

HE GOVERNOR SAMUEL RAGWA'S SPEECH DURING THE LAUNCH OF ROAD PROJECTS ON 14TH
JANUARY 2015 AT KATHWANA HEADQUARTERS.

H.e Deputy Governor,

Hon. Mp,

County Commissioner,

Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members of our County Assembly,

CECs and Cos present,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by passing my New Year greeting considering this is one of the first public functions we have begun with in the year 2015.

It is my prayer that you are all well and begun the year filled with God's blessings and renewed strength to face another great year.

Today we are here to launch road projects which are within the department of Roads, public works, and legal affairs.

This is a very crucial sector within the county that is instrumental in growth of so many other sectors aimed at ensuring development and improvement of the living standards of the people of Tharaka Nithi.

Furthermore, as envisioned in our County Integrated Development Plan my government is committed to development cutting across all sectors. Most of these sectors if improved will create a great opportunity for economic growth for our county.

These include the Health sector, Trade, Tourism, agriculture among others. To ensure the success of these opportunities, there must be good road network and infrastructure.

In relation to this, the county Government is undertaking major roads rehabilitation which is expected to ease transportation of products from the interior of the county considering that the county is committing a lot of resources into irrigation projects in the lower parts.

We know that poor or no roads have, from the past contributed to poor health conditions due to lack of transport to access health facilities. Many have lost lives as they travel to hospitals which are miles away not to mention unavailability of proper means of transport due to pathetic roads avoided by most motorists.

Relevantly, we know that with a great road network our agricultural and trade sectors will blossom since the products can be transported from one place to another for sale.

To enhance the success of these investments there must be good road network and infrastructure. The county Government is undertaking major roads rehabilitation which is expected to ease transportation of products from the interior of the county considering that the county is committing a lot of resources into irrigation projects in the lower parts.

Vehicles can get into the interior to collect products directly from the farmers without them struggling or their produces getting bad as lorries get stuck on bad roads.

A total of 846 Kilometers has already been upgraded in the last financial year and another 53 Kilometers graveled both under the county roads and ward roads.

This has been supported by twenty drifts that have been constructed as well as the bridge connecting two major wards in the county.

In general, a total cost of 322 Million has been used on roads during the last financial year.

The following roads were done under the county roads:

1. Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe constituency
 - a) Kibugua-Kamahindi (30Km)
 - b) Kaanwa- Kaburu road (16Kms)
 - c) Kathwana – Mikui road (21 Kms)
 - d) Njaina-Kathere road (10Km)
 - e) Tungu Bridge (Complete bridge work)

2. Maara Constituency
 - a) Mitheru –Giampampo – Kamachuku road (20Km)
 - b) Katharaka- Ciakanyinga –Muumbuni road (14Km)
 - c) Katharaka – Kanoro road (14km)
 - d) Gaketha-Minugu road (2.4 Km)
 - e) Marima-Makutano Road (20km)
 - f) Kiraro-Nturini road (3kms)
 - g) Magutuni-Kaare-Matiri road (22Km)
 - h) Bwee Box caravat.

3. Tharaka Constituency.
 - a) Marimanti-Mukuuni road (18 Kms)
 - b) Makutano- Kathangacini (30kms)
 - c) Kituo-Muthitu- Gakurungu (11.2kms)
 - d) Nkondi –Kwang'ombe (16Kms)
 - e) Gaceraka-Matiri (15Kms)
 - f) Gachiongo- National Park- Gatithini (15kms)
 - g)

Today we are launching the county road improvements project targeting 200 Kilometers which has already been tendered and the contractors are already present to commence work immediately.

They include:

1. Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe Constituency.
 - a) Kangoro-Ikuu-Rubate-Itugururu Junction we had earlier planned to do 13km but the CDF is also doing 5kms hence we shall do 9kms
 - b) Kirubia-Chera-Nyaga Kairu – Ruguti River Road (10Km)
 - c) Kibugua – Magenka – Itugururu Road (15km)
 - d) Kiamuriuki – Kiracha – Gitogoto Road (8km)

2. Maara Constituency
 - a) Mitheru –Kaanwa (8kms)
 - b) Katharaka-ciakanyinga Road (6kms)
 - c) Katharaka- Nkumbo (12km)
 - d) Karigini – Makutano (15km)
 - e) Magutuni- Kathwana (20km)
 - f) Carambu – Giichi- Kabeche (5Km)

3. Tharaka Constituency
 - a) Chiakariga –Kaunguni- Kamanyaki (10.8Km)
 - b) Nthara – Tunyai (21km)
 - c) Kagumo- Kembas (16Kms)
 - d) Gatunga Junction – Usweni bridge (28.6)

Some of these roads will receive complete improvement which includes, gravelling, grading, drainage works others will have bush clearing, cravats', drifts etc.

For the next financial year we have set aside money for extension of Kibugua-Itugururu road, improvement of Kambandi-Ishiara roads as we plan to do a design in preparation for tarmacking of the Keria-Magutuni-Kathwana Road.

Evidently, I am aware that the Constituency Roads Committees have also set aside some money for some of these roads and our officers have had meetings with them and agreed on the extent of the works each party was going to do. This is to prevent replication of same projects.

I am happy that the construction on most dispensaries and hospital works is complete in most areas, and glad that the community was vigilante in ensuring that the work was done as per their expectations.

I am encouraging the communities in Public participation so as to ensure that the projects committees and county government do project that are their priority.

The department of roads, are also cautioning on people who are vandalizing the bridges in attempts to get metal for sale and encroachment of roads. Such deeds are really affecting development of our infrastructure.

Finally I can assure you that the tendering process was fairly done with a 30% requirement on special groups achieved.

However it has been our concern during the tendering processes that most of the local people and especially the youth, women and people living with disabilities. This is has been attributed to lack of

proper requirements for qualifications to tender which include registration of a group or company among others.

Therefore there is dire need for sensitization of these groups so that they can benefit from these opportunities that are vital if we have to curb the problem of joblessness and poverty in our society.

That said, I will officially launched Tharaka Nithi County Road Projects.

God bless you.

H.E Governor Samuel Ragwa.