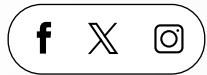


TRANSPORT



MoTPW

Newsletter

Lilongwe's new bridge a gateway to prosperity

Mhango outlines blueprint for
Malawi's road subsector

Airport City project gathers
pace as stakeholders
reaffirm support

SONA Highlights for the Transport and Public Works sector

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Trade

Malawi pushes for stronger
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Women Empowerment

Staff Profile: Meet the Female
Architect opening doors for women in
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Message from _____

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Bright Kumwembe



IT is my pleasure to introduce the first edition of our Ministry's newsletter, a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to transform Malawi's transport and public works sectors. As Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, I take pride in the progress we are making in strengthening infrastructure, enhancing safety, and expanding access to transport services across the country.

From the onset, I acknowledge that we continue to face challenges, particularly in the road sector. Many of our roads require urgent maintenance, while others need comprehensive rehabilitation. However, we have embarked on an extensive maintenance and reconstruction program aimed at restoring and modernizing our road network. This initiative is critical to advancing Malawi's socio-economic development.

Our mandate extends beyond the construction of roads and bridges. At its core, our work is about connecting people to opportunities, markets, and services. It is about empowering communities and stimulating economic growth. In this newsletter, we share stories of progress, challenges, and lessons learnt as we pursue our vision of a modern, efficient, and sustainable transport system.

We have made significant investments in road rehabilitation, aviation modernisation, and improvements to public transport systems. These efforts are yielding positive outcomes, including improved travel times, increased trade, and better connectivity to rural areas.

As we move forward, our focus will increasingly center on sustainability, innovation, and leveraging technology to further improve service delivery.

I commend our teams for their dedication and professionalism in implementing projects that make a tangible difference in the lives of Malawians. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our development partners for their continued support. As we look ahead, we remain firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and active engagement with all stakeholders. This newsletter will serve as a platform for sharing our journey and listening to your valuable feedback.

I trust you will find this inaugural edition both informative and engaging. Together, let us continue working to build a more connected and prosperous Malawi.





EDITOR'S NOTE

Chikondi Chimala - Public Relations Officer

ALLOW me to welcome you all our esteemed readers to the maiden issue of the Newsletter for the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW).

We are thrilled to launch this newsletter, a key channel to keep you informed about the Ministry's initiatives, achievements, and the impact we're making in transforming Malawi's transport and infrastructure landscape.

In this newsletter, we'll share updates on our efforts to improve road infrastructure and rail services, enhance aviation services, and promote public works that support national

development. From major construction projects to innovations in transport management, we'll bring you stories of progress and the people behind them.

We'll also highlight challenges, lessons learned, and how we're working with partners and communities to achieve our goals.

Transparency and engagement are key to our work, and we're excited to hear from you – whether it's feedback, suggestions, or ideas for future stories.

If you have any feedback, feel free to share your thoughts with the editor so that we can move forward together.

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SONA Highlights for the Transport and Public Works sector

DURING the 2026 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, placed strong emphasis on infrastructure development, positioning transport as a central pillar of the country's growth and economic transformation agenda.

ROAD SECTOR



The President announced the immediate resumption of road maintenance works, which had stalled in 2022. He further directed that revenues collected from tollgates along the M1 Road Malawi be strictly ring-fenced for the maintenance and upkeep of that specific corridor. Government will also rehabilitate additional roads as new financing is secured, reinforcing efforts to improve connectivity across the country.

AVIATION SECTOR



Government plans to expand airport infrastructure from the current three airports to ten nationwide in order to strengthen both domestic and international connectivity. The President also announced plans to grow the fleet of Malawian Airlines from three aircraft to ten within the next five years. The expansion is expected to boost the country's air transport capacity and position Malawi as a competitive regional aviation hub.

RAIL AND WATER TRANSPORT



Government will undertake major rehabilitation works on key rail corridors, including the Marka-Bangula Railway Line, to revive cargo and passenger movement. The President also announced the completion of Likoma Port on Likoma Island, as well as the rehabilitation and upgrading of Chipoka port in Salima.



Government will facilitate greater private sector participation in lake transport, encouraging investment in modern cargo and passenger vessels to improve mobility, trade, and economic activity across Lake Malawi and surrounding regions."



'PROJECTS UPDATE'

Below, we highlight some of the key projects that the Ministry is currently implementing, which, upon completion, will significantly contribute to the socioeconomic development of the country:

CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS



REHABILITATION OF M001 ROAD
(KIA Turn-Off to Mzimba Turn-Off, and Kacheche – Chiweta)



UPGRADING OF RUMPHI-NYIKA ROAD



CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT OF KAUNDA-CHENDAWAKA ROAD
in Lilongwe



REHABILITATION OF THE LAKESHORE ROAD
(M005: Kaphatenga to Dwangwa)



REHABILITATION OF THE NSIPE - LIWONDE ROAD



REHABILITATION OF THE 400 KM RAILWAY LINE
(Nkaya to Mchinji)



REHABILITATION OF THE 72 KM MARKA-BANGULA RAILWAY SECTION



CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONALISATION OF THE LIKOMA JETTY



Over **90%**
PHYSICAL
PROGRESS



REHABILITATION OF MZUZU AIRPORT

FUTURE PROJECTS (2026/27 Financial Year)

Implementation planned to commence, with preparations at an advanced stage:



REHABILITATION OF THE LIWONDE - MATAWALE ROAD



UPGRADING OF MANGOCHI-MAKANJIRA ROAD



FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT IN MZUZU



THE AIRPORT CITY PROJECT AT KIA

LILONGWE'S NEW BRIDGE

a gateway to prosperity

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, Jappie Mhango, has described the newly constructed Lilongwe River Bridge Malawi as a vital infrastructure development that will help drive economic growth and improve connectivity in the capital city.

Speaking in Lilongwe during the handover and official opening ceremony of the bridge on Thursday, the Minister said the project, funded by the Government of Japan, forms part of broader efforts to improve key road infrastructure in the city.

Hon. Mhango noted that the new bridge will significantly enhance mobility by improving road conditions, reducing travel time, and increasing safety for motorists and pedestrians.

"The bridge will improve road conditions, reduce travel time, and enhance safety, ultimately contributing to the country's socio-economic development," he said.

The Minister added that the completion of the bridge marks an important milestone in the development of both Lilongwe and the country as a whole. He highlighted the strategic importance of the M001 Road Malawi, where the bridge is located, describing it as a critical transport corridor linking Malawi's major cities and serving as a key trade route to neighbouring countries.

Hon. Mhango also expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their continued support toward Malawi's

infrastructure development, noting that the strong partnership between the two countries continues to deliver meaningful results.

Yasushi Naito, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, said the new bridge represents more than just physical infrastructure. According to the Ambassador, the project is a pathway to prosperity and human development, as it will strengthen connectivity, facilitate trade, and create new economic opportunities for citizens and businesses.

Ambassador Naito further noted that the construction of the bridge has also contributed to skills development by providing training opportunities for Malawian engineers and technicians, thereby building local capacity in infrastructure development.

The Lilongwe River Bridge is expected to play a key role in improving urban mobility while supporting trade, investment, and economic activity along one of the country's most important transport corridors.



Mhango shakes hands with Takao Imafuku, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



The newly built and expanded Lilongwe bridge

ADL plans to upgrade Likoma Airfield into an International Airport

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (ADL) says as part of enhancing air transport in the country, it plans to upgrade Likoma Airfield into an international airport.

The plan will allow international visitors to fly directly to Likoma for business, tourism and other activities all of which will help improve Malawi as a tourism hot spot.

ADL Board Chairperson, Stain Singo, told a local media outlet, Zodiak, that the facility will also include a casino and a hotel.

Singo disclosed that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Umodzi Holdings for the

hotel construction and the Malawi Gaming and Lotteries Authority for the casino has already been drafted and is expected to be signed soon.

"The immigration and customs offices will also be there to handle the clearance of both people and goods," he added.

The Chairperson further disclosed that ADL is conducting nationwide assessments of aerodromes to identify facilities requiring rehabilitation and restore those that have remained inactive for years.

ADL Board Chairperson Stain Singo said efforts to reclaim and rehabilitate the aerodromes are being affected by widespread encroachment on designated aerodrome land.

He said in some areas, individuals have constructed houses on aerodrome land, a situation he attributed to local councils allegedly allocating or selling such land.

"Encroachment on aerodrome land remains a major challenge. We are engaging relevant authorities to reclaim and protect these facilities so they can serve their intended purpose," said Singo.

ADL says it is engaging relevant authorities to address the encroachment challenges as part of efforts to restore and protect the country's aerodromes for aviation use.

Likoma Airfield



DRTSS steps up service delivery and road safety initiatives

T

HE Directorate of Road Traffic and Safety Services (DRTSS) has intensified efforts to improve service delivery and promote road safety across the country.

Director of DRTSS, Madalitso Kuyera, said the Directorate is implementing a range of programmes, including public awareness campaigns, training, and the issuance of permits, aimed at bringing services closer to the people.

“We have carried out mobile service provision across the country and in South Africa, where clients were served with traffic registration, permits, and driving licence renewals,” said Kuyera.

He said the initiative forms part of ongoing reforms within the Directorate to improve accessibility.

“This is part of DRTSS reform areas to bring

services closer to the people. In future, the Directorate plans to open permanent offices in some districts to ensure people have easy access to our services,” he added.

Beyond service provision, the Directorate is also strengthening enforcement and public awareness, targeting illegal taxi operations and vehicles operating without number plates.

Kuyera said DRTSS has also prioritised defensive driving training for institutions and individuals as part of efforts to improve road safety.

“The Directorate has been conducting defensive driving training to officials and the public aimed at promoting road safety and reducing road traffic accidents,” he said.

He added that participants are equipped with key skills, including hazard perception, safe following distances, speed management, and responsible road use.

“Participants are reminded that defensive driving is not just about following traffic rules, but about anticipating danger, making safe decisions, and protecting lives on the road,” said Kuyera.

He said the Directorate remains committed to working with stakeholders to strengthen road safety awareness and promote responsible driving across Malawi.



DRTSS staff in the line of duty

Malawi pushes for stronger maritime links to boost trade and logistics

THE government has reiterated its commitment to strengthening Malawi's maritime and shipping sector, saying it remains central to boosting trade, improving logistics and supporting regional integration.

Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Dr. Ben Malunga Phiri made the remarks in Lilongwe when he opened a stakeholders' sensitisation workshop on shipping and maritime transport. The workshop was organised by the Maritime Organisation for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA) at the Bingu International Convention Centre.

Dr. Phiri said Malawi continues to value its partnership with MOESNA as part of efforts to enhance cooperation in maritime and logistics systems across the region.

"Although Malawi is land-linked, our economic prospects depend on efficient transport corridors and

strong regional partnerships that connect us to international markets," he said.

He noted that Malawi's accession to MOESNA complements its membership in the Central Corridor Transit and Transport Facilitation Authority, reflecting government's focus on integrating maritime transport with inland logistics systems.

The Minister further stressed the importance of improving inland transport coordination to reduce trade costs and strengthen competitiveness. He also encouraged private sector players, including shipping agents, freight forwarders and investors, to explore opportunities in the maritime sector through investment in modern vessels and logistics services.

Dr. Phiri also called on development partners to support initiatives aimed at improving maritime trade facilitation, enhancing safety and security, and

promoting sustainable blue economy opportunities.

MOESNA Secretary General Kassim Mpaata said Malawi's membership in the organisation marks a strategic step towards strengthening its participation in regional maritime trade.

"Malawi's decision to join MOESNA will strengthen cooperation with regional partners, improve logistics efficiency, and enhance connectivity to international markets," he said.

He noted that despite more than 90 percent of Africa's international trade being conducted by sea, many countries continue to face challenges such as high freight costs, limited connectivity and low participation in vessel ownership.

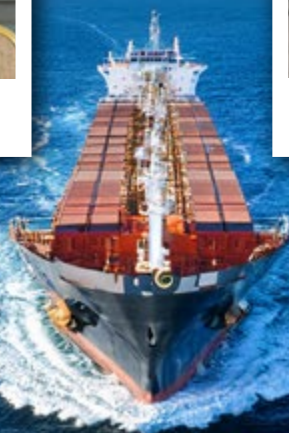
The workshop brought together stakeholders to explore opportunities for collaboration and strengthen Malawi's position in regional and global trade systems.



Dr. Phiri shares notes with Moesna Secretary General Mpaata



Workshop participants pose for a group photo



NEW UNIT UPDATE:

Ethics and Integrity geared to strengthen accountability

THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS has introduced a new Ethics and Integrity Unit aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct across the institution.

The unit, established in October 2024, is part of government's efforts through the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to fight corruption in the public sector.

It represents an important step toward promoting a culture of integrity within the Ministry's operations.

The department is headed by Mary Kambulu, who leads the efforts to ensure that the Ministry's activities align with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). Currently operating under a pilot framework, the unit seeks to assess and enhance ethical standards while supporting the broader national agenda of preventing corruption within public institutions.

One of the unit's primary responsibilities is to promote ethical behaviour and integrity among staff

across the Ministry. By encouraging transparency and responsible conduct, the department aims to strengthen public trust and ensure that the Ministry's programmes and projects are implemented with the highest ethical standards.

The Ethics and Integrity Unit also plays a key coordinating role within the Ministry. It serves as the secretariat for the Institutional Integrity Committee (IIC) and works closely with other departments to support integrity-related initiatives. Through this coordination, the unit facilitates dialogue, monitoring, and implementation of integrity measures designed to uphold good governance

practices within the Ministry.

In addition, the department collaborates with other divisions to integrate ethical considerations into everyday administrative and operational processes. This cross-departmental approach ensures that integrity principles are embedded across all levels of the Ministry's work.

The establishment of the Unit marks a significant milestone for the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and is expected to play a pivotal role in promoting accountability, reinforcing ethical leadership, and advancing good governance within the Ministry.



Mary Kambulu- At the helm of ethics and integrity

DID YOU KNOW?

ICT Is Powering the Ministry's Digital Future

Behind every road, every airport, and every project update, a small but mighty team keeps the Ministry connected.

The ICT Unit, led by Chief ICT Officer Kondwani Alexander, ensures network systems are stable, guides technology procurement, and provides technical support for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems.

But here is the big one: The Ministry is contributing technical expertise to the National Monitoring and Evaluation System, a digital platform being rolled out across all government ministries, departments, and agencies.

"ICT is not just a support service. Any institution that aims to modernize must place it at the centre," says Alexander.

The challenge? Only two permanent staff and a few interns against a growing demand for digital transformation.

Yet the vision remains: a fully digital Ministry, delivering faster, smarter, and better services for Malawians.



New regulations set to tighten oversight of Malawi's construction industry

works. Stakeholders are also expected to fully adopt the Malawi Infrastructure Delivery Management Standards (MIDMS) at all stages of project implementation.

The directive further requires the use of Construction Cost Indices to promote transparency and consistency in pricing. It also sets strict guidelines on joint ventures and subcontracting arrangements within the sector.

CIRA has additionally emphasised compliance with statutory levies, integration of technical and quality audits, and regular auditing of infrastructure assets. Continuous capacity building has also been highlighted as a key requirement for industry players.

To enhance monitoring and transparency, the Authority is promoting the use of digital compliance systems, with platforms such as the Integrated Project Performance Information (IPPI) portal expected to play a central role.

The Authority has warned that enforcement will be strict, with penalties for non-compliance including financial sanctions, suspension or revocation of licences, stoppage of projects and possible legal action.

CIRA has since urged all stakeholders to comply with the new measures, saying the reforms are designed to build a more transparent, accountable and resilient construction industry aligned with national development goals.

THE Construction Industry Regulatory Authority (CIRA) has introduced new mandatory compliance measures aimed at strengthening oversight, accountability and standards within Malawi's construction sector.

Announcing the directive, Chief Executive Officer Eng. Gerald T. Khonje said 2026 has been identified as a key year for enforcement, with a focus on improving project delivery, transparency and regulatory compliance across the industry.

Under the new framework, all contractors and construction firms are required to register and obtain valid licences before undertaking any construction

Government moves forward with new ACB headquarters project

THE government is advancing plans to construct a new headquarters for the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Area 13, Lilongwe, as the project moves through its pre-construction phase.

The Ministry of Transport and Public Works, through its Buildings Department, is leading the initiative,

which is aimed at providing modern office space to strengthen the Bureau's capacity to carry out its mandate.

Key groundwork has already been completed. The Department of Buildings prepared the detailed designs in-house, while bid documentation, including Bills of Quantities and tender documents, has been finalised and submitted to

the ACB.

Statutory processes are also underway. Project drawings have been submitted to the Ministry of Lands for plot ownership procedures and to the Lilongwe City Council for scrutiny and assessment.

With these steps completed, the project is now positioned to move towards the next stage of development.



Artistic impression of the new ACB Building



Inspiring the builders of tomorrow: CIRA's outreach to learners in Dowa and Lilongwe

It was just before 8:45 in the morning on Wednesday, 4 March, when a team from the Construction Industry Regulatory Authority (CIRA) arrived at Chankhungu Community Day Secondary School in Dowa. The school marked the first stop in a series of engagements across Dowa and Lilongwe aimed at inspiring learners to consider careers in the construction industry.

The initiative, led by CIRA's Training and Research Department, is targeting civil engineering, architecture and quantity surveying, fields where demand for skilled professionals continues to grow as Malawi's construction sector expands.

Despite this growth, many learners, particularly girls, still view technical careers as out of reach. CIRA says the outreach programme is designed to change that perception and show students that such paths are both achievable and rewarding.

At the centre of the campaign were three professionals, Maggie

Nkosi, Sunganani Chasweka and Triza Chanju, who shared experiences from architecture, civil engineering and quantity surveying respectively. Their presence and stories challenged long-standing stereotypes and inspired lively discussions in classrooms.

The team visited several schools during the tour, including Chimwang'ombe, Mvera Secondary School, Mvera Girls Private Secondary School in Dowa, as well as Dzombwe, Chileka and Kamadzi Community Day Secondary Schools in Lilongwe. Across the schools, learners engaged the team with questions on career choices, subject requirements and the challenges of studying technical subjects.

"How did you choose your career path?" one student asked. Others wanted to know whether it was possible to study engineering without a laboratory, and what academic requirements were needed to enter technical fields.

The role models encouraged the learners with practical advice, speaking about perseverance,

mentorship and overcoming challenges. They emphasised that the construction industry offers wide opportunities for both boys and girls willing to pursue it.

CIRA Chief Executive Officer Eng. Gerald Khonje, Training and Research Director Neema Kadaluka and Finance Director CA Dan Kampondeni also joined the outreach programme in support of the initiative.

Speaking during the engagements, Eng. Khonje urged students to focus on clear life goals guided by vision, strategy and action.

"No matter what your circumstances today, if you have a vision, strategise and act on it, the future is yours," said Khonje.

CIRA said the outreach forms part of its mandate to build capacity in the construction sector by inspiring and equipping future professionals, stressing that Malawi's infrastructure development depends on today's learners being motivated and empowered.



Mhango Unveils Blueprint for Malawi's Road Subsector Reform

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, Jappie Mhango, has outlined a comprehensive plan to restructure Malawi's road subsector, positioning it as a critical driver of economic growth, trade, and national connectivity.

At the core of the reform is a nationwide reclassification of the road network, aimed at ensuring more structured, balanced, and inclusive development. The initiative also enhances the role of district councils in road management, fostering greater local participation in infrastructure planning and maintenance.

According to Mhango, the reform represents a major step forward in modernising the country's approach to road infrastructure. It aligns the classification system with current economic trends, population growth, urban expansion, and evolving administrative responsibilities. The review process also involved updating road names, correcting distances, and establishing a mechanism for periodic reassessment to keep the system responsive to future changes.

The reclassification was guided by a Multi-Criteria Analysis using the Roads Management System database. Roads were assessed based on traffic volumes, population density, economic activity, administrative connectivity, and their current condition—ensuring that each road is categorised according to its functional importance and contribution to national development.

Under the new framework, arterial roads will facilitate high traffic flows and connect key district centres, while collector roads will link major population areas and economic hubs. Local roads will focus on providing access to communities and agricultural zones, and urban roads



will cover city transport networks.

To improve clarity and consistency, a structured route numbering system has also been introduced. Main roads will retain their existing designations starting from M001, secondary roads will be renumbered from S200, district roads from D1000, and community roads from C2000.

Institutional responsibilities have been clearly defined to strengthen accountability. The National Roads Authority will oversee main and secondary roads, district assemblies will manage district roads, city and municipal authorities will handle urban roads, and local councils will be responsible for community roads. Strategic arterial routes passing through urban areas will remain under the Roads Authority.

On the financing side, the government has reinstated the Automatic Pricing Mechanism in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy to ensure more predictable funding for road maintenance.

Looking ahead, the government will prioritise key infrastructure projects in the 2026/27 financial year. These include the M5 Kaphatenga-Benga-Dwangwa Road, the M1 KIA Turn-off to Chiweta Road, the Lilongwe City West Bypass, Rumphinyika Road (Lot 2), the Chikwawa-Bembe Section, Mtangatanga Junction-Eswazini-Mzalangwe-Kafukule Road in Mzimba, Chingale-Lirangwe Road, Mangochi-Makanjira Road, and Chimwaza-Nambuma Road, among others.

In addition to public funding, the Ministry is exploring alternative financing models by engaging local financial institutions to invest in the transport sector—an approach Mhango described as promising and potentially transformative.

Overall, the reform signals a strategic shift toward a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable road network—one that is better equipped to support Malawi's long-term development goals.

Nacala corridor and railway projects advance under regional trade initiative

MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE are implementing key infrastructure and trade initiatives under the Southern Africa Trade and Connectivity Project (SATCP), aimed at reducing trade costs, improving infrastructure, and strengthening regional value chains.

The project, financed by the International Development Association (IDA), focuses on the Nacala and Beira corridors, which serve as strategic routes linking central and northern Mozambique to land-linked countries such as Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

To enhance coordination, the two governments have established the Nacala Development Corridor Management Committee Secretariat, with regional offices in Tete, Mozambique. A Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring system has also been introduced to track cargo movement, identify delays and inefficiencies, and inform policy and operational interventions.

On railway development, rehabilitation of the 72-kilometre Marka-Bangula line is underway, with physical progress at 79 percent against a time lapse of 108.8 percent. Track laying has been completed

from Marka to Nsanje, while major bridge concrete works have been finalised, with installation of handrails still pending.

A total of 52,140 sleepers have been produced to date, although production is currently suspended. Financial progress on the project stands at 51.3 percent.

Meanwhile, plans to reconstruct and rehabilitate the 129-kilometre Limbe-Bangula railway section are at preparatory stage. Terms of reference for a feasibility and design study have been developed, with procurement of a consultant expected once funding becomes available.



Stakeholders back stronger construction standards after CIRA engagement



*CIRA Chief Executive Officer,
Engineer Gerald Khonje*

STAKEHOLDERS in Malawi's construction industry have expressed support for stronger construction standards following a mandate awareness campaign by the Construction Industry Regulatory Authority (CIRA).

The engagements, part of CIRA's efforts to promote compliance, professionalism and quality, brought together contractors, consultants, suppliers, developers and local authorities from across the construction value chain.

During the sessions, CIRA officials outlined the Authority's mandate, functions and strategic objectives,

with emphasis on the need to adhere to approved construction standards to ensure safety, durability and value for money in projects.

CIRA Chief Executive Officer Eng. Gerald T. Khonje said stronger standards are essential to safeguard public safety and improve the overall performance of the sector. He warned that failure to comply often results in substandard work, project delays, increased costs and, in some cases, structural failures that put lives at risk.

"CIRA's mandate is not to police the industry but to guide, regulate, and support stakeholders to deliver quality and safe infrastructure," said Khonje. "By strengthening

construction standards and ensuring compliance, we are collectively protecting the public and raising the credibility of the industry. In fact, our role as an industry is not just to build infrastructure but also to build legacies through quality infrastructure that will better lives for generations."

Participants described the engagements as timely and informative, noting that limited awareness of regulatory requirements had contributed to misunderstandings and non-compliance in the past.

Construction firms said clear standards help create a level playing field by reducing unfair competition driven by poor workmanship and cost-cutting practices. They added that stronger standards can promote professionalism, innovation and skills development, leading to better project outcomes.

Local authorities and project developers also welcomed the initiative, saying effective regulation is key to improving coordination across the sector and supporting sustainable development as demand for infrastructure continues to rise.

The sessions also highlighted CIRA's regulatory tools, including registration and classification of contractors and consultants, as well as monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Stakeholders were encouraged to comply with registration requirements and engage the Authority for guidance where necessary.

CIRA said it will continue engaging stakeholders through awareness campaigns, capacity building and collaborative platforms, stressing that effective regulation depends on partnership and shared responsibility.

Stakeholders have pledged to strengthen collaboration with the Authority, share information and promote adherence to approved standards within their organisations, while calling for continued dialogue to address emerging challenges in the sector.



Hon. Jappie Mhango

Mhango draws the line on projects management

MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, JAPPIE MHANGO, has called for

improved projects management and implementation, signalling a shift towards stricter oversight of public infrastructure projects.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this publication, Mhango said the government is adopting a rule-based approach anchored on three key pillars: timeliness, cost adherence and quality delivery. He emphasized that all projects must be completed within agreed timelines and budgets, at the highest quality without compromising standards.

"Government wants to ensure that all projects are completed on agreed timelines, within contract costs, and with high quality of work," he said.

Mhango described the ministry as central to Malawi's economic

growth, noting that transport systems are key to the movement of goods and people. He said this places a greater responsibility on the ministry to deliver efficiently and effectively.

"The face of the country is the Ministry of Transport, therefore, there is no room for complacency," he added.

The minister stressed that the era of persistent cost overruns and project delays must come to an end, urging the ministry to lead by example in delivering infrastructure in line with Malawi 2063 development agenda.

"The expectation from President Mutharika's government is that we need to do things differently. The way things were done 5 or 10 years ago will not work now. Whatever we must resonate with our people," Mhango said.

Since his appointment to the ministry in January, Mhango has introduced tighter monitoring systems, including monthly performance reviews, to ensure projects remain on track and aligned with government

priorities.

He cited the Malawi National Transport Master Plan (2017-2037) as a key guiding framework, emphasizing that the focus should now shift from policy development to implementation.

"There is no need to reinvent anything, we must focus on implementation," he said.

Mhango further underscored the importance of developing an integrated transport system encompassing road, air, rail and water transport. He warned that underperformance within the ministry and its agencies will not be tolerated.

The Ministry of Transport and Public Works is currently implementing several projects across the country, including the M5 Kaphatenga-Benga-Dwangwa Road, the M1 KIA Turn-off to Chiweta Road, and the Lilongwe City West Bypass, among others.

A Glance at **Procurement**

The Procurement Department plays a critical role in ensuring that the Ministry of Transport and Public Works has the materials, goods, and services required to carry out its mandate effectively.

According to Chief Procurement Officer Juliana Kalonde, the department is responsible for coordinating procurement processes, engaging with suppliers, and ensuring that requests from various departments within the Ministry are fulfilled in a timely and efficient manner. Through these functions, the department helps maintain smooth operations across the Ministry.

“The Procurement Department contributes significantly to the Ministry’s performance by ensuring that resources are delivered on time and meet the required standards. The department also verifies that all goods and services procured comply with quality requirements and established procurement procedures, promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability,” Said Kalombe.

By facilitating the timely acquisition of essential materials and services, the department supports the effective implementation of the Ministry’s programmes and projects, ultimately contributing to improved service delivery.



Authorities launch nationwide operation against unregistered vehicles



*DRTSS Director
Christopher Kuyera*

THE Department of Road Traffic and Safety Services (DRTSS) has expressed concern over the continued failure by some motorists to comply with vehicle registration regulations, despite ongoing public awareness campaigns.

In an internal memorandum, DRTSS Director Christopher Kuyera said the violation remains widespread on public roads, creating challenges for law enforcement and road

safety management.

In response, the department has partnered with the Malawi Police Service to launch a nationwide enforcement operation targeting vehicles operating without proper registration or number plates.

DRTSS has warned that any vehicle, including motorcycles, found without valid registration plates will be impounded. Offending motorists will also face fines and other legal penalties as provided for under the law.

The department has

emphasised that vehicle registration is not only a legal requirement but also a key tool for ensuring accountability, improving road safety and strengthening regulation of road use.

Motorists have been urged to ensure their vehicles are properly registered to avoid penalties as the enforcement exercise gets underway.

DRTSS says the initiative is aimed at restoring order on the roads and promoting responsible road usage across the country.

RESTORE project to boost climate-resilient transport infrastructure in Malawi

THE Government of Malawi, with support from the World Bank, is rolling out the Resilient and Strategic Transport Operational Enhancement (RESTORE) Project to address the growing impact of climate change on the country's transport network.

In recent years, Malawi has faced severe weather events including floods, heavy rains, landslides and cyclones, which have caused widespread damage to roads, bridges and drainage systems, particularly in the southern region. The disruptions have affected mobility, slowed recovery efforts and weighed on economic activity.

The RESTORE Project aims to climate-proof key road infrastructure by improving resilience, safety and

connectivity, while strengthening institutional capacity in transport management. It targets the Lower Shire region, focusing on Chikwawa and Nsanje districts, which are among the areas most vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

A central component of the project is the reconstruction of the Thabwa-Chikwawa-Bangula (M001) Road and the upgrading of the Thabwa-Seveni (S152) Road. The works are expected to improve transport reliability, ensure year-round access and reduce the risk of infrastructure failure during extreme weather conditions. Designs are also underway for the Chikwawa-Chapananga-Mwanza Road.

Beyond infrastructure development, the project seeks to strengthen transport asset management systems to ensure roads are built

and maintained to withstand climate impacts. It will also enhance the capacity of key institutions, including the Central Materials Laboratory, to improve construction quality and standards.

The project includes a contingency component to support rapid response to emergencies, reflecting the need for flexible solutions in the face of climate-related shocks.

Despite financing challenges, the Government and its development partners are working to mobilise additional resources to support implementation. Once fully implemented, the project is expected to contribute to Malawi 2063 by improving connectivity, facilitating trade, strengthening disaster resilience and promoting sustainable economic growth.



Mhango and World Bank official



Mhango and World Bank official

PLANS to develop an Airport City around Kamuzu International Airport are gaining momentum, with key stakeholders reaffirming their commitment following the release of the project's feasibility study inception report.

Airport Developments Limited (ADL), the Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) and project developers JFAAWW ACE, a consortium of JFA Group and AWW Limited, recently met to review progress on the initiative. The project is expected to transform Malawi's aviation infrastructure while supporting broader economic growth.

Speaking at the meeting, ADL Chief Executive Officer Victor Lungu said the development is central to both the institution's priorities and the government's long-term vision. He noted that the project is designed to support future passenger growth, increase aviation activity and address existing infrastructure gaps.

"The Airport City project aligns with Malawi Vision 2063 and other national policies that prioritize the aviation sector as a catalyst for economic growth, trade, and tourism. We expect the development to be practical, scalable, and aligned with national development priorities to ensure a sustainable impact on the country's aviation sector and the wider economy," said Lungu.

PPPC Director of Projects Emily Kwatani said the commission remains committed to supporting the project through guidance and technical assistance to ensure it progresses in line with public private partnership frameworks and regulatory requirements.

"We are committed to providing guidance and technical support to ensure that the project progresses in line with PPP frameworks and

Airport City project gathers pace as stakeholders reaffirm support



Ready to deliver Airport City

regulatory requirements. The Commission stands ready to assist the project team in navigating institutional processes while ensuring the development remains aligned with national development objectives," she said.

JFAAWW ACE International Director Mohammed Samir told the meeting that the project will move into the preliminary design phase following the submission of the feasibility study inception report. He added that collaboration with government institutions will be key to the next stages.

"However, to support subsequent phases, we will need access to information from various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). We are therefore requesting

facilitation support from the project team to help coordinate engagements with the relevant institutions," he said.

The project, being implemented by ADL under the oversight of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and the Ministry of Tourism, aims to use the aviation subsector as a driver for urban development and economic activity.

The initiative will see the development of a city around Kamuzu International Airport alongside the expansion of the airport. Once completed, it is expected to improve access to employment opportunities, enhance services for visitors and tourists, and create a dynamic hub that integrates aviation, commerce and urban living.

Staff Profile: Meet the Architect opening doors for women in Malawi's construction sector

ARCHITECT Margaret Nkosi is among the few registered female architects in Malawi, and her work is helping to reshape both the country's infrastructure and perceptions about women in the construction industry.

Now serving as Principal Architect in the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Nkosi has contributed to several government projects, including the Malawi Red Cross Emergency Operations Centre in Blantyre. The facility is designed to strengthen emergency response and improve coordination during disasters.

Her journey into architecture began outside Malawi. She spent seven years in the United States, living in cities such as Socorro, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, where she developed a growing interest in urban planning and how built spaces influence people's lives.

On her return to Malawi in 2009, she joined the Buildings Department as an Architectural Technician. While

working, she pursued her academic studies, earning a Bachelor's degree from MUBAS, a Master's degree in Planning from India, and later qualifying as a registered architect, a milestone achieved by only a small number of women in the country.

Beyond her professional achievements, Nkosi is committed to mentorship and advocacy. She frequently engages with schoolgirls, encouraging them to pursue careers in architecture and other technical fields, while emphasising that the profession has no gender barriers.

Through her work and outreach, she continues to challenge long-standing perceptions in the construction sector, while contributing to national infrastructure development.

Nkosi's career reflects a blend of technical expertise and purpose, as she builds structures that serve communities while also helping to open doors for the next generation of women in architecture.



One of Nkosi's designs



Nkosi at the awards ceremony












PRESS RELEASE









REVISION OF ROAD TOLL RATES

The Roads Fund Administration would like to inform the public that with effect from **Thursday, 1st January 2026** the Road Toll fee(s) rates will be adjusted upwards.

1.0 The new tariff, applicable for both Chingeni and Kalinyeke Toll Plazas, is as follows:

Class	Vehicle Type	Axles	Rate
	• Class 1A: Light Vehicle (2 axles)	2	- 2,000.00
	• Class 1B: Pickup (2 axles)	2	- 2,000.00
	• Class 1C: Minibus (2 axles)	2	- 3,000.00
	• Class 2A: 17-31 passengers with rear double tyre	2	- 8,000.00
	• Class 2B: 2-5 tonnes with rear double tyre	2	- 8,000.00
	• Class 3: Above 31 passengers (3 axles)	3	- 8,000.00
	• Class 3: Above 5-10 tonnes (3 axles)	3	- 8,000.00
	• Class 4: Above 10 tonnes (4 axles)	4 or more	- 10,000.00
	• Class 5: Abnormal Load (5 axles)		- 40,000.00

Local User Discount Rates

	• Local User Class 1A: Light vehicles (2 axles)	- 400
	• Local User Class 1B: Pickups (2 axles)	- 400
	• Local User Class 1C: Minibus (2 axles)	- 600
	• Local User Class 2A: 17-31 passengers with rear double tyre	- 1600
	• Local User Class 2B: 2-5 tonnes with rear double tyre	- 1600
	• Local User Class 3: Above 31 passengers (3 axles)	- 1600
	• Local User Class 3: Above 5-10 tonnes (3 axles)	- 1600
	• Local User Class 4: Above 10 tonnes (4 axles)	- 2,000

2.0 Foreign Registered Vehicles

All foreign trucks registered outside Malawi, in a country that does not impose any inland tolls or similar charge on trucks registered in Malawi will be exempted from paying inland tolls.

Pay toll for sustained road maintenance.





*Katundu Cargo Ship
on Lake Malawi*

UPDATE: Water Transport set for a revolution

ON the vast blue waters of Lake Malawi, a quiet revolution is underway. While many Malawians are familiar with road and air transport, water transport is steadily re-emerging as one of the most efficient, affordable, and reliable modes of moving people and goods. At the heart of this revival is Malawi Lake Services (MLS), established on 1st May 2025 after taking over operations from a private operator.

As the only structured water transport provider on the lake, MLS offers dependable passenger and cargo services with a mission to reconnect lakeshore communities, support trade, and strengthen economic

activity. For communities along the lake, from fishing villages to growing trading centres, water transport is not a luxury but a necessity. MLS vessels carry bulk cargo, agricultural produce, building materials, and commercial goods in large volumes, with cargo ships capable of transporting heavy loads including trucks, making it one of the most cost-effective transport options in Malawi.

Beyond transportation, MLS offers docking services for vessel repairs at floating dock facilities, secure warehousing in Nkhata Bay and Chilumba, berthing services for private vessels, and even heritage tours allowing the public to visit historic ships. The benefits reach far beyond the shoreline-communities on Likoma, Chilumba, Nkhotakota, Mangochi, and Nkhata

Bay now move goods faster, while farmers, traders, and families stay connected. And because goods from the lake stock shelves in Lilongwe and build homes in Blantyre, MLS serves all Malawi.

More than just a transport provider, Malawi Lake Services is a strategic driver of trade, tourism, and community development-steering the nation toward a more connected and economically resilient future. The lake is vibrant, the vessels are in motion, and MLS is leading the way.

Serving bets for the last, MLS with government support, is expected to get two new ships that ply their trade on the lake very soon.

RFA secures land for Naluva tollgate as M14 road project advances

THE Roads Fund Administration (RFA) has achieved a key milestone in its infrastructure development programme following the successful acquisition of land for the construction of a tollgate at Naluva along the M14 Road, which connects Lilongwe and Salima.

RFA Chief Executive Officer, Stewart Malata, said the project is now set to move to the next phase, with construction expected to begin once financial resources are secured. He said the institution is actively exploring alternative financing mechanisms, including public private partnerships, to mobilise the required

funding.

“We have completed the land acquisition process for the Naluva tollgate, and our focus is now on securing financing to ensure timely implementation. We are engaging potential partners through PPP arrangements to accelerate progress,” said Malata.

He also highlighted ongoing road development initiatives aimed at improving connectivity and strengthening the country's transport network. These include the rehabilitation of the approximately 60-kilometre Kaphatenga–Benga Road, which is being funded by the Government of Malawi.

In addition, several major road projects are being implemented with support from international development partners such as the African Development Bank and the OPEC Fund, in collaboration with the Government of Malawi. These include the upgrading of the Nkhotakota–Dwangwa Road and the Benga–Nkhotakota stretch.

The RFA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting national development through strategic investments in road infrastructure, which it says are key to facilitating economic growth, improving mobility, and enhancing access to essential services across the country.



LIHACO hands over MK67 million patient waiting shelter to Chileka Health Centre

PATIENTS at Chileka Health Centre in Blantyre are set to benefit from improved waiting conditions following the handover of a patient waiting shelter valued at MK67 million by Lilongwe Handling Company Limited (LIHACO).

The facility has been provided under LIHACO's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative aimed at supporting community development and improving access to essential services. Speaking during the

handover ceremony, LIHACO Board Chairperson Foster Mulumbe said the company recognises the importance of strengthening health infrastructure to improve community wellbeing and health outcomes, particularly in underserved areas.

He said the new shelter will provide much-needed relief to patients, especially during the rainy season, as they previously waited for medical attention

under a tree and were exposed to harsh weather conditions.

Blantyre District Medical Officer Dr. Hawa Mtitimila welcomed the development, saying it will significantly improve service delivery at the facility.

"As far as patient care is concerned, we believe our patients will now feel safe and supported from the moment they arrive until they receive treatment," she said.

The shelter is expected to improve patient experience by offering a safer and more comfortable waiting space for medical services.



Chileka Health Centre



Lihaco Team officialys handover the healthy centre

AIR CARGO MALAWI moves towards full airline status to boost aviation sector



*Air Cargo CEO
Thokozani Unyolo*

AIR CARGO MALAWI LIMITED is moving ahead with plans to transform into a fully-fledged airline, in a development aimed at strengthening Malawi's aviation and logistics sector.

Chief Executive Officer, Thokozani Unyolo, briefed the Minister of Transport and Public Works, Jappie Mhango, on the company's operations and strategic direction during a stakeholder engagement meeting. She outlined the firm's flagship reform initiative, which focuses on expanding its mandate within the air cargo sub-sector. Unyolo said a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Malawi Defence Force to facilitate access to aircraft as part

of efforts to obtain an Air Operator Certificate. She said the initiative is expected to enhance operational capacity and position the company as a competitive player in the aviation industry.

"Our goal is to transform Air Cargo Malawi into a fully-fledged airline that can efficiently support trade, generate foreign exchange, and position Malawi as a competitive player in regional air logistics," said Unyolo.

She further said the company is committed to supporting Malawi's export drive by transporting high-value goods to regional markets including South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The development reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen air cargo services as a key driver of trade, economic growth and regional connectivity.

Fresh cohort of Police officers deployed to tollgates

A fresh cohort of Police officers has been deployed to the tollgates at Kalinyeke in Dedza and Chingeni in Ntcheu districts.

The new cohort was officially welcomed and oriented at Chingeni Toll Plaza in February where they underwent an orientation session with the aim of acquainting them with skills and knowledge needed in their new roles.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), for the Roads Fund Administration (RFA), Stewart Malata, said the deployment would enhance security at the tollgates.

“Every year, police officers are seconded to the (RFA) to provide additional security at the tollgates.

The secondment will therefore enhance security for officers and travelers at the tollgates,” said Malata.



CEO for the Roads Fund Administration, Stewart Malata

On his part, Station Officer for Chingeni Toll Plaza, Stephen Yamikani Chawala, hailed the deployment saying the Police play a very important role in providing security at the tollgates and their role cannot be overemphasized.

“Your presence here is a strong assurance of safety, order, and professionalism. As a key

revenue collection point for road maintenance and development, this tollgate plays an important role in supporting Malawi’s transport infrastructure. Your role in protecting this facility, our staff, and the road users is therefore vital,” said Chawala.

The officers were briefed on a number of areas including occupational health and safety practices, emergency response protocols and some house rules. On their part, the police presented their needs and expectations for them to work effectively. Roads Fund Administration is committed to providing a secure working environment.

The RFA was established with the objective of raising, administering and accounting for funds for construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of public roads and to manage the Roads Fund.



Chingeni Toll Plaza

PS Kumwembe Hails Installation of Mpatamanga Bailey Bridge



Works being completed at Mpatamanga Bailey Bridge

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, Bright Kumwembe, has hailed the installation of the Mpatamanga Bailey Bridge as a significant milestone in institutional collaboration within the transport subsector.

The bridge was installed by the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), through its Engineers Battalion, in collaboration with the Roads Authority.

“The MDF, through its Engineers Battalion, was tasked by the Malawi Government, through the Roads Authority, to reinstall the Mpatamanga Bailey Bridge in Mwanza District with the aim of restoring and enhancing mobility between the districts of Blantyre District, Mwanza District, and Neno District,” said Kumwembe.

The bridge was previously swept away in 2019 by Cyclone Idai, resulting in limited access



Kumwembe (c) appreciates the bridge from below the Mpatamanga gorge.

to essential social services for surrounding communities.

Located along the Chileka-Mpatamanga Road, the bridge serves as a critical access route to the Mpatamanga Hydropower Project, a nationally significant 300-megawatt development planned on the Shire River.

The broader project includes the grading of a 70-kilometre road from Tedzani Power Station to

Mpatamanga, transportation of bridge components to the site, and the assembly of the 70-metre structure.

Kumwembe, who inspected the bridge alongside the Director of Roads in the ministry, Kelvin Mphonda, emphasized that the ministry will continue collaborating with the MDF and other partners to deliver sustainable solutions in the road subsector.

Malawi steps up marine transport reforms to boost safety and investment

MALAWI is stepping up efforts to improve safety and unlock investment in its marine transport sector, with government outlining key reforms targeting operations on Lake Malawi and other inland waters.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Bright Kumwembe, said the measures are aimed at ensuring safer waterways while supporting trade and economic activity.

At the centre of the reforms is stricter enforcement of vessel certification. Kumwembe said the process is handled by Marine Department surveyors in line with the Inland Waters Shipping Act of 1995.

“Boat owners are required to submit an application with the prescribed fees. Surveyors then inspect the vessels to ensure they meet safety standards. Only those that comply are certified, while any deficiencies must be corrected before certification,” he said.

He warned that operating without certification carries serious consequences.

“Unseaworthy vessels are detained immediately. The Marine Police can arrest the owner or master, and prosecution may follow, which could result in fines or imprisonment,” Kumwembe added.

Beyond enforcement, Kumwembe said search and rescue operations on the lake are coordinated through a multi-agency approach involving the Marine Department, Marine Police, the Malawi Defence Force, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, and private boat operators.

“In the event of an accident, nearby operators and authorities respond immediately using available vessels to rescue those affected,” he said.

On infrastructure, Kumwembe said

construction of the Likoma Jetty is nearing completion.

“Works are about 90 percent complete, and funding has been allocated in the 2026/2027 financial year to finalise construction and operationalise the facility,” he said.

He added that government is taking steps towards the revival of Chipoka Port.

“Under the Southern Africa Trade and Connectivity Project, a consultant is being procured to undertake a feasibility study for the Chipoka–Makanjira corridor. The port also requires dredging to allow vessels to berth, and this will be undertaken soon,” Kumwembe said.

Kumwembe further said feasibility studies are underway for the development of ports at Nkhotakota and Nkhata Bay with support from the African Development Bank.

He also said government is considering the establishment of a Rail and Marine Regulatory Authority of Malawi to strengthen oversight of the subsectors.

Kumwembe added that the Ministry is engaging potential investors in shipping services and port development.

“Three investors have already expressed strong interest in cargo shipping, port infrastructure upgrades, and passenger services,” he said.



SfTPW Bright Kumwembe

RFA records strong revenue growth: Allocates K100 billion for M1 and city roads



RFA Director of Finance,
Alex Makhwatha

THE Roads Fund Administration (RFA) says improved toll tariffs and fuel levy allocations have strengthened road maintenance financing, resulting in increased revenue performance and expanded rehabilitation works on key road corridors, including the M1.

The developments were outlined on Monday during a press briefing held at the Roads Fund Administration Head Office in Lilongwe, where officials provided updates on toll revenue performance, funding reforms and ongoing road infrastructure interventions.

RFA Director of Finance, Alex

Makhwatha, said the institution has recorded improved funding flows following recent policy adjustments, which have helped restore momentum in road maintenance programmes that had previously been constrained.

He disclosed that the RFA had allocated a total of K100 billion for M1 and city roads maintenance work.

K50 billion has been released to Roads Authority Malawi (RA) for the M1 road sectional works and the other K50 billion will be distributed among city and municipal councils to fix some of the badly damaged roads. In addition, RA will receive K17 billion for other road works.

Makhwatha explained that toll

rates were reduced by about 40 percent shortly after implementation, a decision that affected revenue projections which had been based on feasibility studies meant to support both toll operations and sustainable road maintenance.

"The adjustments in toll rates at the time, combined with economic pressures, made it difficult to sustain the planned level of road maintenance," Makhwatha said.

He said government has since responded with a 100 percent increase in toll tariffs effective January 2026, alongside a rise in fuel levy allocations from about K126 per litre for petrol and K123 per litre for diesel to K506 and K503 respectively, which has significantly strengthened the financing framework.

RFA Tolling Operations Manager Dalitso Kadzamira said the reforms have also translated into improved revenue performance, with toll collections rising sharply in the first quarter of 2026.

He said the RFA collected K1.8 billion between January and March this year, up from K920 million recorded during the same period last year, representing a 96 percent increase.

He added that pothole patching works are currently underway as interim measures while long-term rehabilitation continues.

Kadzamira further said toll revenues are being ring-fenced in line with government directives to ensure they are strictly used for maintenance of tolled roads.



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