



PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of Mount Kigali Substation

Kigali, 17th October 2018 – Hon. Claver GATETE, Minister of Infrastructure officially inaugurated the Mount Kigali power substation which was upgraded and completed thanks to the support from the European Union.

Rwanda's energy sector continues to grow in electricity generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure and the main reasons for growth is the government targets to have universal electricity access by 2024. Today, 46.46% of all households in Rwanda have access to electricity while the installed generation capacity is 218 MW. Nevertheless, old infrastructure and overstretched network resulting into losses have been a hindrance to the quality of reliability of the power supplied in the country.

To improve operational efficiency by reducing the power losses, in March 2015, the Government of Rwanda signed with the European Union a financing agreement of €23m to be used in Grid Loss Reduction project which was aligned to REG targets to reduce power losses from 23% in 2013 with an annual 1% loss reduction target.

The project intended to build a 27km long transmission line (110kv) linking Jabana, Mount Kigali and Gahanga, upgrade Mount Kigali, Jabana and Birembo substations while two new substations had to be built in Nzove and Gahanga. The project also will install 8,000 smart meters to quantify losses as well as the installation of Reactive power compensators to improve of quality of voltage and reduce technical losses in the network.

Mount Kigali Substation supplies electricity in Nyamirambo, Bugesera, Kamonyi and a big part of Muhanga District. It was extended and upgraded with two 20MVA transformers replacing an existing 10MVA transformer which was overloaded as the demand had increased due to a lot of number of connections.

The Minister of Infrastructure, Claver GATETE appreciated the support provided by the European Union to improve the electricity distribution network in Rwanda. “The European Union has tirelessly supported our Government programs. We are now seeing improvement in the reliability of the power supplied in the City of Kigali thanks to the Grid Loss Reduction Project funded by the European Union.” He added.

The Chief Executive Officer of REG, Eng. Ron Weiss said that this project has tremendously improved reliability and quality of power supply in the Kigali City. “There is a big improvement in terms of power loss reduction. During the 2016-2017 financial year, we had a power loss of 21.1% and we've been able to reduce it to 19.6% in the last financial year. This year we have hope to reduce this leakage at least by 1% thanks to such projects strengthening our distribution network.” he said.

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