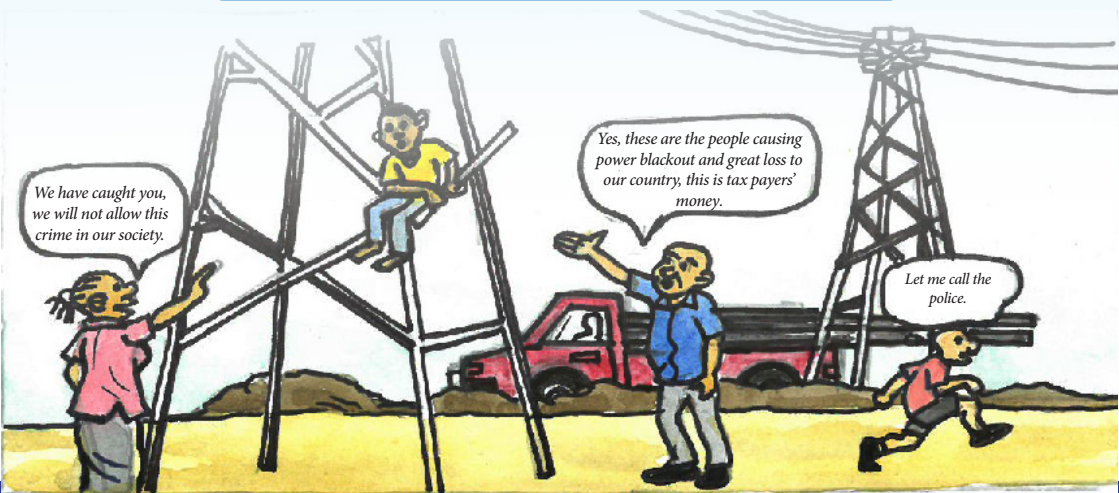




VANDALISM: A DEMON AGAINST IMPROVED POWER SUPPLY.



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Electricity plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of any given country. In developing countries the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and formal private sector employment are closely and positively correlated with increased supply and consumption of electricity.

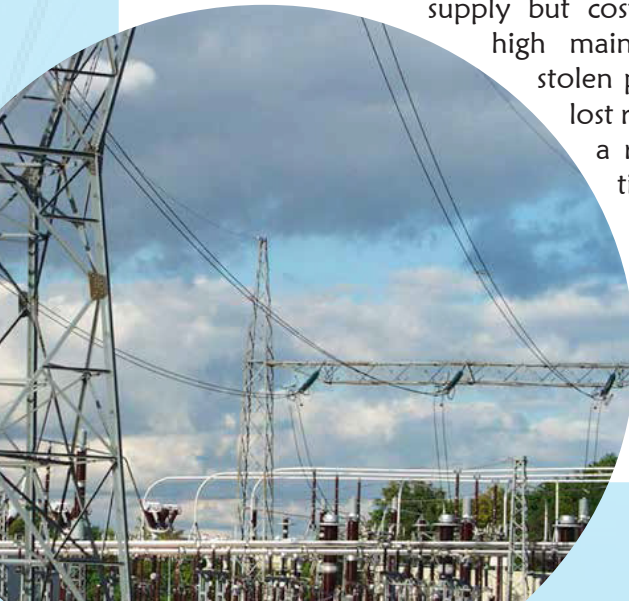
The Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) is responsible for bulk purchase of electricity from the generating companies and selling the electricity in bulk to the distribution companies throughout Uganda. UETCL is also responsible for all exports and imports of electricity to Uganda and has obligation to provide a reliable, efficient and quality power supply.

In the face of the above fact, the electricity infrastructure installations have been a subject of attacks by vandals in developing countries and especially in Uganda.

UETCL has been faced with rampant vandalism along its transmission network causing a risk of power blackout in the country. The vandals steal tower angle bars, nuts, stay & earth wires and transformer oil and cables interrupting a reliable power supply to consumers.

The vice of vandalism not only has interrupted a reliable power supply but cost government and UETCL high maintenance costs to replace stolen parts. Government has also lost revenue from energy sales as a result of prolonged outage times.

The most affected network is the transmission lines that traverses forest cover, swamps and in sugarcane plantations.



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Vandalism has equally spread to the new transmission line projects being constructed across the country to improve capacity and reliable power supply and has been a setback to the completion of these important projects.

As a mitigation measure, UETCL has involved the security organisations/operatives and village local defence units to arrest the suspected vandals. The company has also adopted the community policing strategy to safeguard the transmission network from being vandalised. Public sensitisations with communities and through the media platforms about the dangers and impact of power line and substation vandalism to the economy have been conducted in various regions of the country.

There is a need for a concerted effort from all stakeholders to join hand with security organisation/ operatives to protect electricity installations in the country from being vandalised.

If every community is to benefit from a reliable and uninterrupted power supply for economic development, it is every citizen's duty to jealously guard and protect these national assets from being vandalised.

UETCL therefore calls upon every citizen to report any suspected vandals to the nearest security authority and safeguard these national assets from being vandalised to enable the company to transmit quality, reliable and efficient power supply for a steady social and economic development.

UETCL has put a big reward to any person that shall provide information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of suspected vandals in their communities.

Impacts of Vandalism;

1. Power blackouts expected as vandalism intensifies.
2. Vandalism, theft to delay commission of power lines.
3. Vandalism of electrical installations costing Government and UETCL billions of shillings in terms of maintenance cost and loss of revenue.
4. Unreliable power supply caused by the vandals affecting social economic development.
5. For the country to develop, it's very citizens' responsibility to protect electrical installations from being vandalised.



Report any suspected vandals;

a big reward awaits to any person who can provide information that will lead to the arrest and prosecution of suspected vendors in their communities.

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