

Press Release

11th March 2024

REREC and The County Government of Busia Launch 24 Rural Electrification Projects to Connect Over 660 Customers

Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC), in partnership with the County Government of Busia, has today flagged off 24 rural electrification projects worth Ksh. 75 million aimed at connecting over 667 households to electricity.

REREC and Busia County are funding these projects through a collaborative and participatory approach (the Matching Fund Program) that will enable the implementation of electrification projects in five (5) Constituencies, that is, Butula, Funyula, Matayos, Teso North and Teso South.

These electrification projects will not only illuminate households in Busia County, but also extended to vital public facilities like Kongolo Waterpoint, Buloma Apostolic Church, and Akolong Dispensary.

The County Government of Busia has consistently partnered with REREC through the matching fund program since 2017 and have jointly implemented a total of 112 electrification projects worth Ksh 266.2 million. These funds include the latest collaboration framework, whose projects have been launched today.

Besides the matching fund projects, REREC is also implementing other electrification projects in all the seven (7) constituencies in Busia County at a cost of Ksh 360 million.

REREC commends the leadership of Busia County under H.E. Dr. Paul Otuoma E.G.H. for their foresight in collaborating with REREC to accelerate rural electrification and improve the livelihoods of Busia residents.

As envisaged in the Energy Act 2019, Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) is mandated to spearhead Kenya's renewable energy drive, in addition to implementing rural electrification projects.

Other than Government funded projects through the exchequer, REREC partners with County Governments, the National Constituency Development Fund (NCDF), and other stakeholders on a shilling-for-shilling basis (Matching Fund Program), where the Corporation matches stakeholders' contribution up to a maximum of Ksh. 5 million per Constituency, subject to availability of budget. REREC implements these matching fund projects on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Matching Fund program has been highly successful, and REREC has already entered into Framework Agreements with various Counties including; Makeni, Uasin Gishu, Kitui, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kitui, Vihiga, Busia, Nyandarua, Meru, Nyeri, Embu, Machakos, Kisumu among others, to implement specific electrification projects in their areas.

In collaboration with these stakeholders, REREC has cumulatively implemented 1,050 projects at a cost of Kshs. 2.8 billion over the last ten (10) years.

The Corporation is urging other County Governments and Members of Parliament to adopt the Matching Fund approach to accelerate electrification projects in their respective areas.

Beyond the financial collaboration, REREC's partnership with stakeholders extends to critical aspects such as sensitization on the safe use of electricity, recommended wiring, addressing illegal connections, and preventing the vandalism of transformers. REREC urges all beneficiaries of this electrification program to ensure that the installation of electricity wiring in their homes or business premises is conducted by certified technicians, prioritizing safety for themselves, their families, and their properties.

REREC continues to implement projects countrywide with the aim of enhancing rural electrification in Kenya, improving the livelihoods of our people and contributing to the Nation's overall development. These efforts align with the national economic development blueprint, Vision 2030, and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) championed by His Excellency President. Dr. William Ruto.

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ANNEXES

- Captioned photos of the various launch activities that have taken place today, 11th March, 2024 in Busia County
- Short video clips, cutaways and sound bytes
- A fact sheet of the REREC –Busia County projects

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