

NEW KONZA-MACHAKOS-TALA-KANGUNDO ROAD - A BLISS TO 'BODA BODA' OPERATORS AT KENOL MARKET

The new Konza-Machakos-Tala-Kangundo road cuts through KENOL market, a small bustling rural town in Machakos County. The town is about an hour's drive from the capital city of Nairobi some 60 kilometers away.

The new road now serves the needs of approximately 50,000 people living along the road and many more in the interior. Only a year ago, accessing this rural town was a nightmare.

The rough earth road that has since been replaced by this modern road was tough to navigate and would be rendered impassable whenever it rained. Yet a group of entrepreneurs, notably young men have been making a living by ferrying residents to their destinations on motorbikes commonly referred to as **bodaboda** using this road.

For Joshua Kioko, 27, this business has been his lifeline for the last six years. However earning his daily bread was a daunting task due to the poor state of the road.

"Residents were sometimes hesitant to ride on the bikes since the ride was very uncomfortable. Accidents were common and we had to suspend

business when it rained because the road became impassable. All that is history now; even the repair of our motorbikes is not as often as we used to when this road was rough and dilapidated." Said Kioko.

In line with the Metro 2030 more people are expected to move into this area as land owners or tenants due to ease in transportation to Nairobi and Machakos towns will be easier.



*Joshua waits for passengers at Kenol town
(New road at the background)*

"Before the construction of the road we were all invited for meetings by government officials and the contractors. We asked many questions and raised our fears about the loss of land where the road passes. However, the officials explained that we would

be compensated. We are very grateful to the Government and the World Bank for building us this road.”

As the chairman of Maeloni Bodaboda association, a self-help group, Kioko has seen membership of the group double in the past few months as more young people venture into the lucrative transport business. “With the movement of more people here mean we have experienced business growth for our *boda bodas*, and as a result *better life*. I attribute this membership growth directly to the construction of this road. Jobless young people who were idle are now encouraged to venture into transport business.” Says Kioko.



Some members of Maeloni Boda Boda association

Project (NAMSIIP).

Kioko owns a fleet of 7 motorbikes and is planning to venture into *Matatu* business (public transport) is his next dream.

In the near future, the ***boda boda*** association intends to transform the group into an investment society to help its members’ access loans and financial support to improve their lives economically.

This stretch of the road is part of the 75 Kilometer road constructed by the National government supported by the World Bank through the Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure Housing and Urban Development at a cost of Kshs 4.3 billion. The road connects Machakos, Nairobi, Kajiado and

Investment

The road is due for completion in March 2018.

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