

PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of Shango Substation

Kigali, December 05, 2019 - Hon. Claver GATETE, Minister of Infrastructure, officially inaugurated Shango substation built to interconnect the electric grids of Rwanda, DR Congo, Tanzania and Uganda.

The construction of Shango substation falls into the Power Interconnection Program aiming at interconnecting the electric grids of the Nile Equatorial Lakes (NEL) countries, including Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo and Rwanda. The project seeks to improve the living conditions of the people, as well as the quality of the socio-economic development environment of the region, based on the availability of affordable electric energy and communities' access to electricity through increased cross-border electric power trade.

Shango is a 220/110kV substation with two 220kV lines bays to interconnect with Uganda networks, two 220kV line bays to interconnect with Northern Eastern DRC network through Rubavu substation and two 220kV line bays to Western Tanzania network through Regional Rusumo Falls hydropower plant.

The Minister of Infrastructure, Claver GATETE appreciated the achievement and said that this project is part of a bigger plan to ensure that the Rwanda's electricity supply meets the increasing demand.

"We have a target to connect all households in Rwanda by 2024, and this increase of the electricity is what we need to meet the target. Also, Rwanda's industrial sector is growing very fast and this means that we need to be ready to supply this demand. This interconnection project is one of the strategies in place to make sure that we will meet the future demand" he noted.

The Chief Executive Officer of REG, Eng. Ron Weiss appreciated REG technicians who worked on this substation saying that this is the first ever substation to be installed by REG technicians.

"The company that was hired to build this substation failed to complete the works and we terminated the contract. After the preparation of project sites and equipment handover, we engaged our inhouse teams to work on the remaining electromechanical works at this substation; and now it is ready for the interconnection with Uganda network. The two other networks; one from DR Congo and another one from Tanzania will also be interconnected once completed" He said.

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