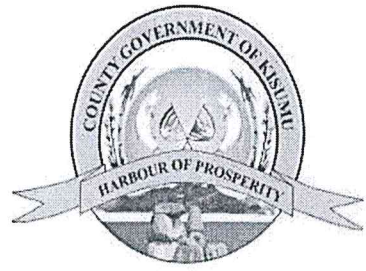


COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU



THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU 3 RD ASSEMBLY	
DATE: 4/09/2024	Time: 2:30pm Day:
TABLED BY:	Hon Reuben Rakwach
CLERK AT THE TABLE	A. Eleng'o

THIRD ASSEMBLY – THIRD SESSION

COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORK.

REPORT ON THE MATTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONGOI BRIDGE ALONG
CHEMELIL-ODUWO-MUHORONI ROAD IN CHEMELIL TAMU WARD.

Presented by
HON. REUBEN RAKWACH

AUGUST 2024

DIRECTORATE OF COMMITTEE SERVICES,
CLERKS CHAMBERS,
KISUMU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report aims to address various concerns related to the construction of Ongoi Bridge along the Chemelil – Oduwo – Muhoroni road, situated in Chemelil/Tamu Ward, Muhoroni Sub-County. The focus of this report is specifically on the Ongoi Bridge, which has been severely damaged and washed away by recent floodwaters. This incident has resulted in the severance of a critical road link, impacting access to essential services and facilities. The affected road is a vital connection to Oduwo Health Dispensary, Oduwo Market, three local schools, and other important community activities. The report will provide a detailed analysis of the damage, assess the implications for local residents, and propose necessary actions for repair and mitigation to restore connectivity and support the ongoing needs of the community.

This report addresses the issues outlined herein in response to a formal request from the Chairperson of the Committee on Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works. The purpose of this statement is to provide a comprehensive overview of the emergency plan developed by the Directorate of Special Programs, Emergencies, and Disaster Management. This plan outlines the immediate actions required to repair the Ongoi Bridge and restore safe and efficient transportation along the Chemelil – Oduwo – Muhoroni Road in Chemelil/Tamu Ward.

The statement was issued by Hon. Fredrick Adonija, Member of the County Assembly (MCA) for Chemelil/Tamu Ward, concerning the construction and recent issues related to the Ongoi Bridge. This statement addresses the concerns raised about the bridge's current condition, which has been adversely affected by recent events. Hon. Adonija's statement emphasizes the need for urgent attention and action to address the construction-related problems, repair the damaged infrastructure, and ensure the bridge's functionality is restored to support the local community effectively.

In addressing the matter, the committee convened a total of four sittings and conducted a comprehensive site visit to assess the situation on the ground. These efforts were undertaken to ensure a thorough understanding of the issues related to the construction of Ongoi Bridge along the Chemelil – Oduwo – Muhoroni road, situated in Chemelil/Tamu Ward, Muhoroni Sub-County.

1.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

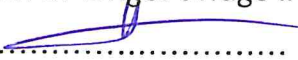
Mr. Speaker Sir and Hon. Members,

The committee extends its gratitude to all stakeholders who participated in the proceedings, their cooperation and contributions have been invaluable in compiling this report.

Additionally, the committee expresses its appreciation to the offices of the speaker, the clerk of the Assembly and that of the area MCA; Hon. Fredrick Odari for their unwavering support, which has been instrumental in enabling the committee to fulfill its duties effectively.

May I also take this opportunity and thank Members and secretariat of the standing committee for their tireless commitment in consideration of the statement.

On behalf of the committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 193 (5) (a), it is my duty and privilege to present to the County Assembly, the Committee's report on a statement sought by Hon. Fredrick Adonija Odari on the matter of the construction of Ongoi Bridge in Chemelil Tamu ward.

Signature  Date 27/08/2024

HON. REUBEN RAKWACH.

CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members,

1.2 MANDATE/LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Assembly standing committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works is established under Standing Order 193 and the Second Schedule of Kisumu County Assembly Standing Orders. The committee is mandated to look into all matters relating to energy, County transport, including County roads, street lighting, traffic and parking, public roads transport and ferries and harbors, excluding the regulations of international and national shipping and matters related thereto; County public works and services including storm water management system in built-up areas, firefighting and disaster management.

1.3 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members,

The committee on Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works comprises of the following Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon. Reuben Rakwach | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Anne Atieno | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon. Ken Ooko | Member |
| 4. Hon. Lumumba Owade | Member |
| 5. Hon. Seth Kanga | Member |
| 6. Hon. Jenipher Obonyo | Member |
| 7. Hon. George Abaja | Member |

Secretariat

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Peter Anditi | - Principal Clerk Assistant. |
| 2. Mr. Benard Abuodha | - Clerk Assistant |
| 3. Ms. Kennedy Okise | - Sergeant at Arm |
| 4. Mr. Edward Odanga | - Hansard. |

ESTABLISHMENT FROM THE SITE VISIT.

The committee established the following from the site visit.

Ongoi Bridge, situated along the Chemelil – Oduwo – Muhoroni road, is classified as a KERRA (Kenya Rural Roads Authority) road. This classification indicates that the bridge is part of the national rural road network managed and maintained by KERRA, which is responsible for overseeing the development and upkeep of rural roads throughout Kenya. The bridge serves as a critical infrastructure component within this network, facilitating essential transportation and connectivity for the communities in the Chemelil/Tamu Ward and surrounding areas.

The bridge was originally constructed by European engineers during the colonial period. This early infrastructure project was part of broader efforts to develop transportation networks and facilitate trade and movement in the region. The construction of the bridge, undertaken under colonial administration, played a crucial role in connecting various communities and supporting economic activities. Over the years, the bridge has undergone several modifications and repairs to adapt to changing needs and conditions, reflecting its enduring significance in the region's transportation infrastructure.

The Ongoi Bridge, originally constructed during the colonial period, was subsequently swept away by the river during an episode of excessive swelling. Following this, the Special Programs Directorate undertook the task of rebuilding the bridge. In an effort to combat erosion along the riverbank, gabions were installed as part of the restoration work. However, these gabions were also eventually carried away by the river's strong currents. As a result of these challenges, the current state of the bridge is now estimated to span more than 20 meters. This ongoing issue highlights the need for effective long-term solutions to address both the structural integrity of the bridge and the management of riverbank erosion.

RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

The department submitted a response to the committee via a letter dated August 22, 2024, referenced CGK/CECM/METR&PW/ASSEMBLY/VOL.11 (117). The report detailed that emergency repair work on Ongoi Bridge was carried out by the Special Programs Directorate. However, it was noted that the department does not have a specific budget allocation for the restoration of the bridge. Given that the Chemelil-Oduwo road is classified as a KERRA (Kenya Rural Roads Authority) road, the department has engaged in consultations with KERRA regarding the necessary actions to reconstruct the bridge. The aim is to facilitate the restoration of safe and efficient movement along the road, addressing both the immediate repair needs and long-term maintenance of the bridge. (SEE THE ANNEX 1)

OBSERAVATIONS

Committee observed the following for the deliberations on Ongoi Bridge;

Ongoi Bridge is strategically located along the Chemelil – Oduwo – Muhoroni road, which plays a crucial role in connecting various communities in the region. This road is classified as a KERRA road, managed by the Kenya Rural Roads Authority. KERRA is responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of rural road networks throughout Kenya. The classification of Ongoi Bridge under KERRA indicates that it is part of the national rural road infrastructure that supports economic activities, facilitates access to essential services, and promotes regional connectivity. As a KERRA road, Ongoi Bridge is integral to the broader transportation network, highlighting the importance of its upkeep and the need for effective management to ensure its continued functionality and service to the local population.

Recent heavy downpours have dramatically altered the banks of the river, eroding the surrounding landscape and causing the river to widen to approximately 20 meters in width. The intense rainfall has led to significant runoff, which has further contributed to the widening of the river, reshaping its course and impacting the nearby environment. As a result, the once narrow channel has expanded considerably, inundating adjacent areas and altering the natural flow of the river.

The local community has created a makeshift footbridge using tree branches to address the lack of proper infrastructure. Unfortunately, this improvised footbridge is fraught with dangers. The bridge is unstable and uneven, with loose branches and gaps that make it treacherous for pedestrians. This is particularly concerning for schoolchildren who use the bridge daily to get to and from school. The hazardous conditions heighten the risk of slips, trips, and falls, posing a serious safety threat to the young pupils, students and other users. Without a more secure and well-constructed bridge, the community remains vulnerable to accidents and injuries, emphasizing the urgent need for a safer, more permanent solution.

RECOMMENDATION.

The committee therefore strongly recommends that the Department of Infrastructure, Energy, and Public Works urgently collaborate with the Member of Parliament for Muhoroni Constituency to address the issue of the compromised bridge. Given that this bridge is situated along a classified KERRA road, it is essential that prompt action is taken to ensure its construction. The current condition of the bridge poses significant risks to the safety of commuters and residents in the area. A coordinated effort between the Department and the local MP will facilitate a quicker response and the implementation of necessary measures to restore the bridge to a safe and functional state. This collaboration will also ensure that the road's classification and its importance to the local infrastructure are duly considered in the resolution process.

5.0 CONCLUSION

It is now my pleasure to move this motion that, this House adopts this report of the Infrastructure, Energy and Public Works Committee report on a statement by Hon. Fredrick Adonija in regards to construction of Ongoi Bridge in Chemelil Tamu Ward.

May I call Hon..... to second.

OPTION SCHEDULE

Members of the Infrastructure, Public Works and Energy do hereby affix our signatures to confirm the correctness and support for this report and every information herein.

S. NO.	NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
	Hon Reuben Rakwach	Chairperson	
	Hon Anne Ochola	Vice Chairperson	
	Hon Ken Ooko	Member	
	Hon Lumumba Owade	Member	
	Hon Seth Kanga	Member	
	Hon Jenipher Obonyo	Member	
	Hon George Abaja	Member	

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ANNEX 1



THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU
Department of Energy, Transport, Roads & Public Works

DATE: 22ND AUGUST, 2024

RE: RESPONSE TO STATEMENT ON STATUS OF ONGOI BRIDGE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Orimba', is written over a horizontal line.

Salmon Orimba
County Executive Committee Member
Energy, Transport, Roads & Public Works

GIVE DETAILS OF AN EMERGENCY PLAN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL PROGRAM EMERGENCIES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT TO IMMEDIATELY REPAIR THE ONGOI BRIDGE AND RESTORE OPERATION AND MOVEMENT ALONG CHEMELIL-ODUWO – MUHORONI ROAD IN CHEMELIL/TAMU WARD

The emergency repair works at Ongoi Bridge was undertaken by the Special Program Department. The department has no budgetary allocation for the bridge restoration. The Chemelil- Oduwo road is a KERRA classified road, the department has consulted with KERRA to take action in repairing the bridge so as to restore movement on the road.

Public Works Yard, off Busia Road,
P.O. Box 2738-40100 Kisumu.