

GENERAL LINE:+256 414 344414
TELEPHONE: +256 414 233331
FAX: +256 414 233035/234732
E-MAIL: memd@energy.go.ug
IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO:



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND
MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
P. O. BOX 7270
KAMPALA - UGANDA

**STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY ON FAILURE BY UMEME TO SUPPLY
AND INSTALL YAKA METERS TO SOME CLIENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY –
17TH AUGUST 2021**

(By the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development)

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, at the 14th Sitting of the 1st meeting of the 1st Session of the 11th Parliament of Uganda held on Thursday, 5th August 2021, Hon. Luttamaguzi Paulson Semakula (MP Nakaseke South) raised a concern over the failure by Umeme to supply and install yaka meters to some clients across the country and the urgent need for Government to come up with an explanation on the matter.
2. My Ministry took note of the concern raised and followed up with Umeme on the matter. The purpose of this statement therefore, is to apprise Parliament on the matter raised.

B. BACKGROUND OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRICITY CONNECTION POLICY (ECP)

3. Rt. Hon. Speaker, my Ministry put in place the Electricity Connections Policy (ECP) whose implementation commenced on 1st November 2018. The objective of the Policy is to provide free connections to domestic consumers in order to accelerate access to clean energy.
4. The goal of the ECP is to achieve 60% level of access to grid electricity in Uganda by 2027 by increasing the number of connections made annually from the average of 70,000 before the policy was launched to 300,000 connections. The new consumers therefore, are only required to pay inspection fee of UGX 20,000 to facilitate inspection of their premises to ensure that the premises are safe to receive electricity. The Policy is financed by the Government and Development Partners.

C. GOVERNMENT OPENNING UP ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS POLICY

5. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, the high number of applications for new connections required a correspondingly high budget provision from

Government which became a challenge especially under the Covid-19 pandemic conditions with many competing demands and this caused significant delays in making new connections by the Service Providers. **The Backlog of electricity connections due to funds constraints by end of December 2020 stood at about 200,000 of completed applications.**

6. The above delays created public unrest towards the Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) from the frustrated applicants who wanted their premises to be connected to power supply, with some threatening to sue the ESI for failure to connect them to power supply in a timely manner while at the same time, there was no Government pronouncement to allow those who could afford to pay the cost reflective cost for their connection to pay and get connected in a timely manner.
7. Besides the backlog of 200,000 electricity connections, as at 10th July 2020, Government was in arrears for connections made by Service Providers amounting to UGX 103.409 Billion.
8. As an interim measure, Government opened up the implementation of the Electricity Connections Policy with effect from 7th December 2020 to allow consumers that were willing to pay for their connections and had funds to do so and be connected in a timely manner while those who had no funds were advised to wait for Government to mobilize the necessary funds.
9. Since the opening up of ECP a total of 34,656 consumers have applied to Umeme and paid for their connections which were made in a timely manner within 3 days of payment. Government has also secured 87,500 materials for no – pole connections that are on-going on the basis of first come first serve. The backlog of those waiting for free connections has therefore reduced to 167418 as of July 2021.

D. MEASURES TO SUSTAIN ECP

10. Government is procuring additional materials with financing from African Development Bank and Exim Bank of China (under TBEA) that will arrive in the country starting from the month of December 2021 to facilitate continuation of no-pole connections under ECP. The additional materials are worth over 230,000 no pole connections.
11. Government has opened up ECP to allow consumers that are willing to pay for their connections and have funds to do so and be connected in a timely manner while those who have no funds wait for Government to mobilize the necessary funds. This measure has facilitated consumer connections of one – pole services which is currently not supported by materials procured by Government as indicated above. The measure has also facilitated clearing of the backlog as a number of wellbeing consumers have opted to pay for their connections.
12. Furthermore, Government is in advanced stages to secure USD 400 Million from World Bank to support the Electricity Connections Policy. World Bank funds are expected to be available beginning the FY 2022/23 for a period of 5 years and will support both no-pole and one-pole connections.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, the above interventions, with your support should enable our people to access clean energy within the foreseeable future and contribute to the social economic transformation of our country.



Hon. Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT