



# BEYOND THE HIGHWAY

A Publication of the State Department for Roads

## RIRONI – MAU SUMMIT HIGHWAY

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## From the Principal Secretary's Desk



As the Government prioritises infrastructure as a catalyst for economic growth, I am pleased to share progress in modernising Kenya's road network, advancing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and enhancing seamless national connectivity.

Over the recent months, we have accelerated construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance works on critical corridors in both urban and rural areas. From upgrading strategic trade routes to opening up previously inaccessible regions. Notably, the launch of the Rironi-Mau Summit construction and dualling marks a transformative milestone in our infrastructure journey. This flagship Public-Private Partnership project will ease congestion along the Northern Corridor, reduce travel time, and catalyse trade, tourism, and regional integration.

We extend sincere appreciation to His Excellency President Dr. William Samoei Ruto, whose leadership has ensured enhanced investment in infrastructure through pioneering financing models, particularly PPPs. These approaches are enabling the delivery of world-class roads without overburdening the public purse, while fostering efficiency, innovation, and sustainability.

At the same time, I reaffirm that road safety remains a top national priority. As we modernise our network, every Kenyan holds responsibility for ensuring every journey ends safely. Working with key agencies and partners, we have intensified public awareness, strengthened enforcement, and advanced targeted interventions to reduce accidents and save lives.

Looking ahead, I reiterate our resolve to deliver world-class infrastructure, improve mobility across all regions, and safeguard the lives of all road users.

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**Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

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# President Ruto Launches Rironi–Mau Summit Road, a Gateway to Prosperity and Transformation

BY ESTHER KARURI



**H.E President William Ruto launches the construction and dualling of the Rironi-Mau Summit Highway (A8) Road at Kamandura, Kiambu County on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.**

H.E President William Ruto on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 officially launched the construction and dualing of the historic Rironi–Mau Summit (A8) Highway and the Rironi–Mai Mahiu–Naivasha (A8 South) corridor, one of Kenya's most ambitious infrastructure projects financed through innovative public–private models.

The project spans 233 kilometres, covering the 81 km Rironi–Naivasha–Gilgil section, the 58 km Rironi–Mai Mahiu–Naivasha stretch, and the 94 km Gilgil–Nakuru–Mau Summit route. The project, being implemented over a two-year period, is expected to significantly ease traffic pressure along one of the country's busiest transport corridors.

Delivered through a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) between China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Consortium, and Shandong Hi-Speed Road and Bridge International Engineering Co. Ltd, the initiative reflects Kenya's move toward sustainable infrastructure financing and long-term development planning.

In his address during the groundbreaking ceremony, President Ruto said the project showcases the transformative potential of effective Government–private sector collaboration.

"This road project is more than a highway; it is a gateway to prosperity, unity and transformation," he stated. "It positions Kenya as a leader in innovative financing, modern transport, public–private partnerships, and the courage to think big when the world expects us to think small."

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He emphasised that the investment underscores Kenya's capacity to embrace smarter, more efficient models for delivering large-scale development.

The Nairobi-Nakuru-Mau Summit corridor will be upgraded to better handle heavy commercial traffic, with new infrastructure including interchanges, truck lay-bys, pedestrian bridges, improved lighting, safety barriers, drainage systems and intelligent transport technology for safer mobility.

As part of the Northern Corridor, the expanded highway is set to ease congestion, strengthen regional trade and cement Kenya's role as a logistics gateway for East and Central Africa, connecting Mombasa to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Beyond cross-border commerce, the upgrade is expected to cut travel time between Nairobi and western Kenya, improve access to markets, schools and hospitals, and stimulate tourism and investment along the route.

The initiative aligns with Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive growth, rural development and social integration. The project is expected to create an estimated 10,000 jobs, prioritising youth employment, skills transfer and local procurement of labour and materials.



H.E. President William Ruto and Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir applaud during the unveiling of the project plaque at the A8 road construction launch on 28th November 2025.

The launch was attended by Roads and Transport Cabinet Secretary Davis Chirchir, Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, national and county leaders, diplomats, and representatives from CRBC, the NSSF Consortium and Shandong Hi-Speed Group.



H.E. President William Ruto flags off construction works at the third site of the A8 Road at Mau Summit, Kericho County, on 28th November 2025.



H.E. President William Ruto flags off construction works at the second site of the A8 Road at Gilgil, Nakuru County, on 28th November 2025.



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua with other officials, reviews project details displayed on an information board during the A8 road construction launch on 28th November 2025.

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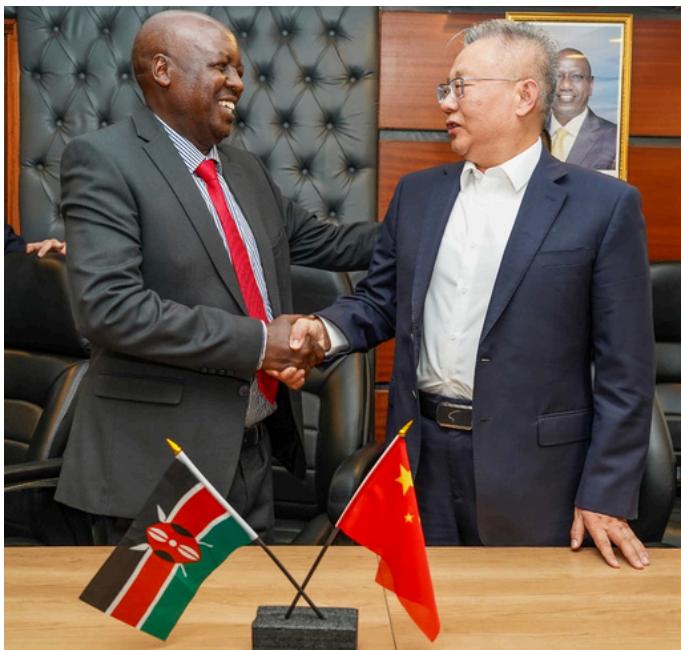


# RIRONI MAU SUMMIT



# PS Eng. Mbugua Meets SDHS to Strengthen Kenya's Road Development Partnerships

BY SILVIA WAMBUI



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua held talks with Shandong team led by Safety Director, Zhang Qiangmin at his office on 26th November 2025.

On Wednesday, 26th November 2025, Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua received a courtesy call from a high-level delegation of the Shandong Hi-Speed Group (SDHS), led by Safety Director Zhang Qiangmin, who were in the Country to participate in the launch of the Rironi-Mau Summit Road Project.

During the courtesy meeting, the two sides discussed ways of deepening collaboration to further strengthen Kenya's infrastructure network.

The delegation reaffirmed SDHS's full support for the upcoming commencement of the Gilgil-Mau Summit (A8) Highway Project, expressing strong confidence in Kenya's infrastructure sector. Also applauded sustained development momentum and the increased opportunities that continue to position Kenya as a key investment destination.



PS Mbugua appreciated SDHS's partnership and their contributions to Kenya's infrastructure growth, adding that the State Department for Roads looks forward to expanding cooperation with the Group on future national road projects.



# H.E President Ruto Announces Historic 10-Year Roads and Transport Expansion Program

BY JK OMONDI



H.E. President William Ruto delivers the State of the Nation Address at Parliament on 20th November 2025

In his State of the Nation Address on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, H.E President William Ruto, outlined an ambitious national roads and transport programme.

He announced plans to dual 2,500 kilometres of highways and tarmac 28,000 kilometres of roads over the next ten years to improve mobility and support economic growth.

The President noted that implementation had already begun, with the launch of construction and dualing of the Rironi-Naivasha-Nakuru-Mau Summit and Rironi-Maai Mahiu-Naivasha road—projects expected to ease the chronic congestion on these busy routes.

He also listed several major corridors earmarked for dualing nationwide, including Muthaiga-Kiambu-Ndumberi, Machakos Junction-Mariakani, Mau Summit-Kericho-Kisumu, Kisumu-Busia, Makutano-Embu-Meru-Maua, Mtwapa-Malindi, Mombasa-Lunga Lunga, Kericho-Kisii-Migori-Isebania, and the Northern Bypass, among others.

Additionally, he announced plans to extend the Standard Gauge Railway from Naivasha to Kisumu and later to Malaba starting January 2026 to strengthen regional trade links.



A section of Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries keenly follows the State of the Nation Address by H.E. President William Ruto at Parliament on 20th November 2025.

He said the government will leverage Public-Private Partnerships to support these investments, including airport and port modernisation and resolving challenges at Kenya Airways. The overall programme is expected to cost approximately KSh 5 trillion.

# Cabinet Approves Dualling of Muthaiga–Kiambu–Ndumberi Road to Ease Congestion

BY ESTHER KARURI



**Chaired by H.E President William Ruto, Cabinet approves the dualling of the 23.5km Muthaiga–Kiambu–Ndumberi Road on at State House, Nairobi on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**

The Cabinet approved the dualling of the 23.5-kilometre Muthaiga–Kiambu–Ndumberi Road, paving the way for improved mobility and reduced congestion between Nairobi and Kiambu counties on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at State House Nairobi.

The project will expand the existing two-lane highway into a modern dual carriageway featuring bypasses, loops, and access roads to boost traffic flow and cut travel times. It will also incorporate non-motorised transport lanes and commuter facilities to enhance road safety and accessibility for all users.

Cabinet noted that the corridor—serving Muthaiga, Runda, Ridgeways, and Kiambu Town—faces chronic traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

The dualling is part of the Government's broader plan to modernise the Nairobi Metropolitan transport network in line with Kenya Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable infrastructure and mobility.

# Roads Agency Scales Up Oversight to Drive Seamless National Connectivity

BY ESTHER KARURI

The Roads Agency (KENHA) has intensified infrastructure inspections across strategic transport corridors as part of efforts to strengthen mobility and accelerate Kenya's journey toward seamless national connectivity.

During a recent comprehensive multi-day assessment, the team inspected several key roads, including the Kapcherop-Moiben (B122) Road, Kachibora-Kapcherop (B15) Road, the expansive Kapenguria-Konyao-Alale-Kauriong-Loima-Lodwar (B70) corridor, and its extension toward Lokichoggio via Nanaam.

A critical highlight of the inspection tour was a detailed review of the proposed box culvert at Km 52+000 in Nasinyono, an essential structure expected to enhance drainage and safeguard the roadway from weather-related disruptions.

According to the inspection team, the exercise underscores the sector's commitment to ensure that all ongoing and completed works meet the highest standards of safety, accessibility, and durability.

The North Rift's rugged terrain and high economic potential make these transport links vital for trade, security operations, agricultural supply chains, and cross-border movement.

Led by Regional Director Eng. Philemon Kipkoech, the team emphasized that continuous monitoring and robust quality assurance are central to delivering resilient road networks that can withstand increasing traffic demands and climate variability.



KENHA team during a multi-day inspection tour of the North Rift roads.

"Our priority is to ensure every structure serves the community efficiently and safely. These corridors are lifelines, connecting farmers to markets, communities to essential services, and Kenya to regional partners," he said.

The Ministry of Roads and Transport, through strengthened supervision, improved engineering standards, and a sustained focus on long-term reliability, continues to drive the national agenda of a seamlessly connected Kenya.

The improved corridors across the country are expected to catalyse economic growth, enhance mobility, and expand opportunities across all the regions.

As Kenya accelerates its infrastructure development, such targeted inspections reaffirm the country's broader vision: a modern, safe, and integrated road network that supports prosperity for all.

# PS Roads Champions Engineering Excellence at IEK Convention Media Launch

BY SILVIA WAMBUI.



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, receives a gift from Eng. Shammah Kiteme, IEK President during the media breakfast launch of the 32nd IEK Convention in Nairobi on 20th November 2025

On Thursday 6th November, 2025, Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, graced the media launch of the 32nd Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) International Convention as Chief Guest at a Nairobi Hotel.

The event, hosted by the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK), was held ahead of the 32nd IEK International Convention - 25th-28th November 2025 in Mombasa.

The convention brings together engineers, policymakers, and industry leaders to deliberate on innovations shaping Kenya's infrastructure and economic transformation.

In his remarks, Eng. Mbugua commended the engineering fraternity for its pivotal role in Kenya's development journey, noting that the upcoming convention is not just a professional gathering but a national milestone in shaping the country's future.

his convention is more than an event, it is a reflection of our shared responsibility to build the Kenya we envision," he said. "Engineering is not just about structures; it is about systems, communities, and legacies that stand firm even when the winds of change blow."

Speaking to the theme of the convention, "Engineering the Future: The Roadmap for Kenya," the PS emphasized that innovation, sustainability, and ethics must guide the next phase of Kenya's infrastructure development.

He outlined four key priorities shaping the Ministry's roadmap:

1. Sustainability and Climate Resilience – Designing infrastructure that endures the realities of climate change.
2. Local Content and Technology Transfer – Empowering Kenyan professionals, contractors, and suppliers to build local capacity.
3. Quality Assurance and Professional Ethics – Upholding the highest standards of safety, integrity, and accountability.
4. Capacity Building and Lifelong Learning – Encouraging continuous professional development to keep pace with global advancements.

"The future is crafted by the hands that build today," Eng. Mbugua affirmed. "As we implement the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Vision 2030, engineers remain the backbone of sustainable growth."

He further highlighted recent collaborations with development partners, including a major infrastructure agreement with Chinese counterparts to expand transport corridors, highways, and bridges, with Kenyan engineers playing a central role in skills transfer and execution.

Concluding his address, the PS urged all sector players to rally behind the upcoming convention, calling it a platform to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and reaffirm the engineering community's role in nation-building.

Present were Eng. Shammah Kiteme (IEK President), Eng. Silas Kinoti (DG KURA), Eng. Margaret Ogai (EBK Registrar/CEO), IEK Council members and #iekconvention2025 partners.

# Kenya Marks World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, Renews Call for Daily Road Safety Action

BY NANCY AKINYI

On Sunday 23rd, November 2025, Kenya joined the global community in commemorating the 2025 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR), an annual observance dedicated to honouring lives lost on the roads and highlighting the urgent need for safer mobility.

This year's national event in Eldoret brought together a wide coalition of agencies, signaling renewed momentum in the country's drive toward reducing fatalities and strengthening post-crash response systems.



Road Sub-Sector officer distributes hand over a reflector jacket to a boda boda rider during the WDoR 2025 outreach in Eldoret town on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025.

Senior officials from the State Department for Roads led the multi-agency delegation, joined by teams from the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), NACADA, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, and other key partners in road safety.

The gathering paid tribute to victims of road crashes, offered solidarity to bereaved families, and served as a rallying point for renewed national action.

The commemoration also reflected on commitments made during the 2025 National Road Safety Conference, where stakeholders pledged stronger coordination across government, private sector, civil society, and enforcement agencies. Priority areas include enhancing post-crash care, expanding trauma support services, improving legal redress mechanisms, and embedding road safety education into public awareness programmes.

Officials noted that road traffic injuries continue to place a heavy burden on families and communities, calling for a shift from reactive responses to a daily culture of safety on highways, rural roads, and urban corridors. They emphasized that Kenya's fight against road carnage requires not only enforcement, but also engineering improvements, behaviour change, and sustained public engagement.

As part of the Eldoret activities, teams conducted a safety outreach campaign targeting boda boda riders, one of the most at-risk groups. Reflective jackets were distributed in the central business district to enhance rider visibility, especially during night travel, and to promote safer interactions between motorcycles, motorists, and pedestrians.

Stakeholders reaffirmed that the World Day of Remembrance is not just a moment of reflection but a call to action—urging Kenyans to honour the departed by embracing responsible road use and supporting national initiatives aimed at saving lives.

# Roads as Economic Connectors: Government Commits to Expanded Network Under BETA Agenda

BY ESTHER KARURI

Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, has underscored the government's commitment to expanding Kenya's road network during the Energy, Infrastructure and ICT public sector hearings on the Proposed FY 2026/27 and Medium Term Budget.

Speaking at KICC under the Kenya Vision 2030 framework on 19th November, 2025, Eng. Mbugua highlighted roads as critical connectors of communities, drivers of productivity, and enablers of economic growth.

The report showcased the sector's recent achievements: construction of 1,798.25 km of roads, rehabilitation of 305.87 km, and maintenance of over 130,000 km of road network. Looking ahead, the government plans to construct 1,891 km, rehabilitate 515 km, and maintain over 89,000 km of roads, backed by a development budget of KSh. 158.3 billion and a recurrent allocation of KSh. 73.8 billion.



Eng. Mbugua emphasized innovative financing solutions, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), to bridge funding gaps and deliver projects aligned with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, delivers a presentation during the Energy, Infrastructure and ICT public sector hearings on the Proposed FY 2026/27 and Medium-Term Budget at KICC on 19th November 2025.

The proposed budget presentation hearings provided a platform for public participation, ensuring citizens have a voice in national planning and resource allocation.



A section of participants during the Energy, Infrastructure and ICT public sector hearings on the Proposed FY 2026/27 and Medium-Term Budget at the KICC on 19th November 2025.

# President Ruto Advances Key Road Projects to Boost Regional Links and Spur Economic Expansion in Lower Eastern

BY JK OMUNDI



# President Ruto Advances Key Road Projects to Boost Regional Links and Spur Economic Expansion in Lower Eastern

BY JK OMUNDI



**President William Ruto launches the construction of the Kangundo-Mwala Road in Kangundo, Machakos County**





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