



MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ROADS

BEYOND THE HIGHWAY

A Publication of the State Department for Roads

The Marua Interchange

An aerial photograph of the Marua Interchange, a large, multi-level highway interchange with several roundabouts and overpasses. The interchange is surrounded by lush green trees and some buildings. The ground is mostly reddish-brown earth, indicating recent construction or clearing. The text 'The Marua Interchange' is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

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From the Principal Secretary's Desk



Happy New Year to all colleagues, partners, and stakeholders within the roads sub-sector!

The past year we made a remarkable progress, with accelerated road construction projects transforming connectivity across Kenya. These achievements have laid a strong foundation for what lies ahead: a continued drive to deliver modern, efficient, and safe road networks that link communities, unlock economic opportunities, and strengthen regional integration.

In 2026, our focus will be on consolidating these gains, fast-tracking ongoing projects, and advancing new initiatives that align with the Government's long-term agenda for seamless connectivity. This includes expanding economic corridors, improving access to key social and commercial hubs, and deploying innovative solutions to enhance mobility and safety for all road users.

Our vision is clear: to create a road network that supports national development, fosters trade and investment, and improves the quality of life for every Kenyan. Achieving this will require continued dedication, collaboration, continued collaboration with both the national and county leaders, and professionalism from all of us in the sub-sector.

As we move forward, we will intensify oversight and strengthen performance monitoring to ensure that projects are executed efficiently and completed within scheduled timelines.

Eng. Joseph Mbugua, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

H.E President Ruto Inspects the Marua Interchange

BY JK OMONDI



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, briefs H.E. President William Ruto on the scope and progress of works during an inspection of the Marua Interchange Project in Nyeri County on 13th January, 2026.

Nyeri County: H.E. President William Ruto on 13th January 2026 inspected the ongoing construction works at the Marua Interchange in Nyeri County, a key component of the 84-kilometre Kenol–Sagana–Marua Road Project.

The project forms part of the Trans-African Highway Corridor, which is currently 93 per cent complete, and is expected to significantly enhance traffic flow, improve road safety, facilitate trade, and strengthen regional integration within Nyeri County and the wider region.

During the inspection, the President noted that the road project will unlock economic opportunities by easing the movement of people and goods, while supporting agriculture, commerce, and cross-regional trade.

He further reaffirmed that in Nyeri County, more than eight major roads are currently undergoing upgrading during the current financial year, at a total cost of KSh 4 billion.

Additionally, the Government plans to construct a dual carriageway from the Marua Interchange to Nyeri Town, with a further extension to Chaka Trading Centre in Kieni Constituency, aimed at enhancing connectivity and supporting sustained economic growth.



H.E President Ruto with National and County Government leaders at the Marua Interchange on 13th January, 2026



Marua Interchange

Government Moves to Secure and Accelerate Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP)

BY LYDIA KISILU



Cabinet Secretaries Davis Chirchir, Kipchumba Murkomen (Interior), and Soipan Tuya (Defence), alongside Principal Secretaries Eng. Joseph Mbugua and Dr. Patrick Mariru (Defence) during a consultative meeting held on 23rd January, 2026.

Nairobi: Efforts to fast-track construction of the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP) along the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor have gained fresh momentum following a high-level security and development engagement in Nairobi.

The meeting brought together Cabinet Secretaries Davis Chirchir (Roads and Transport), Kipchumba Murkomen (Interior), and Soipan Tuya (Defence), alongside Principal Secretaries Eng. Joseph Mbugua (roads), Dr. Raymond Omollo (Interior), and Dr. Patrick Mariru (Defence), building on outcomes of a series multi-agency consultation in the month of January.

Deliberations emphasised the critical role of security, border stability, and enhanced inter-agency coordination in safeguarding the corridor, facilitating the seamless movement of goods and people, and ensuring the project realises its full economic and strategic potential for the region.

The HoAGDP is a transformative flagship infrastructure initiative in Kenya, funded by the World Bank at approximately USD 750 million. It aims to modernize and open up northern Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa. The project, implemented by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), focuses on the 740-kilometre Isiolo–Mandera regional road corridor.



A section of the Isiolo–Mandera Regional Road Corridor Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP) - (Courtesy Photo).

Also in attendance were Gilbert Masengeli (Deputy Inspector General), Jacob Narengo (Principal Administrative Secretary for Internal Security), and Major General Luka Kutto (the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command) among other senior officials.



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua chairs the HoAGDP consultative follow-up meeting at the Works Building held on 21st January, 2026.

Whole-of-Government Approach to Drive National Connectivity

BY ESTHER KARURI

Nairobi: As the Government advances its national development agenda, anchored on balanced economic growth and shared prosperity, the Ministry of Roads and Transport continues to work closely with local leaders to ensure the benefits of progress are felt equitably across all regions.

On Tuesday 26th January, 2026, Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir chaired a high-level consultative meeting at Transcom House, Nairobi, bringing together leaders from Trans Nzoia County to review priority government projects in the region.

The meeting focused on the expansion and upgrading of road networks and supporting infrastructure aimed at unlocking investment, enhancing connectivity, and fast-tracking the county's development agenda.

CS Chirchir reaffirmed the Government's commitment to improved road accessibility in Trans Nzoia County, noting its strategic role as a pillar of Kenya's food security and a key contributor to national economic growth.

"We are working closely with local leaders to ensure that infrastructure investments translate into inclusive growth, balanced regional development, and shared prosperity, with Trans Nzoia County positioned as a key beneficiary of this renewed push," said Chirchir.

Reaffirming the Government's infrastructure-led growth strategy, the Cabinet Secretary announced that over KSh 130 billion in pending bills had been settled, revitalising the roads and construction sector, which contributes 4.9 per cent to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua makes remarks during a consultative meeting with leaders from Trans Nzoia County at Transcom House, Nairobi held on 26th January, 2026.



Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir, chairs a high-level consultative meeting with leaders from Trans Nzoia County at Transcom House, Nairobi held on 26th January, 2026.

He further disclosed that, to sustain project delivery, an additional KSh 5 fuel levy will inject KSh 60 billion into infrastructure development, supplementing existing funding allocations.

At the national level, the Government is targeting the construction of 28,000 kilometres of roads, including 2,500 kilometres of dual carriageways, as part of its long-term connectivity and economic transformation agenda.

The meeting was attended by Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Government Coordination Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen; Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua; Kiminini MP Kakai Bisau; Endebes MP Dr. Robert Pukose; Trans Nzoia Woman Representative Lillian Siyoi; National Standards Council Chairperson Dr. Chris Wamalwa; Central Bank of Kenya Deputy Governor Dr. Susan Koech; alongside other leaders and senior government officials.

“We are working closely with local leaders to ensure that infrastructure investments translate into inclusive growth, balanced regional development, and shared prosperity, with Trans Nzoia County positioned as a key beneficiary of this renewed push,”
Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir.

Key Road Projects Poised to Transform the Lake Victoria Economy

BYJK OMONDI



Nyanza Region – Cabinet Secretaries Davis Chirchir and John Mbadi (National Treasury and Economic Planning), alongside Principal Secretary Eng. Joseph Mbugua, on Friday 23rd January, 2026 conducted an inspection tour of key road infrastructure projects in Nyanza region.

The Dhogoye Bridge is a critical link for communities along the Lake Victoria shoreline. The project features a 200-metre composite steel girder bridge founded on 1,200-millimetre diameter reinforced concrete bored piles, alongside the upgrading of 4.3 kilometres of approach roads to bitumen standards.

The team assessed progress on the Mbita-Sindo-Kiabuya-Sori and Agolo Muok-Otati-Kogore road projects, which are expected to enhance regional connectivity and stimulate economic growth by strengthening the fisheries and agricultural value chains that underpin the local economy.

Once completed, the infrastructure is expected to unlock economic opportunities in fishing, tourism, and agriculture, boost local trade, and create employment across the wider Lake Victoria region.

In a separate engagement, they also inspected ongoing works at the Dhogoye Bridge and its approach roads along the Kisian-Usenge-Osieko (B10) corridor, a project being implemented by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA).

The inspection was attended by the Acting Director General of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), Eng. J. K. Magondu, local leaders, and technical officers, who provided updates on implementation progress.



Kenya, Africa50 Deepen Talks on Innovative Financing to Fast-Track Road Infrastructure

BY MOHAMED ABDIKADIR



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, engages the Africa50 delegation led by the Managing Director for Project Development, Mr. Demba Diallo, during a consultative meeting at the Works Building, Nairobi, on 28th January, 2026.

Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, on 28th January 2026 hosted an Africa50 delegation led by the Managing Director for Project Development, Mr. Demba Diallo, during a courtesy call at his office.

Eng. Mbugua reaffirmed the Government's commitment to working with strategic investors to enhance national connectivity and unlock economic opportunities, in line with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The engagement focused on strengthening collaboration in the roads sector, with discussions centred on innovative financing models aimed at accelerating the delivery of critical road infrastructure.



The meeting was also attended by the Chief Engineer (Roads), Eng. James Kung'u, and Africa50 Investment Director, Mr. Moshuod Abolade.



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua welcomes the Africa50 Managing Director for Project Development, Mr. Demba Diallo, during a courtesy visit to his office on 28th January, 2026.

Roads Sub-Sector Accelerates Digital Shift to Boost Oversight and Delivery

BY ESTHER KARURI

The State Department for Roads is advancing its digital-first transition through the operationalisation of a technical working committee mandated to develop its first comprehensive internal digital policy to modernise operations and strengthen project oversight.

Speaking at the official launch of the forum on Monday, 19th January 2026, at KALRO Murang'a (Kandara), Secretary Administration Roads, Mr. Evans Mutari emphasized the Government's commitment to embedding digital systems at the heart of public service delivery.

He noted that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is no longer a mere support function but a strategic driver of efficient, transparent, and accountable infrastructure development.

"Digital transformation is fundamentally reshaping how institutions operate, enabling greater efficiency, flexibility, and responsiveness while maintaining high service delivery standards," Mr. Mutari observed.

He further highlighted the critical role of digital tools in enhancing safety, engineering precision, and evidence-based decision-making across the entire road development lifecycle



Participants of the Digital Policy Technical Working Committee pose for a group photo during the workshop on 19th January, 2026.



Secretary Administration Roads, Mr. Evans Mutari (File Photo)

The Secretary further challenged technical teams to leverage emerging technologies to develop proactive early-warning systems, using real-time data to detect risks such as structural failures or flooding, measures that could save lives and avert costly infrastructure damage.

Mr. Mutari also underscored digitization as a key enabler of transparency, accountability, and value for money in project implementation.

"The adoption of digital documentation, monitoring, and reporting systems will significantly reduce reliance on manual processes, while enabling accurate, real-time oversight of projects across the sub-sector," he noted.

The workshop convened a technical working committee to align priorities, harmonize digital approaches, and finalize a policy framework expected to modernize road management, strengthen project execution, and position the State Department for Roads at the forefront of the Government's broader digital transformation agenda.

MTRD Leads Adoption of Modern Road Testing Technologies in Nyanza

COURTESY KENHA



Plenary discussions on gyratory compaction of bituminous mixes led by Eng. Samuel Mitambo (MTRD) and Eng Catherine Mugaï (MTRD)

The Materials Testing and Research Division (MTRD), Nairobi, moved to strengthen quality assurance in road delivery across the KenHA Nyanza Region through a weeklong specialized training programme for Laboratory Technicians and Assistant Inspectors, following the acquisition of advanced laboratory equipment.

The training, conducted by a seasoned MTRD technical team, placed strong emphasis on the practical application of modern testing tools, including the Retroreflectometer, Speedy Moisture Tester, and Gyratory Compactor.

The equipment is expected to significantly enhance testing accuracy, operational efficiency, and compliance with required engineering standards in road construction and maintenance across the region.

Delivered through intensive, hands-on sessions, the programme equipped participants with essential skills in the proper handling, operation, and interpretation of test results, ensuring the new equipment is effectively integrated into routine field and laboratory operations.

Beyond skills transfer, the training strengthened the region's capacity to adopt emerging technologies, aligning road works with modern engineering practices.



Ms. Cheryl Atieno (MTRD) demonstrating the calibration of a retroreflectometer before using for quality control and testing of road marking.



Laboratory demonstration on the use of a gyratory compactor for Asphalt Concrete mixes by Mr. Calvin Maziga (MTRD) and Mr. Romano Karani (MTRD)

Pictorial



H.E. President William Ruto officially launches the 10-kilometre Sirwa–Kimngoron Road Improvement Project in Mogotio, Baringo County, marking a major boost to regional connectivity on 9th January 2026.



Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir, engages Nyandarua County leaders during consultative talks led by Cabinet Secretary Hon. Rebecca Miano (Tourism and Wildlife), under the Government’s nationwide outreach on priority development initiatives on 21 January 2026,



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, engages the Member of Parliament for Mbeere North Constituency, Hon. Leonard Wamuthende, during a consultative courtesy meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in infrastructure development in the region on 14th January, 2026.



Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, together with the Woman Representative for Lamu County, Hon. Muthoni Marubu, and the Member of Parliament for Maragua Constituency, Hon. Mary Wamaua, during a consultative meeting at the Works Building on 20th January, 2026



Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Davis Chirchir, accompanied by Principal Secretary, Eng. Joseph Mbugua, inspects the ongoing construction works along the James Gichuru–Rironi section of the A8 Highway on 31st January, 2026



Bungoma County: Ongoing tarmacking of the Salmond–River Khalaba Road is progressing steadily. Courtesy Photo: The Standard.

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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3. Font Size 12.
4. Font type Times New Roman.
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