

Want to drive through hell? Try Naivasha-Nakuru road

TRAVELLING on the busy Naivasha-Nakuru road has become a nightmare. The road has deteriorated so much that it may find itself out of the definition of a highway.

The stretch between Naivasha and Gilgil towns especially is very rough and bumpy that motorists are forced to slow down to manoeuvre around wide and deep potholes. Many motorists have been attacked by highway robbers either after stopping to repair a puncture or just when slowing down at rough sections.

When the Minister for Roads and Public Works Mr Raila Odinga announced that the road, which forms part of the Northern Corridor, was due for rehabilitation and that work would soon start, those who frequently use the road sighed with relief. Little did they know that the actual commencement of work would take much longer.

The losses in terms of the high cost of vehicle maintenance and the long hours it takes to cover the journey are just annoying.

This is part of a very important road that serves the western and parts of northern Kenya and is a lifeline to the neighbouring countries to the west.

We wonder what happened after the promise. Could it be that the money for the project has not been released? Or is it because some paperwork has not been completed?

The minister, who has in the past complained of the lengthy procurement procedures in tendering for road construction projects and moaned that some junior offices were sabotaging reforms at the ministry, needs to face the fact that that road is beyond its use by date and that urgent measures need to be taken.

He needs to ensure that the contractor moves in as soon as possible. If not, then he would do good to give an update of what is happening. The road may need some temporary measures if the reconstruction will take too long to kick off.