Renewable energy centre opens at Makerere

The centre will help EAC member states to develop capacity to innovate.

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The East African Community Secretariat has opened a regional centre for renewable energy and energy efficiency at Makerere University to coordinate studies and innovations in the sector.

Speaking at the launch last Saturday, the EAC deputy secretary general, Ms Jessica Eriyo, said the centre will help EAC member states to develop capacity to innovate and create energy from renewable sources like industrial waste, biomass, wind, solar energy and small hydro-power stations.

She said the move will help power industries involved in value addition in areas not yet covered by the national grid.

“This region is endowed with multiple renewable energy sources that need to be harnessed so as to create clean jobs and clean technology,” she said.

Ms Eriyo said apart from the small factories, such energy can be used to power social facilities like schools, hospitals and community centres, among others.

While commissioning the centre, Philippe Scholtes, the managing director United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the funders of the project, said the centre is similar to one opened in Ivory Coast as an experiment.

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MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT FOR JUNE 2016

After peaking in December 2015 at 8.5 percent and 7.6 percent, annual headline and core inflation declined gradually to 5.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively in April 2016. However, both annual headline and core inflation edged up in May 2016, rising to 5.4 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for May 2016 indicates that there have been broad-based increases in domestic cost pressures, in part reflecting the lagged impact of exchange rate depreciation. All sub-components of inflation increased, except “food crops and related items”, which declined further to minus 5.0 percent from minus 4.2 percent in April 2016.

But has since grown into a vibrant institution developing climate-friendly technologies that are energy efficient and promote sustainable use of energy in West Africa.

Energy Minister Irene Muloni, who commissioned the centre, said Uganda is endowed with natural resources and urged Ugandans to use energy optimally.

“This centre will focus on renewable energy and sustainable development like using little biomass and solar energy to generate electricity instead of cutting down trees,” she said.

Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, the Makerere University deputy vice-chancellor in charge of finance and administration, while opening the centre, said energy is crucial in the attainment of Vision 2040.