



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT

STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS

BEYOND THE HIGHWAY

A Publication of the State Department for Roads



Mto Mwagodi- Dawida- Mbale- Wundanyi- Bura Road

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From the Principal Secretary's Desk



In April, we recorded heightened activity across road construction sites nationwide following the settlement of pending bills owed to contractors. With contractors now fully mobilized, works are progressing at an accelerated pace, with renewed focus on timely completion.

This momentum reflects a stronger, more responsive delivery framework that is expanding and rehabilitating our road network to support economic growth, regional integration, and improved livelihoods. On the current trajectory, we are confident that projects will be delivered within set timelines and to the highest standards.

To further strengthen resource mobilization, we have advanced the adoption of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and other innovative financing mechanisms. These approaches are unlocking critical resources for the efficient implementation and completion of capital-intensive projects, ensuring that all planned and ongoing works become a reality.

The State Department for Roads remains steadfast in its mandate to safeguard public resources. We will continue to enforce robust oversight, uphold transparency and accountability, and guarantee value for money in every project. Quality assurance, technical supervision, and strict compliance are non-negotiable as we deliver infrastructure that is durable, safe, and fit for purpose.

As the country continues to experience heavy rains, I urge all road users to exercise caution. Flooded sections, reduced visibility, and slippery surfaces pose significant risks. Let us remain vigilant, adhere to traffic regulations, and prioritize safety at all times.

Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

H.E. President Ruto Unveils Major Road Projects to Drive Growth in Kisii County

BY JK OMONDI



H.E. President William Ruto flags off the upgrading to bitumen standard of the 25 km Nyabigena/Matangamano–Esaka–Mochengo–Ayora–Moticho–Nyansembe/Moticho–Maroo–Otendo–ELCK Primary roads in Kisii County on 15th April 2026.

The State Department for Roads continues to advance the Government’s infrastructure agenda through transformative road projects aimed at strengthening connectivity and unlocking economic growth.

During his development tour of Kisii County, H.E. President William Ruto launched and commissioned a series of key road projects aimed at improving mobility and expanding access to markets and essential services, reinforcing the Government’s commitment to inclusive economic growth.

In Nyaribari Chache Constituency, the President flagged off the upgrading to bitumen standard of five strategic roads—Nyabisabo–Kegati, Nyaguta–Amariba, Nyaguta–Riariga, Omosasa–Geserere, and Keumbu–Ibeno—covering approximately 50 kilometres. He also commissioned the 11.3-kilometre Sameta–Egetuki–Ikoba Road, expected to ease transport and reduce travel time.

Further, he launched the upgrading of the 17.8-kilometre Etago–Ekonamogende–Magenche/Mogenda–Nyamaiya (G40029) Road, alongside a 25-kilometre rural access network linking Nyabigena/Matangamano–Esaka–Mochengo–Ayora–Moticho–Nyansembe/Moticho–Maroo–Otendo. The Omingo–Magara Bridge and associated access roads were also launched to strengthen regional connectivity.

Implemented by the Kenya Rural Roads Authority, the projects are set to significantly cut transport costs, enhance access to markets, boost agricultural productivity, and catalyze growth across local economies, underscoring their far-reaching impact on livelihoods and regional development.

The visit was attended by senior leaders including Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport Davis Chirchir, Governor Simba Arati, Principal Secretary for Aviation Teresia Mbaika, and KeRRA Director General Eng. Jackson Magondu, among other officials.

Continued...



On 15th March, 2026, H.E. President William Ruto presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the 17.8 km Etago-Ekona-Geteri-Nyamaiya Road in South Mugirango, Kisii County.



H.E. President William Ruto on 15th March, 2026 launched the construction of 11km Sameta-Egetuki-Ikoba road in Bomachoge Chache Constituency, Kisii County.

Head of Public Service Pushes Accountability, Integrity, and Efficiency in Roads and Transport Sectors

BY ESTHER KARURI



Senior officials from the State Departments for Roads and Transport following keenly the proceedings of the virtual engagement meeting with the Head of Public Service on 16th April, 2026.

The Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, has directed leadership and staff of the State Departments for Roads and Transport to uphold integrity, accountability, professionalism, efficiency, and responsiveness to improve service delivery in the two sectors. The directive was issued during a virtual engagement on 16th April 2026.

Koskei said that these values must be reflected in procurement, project implementation, enforcement and service delivery across the two sectors.

The Head of Public Service (HoPS) noted that roads and transport systems are not just infrastructure but rather the arteries through which economic activity flows, enabling movement of people, goods and services across the country.

“Every road constructed, every kilometre maintained, every transport system regulated, and every safety measure implemented has a direct impact on productivity, connectivity and national development,” said Mr. Koskei.

Mr. Koskei further called for mindset and attitude transformation among the staff adding that there was an urgent need to move from routine processes to results, from activity to impact.

“It is not about the number of projects initiated, but the quality, timeliness, and reliability of what is delivered.”

The HoPS, who was addressing the leadership and staff of the two State Departments during a virtual engagement, underscored the need to break down institutional silos.

“We must operate as one coordinated system. Planning, construction, maintenance, regulation, and enforcement must be aligned. Fragmentation leads to inefficiency and weakens impact,” he added.

On citizen-centred service delivery, the HoPS said that the government’s work must be felt by citizens in the form of safe roads, orderly transport systems, reduced congestion, reliable services as the standard.

In remarks read on his behalf by the Secretary Administration, Mr. Evans Mutari, Roads Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua disclosed that ..

over the past three years, the Roads Sub-Sector had recorded steady progress in executing its mandate.

“We have expanded and upgraded to bitumen standards approximately 2,700 km of road network significantly improving connectivity across the country. This has translated into enhanced access to markets, schools, health facilities, and economic opportunities, particularly in underserved regions,” said Eng. Mbugua.

Eng. Mbugua said that several road projects have been successfully completed and commissioned across the country, marking an important milestone in improving mobility and unlocking economic potential.



Geoffrey Matiana Kibagengi (Motor Vehicle Electrician I), Bonventure Ojwangi Omuke (Principal Driver II), and Jessy Mutahi Sakwa (Motor Vehicle Mechanic I) of the Mechanical and Transport Directorate, State Department for Roads (SDoR), Eldoret, following keenly the proceedings of the virtual engagement meeting with the Head of Public Service on 16th April, 2026

More details on: <https://www.roads.go.ke/uphold-professionalism-ethics-and-integrity-your-work-head-public-service-tells-staff-roads-and>

Government Secures Sh 71.5b World Bank funding to fast-track Isiolo–Mandera Corridor Completion

BY ESTHER KARURI

The Government of Kenya has secured Sh 71.5 billion (US\$550 million) in additional financing from the World Bank to accelerate completion of the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor (B9).

This funding, approved by the World Bank Board, comprises US\$260 million for HoAGDP II and US\$290 million for the ongoing programme. It represents one of the largest infrastructure credit packages supporting Kenya’s transport sector in recent years.

Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua said that the funding will unlock full implementation of critical stalled sections of the 740-kilometre corridor, particularly the Modogashe–Samatar and Rhamu–Mandera stretches.

“All remaining sections are now fully funded, clearing the way for accelerated completion.” “As of April 2026, physical progress along the corridor stands at 54.29%, with construction ongoing across 11 contract packages,” he noted.

Eng Mbugua said that contractors have been fully remobilised following improved cash flow, restoring momentum on what is truly a flagship national infrastructure project.

He pointed out that the Isiolo–Mandera Corridor will upgrade over 365 kilometres of road to bitumen standard, alongside 50 kilometres of feeder and urban link roads.

“It will also deliver a 740-kilometre fibre optic backbone as part of Kenya’s Digital Superhighway initiative, expanding high-speed internet access to underserved regions.”

“In addition, One-Stop Border Posts at Rhamu and Mandera will streamline trade with Ethiopia and Somalia, while social infrastructure such as water facilities, schools, health centres, and livestock markets will be developed along the corridor,” said the PS.



President William Ruto (right), alongside his Deputy Kithure Kindiki, inspects a section of the Isiolo–Mandera Transport Corridor in February, 2026.

The completed corridor, he said, will cut travel time between Isiolo and Mandera from about 96 hours to nearly 48 hours.

He said that transport costs will reduce significantly, improving market access for livestock and agricultural produce. The fibre optic component will also bridge the digital divide, connecting schools, hospitals, businesses, and government services to reliable broadband connectivity.

“While sections of the corridor continue to face security challenges, we are working closely with multi-agency security teams to safeguard ongoing works, personnel, and equipment,” Eng. Mbugua assured.

He noted that the project is being implemented by six key agencies, including the State Department for Roads, Kenya National Highways Authority, ICT Authority, National Transport and Safety Authority and Kenya Revenue Authority.

“The Isiolo–Mandera Corridor is a vital section of the broader Nairobi–Isiolo–Mandera transport corridor, central to Kenya’s trade integration agenda under the Horn of Africa Initiative,” he said.

According to the PS, this project will open up Northern Kenya, strengthen regional trade links, and stimulate inclusive economic growth across the Horn of Africa.

State Emphasises Use of Approved Helmets to Curb Fatalities on Roads

BY JK OMONDI



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua (second from right) on the sidelines of the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG WP.29) Sessions in Geneva on 15th April, 2026.

Kenya is reinforcing its road safety framework through stricter enforcement of quality helmet use, in a bid to curb fatalities among vulnerable road users.

On the sidelines of the of the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG WP.29), Sessions in Geneva, the State Department for Roads Principal Secretary (PS), Eng. Joseph Mbugua, held a strategic discussion with Consultant Pierre Castaing, a member of the Experts Committee of the French Road Safety Council.

Their engagement focussed on safety helmets through the lens of Rwanda's successful implementation model. They underscored how the subject of helmets can serve as a practical demonstration of the real-world impact of WP.29 in Africa.

Eng. Mbugua said that Rwanda's experience shows that when WP.29 standards can be domesticated and enforced, especially those related to protective gear such as motorcycle helmets saying that countries can achieve measurable reductions in injuries and deaths.

The PS explained that Rwanda's coordinated approach includes compliance with UN Regulations, public awareness campaigns and strict enforcement.

Kenya faces similar challenges with motorcycle (boda boda) safety, where head injuries remain a leading cause of severe trauma and fatalities," he said.

The PS said by leveraging lessons from Rwanda and aligning more closely with WP.29, helmet quality can be standardized and the circulation of substandard products can be reduced.

"Road safety outcomes can improve, especially for boda boda riders and passengers, regulatory enforcement can be strengthened, while supporting NTSA and KEBS.

He added that regional harmonization within the East African Community can be accelerated and Kenya's automotive sector to better align with global safety benchmarks, supporting Vision 2030 and the National Road Safety Action Plan.

The discussion highlighted that WP.29 is a catalyst for saving lives through its regulations, capacity-building initiatives and global best practices.

Eng. Mbugua said Kenya's engagement at the GRSG sessions signals its commitment to applying these global standards to local realities, ultimately protecting lives and strengthening the country's road safety ecosystem.

Materials Directorate Focus on Pavement Design and Geotechnical Investigations

BY ENG. CATHERINE NDINDA N.K

The Materials Testing and Research Directorate (MTRD) remains a cornerstone of Kenya's infrastructure development agenda, ensuring that projects under the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) are delivered to the highest standards of safety, durability, and sustainability. Its work underpins the construction of roads, bridges, dams, stadiums, and commercial centres by providing the technical assurance necessary to safeguard public investments and deliver future-ready infrastructure.

MTRD addresses key sector challenges through rigorous materials testing, quality control, and research on materials used in pavements, structural works, and the broader construction industry.

The Directorate is also responsible for the design and vetting of consultants' pavement design reports, while promoting the integration of sustainable practices in both design and construction.

These interventions reduce the risk of premature infrastructure failure, optimise resource utilisation, and ensure compliance with national and international standards.

In doing so, the Directorate directly supports MTP IV priorities, including expanding road networks, enhancing regional connectivity, and advancing sustainable development.

The Directorate undertakes comprehensive geological and geotechnical investigations for infrastructure projects such as bridges, airports, railways, pipelines, water channels, dams, buildings, and hardstone quarries.

These investigations provide critical insights into subsurface conditions. Through the use of advanced geophysical and drilling equipment, in-situ testing methods, and laboratory analyses, MTRD determines key geological and geotechnical parameters.

These include soil and rock properties, allowable bearing capacities, settlement and consolidation characteristics, among other engineering parameters.



MTRD team leads road marking along the Chiakariga-Meru (B65) Road in collaboration with KenNHA on 20th April, 2026.

The results are compiled into detailed geotechnical reports that form the basis for foundation design and subsurface treatments, ensuring that infrastructure is tailored to site-specific conditions and resilient to geological risks.

In addition, the Directorate conducts materials investigations and pavement design for both new and existing roads and airports earmarked for rehabilitation or reconstruction. Pavement designs are developed through the evaluation of subgrade strength, material properties, traffic loading, and environmental factors, in accordance with the updated Kenya Roads Design Manual and international standards.

Consultants' engineering designs are rigorously reviewed to verify accuracy and compliance with design principles and material specifications, with corrective recommendations issued where necessary. This process ensures that pavements are durable, cost-effective, and aligned with MTP IV's objective of modernising Kenya's transport infrastructure through sustainable engineering solutions.

Beyond its technical mandate, the Directorate plays a strategic role in safeguarding public resources. By preventing structural failures, reducing maintenance costs, and promoting the use of locally available and recycled materials, MTRD contributes significantly to Kenya's sustainability agenda. In essence, the Directorate extends beyond its role as a testing unit; it serves as a custodian of quality assurance, safety, and accountability, supporting stakeholders in the delivery of resilient, efficient, and durable infrastructure.

Unlocking Value: Roads PPP Committee Explores Better Project Structuring and Stronger Oversight

BY JK OMONDI



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua chairs a high-level Roads Sub-Sector Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Committee meeting held on 9th April 2026.

The Road Subsector Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) Committee kicked off a renewed push to overhaul how Kenya structures road deals, with a sharp focus on value, efficiency, and accountability.

Chaired by Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, the high-level meeting brought together key sector leaders to rethink PPP frameworks and unlock better outcomes for the Government and taxpayers.

The discussions was a clear goal: deliver more value for money through smarter project design, balanced risk-sharing, and sustainable financing models.

The Committee took a candid look at past PPP projects, highlighting bottlenecks, inefficiencies, and lessons learned to chart a more transparent and results-driven path forward. Members emphasized the need to tighten project preparation, strengthen oversight, and ensure future partnerships deliver tangible impact on the ground.

Also present were the Kenya Roads Board Director General Mrs. Judith Otsyula and Ag. Roads Secretary Eng. Gilbert Arasa, underscoring the government's commitment to aligning leadership and expertise in driving the next generation of road infrastructure projects.

Pictorial



Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, alongside national and local leaders, accompanied H.E. President William Ruto on an inspection tour of the 55km Mto Mwangodi–Dawida–Mbale–Wundanyi–Bura Junction Road in Mwatate Constituency, Taita Taveta County, on 10th April 2026.



H.E. Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki inspected the ongoing construction of the Mogotio–Lake Bogoria–Kisanana–Kamukunji Road in Mogotio Constituency, Baringo County, on 17th April 2026.



Principal Secretary for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, poses for a group photo with a section of delegates during the 7th Engineering Partnerships Convention (EPC) 2026 held in Mombasa on 22nd April 2026.



H.E. President William Ruto presides over the launch of construction works for the Kiriko–Kagumoini–Gitugi–Chui–Karugia Road (RWC 690) in Murang'a County on 24th April 2026.



Construction works ongoing on the 13-kilometre Kamuwongo–Kandwia Road being upgraded to bitumen standard in Kitui County.



Construction of the Ngong Road–Naivasha Road overpass is nearing completion.

Upcoming Events



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
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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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