



**SPEECH**

**BY THE**

**RT HON. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**AT THE LAUNCH OF**

**ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION FOR THE**

**ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**SERENA HOTEL, KAMPALA**

**30TH MAY 2018 – 6:00Pm**

The Honorable Minister of Energy and Mineral Development

Honourable Ministers and Ministers of State

Honourable Members of Parliament

Your Excellency the High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Representatives  
of our Development Partners

The Permanent Secretary and Staff of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral  
Development

The Board and Secretariat of the Electricity Regulatory Authority

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my pleasure to preside over the launch of the ISO 9001:2015 certification for the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA). This is a significant milestone for ERA, the electricity sector and the Country as well. This certification is evidence that we have made great progress. As you are aware the NRM government embarked on the journey to reform the electricity sector over 20 years ago with the formulation of a comprehensive strategy for transforming Uganda's power sector into a financially viable and efficient electricity industry in 1997.
2. At the time the sector was controlled by a publicly owned and vertically integrated power utility, UEB. Generation capacity was 180MW with 98% of it being hydro. Only 5% of the population had access to grid electricity and the customer base was about 148,000. Reliability was poor and was characterized by extensive load shedding. Sector performance was poor with only 50% of revenues being collected and energy losses exceeding 30%. UEB was also heavily subsidized by the government. In 1999 the government enacted the Electricity Act and an independent regulator, ERA was formed. UEB was unbundled into three successor companies for Generation, Transmission and Distribution. Since then the Electricity sector has remained a top priority for government.

3. The NRM Government policy objective on energy is to ensure adequate and reliable supply of energy as well as universal access to modern energy services (like electricity) to support industrialization, social and economic growth. The Vision 2040 and NDP II observes that for Uganda to achieve the desired socio-economic transformation, the energy sector needs to provide at least 41,738 Mega Watts of energy by year 2040. Access to the national grid will have to increase to 80 percent. The sector is responding by developing its hydro power and also complementing with other renewable forms of energy including; wind, solar and bio-gas.
4. Government recognizes that the energy and mineral development sector has great potential in creating employment in the country. In this regard, investment in energy, oil and gas, and mineral sector remains a top Government priority. For the FY 2017/18, a total of UGX 2.999 trillion was provided as a budget allocation to the sector. Government is committed to providing additional resources to the sector as the financial situation improves, to match the demand arising from population growth and economic development needs.
5. I am happy to note that because of government's intervention, the sector has significantly transformed. Government commenced construction of Karuma and Isimba hydropower projects and the associated Transmission Infrastructure. These two projects will add 783MW into the existing power pool of 944MW. In addition, under the Global Energy Transfer Feed in Tariff (called GETFiT) program, Government is undertaking the development of seventeen (17) small-scale renewable energy generation projects which will also add 157MW. Currently about 22% of the population has access to electricity with a customer base of over one million. Energy losses have reduced to 17% and sector revenue collection is almost 100%. A lot of private sector investment has been attracted into the sector as well.

6. As I conclude, I wish to commend the Electricity Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development for the good progress made in transforming the sector and the Country as a whole.
7. I take this opportunity to thank the political leaders of the Ministry, development partners, the technical team of the Ministry, the Electricity Regulatory Authority members, the ERA Secretariat, the Private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local leaders, the media and all of you, for attending this function.
8. With these few remarks, I formally launch the ISO 9001:2015 certification for the Electricity Regulatory Authority.

I thank you.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**