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Use solar home systems - SHS

■ SHS are stand-alone photovoltaic systems that offer a cost-effective power source

TRYNESS MBALE
Lusaka

A RENEWABLE energy research network has called on the public to factor in solar home systems (SHS) installations in their future house plans to promote the use of alternative sources of energy.

SHS are stand-alone photovoltaic systems that offer a cost-effective mode of supplying amenity power for lighting and appliances to remote off-grid households.

During the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) public discussion on 'The economic cost of load shedding'

last week, Network of Energy Excellence for Development (NEED) project team representative Mwansa Kaoma said there is high potential in the electricity generation from non-hydro renewable energy sources especially solar, in the country, which need to be utilised.

Mr Kaoma said there is need to integrate non-hydro renewable energy sources in power generation plans.

"There is need for people who are planning to build in future, their house plans should factor in SHS installation rather than just depend on power from Zesco Limited. There is also need for renewable energy resource assessment to be conducted to attract private investment in the sector," he said.

He also said Government needs to integrate non-hydro renewable energy sources in power generation such as wind, geothermal, hydro, biomass, land-fill gas, biogas, sewer gas, biogenic liquid fuels and biogenic solid fuels.

NEED is a research body whose goal is to establish a research network in the field of renewable energy technologies in Southern Africa and the partner institutions are the institute of new Energy Systems Germany, University of Botswana and Polytechnic of Namibia.

Other partners are the University of Zambia Botswana International University of Science and Technology.



ZESCO Limited has started constructing a boundary wall along its 33Kilovolts way-leave around Sov market in Lusaka. Notorious vendors in second-hand clothes, used plastic containers and tradition have for many years been trading under these high-tension cables with impunity. Over 700 vendors been affected by this development.

PICTURE: BRIAN

'China's waning growth puts Kwacha under pressure'