The government is committed to ensuring universal access to modern energy services

Statement by the Ag Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Kenya has finally completed the development of the country’s Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) strategy – the Action Agenda (AA) and Investment Prospectus (IP). The process was led by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum with support from development partners, government line ministries, the private sector, civil society and academia.

Kenya’s SE4All AA and IP aim to accelerate the implementation of high priority energy projects and identify action areas where all stakeholders – public, private, civil society and development partners – can direct their efforts. The AA presents a sector-wide long term vision, spanning the period 2015 to 2030 and outlines how the country can achieve the SE4All goals of ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of energy efficiency as well as the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

These action plans provide the framework for all activities contributing towards SE4All, with the IP outlining key investments that the Government, the private sector, donor agencies and finance institutions can engage in. Traditionally, development in the energy sector was primarily managed by the national government. The action plans will align future progress in the energy sector with the new governance structure stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya (2010). These plans will guide counties in Kenya to develop their own energy plans, contributing towards achievement of SE4All.

We are grateful to the Global Facilitation Team, which has made it possible to receive financial and technical support from the Africa SE4All Coordination Hub, through collaboration of various development partners. These include UNDP, African Union, New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), the European Union (EU BizClim Facility and the African Development Bank (AfDB), which has made it possible to make significant progress in the development and finalisation of the Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus.

I call for partners across the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to invest in the opportunities identified in the Investment Prospectus. The IP offers a blueprint for the private sector to undertake projects that have financial and socio-economic benefits. Private sector participation in energy development is vital to eradicate energy poverty and enhance the productivity and well-being of Kenyans. We will continue to work closely with county governments to ensure this vision is cascaded to the grassroots for the benefit of every Kenyan.

Sustainable Energy for all a requirement for improved lives and poverty reduction

Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) is a global UN initiative launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in September 2011. Nearly one out of every six people worldwide live without access to electricity and the opportunities it provides for working, learning, or operating a business. Almost three billion people rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, indoor air pollution leads to over four million deaths globally and 14,300 deaths each year in Kenya alone. Furthermore, the pollution impacts the health of 14.9 million Kenyans, with the majority of those affected being women and children in rural areas.

The provision of adequate, quality and affordable modern energy services plays a vital role in poverty reduction and sustainable development. The UN Secretary-General highlighted this in 2012 when he said, “Development is not possible without energy.” The initiative will mobilise action from all sectors of society in support of three interlinked objectives:

1. Ensuring universal access to modern energy services,
2. Doubling the rate of improvements in energy efficiency, and
3. Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

SE4All was included in the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as SDG 7. The new development goals were created through a consultative process with all stakeholders, including development partners, governments, civil society and the private sector. Additionally, Citizens all over the world completed the My World Survey on the prioritisation of the SDGs. In Kenya, almost 20,000 people responded to the survey, thus Kenyans had an active role in underlining the importance of SE4All and placing the initiative on the overall development agenda.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the Secretary-General’s vision and SDG 7 in Kenya. It is vital that stakeholders are involved, and I urge all to work together towards equitable, Sustainable Energy for All in Kenya.

Mr. Henry Rotich
Ag. Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Energy and Petroleum Kenya

Nardos Bekele-Thomas
UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

School children in Samburu County learn how to use solar lanterns. PHOTO: Inger Haugsjø/UNDP

Steve production in Bonda, Western Kenya PHOTO: Practical Action
Civil society drive for energy access for everyone

Civil society is rallying for financial and technical commitments to support the realisation of universal access to energy, through the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative. Energy is a key resource and driver of growth across all sectors. For example, provision of water is inextricably linked to energy. Energy is required to extract and distribute water for household and productive use, while water is needed to generate energy. Meeting the surge in demand of both energy and water is vital to ensure basic rights for all. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), food production and supply chains consume about one-third of the total energy consumed globally. This figure does not take into account the energy required to prepare it for consumption. The stress on supply will be increased in the near future, as more than double the current food production levels will be needed to feed the world’s population in 2050. Education is another critical sector whose effectiveness depends heavily on the provision of energy. Access to energy for lighting and powering ICT equipment will support the provision of quality education across the entire country. Statistics from last year indicate that only 30.5% of the Kenyan population has access to electricity, with the rate of connectivity far lower in rural areas (Kenya Power annual report 2014). Equal access to education for all children in Kenya, through access to energy, will be a key driver for development in the poorest parts of the country. Health is an equally important human development indicator. The provision of sustainable, efficient energy is central to the provision of adequate health services, as well as improved wellness among households. In addition to the issue of indoor pollution in many rural homes, lack of energy to power communal health care services and equipment has a big impact on vaccinations, essential service provision, and even support amenities, affecting overall health and wellness, especially infant mortality, maternal mortality and childcare. Finally, access to energy is essential for the level of development and economic empowerment of both women and men. Due to their socially determined gender roles, women and girls assume a higher proportion of the burden caused by lack of energy services. This is due to the amount of time and drudgery they spend sourcing for energy, which also provides women and girls with limited access to decision making within the household and community. CSOs have an important role to play in establishing a new energy narrative that recognises this full range of services that are needed to secure poor people’s health and wellness. Policies governing the sector should take into account the dynamic interrelationships energy has across the various sectors mentioned above, as well as the role

Sustainable and efficient access to energy is key to unlocking Kenya’s economic potential. KEPSA is a key stakeholder in the sustainable energy development agenda, and by extension, the SE4ALL Initiative. With the objective of increasing access to affordable energy for all Kenyans, KEPSA has continually engaged with the government and provided input to the various policies and legislations. KEPSA has advocated for private sector participation in power transmission, distribution and supply for systems bigger than 1 MW. Generation plants to be hooked to the national grid are limited to plants with capacities bigger than 500 kW. This locks out a number of smaller plants. Consequently, there is need to finalise review of net metering regulations and feed-in tariffs policy towards liberalising electricity generation and supply. Moreover, land access and acquisition of wayleaves remain a key impediment to investors, who face high compensation demands by residents and endure lengthy processes of engaging counties and communities in the acquisition of these wayleaves. This causes delays in project implementation, resulting in additional costs. The SE4ALL initiative will play a fundamental role in addressing these challenges to further support the global competitiveness of local enterprises. As the voice of the private sector in Kenya, KEPSA will continue to play its role as an inclusive and proactive body that provides an institutional framework for Government and private sector to dialogue and partner. The completion of Kenya’s AA and IP is therefore a welcome development. KEPSA is excited to be part of this process. By Kenya Private Sector Alliance

Eng. Joseph K. Njeroge, MBS
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Energy and
Petroleum Kenya

to 3rd December 2015. The discussions will include approval of the national SE4ALL Action Agenda (AA) and Investment Prospectus (IP) by the SE4ALL Technical Committee, and sensitisation of government ministries on the planning and implementation of SE4ALL. The regional workshop will provide a forum for all key stakeholders from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi to share experiences on preparation of AAs, IPs and the SE4ALL Initiative in general. The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum looks forward to continued collaboration and support of all stakeholders in ensuring continued success during the SE4ALL implementation phase. Specifically, the MOEP notes the significant role of County Governments as key partners to help drive the process in Kenya. This is in line with part 2 of the fourth schedule of the Constitution and the draft National Energy and Petroleum Policy (2015).

In consultation with the Council of Governors (COG) Secretariat, MOEP has been carrying out awareness creation of the SE4ALL Initiative within Counties. So far, 25 counties have been covered, and the process is ongoing for the remaining counties. County governments with support from the national government can ensure Kenya achieves universal access to modern energy services. Preparation of County Energy Plans and capacity building of County Governments on energy planning, implementation and management matters are part of this process, and this is recognised in the draft Action Agenda. The SE4ALL goals will be achieved through a number of High Impact Initiatives, which are targeted, on-the-ground programmes and projects. These have been identified by local stakeholders and development partners. Investors will be enabled to take advantage of opportunities to upscale energy projects. These opportunities are highlighted in the draft Investment Prospectus. Our vision is to entrench SE4ALL into the Vision 2030 Medium Term Planning (MTP) process, and support energy planning in counties. Again, we extend our appreciation to all parties who have unreservedly offered support to enable Kenya to achieve the first three milestones towards developing its Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus. We call upon all the stakeholders to continue working with the Government in the implementation of the SE4ALL Initiative.

Sustainable energy for all (SE4ALL) initiative

Macharia in Kiems East powers the chalk-cutter with electricity produced from biogas to cut Napier grass for fodder. PHOTO: UNDP-GEF/Small Grants Programme

It plays in empowering vulnerable men and women. The SE4ALL process has provided an opportunity to convene, mobilise, organise and build the capacities of poor people and their organisations in order to amplify their voices and ensure their needs and interests are integrated into the country’s development plans. By UNDP, Practical Action, Hivos, WWF and SNV

The time for private sector investment in sustainable energy is now

The Voice of the Private Sector in Kenya

DAILY NATION
Monday November 30, 2015

Republic of Kenya
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Sustainable Energy for all (SE4ALL) Initiative