

Tanzanians undergo training on power distribution, transmission systems-

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Tanzanian Ambassador to the US Mwanaidi Majaar

Tanzanian Ambassador to the US Mwanaidi Majaar has expressed optimism over a multibillion-shilling power project to be implemented by US-based firms starting from April, this year, describing it as “a strategic solution” to the country's looming power crisis.

“I see this project as a significant milestone in redressing power problems currently facing our country,” she said on Wednesday at the official opening of a train-the-trainer programme organized by US-based Symbion/PIKE power firms, which have been contracted to implement two electrification projects in the country.

The two-month training is being conducted at Northwest Lineman College (NLC) in the US. The firms were awarded a two-year contract under the Millennium Challenge Account -Tanzania to implement the project, which involves the construction of power distribution and transmission systems in six regions of Tanzania. It is expected to kick off in April, this year.

“In fact, we are now in a crisis...but I am quite optimistic that the Symbion/PIKE project could serve as part of strategic solutions to move us out of this power crisis,” said Maajar.

This is a unique programme developed by the two US power firms, in collaboration with Northwest Lineman College (NLC), to teach experienced

Tanzanian linemen how to train some selected Tanzanians back home on how to implement the project.

According to the envoy, the project to be carried out by Symbion/PIKE would basically help rural people in Tanzania to access electricity by improving distribution and transmission systems.

The envoy said the move would supplement current government efforts and strategies geared to distributing power to rural settings, which are not connected to the national power grid.

She described the training component introduced by Symbion/PIKE power firms as an additional 'package' in the implementation of the project, which could help Tanzanian linemen access US techniques and skills in power distribution and transmission.

"Apart from improving our power distribution and transmission systems, Symbion/PIKE have gone beyond the scope of their project contract and introduced a school for training our people on US standards of electricity distribution and transmission," she said, adding:

"The training will help the trained Tanzanians to use the acquired knowledge in the improvement of the power sector in the country."