

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT H.E WILLIAM S. RUTO EGH DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF AN INTEGRATED NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW OF KENYA'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMME' BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY ON THURSDAY 21ST APRIL 2016 AT THE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL, NAIROBI.

Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mr. Mikhail Chudakov

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Members of the Energy Committees of the National Assembly and the Senate

Principal Secretaries

The Board of Directors of the Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board

Chief Executive Officers Present

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to join you today for this important event where the International Atomic Energy Agency provides a scorecard of the progress made by Kenya in the implementation of its nuclear power programme. The presentation of the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review report is a timely occasion, amidst the current national conversation where we are charting the future of our country with energy being a key catalyst for economic development

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are committed to the introduction of nuclear electricity generation in the country's energy mix. Thus, you can count on the government as a true partner and ally on this journey. Kenya's desire to utilize nuclear energy for electricity generation is based on sound economic premises. Achieving the goals and objectives we have set for ourselves, as a country requires large amounts of energy. Nuclear electricity generation with its low operation costs and reliability will be one of the jewels in our energy crown in helping to attain Vision 2030. Indeed, we have the wherewithal, both human and financial, to drive our aspirations.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I firmly believe that nuclear electricity offers us a viable, affordable, reliable, cost effective and sustainable source of energy. Kenya has been a member of the IAEA since 1965 and has benefited immensely in various applications of nuclear technology in fields as diverse as healthcare, water, agriculture, livestock research and industry. Nuclear technology for electricity generation marks the next frontier in this illustrious and rewarding partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The African continent has some of the poorest countries in the world and the prevalent low-income levels are reflected in the low consumption of modern energy such as electricity. The Government of Kenya's commitment to include nuclear electricity in its energy mix is guided by empirical evidence. The world over, countries that are now referred to as developed nations, share the common trait of having adequate energy to power their industries, homes and even surplus for export. Most, if not all, of the world's major economies have a component of nuclear electricity in their power generation mix. It is no wonder that African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan, to name but a few, are at various stages of their nuclear power generation pursuit.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is gratifying to note that the Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board has developed and is implementing a 15-year strategic plan, encompassing every stage of the nuclear power programme including the commissioning an operation of the power plant(s). The Prefeasibility Study that has been undertaken by the Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board and its findings will enable the government to have a global perspective of the nuclear power programme and help in provision of the resources required for the success of the initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is encouraging to note that Kenyan students are honing their skills in the area of nuclear electricity generation as far afield as South Korea and the United States of America. The Masters degree courses in Nuclear Power Plant Engineering at the KEPCO International Nuclear Graduate School (KINGS) in Korea and the Texas A and M University in the USA are incrementally providing Kenya with the skills and manpower which are the seed which will blossom into the tree of prosperity. The Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board is also developing other partnerships for technical exchanges and capacity building with countries such as China, Russia and Slovakia. Locally, I have learnt with delight that fifteen students have been sponsored for Masters degrees each year since 2012, at the University of Nairobi's Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The government is committed to ensuring competitively priced electricity is available for domestic and industry use. Thus, funding will be availed for the nuclear power programme as this energy source has one of the lowest tariffs internationally and would boost our efforts to make electricity affordable to all Kenyans. The government will also provide the necessary support to ensure the legislative framework required is in place, including the formation of a regulatory body for nuclear energy.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

In conclusion, let me assure the International Atomic Energy Agency that we will adhere to international best practices and guidelines. The recommendations you have made will be taken on board to enhance efficiency and focus of our nuclear power programme. Kenya has targeted 2027 for the commissioning of its first nuclear power plant of 1000MW. We intend to do all that is necessary to ensure that we keep to that timeframe.

Thank You and God bless you all