

Energy storage policy updates saint kitts and nevis

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The former MP and practicing attorney noted: "Taking into consideration the monthly electricity bills that we have to pay SKELEC. Who will then pay a foreign company? Why allow that to happen? Besides, wide-scale consultation, the cost of the project, the structure of the facility and the ownership structure hasn't happened."

"Why can't the state-owned St Kitts Electric Company (SKELEC) open up its shares and become a public company and invite people in St Kitts and Nevis to buy shares in it."

"Leclanch? will provide a turnkey solar plus storage solution together with its main subcontractor Grupotec, headquartered in Valencia, Spain, an experienced engineering and construction firm and leader in the photovoltaic energy sector. Leclanch? will own and operate the facility under its strategic build, own and operate model through its SOLEC Power Ltd subsidiary with partner Solrid Ltd."

Astaphan noted: "The \$70 million microgrid project is being built by Leclanch?, one of the world's leading energy storage companies, which will serve as the prime engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor," meantime "the chief executive officer of the Swiss company is saying they're going to have high profitability from it."

"In 2017, Leclanch? sales were, about US\$13 million. And that same year S. L. Horsford & Co Ltd., which is a Basseterre company, their sales were the equivalent of nearly US\$60 million, nearly five times that of Leclanch?. And in 2019-20, the sales of TDC, another local company, was about US\$57 million. So what are we having here? This cannot be a good decision for St Kitts and Nevis," he said.

"The project is being built in St Kitts; Basseterre Valley on a 102-acre plot of government-owned land adjacent to the current SKELEC power station ... The land, which was once used for sugar cane production but has been idle for years, was leased to Leclanch? by the government of St Kitts and Nevis under a 20-year agreement with an automatic five-year renewal. Environmental Impact Assessment and geotechnical analysis were successfully completed in 2019, demonstrating the renewable energy project will bring a positive impact to the Basseterre Valley," said a press release.

Astaphan advised that professionals he consulted - "all of them, have said that the people should own this operation. They have expressed opposition to Leclanch? owning it. We in St Kitts and Nevis have to realize that elections are not supposed to be just transactional. Elections are supposed to be aspirational. We the people of St Kitts and Nevis must understand as Marcus Garvey indicated - you own the land, then you control the game."



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