

**SPEECH NOTES BY DR. BEN CHUMO, KENYA POWER MANAGING  
DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DURING THE LAUNCH  
OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON OUTPUT-BASED AID (GPOBA)  
INFORMAL SETTLEMENT ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME FOR  
NORTH EASTERN REGION THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015,  
KIGANJO, GATUNDU SOUTH**

**Acknowledgement and salutation:**

- **Member of Parliament for Gatundu, Hon. Moses Kuria;**
- **Community leaders present;**
- **Residents of Kiganjo village and the larger Gatundu area;**
- **Kenya Power employees;**

- **Members of the press;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

### **Habari Zenu.**

Today is an exciting day for us as we congregate here to launch this programme here in Gatundu South. This is a programme that we are implementing in all areas of the country. The programme is targeting residents of low income informal settlements and through it, Kenya Power will make a significant change in the life of the residents of Gatundu South and of Kenya at large to access safe, affordable and reliable power.

### **Background of the Informal Settlement Electrification Programme**

- From 2004, there has been a sustained growth in electricity connection due to a deliberate policy to provide power for both rural and urban customers. This growth has been driven by the implementation of affordable connection fee.
- However, some of our brothers and sisters especially those living in informal settlements find it a challenge to quickly raise the requisite fees for electricity connection.
- Given our desire and commitment to provide power to them as well and in order to support their endeavour to better their social and economic lives, we had to think outside the box.

- Consequently, we approached our valuable partners at the World Bank (International Development Association) through the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA) program.
- The WB accepted our request and a partnership was developed. This partnership allowed the residents to pay a subsidized charge of **Shs1,160** per connection.
- To meet the total cost of connection, The World Bank /GPOBA contributes **Shs.19,350** while Kenya Power contributes **Shs.11,970** per connection in order to make up the standard capital contribution of **Shs.32,480**.
- Kenya Power has opted to pre-invest, by constructing overhead lines, installing transformers and other infrastructure to facilitate connection.

### GPOBA Programme

- GPOBA Electrification (GPOBA) commenced in Kibra, Nairobi, on May 2012.
- The project was initially delayed due to a few challenges e.g. residents feared the cost would be high; existence of illegal and unsafe power and lack of accessibility for the construction of infrastructure and meter installations.
- Umeme is a basic need and not a luxury. **Umeme ni maisha.** Safe umeme is even more critical. As an organization, we are not just focused on growing our profits but also ensuring we provide affordable, safe and reliable power to all Kenyans. **Umeme ni haki yenu.**

- We know with access to affordable, reliable and safe power, life of our brothers and sisters will change. Our children will study for longer hours without having any harmful health effects that is caused by use of kerosene lighting; our homes will be safer; our mothers, wives will do business and operate their kiosks into the night. Our husbands and brothers will walk to and from work on well-lit streets.
- Our aim is to implement several GPOBA projects area here in North Eastern Region targeting informal settlements including Kiganjo village where are today. Other informal settlements to be targeted in the region include Njagu, Ituru, Gaturia-Marua, Wamwangi, Kamunyu, and Munyuini villages here in Gatundu; and Kiangombe Phase II, Gachagi People's Settlement, and Kiandutu Slum in Thika.

- In future, we plan to connect residents in Eldas, Merti, Shokaa, and Bulla in Wajir; Daabab and Ifo in Garissa; and Iyaani village in Kitui.
- Our total connectivity target for North Eastern Region this year (ending June 2015) is 199,020 new customers. We have concrete plans to connect a total of 18,336 customers expected to be done at an estimated cost of **Shs.315 million** under the GPOBA programme.
- As the first beneficiaries of this project we ask you to be our goodwill ambassadors to the other villages. Let them know the benefits. It's our endeavour to ensure they also enjoy the same benefits.

### **Other Programmes**

- Other programs that we have been implementing which will complement our work include:-
  - Boresha Umeme – to enhance availability of power to both businesses and households across the country.
  - Strengthening of our systems through construction of new substations all over the country

### **Conclusion**

- In conclusion, I want to thank all people involved for their persistence and for having hope in the programme despite the challenges.



- I wish to thank your leaders, led by your Member of Parliament, Hon. Moses Kuria, who has worked hard to see this programme reach many people here.
- My gratitude goes to my able team that covers this region headed by their team leader, **Haid Yusuf**, the GPOBA team leader, **Jael Mwadiloh**, the local leadership both elected and government, and not the least, the community for allowing us to provide them with umeme.
- I thank all my staff here who have worked hard to see this programme through. I also thank the General Manager for Customer Service, **Mr Joshua Mutua** and the Rural Electrification Coordinator, **Eng. Harun Mwangi** who have provided good project leadership.

**Asanteni na mungu awabariki.**

**DR. BEN CHUMO, OGW  
MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO  
KENYA POWER  
28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2015**