

Over 5,000 acres marked for SGR extension to Kisumu

BY CHRIS MAHANDARA, KNA

More than 5,000 acres of land across five counties have been earmarked for compulsory acquisition as the government moves to extend the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Naivasha to Kisumu.

The National Land Commission (NLC) announced the plans during a high-level stakeholder engagement meeting convened by Kenya Railways in Kisumu. The meeting was attended by Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o, MPs, MCAs, national government officials, and other key stakeholders.

NLC Director of Valuation and Taxation, Joel Ombati, said the Commission has received formal notice from the Ministry of Transport to acquire the land required for the 269-kilometre Phase II B stretch, which will traverse Narok, Bomet, Kericho, Nyamira, and Kisumu counties.

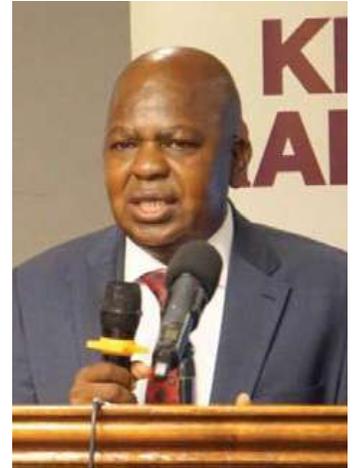
"Kisumu has the highest number of Project Affected Persons (PAPs)," said Ombati. "All affected persons will be compensated in accordance with Kenyan law and prevailing market rates."

He said a digital platform will be deployed to demarcate parcels and collect ownership data, targeting completion of compensa-

tion within eight months to ensure construction proceeds without delay.

Kenya Railways Managing Director (MD), Philip Mainga, speaking at the same meeting, said the project will be launched simultaneously in Narok and Kisumu, with completion scheduled for June 2027.

"We have instructions to start this project by March 28. We must launch on that date and we are working to ensure we meet the timelines," he said, noting that groundwork in Narok near Narok Teachers College, was already at an advanced stage following consultations with the county government and



Kisumu County Governor Prof. Anyang Nyong'o and Kenya Railways Managing Director, Philip Mainga addressing leaders from Kisumu during a stakeholder engagement on the Naivasha-Kisumu Standard Gauge Railway Project. PHOTOS: CHRIS MAHANDARA

local leadership. Mainga stressed that the railway route has been fully designed and cannot be altered, explaining that even minor deviations could compromise safety and operational efficiency.

"The route has been identified, designed and approved. We cannot change even an inch of it. Railway engineering relies on strict gradient requirements to support passenger speeds of 120 km/h and

cargo trains at 80 km/h," he said. To avoid delays that have dogged past projects, Mainga said compensation disputes will be resolved on the ground in collaboration with NLC, local leaders and administrators.

Coltan discovery poised to transform Embu economy



BY SAMUEL WAITITU (KNA)

Embu County is set for significant economic transformation following the confirmation of deposits of coltan and other strategic minerals by the Ministry of Mining.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Ali Hassan Joho, said Embu is among the few counties identified by the Government of Kenya as hosting strategic minerals critical for digital and industrial development, as well as the global energy transition.

Speaking during a high-level consultative meeting with county leadership led by Governor Cecily Mbarire and other stakeholders at the Kenya School of Government Embu Campus, Joho noted that geological records and exploration have confirmed the presence of columbite and tantalite, collectively known as coltan.

He also said other mineral deposits including copper,



graphite, mica, aquamarine, rare earth elements, and various construction and industrial minerals were discovered in the area. "Geological mapping had identified multiple coltan occurrence sites in Kaumu in Mbeere South Constituency as well as Kianguguru and Gatue in Mbeere North Constituency," the CS said.

He noted that there were prospects of copper, zinc, silver, gold and rare earth elements, particularly in the lower parts of Embu County. "With coltan mining in Embu, we expect increased job creation, growth of local enterprises, improved infrastructure, enhanced revenue for both

1. Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Ali Hassan Joho (third from right) handing over copies of Mining Act to Embu County officials led by Governor Cecily Mbarire (next to him)
2. Coltan rocks found in Kiangangaru Village in Kiambere Ward of Embu

levels of government, and expansion of opportunities for our youth and skilled professionals," said Joho.

He reported that coltan was a highly strategic and valued mineral used in the manufacture of electronic devices, renewable energy technologies and advanced industrial applications, positioning Embu as an emerging mineral hub in Eastern Kenya.

Coltan, a grey black mineral in its pure form, has gained importance during the Electronic Age as it is a major raw material in the manufacture of mobile phones, computers and other electronic devices.

NATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS - WORKS

- The Naivasha Water and Sanitation Company Limited now invites sealed Bids from eligible Contractors for works as indicated in the table below

No	Tender No.	Tender Description	Eligibility	Closing Date
1	NAIVAWASCO/AOD/01/2025-26	Naivasha AOD Project	Open	24th March, 2026, 11.00am

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Naivasha Water and Sanitation Co. Ltd**, main office located at water works, along Kenyatta Avenue and inspect the bidding document during office hours **0800 to 1700 hours excluding weekends and public holidays** at the address below.
- The bidding document in English may be downloaded free of charge from the company's website www.naivashawater.co.ke. Bidders who download the bidding documents must notify the procuring entity by email to procurement@naivashawater.co.ke with full contact details that they intended to participate before closing date. This will facilitate issuance of notifications by the procuring entity, to all bidders where necessary. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly to check any additional information, clarifications or addenda.
- Mandatory Pre Tender Meeting and Site visit will be held on **Tuesday 10th March, 2026 as from 10:00am**. Meeting place shall be at NAIVAWASCO's Main Office Boardroom located at Water works offices.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the closing date and time indicated above. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **Tuesday 24th March, 2026, at 1100 hours East African Time (EAT)**.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee** as specified in the tender document.
- The address(es) referred to above is (are):
 - Attention: **The Managing Director, Company: Naivasha Water and Sanitation Company Limited Address: P O Box 321 - 20117 Town: Naivasha Street: Kenyatta Avenue Tel.: 0705 788 770 Email: info@naivashawater.co.ke , Website: www.naivashawater.co.ke**
 - Address for Submission of Tenders **The Managing Director Naivasha Water and Sanitation Company Limited P.O Box 321 - 20117 Naivasha Water Works Offices, located along Kenyatta avenue.**
 - Address for Opening of Tenders **NAIVAWASCO'S Boardroom Water Works Offices, located along Kenyatta avenue**