

THE KENYA POWER & LIGHTING CO. LTD.

Stima Plaza, Kolobot Rd, Parklands
P O Box 30099 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 3201622

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

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KPLC to complete power reinforcement projects in 2010

The ongoing Energy Sector Recovery Project (ESRP) aimed at upgrading and refurbishing distribution system operated by the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) countrywide under the **US\$ 153 Million** are marked for completion in October 2010.

This was revealed today by KPLC Managing Director & CEO, Eng. Joseph Njoroge, during the commissioning of Westlands and Ngong Road substations in Nairobi, which have been established under the ESRP programme.

The Company, he said, had received additional credit of US\$70 million from the World Bank this year, also under ESRP, to establish new substations in Lavington, Langata, Ngong Town, Kiambu Road, Komorock and Ruai besides other projects to be undertaken in Western, Mt. Kenya and Coast regions to expand electricity access to lower-income households.

Eng. Njoroge said the ESRP projects, implemented by KPLC since its commencement in 2007, are being funded by a consortium of financiers including World Bank, the Nordic Development Fund, European Investment Bank, the AFD and KPLC.

Westlands and Ngong Road sub stations were executed in a **Shs.988 million** project phase which also included the refurbishment and upgrade of the existing Karen and Nairobi South substations and financed by Nordic Development Fund.

Eng. Njoroge said installation of these new substations closer to customers had reduced the length of distribution lines, and consequently reduced the number of line breakdowns and poor voltages previously experienced.

Eng. Njoroge reported that as a result of these massive projects, the distribution system reliability had improved with data showing reduced number of breakdowns from about 6,600 per month in 2007/08 financial year to about 5,670 in 2009.

Consequently, KPLC has been able to reduce outage repair response time from a previous 10 hours to an average of 4.6 hours currently with prospects to improve response rate in future.

Over and above these works, he said, KPLC has been undertaking complementary work and had so far invested about Shs.1.2 billion from internally generated funds to upgrade distribution lines and other equipment as part of its contribution to ESRP. These works entailed replacing old conductors, changing poles, establishing new lines and installing additional transformers and other equipment in the distribution network.

The Energy Sector Recovery Project, in addition to modernising KPLC's distribution system, increased the company's capacity to accelerate connectivity in the last three years up from 60,000 new connections in 2006 to a record of 200,000 in the last financial year.

Speaking during the event, KPLC Board Chairman, Dr. Crowther Pepela, said KPLC would endeavour to make its contribution towards attainment of Vision 2030 goal by fast tracking projects that will facilitate the provision of the much needed energy to stimulate national industrial growth.

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***For more information, contact:
KPLC Corporate Communications Dept., Tel: 3201622/39
Or e-mail comms@kplc.co.ke
Website: www.kplc.co.ke***