



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS

BEYOND THE HIGHWAY

A Publication of the State Department for Roads

Mombasa- Mtwapa- Kilifi (A7)

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From the Principal Secretary's Desk



In the month of February we recorded a steady progress and renewed momentum in the implementation of road infrastructure across the country. We have witnessed advancement in the ongoing projects throughout various regions, improved mobility, and enhanced access to markets, schools, and essential services.

During the month, we undertook a series of road inspections to monitor progress, assess quality standards, and ensure value for public investment. These engagements reaffirmed our commitment to timely completion of projects and strict adherence to engineering and safety standards.

To accelerate delivery, the Government is actively exploring and implementing innovative financing models aimed at bridging funding gaps and fast-tracking priority road projects. At the same time, we have prioritised the settlement of contractors' payments to sustain momentum on-site and safeguard jobs within the sector.

We remain steadfast in our resolve to deliver seamless connectivity across Kenya, recognising that a robust road network is fundamental to economic growth, regional integration, and improved livelihoods for all Kenyans.

Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



CS Chirchir Leads Inspection of Roads projects across Coastal Counties

Along the coastal corridor, the CS confirmed steady progress on the long-awaited Mombasa–Kilifi Road following the release of Ksh 2 billion for land compensation and Ksh 838 million to facilitate the relocation of traders.

Cabinet Secretary, Davis Chirchir intensified the Government’s drive to fast-track infrastructure development in the coastal region through a series of inspection visits to ongoing road projects.

Along the coastal corridor, the CS confirmed steady progress on the long-awaited Mombasa–Kilifi Road following the release of Ksh 2 billion for land compensation and Ksh 838 million to facilitate the relocation of traders.

At the Mtwapa Bridge, a critical link between Mombasa County and Kilifi County, the CS noted that significant milestones have been achieved, including the substantial completion of 7.7 kilometres -

of dualling works on the second lot stretching from Mtwapa to Kilifi.

The inspection tour also covered the Galana–Kulalu Bridge and the expansion works along the Mombasa–Kwa Jomvu (A109) Road.

“The projects are progressing steadily under the supervision of technical teams from Kenya National Highways Authority and Kenya Rural Roads Authority,” the CS said.

The CS held an engagement meeting with Lamu County Governor, H.E Issa Timamy, where they reviewed priority development initiatives aimed at accelerating infrastructure growth and improving

livelihoods in the region, including inspection on the progress of the 15-kilometre Mtangawanda–Siyu Road in Lamu East Constituency.

The coastal tour extended to Taita Taveta County and Kajiado County, where the CS inspected the Illasit–Taveta Road project. The team assessed progress on bridges and culverts, which are at advanced stages, and tarmacking works at Maandakini that are steadily advancing.

The Cabinet Secretary reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to accelerate ongoing and planned road projects across the country, noting that sustained investment in transport infrastructure remains central to Kenya’s economic transformation agenda.

He was accompanied by Principal Secretaries Eng. Joseph Mbugua (Roads) and Mohamed Daghar (Transport), together with senior officials from the Ministry and road agencies.

Roads Sub-Sector Advances Innovative Financing to Accelerate Infrastructure Delivery

BY ESTHER KARURI



Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir together with Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua appearing before the Transport and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Hon. George Kariuki at Parliament Buildings, Nairobi on 23rd February, 2026.

The Roads Department has prioritised allocation of its available budget ceiling to the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of roads, Cabinet Secretary Hon. Davis Chirchir told lawmakers on Monday 23rd February, 2026.

Appearing before the Transport and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Hon. George Kariuki, and accompanied by Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, the CS said the Department is focusing on completion of ongoing projects, provision of counterpart funding for development partner-supported initiatives, and implementation of key Government strategic interventions aimed at job creation and other national priorities.

CS Chirchir revealed that the Roads Sub-sector's outstanding Government of Kenya (GoK) obligations stand at approximately Kshs. 850 billion, compared to the 2026 Budget Policy Statement (BPS) ceiling of Kshs. 70 billion for the 2026/27 financial year.

He noted that, based on contracted timelines and contractor capacity, the portfolio would ideally require about Kshs. 320 billion annually over three years to be fully implemented.

However, with the ceiling unlikely to increase over the next five years, the Department warned that clearing the backlog could take more than a decade, potentially escalating costs due to inflation, interest accruals, and contractor claims if alternative financing mechanisms are not adopted.

"To bridge the financing gap, the Roads Sub-sector is exploring innovative funding models to sustain the growing demand for road infrastructure," CS Chirchir said.

PS Eng. Mbugua told the Committee that pending bills as at December 31, 2025 amounted to Kshs. 89.8 billion. Of this, Kshs. 42.8 billion related to the period between January 1 and December 31, 2025, while Kshs. 47 billion dated back to periods prior to December 31, 2024.

He further disclosed that pending bills up to December 31, 2024 had stood at approximately Kshs. 173 billion.

"Under the Road Infrastructure Loan Facility/Note Issuance Programme, the Ministry securitised Kshs. 7 per litre of fuel to raise Kshs. 175 billion to clear arrears. So far, Kshs. 126 billion has been paid through a bridge facility, with the remaining Kshs. 47 billion to be settled once the securitisation bond is floated and subscribed," he said.

(Additional Information: <https://www.roads.go.ke/index.php/roads-sub-sector-advances-innovative-financing-accelerate-infrastructure-delivery>)

Focus on Materials Testing and Research Directorate (MTRD)

BY ENG. E.E AMIMO

Materials Testing and Research Directorate is responsible for testing and research on materials used in road construction and other infrastructure to ensure quality and guarantee value for money.

MTRD strives to be a world-class institution for testing and research on roads and other infrastructure. The Directorate's mission is to facilitate development of quality roads and other infrastructure through testing, research and advice on construction materials, methods and delivery options.

This is achieved through:

- Materials testing services for design and construction quality assurance to ensure structural integrity, prolonged pavement life and enforcing value for money;
- Research on roads and road construction materials including post construction performance monitoring to inform development of standards for testing, design, construction and maintenance;
- Pavement design and construction quality control oversight for public roads; and,
- Provision and maintenance of materials testing and research facilities.

The Construction Industry has continued to evolve with tremendous growth in infrastructure with increased construction of roads, bridges, high-rise buildings and dams. The methods and materials utilized for these infrastructural developments need to be of good quality to ensure durability, structural integrity and safety.

To offer quality assurance in the various infrastructural developments, the Directorate operates under a team of dedicated experts including Engineers, Chemists, Physicists, Geologists, Technologists, Technicians and ICT officers who provide the much needed technical solutions. The officers with diverse skills and experiences are involved in monitoring the quality of materials used in road construction and other infrastructure, research on performance of various types of construction materials, pavement design and geotechnical studies. Provision of the necessary advice

on usage of materials and guidance on quality control during construction is a major attribute of the Division.

MTRD play an important part in the construction industry by ensuring that materials used are of the right quality.

The Directorate offer excellent material testing services to government agencies, contractors, manufacturers, consultants and the general public at competitive rates.

The laboratories are well equipped and strategically distributed across the counties, ensuring easy access while upholding the highest testing standards based on both local and international best practices. Material sampling may be conducted by MTRD staff, or clients may submit samples to any of our laboratories for testing and expert advice.

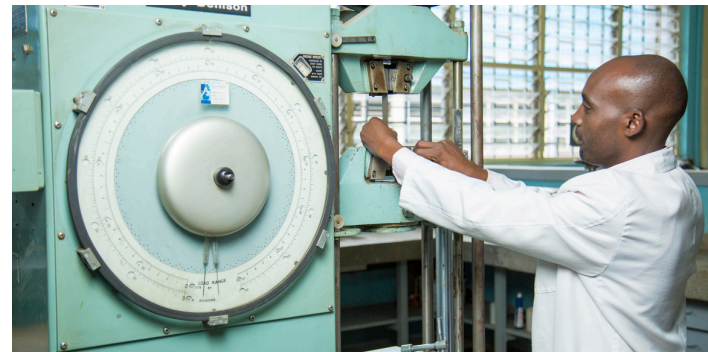
The Directorate also undertake Monitoring and evaluation of the structural and functional performance of pavements is also carried out to facilitate planning and preparation of road investment programs and annual work plans by various sector players.



The indirect tensile testing equipment that determines the resilient modulus, creep and fatigue of bituminous mixes.



MTRD
Materials Testing & Research Division
LABS



Government Rallies Multi-Agency Push to Accelerate Isiolo–Mandera Road Corridor

BY LYDIA KISILU



A high-level multi-agency team convened on 17th February to review progress on the construction of the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor.

To accelerate the delivery of critical infrastructure in Northern Kenya, a high-level multi-agency team convened on 17th February, 2026 to review progress on the construction of the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor.

The strategic meeting brought together Cabinet Secretaries Hon. Davis Chirchir, Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen (Interior), Hon Soipan Tuya (Defence) and Principal Secretaries Eng. Joseph Mbugua, Dr. Raymond Omollo (Internal Security and National Administration) and Dr. Patrick Mariru (Defence) who jointly underscored the Government's commitment to fast-track the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor. They highlighted the project's transformative impact on regional trade, security, and socio-economic development, while calling for strengthened coordination among all implementing agencies to ensure timely and efficient delivery.

Deliberations centered on enhancing operational efficiency, resolving implementation bottlenecks, and strengthening security along the corridor to guarantee uninterrupted access to construction sites. Participants emphasized the importance of seamless coordination between national and regional security teams to safeguard personnel, equipment, and communities along the route.



The corridor, a flagship regional integration project, is expected to unlock vast economic potential by improving mobility, stimulating trade, and fostering inclusive growth across northern Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa region. In attendance were; Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja; Deputy Inspector General – Administration Police Service Gilbert Masengeli; General Officer Commanding Eastern Command Major General Luka Kutto; and Principal Administrative Secretary for Internal Security Jacob Narengo.



High-Level Push to Unlock Private Capital for 2,500km Highway Upgrade

BY MOHAMED ABDIKADIR



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua convenes a high-level strategic review meeting at the Works Building to accelerate delivery of transformative road infrastructure on 19th February, 2026.

On 19th February, 2026, Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua convened a high-level strategic review meeting at the Works Building in Nairobi, bringing together the PPP Directorate from the National Treasury and senior leadership from the Roads Sub-Sector in a renewed push to accelerate delivery of transformative road infrastructure.

The meeting was centred on priority road projects identified under the Presidential Implementation Directive and assessed their suitability for implementation through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). With Kenya's growing demand for efficient transport corridors, the deliberations focused on unlocking private capital, enhancing project bankability, and strengthening preparation frameworks to ensure that projects move seamlessly from concept to financial close and construction.



A key highlight of the discussions was the planned dualling of 2,500 kilometres of highways, an ambitious programme expected to ease congestion, enhance road safety, lower transport costs, and stimulate trade and regional integration.

The meeting explored structured implementation models, risk allocation mechanisms, and investor confidence-building measures necessary to fast-track delivery while safeguarding public interest.

They underscored the Government's commitment to innovative financing and structured collaboration as a pathway to delivering critical infrastructure efficiently and sustainably.

By aligning technical expertise, fiscal oversight, and sector leadership, the Roads Sub-Sector continues to position itself to deliver modern, resilient highways that support economic growth and national development.

In attendance was Director General Eng. Kefa Seda of the PPP Directorate, alongside the DG for KeRRA Eng. Jackson Magondu, as well as senior roads and agency officials.

Strengthening Governance: Roads Department Institutional Risk Management Framework

BY LYDIA KISILU



State Department for Roads Risk Management Committee members pose for a group photo during their session at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Embu.

The State Department for Roads has developed an Institutional Risk Management Policy Framework to strengthen governance, enhance accountability, and improve service delivery across the sector.

Addressing the Department's Risk Management Committee at the Kenya School of Government (KSG) in Embu, on 3rd February, 2026 the Secretary Administration, Mr. Evans Mutari, underscored that risk management is fundamental to effective public service and not an optional administrative exercise.

Mr. Mutari noted that the roads sector operates in a highly complex environment, grappling with challenges ranging from constrained financing and evolving policy frameworks to procurement demands, climate-related risks, and coordination across multiple stakeholders.

"This Risk Management Policy Framework introduces a structured and systematic approach to identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring risks across the Department," he said.

The Secretary Administration further emphasized that, since the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution, public entities are legally obligated to safeguard public resources and uphold transparency and accountability.

The Framework is anchored in Executive Order No. 1 of 2025, the Public Finance Management Act, and the Kenya Roads Act, aligning institutional risk management with national governance and accountability standards.

A key feature of the Framework is the introduction of a live Risk Register, designed to track both internal and external risks, including human resource and procurement challenges, as well as contractor- and consultancy-related exposures. Each identified risk is assigned clear ownership to enhance accountability and ensure timely mitigation.

"This Risk Management Policy Framework introduces a structured and systematic approach to identifying, assessing, mitigating, and monitoring risks across the Department."

Secretary Administration, Mr. Evans Mutari

Roads Sub-Sector Embarks on Communication Strategy Roadmap

BY MOHAMED ABDIKADIR



The Roads Sub-Sector Multi-Agency Communication Committee (RSS-MACC) poses for a group photo during the draft communication strategy forum held at KALRO - Kandara on 10th February, 2026

The Secretary Administration Mr. Evans Mutari, officially opened a strategic forum held at KALRO, Kandara, setting the stage for the development of a unified communications strategy to strengthen visibility, coordination, and impact across the Roads Sub-Sector.

The forum brought together key agencies including the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), and the Kenya Transport and Roads Board (KETRB), alongside directorates such as Materials Testing and Research Department (MTRD), the Mechanical and Transport Department (MTD), the Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT), and the Quality Assurance Directorate (QAD), to develop a communication strategy which will address the critical gaps on how the infrastructure funds and the resumption of stalled projects are communicated going forward.

Mutari emphasized that the new strategy must prioritize consistent, factual, and non-political information to enhance institutional credibility and keep the public informed on major milestones.

The SA also quipped some of the main projects in the pipeline for instance the planned construction of an additional 30,000kms of roads networks in the next 10 years.

He added that by leveraging both traditional and digital channels including active social media engagement the sector intends to bridge existing information gaps while ensuring strict compliance with data protection and access to information laws.



Secretary Administration Mr. Evans Mutari addresses RSS-MACC.

Pictorial



Northern Kenya: H.E President William Ruto, together with D.P Kithure Kindiki, inspected progress on the Kulamawe-Garbatulla section of the 750 km Isiolo-Mandera Road on 11th February, 2026. The project is part of the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project aimed at improving regional connectivity.



H.E. Deputy President Kithure Kindiki led an inspection tour of the ongoing construction of the critical PI-Murinduko-Ndindiruku-Marurumo-Gategi-Gatuiiri-Mutithi-White Rose Road in Mwea, Kirinyaga County on 25th February, 2026.



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua hosts a Transport Sector Dialogue Mission at the Works Building on behalf of CS Hon. Davis Chirchir, with a delegation from the African Development Bank Group led by Executive Director Tomoki Nakai on 27th February, 2026



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua hosted a second consultative meeting with an Africa50 delegation led by Mohamed Sokona, to advance discussions on key road infrastructure projects. on 10th February, 2026



The Roads Department held its monthly senior management meeting at the Works Building on 10th February, 2026, chaired by Secretary Administration Mr. Evans Mutari, to review performance for the first half of the 2025/2026 Financial Year.



Ag. Chief Engineer Roads, Eng. Nicholas Musuni chaired an introductory meeting with representatives of The Nippon Road Corporation Limited, Kao Corporation, and Shimizu Corporation, in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), on a proposed SDGs survey for asphalt concrete using recycled PET bottles on 26th February, 2026.

NOTICE BOARD

Senior Engineers Take Up New Roles in Roads Department



Acting Secretary for Roads, Eng. Gilbert Arasa



Acting Chief Engineer Roads, Eng. Nicholas Musuni

Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua on 16th February 2026 officially appointed Eng. Gilbert Arasa as Acting Secretary (Roads) and Eng. Nicholas Musuni as Acting Chief Engineer (Roads), marking a seamless leadership transition within the sector.

The appointments come following the retirement of Eng. James Kung'u on 13th February 2026, concluding his distinguished tenure as Chief Engineer (Roads), which was defined by exemplary leadership, dedicated service, and significant contributions to Kenya's national road infrastructure.

The appointment of Eng. Arasa as Acting Secretary (Roads) strengthens the State Department's leadership structure, enhancing administrative coordination and operational efficiency in delivering the national roads agenda.

Eng. Musuni assumes his new role with over two decades of experience in engineering leadership, regulation, and institutional development. He will provide strategic direction in the planning, standardization, development, and maintenance of national road infrastructure, including oversight of policy formulation and implementation, standards, and guidelines governing road construction and maintenance, with emphasis on quality, safety, and sustainability.

These appointments signal continuity, strengthened governance, and renewed momentum in advancing Kenya's road infrastructure development and service delivery.

Upcoming Events



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS



Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT)

1st KIHBT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Kenya Institute of Highways and Building Technology (KIHBT)

CALL FOR PAPERS

THEME

Enhancing Capacity Building And Skills Development For Sustainable Road Transport

SUB THEMES

- ✔ Training and capacity building
- ✔ Greening and digitalisation
- ✔ Financing, policy and regulatory frameworks
- ✔ Climate resilience in road transport
- ✔ Diversity, equality and inclusivity
- ✔ Sustainable technologies and construction materials
- ✔ Road safety and active mobility
- ✔ E - Mobility and intelligent transportation systems

CHANGE OF DATES

CONFERENCE DATES

**20th To 22nd
May 2026**

VENUE

Mombasa, Kenya

IMPORTANT DATES

NEW DEADLINE DATES

20th February
Abstract submission
(200-300 Words)

23rd March
Submission of Full Papers (3000-5000 Words)

17th April
Conference Presentations

PARTICIPATION CHARGES

- ✔ Local Paper Presenters **Free**
- ✔ International Paper Presenters **\$100**

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