

risking all the hazards of walking in the streets of Nairobi instead of driving or taking public transport to work.

A year ago, the former Minister for Nairobi Metropolitan, Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, observed: "If we don't do anything to decongest Nairobi soon, I have no doubt it will come to a standstill in a decade."

That is why it is important to seek all possible ways, including assistance from donor agencies, to manage the flow of traffic in the city before it gets to this situation.

Nairobi experiences serious traffic congestion because of the absence of link roads and the rapidly expanding population. As part of maintaining and serving the traffic network in Nairobi, the Project for Construction of Nairobi Western Ring Roads aims to building roads that will link Kileleshwa to Westlands roundabout, Ole Dume Road and James Gichuru Road to Ngong Road.

It is expected that, through this project, the links will relieve congestion on roads in surrounding areas. This will contribute to improving the road network and state of the roads in the capital city of Nairobi.

This grant aid project is a part of Japan's commitment to Africa announced at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in May 2008, to strengthen cooperation in the field of infrastructure.



A section of the Kilimani Ring Road referred to as the 'missing link 7'. This road is earmarked for construction to link Ngong Road, cutting across Dennis Pritt Road to James Gichuru Road.

Energy

Promoting and Improving Access to Clean Energy

Japan has advanced a Japanese ODA loan to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for up to 12.41 billion yen for the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu Transmission Lines Construction Project.

Under the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu Transmission Lines Construction Project, transmission lines will be constructed from the Olkaria Geothermal Power Plants near Naivasha in Nakuru County, to Kisumu in Kisumu County via Lessos in Uasin Gishu County spanning approximately 290 Kms. The construction will be accompanied by an expansion in sub-station facilities with the objective of providing stable and reliable power supply to Western Kenya Region. These lines will form an inter-connection with a 400kV Kenya-Ethiopia Transmission Lines, a 220kV double circuit from Isinya in Nairobi County to Suswa in Nakuru County and 220kV Lessos Tororo construction lines financed by African Development Bank.

It will form a backbone connected to the transmission lines being constructed in neighboring Uganda under the Inter-connection of Electric Grids of Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries Project, also supported by a Japanese ODA loan, aiming to provide a stable supply of electrical power to East African region through a transnational power interchange on this project.

Under this project, voltages higher than what is possible with current lines will be transmitted, decreasing transmission loss and enabling more efficient use of power. Additionally, transmitting power from the Olkaria Geothermal Power Production plants to consumption areas will contribute to the enhancement of green energy use, meaning that this project is qualified as Climate Change ODA Loan.

Earlier on, another loan of Japanese Yen 29.52 billion was provided to Kenya to undertake a project for expanding the Olkaria I Geothermal Power Station by installing power units 4 and 5, with a combined capacity of 140MW. This was the first project supported by a Climate Change Japanese ODA loan in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in Yokohama in 2008, the Japanese government pledged to "Support the formulation of policies and plans to expand usage of renewable energy, and assist renewable energy programs and to support provision of a stable power supply for sub-Saharan Africa.