

Government pumps Ksh 500 Billion in Infrastructure to boost economic growth

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Architect Aidah Munano cuts ribbon to signify official opening of this year's National Construction week at the KICC.

"The Government has invested over Kshs. 500 Billion (USD 5 Billion) in the ICT, Energy and infrastructure related ministries and state agencies to foster economic growth.

"In execution and operationalization of the vision 2030, the Government rolled out substantial investments in noteworthy infrastructure projects in energy, petroleum, sea, rail and air transport, roads, housing and urban development, maritime among others with a view to support the socio-economic development of Kenyan people in the current financial year".

These remarks by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and urban Development James Macharia were contained in a speech read

on his behalf by the Principal Secretary for Housing and urban Development Arch Aidah Munano during the official opening of the **Annual Construction Research Conference and Exhibition (ACORCE) 2016** at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

He observed that from the Economic Survey Report of 2016, the construction industry posted a 13.6% growth, which was twice the national average economic growth. "This is an improvement from the 13.1% expansion reported in 2015", said Mr Macharia.

He noted that the construction sector played a pivotal role in creation of the much needed youth employment and absorption of locally manufactured construction products such as cement.

The Cabinet Secretary called for effective and efficient operations of the regulatory and capacity development agencies involved in the infrastructure development in order for these physical developments to achieve the world class standards in safety, quality, cost and timeliness of delivery.

He stated that there was a clear need for regulators and other government agencies in the construction sector to align respective strategic interventions into solving the quality and safety concerns that continue to hinder optimum operationalization of this very important sector.

"The **interventions include** undertaking of professional site inspections to safeguard investments as well as protect the sanctity of life from collapsed structures and increased capacity building initiatives such as execution of NCA's National Construction Research Agenda (NaCRA), said he.

He urged the National Construction Authority to upscale the training of Contractors and Artisans in view of the statistics that only about 16% of all construction workers are formally trained in technical areas relevant to their work.

Ends.

