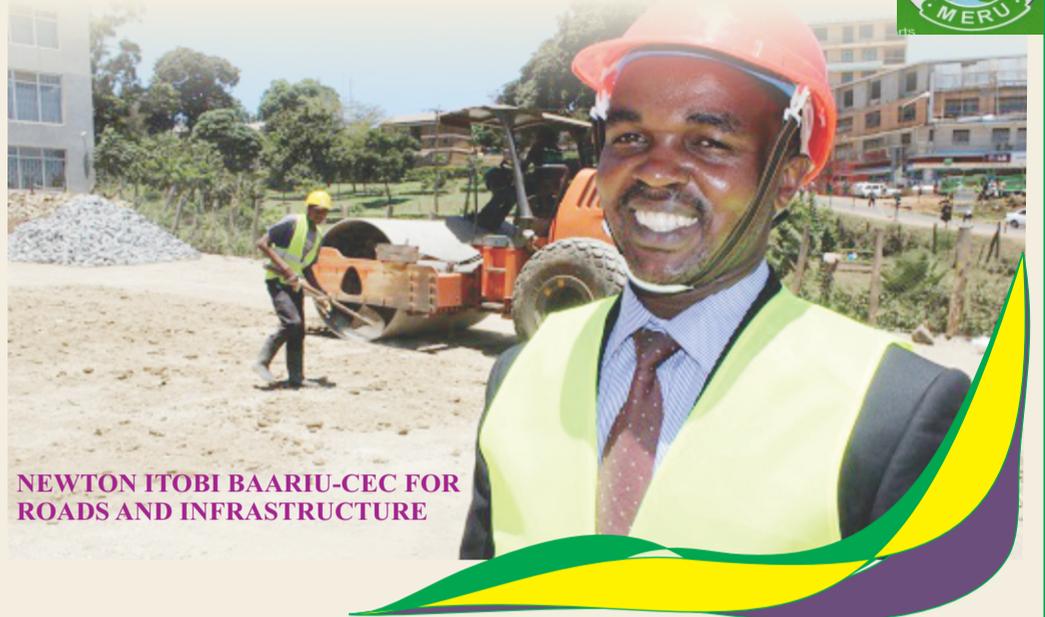




Transforming the infrastructure in Meru County



I wish to promise the Meru community that we will double the present road network of 3,500 kilometers. Only 350 kilometers are paved but with the Probbase technology, we will double that in the next two years and improve road transport in Meru County.



NEWTON ITOBI BAARIU-CEC FOR ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Message by Eng. Newton Itobi- Meru County Executive, Roads and Infrastructure

The Meru County Government's Department of Roads and Infrastructure is tasked with improving the transport and energy sectors in the county. Currently, there are 3,500 kilometers of road network in the area, with only about 350 kilometers of tarmac. We have elaborate plans to improve infrastructure and works have already begun in opening up all access roads in the rural and urban.

The Roads and Infrastructure department has marked all the roads in every ward and set aside Sh4 million for their improvement. Contracts have already been awarded and some of the contractors are already on site opening up the access roads.

We will soon embark on construction of long lasting roads and cease relying on gravelling which does not survive the rainy seasons.

The Meru County government has entered into a partnership with a Malaysian Construction Company, Probbase, for construction of 300 kilometers tarmac road using affordable technology.

We intend to use the Probbase technology on 30 kilometers of road in every ward, targeting the key roads that lead to agriculturally potential areas and commercial centers.

The county government is handling the rural link roads while the Class A, B, C, D and E are still under the National Government. The Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA), and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), and Kenya National Highways Authority (KENHA) are still holding the funds for the

maintenance of classified roads. However, we are intervening to ensure that the classified roads under the National Government are generally in good condition.

On the Malaysian roads technology, the National Government has already approved it and tests are ongoing. The first pilot project has been approved for Meru-Miathene road. The County Government will finance the first 10 kilometers while the National Government will fund the remaining six kilometers for comparison purpose.

The department of material testing and research has already sent their personnel to do soil alignment. **Meanwhile**, my department is already involved in improving all urban access roads and we have started marking out all the buildings that are on roads reserves for demolition to pave way for roads construction.

We intend to open up about 50 kilometers of roads in urban centers. Works have begun in Maua Town on 2.8 kilometers of road network that was lastly done in 1984.

In Meru Town, we are engaging the National Government and the World Bank on the improvement of the 30 kilometer eastern and southern by-passes around the town that will solve the current traffic congestion menace. The contractor has already been awarded the contract.

The road requires 25 meters' width, yet the existing road is six meters wide hence we are engaging with the

residents for compensation so that construction can start.

We have also begun the improvement of all main Bus Parks in Meru Town. The carpeting of the Taxis Park at River land area is in progress while the contract has already been awarded for the Makutano Bus Park to be used by Matatus heading to Timau and Nanyuki route. We are also improving the off-street parking areas and street lighting in Meru and Makutano.

On electrification, my department is engaging with the Rural Electrification Authority to ensure all rural areas are connected to the national grid. The Meru County government is also partnering with communities living near potential areas to start mini hydro-power plants. Plans are underway to revive the Thimangiri stalled project.

Through Public Private Partnerships, we intend to harness the wind power and solar energy in northern parts of Meru. This will help stem power shortage and outages in the county.

Besides, we are also engaging private developers to set up a solid waste power plant. Engagements are in high gear with the Strathmore University Centre for Innovation for Climate Change. We intend to set aside land for the power plant.

I wish to promise the Meru community that we will double the present road network of 3,500 kilometers. Only 350 kilometers are paved but with the Probbase technology, we will double that in the next two years and improve transport.



Eng Newton Itobi prepares Governor, peter munya to visit a site



Governor Munya with Malaysian expert inspects Meru roads



Governor Peter Munya at the site of Meru county headquarters



Construction works at Tuskys stage



A road under construction



A construction site in Makutano Meru