

BUSINESS



BEER
Brewer
cassava
under r

CONSTRUCTION | Japanese organisation finalising guidelines to be used in quality determination

Kenya to adopt new method of settling road contractors' bills

Companies will be paid based on quality of the work done and not volume of job that has been completed as has been the case

BY OTIATO GUGUYU

@googooyuh

dotiato@ke.nationmedia.com

The government is to adopt a new method for paying contractors carrying out road construction, to ensure quality is maintained as it embarks on the 10,000-kilometre road annuity programme.

Companies will be paid based on the condition of the roads and other outputs and not the volume of work done.

The Japanese Government, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is finalising the guidelines to be used by engineers in measuring performance by the end of July.

Failing to measure up to the standards set in the terms of reference will invite penalties, including reduction of the contract value.

Measure roughness

Ten road-monitoring equipment that measure the roughness and quality of roads developed by Tokyo University has been acquired by Kenya National Highways Authority (Kenha) and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (Kura).

Kenha has already conducted road condition surveys for over 10,000 kilometres and mapped data on the state of roads in the country.

Pilots for these type of contracts were rolled out in 2011, with Kura undertaking only one maintenance project. The number, however, grew to 56

by 2014. This year, Kenha is expected to award over 20 contracts under the system that shifts responsibility of roads from the employee to the contractor during a specified period.

Kura is also set to renew road maintenance contracts in October under a new model that will peg payments on the level of standards the contractor has delivered.

Authority acting director Peter Mudinia said Kura has already rolled out 26 contracts and wants to extend the model to maintain the entire road network under the authority in the next financial year.

"The current contracts expire in September and we want to roll out new ones by October, we urge women, youth and the disabled to apply because they will be able to run with the project in the long run," he said.

IMPLEMENTATION

How system is to be rolled out

Kenya Urban Roads Authority has also piloted the arrangement in Nakuru, Eldoret and Mombasa.

It says this has improved efficiency in road maintenance. The policy will be pitched to counties to ensure continuity since a number of roads have been developed.

The government will also use the model during maintenance of the 10,000-kilometre road network set to be constructed under the annuity plan.



LABAN WALLOGA | NATION

China Roads and Bridges Company workers reconstruct the Bachuma-Maji Ya Chumvi road that has been in a dilapidated state. The government will soon implement a new system of paying contractors based on quality rather than volume of work.

66

The current contracts expire in September and we want to roll out new ones by October, we urge women, youth and the disabled to apply"

Kura acting director Peter Mudinia