

ERA holds a Parliamentary Stakeholder symposium

As part of its regular accountability practices, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) from 17th to 19th February held a two days Parliamentary Stakeholder Consultation with Members of Parliament of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises at Lake Victoria Serena Resort.

The Symposium that was officially opened by the State Minister for Energy Hon. Simon D'ujang brought the sector oversight committee of parliament up to date with current events in the sub-sector. The meeting set out to explore among others: the post reform electricity sub-sector performance, Parliamentary concerns on the Electricity sub-sector and the Regulatory Regime. Also examined was Umeme Loss Reduction strategy, Action Plan to tackle distribution challenges and their implications for practical policy challenges in the sector.

The symposium highlighted head-on challenges to the sector such as growth in demand still being ahead of supply partly because of capital inflows being far less than expected, sluggishness of the distribution network growth and rural electrification. The high cost of thermal generation and the need to speed up harnessing alternative sources such as exploration of our geothermal resources were also noted as big challenges.

The other issue keenly discussed by the legislators, the Regulator and Umeme the distribution company was distribution system losses through un-billed energy, power theft (Meter Tampering), and power factor leakages because of a dilapidated Network system.