

EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN BUILDING OF HOUSES, STATE URGES PRIVATE SECTOR.

Nairobi, Dec 18, 2016. By Olem Edward.



CS Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Unrban Development (Centre) flanked by PS for Public Works Prof. Paul Maringa (left) and PS for Housing and Urban Development Arch Aidah Munano (Right) while on an inspection tour of Kamulo Police houses built using Expanded Polystyrene Panels.

Players in the construction and real estate sector need to embrace new industrial building technologies for faster and cost effective delivery of houses to the nation.

The technology which has government approval and backing has been tested and found to be structurally safe for human habitation.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, James Macharia disclosed that already, the government was constructing 1850 police houses on a pilot basis using this technology. The first batch of 1050 houses are well on course for completion and are expected to be ready by the end of January 2017.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Principal Secretary for Housing and Urban Development Arch Aidah Munano during a one day workshop on Performance for Results for staff at the Public Service Club, the CS commended the State Department for Housing and Urban Development for successfully completing most of the flagship projects, among them 822 low cost houses in Kibera, Kongowea Market in Mombasa, and a Kshs. 2 billion Ruiru Sewer project just to name a few.

He said that Municipal areas in the Nairobi Metropolitan region were now enjoying the services of 29 fire-fighting equipment worth over 150 million shillings.

Mr Macharia was impressed by work undertaken through Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Programme (KISIP), Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP), Kenya Municipal programme (KMP), schools developed under the KfW Programme, Nairobi Metropolitan Services Improvement Programme (NaMSIP) in addition to many projects with direct funding from Government. “This is a clear indication that the government cares for the citizenry”, said the CS.

He noted that the Construction of 69Km bitumen road in Machakos County that includes Kenol-Kangundo Road and Katumani-Mombasa Road among others undertaken by Urban and Metropolitan Development directorate had positively impacted communities across the country.

He acknowledged that the National Building Inspectorate and the National Construction Authority had contributed towards improving standards and safety in the construction industry. “At this point” said Mr Macharia, “I wish to urge these two institutions to further strategize on taking operations to a higher level and work out ways to ensure complete safety in the Built Environment”.