



## **STATEMENT BY REA CHAIRMAN, PROF. SIMON GICHARU**

**Good morning members of the Media,**

As you are aware, the Rural Electrification Authority has in the recent past been engaged in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive Officer following the departure of the previous CEO in March 2017. I am pleased to announce that we have finalized the recruitment process and the Authority now has a new CEO. However, before we announce the new CEO, I wish to make a few remarks on behalf of the Board.

We take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for his re-election to serve Kenyans for another 5 years. As REA, we are committed to supporting the implementation of his Big Four Agenda. As an Authority we have specifically identified the manufacturing sector as one key area which REA will focus on to create more jobs for the youth in our country. In this regard, the Board has resolved that tenders for supply of transformers, cables and other materials used in the construction of electricity lines will be given to local manufacturers only. This is a major shift from the past where such materials were being imported from manufacturers in China and India.

This should encourage more investors to set up transformers plants in Kenya. However, we also caution that such leeway should not be used to bring substandard materials because REA will blacklist any company that does not supply goods which do not meet our standards. Indeed, we have already blacklisted one such company from doing business with the Authority.

Finally Ladies and Gentlemen, We are pleased to announce that following a vigorous and competitive recruitment exercise that that took place late last year the Board of has appointed Mr Peter Mbugua as the Authority's new CEO.

Mr Mbugua brings with him a wealth of experience having worked in the energy sector and other sectors before joining the Authority. The Board is very confident that Mr Mbugua will execute his duties diligently without fear or favour. We wish him well as he charts the path for REA in the next three years.

We also wish to take this opportunity to assure Mr Mbugua that the Board will give him the necessary support to perform his duties smoothly. Well done Mr Mbugua and all the best. (Chairman hands Mr Mbugua the Contract and asks him to read his acceptance speech)