

12th November 2007

Vandals plunge Athi River/Kitengela into darkness

Electricity supply to customers to the south of Nairobi including Athi River, Kitengela, Machakos, Kajiado and Namanga were plunged into darkness this afternoon after a high voltage power line collapsed following vandalism related activity.

Upon inspection, the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) staff found 16 steel pylons that carry the 66 kilovolt line had collapsed at Katani, between Embakasi and Athi River. Apparently, vandals had removed several braces (cross members that strengthen a steel pylon) from three pylons. The weak pylons then collapsed and pulled down 13 others causing the power outage.

Customers affected by this breakdown include those in Namanga, Kajiado, Makueni, Athi River itself, Kiboko, Sultan Hamud, Kibwezi, Makindu, Machakos, Emali, Kitengela, KMC, Devki steel mills, Salama, Nunguni, Katanyi, Cement works, Isinya, EPZ Athi River, Kenchic, Matiliku, Kilome, Tawa market, Daystar University, Masii, Makutano, Primarosa Flowers, and Konza.

Though KPLC has endeavoured to supply affected customers on an alternative line, supply may not be sustained continuously because the line is not big enough to supply all customers during peak periods in the evening.

KPLC has mobilised construction teams to commence reconstruction of the line through the night to ensure supplies are restored by end of day tomorrow, and has apologised to its customers for the inconvenience the incident has caused them.

Ends.

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