



Uganda Energy Policy Review Symposium

Report of PROCEEDINGS of the Energy Policy Review Symposium

Prepared by

DRUSSA WP5 Country Coordination Unit

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Introduction

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) is among the three Ugandan ministries that are participating in DRUSSA¹ Programme. The others are Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports (MESTS). DRUSSA promotes the uptake of research results in the sector ministries through three components

1. Policy Symposia that seek to create a platform for regular consultation among policy-makers, researchers and the public.
2. Capacity strengthening of policy makers through a short Executive Education Course on evidence-based policy making which is conducted by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) in collaboration with the Civil Service College Uganda (CSCU).
3. Policy Fellowships where university-based doctoral fellows are attached to the ministries for up to 12 months to facilitate the adoption of evidence based approaches in policy-making. The purpose of the fellowship is to strengthen capacity of the ministries to use research results for policy making. The Policy Fellows will participate in defining ministry policy priorities and develop an inventory of policy-relevant research reviews from which reliable evidence can be adduced to support policy-processes.

MEMD organised the symposium on 28th April 2015 to discuss the progress made by the Policy Fellow in defining MEMD research priorities to facilitate review of the Energy Policy (2002).

Emerging Issues

The MEMD Policy Fellow, Dr. Albert Rugumayo presented a report on his progress with identifying key areas of focus for review of the energy policy. The policy priorities are to be guided by the state of development of the energy sector, the identified gaps and national aspirations articulated in the NDP II and the Vision 2040. Based on the presentation, the following issues emerged:

1. MEMD has undergone restructuring with 3 departments under the new Directorate of Energy Resources Development. These are electrical power, energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy. Issues should be addressed along these lines
2. The issue of considering the energy policy not to only concentrate on electricity but also other forms of energy such as Biomass (woody and non woody bi mass i.e. Biogas), Solar and Wind Energy. It was noted that the majority of the population still relies on Biomass and therefore its utilisation should be taken strongly as it impacts greatly on the environment. The need for modern energy for cooking is critical.
3. The issue of having a policy which emphasises building and retaining capacity in the sector. The need to promote internship of young Ugandan engineers. This has not been addressed adequately since the unbundling. The private sector has not been keen on training.
4. The Nuclear Energy needs to be included in power generation planning
5. Access to Energy. The challenge being the settlement patterns.

¹ Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa

6. The upfront costs of renewable energy are high.
7. There is limited credit financing
8. Inadequate regulation of sector
9. Inadequate technologies
10. Lack of standards
11. Availability of land is a big problem because RE investments require a lot of land
12. The ownership of infrastructure is sometimes unclear
13. The need to address the regional tier and develop appropriate strategies for power trade
14. Gender mainstreaming in energy development
15. Limited awareness of stakeholders

Way Forward

Review of the Energy Policy was to follow the new MEMD structure. The three directorates on (1) Power Generation, (2) Renewable Energy and (3) Energy Efficiency are to constitute pillars of the policy.

The analytical work conducted by the Policy Fellow should focus on the three pillars and cover evidence on outcomes of the current energy policy, existing gaps that require new policy interventions, as well as synergies that can be capitalised on in designing and implementing the new energy policy.

The Fellow should contact the directors, commissioners and other key stakeholders under each of the pillars for more information on the key issues and priorities to be considered for in-depth analysis and evidence based policy drafting.

The next symposium was to consider the emerging energy policy priorities and their associated research evidence.

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ACRONYMS

MEMD – Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

EECD – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Department

RED – Renewable Energy Department

EPD – Electrical Power Department

SPPAD – Sector Planning and Policy Analysis Department

AEC – Atomic Energy Council

UETCL – Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited

UEDCL – Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited

ERA – Electricity Regulatory Authority

NEU – Nuclear Energy Unit

SREP – Scaling Up Renewable Energy Programme

UNCST – Uganda National Council of Science and Technology