

Development of maintenance management tool for district rural roads under local government authorities in Tanzania: a case study of Kigoma region

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Master of Science (Highway Engineering)

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Ineffective rural transport services are major obstacles to economic and social development in rural areas in Tanzania. Roads are clearly a critical enabling condition for improving living conditions in rural areas, for they form multiple function of providing access to employment and other social services in rural areas. There is a problem, however, which is the ineffective of maintenance to these rural roads. This research focused on investigating the cause of the ineffectiveness of maintenance of rural roads in Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and developing appraisal tool which would solve the problem of ineffectiveness of rural roads maintenance; under LGAs working environment. In order to achieve its objectives, the research approach used literature review, field questionnaire, road inventory and condition survey, Web based languages application, Java Script, Sequential query language and Notepad software. It was observed that, the problem of poor maintenance of rural roads in LGAs in Tanzania at present, without undermining other causes is due to poor planning and management for maintenance of rural roads, for there is limited financial and technical resources. To solve this problem, the tool for planning and managing rural roads maintenance tasks under prevailing environment has been developed. The core function of the tool developed is to optimize the limited financial and technical resources. The approach of the tool considers mostly the protection of the existing road network and provision of access to production and social services.