

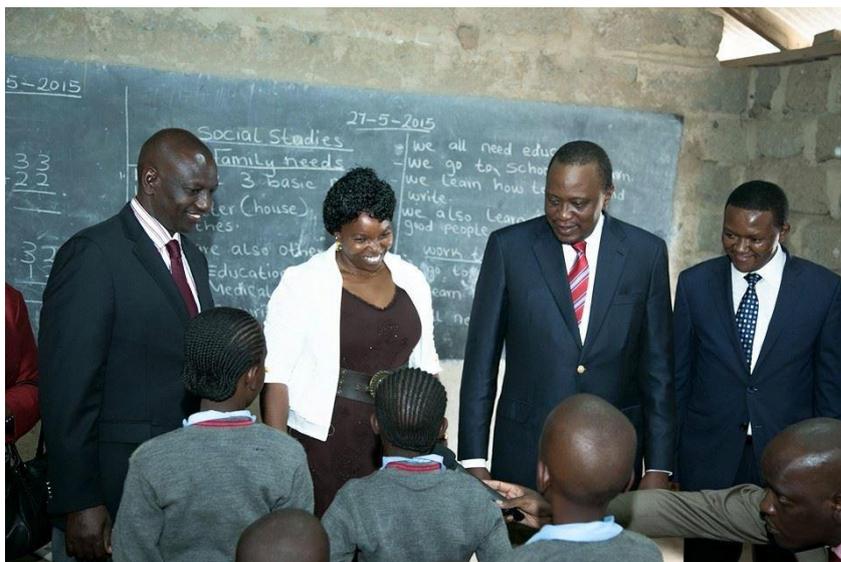


## Launch of the Last mile connectivity Project



H. E. the President Uhuru Kenyatta has launched the Last Mile Connectivity Project, an initiative geared towards increasing electricity access to Kenyans across the country.

He also launched the National Primary Schools Electrification Programme and announced that the number of schools now connected to electricity is 20,575 from 8,203 in 2013 and stated that by the end of June, all 22,175 schools will be connected.



Over the last two years, there has been an increase of 1,041,576 new customers to Kenya Power, raising the number of customers to 3,300,467; representing a growth of 46%. He also announced that the cost for installation of electricity will now dropped from Ksh 35,000 down to only KSh15, 000 to speed up his Government's agenda to have at least 70 per cent of Kenyan households connected to electricity by 2017. Those who cannot pay the KSh15, 000 at one go will still get connected and have the option of making payment by installments through their bills. He said the decision to reduce the cost of installation was reached after the progress that his Government had achieved in increasing power generation and is aimed at allowing all Kenyans access electricity.



He also stated that by 2017, it was his expectation that 70 per cent of Kenyans people will have access to electricity translating to more productivity and create more jobs. Currently, only 35 percent of Kenyan households are connected to electricity. The Last Mile Connectivity Project also comes with a change of approach at how electricity connections are done. Whereas Kenyans used to make applications with long procedures in the past, now Kenya Power and the Rural Electrification Authority will come knocking on doors asking Kenyans to allow them to connect their households to electricity. Agencies will ensure that all households near electricity transformers are connected to power whether the owners have made applications or not. 'Everything we do is aimed at making Kenyans become busy with work, more productive and wealthier', he said.