



CEO's REMARKS

AT THE FIRST EXECUTIVE FORUM FOR THE ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY INDUSTRY, 20TH JUNE 017, KAMPALA SERENA
HOTEL

The road to industrialization: the role of a synergized ESI

Honorable Minister of Energy and Mineral Development,
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral
Development,
Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of the
ESI,
Senior Government officers,
Dear Participants,
Ladies Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking my colleagues in Government
and the Executive officers of the ESI for accepting our
invitation and making it to this important dialogue.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we are all aware, Uganda is
aspiring to industrialize. World over, safe, reliable and
affordable electricity is the engine of industrialization.

Uganda is not an exception to this route of development.

As lead agencies in the ESI, we know that it is our primary duty to promote and ensure that electricity supply for development is safe, reliable and affordable. But how do we do this noble task without working together as a team? I mean if we do not synergise?

There is much that we the drivers of the ESI must do to achieve substantial progress in the industry. Issues of accelerated access to electricity, power supply reliability, affordable tariffs and productive use of energy are some of the most important concerns to all stakeholders.

Let me take this opportunity to salute the executive officers in the ESI for the good job you are doing to keep lights on in a challenging environment.

Much as we are working hard in our own organizations, however, I believe there is something standing in between our current and next level of achievement. That something is the low level of synergy among the executive officers in the ESI.

I am sure there is a lot more we can achieve if we the executive officers in the ESI did a little more synergizing. "Two heads are better than one." "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts."

In this industry, we cannot afford not to work together. We need each other. We need to teamwork and

adventure together to find new solutions to our problems. Marshall Goldsmith in his classic book says “what got you here won't get you there”. Albert Einstein said “we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them”. Colleagues, to that I add; we shall not easily and quickly overcome the challenge of safe and reliable power at affordable tariffs in Uganda – if we continue working individually in our organizations – which I call cocoons.

To synergise, ERA is ready to lead the way! As social persons, We work best collectively on almost anything and everything. In the ESI, allow me to mention a few challenging areas where our synergy is most desired. For example, my gut feeling is that we need work as a team on the following:

- (i) Accelerate household access to electricity;
- (ii) Eliminate the growing challenge of supply and use of rotting (poor quality) poles in the network;
- (iii) Eliminate the menace of network equipment vandalism;
- (iv) Eliminate power theft;
- (v) Minimize frequent power outages –especially when it rains; and,
- (vi) Increase the pool of professions in the industry.

I strongly believe that the responsibility for successful handling of issues listed above entails a shared effort among ESI executives, Government, and the private sector. I appeal to all stakeholders to promote a consistent and powerful commitment to synergistic teamwork. The attitudes in our institutions must be

mirrored by a humane and inclusive culture of openness to others.'

In conclusion, I reiterate the fact that 'it is when we work in synergy as industry executives with a vision and a long-term strategy for the greater good of our industry that we can ensure that the dream of industrialization is achieved in our mother country Uganda.