

**SPEECH BY VIVIENNE YEDA,OGW, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF KENYA POWER AND LIGHTING PLC,
DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE INAUGURAL KENYA POWER
MANUFACTURERS', INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO, AT KICC,
ON 6TH JULY 2022.**

Salutations:

- The Honourable Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Dr. (Amb) Monica Juma, EGH,
- The Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Zachary Ayieko,
- The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Major (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa,
- Members of the Board of Kenya Power present,
- The Director General of the Energy, Petroleum and regulatory Authority (EPRA),
- CEOs of energy sector agencies and their delegates,
- Representatives of international financial partners,
- Members of the Kenya Power management team,
- Participants from the banking sector, academia, and other interest groups
- Members of the media
- All protocols observed

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to begin by welcoming you all to Kenya Power's inaugural **Manufacturers, Technology and Innovation EXPO**. The EXPO provides Kenya's energy sector with a platform to apprise itself of cutting-

edge and bespoke solutions, driving improved efficiency, reducing costs and enhancing customer experience, and at the same time enables the Company to take advantage of emerging trends that are shaping the utilities of the future.

The EXPO is taking place as Kenya Power marks 100 years of powering Kenya's social and economic growth. A hundred years of service makes the Company one of the country's most established organisations and underscores the utility's importance to Kenya's economy, and we are therefore, very proud of this achievement.

The government and Kenya Power's leadership, being seized of the strategic role of the Company, have rolled out a cross-cutting transformation programme to improve its efficiency and enhance its agility, so that Kenya Power can continue to serve and to power the Kenyan economy sustainably.

The turn-around strategy, which we began implementing in FY2020/2021, is bearing fruit; with all our focus areas registering significant growth. The objective of the turn-around strategy, is premised on customer experience and allocating risks and costs equitably within the energy sector and reducing the cost of purchasing energy; enhancing system efficiency; improving revenue collection; and to ensure that the cost of energy is unsustainable and that the end-consumer benefits from affordable and reliable energy.

We remain keenly aware of the highly dynamic and fast-paced operating environment, and the imperative to keep abreast of emerging trends and innovations within the energy sector.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

The theme of this forum is **clean, affordable, and sustainable energy**. This is a very important theme which is embedded in the UNSDG 2030 Agenda. SDG 7 is access to **affordable and clean energy for all. The Operative word being “affordable”.** **The Global Citizens through the UN have noted that “energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today including poverty eradication, gender equity, adaptation to climate change, food security, health education, sustainable cities, employment and transport.”**

Affordable energy is, therefore, not just a corporate goal for KPLC but a universal goal that the global community aspires to achieve before, but no later than 2030.

That means that the investments we all make today must take into account the access and affordability of energy today and into the long distant future. We must not burden current and future generations with ever increasing costs of energy which will affect their social and economic well-being instead, we must responsibly ensure that the prices of energy decrease steadily over time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This challenge is the reason we are all gathered here at the first of many future EXPOs: to harness all our experiences in achieving SDG No 7. We also must bring our expertise and experience to bear in attaining this universal goal.

How can this be done? By continually improving technology. Manufacturers of technology will continue to innovate and improve the efficiency of equipment for solar, wind and geothermal energy so that costs of purchase and maintenance continue to reduce over time.

Utilities, Generators, and transmission companies will continue to reduce their O and M costs through system design or redesign, and the purchase of innovative solutions and high-quality equipment that are ultimately targeted at reducing energy costs.

Financiers and investors: to develop funding solutions and financing that price risk appropriately, taking into account the viability and sustainability of projects as well as achievable and sustainable hurdle rates. The overall funding solution to address the affordability of energy for all in the long term.

Governments and regulatory authorities; To provide an enabling framework that reduces investments and administrative costs and to the extent possible, de-risks projects by allocating risk efficiently and effectively. People and community centered projects that are responsive to local environments.

This appears to be a tall order, and that is why we are meeting here to develop solutions that will support a vibrant, viable and sustainable local and global energy community.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Although our sector has not undergone major market-led disruptions in the century that we have been operational, the issues I have enumerated above are catalyzing major sector and consumer shifts. For us to play a significant role to support the energy economy, we are investing in the partnerships with local, regional and international like-minded organizations, and importantly, prioritize **Research and Development** to drive bespoke and fit for purpose solutions that will revolutionize the energy sector.

I am therefore, pleased to see the diverse array of professionals represented here.

As I conclude, I would like to once again thank you all for the support, and utmost goodwill we have received from each of you. The response that the EXPO has generated is a clear indicator that we are looking forward to highly impactful and thought-provoking engagements.

We have 37 organizations exhibiting in the Tsavo Ballroom ranging from global and regional blue-chip organizations to companies, including local start-ups and individuals. In particular, I would like to highlight and congratulate **Paul Mugambi**, a visually impaired young man who is here and is showcasing a smart meter that he has re-designed to make it user-friendly for the visually impaired. I would therefore, like to urge all of you to take the time to visit the exhibition area to see the wide array of technologies on display, and build your networks.

Asanteni sana, and God bless you.

