



Speech

By

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Minister of Energy and Mineral Development

**On the Occasion of the Launch of the Electric Vehicle Charging
station**

Location:Amber House

Date: Wednesday March 12, 2025

H.E Matthias Schauer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Uganda

The Hon. Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation

The Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

The Country Director, GIZ

The Head of Energy and Climate Programme, GIZ

CEOs of Uganda's Electricity Agencies

Representatives of the Private Sector

The Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

1. It is with great pleasure that I stand here before you to deliver the key note speech at this occasion where we are launching the Electric Vehicle Charging station. This EV charging station that has been installed by my Ministry is the first public EV charging station installed by Government as a pilot EV charging station. This EV charging station is a pivotal investment in low-carbon energy systems delivery, which underscores the Ministry's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and promoting green transportation solutions.
2. With the installation of this EV charging station, we are indeed cognizant of the fact that access to electricity, and affordability of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure are the two major barriers for EV adoption. Our theme for EV charging is: **“Drive Electric, Drive into the future”**. This theme is deliberately directed to you, our stakeholders, to drive electric vehicles as a more sustainable and advanced mode of transport, essentially embracing the future of car technology prioritizing cleaner energy and reduced emissions.
3. I take note that the adoption of of EVs cannot be separated from the development of EV charging infrastructure, notwithstanding the challenges in the initial phase of EVs development, wherein the low uptake of EVs often hinders the investment enthusiasm of investors for EV charging

infrastructure and vice versa. The development of EV charging infrastructure has been highlighted as part of Government's commitments under the National Development Plan IV as a strategy to enhance efficiency in the transport sector.

4. In this regard therefore, I am pleased to witness a large representation of e-mobility players and private sector representatives today, ladies and gentlemen, you are the agents of change that will transform the market and enable Uganda to reduce its emissions from vehicles.
5. EV charging infrastructure in Uganda is categorized into two main categories: i) Swapping stations; and ii) Level 3 fast charging stations. Today we are launching an EV charging station that has both swapping and Level 3 fast charging. My Ministry has planned to pilot EV charging infrastructure development with ten (10) EV charging stations within Kampala Metropolitan.
6. In a special way, allow me to recognize the three pioneer companies of e-mobility in Uganda who opened the doors for the many e-mobility players we can see today: Zembo Electric SMC Ltd, Bodawerk (Now Gogo) and Kiira Motors Corporation.
7. The benefits of adopting electric vehicles include i) Efficiency improvement, where we know that you will spend less on energy per kilometer when you drive an electric vehicle; ii) less maintenance wherein you'll not need periodic servicing of an electric vehicle; iii) less life-time cost; and iv) convenience because you can charge from anywhere (at home, mall or at a public charging station); and v) Less emissions.
8. Uganda's transport sector accounts for 8% of total energy consumed. Globally, the transport sector is responsible for close to a quarter of global energy-related CO₂ emissions due to its heavy reliance on fossil fuels. With the global demand for transport services expected to increase in future years, it is crucial to sustainably transform the sector and advance towards a zero-carbon sector with electric mobility. Today's event reflects the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to the global climate agenda.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO DATE

9. Before I perform the duty of officially launching the EV charging station, allow me to give you some updates in the sector relating to Energy Efficiency:

Development of the legal and regulatory framework

10. My Ministry has embarked on the process of developing the legal and regulatory framework that provides for the efficient supply and utilization of energy. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill has been table before parliament. As a regulatory measure for e-mobility, Government shall establish energy efficiency standards and targets for, vehicles, including passenger cars, trucks, and buses, and a person shall not operate a commercial electric charging station without a licence.

Support for Energy Efficiency improvements in industries

11. My Ministry has continued to support industrialists in conducting energy assessments, which have necessitated the identification of energy efficiency measures. Many of the interventions identified through this process have received support for implementation.

Promotion of Efficient cooking appliances and practices

12. In view of mitigating against accelerated deforestation, my Ministry has continued to demonstrate commitment towards making alternative cooking energy solutions affordable. The adoption of efficient electric cooking such as the use of electric pressure cookers (EPCs) and induction cookers due to changes in policy and provision of fiscal incentives. These appliances present a great opportunity for cost saving on cooking energy. I therefore would like to implore all of you with access to electricity in your homes to adopt the electric pressure cookers. Currently, government has established the cooking tariff which allows Ugandans to cook on electricity. In addition, Government is promoting the use of LPG as a sustainable cooking energy solution and financial inter-mediation is available through the Uganda Energy Credit Capitalisation Company.

Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)

13. Using the data that was collected on energy-using products sold on the Ugandan market, the development of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) started in 2009 when my Ministry realized that lighting, motors, and cooling appliances were the highest electricity consuming appliances. I am happy to see that UNBS considered the implementation of these MEPS under the PVoC programme. The Ministry continues to develop MEPS for other appliances and equipment in collaboration with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

Energy Management System in line with the ISO 50001 Standards Series

14. The Ministry launched the Use of the Energy Management Systems that is in accordance with the ISO 50001 Standards, among industrialists in 2017. This standard specifies the requirements for energy management focusing on improving energy performance. Until now, the Ministry provides support for implementation of Energy Management Standards among industrialists through training and awareness.

Capacity building and skills development

15. The Ministry conducts training of energy efficiency professionals as well as skills development for energy users and product developers. Some of the energy efficiency specific training offered by my Ministry include energy audit training, energy management training, measurement and verification professionals, and e-mobility skills development for youth and women.

Promotion of Electric Mobility

16. Partnership with private sector:

- a) The Ministry supported zembo to install four (4) pilot swapping stations for electric bikes in Mpigi, Buwama, Lukaya and Masaka town along the Kampala – Masaka corridor
- b) The Ministry is implementing a training programme on electric mobility that will facilitate the skills development for the e-mobility. This is being done through the DRIVE (Developing Relevant and

Innovative Vocational skills for E-mobility) programme implemented in partnership with Gogo (Formerly Bodawerk)

17. The Ministry a feasibility study for EV Charging Ecosystems that facilitated the design and development of a Roadmap for a smart, scalable and replicable EV Charging business propositions. In addition, a diagnostic study in being undertaken in partnership with the World Bank to assess the country's readiness for the adoption of e-mobility technologies.
18. Providing for improved energy efficiency in the transport sector is reflected in our policies, plans and legislative framework. In order to provide for electric vehicle charging, my Ministry has embarked on developing a framework for setting up electric vehicles charging stations. My Ministry has a plan to set up 10 pilot electric vehicle charging stations within Kampala Metropolitan. We are cognizant of the fact that access to electricity, and affordability of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure are the two major barriers for EV adoption.
19. Through engagements with the Uganda Revenue Authority and Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Government has implemented a number of frameworks, such as VAT exemptions and corporate tax breaks under the Finance Act 2024/25, that aim to support the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and related infrastructure. The Energy Transition plan for Uganda projects transport energy demand to grow by 50% by 2030.
20. There are challenges in the initial phase of infrastructure development for electric vehicles. The absence of electric vehicles on the market creates a delay in investment for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and vice versa, making us drop into a chicken and egg dilemma.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

21. In conclusion, my call to everyone and the general public at large is to “Drive Electric”, so that we can together “Drive into the future”.
22. Let me take this opportunity to thank our partners who have been with us in the initial stages of this journey: Zembo electric, Gogo Electric, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GIZ, Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat of the Office of the President, and Kiira Motors

Corporation, who have worked with us in the journey to promote clean transportation technologies, in particular, electric mobility.

23. I would like to further thank my team for the efforts they have put into to ensure the Ministry is up in the promotion of clean transportation technologies. I would also to thank all the participants for responding to the Ministry's invitation to participate in today's launch event.
24. It is now my pleasure to launch the **Electric Vehicle Charging Station**.

For God and My Country!