

Expert slams Kiira Dam

By SAMUEL SANYA

The build-up of arrears to the private thermal power generators and the subsequent increase in electricity tariffs is due to the erroneous commissioning of the Kiira power station, experts have said.

Acres International, a Canadian-based firm, which consulted for the project estimated that the river flow was 1,000 cubic meters of water per second beyond the 660 cubic meters from preliminary studies.

"One of the issues affecting electricity sector is the fallacy of constructing two dams in parallel as opposed to them being in series. On the other hand, Uganda needs to enact good plans to ensure sufficient power generation," said Neil Pinto, an energy sector consultant.

He was speaking at a public dialogue by the Makerere University Economic Policy Research Centre under the theme "Electricity Sector Reforms in Uganda" at the Imperial Royale Hotel this week.

Pinto explained that an overestimation of water levels saw the combined power produced at both the Nalubaale and Kiira power stations fall to 100MW from the 380MW installed capacity.

This led to the current power crisis that necessitated the introduction of expensive thermal generators that have seen the country spend well over sh2 trillion in subsidies.