



# Abuja clean electricity

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The official commissioning ceremony of a 3-Mega Watts capacity Solar Hybrid Power Plant, programmed and directly supervised by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) will hold soon.

Other Nigerian federal universities are already benefitting from the same strategic project implementation drive, courtesy of Nigeria's flagship agency, solely responsible for rural electrification initiatives, providing clean, stable, reliable and sustainable renewable energy solutions through the use of very professionally competent resource stakeholding experts, Renewable Energy Service Companies (RESCO's).

No fewer than 37 Nigerian federal Universities and about 7 or 8 University Teaching Hospitals are enjoying similar energizing renewable energy scale-Up based on their peculiar energy requirements.

This presidential commissioning in the views of Abubakar Abba Aliyu, the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), is a good testament about the present administration's determination to address the animated social and economic problem of over dependence of the use of fossil fuel and providing reliable, clean, cheaper and sustainable renewable energy solutions within the educational and health sectors of the Nigerian economy.

The concept of the Energising Education Programme (EEP 11), which is aimed at providing reliable, clean, stable and sustainable electrical energy solutions to enhance the processes of teaching and learning in at least, no fewer than 37 Federal Universities and seven University Teaching Hospitals, became necessary in view of the heavy financial burden which Federal Government owned universities, experience, in running their respective energy costs in the routine purchase of fossil fuel to power their academic communities.

The presidential commissioning ceremony, which is coming at a time when several segments of the establishment circles of the Federal government and the organized private sector, including collective sub-populations of the Nigerian state are groaning under the yoke of heavy and unbearable payment of direct - grid electricity bills through the customer-oriented service provision by a combination of professional services by the GENCOS and DISCOS.

Seen by almost the majority of renewable energy experts and stakeholding partners as a welcome and timely presidential governance move, the commissioning ceremony is presenting itself as not just a source of excitement for members of the University of Abuja local Community, but the euphoria associated with it, extends to other old generation federal universities.

Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, the Vice Chancellor of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile - Ife, in Osun State, in an exclusive interview with this reporter, offered an insight into what the experiences and

lasting impressions at his University had been like before the Rural Electrification Agency offered a quick Interventionist approach in bailing it out from the choking financial burden of routine expenditure on the direct -grid electricity bills payment.

Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire said: “The Rural Electrification Agency has been very strategic in the provision of clean, reliable, stable and sustainable renewable energy solutions in at least, 37 federal Universities and about 7 or 8 federal University Teaching Hospitals, making these universities, heave a sigh of relief”.

According to the Vice Chancellor of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile -Ife, the present administration, should do more in terms of specific needs that these universities require to move teaching and learning forward.

For the Vice Chancellor of a new generation university, the Federal University Lokoja, Professor Olayemi Akinwumi, “we are happy about how the Rural Electrification Agency and its component units are progressively moving to energize all the Federal universities and university teaching hospitals. The Rural Electrification Agency & its component units deserve commendation from all well-meaning Nigerians.”

Professor Olayemi Akinwumi said: “I must commend His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for prioritising the energy basic-needs and felt-needs of the federal universities and their teaching hospitals.”

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Web: <https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

