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Unlocking The Power Of Solar: Financial Incentives Driving Kenya"s Energy Revolution

Kenya is on an ambitious quest to provide electricity for all its citizens by 2022. This article examines how solar power is helping to achieve this universal access goal. It does so by discussing policies and incentives Kenya is using to both encourage local consumption of solar energy and attract private sector solar investment in Kenya.

Like most countries, Kenya''s energy sector broadly comprises the Petroleum Industry, the Electricity Subsector, and the Renewables Energy Industry.

The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (MoEP) sets policy for the entire energy sector.

MoEP has less than 100 employees and in the fiscal 2020/2021 budget unveiled in June 2020, the energy sector was allocated KSh 63.3 billion out of a total budget of KSh 2.7 trillion.

In terms of regulation, the Energy Act of 2019 created the Energy & Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) to succeed the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

Therefore, the 2019 Act expanded EPRA's regulatory mandate to cover upstream petroleum and coal. This made EPRA the sole, independent regulator for the entire energy sector.

The Energy Act of 2019 supersedes all previous energy-related legislation and is now the main regulatory act for all energy-related matters.

Before Kenya discovered commercial oil in 2012, its petroleum industry centered on upstream exploration and downstream activities.

Following a pilot oil production scheme in 2020, the government expected full oil production to commence in 2024, depending on the construction of the pipeline needed to export the oil.

The 100 percent government-owned National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) is the state agency involved in all petroleum upstream and downstream activities except wholesale transportation.

The government is currently mulling how to save the debt-ridden company from collapse.

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