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KPLC LIGHTS UP HOLA, HABASWEIN, MERTI AT SHS.345 MILLION

The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) has switched on three new diesel power stations to serve residents of Hola in Tana River district, Merti in Isiolo and Habaswein in Wajir South district. Construction of the projects, funded at a total cost of Shs.345.4 million shillings by the government through the Ministry of Energy, is almost complete, and electricity is being supplied by single generators in the meantime.

The three projects are part of seven new isolated power stations now under construction at an estimated total cost of Shs.886 in parts of Kenya not served by the national grid. The other three, whose construction will be finalized this year are Elwak in Mandera South, Mfangano Island in Suba district, Baragoi in Samburu North District, and the upgrading of the Mpeketoni power plant in Lamu district.

Of the six, Mfangano station will have the largest generator of 1.5 megawatts, while Merti, Habaswein and Elwak will each generate one megawatt. Mpeketoni station, which will also serve the historic Witu town situated about 40 kilometres away, will have an installed capacity of 600 kilowatts.



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Completion of the six stations will bring the number of KPLC off-grid stations to 11. The existing ones are Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, Lodwar and Moyale. Due to an increase in demand for power in Mandera and Moyale towns, KPLC last year upgraded them at a cost of Shs.67 million, while the Lodwar station is currently being upgraded at a cost of Shs.30 million. Besides meeting the demand, the upgrades are aimed at improving quality supply, reducing outages and enhancing customer satisfaction.

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