

AFIEGO's Weekly Energy News Round-up (May 11-15, 2020)

IGG wants companies blacklisted for shoddy work

The inspector general of government (IGG), Irene Mulyagonja, has instructed the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to forward details of three companies to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority for blacklisting. According to the inspectorate, KEC International and Power Network should be blacklisted for non-performance on their contracts during the construction of the Masindi-Waki-Buliisa electricity line.

Multi Konsults, according to the January 17 report, should also be blacklisted for flouting consultancy agreements. The company reportedly granted the contractor authority to change the electric poles supplier without permission from REA during the building of the Ibanda-Kabujogera-Kamwenge power line. It's also accused of certifying payment of over 11m for the load break switch that was not supplied or installed on the Kitugum-Palabek and Lira-Apala-Aloi power lines.

The ombudsman also said the company failed to exercise care and due to diligence which, among others, resulted in the payment of over 5m for a break switch, which was not installed on the Ibanda-Kabujogera-Kamwenge power lines.

The IGG also directed REA to ensure that Multi Konsults and the project manager on the 33kv Kitugum-Palabek and Lira-Apala-Aloi power lines construction projects refund over 11m. Read more: [New Vision; Thursday May 14, 2020](#)

Customers with faulty [electricity] meters have to wait for post-lockdown

Customers who are currently facing challenges with their electricity meters have to wait until the current COVID-19 lockdown is lifted to get assistance.

There was an overflow of comments from people on social media last week claiming that their pre-paid electricity meters (yaka) were running fast and reading absurd levels of electricity consumption during the lockdown.

"I thought I was losing my mind. I loaded 50 units and by morning 10 units had gone. Yet usually, I use 2 units per day," one of the social media complainants queried.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor*, Mr John Paul Musimami, deputy executive director in charge of compliance at Uganda National Bureau of Standards, (UNBS) said customers should notify the agency. "They can contact UNBS at its toll free line 0800133133. Currently, UNBS is not carrying out field activities. Notification may be done but response will be post lock down," he said explaining that the claims could be valid if the meter was tampered with before. However, tests would be required to prove that they (meters) are faulty.

Important to note is that meters are said to reduce in accuracy after five to seven years.

[Read more](#)

Tackle climate change with the zeal of the COVID-19 fight

Ugandans experienced a nationwide total black-out which the country's electricity transmission company – UETCL – later revealed was caused by a "floating" island that clogged the intake gates of Nalubaale, Bujagali and Kiira power dams.

[The floating island was said to have broken off and headed towards Nalubaale dam due to human activities and the rising water levels in Lake Victoria].

The recent rise of Lake Victoria water levels has been attributed to effects of climate change caused by global warming due to harmful human activities against nature, according to various environmental experts.

Climate change is an existing threat to humanity. [However, half measures have been taken to address it.] On the other hand, Covid-19 quickly appeared and spread, sending shockwaves to every country on the planet. The world population realised the threat this virus posed and went into emergency mode, stocking up food stuffs, and hoarding essential items.

For the past two months, previously unknown phrases quickly became common vernacular – social distancing, flattening the curve and the lockdown culture. Governments have [also] taken extreme measures to fight COVID-19 and its effects. [The measures have included] border closures, stay-at-home orders [and] providing stimulus packages in some countries to help save lives. The public is scared and largely supports government efforts to contain the virus and prevent infections.

When it comes to the climate change crisis [however], governments recognise the reality but only implement half measures or nothing at all. Although the coronavirus is acutely dangerous to humans and may kill a few thousands before a drug or vaccine is developed, climate change is an even a larger threat that will affect most of humanity. [Read more](#)

Respect nature or perish

To date, over 145,551 innocent lives have been lost and over 2 million people are infected worldwide with COVID-19, a virus that remains without cure despite great technology by man.

In response, almost every country in the world has closed its borders and internal road, air and water transport. It's the biggest global crisis of our generation.

Most of us are rightly scared that the increasing calamities including COVID-19, landslides, underwater earthquakes and others are a clear sign that God is unhappy with man.

That man has failed in his duty of protecting the world and instead succeeded in destroying nature and yet nature has its own regulations and defensive mechanisms.

When in 2016, the global community put in place the Paris agreement on climate change, there was relief that for the first time, humans had arrived at a consensus to protect the environment.

Unfortunately, the agreement has not stopped environmental destruction due to human greed and ego. As a result, the destruction of nature in the form of forests, wetlands, lakes, rivers, seas, oceans, wildlife and many others by man's activities continues.

What are consequences of these challenges? Maybe it's COVID-19 and other calamities? We must respect nature or else we shall perish.
[Read more](#)

Prevent destructive floods with good stewardship of God's Earth

My heart goes out to those whose lives and possessions have been disrupted by the swollen rivers and lakes of East Africa.

Special condolences to those whose relatives have perished in the floods. Coming in the midst of the new coronavirus pandemic, the pain of disruption is magnified and the depth of despair unfathomable. However, the current flooding is neither new nor surprising. As usual, anguished cries are raised to the Lord God to intervene and save His people from the torrential rains and the angry floods.

The people appeal to their governments to help them, with some demanding compensation as though the taxpayers are responsible for the catastrophe. In my article, "Floods and landslides are not God's will," published in the *Daily Monitor* of March 28, 2017 and on my website www.mulerasfireplace.com, I reminded us that these things are not God's will but nature's response to human folly.

If you build on the shores of a lake without considering basic laws of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, geography and geology, do not be surprised when your investment suddenly becomes a soggy mess as water reclaims its real estate. [Read more](#)

Upcoming events

May 29, 2020;
Kampala: Hold a radio talkshow on the relevance of implementing environmental laws amidst oil and forest degradation challenges to reduce the incidence of pandemics

Coronavirus: AFIEGO continues to call on communities and stakeholders to stay safe through following the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation's guidelines.

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