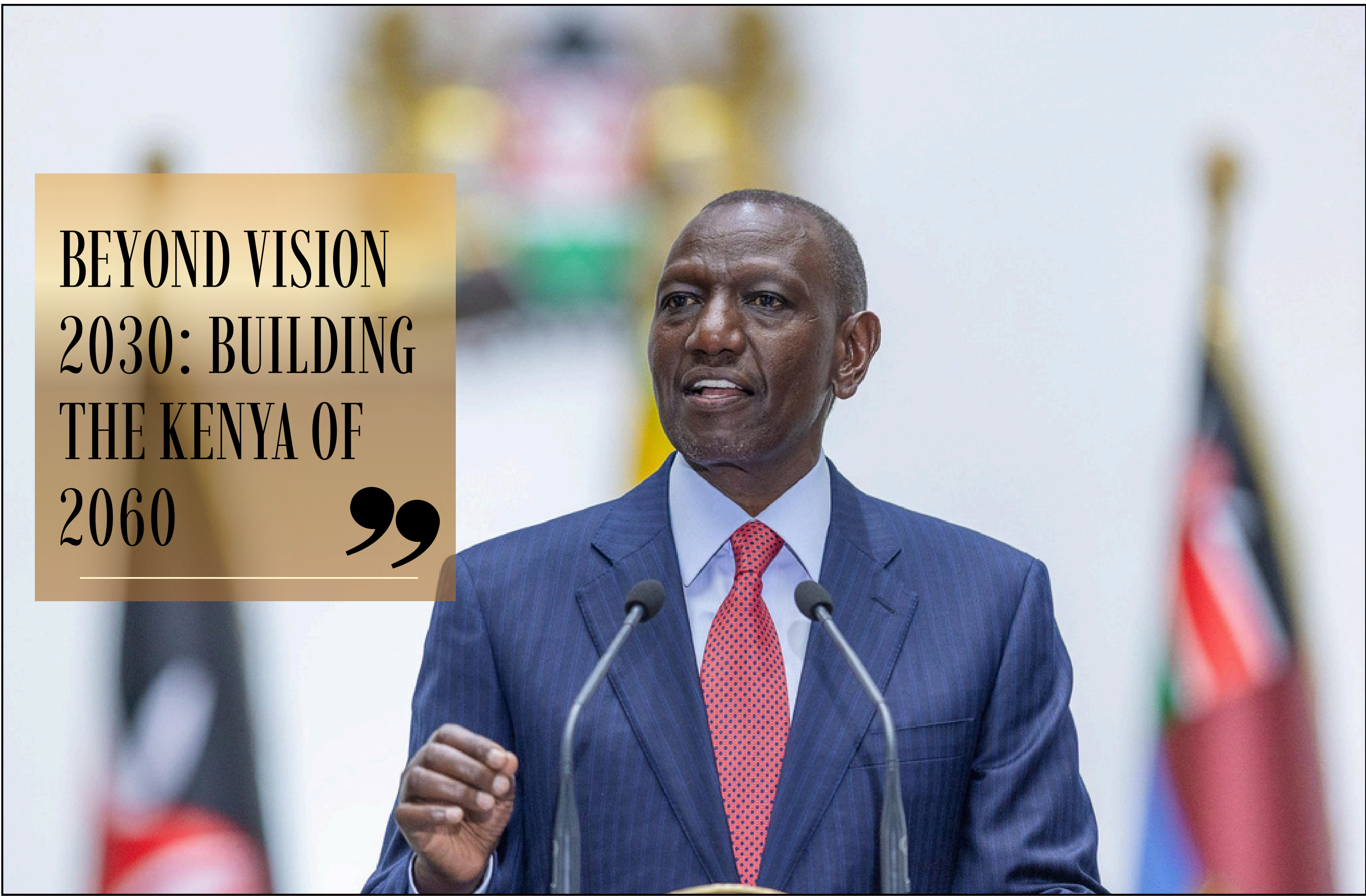
MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS

BEYOND THE HIGHWAY

A Publication of the State Department for Roads



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Message from the Principal Secretary

Over the past month, we sustained momentum in delivering infrastructure to strengthen seamless connectivity and unlock opportunities for Kenyans.. Across the country, new roads have been launched, with steady progress on the ongoing road works and strategic corridors being transformed. Our commitment is clear: every project must deliver value to Kenyans, meet the required standards and be completed on time.

We are strengthening engagement with contractors, project teams and stakeholders to address challenges early, sustain progress and ensure roads are delivered within the agreed timelines. In addition, the Government has mobilised KSh139 billion to clear certified outstanding bills owed to road contractors, with payments now being rolled out to ease cash-flow pressures and accelerate the delivery of road projects across the country.

As we look beyond Vision 2030 towards the Kenya we aspire to build by 2060, we are investing in the next generation of engineers and infrastructure leaders. Through engagements such as the recent ACEK Annual Conference, we are inspiring and equipping young professionals to shape Kenya's future. The Roads Sub-Sector is not only building infrastructure; we are investing in the youth who will drive Kenya's transformation into a first-world nation.

We have also intensified preparedness for the anticipated El Niño rains through the Government Multi-Agency teams, to strengthen coordination and put in place measures to ensure that our road network remains passable. No Kenyan should be cut off from essential services, markets or opportunities because of avoidable disruptions, and every effort will be made to protect lives and keep our roads open.

Through a collective effort, our staff across the State Department for Roads and its agencies have continued to demonstrate dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to our mandate to deliver a safe, durable and high-quality road network. I commend every member of staff for the efficiency, professionalism and steadfast commitment to effective service delivery.

Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

BEYOND VISION 2030: CONNECTING KENYANS TO OPPORTUNITIES

From roads that connect places to infrastructure that connects people, markets and opportunity, Kenya is entering a new era of transformation.

For decades, Kenya's roads have done more than connect destinations. They have opened markets, linked farms to consumers, connected communities to cities and positioned Kenya as a gateway to East and Central Africa. Access to schools and hospitals, move agricultural produce to markets and enable businesses to reach customers.

Beyond Vision 2030, the question is no longer simply how many kilometres of road Kenya can build. It is what kind of Kenya those roads will help create by 2060.

Vision 2030 laid the foundation for a globally competitive and prosperous Kenya. Investments in roads, railways, ports, airports and digital infrastructure have transformed the country's connectivity and economic landscape.

The emerging Beyond Vision 2030 conversation takes this ambition further. It means moving from seeing connectivity as an infrastructure statistic to understanding it as a national economic and social outcome

Dhogoye bridge along the Kisian – Usenge – Osieko (B10).

It means a Kenya where distance is no longer a barrier to opportunity; where a farmer in a remote area can reach markets efficiently, a student can access education, a patient can reach a health facility, a manufacturer can move goods competitively and businesses across the country can participate in national, regional and global value chains.

At the centre of this next phase is the Government's ambitious 10-year programme to dual 2,500 kilometres of highways and tarmac 28,000 kilometres of roads, alongside major investments across the wider transport network. The ambition is clear: improve mobility, reduce congestion, lower transport costs and unlock economic activity across every region.

Delivering infrastructure at this scale, however, requires more than ambition. It requires a new approach to how infrastructure is financed. Kenya cannot afford to depend overwhelmingly on conventional sovereign borrowing to ....

Mombasa: Economic Zone 1 Road within the Dongo Kundu

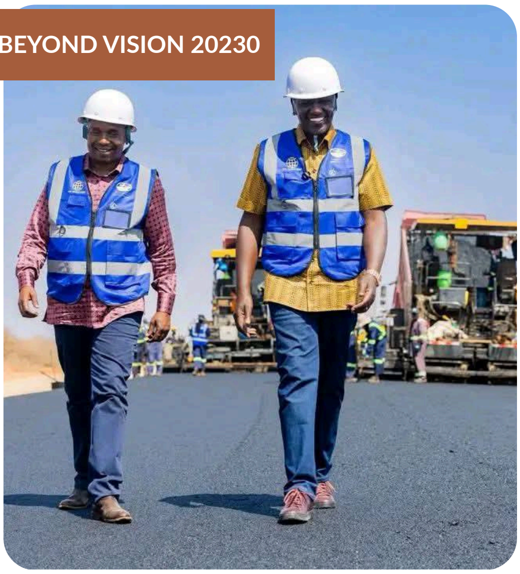
.... finance every major road, bridge and transport corridor. The scale of investment required demands that the country mobilises a broader pool of capital and develops innovative, sustainable financing models that bring together Government, domestic investors, development partners and the private sector.

H.E. President William Ruto commissions Ngong Road–Naivasha Road Junction Flyover. *(File Photo)*

This is where Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), infrastructure securitisation, asset recycling, pension and institutional investment, and other innovative financing mechanisms become increasingly important. Properly structured, these models can unlock long-term private capital for commercially viable infrastructure, spread investment costs over the life of an asset and accelerate delivery without placing the entire financing burden on the public balance sheet.

The objective is not simply to build more roads, but to build more infrastructure with smarter financing, creating an environment in which Kenya can make major infrastructure gains while reducing over-reliance on external borrowing and strengthening domestic participation in national development.

BEYOND VISION 20230



H.E President William Ruto inspects the Kulamawe-Garbatulla section of the 750 km Isiolo-Mandera road, part of the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project. *(File Photo)*

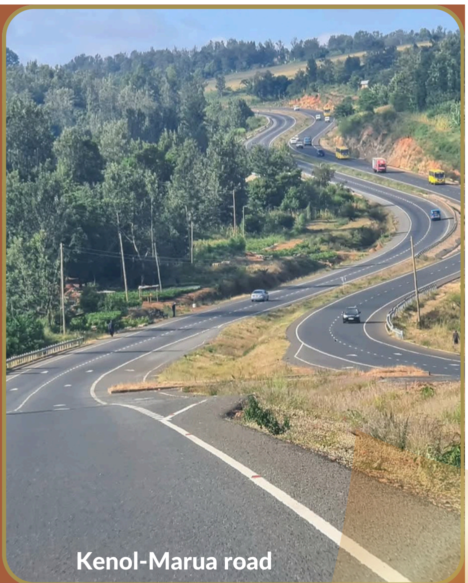
This approach can also transform infrastructure from being viewed primarily as a Government expenditure into a long-term national asset capable of generating economic value and attracting investment. And that transformation is already taking shape.

Among the flagship interventions is the Rironi–Naivasha–Nakuru–Mau Summit corridor, a critical artery connecting Nairobi to Western Kenya and the wider region. Its transformation into a modern, high-capacity highway is therefore about much more than widening a road. It is about increasing efficiency, strengthening trade and supporting economic growth.

Further North, the Isiolo–Mandera corridor, under the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, is opening a new frontier of connectivity. The approximately 740-kilometre corridor is designed to strengthen links between northern Kenya, the rest of the country and neighbouring countries, while unlocking economic opportunities for communities along the route.

These corridors demonstrate a fundamental truth: roads are not merely concrete and asphalt. Roads are economic infrastructure. They determine how fast opportunity moves.

The Kenya of 2060 must be connected from the centre to the periphery; from major cities to emerging towns; from production zones to markets; and from counties to national, regional and global economic corridors. No part of Kenya should be left at the margins of development because of inadequate connectivity.



Kenol-Marua road

FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO OPPORTUNITY.

That is why the next phase of infrastructure development must deliberately expand the geographic footprint of investment from the northern frontier to the coast, from the arid and semi-arid lands to the agricultural heartlands, from border communities to urban centres, and from established economic corridors to emerging centres of production.

The road programme is therefore not simply about constructing major highways. It is about creating a seamless national network in which trunk roads, county roads, urban roads, bridges and access roads work together to support one economy.

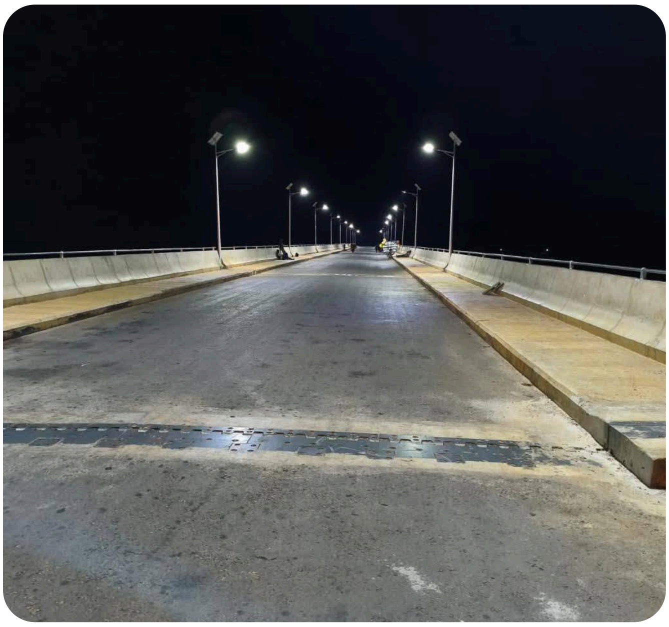
Northern Kenya, in particular, represents a major opportunity. Corridors such as Isiolo–Mandera and the LAPSSET corridor are critical to expanding connectivity beyond Kenya's traditional economic centres and strengthening the country's position as a regional gateway and a key link to the wider Horn of Africa.
The Beyond Vision 2030 conversation is about building on the gains of the past while confronting unfinished business and preparing Kenya for long-term changes in technology, population, climate and innovation.

For the roads sector, this means infrastructure that is smarter, safer, more resilient and more responsive to the needs of a changing economy. Future roads will increasingly integrate technology, intelligent traffic management, climate-resilient designs, safety infrastructure and data-driven maintenance. They will be designed not only for the economy Kenya has today, but for the economy Kenya aspires to build by 2060.

Because the Kenya of 2060 will not be built in 2060. It is being built now, kilometre by kilometre, corridor by corridor. We are not simply building roads for today. We are building the connected Kenya of tomorrow. From infrastructure to opportunity.

Rironi–Kamandura Interchange (file photo).

Lot 1: Mombasa–Mtwapa–Kilifi (A7) Road



Baricho Bridge and its approach roads in Kilifi County. *(file)*

Government Mobilises Ksh. 139Billion to Clear Contractors' Bills and Accelerate Ongoing Projects

BY ESTHER KARURI

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Hon. Davis Chirchir, addressing the road contractors and roads technical officials at Barabara Plaza.

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Hon. Davis Chirchir, alongside the Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, poses for a group photo with road contractors and roads technical officials at Barabara Plaza.

The Government has mobilised Ksh139 billion to clear certified outstanding bills owed to road contractors and accelerate ongoing road projects across the country, with payments for eligible works from the last quarter expected to commence on 21 August 2026 and be completed by 28 August 2026.

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport Hon. Davis Chirchir announced the measures during a meeting with road contractors, engineers and technical officers from the State Department for Roads and its implementing agencies on 19th August, 2026.

Under Phase I, the Government leveraged KSh7 per litre of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund to mobilise a total of Ksh175 billion, enabling the settlement of all pending bills certified works and eligible interest obligations up to March 2026 which enabled contractors resume projects that had slowed.

He confirmed that the Government had received the first tranche of the current programme and expects the next tranche shortly, paving the way for payments to contractors from this week.

CS Chirchir said the financing programme was necessary because conventional Exchequer allocations remain insufficient to meet the cost of ongoing road works and accumulated obligations. "We are not simply clearing yesterday's pending bills. Our objective is to stop creating tomorrow's pending bills," the CS said.

He assured contractors that payments under the new programme would be processed through an established framework based on properly measured, verified and certified claims. He urged contractors to remain on site and accelerate implementation, while meeting contractual requirements on time, cost and quality.

"There should be no middlemen and no preferential treatment. If a certificate is properly certified and eligible, it should be processed in accordance with the approved payment framework," he said.
The CS also directed engineers and technical officers to take full responsibility for the quality, cost and scope of road projects.
He emphasized the need for proper measurement, inspection, and certification of works, cautioning technical officers against certifying work that they cannot professionally defend.

More details on: https://bit.ly/4fdAxQk

Government Advances Electric BRT Bus Manufacturing and Assembly

NANCY OUMA

The Government is advancing plans to position Kenya as a regional hub for the manufacture and assembly of electric Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buses, driving sustainable urban mobility, industrialisation, job creation and local value addition.

The initiative brings together Government, industry and development partners to unlock Kenya's existing manufacturing capacity and strengthen the country's automotive value chain.

Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, addressed a multi-stakeholder engagement forum in Nairobi on 11th August, 2026 to assess Kenya's capacity and readiness for the manufacture and assembly of electric BRT buses.

Eng. Mbugua noted that the assessment follows 36 industrial visits conducted by a Technical Working Committee, which established significant local capacity in vehicle assembly, body building and the manufacture of key components, including steel, rubber and cables.

The PS said the Government will leverage the findings and stakeholder feedback to strengthen the investment environment, promote localisation and support the development of sustainable public transport through a Whole-of-Government Approach.

He also highlighted Kenya's ongoing efforts to align its vehicle regulations with global standards through the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), noting that this will enhance the country's ability to participate in and benefit from global automotive value chains.

The Roads Mechanical and Transport Division (MTD) plays a vital role in this initiative through vehicle standardisation and technical advice on mechanical and automotive engineering.
Also present was Principal Secretary for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, DG NAMATA, Eng. Francis Gitau, Chief Eng. MTD, Eng. Richard Thitai alongside development partners and stakeholders from the manufacturing sector.

Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua

Principal Secretary for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana

Chief Eng. MTD, Eng. Richard Thitai

Government Calls for Engineering Transformation to Drive Kenya's Infrastructure Development

BY ABDULLAHI MOHAMED

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Hon. Davis Chirchir, together with PS Eng. Joseph Mbugua, follows the proceedings during the 5th Annual Conference of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK) at Sawela Lodge, Naivasha.

The Government has called for greater collaboration with the engineering profession to accelerate infrastructure development, embrace innovation and develop sustainable solutions capable of responding to Kenya's growing population and changing economic needs.

Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport, Hon. Davis Chirchir, made the call when he officially opened the 5th Annual Conference of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Kenya (ACEK) at Sawela Lodge, Naivasha on 12th August, 2026.

The three-day conference brought together policymakers, consulting engineers, financiers, development partners, academia and the private sector to deliberate on the role of engineering in advancing sustainable development.

The CS said Kenya's population is projected to reach approximately 85 million by 2050, increasing demand for roads, water, energy and digital connectivity. He noted that meeting this demand will require the country to scale up infrastructure investment from the current 4–5 per cent of GDP to more than 7 per cent.

He said the changing global financing environment also requires Kenya to rethink how infrastructure projects are developed and financed, with greater emphasis on Public-Private Partnerships, innovative financing and projects capable of attracting commercial and institutional capital.
"Transforming Kenya into a first-world economy will demand your expertise, your innovation, and above all, an unwavering commitment to excellence," the CS said.

He cited the Rironi–Nakuru–Mau Summit Highway, the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway from Naivasha to Kisumu and Malaba, the 740-kilometre Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, the 536-kilometre Rural Roads for Economic Development Project and the .... Lake Victoria Basin Development Project among major infrastructure investments creating opportunities for engineering expertise and private sector participation.

Hon. Chirchir challenged the engineering profession to embrace three key transformations: from traditional to digital, from carbon-heavy to green, and from national to regional.He noted that technologies such as Artificial Intelligence-assisted design, digital twins and IoT-enabled infrastructure monitoring are already changing how infrastructure is designed, constructed and maintained, while green engineering and sustainable materials are becoming increasingly important in attracting investment.

The CS further urged Kenyan engineering firms to position themselves to benefit from opportunities emerging under the African Continental Free Trade Area, noting that Kenya's strategic position within regional transport and trade corridors provides an opportunity for local firms to expand their expertise across the continent.

At the national level, the Government's infrastructure agenda includes plans to dual 2,500 kilometres of highways and tarmac 28,000 kilometres of roads, alongside expansion of the SGR and modernisation of seaports and airports.

Mr. Chirchir said these priorities are supported by efforts to mobilise long-term financing through the National Infrastructure Fund, while reducing pressure on Government borrowing.

He also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening local capacity and promoting meaningful participation of Kenyan enterprises in infrastructure development. He urged the engineering profession to engage with the Local Content Bill, 2025, which seeks to strengthen local participation and ensure that infrastructure investments generate wider economic opportunities.

More details on: https://bit.ly/4i3EtoO

Transforming Historic Liberation Routes Into Engines of Development

BY JK OMONDI

MAU MAU ROAD LOT 2

The Mau Mau Road Lot 2 Project is transforming historic liberation routes once used by Mau Mau freedom fighters into modern road infrastructure that is now helping liberate communities from decades of transport and connectivity challenges.

Implemented by the roads agency Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the 154-kilometre project upgrades the entire corridor to heavy-duty bitumen standards, opening up the rugged Aberdare foothills while preserving the rich historical significance of the region.

Beginning at Mairi near the Kiambu–Murang'a border, the route passes through Kinyona, Karinga and Mununga, before extending northwards throughIchichi, Thuthu, Wanjerere, Kagongo, Mioro and Kiamuturi, and terminating at Kairo on the Nyeri County border.

The upgraded corridor also provides a strategic inter-county link through the Kinyona–Gatare–Njabini Road strengthening connectivity between Murang'a and Nyandarua counties and opening up new opportunities for trade and economic activity.

Construction is progressing steadily, with a combined 38 kilometres across the Ichichi, Kiruri, Wanjerere and Mioro sections having reached the top upgrade layer, marking significant progress towards completion.

Beyond improving mobility, the project is unlocking the economic potential of one of Kenya's premier tea-growing regions.

Reliable all-weather access is enabling green-leaf collection vehicles serving KTDA factories, including Mununga and Ikumbi, to move more efficiently, reducing post-harvest losses and lowering transportation costs.

Dairy and horticultural farmers are also benefiting from faster and safer access to the Thika–Kenol–Marua Highway and other key markets.

Improved connectivity is stimulating trade, expanding market access, supporting livelihoods and creating an enabling environment for new investment.

Designed to withstand the challenging terrain and high rainfall along the Aberdare slopes, the road incorporates extensive drainage infrastructure, including reinforced box culverts, pipe culverts and engineered roadside drainage systems to minimise flooding, landslides and erosion and ensure reliable year-round access.

The State Department for Roads remains committed to accelerating road development across the country, delivering a safe, efficient and reliable network that enhances connectivity, opens up communities and drives economic growth.

No region will be left behind as we deliver seamless connectivity and progress across Kenya.

45th KECOSO Games in Machakos County

FLORENCE WAIRIMU

Under Secretary at the State Department for Raods, Alfred Tanui hands over a trophy to KCAA KECOSO team

The Ministry of Roads and Transport shone at the 45th Kenya Communications Sports Organisation (KECOSO) Games, showcasing sporting talent, team spirit and a strong competitive edge during the week-long championships in Machakos County.

The Ministry and its agencies joined institutions drawn from Kenya's communications, ICT, transport, maritime and infrastructure sectors for the annual games, held under the theme "Enabling Teamwork through Sports."

From the field of play to the sidelines, the games offered more than competition. They brought colleagues together in a spirit of camaraderie, friendship and healthy rivalry, giving staff an opportunity to unwind, showcase their talents and forge stronger bonds across institutions.

For the Ministry of Roads and Transport, participation was about playing as one team. The games provided a platform to nurture talent, promote employee wellness and strengthen teamwork and collaboration, values that extend beyond the sporting arena into the delivery of public service.

The enthusiasm, determination and team spirit displayed by the Ministry's teams demonstrated that the same qualities that make a winning team on the field—discipline, collaboration, resilience and a shared goal—also build a stronger workforce.

Through its participation in KECOSO, the Ministry continues to champion the health and wellbeing of its employees, recognising that a healthy, motivated and connected workforce is better placed to deliver quality services to Kenyans.

As the curtains came down in Machakos on Saturday, the Ministry left with more than medals and memorable moments. It carried forward new friendships, stronger bonds and a renewed team spirit, setting the stage for an even stronger showing in future editions.

45th KECOSO GAMES

45TH KECOSO GAMES

45TH KECOSO GAMES

Pictorial

H.E. President William Ruto launches the upgrading to bitumen standards of the 41 km Bukembe–Nzoia Market–Mutomolo Road (C1311/C811)/ Masaek–KDF–Kabariot Roads/County Commissioner's Office–Kijana Wamalwa Referral Hospital Road, Bungoma County on 15th August, 2026.

Principal Secretary for Roads, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, receives H.E. President William Ruto during the launch of the 18-kilometre Mogondo–Cheramgoi–Mogor–Soit Road in Emurua Dikirr Constituency, Narok County, on 26 August 2026.

Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua joined Cabinet Secretaries Hon. Davis Chirchir (Roads and Transport) and Onesimus Kipchumba Murkomen (Interior) for a high-level briefing on security preparedness and the implementation status of projects under the Horn of Africa Gateway -740km Isiolo–Mandera Road on 19th August, 2026.

From left, Eng. Joseph Kochalle, Eng. Kevin Mwandoe, Eng. Francis Kanyi, Eng. Stephanie Moraa, Eng. Purity Mwanzia, Eng. Julius Miatu, Eng. Viola Naeku, Eng. Carey Rogers Abuya, and Eng. Brian Sinei pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the 5th ACEK Annual Conference 2026 in Naivasha.

From Right: Secretary Administration, (Roads) Evans Mutari, CEO (IRA) Mr. Godfrey Kiptum and CEO Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ), Naisiae Tobiko follows the proceeding during a high-level engagement with the CAJ aimed at strengthening institutional collaboration on complaints resolution and compliance with Access to Information requirements event held at Safari Park hotel on on 27th August, 2027.

Members of the Project Implementation Teams (PITs) engage in group discussions during a comprehensive capacity-building workshop organised by the State Department for Roads (SDR) in collaboration with the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM), bringing together participants from across the transport and infrastructure sectors in Mombasa.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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Editor:
Nelly Kosgey

Sub - Editor
Esther Karuri

Reporters:
Esther Karuri, JK Omondi, Abdullahi Mohamed, Wambui Spincer, Florence Wairimu, & Nancy Ouma

Photography:
JK Omondi

Design & Layout:
Abdullahi Mohamed & Wambui Spincer

@Roads_KE
@State Department for Roads
@Roads_KE
@Roads_KE
@State Department for Roads
@State Department for Roads
comms@roads.go.ke
+254 20-2723232
www.roads.go.ke

For news items and feedback, please send an email to Esther Karuri on esther.karuri@roads.go.ke