

THE KENYA POWER & LIGHTING CO. LTD.

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

2nd November 2009

PRESS STATEMENT

Following the country wide power blackout that occurred yesterday, The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has completed preliminary investigations into the incidence and wishes to state as follows:

At about 6.34p.m. yesterday, a disturbance occurred in the national grid which led to interruption of power supply countrywide.

From the preliminary investigations which involved analysis of data from our system that records all major incidences in KPLC's interconnected transmission and distribution network, there occurred a temporary (transient) fault on one of our transmission line between our major substations at Kamburu and at Dandora.

That fault caused equipment that protects the line from damage from such faults to switch off the line automatically, and switch it on again after sensing the fault was momentary.

Since the generation system and the transmission and distribution systems are interconnected, the disturbance was felt by the generation system and, in this case the equipment that protects emergency power generators at Embakasi, Nairobi South and Gitaru from damage by such unexpected faults, automatically

switched off the generators that were at that time supplying about 36 percent of our demand at that time.

The outage of these machines created a mismatch between demand and supply and the remaining generators across the country could not cope with the demand, and in quick succession also switched off resulting in the nationwide blackout.

Initiatives to restore power supply from our National Control Centre in Nairobi commenced immediately thereafter by progressively restarting various power generating stations and synchronising them with our transmission and distribution system.

Restoration of power supply to different parts of the country took between one hour and four hours to complete.

Once again, KPLC deeply regrets the supply outage and assures customers that the Company is doing everything possible to forestall a recurrence of such an incident.

Ends

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