

PRESS BRIEFS - Thursday April 28, 2011

PUBLICATION	PAGE	HEADLINE & BRIEF
Nation	Pg 24	Geothermal firm goes full steam ahead in search of green electricity
The Star	Pg 12	Menengai shows power prospects
		<p>According to the publications, Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has struck a substantial amount of steam energy at Menengai crater which it plans to use in power generation. When in full operation, steam energy can cut the country's power bills by more than half. GDC Managing Director, Silas Simiyu said they had sunk a well with an 8MW of geothermal power capacity. He said GDC will not only generate geothermal power which is cheaper, reliable and clean but will also produce water, dry steam and heat as well. The Menengai geothermal field has a potential of 1,600MW which GDC plans to harness and invite independent power producers to put up conventional plants.</p>
Business Daily	1 & 4	Inequality deepens as Nairobi ups its share of national wealth
		<p>The publication states electricity consumption has traditionally been used as a reliable indicator of economic activity and the standards of living in a given location, making the rise of power consumption in Nairobi significant. The share of electricity consumed in Nairobi as measured by KPLC revenues jumped from 53.9 per cent in 2006 to 56.4 per cent last year even as the revenues attributed to Western, Mount Kenya and Coast regions dropped.</p>

	16 & 17	Consumers adjust to volatile petroleum, electricity prices
		<p>According to the publication, the burden that energy and other extraneous costs passed along value chains eventually exert on retail prices has been brought home lately by KPLC's new prepaid metering system. A voucher bought last week indicates that for every Sh500 that a domestic user pays to the company, only a fifth goes into direct purchase of actual power consumed. Three fifths, Sh314.88 end up as fuel surcharge, another Sh64.51 is deducted as compensation to the company against the erratic foreign exchange losses while Sh4.61 cushions the firm against inflationary pressures.</p>
	21	Kenyan firms to tap new IFC carbon fund
		<p>The publication states that Kenyan companies investing in carbon trading projects are set to benefit from a new fund set up by IFC to cover a financing gap arising from the European Union's decision to stop buying carbon credits from developing countries beginning next year. The Sh18.3 billion International Finance Corporation (IFC) fund is a major win for Kenyan companies, most of which are planning to start income-earning carbon trading projects that help reduce emission of carbon dioxide and provide cheaper, renewable energy. KenGen, Mumias, Kenya Airways, KPLC and the Green Belt Movement are some of the local companies with carbon trading projects sponsored by EU countries or corporations.</p>
The People	15 & 19	Kenya venture into nuclear power to meet power demand

		<p>According to the publication, due to the limited supplies of coal, oil, nuclear power plants have been identified to boost electricity capacity in most developed and developing countries. Seeing the reality and having felt the cost of over relying on oil, Kenya too has become one of the countries that have already allocated funds to help promote the development of nuclear power.</p>
The East African	32	Kenya seeks to monitor River Omo
The Star	5	MPs vow to block Ethiopian power plant
		<p>The publication states that the Kenya government is seeking to establish a joint mechanism with Ethiopia to monitor the flow of the Omo River. This comes in the wake of still opposition to Ethiopia's construction of the Gibe III dam across the Omo River. Kenya's Lake Turkana, receives up to 90 per cent of its water from the river which originates in Ethiopia. Environmentalists and communities living around the lake argue that damming the river will cause a dramatic drop in water levels of the lake, disrupting life around the lake and denying them their livelihoods.</p>
The East African	14	Experts warn Dar not to hire generators

		<p>According to the publication, the route that the Tanzanian government has taken to import a 260MW emergency power plant could put electricity out of the reach of most ordinary Tanzanians. It makes economic sense to expand generation at the IPTL plant from its current 10MW to the installed capacity of 100MW instead of putting out a tender for supply or hire of generators. The capacity charges at IPTL are known thus it is easier to plan than to rush for emergency plants which would in the end prove very costly.</p>
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