembly on Tuesday evening.

The minister made the remarks while responding to issues raised by members of Parliament who were debating the 2015/2016 Development Plan which was finally endorsed by the august House.

For Tanzania to attain a middle-income economy by 2025 it would require reliable power, he noted, stressing that the government had made positive progress in the implementation of power generation and distribution projects countrywide.

"Tanzania is set to become a gas economy and this will boost the economy as the energy will be used to generate power to produce fertiliser and exports in terms of compressed natural gas. It will as well be used for cooking and running of motor vehicles," he explained.

He went on to explain that construction of the 542-km pipeline to transport natural gas from Mtwara to Dar es Salaam was completed by 93 per cent, whereas power generation plants using the energy were completed by 81 per cent.

Speaking earlier, the Minister for Transport, Dr Harrison Mwakyembe, said the government was currently scouting for investors to undertake construction of the central railway network by standard gauge.

"The new network will be constructed alongside the existing one. The 2,707-km network requires US \$7.6 billion dollars and a number of investors have shown interests in the mega project," Dr Mwakyembe stated.

20. Tanzania: Treasury - No Plans for VAT On Solar Panels | November 14 | Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411140726.html>

By Finnigan Wa Simbeye

THERE are no plans by the government to reinstate value added tax (VAT) on solar panels which are an important source of green energy especially in rural areas.

Assistant Commissioner of Budget at Ministry of Finance, Mr Emmanuel Tutuba, told a national climate change conference held in Dar es Salaam between Tuesday and Wednesday this week that the decision to waive VAT on solar panels still stands.

"Currently REA are using solar panels to power some rural areas hence there are no immediate plans to reinstate VAT because reasons for the waiver still exist," Mr Tutuba said while responding to delegates questions regarding reports that VAT will be reintroduced. He said the VAT Bill will likely be tabled in parliament this week for debating by lawmakers next week.

"I can assure you that solar panels are not on the list of items to be charged VAT," Mr Tutuba pointed out. He further said the government is committed to funds projects which address issues relating to climate change especially by encouraging investment in green energy sources such as wind, solar, hydro and geothermal.

He said the government is struggling to convince the private sector to invest in climate change mitigating projects to address extreme weather conditions which are already affecting production.

Director of Environment at Vice President's Office, Dr Julius Ningu also assured the public that there is no going back in imposing VAT on renewable energy sources including solar panels which are helping to power many rural homes.

"The government is committed towards encouraging use of renewable energy sources not only solar panels but also wind, geothermal and hydroelectric," Dr Ningu said.

He said in order to speed up implementation of climate change mitigating projects including massive tree planting campaigns and operationalisation of a national carbon monitoring centre at Sokoine University of Agriculture.

Dr Ningu pointed out that private investment will be lured into financing climate change mitigation projects which are profitable singling out plantations and natural forests which under Reduced Emission by Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

"We hope that the private sector can seize this opportunity by investing in forests," he noted while pointing out that with Norwegian funding, nine pilot projects were implemented since 2009 with mock REDD payments made.

Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFSA) Senior Forestry Officer, Ms Amina Akida said under REDD, investment in forests does not only help address effects of climate change but also profit people.

"This area offers investment opportunity in forest establishment and management," said Ms Akida whose agency controls over 48 million hectares of forests in the country.

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

21. Tanzania: VP Touts Natural Gas Use to Curb Climate Change | November 12 | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201411120891.html>

By Finnigan Wa Simbeye

AVAILABILITY of funds from the United Nations Green Climate Funds will help the country finance adaptation projects, including connecting most households to natural gas as source of energy.

The Vice-President, Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, said rolling out natural gas use to households will help wean the society from fossil fuel such as firewood and charcoal dependence which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office responsible for Environment, Dr Bilnith Mahenge, during the opening of a two-day national conference on climate change, Dr Bilal said the government is taking action to combat climate change which is already affecting the country through temperature increases and rising of sea level.

"The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that emissions grew on average by 2.2 per cent per year with fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributing 80 per cent of the recent greenhouse gas emission growth," the vice-president said.

He told over 100 delegates comprising international organisations, diplomats, climate change experts and activists that Tanzania has huge reserves of natural gas which is not sufficiently being exploited by the domestic market.

"To date, we are using 90 million cubic feet of natural gas to produce 451 megawatts of electricity, this has to be increased. The discovered reserve is 50.1 trillion cubic feet. With financial and technological support, this can be utilised to produce 25,000 MW with a potential to reduce about 700 billion tons of carbon dioxide," Dr Bilal noted.

The country sequesters an estimate 76 million metric tons of CO₂ while emitting less than 50 million tons, hence affording a serving which is utilised by industrialised countries, most of which led by the United States have failed to contribute to Green Climate Fund.

"If the developed world honoured their contribution to the Green Climate Fund, countries like Tanzania would have been able to receive funding for mitigating projects such as supplying households with natural gas as energy source," he noted saying such projects are very expensive.

Only 50 million US dollars has so far been committed by the developed world against pledges totalling 2.8 billion US dollars, according to GCF secretariat.

Green Climate Fund was adopted as a financial mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the end of 2011.

It aims to make an ambitious contribution to attaining the mitigation and adaptation goals of the international community Dar es Salaam, which consumes as estimated 5,000 metric tons of fossil fuels including firewood and charcoal, per annum can significantly reduce its CO2 emissions if natural gas and hydroelectric power potential can fully be exploited.

World Bank Country Director Philippe Dongier and United Kingdom's Department for International Development Head of Office Vel Gnanendran paid tribute to the government for making major progress in terms of policy and strategy to mitigate impacts of climate change.

Mr Dongier pointed out that the Bretton-woods institution will continue supporting the country to tap full potential of hydroelectric power generation as it is a climate friendly source of energy.