

INVESTMENT

Most companies neglect the surrounding communities leading to endless clashes which are at times deadly

Symbion's investment mission to TZ

The company has establishing a technical college for training Tanzanians in energy infrastructure management at its headquarters at Msamvu area in Morogoro region.

By Sylvester Ernest
The Citizen Reporter

Dar es Salaam. There is no doubt that the electricity situation in the country has for years now not been stable.

Forget about the recent 15 hours-a-day power cut that is claimed to have been caused by a scheduled inspection exercise on the Songosongo gas production facility in Lindi region, the sector has never been short of dramas.

The intensive technical inspection that was announced by Tanesco has left many people including the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Minerals and Energy question the decision.

However, the power cut dilemma has undoubtedly become a normal thing to Dar es Salaam residents and the country at large.

The amount of power generated by the likes of Songas, IPTL, Pan African Energy Tanzania Limited, and Tanesco's own gas generation plants in Dar es Salaam and Mtwara has also been reported to be insufficient as far as the needs were concerned.

Then there was the much publicized Richmond saga that led to a resignation of high profile people, the Dowans story also had its share in the lips, ears and eyes of Tanzanians and it ended where it ended.

Then there is a new story of Symbion Power LLC. The Ameri-



Symbion's health and safety management system manager Andrew John displays one of the protective gear to journalists in Morogoro recently.

“Our objective in putting up the college is to impart skills to Tanzanians for them to ultimately establish their own companies to implement future energy projects.”

MR PAUL HINKS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SYMBION POWER LLC.

120 MW

Amount of power that can be generated by the two plants Symbion bought from Dowans at Ubungo area in Dar.

120

management at its headquarters at Msamvu area in Morogoro region.

“Our objective in putting up the college is to impart skills to Tanzanians for them to ultimately establish their own companies to implement future energy projects,” Symbion Power LLC chief executive officer, Mr Paul Hinks, said in Dar es Salaam recently.

Tarime-then Tanzania would see an evolution as far as investments are concerned.

Symbion Power has partnered with the Corporate Council of Africa's (CCA) Health Initiative to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission in Symbion Power's area of operation in Tanzania.

In this line all areas where Symbion workers will set foot, there

BACKGROUND: SYMBION POWER LLC

Symbion is an international engineering contractor that takes a unique approach to delivering electrical infrastructure projects. With a deep commitment to empowering local communities we bring together the knowledge and operational

Tanzanians and it ended where it ended.

Then there is a new story of Symbion Power LLC. The American company, Symbion Power, announced recently to have bought the controversial Dowans Tanzania Ltd electricity generating plant at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam.

The plant can generate up to 120 MW. Details of the transaction, however, were shrouded in secrecy.

Despite opting to remain mum

120

number of workers already trained in Morogoro on the importance of securing the environment.

over the details of the contract between the company (Symbion) and Dowans, there are positive signs one can see out of Symbion.

The company has established a technical college for training Tanzanians in energy infrastructure

implement future energy projects," Symbion Power LLC chief executive officer, Mr Paul Hinks, said in Dar es Salaam recently.

At the company's headquarters, the college is operational, as was witnessed by *The Citizen*.

If all the plans being undertaken by the company go on as it is now, Symbion might be setting an example of just how other companies—even in the mining sector—which has become an embarrassment lately with the shooting of innocent Nyamongo villagers in

transmission in Symbion Power's area of operation in Tanzania.

In this line all areas where Symbion workers will set foot, there would be an HIV/AIDS awareness training not only to the workers but also the people of the surrounding areas.

The company, in collaboration with CCA, has developed Sambaza Umeme Si UKIMWI (Swahili for Transmit electricity not AIDS or SUSU for short).

Dr Essaba Ndarro who heads the SUSU project said in Morogoro recently that the aim is to make sure that the company is part of the national efforts to fighting the disease.

"We want to set the standard for corporate engagement in construction and other infrastructure projects and do a community-based HIV prevention initiative," said Dr Ndarro.

Apart from the HIV/AIDS problem, Dr Ndarro said, SUSU will also provide effective prevention and awareness training that aims to diminish the impact of gender norms, attitudes, and behaviours that drive the epidemic.

And then you have the Environmental and Social Awareness programme which not only ensures there is a maximum protection of the environment in the areas of the project, but the workers are sensitized on making sure their surroundings are secured.

Coordinator of the section Mr Adrian Katesigwa said in Morogoro alone 120 workers were-

ering electrical infrastructure projects. With a deep commitment to empowering local communities we bring together the knowledge and operational know-how to succeed in the world's most challenging construction environments.

Based in Washington DC, Symbion Power Services serves as a vital local contact between U.S. agencies and other U.S. companies and Symbion Power's management teams throughout the world. Symbion Power Services also provides important support and other administrative functions for the Symbion Power organisation.

trained on the importance of securing the surroundings.

"We don't want to leave our areas of operations as deserts," he said.

"We enhance skills and knowledge of environmental management and social aspects in all projects sites through training and awareness raising...we feel this is our responsibility."

He said his company was determined to ensuring that it was part of all matters related to society thus setting an example to other companies coming to invest in the country..

With the workers also protected by being supplied with protective gears and being trained on ensuring safety while at work, Symbion can be seen as an avenue where other companies investing in the country can learn from.



Trainees in action at Symbion's headquarters in Morogoro. PHOTOS | FIDELIS FELIX