

**SPEECH BY MR. DAVIS CHIRCHIR, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ROADS AND
TRANSPORT DURING THE INAUGURAL REGIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY INVESTORS
CONFERENCE HELD AT PRIDEINN PARADISE BEACH RESORT & SPA, MOMBASA, KENYA
ON 31ST MARCH – 1ST APRIL, 2026**

Governor, Mombasa County

Representatives from our sister states present

Principal Secretaries.

Chairperson and Board of Directors

Director Generals.

Distinguished Investors and Development Partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning,

It gives me great pleasure to join you today at this important Regional Highway Safety Investors' Conference 2026, convened under the timely and strategic theme: **“Roadside Stations: A Strategic Opportunity for Multimodal Transport and Highway Safety.”**

Allow me at the outset, to commend the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) and the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) for jointly organizing this conference and bringing together public and private sector leaders around a shared regional vision.

This forum reflects our collective commitment to building infrastructure that is not only efficient and modern, but also safe, resilient and investment ready.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Northern Corridor remains one of the most important trade and transport arteries in Africa. It is the economic lifeline connecting the port of Mombasa to the hinterland, extending to Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Within Kenya alone, this corridor spans approximately 840 kilometers from Mombasa to Malaba and serves as a critical channel for the movement of goods, services, people and ideas across the region.

As trade volumes grow and our economies become increasingly interconnected, the demands placed on this Corridor continue to rise. We are witnessing: increased movement of heavy commercial vehicles, expanding logistics needs, heightened road safety concerns, and the urgent need for climate-resilient infrastructure.

These realities compel us to think beyond conventional road construction. We must now invest in supportive infrastructure that makes our highways safer, smarter, more efficient and more commercially productive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The development of Roadside Stations (RSS) presents a transformative opportunity for our transport ecosystem. Roadside stations are not merely truck stops or rest points; they are integrated corridor support facilities designed to deliver multiple outcomes.

They enhance road safety by reducing driver fatigue through regulated rest areas, improve driver welfare and cargo security by offering secure perking, sanitation, accommodation and surveillance, strengthen trade efficiency by improving logistics coordination and reducing delays, stimulate regional economic growth through job creation and local enterprise development, and create new infrastructure investment opportunities with strong potential for sustainable returns.

In essence, roadside stations are where transport efficiency meets safety, commerce and investment.

Distinguished Guests,

The government of Kenya recognizes that the future of transport infrastructure lies not only in roads themselves, but in the ecosystems that support them.

Thus, we are deliberately positioning highway support infrastructure as a key frontier for investment. The opportunities before us are broad and commercially attractive. They include:

- 1. Safe truck parks and rest areas**
- 2. Smart traffic and corridor monitoring systems**
- 3. Logistics hubs and dry ports**
- 4. Rail and road intermodal terminals**
- 5. Emergency response and highway rescue systems**
- 6. ICT enabled trade facilitation systems**
- 7. Green mobility and climate resilient infrastructure**

These are not theoretical possibilities. They are real, urgent, and bankable opportunities aligned to the current and future regional demand.

Ladies and gentlemen,

No government can deliver transformational infrastructure alone. The scale of investment required demands strong and innovative Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The Government of Kenya remains committed to strengthening the enabling environment through policy and regulatory clarity, transparent procurement and partnership models, bankable project preparation, strong institutional coordination and long-term infrastructure planning.

We want investors to see Kenya, and indeed the Northern Corridor, not merely as a transit route, but as a high value infrastructure and logistics investment destination.

This conference is, therefore, not just a dialogue platform but a market place of ideas, capital and partnerships.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we pursue infrastructure growth and investment, we must remain anchored on one non-negotiable principle: Highway safety. Our highways are shared public spaces used daily by truck drivers, PSV operators, private motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and communities living along the corridor.

We, therefore, cannot speak of efficient transport without speaking safe transport. Roadside stations offer a practical solution to key safety concerns on our highways including: driver fatigue, unregulated parking, poor emergency response access, cargo insecurity, and unsafe roadside activities.

By investing in structured, secure and serviced roadside infrastructure, we are not only protecting goods and improving transit, we are saving lives and that must remain at the heart of our transport agenda.

Distinguished delegates,

The future of corridor development lies in multimodal integration. The Northern corridor must function as a seamless system connecting maritime, road, and rail systems into one efficient and competitive logistics network.

This requires infrastructure that supports: efficient cargo transitions, digital trade systems, freight optimization, and improved last mile and cross boarder efficiency. Roadside stations, logistics nodes, and intermodal facilities will be critical to unlocking this integration.

When we invest in these systems, we are not simply improving movement, we are expanding trade, enhancing regional competitiveness, and deepening East and Central Africa's economic integration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Modern infrastructure must also be responsible infrastructure. Investors and governments alike are increasingly guided by Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and rightly so. The projects we envision under this initiative are aligned with key ESG priorities including:

- Climate resilient infrastructure
- Green transport solutions
- Low carbon corridor development
- Driver and community welfare
- Job creation and local empowerment
- Transparency and regional cooperation.

This is important because the systems we build today must withstand tomorrow's environmental, social and economic pressures.

Distinguished Investors and Partners,

My message to you today is clear: The opportunity is here. The need is urgent. The timing is right.

We present to you a corridor with growing traffic demand, strong regional relevance, clear infrastructure gaps, and significant potential for commercially viable, impact driven investment.

I therefore, invite you to engage deeply during this conference. Explore the opportunities presented, interrogate project concepts, meet our technical teams, build relationships and

most importantly, be part of shaping new generation of transport infrastructure in this region.

We are not simply asking you to fund projects, we are inviting to co-create a safer, smarter and more sustainable transport future.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, the vision before us is bold, but achievable. A northern Corridor that is safer for road users, more efficient for trade, more secure for cargo, more resilient to climate challenges and more attractive to investors.

Let this conference mark not just another gathering, but the beginning of concrete partnerships and transformative action.

As we exploit the available opportunities, allow me to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Kenya to continue supporting initiatives that enhance connectivity, unlock investment, improve safety and accelerate regional integration.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and successful engagements.

Shukran.