

THE KENYA POWER & LIGHTING CO. LTD.

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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KPLC increases investments

The Managing Director of the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), Eng. Joseph Njoroge, said the company would invest profits it makes in the improvement of the existing power distribution network and also increase connections for new customers.

Speaking in Nyeri today during a ceremony to honour staff of the company who have worked steadfastly for the firm for long periods, Eng. Njoroge noted only about 20 percent of Kenyans had access to electricity adding that the firm needed immense resources to extend the grid to reach more Kenyans. KPLC made a pre-tax profit of Shs.4.7 billion during the 2008/09 financial year.

In Mt Kenya region, the company had invested heavily in various projects including Shs.101 million on 30 schemes to reinforce the power distribution system that will ensure customers in the region to enjoy better quality and reliable power. Also, said Eng. Njoroge, Kiganjo, Othaya and Karatina sub-stations will also be upgraded to have two 7.5 MVA transformers each at an approximated total cost of Shs.143 million, among others.

Alongside this, said the KPLC Managing Director, customers in Meru and the adjacent areas who have always suffered from low voltages will enjoy better quality

power when a Shs.1.6 billion project to build a 122 km. long high voltage line from Kamburu to Meru and an associated sub station is completed shortly.

At the same time, the region has benefited from 175 Rural Electrification schemes under the Government's Rural Electrification programme, he said adding that sixty six of these schemes had been completed while 109 were ongoing. "The schemes have improved the social and economic status of this region to a great extent with 149 trading centres, 29 tea buying centres, 13 coffee factories, 13 health centres and 40 secondary schools now being on power supply," he said adding that KPLC had also benefited by connecting more customers in the newly electrified areas.

Eng. Njoroge decried the high incidence of vandalism of power equipment in the region and urged the public to be vigilant and protect the system from selfish and money hungry individuals.

In order to enhance customer service, Eng. Njoroge said the Company would shortly announce service level standards that would ensure customers benefit from prompt service. He urged the staff to continue offering selfless service as their contribution toward accelerating social and economic growth in the region. Innovations introduced by the Company to improve customer's service, he said, included the prepayment system that is currently being piloted in Nairobi, new partnerships that enable customers to pay their bills at different outlets like banks and supermarkets, and the introduction of automatic meter reading for 4,000 large power customers.

The Chairman of the Company, Dr. .Crowther Pepela, said the Company was working with other electricity sub sector players and the Ministry of Energy to ensure that there is adequate supply of power from more and diverse sources even in situations of drought like the one experienced recently.

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