

Investigation of challenges facing the management of electric power distribution infrastructures in Dar es Salaam.

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Unreliable electricity supply is one of the major impediments in Tanzanian investment climate given that investors are so much concerned about power input in their production processes; both in the contexts of tariffs and supply reliability. Public social services performance also lags behind the standards due to electricity problems. This problem is partly attributed to the challenges of managing electric distribution network infrastructures. In order to address the challenges facing the power supply Agency (TANESCO) opinions were sought through interview and structured questionnaire from Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited, TANESCO headquarters in Dar es Salaam and intensive literature review provided secondary information for this study. It was confirmed that these problems are mainly caused by poor infrastructure management and therefore the situation could be improved by practicing appropriate infrastructure management of the electric distribution network. Other challenges identified to face TANESCO include inability to self-finance its operations and rely only on grants and government subsidies. This situation critically reduces the ability to practice maintenance plan which leaves electric distribution infrastructure system in poor condition and creates underperformance and inability to meet electricity demand. It is therefore recommended that TANESCO should strengthen its maintenance department with necessary resources so as to properly manage the distribution network infrastructures.