

# ENERGY AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA:

Powering a Nation with Justice and Stewardship

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## GENESIS 1:16-18

- And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.
- And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

## PSALM 97:4

- His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

## REVELATION 4:5 (English Standard Version)

- From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God..



# INTRODUCTION

- Energy is one of the engines of national development.
- It lights homes, powers industries, drives education and healthcare, and connects communities.
- Without reliable and affordable energy, a nation cannot achieve sustainable growth.
- In Uganda, the energy sector is both a blessing and a challenge.
  - **Blessed with vast potential** !!!!! — hydroelectric power from the Nile, oil and gas reserves, solar radiation, biomass, and wind — Uganda has the resources to meet its people's needs.
  - Yet governance determines whether these resources become a channel of prosperity for all or a source of corruption, inequality, and environmental harm.

# 1. Energy as a Driver of Development

- Uganda's Vision 2040 identifies energy as a foundation for industrialization and modern society. Electricity enables schools, hospitals, and businesses to function effectively.
- Yet access remains low. Uganda's electricity infrastructure is concentrated in urban areas, leaving rural communities – where more than three-fourths of the population live – with limited access to dependable electricity.
- As of 2023, access to electricity was about 51.5% of Ugandans with most connections located in urban areas. This urban-rural gap in electricity access is a significant obstacle to economic development, the provision of social services, and the overall quality of life in rural regions. Only about 60% of Ugandans are connected to electricity, and many rural communities still rely on firewood and charcoal. Governance decisions about grid expansion, rural electrification, and renewable energy are crucial.

## 2. Oil and Gas: Blessing or Curse?

- The discovery of oil in the Albertine region has been hailed as a potential game-changer.
- If managed well, it could fund infrastructure and social services. But if mismanaged, it could fuel corruption, environmental damage, and inequality.
- Good governance requires transparency in contracts, accountability in revenue management, and protection of local communities.
- **Proverbs 13:11** - — “Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.” **Oil wealth gained through corruption will vanish; only honesty and stewardship build prosperity.**



# 3. Hydropower and Renewable Energy

- Uganda relies heavily on hydroelectric dams along the Nile (e.g., Nalubaale, Karuma, Isimba).
- While these generate most of Uganda's electricity, they are vulnerable to climate shocks, droughts, and ecosystem disruption.
- Governance must diversify energy investments into solar, wind, and biomass. Uganda has abundant sunshine that could power villages and schools through decentralized solar systems.
- **Genesis 1:16–18** — God made the sun and moon “to give light on the earth.” - **So, Harnessing renewable energy honors God's creation when done sustainably.**

## 4. Energy, Equity, and Social Justice

- Energy access is a justice issue. Urban areas enjoy electricity, while many rural families live in darkness.
- Women and children spend hours collecting firewood, leading to deforestation and health problems from indoor smoke.
- Righteous governance must close this energy gap to ensure that light and power are not luxuries, but rights.
- **John 8:12** — “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.” - **God’s justice means no community should be left in darkness.**

## 5. Corruption, Accountability, and Stewardship

- The energy sector is vulnerable to inflated contracts, ghost projects, and political favoritism. Corruption delays projects, raises costs, and denies citizens reliable services.
- Strong governance requires transparency in procurement, monitoring, and community participation.
- **Proverbs 29:4** — “By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.”



## 6. Energy and the Environment

- Energy development often threatens ecosystems: dams alter river flows, oil drilling endangers wildlife, charcoal burning destroys forests. Governance must ensure environmental impact assessments, compensation for affected communities, and investments in green energy.
- **Revelation 11:18** — God will “destroy those who destroy the earth.” **Energy governance is a moral responsibility to balance progress with preservation.**

## Conclusion

- The energy sector in Uganda is a test of governance. Will leaders manage oil, hydro, and renewables with justice, transparency, and sustainability?
- Or will corruption, inequality, and neglect keep communities in darkness? Energy is not just about power plants and oil wells; it is about justice, stewardship, and the future of generations.
- Proverbs 14:34 — “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.” **Only righteous governance will exalt Uganda through energy.**

# PRAYERS ON ENERGY AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

- **1. Let us Thank God His Gifts** (Psalm 74:16 — “The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon.”)
  - Lord, we thank You for the rivers, sunshine, forests, and oil You have placed in Uganda. Thank You for the potential of these resources to bring light, jobs, and prosperity.
- **2. Let us Repent for Mismanagement** (Jeremiah 2:13 — “They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and dug their own cisterns.”)
  - Father, forgive us where energy projects have been mismanaged, funds stolen, and
  - communities neglected. Forgive us for destroying forests through charcoal and for polluting
  - rivers through careless development.
- **3. Let Pray for Leaders and Policymakers** (Proverbs 8:15–16 — “By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just.”)
  - Lord, grant wisdom to Uganda’s leaders to manage oil revenues, build reliable power
  - systems, and prioritize renewables. Give them courage to resist corruption and favoritism.



- **4. Let's pray for Equitable Access** (John 1:5 — “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”)
  - Lord, we pray that no village, no school, no clinic in Uganda will remain in darkness.
  - Provide affordable, reliable, and clean energy for every family.
- **5. Let's pray Against Corruption** (Isaiah 10:1–2 — “Woe to those who make unjust laws... to deprive the poor of their rights.”)
  - Lord, expose and uproot corruption in the energy sector. Protect resources from theft
  - and misuse. Let justice and accountability govern contracts and revenues.
- **6. Let's pray for Environmental Stewardship** (Genesis 2:15 — “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”)
  - Lord, help Uganda balance energy development with care for creation. Protect forests,
  - wetlands, rivers, and wildlife from exploitation. Inspire green, sustainable energy solutions.

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# Closing Prayer

- Father, we lift up Uganda's energy sector to You.
- Forgive us for corruption, greed, and neglect. Shine Your wisdom on leaders and communities alike.
- May oil be managed with integrity, dams built with justice, and renewable energy embraced with foresight.
- Let every family sit in the light, every community prosper in peace, and every policy reflect righteousness.
- May Uganda arise and shine, for her light has come, and may Your glory cover the land. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# ENERGY AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA:

**May God help us to utilize appropriately the given energy resources, manage and govern them appropriately to the Glory of His Name. Amen!!!**

**GOD – BLESS – YOU**

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