



NEWS RELEASE

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Shs.50 million to improve electricity supply in Westlands and Parklands

Kenya Power will this weekend conduct a massive exercise to rehabilitate power equipment and network serving Nairobi's commercial and social hubs of Westlands, Parklands and Loresho areas that will cost the Company Shs.50 million.

Managing Director & CEO, Dr. Ben Chumo, said customers in targeted areas will, therefore, go without electricity during the period "but for a good reason."

Dr. Chumo said the project is part of a major countrywide exercise known as *Boresha Umeme Viwandani* (upgrade power supply systems) which involves conducting master repair works at existing substations and upgrading power lines.

He said the Company will replace over 200 wooden poles with concrete poles; reconstruct 60 substation structures; conduct extensive repair works at Parklands substation and upgrade overloaded electricity lines serving customers in the area among other work.

Preparatory works like hole digging using mechanised equipment and delivery of concrete poles to site have commenced under Eng. Joseph Gathuru, who is the manager responsible for power distribution services in the area. "This will facilitate timely completion of the work over the weekend," he added.

He said the operation will ensure that the power supply system is robust and power supply consistent to support efforts to minimize power outages occasioned by both planned and

unplanned outages. “This will enable our customers to enjoy the convenience of electricity in their various economic and social endeavours due to minimum power supply interruptions,” he remarked.

Dr Chumo explained that the Company “had carried out similar exercises in other parts of the country including Nairobi’s Industrial Area, Mombasa, Busia, Meru, Thika, Kisumu, Kitui, Busia and Bungoma with marked service improvements reported. The Company has marshaled 56 teams with a total of about 580 members of staff drawn from various parts of the country to implement the project in a timely manner,” Dr. Chumo added.

The exercise is part of the undertaking that Kenya Power is implementing throughout the country as it expands and upgrades its electricity distribution infrastructure ahead of the expected additional generation capacity of 5,000 MW by 2017. This will increase the country’s effective generation capacity by about 300% from the current 1,652 MW to 6,652 MW.

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