



# REPORT OF THE FRES UGANDA WORKSHOP ON UPSCALLING CLEAN ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS OF UGANDA

Theme: *Upscaling Usage of Clean and Affordable  
Energy in Rural Areas of Uganda*

Date: *Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 | 8.00 am - 2.00 pm*

Venue: *Banquet Hall - Golf Course Hotel, Kampala-Uganda*

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PRESENTED BY:

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THE EXCELLENCE CENTER  
KAMPALA, UGANDA.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION:

FRES Uganda held the first ever Clean Energy Workshop at Golf Course hotel under the theme Upscaling Usage of Clean and Affordable Energy in Rural Areas of Uganda on Tuesday 1st June 2021 from 8.00am - 2.00pm in partnership with the European Union. The event was held as a hybrid event with participation both physical and virtual.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND:

### **Uganda's Renewable Energy Sector:**

According to the Sustainable Energy for Action (SE4All) Agenda, access to modern and clean energy services is a necessary precondition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The benefits of increased access to modern and clean energy extend beyond just the energy sector but also contribute to addressing other social challenges such as poverty eradication, increased access to clean water, improvement of public health and access to education, women's empowerment and increased food production. Therefore, as a key driver of sustainable development, access to clean, renewable energy is crucial to realizing not only the SDGs but also the core promise of the 2030 agenda to leave no one behind. With 10 years left to achieve the SDGs, the 2020s have been called the decade of delivery. Yet at the current pace of electrification, half a billion people – primarily living in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel – will still be unserved by 2030.

In Uganda, according to the draft Energy Policy (2019), biomass contributed 88% of the total primary energy consumed through firewood, charcoal and crop residues; electricity contributed approximately 2%; while fossil fuels (oil products) accounted for 10% of the national energy mix. In terms of electrification rates, Uganda has one of the lowest in Africa with a current access rate of 28%. This is largely attributed to high costs of electricity, the people's lack of capacity to pay and limited distribution of power lines. Therefore, the urgency of the challenge and the need to obtain long-term results that truly fulfil the promise of leaving no one behind means that all stakeholders must step up their efforts.

**About FRES and What we are doing:**

Foundation Rural Energy Services (FRES) is a multinational non-profit company based in the Netherlands with subsidiaries in Mali, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Guinea-Bissau. The company aims to improve rural electrification by setting up small utility companies to provide solar electricity to rural Africa. Central to FRES' model is a fee-for-service approach which is premised on a belief in local entrepreneurship. FRES has therefore, has been electrifying rural communities by establishing commercial electricity companies under local management and gradually extended their reach from village to village, and district to district.

Even in some of the most challenging regions that other players often avoid, and are thus at the greatest risk of being left behind, FRES has remained active in these communities and has built a reputation as a trusted supplier of solar energy solutions to businesses, communities and household consumers.

The vision of FRES is to be the most reliable solar energy provider in the countries in which it operates by focusing on customer care, quality, and efficiency. As part of its growth and expansion strategy, FRES is embarking on upscaling its operations in Uganda. To realise the goal of upscaling its operations, FRES organized a regional workshop in Uganda to showcase some of its learnings from 10 years of operation in Uganda as well as connect with other stakeholders. The workshop was also meant to offer an opportunity for participants to share best practices and raise awareness on the changing roles, responsibilities and emerging trends in the industry as a driver for rural electrification.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP:

The workshop and related activities had the following objectives:

- a) To strengthen collaboration and communication with national policymakers and authorities in the renewable energy space;
- b) To increase cross-national learning in the areas of green energy and rural electrification taking from the achievements and lessons from players and consumers;
- c) To explore opportunities on creating a more enabling policy environment for private sector actors to meaningful contribute to rural electrification.

## 2.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP:

The following were the expected outcomes from the workshop:

- Develop feasible solutions to the challenges in Uganda's renewable energy sector
- Share updated information on the current environment enabling renewable energy uptake
- Create a platform for Renewable Energy actors and policy makers to network & collaborate

## 3.0 PLANNED SESSIONS:

- i. Discussions on Thematic Areas in the Renewable Energy space in Uganda including the enabling environment, policy changes, regulation, opportunities for expansion and funding.
- ii. Question and Answer Sessions with the experts, influencers and policy makers in the Renewable Energy Sector in Uganda.
- iii. Presentations and Discussion on Uganda's Rural Electrification Projections, Lessons and Recommendations highlighting the opportunities for FRES Uganda that lie therein.
- iv. Presentation on the FRES service model: lessons, success stories with testimonials on the achievements of FRES Uganda in 10 years of existence in Uganda.
- v. Exhibition on the Services of FRES Uganda

## 3.1 TIME TABLE

TIME	ACTIVITY
8.00AM – 8.50AM	Arrival, Registration, Exhibition and Breakfast
8.50AM – 9.00AM	Welcome Remarks by GM FRES Uganda
9.00AM – 9.15AM	Opening Remarks by the MANAGING DIRECTOR of FRES <i>(Vision, Mission, Model and Performance in Uganda)</i>

9.15AM – 9.25AM	Remarks by COMMISSIONER RENEWABLE ENERGY  Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development – Republic of Uganda
9.25AM – 9.50AM	<b>PRESENTATION ON FRES UGANDA:</b>  <i>(Lessons, Successes , Benefits and Bottlenecks)</i>
9.50AM – 10.00AM	<b>TESTIMONIALS AND SUCCESS STORIES OF FRES UGANDA</b>  <i>(Achievements of FRES Uganda in 10 years)</i>
10.00AM – 10.30AM	<b>PRESENTATION ON ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN UGANDA</b>
10.30AM – 10.50AM	TEA BREAK
10.50AM - 11.20AM	Q & A DISCUSSION ON ENABLING ENVIRONMENT
11.20AM – 12.40PM	SHORT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ON THEMATIC AREAS INCLUDING:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PLANS AND PROJECTIONS IN UGANDA</b> <i>(By Representative from REA)</i></li> <li>• <b>TAX POLICY IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR IN UGANDA</b> <i>(By Representative from Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development)</i></li> <li>• <b>QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR</b> <i>(By Representative from UNBS)</i></li> <li>• <b>PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</b> <i>(By Representative of GIZ)</i></li> </ul>
12.40PM – 12.50PM	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

	<i>By Rapporteur</i>
12.50PM – 1.00PM	CLOSING REMARKS  <i>By Managing Director of FRES</i>
1.00PM – 2.00PM	LUNCH, EXHIBITION AND DEPARTURE AT WILL

## 4.0 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

### 4.1 WHO WAS INVITED TO THIS WORKSHOP:

Approximately 30 delegates were expected to participate in the workshop both physically and virtually. These shall include renewable energy industry experts, policymakers, faculties in renewable energy, government/relevant ministry officials, electricity regulators, development partners, diplomatic missions, researchers in the energy sector, expert implementers of renewable energy policies, tax experts, bureau of standards officials, and other relevant actors and policy influencers/makers.

A zoom webinar was setup on 8th May under the registration link below:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_nVBf1DvxTNecqbRMs4rNQA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nVBf1DvxTNecqbRMs4rNQA).

The Webinar would send confirmation emails to all registered participants. This link was promoted on social media, email, website and among the relevant circles to gather participants. On the workshop day there were 83 registrants.

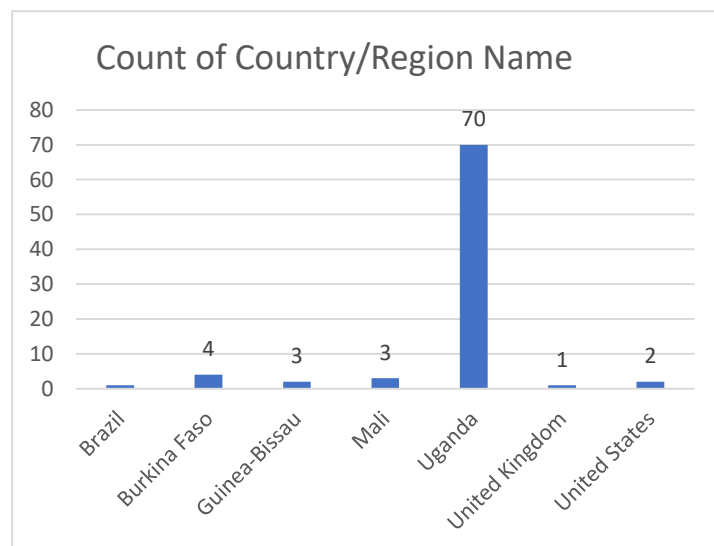
## 4.2 ONLINE ATTENDANCE REPORT

Report Generated:				Jun 05, 2021 6:53 AM				
Topic	Webinar ID	Actual Start Time	Actual Duration (minutes)	# Registered	# Cancelled	Unique Viewers	Total Users	Maximum Concurrent Views (Online viewers at a given moment)
FRES W-SHOP	825 3109 7238	May 31, 2021 10:40 PM	343	83	0	42	150	28

A deeper look at the registration is below:

### 4.2.1 Participation by Country

Country/Region Name	Number of Registrants
Burkina Faso	4
Guinea-Bissau	3
Mali	3
Uganda	70
United Kingdom	1
United States	2



### 4.2.2 Registration by Company

Company	Number of Registrants
FRES Uganda	40
Guinea-Bissau	3
Free solar Uganda	1
CDC/WHO/UNICEF	1
Aptech Africa	1
ACCES BURKINA SARL	1



ENVenture	1
FRES YEELEN BA	1
FRES YEELENBA-BURKINA	1
FRES-GB	1
Headford Machinery I	1
Integrated Mental Health Initiative - IMI	1
Itimpulsion	1
Mad Mali	1
Mbarara University of Science and Technology	1
Oduloch Uganda	1
PAOP	1
Power Trust Uganda Limited	1
Savika Uganda	1
SSD FRES MALI YEELEN KURA	1
Suxid Limited	1
Tinkah Uganda	1
Uganda Petroleum Institute Kigumba	1
Watson Energy (EA) Ltd	1
World vision	1
YLEC-UGANDA	1
Zoreka solar ltd	1
No Specific Company	14

#### 4.2.4 Online Participation:

One panelist Ms. Ninsima Claire Senior Tax Policy Expert from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development participated remotely in the panel discussion.

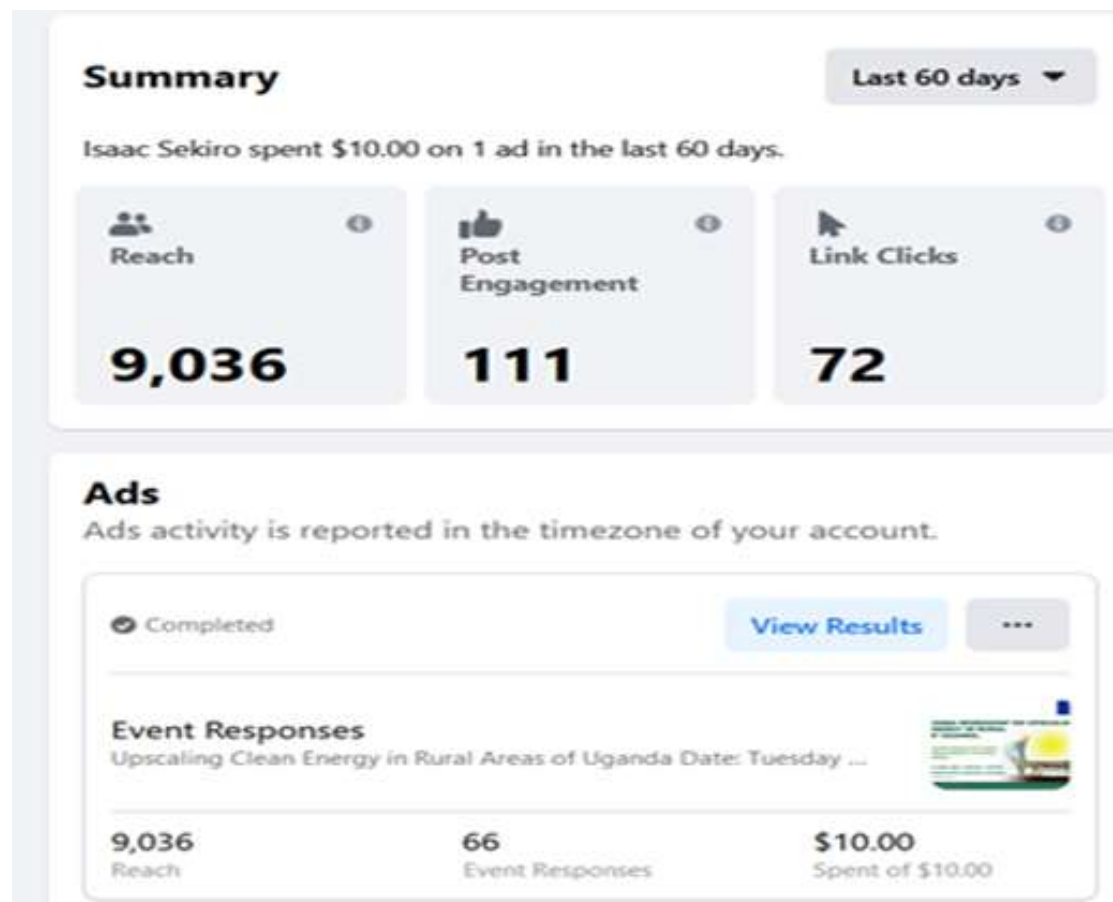
#### 4.2.5 Social Media Channels:

The following social media channels and website link were used to among others to promote the event.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Fres-Uganda-Clean-Energy-Workshop-107377751516213>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/FresUgEnergy>

**Website:** <https://fres-uganda-clean-energy-workshop.business.site>. On Facebook an advert was setup which has the following results.



#### 4.2.6 Online Recordings:

A recording of the event we shared in due course on YouTube however, a video recording of zoom and audio recording can be accessed from the account with the details below:

Website: [\*\*https://us02web.zoom.us/\*\*](https://us02web.zoom.us/)

User Name: **fresugandacleanenergyworkshop@gmail.com**

Password: **Link@fres20203**

## 5.0. WORKSHOP SESSIONS EMERGING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Session	Emerging Issues	Key Action Points and Recommendations ( <i>from presenters and participants</i> )
<b>1. Welcome Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The welcome remarks were given by General Manager FRES. He welcomed everyone and gave a snapshot of the history of FRES.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Remarks by the commissioner, Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral development- Republic of Uganda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) was represented by Engineer David Birimumaaso, a Senior Energy Officer at the Ministry.</li> <li>He welcomed participants and gave a brief introduction to the Renewable Energy (RE) policy, a key framework that guides the use of solar and other forms of renewable energy in Uganda. The instrument also guides on other processes within the renewable energy sector including development of mini grids.</li> <li>The policy has some gaps that need to be addressed including the need to provide for use of emerging technologies in renewable energy production and distribution.</li> <li>Government of Uganda also has a framework for Public Private Partnerships which should be explored by actors in the RE energy sector including FRES.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore avenues for sustained engagement and cooperation among key stakeholders in the RE sector in Uganda for example MEMD, Solar Energy and RE Associations as well as Development partners in the RE space.</li> <li>Explore opportunities for Private Partnerships with government of Uganda in Agriculture, Industry and organisations that will need consistent, renewable energy.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Presentation on FRES UGANDA.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation, delivered by the Managing Director of FRES Uganda, focused on the last 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The future for FRES is one going to be driven by</li> </ul>

<p><b>(Lessons, Successes, Benefits and Bottlenecks)</b></p>	<p>years of FRES' operation's in Uganda which included a context to the fee for service model that FRES operates and some of the key client benefits. The presentation also covered some of the challenges and opportunities experienced by FRES during its operations. Some of these included poor quality products on the market. This challenge however, created a demand for quality products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The foreseeable future of FRES includes plans focused on expansion and investments to enable diversification, automation, and expansion of Solar electricity services in Uganda. The presentation concluded with a video on the work of FRES Uganda.</li> </ul>	<p>diversification, automation, and expansion of Solar electricity services in Uganda. There is need to explore how strengthened regulation and cooperation within the RE sector will contribute to the achievement of FRES' strategy</p>
<p><b>4. Testimonials and Success Stories of FRES Uganda</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In this session, some of the clients of FRES Uganda shared their experiences of using solar energy solutions provided by FRES Uganda.</li> <li>• Robert Bayona from Mbarara switched to FRES Uganda after an engagement with staff from the company who showed him the benefits of using RE power from their grid. Having a solar system from FRES had encouraged his children to read and improve their literacy. That outcome inspired him to install solar energy for his business, which boosted sales due to reliable electricity supply for different services he made available such as phone battery charging. That success also inspired Robert to buy a third solar energy system to power projects on his farm in Mbarara.</li> <li>• For another gentleman from a refugee settlement, FRES had provided energy that had</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to note that all clients who gave testimonials went from using solar for household use to more productive use. How does FRES leverage the potential of renewable energy for both home and commercial use?</li> <li>• Consider investing in providing solar systems that can power CCTV cameras, compound lights and other such lifestyle amenities that</li> </ul>

	<p>improved his quality of life, affording him the opportunity to enjoy things like watching television. Importantly, he used the solar system from FRES to power a small shop (“<i>duuka</i>”) business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andersen Agaba from Isingiro felt frustrated by the limitations of other solar companies until he approached FRES Uganda. He experienced unlimited solar supply which he used to pump water in his home, something unimaginable with previous solar items he had tried. He recommended FRES Uganda should make more amenities available to power large energy capacity projects like instant water pumps, CCTV cameras.</li> </ul>	<p>are not readily available for solar energy users. Also look into agricultural implements and mechanisation that uses Solar Energy already being piloted in Uganda.</p>
<p><b>5. A Quick Scan of the Enabling Environment of Uganda’s Renewable Energy Sector</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This power point presentation by Mr. Eddie Oketcho, a Technical Adviser with GIZ was designed to trigger conversation on the potential of Uganda’s Renewable Energy Sector.</li> <li>Presentation provided conversation starters for a proceeding panel discussion on opportunities and challenges in Uganda’s RE sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do we ensure actors in the RE sector like FRES are able to leverage opportunities in the technical and business aspects of providing affordable, clean energy?</li> </ul>

<p><b>6. Discussion Panel on thematic areas for upscaling clean energy in rural areas</b></p>	<p>A panel moderated by Security and Risk Consultant, Elvis Ssekate, explored key issues affecting the RE sub sector in Uganda, including regulation, standardisation and incentivisation to support investment in RE technologies.</p> <p>The five members of the panel and key highlights from the conversation are shared below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Mwesigwa, Ag. CEO, Uganda Solar Energy Association (USEA)</li> <li>• Esther Nyanzi, CEO, Uganda National Renewable energy and Energy Efficiency Alliance (UNREEEA)</li> <li>• Eng. David Birimumaaso, Senior Energy Officer, Min. of Energy and Mineral Development</li> <li>• Winnie Grace Onziru, Standards Officer, Uganda Bureau of Standards</li> <li>• Clare Ninsiima, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic development</li> <li>- <b>Moderator:</b> Elvis Ssekate Security and Risk Consultant</li> </ul> <p>Panellist Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esther: UNREEEA is Committed to supporting different actors in the clean energy sector like FRES.</li> <li>• David Birimumaaso: Min of Energy is committed to ensuring sustainable use of clean affordable energy</li> <li>• Winnie UBOS: The Bureau is keen to ensure value for money in Uganda. UBOS works in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we ensure we are able to utilise power and leverage opportunities for willing of power across service providers?</li> <li>• Importance of Rebuilding confidence in the use of RE particularly solar energy following earlier experiences consumers have had that accrue from a previously unregulated RE sector?</li> <li>• USEA innovating around a call centre</li> </ul>
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	<p>partnership with other actors in the region to harmonise standards on goods and services in the market. Challenges in the standardisation sector include harmonisation of operating procedures for all renewable energy actors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Mwesigwa: The association exists to foster growth and development of the solar industry in Uganda. The agency works with over 200 solar energy service providers countrywide and seeks to encourage self-regulation.</li> </ul> <p>How does government of Uganda plan to upscale RE usage in line with NDP 3 outcomes on sustainable use of energy resources?</p> <p>Uganda currently uses 85% biomass energy which is unsustainable and must be reversed. To that end, Government of Uganda was committed to four outcomes in its renewable energy policy namely: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing electricity</li> <li>• Increasing access to electricity</li> <li>• Increasing access to clean energy</li> <li>• Increasing access to clean energy technologies</li> </ul> <p>How has the Solar association of Uganda Positioned itself to support increased use of Solar energy in Uganda?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebuilding consumer confidence in the use of Renewable energy. The biggest challenge in the sector is wavering confidence in the use of solar systems due to bad experiences from using solar systems within an unregulated RE sector. There</li> </ul>	
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	<p>are now opportunities for the use of solar to grow in Uganda. The association focuses on addressing barriers in the RE sector. The key challenges have been low quality products in the solar energy market which has affected trust and consumer confidence in solar systems. We encourage the public to look out for quality products in the market. As such the association would work closely with UNBS to ensure mechanisms of regulation are in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a Call Centre. The call centre innovation would encourage the public to interact with the association for mutual benefit. Solar users will have an opportunity to access information on good quality solar services, among others.</li> <li>• Support Access to finance to bring RE technologies closer to the people which would include ensuring technology service providers can access the market and vice versa</li> </ul> <p><b>Enforcing Standards in the Solar Renewable Energy Sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNBS exists to design, enforce, and regulate sectors through creating standards.</li> <li>• Encourage all sector players in the RE sector to become members of bodies such as USEA. This would ease streamlining of standards to guide operations within the RE sector.</li> <li>• UBOS uses two standards for the sector namely Requirement standard and Test Standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage all sector player in the RE sector to become members of bodies such as USEA. This would ease streamlining within the RE sector.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Gives the requirements for all solar products and -9-5 gives the guidance for the test method to ensure products meet the standard for the market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The bureau also encourages accuracy and truth in advertising to mitigate against instances where products give false information on number of watts, voltage capacity, etc.</li> <li>- For plug and play systems, lights are required to give at-least 90% of use after 2000 hours of use.</li> <li>- Protection against water for all solar products</li> <li>- Thorough workmanship for all solar products including cables, connectors, switches, etc.</li> <li>- Ensuring that information on all products is worded in a manner that clients can understand</li> <li>- Consumer Protection. UBOS works to ensure to protect consumers</li> </ul> <p><b>How is MOFPED incentivising the use of clean energy in Rural areas in Uganda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incentives to promote RE use include tax waivers on al Solar and RE products and accessories to support upscaling and deepening of renewable energy access.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNREA</b></p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2017 UNREA profiled the experiences of companies in the RE sector. Some issues identified arose around negotiation, skills gap, fake/low quality products on the market,</li> <li>- They have published a guide to inform actors in the sector</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>More General Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging net metering options to provide hybrid energy solutions.</li> <li>• How to ensure investors and government can work together around ownership of assets like mini grids and distribution of</li> <li>• Government leasing products to developers for up to 15 years. Sites for possible concessions can be accessed from the mini grid Master plan</li> <li>• Financing options for the energy sector remain low. We need to raise awareness for different actors to know</li> <li>• Explore options for financing RE projects including partnerships with the pension fund and the infrastructure fund</li> <li>• We need one body to streamline regulation in the sector</li> <li>• The need for partnerships with platforms to be supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for initiatives to increase awareness on the use of renewable energy alternatives such as cooking stoves,</li> <li>• The need for harmonised, streamlined regulation of the RE sector</li> <li>• Participation of more stakeholders in the world energy day including academics and researchers.</li> <li>• Leverage opportunities for Youth to innovate in the energy sector with the assurance of impact funding</li> </ul>

## 7.0 GALLERY











## 7.0 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### GOV'T ASKED TO WAIVE TAXES ON SOLAR ENERGY ACCESSORIES



PICTURE CAPTION

The government has in the recent past waived taxes on solar panels and batteries to develop the solar energy sector.

**Henry Sekanjako**  
Journalist @New Vision

The government has in the recent past waived taxes on solar panels and batteries to develop the solar energy sector.

However, according to the solar energy dealers, the government needs to completely do away with taxes on solar energy products in Uganda.

According to Joslyn Musime, the general Manager Fries Uganda, a solar energy company, the government had initially waived off the taxes on solar energy accessories and reintroduced the tax in 2015.

"The pinch for taxes is on accessories, the batteries and panel are exempted but other accessories like wires and bulbs are taxed if the government can at one point remove these taxes," Musime said.

She noted that with taxes removed on solar energy products, Ugandans especially those in rural areas, will have access to power for domestic and commercial use.



#### Fake Products

The dealers also asked the government to take action against people dealing in fake solar energy products, which have flooded the market.

The fake products, according to Musime, have affected the market for solar energy in Uganda by solar energy users and prospective users.

"Someone goes to the market buys low quality solar system and within a few days the system is down, he goes back he buys a battery, so you find such a person ready fired up fired saying solar doesn't work."

Government should ensure that quality solar comes on the market, this quality will ensure value for money for the end users," Musime said.

She made the remarks on Thursday, during celebrations to mark 10 Years of Fries in Uganda. The solar energy company provides solar energy to rural communities in Uganda, on a fee for service model. Unlike other solar energy service providers, Fries solar energy, installs, maintains, repairs and replaces the worn-out parts of the system as long as the customer is using its solar system.

"We walk the journey with the customer, we install the system and keep ownership of the system, but we make the customer satisfied we do maintenance, repairs, replacement be it one year, ten years we are with you as long as you are paying the monthly service fee," Jos Vervagen, the managing director Fries Uganda said.

The company currently operates in 33 districts in Western, southwestern and central Uganda among other parts of the country.

To weed out fake solar energy products on the market, Vervagen implored the government to step up regulation of the sector and widen the scope of legislation which he said is focused on certification. He also implored the government to support the after-sale services buy solar energy providers to ensure that the solar users have unlimited power supply.

"On our side, we have a specific model we see energy as a service, we don't sell products, we want to make sure people have energy today, tomorrow and in the future and that is why we take responsibility of our systems and maintenance, that gives us a unique system in the market," he said.

#### Youth employment

According to the solar energy providers, supporting the solar energy sector is a guarantee to addressing unemployment among the youth in Uganda.

Musime, the managing director Fries Uganda, said as a way of creating employment, they have provided jobs to 12,000 people.

"Fries is helping out 3,000 solar business opportunities and these employ 12,000 people indirectly, the youth opening saloons and other businesses that require power," Josukie said. Jackson Rusokeze, one of the beneficiaries is able to earn a living through the support of the company, which helped him connect his salon in Nakivubo refugee settlement camp.

He said, "I own a salon in the camp, and I use this power to work on my client's hair. It is available 24 hours."

Just like Rusokeze, Franklin Annde, a poultry farmer said he has been able to take care of his financial needs, by using the power, for his poultry business.

"It has helped us on light, broiler birds eat day and night if you don't have reliable solar, you end up using kerosene lamps which are costly," Annde said.

The dealers in solar energy, asked the government to increase awareness campaigns to make solar readily acceptable to the communities and ensuring that the solar systems sold on the market are of quality.

They also urged the government to consider implementing and enforcing the quality solar standard on solar products, which they said will be introduced this month.