RURAL ELECTRIFICATION &
RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION

(Formerly Rural Electrification Authority)

ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Successor of Rural Electrification Authority is now established

On 12th March, 2019 the Energy Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 50 of 2017) received Presidential assent and became an Act of Parliament, that is, the Energy Act, 2019.

The commencement date of the Act was March 28, 2019. Consequently, Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) was established as the successor of the Rural Electrification Authority (REA).

Under the new dispensation, REREC has an expanded mandate of spearheading Kenya's renewable energy drive, in addition to implementing rural electrification projects. The Corporation is currently putting in place mechanisms to ensure a smooth transition. During this process, the Corporation will continue to operate in its current structure.

Under section 44(1) of the Energy Act 2019, REREC is mandated to undertake the following functions:

a. Oversee the implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme;
b. Manage the Rural Electrification Programme Fund established under section 143;
c. Source additional funds for the Rural Electrification Programme and renewable energy;
d. Develop and update the rural electrification master plans in consultation with County Governments;
e. Develop and update the renewable energy master plan taking into account county specific needs and the principle of equity in the development of renewable energy resources;
f. Support the establishment of energy centres in the counties;
g. Establish a framework for collaboration with county governments in the discharge of its mandate;
h. Undertake on-farm and on station demonstration of wood-fuel species, seedling production and management;
i. Undertake feasibility studies and maintain data with a view to availing the same to developers of renewable energy resources;
j. Develop, promote and manage in collaboration with other agencies, the use of renewable energy and technologies, including but not limited to biomass (biodiesel, bio-ethanol, charcoal, fuel-wood, bio-gas) municipal waste, solar, wind, tidal waves, small hydropower and co-generation but excluding geothermal;
k. Formulate, in conjunction with the Agency, a national strategy for coordinating research in renewable energy;
l. Undertake, in conjunction with the Agency, research, development and dissemination of appropriate renewable energy technologies;
m. Provide an enabling framework for the efficient and sustainable production, conversion, distribution, marketing and utilisation of biomass, solar, wind, small hydros, municipal waste;
n. Promote, in conjunction with the agency responsible for forests, the use of fast maturing trees for energy production, including bio-fuels, and the establishment of commercial woodlots, counting as well peri-urban plantations;
o. Promote, in collaboration with other agencies, the development of appropriate local capacity for the manufacture, installation, maintenance and operation of renewable technologies such as bio-digesters, solar systems, turbines and other renewable energy technologies;
p. Promote international co-operation programmes focusing on renewable energy sources;
q. Harness opportunities offered under clean development mechanism and other mechanisms, including, but not limited to carbon credit trading to promote the development and exploitation of renewable energy sources;
r. Promote the development of electricity generation through co-generation by sugar millers;
s. Provide technical and other capacity building support to County Governments in the discharge of the function of electricity reticulation and energy regulation; and
t. Undertake any other duty or perform such other function as may be necessary for the execution of its mandate under this Act.

Under the new dispensation, REREC has an expanded mandate of spearheading Kenya's renewable energy drive, in addition to implementing rural electrification projects. The Corporation is currently putting in place mechanisms to ensure a smooth transition.

Eliye springs solar mini grid project in Turkana county.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In line with Kenya's Vision 2030, where Energy is an infrastructural enabler towards the achievement of a high quality of life for all Kenyans by the year 2030, the following has been achieved over the last 10 years in terms of rural electrification:

1. Electrification of Public Facilities:

This project involves the Installation of power to public facilities that include primary and secondary schools, polytechnics, health centres, market centres, community water points, tea and coffee buying centres, and government facilities to promote social economic development and increase of electricity access in rural areas.

Achievements include:

- Increase of electrification of public facilities from 30 percent in 2006 to about 70 percent currently.
- Electrification of trading centres in off-grid areas has resulted in an increase in number of towns with electricity in off-grid areas from 16 in 2012 to about 108 currently.
- Electrification of public primary schools in support of the Digital Learning Programme is a key contributor to the universal access target and improvement of education standards. A total of 23,881 primary schools have been connected to electricity across the country.

Electrification of public facilities has resulted in the enhancement of electricity access and connectivity in the rural areas. The increased connectivity has positively impacted on the welfare and wellbeing of the society through increased study time, improved security, development of ICT villages and productive use of electricity in agriculture, among others.

2. Transformer Maximisation Project

The aim of the project is to enhance electricity connectivity to households in all constituencies within existing transformer reach, thus contributing to universal connectivity to electricity by all Kenyans.

3. 50MW Garissa Solar Power Plant

This is the largest grid connected solar power plant in East and Central Africa. Currently, this project is contributing about two percent of the national energy mix, has significantly led to a reduction of energy costs in the country and potentially promoted the development of clean, reliable, sustainable and affordable electricity.

It is expected that a replication of similar projects will be implemented across the country to diversify the power generation mix.

4. Solar-Mini Grid Projects

The aim of the project is to provide electricity to off-grid towns using solar mini-

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Aerial view of the 50MW Garissa Solar Project.

grids. Currently, the Corporation is implementing 26 such projects in the off-grid counties of Wajir, Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera and Garissa.

Upon completion, the projects are expected to serve in excess of 4000 households and provide other socio-economic benefits to communities living in these areas in education, health, entrepreneurship, employment, communication, water pumping and food preservation especially milk and meat products.

5. Turkwel-Lokichar line

This project was implemented as a special project to open up the second development corridor in the country through extension of the grid from Turkwel to Lokichar in Turkana County. The project involved the construction of a 120Km of 66kV line and establishment of two sub-stations at Lokichar and Kalimungorok.

6. Off-grid Diesel Stations

Twenty (20) isolated diesel generators have been implemented in various towns in the north and coastal parts of the country. So far, hybriding of four (4) diesel power stations with solar has been undertaken up to Takaba, Eldas, Rhamu and Laisamis power stations to improve on the affordability of power.

These projects have opened these off-grid towns that were previously considered economically unviable and have resulted in the improvement of living standards of beneficiary communities in the areas of education, health, self-employment, communication and agriculture.

All the above projects have facilitated accelerated provision of electricity in the country. Electricity is a key component of achieving social economic development and providing a high quality of life to all citizens in a clean and secure environment.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

REREC has managed to partner with various stakeholders to enhance the achievement of its mandate. Following are some of the projects which have been implemented or are being implemented as a result of strategic partnerships:

(a) Arab Bank for Economic Development (BADEA)

The Arab Bank for Economic Development (BADEA) partnership involves funding of Ksh5.2 billion towards implementation of various electrification projects across the country for purposes of enhancing electricity access. The BADEA project is envisaged to electrify about 591 centres and about 35,460 households in 66 constituencies spread in five regions in Kenya.

(b) OPEC Fund for Economic Development (OFID)

The OPEC Fund for Economic Development (OFID) partnership is a $15 million project financed by OFID. The scope of the project involves the connection of 33 market centres and households in off-grid regions to electricity. The counties set to benefit include Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir and Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu.

(c) The Kenya off-grid Solar Access project (KOSAP)

The Kenya off-grid Solar Access Project (KOSAP) is a World Bank funded project which is jointly being implemented by the Ministry of Energy, REREC and KPLC targeting 14 counties in the North and North Eastern Region of Kenya which are far away from the grid. The scope entails construction of 121 solar mini-grids, solarisation of 380 boreholes and installation of 1,100 standalone solar systems on public facilities.

(d) The Kenya Electricity Modernisation project (KEMP)

Collaboration under the Kenya Electricity Modernisation Project (KEMP) is a World Bank funded solution in areas whose connection to the national grid is considered not viable in the medium term. It involves the implementation of mini-grids supplied by hybrid generation systems, combining renewable resources (solar or wind). This will be installed in the following eight (8) sites: Mageta Island, Siaya County; Ngodhe and Takawiri Islands in Homa Bay County; Wasini Island - Kwale County; Kaeris and Kerio markets in Turkana County and Dabel in Marsabit County.

(e) Matching Fund Collaborations

This is a project where the Corporation matches contributions from constituencies and counties to a maximum of Ksh5million per constituency for implementation of rural electrification projects. Under this arrangement, REREC has already entered into Memorandums of Understanding with various counties to implement specific electrification projects in their areas.

These collaborations are set to continue under the new dispensation.

WAY FORWARD

The new mandate of the Corporation brings on board many areas of partnerships with various stakeholders that will propel the country's socio-economic and environmental development and contribute towards achievement of sustainable development goals and national plans. These areas of cooperation include:

1. Coordination of all renewable energy and rural electrification developments in the country except geothermal energy and will be the contact point for all renewable energy investment funds as well as international cooperation and partnerships related to renewable energy.

   The Corporation is in the process of developing the national renewable energy master plan and updating the rural electrification master plan. Once complete the data will be available to the public and investors on request.
2. Carrying out research in renewable energy technologies and dissemination of the research findings.
3. Cooperation with the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee in the development of national renewable energy policies and strategies.
4. Collaboration with County Governments in the following areas:
   - Sourcing additional funds for the Rural Electrification Programme and renewable energy;
   - Development and updating of the rural electrification master plans in consultation with County Governments;
   - Development and updating the renewable energy master plan taking into account county specific needs and the principle of equity in the development of renewable energy resources;
   - Supporting the establishment of energy centres in the counties;
   - Establishing the framework for collaboration with County Governments in the discharge of its mandate;
   - Provision of technical and other capacity building support to County Governments in the discharge of the function of electricity reticulation and energy regulation;
   - Implementation of electrification projects.
5. Cooperation with sector players on areas of energy efficiency, technology development, dissemination and capacity building.
6. Harnessing opportunities under the lean Energy Development Mechanism (CDM) and voluntary markets and offer technical support to organizations intending to tap these Markets.
7. Enhancing exploitation of electricity generation through co-generation. This will be done through partnerships with sugar millers.
8. Tree growing for commercial energy generation by establishment of fast growing tree nurseries in collaboration with sector players.
9. Harnessing opportunities in waste to energy in partnership with relevant players.

Overall, REREC's expanded mandate will enable the Corporation to promote and develop Kenya's abundant renewable energy resource. Investment in renewable energy generation will also bring about diversification in Kenyan energy generation sources to meet the ever increasing energy needs of the country. This will also ensure that Kenyans can access clean, sustainable, affordable, reliable and competitively priced electricity. This will further enhance the achievement of the objective of Vision 2030 of transforming Kenya into a newly-industrialised, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment as well as the Big Four Agenda.