

COUNTIES EASTERN/NORTHEASTERN

EVERY HOUSEHOLD

Garissa residents to get power in two weeks, says CS Keter

STEPHEN ASTARIKO / Residents of Hulugho in Garissa will have access to power two weeks after the Ministry of Energy launched a power connectivity project.

It will be the first time it is supplied with electricity by the state.

The 275KVA project was commissioned on Sunday by Energy CS Charles Keter, who said the government will supply electricity to all residents, even in mud and grass houses.

"The government through the leadership of President Uhuru Kenyatta is committed to ensuring every house is

connected to electricity," Keter said. The CS said the government has set aside Sh1.2 billion for Garissa, to be used in set up and supply of hybrid power from both solar panels and diesel to boreholes and schools.

Keter said power connectivity will boost security through street lighting known as mullika mwizi.

MP Sophia Abdinoor thanked the government, expressing optimism more businesses will open with the power supply.

"This connectivity will open businesses in this area. The shops will now be able to buy fridges to keep their goods from spoiling," Abdinoor said.

Garissa is part of the ASAL counties, which experience hot weather that makes milk and fruits go bad without refrigerators. This is the first time Hulugho subcounty is getting electricity, which is expected to boost businesses, aid water pumping and help students study after school.

Mbeere ACK Diocese Bishop Moses Mashamba during consecration at St Stephen's Mutuobare Church, Mbeere South, on Sunday /HANDOUT



POLITICIANS WARNED

No platform for hate-spewing tribal aspirants – Bishop

The ACK Mbeere cleric says church dispatched monitoring team for disciplinary action

STAR CORRESPONDENT / Mbeere ACK Diocese Bishop Moses Mashamba has threatened to ban politicians spreading tribalism, clannism and hatred in his congregation. He said he had directed all pastors not to allow such aspirants to address worshippers.

Mashamba spoke on Sunday at ACK St Stephen's Mutuobare church, Mbeere South, during the church consecration.

He said some leaders in the community are known for spreading hatred, tribalism and clannism during electioneering.

The bishop said anyone seeking leadership in Mbeere North and South should be given equal respect and the opportunity to present their manifestos without discrimination.

He said the church has already dispatched a team that will monitor the entry of all aspirants, some known for hate speech, and they will be barred.

Present was also USAWA na Mama Foundation CEO-Jane Mbutia.

Mbutia, who is eyeing the Mbeere South MP position, said for more than 50 years, Mbeere people have been electing a gender that has totally failed to deliver.

She said the time has come for women to take over leadership positions and bring change voters have been yearning for.

Mbutia said if given a chance in the 2022 general elections, she will introduce consultative leadership where everyone will be a team player.

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BISHOP MOSES MASHAMBA

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Garissa Township MP Aden Duale during a harambee for Mama Sander Duntow Daya to seek treatment abroad /HANDOUT

NO POSTPONEMENT

Elections must be held in August 2022, says Duale

Garissa Township MP says Article 259 of the Constitution is clear on dates

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Garissa Township MP Aden Duale has opposed calls to postpone the August 2022 general election.

He said the Kenyan Constitution Article 259 is clear on election dates. Speaking on Monday during a fundraiser at a Garissa hotel, Duale asked Kenyans to ignore the leaders calling for postponement.

"Elections will be on August 9, 2022, so if you are not prepared to particularly face the candidature of William Ruto do not look for a poor excuse," Duale said.

"The only option in which elections can be postponed in the Constitution is in case this country goes to war with another country. We are telling the heads of security in this country that even this option is not available," he added.

Duale's sentiments come days

after the African Court on Human rights in Arusha gave countries the green light to postpone elections over the Covid-19 health crisis.

The court ruled that treaties signed by African Union member states allow for postponing of elections in the event of a disaster that threatens the well-being of citizens.

This includes the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused deaths of thousands on the continent.

The court also ruled, however, that any government that wants to postpone elections must do so using the laws in its country.

This means that if a country's laws do not provide for postponement, lawmakers must come up with regulations to define and govern the process. The Pan-African Lawyers Union, which sought the advisory opinion, had asked the court to issue rules and guidelines for postponement of elections by AU members.

Palu draws its membership from lawyers and law societies in African countries, and has been formally recognised by the AU since 2006.

Duale further asked the government's independent institutions created by the Constitution not to intimidate, cause fear, harass and fabricate charges against leaders perceived to be in the UDA party.

"Let everybody, every party be given democratic space to sell their agenda and manifesto to the people and let the citizens be allowed to make their informed decisions to choose the next leaders," Duale said.

THE ONLY OPTION IN WHICH ELECTIONS CAN BE POSTPONED IN THE CONSTITUTION IS WHEN THE COUNTRY GOES TO WAR WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY