



MEDIA STATEMENT

**ERA AND UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING FOR PILOT CHARCOAL TO POWER PROJECT
WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH 2022**

1. The Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) has today, the 23rd of March 2022, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) to formalize a partnership between the two institutions (ERA and UPS) aimed at promoting and implementing a pilot project to allow Uganda Prisons Service's facilities to transit from using Biomass for cooking to using Electricity for cooking. This initiative is under the project code- named "*The Charcoal to Power Project*".

2. The Pilot Project for which the MoU has been signed is the second pilot project to be implemented under ERA's Charcoal to Power Initiative. The first one was a similar Pilot Project implemented at the *Mwanamugimu Children's Clinic at Mulago Hospital*.

3. The Charcoal to Power project aims to introduce efficient and clean cooking technologies for the facilities of the Uganda Prisons Service, namely, the Luzira Upper prison, the Women's prison, and the Maximum prison; and will be rolled out to other prisons facilities across the country.
4. Under this project, the Prisons facilities and other institutions will pay Ush 451.4 per Unit of Electricity consumed, compared to the normal Tariff (currently at Ush 747.5 per Unit - subject to change every quarter in line with movements of the Macro-Economic parameters).
5. The project presents notable benefits, including a reduction in pollution associated with cooking using Biomass, improved health by eliminating inhalation of smoke during the cooking process that is dangerous to lives, reduction in deforestation.
6. The project is in tandem with achieving Sustainable Development Goal Number 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
7. Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako, the ERA Chief Executive Officer, signed the MOU on behalf of ERA, while Mr. Samuel B. Emiku, the Under-Secretary Ministry of Internal Affairs in charge of Prisons signed on behalf of the Uganda Prisons Service at a ceremony that took place at the New ERA House, Plot 5C – 1, Industrial Area Lugogo.

ABOUT THE CHARCOAL TO POWER PROJECT

The charcoal to Power Project is an initiative of the Electricity Regulatory Authority aimed at improving the health status of Ugandans by reducing CO2 emissions through increased per capita consumption of Electricity. It is also aimed at growing demand for Electricity through Increased usability of Electricity for cooking in households, institutions and commercial establishments.

Under the project, ERA targets to convert 50,000 households, 500 institutions (including hospitals, prisons, institutions of learning), and commercial enterprises from use of Biomass as the primary source of energy for cooking or heating to use of Electricity.

For more information about the ERA-UPS Memorandum of Understanding, please contact:

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Dated 23rd March 2022

Diana Naisuna Nambi
MANAGER PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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