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Kenya National Highways Authority

Quality Highways, Better Connections

NEWS BULLETIN

Beyond the black top | May, 2026

Realignment of Nithi Bridge

A long-awaited journey towards safety, hope, and healing





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BY MARY NJENGA

For many Kenyans, the mere mention of Nithi Bridge evokes a sense of unease.

It is a name that has, for decades, been associated with tragedy rather than transit; sorrow rather than safety. Along the Embu–Meru (A9) Highway, the bridge has become synonymous with one of the country's most notorious blackspots, a place where countless lives have been lost.

Residents of Tharaka Nithi County and regular users of the route know the stories all too well. They remember the devastating crashes that have repeatedly claimed dozens of lives at a time, leaving behind grieving families and communities struggling to comprehend the scale of the losses. For many survivors, the memories remain vivid; memories of loved ones lost, lives permanently altered by disability, and the trauma that lingers long after the wreckage has been cleared.

Yet amidst these painful memories, hope is emerging.

The planned construction of a new, modernised Nithi Bridge represents

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EDITOR'S NOTE

- May milestones-

Authority's commitment to excellence

Welcome to the May edition of the KeNHA News Bulletin.

As we continue to advance our mandate to deliver quality, safe, and sustainable national road infrastructure, this edition presents a rich collection of stories that reflect the Authority's commitment to excellence, innovation, environmental stewardship, and people-centred development.

We begin with a thought-provoking piece from the Director General's Desk on building and sustaining a high-performance organizational culture. The article explores characteristics of such a culture and highlights its critical role in achieving our strategic objectives and delivering exceptional service to Kenyans.

In this edition, we spotlight the proposed KSh 7.5 billion Nithi Bridge Project, a transformative intervention designed to enhance safety and mobility along one of the country's busiest corridors. More than a major infrastructure investment, the new bridge represents a commitment to restoring confidence, dignity, and peace of mind for residents and thousands of road users who rely on the route every day.

Innovation in road safety also takes centre stage as our writer explores the adoption of photoluminescent road markings. These glow-in-the-dark markings offer a promising solution to poor night-time visibility by absorbing light during the day and emitting a visible glow after dark, contributing to safer roads and improved user experience.

Recognizing that the future of infrastructure development depends on a skilled and competent workforce, we feature an insightful article from our Western Regional Office on the Authority's commitment to nurturing young professionals through structured attachment and internship programs. The piece underscores how capacity building continues to play a vital role in shaping the next generation of road infrastructure leaders.

Environmental sustainability remains a key pillar of our operations. We, therefore, highlight the collaboration between KeNHA, Emerald Fusion, and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Kenya Community in implementing the Sidewalk Sprouts Tree Planting Initiative at the Lang'ata Interchange along the Southern Bypass during Labour Day celebrations. The initiative demonstrates how strategic partnerships can contribute to a greener and more sustainable infrastructure.

In recognition of Mother's Day, we feature a reflective article on the significance of celebrating mothers and the invaluable role they play in shaping families, communities, and society at large. Their love, guidance, and sacrifice influence generations and inspire positive values.

Adding a personal touch to this edition, one of our contributors shares his daily commute from South C to KeNHA Headquarters at Barabara Plaza. His narrative captures the lessons, challenges, and moments of appreciation that come with navigating the road network that connects thousands of Kenyans every day.

Our Swahili section commemorates Siku ya Wafanyakazi Duniani (Labour Day), reminding us that, beyond the celebrations, the day signifies a long and determined struggle of workers who championed fundamental rights and dignity in the workplace.

As always, we extend our sincere gratitude to all our readers and contributors for your continued support. Your valuable feedback, opinions, and contributions have played an important role in enhancing the quality and relevance of this publication.

We hope you find this edition informative, inspiring, and engaging.

Samwel Kumba, PRM



Building a high-performance organizational culture

The success of any organization is determined not by its structures, systems, or resources, but by the people who bring its vision to life. At the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), our ability to deliver quality, safe, and sustainable road infrastructure is attributable to our organizational culture of dedication, professionalism, and collective effort. Every member of staff, regardless of role or designation, contributes to the realization of the Authority's mandate. We all share the responsibility to foster a high-performance organizational culture. A culture that extends beyond policies and procedures. Such a culture is shaped by our daily actions, shared values, and collective commitment to excellence. It is reflected in how we approach our work, collaborate with colleagues, engage stakeholders, respond to challenges, and, most importantly, deliver quality services to the citizens we serve.

As we continue to advance the Authority's mandate, it is important to reflect on some of the defining characteristics of a high-performance organizational culture.

Effective leadership

Leadership is not confined to management positions. It is demonstrated whenever an individual takes initiative, solves a problem, mentors a colleague, or inspires others through their actions.

At every level of the organization, employees have the opportunity to lead by example. Effective leadership fosters trust, encourages innovation, and promotes accountability. It creates an environment where employees feel empowered to contribute ideas, take ownership of their responsibilities, and work collaboratively toward common goals.

Professionalism

As custodians of the national road network, we carry responsibilities that extend beyond our individual roles. Every task we undertake contributes to the Authority's reputation, credibility, and public image. Professionalism is demonstrated not only through technical competence but also through integrity, accountability, ethical conduct, and respect for our stakeholders. By consistently upholding these standards, we strengthen public trust and reinforce confidence in the Authority's ability to deliver its mandate effectively.

Investing in staff

A dynamic and evolving sector requires continuous investment in human capital. The road infrastructure landscape is changing rapidly, with increasing emphasis on climate resilience, digital technologies, road safety, and sustainable development. These emerging realities require a workforce that is agile, knowledgeable, and future-ready. It is, therefore, encouraging to witness the growing culture of learning within the Authority through leadership development courses, professional certifications, technical training, and continuous capacity-building initiatives. Investing in employees not only enhances individual performance but also strengthens institutional capability and long-term organizational success.

Mentorship

The future success of KeNHA depends on our ability to prepare the next generation of leaders. The Authority is privileged to have experienced professionals who have dedicated decades of service and possess invaluable institutional knowledge. It is, therefore, essential to deliberately expand opportunities for mentorship, coaching, and knowledge transfer. When experienced officers guide younger colleagues, they preserve institutional memory, strengthen technical expertise, and ensure continuity in service delivery. Succession planning is not merely an administrative process; it is a strategic investment in the Authority's future sustainability and growth.

Employee engagement

Organizations perform best when employees feel valued, heard, and connected to a shared purpose. Across our directorates and departments, we can attest to the positive impact of teamwork in overcoming challenges, coordinating complex assignments, and delivering results under demanding circumstances. When employees collaborate, share ideas, and support one another, innovation flourishes, and organizational performance improves. A culture of inclusion and engagement enables individuals to contribute their best while strengthening relationships across the organization.

As we implement transformative projects across the country, we must continue creating an environment where every employee understands how their contribution supports the Authority's broader mission. When individuals recognize the direct connection between their work and its impact on communities and the nation, their sense of purpose and commitment is significantly strengthened.

By fostering a culture that rewards excellence, embraces innovation, promotes accountability, and invests in people, we position ourselves to achieve world-class highways and sustainable infrastructure outcomes. I encourage all of us to become leaders in our respective roles – to take ownership, inspire others, and work collaboratively toward the vision of KeNHA. Let us continually challenge ourselves to grow professionally, support our colleagues, and remain committed to the values that define the Authority.

Together, we can foster a high-performance culture that empowers our workforce, strengthens our institution, and enables us to deliver lasting value to the nation. Ultimately, we will achieve a quality national trunk road network while building a stronger and more resilient Authority for future generations.

Eng. Luka Kimeli

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far more than a major infrastructure investment. It is an overdue intervention that seeks to restore confidence, dignity, and peace of mind to thousands of road users who traverse the corridor every day.

The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) is implementing the KSh 7.5 billion project, which has been awarded to China Wu Yi Company Limited. The project entails the construction of a completely new 2.7-kilometre alignment designed to eliminate the dangerous road geometry that has contributed to numerous accidents over the years.

At the heart of the project is an impressive 880-metre-long bridge, or viaduct, that will soar approximately 100 metres above the Nithi River valley. The new alignment replaces the existing steep descent and sharp curves with a gentler, stabilised gradient ranging between 1.2 per cent and 8 per cent, significantly improving visibility, vehicle control, and overall road safety.

The bridge will feature an 8-metre dual carriageway accompanied by 2-metre pedestrian walkways and shoulders on both sides, enhancing accessibility and safety for both motorists and pedestrians. To further strengthen safety measures, modern surveillance cameras and monitoring gantries will be installed to enforce speed regulations, with a maximum speed limit of 70 kilometres per hour on the bridge. The system will also help curb dangerous overtaking and improve traffic management.

For residents, the project represents the promise of a future where road travel is no longer overshadowed by



Stakeholder engagement session

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EDITORIAL

- Editorial Director:
  Samwel Kumba - DD - CC
- Chief Editor:
  Charles Njogu - AD-CC
- Photo Editor:
  Joseph Thuku - PCCO
- Chief Sub-Editor:
  Mary Njenga - ACCO
- Sub-Editor:
  Sandra Ndiwa - ACCO
- Graphic Designer:
  Linah Odhiambo
  Raphael Korir - CCO
- Photography:
  Brenda Awiti - ACCO
  Daniel Kigen - Intern

CONTRIBUTION/ WRITERS

1. Mary Njenga
2. Sandra Ndiwa
3. Winnie Bitutu
4. Churchill Ouma
5. Nelly Bitengo
6. Babulary Otieno
7. Faith Kimanzi

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fear.

During recent public participation forums conducted by KeNHA in collaboration with the National Lands Commission (NLC), affected residents expressed mixed emotions. While many acknowledged the pain of relocating from ancestral homes and surrendering land that has been part of their families' heritage for generations, there was also a remarkable sense of understanding and sacrifice.

Many residents recognised that the benefits of the project extend far beyond individual interests. Their willingness to support the project reflects a shared desire to end the cycle of tragedies that has defined Nithi Bridge for far too long. For them, the sacrifice is not merely about giving up land but creating a safer future for their children, neighbours, and the thousands of travellers who rely on the corridor every day.

Indeed, the significance of the new bridge goes beyond engineering and construction. It is about rehabilitating a place that has become associated with loss and transforming it into a symbol of progress and safety. It is about restoring public confidence in a vital transport corridor and bringing a sense of closure to communities that have borne the burden of repeated road carnage.

The project has already achieved critical milestones. Procurement and design processes have been completed, while KeNHA and NLC are currently finalising the land valuation and compensation processes to facilitate full site handover to the contractor. Major construction works are expected to be completed by 2027.

When the new bridge finally opens to traffic, it will stand as a remarkable engineering achievement and a testament to the value of investing in safer roads and protecting human life.

For decades, Nithi Bridge has been remembered for the tragedies that occurred around it. The hope now is that future generations will know it for something entirely different: a landmark of safety, resilience, and a renewed commitment to ensuring that every journey ends safely.

Exploration of Photoluminescent Road Marking in Kenya's Highway Safety Agenda



BY SANDRA NDIWA

As Kenya expands and modernises her road network, highway safety remains a growing concern. Despite significant investment in roads, the country continues to grapple with rising road fatalities, deteriorating infrastructure, poor night visibility, and inadequate road markings. These challenges have renewed attention on innovative road safety technologies, among them photoluminescent—or glow-in-the-dark—road marking systems.

Recent road safety statistics paint a troubling picture. Kenya recorded more than 5,000 road fatalities in 2025, with pedestrians and motorcyclists remaining the most vulnerable road users. Reckless driving, fatigue, poor road infrastructure, and inadequate traffic control systems have been cited among the leading causes of crashes. Equally concerning is the condition of many highways where faded lane markings, missing signage, vandalised lighting, and poor drainage compromise driver visibility and decision-making, particularly at night and during heavy rains.

Several highways have increasingly drawn concern from motorists and safety officials alike. The Nairobi – Nakuru Highway has faced criticism over damaged sections, high road shoulders and missing markings that contribute to loss of vehicle control. Along the Londiani – Muhoroni Corridor, local administrators have repeatedly called for redesign and improved road signage following repeated fatal crashes linked to poor highway geometry and insufficient traffic guidance.

These challenges raise an important question: can smarter road marking technologies help reduce Kenya's growing road safety crisis?

Traditional road markings largely depend on retroreflective paint embedded with glass beads. These markings become visible when illuminated by vehicle headlights. However, their effectiveness diminishes significantly during rainfall, flooding, power outages or where street lighting is absent or vandalised—conditions that are increasingly common on Kenyan roads.

Photoluminescent road markings offer a potentially transformative alternative.

Glow-in-the-dark road marking paint is a photoluminescent coating designed to absorb sunlight or artificial light during the day and emit a visible glow at night. Unlike conventional reflective paints, the technology provides continuous illumination without depending on vehicle headlights or electricity.

The science behind this innovation lies in the use of strontium aluminate, a phosphorescent compound capable of storing solar energy and gradually re-emitting it as visible light after darkness sets in. Because the system is self-illuminating, it can continue functioning even during blackouts or in remote highway stretches lacking street lighting.

For Kenya, where road lighting vandalism and maintenance challenges regularly undermine visibility, such independence from electrical infrastructure presents an attractive proposition.

Photoluminescent markings could prove particularly useful along high-risk corridors, bypasses, tunnels, interchanges, pedestrian crossings and sections vulnerable to fog, rainfall or frequent power interruptions. By providing clearer lane demarcation and edge guidance, they may help reduce night-time lane departure crashes and improve driver confidence.

The technology is already attracting international interest. Trials conducted in countries such as Malaysia have provided valuable insights into performance under tropical conditions. However, those studies also revealed important limitations.

Two conditions remain critical before large-scale deployment can be justified: affordability and durability.

At present, commercially available photoluminescent paints remain significantly more expensive than conventional road-marking systems. Equally important, long-term durability in high-humidity tropical environments has not yet consistently achieved the five-year benchmark considered necessary for cost-effective highway deployment. Malaysia's pilot studies found that while the technology improved visibility, current products still struggle to meet both the required cost threshold and sustained performance standards. This means photoluminescent



Malaysia glow in the dark road marking

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technology should not yet be viewed as a complete replacement for traditional markings, but rather as part of a broader road safety strategy.

Kenya's highway challenges are multidimensional and require equally layered solutions.

First, the Authority must prioritise maintenance alongside new construction. Many accidents are not merely a consequence of driver behaviour but of neglected road infrastructure, faded markings and damaged signage. Routine repainting, shoulder rehabilitation and drainage maintenance remain essential.

Second, Kenya may benefit more immediately from wider adoption of high-performance thermoplastic and structured retroreflective markings designed for wet-weather visibility. These systems provide improved durability and better reflectivity during rainfall compared to standard paint.

Third, enforcement and engineering interventions must work together. Better lane markings alone cannot offset speeding, drunk driving or fatigue. Strengthened NTSA enforcement, intelligent transport monitoring and stricter contractor accountability remain necessary.

Fourth, highway lighting protection and anti-vandalism measures require urgent attention. Stolen cables, damaged streetlights and missing road signs continue to undermine road safety investments.

Finally, pilot projects could help determine whether photoluminescent systems are viable under Kenyan conditions. Rather than immediate nationwide deployment, KeNHA could identify selected blackspots and high-risk corridors for controlled trials. Such pilots would allow engineers to evaluate visibility, maintenance demands, weather resistance and long-term cost effectiveness before wider implementation.

Road safety is rarely solved through a single intervention. Yet as Kenya confronts rising road fatalities and increasingly complex transport demands, innovations such as photoluminescent road markings deserve serious consideration.

The future of safer highways may not lie solely in building more roads—but in building smarter, more visible and more resilient ones.

KeNHA instils capacity to the future generation



BY WINNIE BITUTU



Attachees engage in discussion on weighbridge systems and road asset management.

"Good morning! I'm seeking an attachment opportunity. My name is Brian, and I am a Civil Engineering student from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology."

This scene is a familiar one at the Western Region Customer Care office of the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA). Students often walk through the doors carrying a mixture of anxiety and excitement, eager to take their first steps beyond the lecture halls and into the dynamic world of infrastructure development. For many of them, this simple request marks the beginning of a transformative journey.

At the Western Regional offices, these inquiries are more than just routine; they harmonize with KeNHA's mission to nurture talent and bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience, paving the way for the next generation of professionals in Kenya's infrastructure sector.

While KeNHA's core mandate is management, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of national trunk roads, the Authority also prioritizes capacity building. The regional office opens its doors wide to students from universities and national polytechnics through well-structured attachment and internship opportunities.

During the May–July quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year, students from institutions such as Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kaimosi Friends National Polytechnic, Eldoret National Polytechnic, Sigalagala National Polytechnic, Bumbe National Polytechnic, and Shamberere Technical Training Institute joined for hands-on training, especially in Civil Engineering and related fields.

What sets this program apart is its commitment to an immersive, practical approach. Rather than confining students to office-based observation, the Authority ensures they gain real exposure to ongoing projects. From road construction to bridge rehabilitation, students gain valuable industry knowledge that enhances their competence, innovation, and career readiness.

The internship and attachment programs designed to equip students with practical skills, hands-on experience, and professional exposure that complement classroom learning. By engaging directly with engineers, contractors, and technical teams, students gather industry insights that boost their competence, creativity, and career readiness.

One of the biggest hurdles facing young graduates today is the gap between academic training and industry expectations. KeNHA, Western Region, is proactively addressing this challenge by integrating students into real working environments where they not only observe processes but also understand the reasoning, standards, and responsibilities involved.

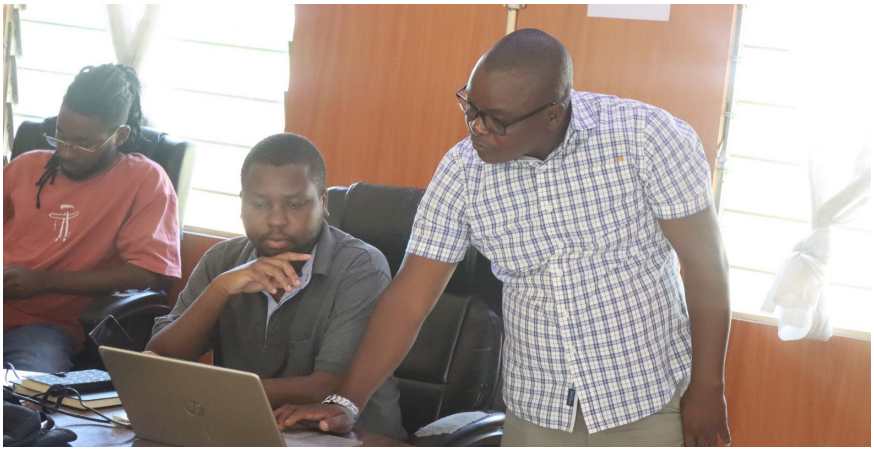
Beyond technical expertise, students also develop essential workplace skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, and problem-solving, which are critical in the professional world.

Behind every successful attachment experience is mentorship. Engineers and technical staff within the region play a vital role in guiding students, addressing queries, and sharing practical insights drawn from years of experience in the field. This mentorship fosters career guidance, builds confidence, and inspires professional excellence.

The initiative also strengthens collaboration between the Authority and participating universities and national polytechnics by supporting skills development, knowledge sharing, and capacity building for the mutual benefit of both students and institutions.

The impact of the attachment and internship program extends far beyond individual learners. It contributes to the development of a highly skilled workforce, supports continuity within the engineering profession, and reinforces KeNHA's commitment to empowering young talent and promoting sustainable national development.

As students continue to gain practical exposure across various projects in the Western Region, it reflects the commitment to nurturing future professionals who will one day drive Kenya's infrastructure agenda.



Facilitator leads a session on axle load control and pavement protection under the EAC Vehicle Load Control Regulations.

TREE PLANTING - NAIROBI REGION





His Excellency, President William Ruto inspects the beautification of the JKIA - Westlands Road

TREE PLANTING - NAIROBI REGION





KeNHA participated in a tree-planting exercise led by Director General Eng. Luka Kimeli and Director of Highway Design and Survey Eng. Monica Abonyo, in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service staff at Ngong Forest.

KENYA GEOSPATIAL AND REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE - MOMBASA COUNTY





KeNHA participated in the 1st Kenya Geospatial and Real Estate Conference, organized by the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya in Mombasa.

KeNHA partners in a greening initiative



BY CHURCHILL OUMA

The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) continues to strengthen its commitment to environmental sustainability through strategic partnerships to enhance the country's road network and public spaces. Recently, the Authority collaborated with Emerald Fusion and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) -a global, volunteer-driven organization that mobilizes engineering knowledge and expertise to address social, environmental, and developmental challenges through sustainable, community-centred solutions. The partnership culminated into the implementation of the 'Sidewalk sprouts tree planting initiative' at the Lang'ata Interchange along the Southern Bypass on Labour Day.



The initiative brought together approximately 100 participants who planted close to 200 trees within the interchange, transforming it to a greener and more aesthetically appealing section. The tree-planting exercise is part of broader efforts to promote environmental conservation, improve urban landscapes, and contribute to climate resilience through increased tree cover. Trees play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, improving air quality, reducing urban heat, enhancing biodiversity, and creating more pleasant environments for road users and surrounding communities.

Addressing the significance of the initiative, project partners highlighted the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration in delivering sustainable environmental solutions; a demonstration of how partnerships between public institutions, professional organizations, private sector actors, and local communities can create lasting positive impact.



Beyond the tree planting exercise, the initiative has entered an active sustainability phase focused on ensuring the long-term survival and growth of the trees. This includes regular watering, monitoring, maintenance, and tracking of tree survival rates to maximize environmental benefits and safeguard the investment made during the planting exercise.

A key success factor of the project has been the involvement of the local Maasai community, whose continued participation in caring for and monitoring the trees has strengthened community ownership and enhanced the sustainability of the initiative. Their support underscores the importance of engaging local communities in environmental conservation efforts and fostering a shared responsibility for protecting public spaces.

As the trees take root and flourish, the Lang'ata interchange on Southern Bypass will stand as a lasting symbol of what can be achieved through collaboration, environmental responsibility, and collective action. The partnership between KeNHA, Emerald Fusion, EWB Kenya Community, and the local community demonstrates that sustainable development extends beyond infrastructure delivery to include the protection and enhancement of the environment for present and future generations.

Together, the partners are not only planting trees but also cultivating a legacy of sustainability, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

A section of Kitale - Juba (A1) Road

Mother's Day: A special day for every mother



BY NELLY BITENGO

Every year, on the second week of May, the world comes to a standstill to celebrate Mother's Day. This special celebration began in the early 1900s in the United States through the efforts of Anna Jarvis, who wanted a special day to recognize the sacrifices and love of mothers after her own mother passed away.

In 1914, U.S President Woodrow Wilson officially declared Mother's Day a national holiday.

Listed among the most celebrated holidays, Mother's Day holds a special place in the hearts of people across all religions and races, myself included. This is because mothers play a special role in shaping both family and society. They are the first teachers, instilling values that guide us in life through love.

My mother is one of the greatest blessings in my life. More than giving me life, she is a loving, gentle, and patient woman who raised me with unwavering care. She walked beside me through every stage, celebrating my first step, my first word, my first day of school, and my last. Her quiet encouragement, captured in the simple words 'Well done, my girl,' has remained with me, guiding and uplifting me through every milestone.



This year had to be special. I decided to put Dr. Gary Chapman's framework on the concept of love languages into action because of how truly special my mother is. I spoke words of affirmation to remind her how deeply she is cherished, offered acts of service by taking care of tasks she usually shoulders, gave her a thoughtful gift to symbolize my gratitude, spent quality time together to strengthen our bond, and embraced her with physical touch that conveyed warmth beyond words. In doing all five, I hoped to reflect the depth of love she has always shown me.

Mother's Day is more than just flowers and gift cards; it is about making mothers feel seen, loved, and appreciated. It is a day to pause and recognize the countless sacrifices they make, the quiet strength they carry, and the unconditional love they give. Beyond the tokens of celebration, it is about affirming their place in families and society. True celebration means reminding mothers that their efforts matter, their voices are heard, and their presence is cherished not only on this day, but every day.

Yet I know that not every mother was celebrated this year, and not every person received recognition. To those who may have felt overlooked, remember that you can always celebrate yourself. Take yourself out, buy yourself something special, or simply pause to appreciate yourself. Self-celebration is just as important because honouring yourself is a reminder that your worth does not depend on external acknowledgment.

Happy Mother's Day once again to all the moms reading this. To the biological mothers, adoptive mothers, grandmothers, and stepmothers; to the pet moms, older siblings who stepped into the role of mothers, and to all those dreaming of becoming mothers. KeNHA celebrates you.

Let us know how you celebrated Mother's Day.

A Rider's Perspective: My Daily Ride from South C to JKIA



BY BABULARI OTIENO

Every morning, as the sun slowly rises over Nairobi's bustling cityscape, I begin my daily commute from South C to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. For the past five years, this journey has become more than just a ride to work; it has been an experience filled with lessons, excitement, challenges, and a deep appreciation for the roads that connect thousands of Kenyans every day. Through my experience as a rider, I wish to share my perspective, specifically on Mombasa Road, a highway that, in many ways, reflects the experiences and concerns of the majority of its users.

My journey begins calmly in South C, but as I approach Nyayo Stadium, traffic gradually starts to build up. This section is usually packed with motorists rushing to work, public service vehicles making unexpected stops, and pedestrians attempting to cross the road. During peak hours, patience becomes the most important asset for every rider and driver. Despite the congestion, many riders have learned how to manoeuvre carefully while still observing road safety rules.

As I continue toward the Mombasa Road roundabout, the road suddenly opens up. This section is among the most impressive parts of the highway network, largely due to the efforts of the Kenya National Highways Authority. The smooth flow of traffic and excellent road design give riders a sense of confidence and excitement. Naturally, one feels tempted to accelerate and enjoy the ride. However, no matter how smooth the road may be, discipline remains essential. Speed must always go hand in hand with adherence to traffic rules and regulations because safety comes first.

One of the most dangerous sections along this corridor is the Bellevue footbridge area. Sadly, numerous accidents have occurred here. Although a pedestrian footbridge exists, some pedestrians and motorists still choose to cross directly on the highway. This risky behaviour has contributed to many accidents over the years. The situation is further complicated by matatus that stop carelessly at Bellevue to pick up and drop off passengers, thereby interfering with moving traffic. In my opinion, designated bus bays should be constructed away from the main carriageway to reduce confusion and improve safety for both passengers and motorists.

Another major concern is the U-turn near Bellevue. Motorcyclists plying the Nairobi-bound road occasionally use the wrong lane while attempting to cross over toward the JKIA direction. This dangerous practice has resulted in many serious accidents and the loss of lives. As riders, we must understand that saving a few minutes is never worth risking human life. Road discipline is not merely a responsibility; it is a duty we owe one another.

Beyond Bellevue, the ride toward JKIA becomes smoother once again. However, another challenging point is the General Motors area, commonly known as GM. Despite the existence of a pedestrian footbridge, many pedestrians continue to cross the road, causing unnecessary traffic slowdowns and placing lives at risk. If more people utilized the designated crossing points, traffic flow in that area would improve significantly while reducing the likelihood of accidents. This raises an important question: why construct footbridges if they are not utilized?

At times, external factors also affect traffic conditions. Fuel shortages, for example, have previously resulted in severe congestion around Imara Daima. Here, long queues of trucks and fuel tankers occupied entire lanes, leading to extended delays and traffic build-up. Despite the frustration, such situations serve as reminders of the importance of proper planning and coordination are in managing urban transport systems.

As the journey continues past Cabanas, traffic conditions usually depend on the time of day. During morning and evening rush hours, buses operating around the footbridge area often compete for space and passengers, creating confusion and congestion. Although the situation can become chaotic, the presence of traffic police officers plays a critical role in restoring order, maintaining traffic flow, and preventing a total gridlock.

Finally, as I approach Barabara Plaza, the road conditions improve once again. The highway is generally well-maintained, clean, and enjoyable to ride on. Looking back on my five years of daily commuting, I can confidently say that KeNHA has done commendable work in maintaining and rehabilitating our highways. These roads continue to support mobility, economic activity and connectivity across the city.

However, even the best roads face challenges when road users fail to exercise discipline. No matter how modern or well-constructed a highway may be, reckless behaviour, poor road usage habits, and disregard for traffic laws slowly undermine the purpose of good infrastructure. Roads can be rehabilitated repeatedly, but changing human behaviour remains the greatest challenge.

In many ways, my daily ride from South C to JKIA is more than a routine commute. It reflects the everyday experiences of countless Nairobi residents — full of movement, ambition, impatience, resilience, and hope. Every section of the journey tells a story about our city, our transport systems, and our collective responsibility as road users.

If motorists, pedestrians, riders, and public service operators all commit themselves to road safety and discipline, our highways will not only remain efficient but also become safer for everyone. A good road alone cannot prevent accidents; responsible road use is what truly saves lives.

Roads connect people, businesses, and dreams. As riders and motorists, we must appreciate the efforts invested in improving our highways by using them responsibly and respecting traffic laws. Ultimately, safety on our roads begins with each one of us.



Siku ya wafanyakazi: kuadhimisha juhudi na mchango wa wafanyakazi katika ujenzi wa taifa



NA FAITH KIMANZI

Kila mwaka, tarehe 1 Mei, Kenya pamoja na mataifa mengine duniani huadhimisha na kutambua mchango mkubwa wa wafanyakazi katika maendeleo ya taifa. Siku ya Wafanyakazi, inayojulikana kimataifa kama Labour Day, si sherehe tu, bali ni ukumbusho wa historia ya mapambano ya muda mrefu na ya jasho ya wafanyakazi waliodai haki za msingi za binadamu mahali pa kazi.

Asili ya Siku ya Wafanyakazi inarejelea mwaka 1886 jijini Chicago, Marekani, ambapo wafanyakazi wa viwandani waliandamana wakidai saa nane za kazi kwa siku badala ya saa kumi na mbili au zaidi walizolazimishwa kufanya. Hatua kwa hatua, mapambano hayo yalizaa mafanikio muhimu, yakiwemo haki ya kupumzika, malipo ya haki, mazingira salama ya kazi, na heshima kwa utu wa mfanyakazi.

Katika Afrika Mashariki pia, wafanyakazi walipambana dhidi ya unyonyaji wa kikoloni, wakidai usawa, haki na hadhi kazini. Leo, matunda ya juhudi hizo yanaonekana kupitia sheria za kazi, mikataba ya ajira na taasisi zinazolinda haki na maslahi ya wafanyakazi.

Hakuna taifa linaloweza kujengwa bila wafanyakazi. Wakulima wanaolima mashamba, wauguzi wanaohudumia wagonjwa, walimu wanaofundisha vizazi, na wahandisi wanaojenga miundombinu ni nguzo muhimu za maendeleo. Kwa hakika, wafanyakazi ndio uti wa mgongo wa uchumi wa Kenya.

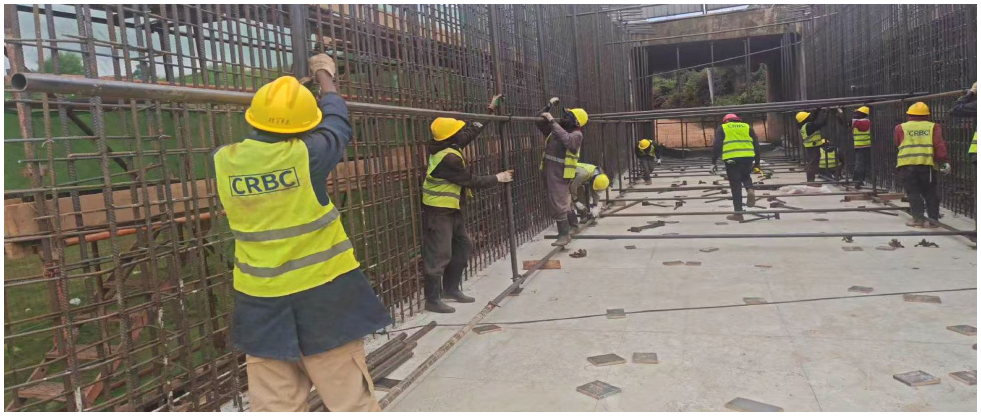
Sekta ya miundombinu, hususan, ina nafasi ya kipekee katika maendeleo ya taifa. Barabara zinazounganisha maeneo ya vijijini na mijini, madaraja yanayovusha mito mikubwa, na njia kuu zinazowezesha biashara na usafirishaji havijengwi na mashine pekee, bali kwa maarifa, utaalamu na mikono ya binadamu.

Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) ni mhimili muhimu wa maendeleo ya barabara kuu nchini. Kupitia kazi ya kila siku ya wafanyakazi wake—wahandisi, maafisa wa mawasiliano, wataalamu wa fedha, mafundi, madereva, wataalamu wa mazingira na watumishi wa ofisi—KeNHA hutekeleza dhamira yake ya kutoa miundombinu bora, salama na endelevu kwa Wakenya wote.

Kila barabara inayokamilika ni ushahidi wa bidii yao, na kila daraja linalofunguliwa ni matokeo ya juhudi, utaalamu na kujitolea kwao. Mafanikio haya yanathibitisha kwamba maendeleo ya taifa yanategemea watu wanaofanya kazi kwa uaminifu na kujituma kila siku.

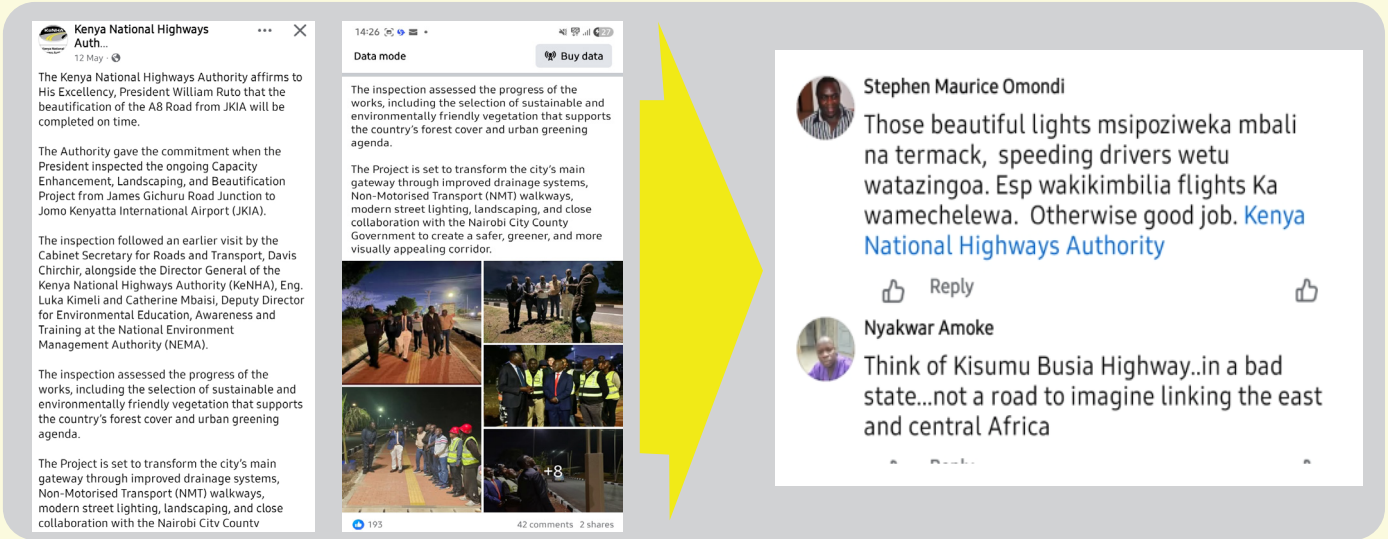
Siku ya Wafanyakazi isiwe maadhimisho ya siku moja pekee. Iwe mwanzo wa mazungumzo ya kweli kuhusu mazingira bora ya kazi, mishahara ya haki, usalama mahali pa kazi na ustawi wa wafanyakazi. KeNHA inaendelea kujitolea kuboresha mazingira ya kazi, kuwekeza katika mafunzo na maendeleo ya watumishi wake, na kuhakikisha kwamba kila mfanyakazi anahisi kuthaminiwa, kuheshimiwa na kulindwa.

Kwa sababu taifa halijengwi kwa sera pekee, bali kwa watu. Na miongoni mwa watu hao ni ninyi, wafanyakazi wa KeNHA, ambao kila siku mnachangia katika ujenzi wa Kenya ya sasa na ya baadaye.



Wafanyikazi kwenye barabara ya Ironi - Mau Summit

Opinion / Feedback



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