

PRESS BRIEFS Thursday June 26, 2008

PUBLICATION	PAGE	HEADLINE & BRIEF
Nation	24	<p>Solar energy the way to go</p> <p>African electricity companies need to develop solar energy to meet growing demand on power, according to a report by audit firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Due to a fast-developing economy, Kenya's demand for power has increased from 987 megawatts in 2006 to 1,049 mw currently. Alternative sustainable energy sources and rising fuel costs will affect electricity pricing in the region in the future. Survey respondents expect solar and hydropower, in particular to have an impact in the future energy mix. The report comes as a regional meeting, the 16th Congress of UPDEA is taking place at the Safari Park. The conference was launched by President Kibaki who announced that the country's power output would be raised by 2000 megawatts.</p>
Kenya Times	8	<p>Access to affordable energy key to regional development</p> <p>In less than a week, Kenya has played host to two major regional fora at which food crisis and electricity supply were subjects. While addressing the UPDEA President Kibaki urged regional governments and other stakeholders in electricity supply to unveil a regional road map for provision of energy in the region. For success, the African regions must have ample power supply by tapping in the available power resources in the region for the benefit of the entire continent. Without a regional strategy approach to power supply, the cost of power production will be beyond the access of some regions and communities that have no power generating resources. Once the African region addresses the issue of power as a community, development in various sectors will take its own course.</p>

Business Daily

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Electricity is a key tool with which to fight poverty on the continent.

Africa's electricity managers agree on uniform standards.

Africa's power sector managers have agreed to start a process that will culminate in common electricity standards across the continent. The move aims at speeding up the pace of interconnection across national borders, which have been blocked by different standards in different territories. An Africa-wide power pool is seen as the best solution to insuring adequate and regular power supply especially for countries facing acute shortages. The pool is expected to facilitate development of new untapped potential of power production in countries. Already as part of this plan, a high voltage line is being constructed to link Nairobi and Arusha after studies were completed last year. KPLC confirmed earlier that the line will be able to take power on either side. Kenya is connected to Uganda. A feasibility study is being carried out to connect Kenya to Ethiopia, which has a production capacity of 1,875 megawatts over four times its current demand of 400 megawatts.