
PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of Gabiro Substation & Belgian Kingdom's support to Rwanda's electricity access rollout program

Kigali, May 17, 2019 - Hon. Claver GATETE, Minister of Infrastructure, officially inaugurated Gabiro substation built to improve power supply in the Eastern Province, as well as the completed electrification projects in the Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma and Kirehe Districts funded by the Belgian Kingdom.

Rwanda's energy sector continues to grow in all chain of power supply, from electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. Rwanda's prime targets by the year 2024 include 100% access to electricity in Rwanda, addition of over 300 MW to the current installed generation capacity as well as a strengthened distribution and transmission network eradicating power outages and reducing losses up to 15%. Today, about 51% of Rwandan households have access to electricity while the installed generation capacity is 221.1MW with a distribution and transmission network of 27 substations.

A big part of the Eastern Province was previously being supplied by one feeder from Kabarondo substation up to Kagitumba passing by Kayonza (KKK). Given the long distance of the feeder and the development in the area which increased the number of big and small electricity consumers, KKK feeder was overloaded resulting into frequent trippings and delays in network restoration.

As a solution to this issue, Rwanda Energy Group initiated a project to build a new 110/30kV substation in Gatsibo District (at Gabiro) and extend the existing Musha Substation and connect them to a new transmission line from Rulindo to Musha. The objective was to form an Eastern Ring Network leading to improved reliability and quality of power supply to customers and reduction of losses. Gabiro substation, now completed and already energized has sectioned the former long distance KKK feeder into three major feeders which are Nyagatare, Kiziguro and Ngarama. Faults on any of these feeders will be easy to find and repaired, hence ensuring the reliability and quality of power supply to the customers.

Since 2014, the Belgian Kingdom has been supporting the national Electricity Access Rollout Program (EARP) through the project ***"Improving Access to Reliable On-Grid Electricity Services for households and Priority Public Institutions"***. Through three signed Grant Agreements, the Belgian Kingdom has provided a total of Euro 39,000,000 to improve access to reliable electricity.

To date, a total of 22,387 new connections have been made to the national grid in 4 Districts of the Eastern Province namely Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma and Kirehe. About 5,446 more connections will be added by the project by December 2020. In addition to this, about 280km of the single-phase network in the Eastern Province will be upgraded to three-phase network whereas the distribution network in Rubavu will be upgraded from 6.6kV to 30kV.

The project has contributed to the of the electrification targets in the above 4 Districts as follows:

District	Targeted new connections	Period (Imihigo)	Project contribution to the Imihigo
Rwamagana	4554	2017-2018	7,831
Kayonza	3,400	2018-2019	3,007
Ngoma	6,340	2018-2019	5,050
Kirehe	6,291	2018-2019	6,499

The Minister of Infrastructure, Claver GATETE appreciated the achievement of both projects and said that they will boost the economic development in the Eastern Province.

“Nyagatare is one of the six secondary cities selected for the promotion of urban development outside of the capital city where we have industries, hotels, as well as livestock husbandry and milk processing centers. We have to ensure that electricity supply is good enough to facilitate the investment in Nyagatare and the neighboring districts” He noted.

“We are very grateful for the support from the Belgian Kingdom and other development partners that support Rwanda’s development agenda in many sectors. Such projects will help us achieve our economic development goals.” Minister added.

“Modern energy services not only provide lighting needs; it creates new markets and opportunities, helps businesses to grow, creates jobs and contributes to ensure more inclusive society. This inauguration marks another milestone of successful Belgo-Rwanda partnership to ensure affordable and reliable modern energy services to as many as over 22,000 households, local business, public and social institutions in the eastern province region, eventually contributing to the GoR’s universal access target by 2024” said His Excellency Benoit Ryelandt, Ambassador of Belgium to Rwanda.

“Rwanda’s impressive growth in terms of pace of electrification in such short span of time serves a good lesson to many countries who aspire similar feats” said Jean Van Wetter, President of

Board of Directors of Enabel, the Belgian development agency through which the support was channeled.

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