SPECIAL ISSUE

West Pokot County Gazette Supplement No. 5 (Bills No. 5)

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

WEST POKOT COUNTY GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT

BILLS, 2015

NAIROBI, 21st April, 2015

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PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NAIROBI
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THE WEST POKOT COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORT BILL, 2015

A Bill for

AN ACT of the County Assembly of West Pokot County to establish the county department of transport; to provide for matters relating to Traffic, parking, county roads, street lighting, public road transport and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the County Assembly of West Pokot as follows —

PART I— PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the West Pokot County Public Transport Act, 2015.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorized person” means any person responsible for carrying out any duty or function or delegated to carry out any duty or function in terms of this Act and includes a traffic marshal, traffic conductor and any other person authorized under any other law;

“county executive member” means the county committee executive member for the time being responsible for matters relating to Transport;

“county Roads” means all other roads except those marked as National Roads in schedule 2 of the Kenya Roads Act;

“department” means the County department of transport established under section 5 of this Act;

“director” means the county director of transport under this Act;

“hazardous materials” means a substance or material in a quantity and form which may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or properly when transported in commerce by all modes;

“hovercraft” means a vehicle which is designed to be supported when in motion wholly or partly by air expelled from the vehicle to form a cushion of which the boundaries include the ground, water or other surface beneath the vehicle;

“light railway” means a railway whether above, on or under the ground and includes underground metropolitan trains, trams, sky trains, cable trains and magnetic levitation trains.

“motor vehicle” includes a vehicle, machine, bus, tractor, truck trailer
or semi-trailer, propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used upon public roads in the transportation of property or passengers, but does not include any locomotive or car operated exclusively on a rail, rails or track;

“trailer” means any vehicle designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle, but does not include a sidecar attached to a motor cycle;

“owner” when used in relation to goods includes any consignor, consignee, shipper or agent for the sale, receipt, custody, loading or unloading and clearance of those goods and includes any other person in charge of the goods and his agent in relation thereto; and when used in relation to a vessel includes any part owner, broker, charterer, agent or mortgagee in possession of the vessel or other person or persons entitled for the time being to possession of the vessel;

“permit” means operating authority issued under this Act;

“person” includes an individual, firm, partnership, association or corporation;

“ranking facility” includes —

(a) a place upon a public road from which a public transport service may ply for hire or convey and drop off passengers; and

(b) any place demarcated or designated for the exclusive parking of specific public transport vehicles by a road traffic sign; and

“vehicle” means a device designed or adapted mainly to travel on wheels or crawler tracks and includes such a device which is connected with a draw bar to a breakdown vehicle and is used as part of the towing equipment of a breakdown vehicle to support any axle or all the axles of a motor vehicle which is being salvaged other than such a device which moves solely on rails.

**Objects and Purpose**

3. The objects and purpose of this Act is to provide for all matters necessary to —

(a) provide for adequate, safe and efficient county transport facilities and services at a reasonable cost to the people;

(b) facilitate the management, planning and development of county transport facilities and transport infrastructure; and

(c) give effect to, and ensure a balanced transport policy and planning.
Application

4. (1) This Act applies to County Roads and County transport, infrastructure and services.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act priority shall be given to persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women and any other person with special needs.

PART II—ADMINISTRATION

Department of Transport

5. (1) There is established a department of transport.

(2) The head of the department shall be the County director of transport, who shall be appointed by the County Public Service Board, with the approval of the County Assembly, and shall hold office for a term of five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

Officers and employees of the Department

6. (1) The County department of transport may, in consultation with the County Public Service Board, from time to time, create, abolish, transfer and consolidate divisions, and other units within the department not expressly established by law as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the department.

(2) Each officer and employee shall be a person qualified by training and experience for the performance of the duties assigned to them.

Powers and Functions of the Department

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7. The department, by or through the director shall —

(a) co-ordinate and develop a comprehensive and balanced transport policy and planning for the county;

(b) co-ordinate and assist in the balanced development and operation of transport facilities and services in the county;

(c) make such studies and analyses of transport problems relating to any aspect of transport in the county.

(d) partner with and co-operate with —

(i) officials of the state department having duties and responsibilities concerning transport;

(ii) officials and representatives of public corporations;

(iii) officials and representatives of neighboring counties
and of inter-county agencies on problems affecting the county or other counties;

(iv) officials and representatives of transport facilities and systems in the county; and

(v) persons, organizations and groups utilizing, served by interested in or concerned with transport facilities and systems in the county.

(e) to exercise all functions, powers and duties relating to traffic regulation and control as forth in this Act;

(f) to formulate and execute contracts, keep accounts, record personnel data, compile statistics and engage in research opportunities;

(g) to prepare plans, specifications, designs and estimates, and, by the procedures and methods provided by the laws relating thereto, to construct and reconstruct —

(i) the public roads that are under the jurisdiction of the county;

(ii) the canals, waterways of the county and structures that are within the jurisdiction of the county;

(iii) the bridges and grade separation structures that are under the jurisdiction of the county; and

(iv) parking facilities and appurtenances at or adjacent to transportation interfaces and connections to such facilities.

(h) to operate and maintain —

(i) the county road, other public ways, bridges and grade separations;

(ii) the canals, waterways and structures of the

(iii) parking facilities and appurtenances at or adjacent to transportation interfaces and connections to such facilities

(i) the department of transport shall have power to cooperate with the agencies of other counties and of the National government which are connected with national defense, in the formulation and execution of plans for, the rapid and safe movement over county roads of troops, vehicles of a military nature, and materials affecting national defense.
PART III—TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC ROAD TRANSPORT

Transportation of hazardous material

8. The department is authorized to promote safety in the transportation of hazardous materials by all modes of transport, and in connection therewith it shall have the power to make rules and regulations governing transportation of hazardous materials.

Right of entry

9. (1) An authorized officer may, in enforcing the Right of entry provisions of this Act, at any reasonable time and without prior notice—

(a) enter a public transport service facility to inspect the facility; and

(b) make enquiries from a person connected with such facility.

Operating license

10. (1) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a public road—

(a) except under the authority and in accordance with the conditions of a license issued to him or her in terms of the relevant law; and

(b) unless he or she keeps such license or document or any other prescribed authorization with him or her in the motor vehicle.

Preventing engagement of a Public transport vehicle

11. A person shall not use force, intimidation, threats or by any other means, to prevent or try to prevent—

(a) any person from obtaining or engaging a public transport vehicle;

(b) the driver of a public vehicle from taking on passengers; or

(c) the operation of any public vehicle which is lawfully operated.

Conveying dangerous or offensive articles in Public transport vehicle

12. A person who is in charge of a public transport vehicle shall not knowingly convey or allow to be conveyed, any person or thing in such vehicle, whether or not the public transport vehicle has been engaged, if that person or thing—

(a) is not permitted to be conveyed in terms of an existing law; or

(b) has reasonably been exposed to or contaminated by an infectious or contagious disease.

(2) For purposes of this section a person contemplated by section (1)
The West Pokot County Public Transport Bill, 2015

shall include—

(a) an escaped convict;
(b) any person escaping from a quarantined area;
(c) any other person as the county executive member may determine.

Boarding and alighting of public transport vehicles

13. (1) No person may board a public transport vehicle until all persons desiring to get off from such vehicle have done so.

(2) No person may board a public transport vehicle where the number of passengers would be in excess of the total number of passengers which it is authorized to carry.

(3) No person may board or alight or attempt to board or get off from any public transport vehicle whilst such vehicle is in motion.

(a) while boarding or disembarking priority shall be given to persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women and any other person with special needs.

Queues at public transport facilities

14. (1) The department may establish ranking facilities in the county and may further erect or cause to be erected a queue sign or queuing barrier in any suitable form for the purpose of queuing;

(2) All passengers intending to enter any public transport vehicle at an established ranking facility or stopping place shall queue from the point at which it is indicated that such public transport vehicle will leave;

(3) Where no queue sign has been erected, passengers waiting to enter a public transport vehicle shall form themselves into a queue not exceeding two abreast or in a single file when required to do so by an approved public transport conductor or authorized official of the County;

(4) A passenger may only enter a public transport vehicle when he or she gets to the front of the queue;

(5) Every passenger queuing shall comply with all the instructions given by a public transport conductor, authorized officer or authorized official when on duty.

Payment of fares

15. (1) A passenger shall pay the determined fare for the journey.

(2) The fare to be paid shall not exceed the amount displayed on the vehicle according to the Public Service vehicle Act.
Right and duties of Passengers when a public transport vehicle becomes defective

16. (1) If a public transport vehicle becomes defective or, for any reason whatsoever, is unable to proceed, the passengers shall alight such defective vehicle and if the passengers have paid their fares, they are entitled to a refund to the amount of their fares so paid.

(2) Upon agreement with the driver or owner or operator of the defective public transport vehicle, passengers shall be allowed to travel with the next available public transport vehicle for the remainder of the distance in respect of the paid fares, at the cost of the owner of the defective public transport vehicle.

(3) A driver or owner or operator who refuses to refund a passenger, as contemplated in subsection (1), or who refuses to allow a passenger to travel in the manner as contemplated in subsection (2) commits an offence.

(4) Where the vehicle has become defective in an area, the driver shall take reasonable steps to ensure the security of the passengers.

Prohibited actions in a public transport vehicle

17. The following actions are prohibited in a public transport vehicle when passengers are on board—

(a) smoking;
(b) playing offensive or excessively loud music;
(c) using obscene or offensive language;
(d) committing an offensive act;
(e) interfering with the comfort of any passenger;
(f) damaging anything and interfering with the equipment of the public transport vehicle in any way.
(g) forcibly causing the driver to deviate from his or her route;
(h) endangering the life of another passenger;
(i) interfering with the actions of the driver.
(j) showing or displaying any pornographic material; or
(k) any other actions prohibited by any other written law.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provision of sub-section (1) commits an offence and is liable, upon conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand or to a imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
Property left in public transport vehicle

18. The driver of a public transport vehicle shall carefully examine the vehicle after a trip and if a passenger has left behind any property in the vehicle, the driver shall—

(a) deliver that property to the person who left it behind; or

(b) if he or she is unable to deliver that property to the person who left it behind, take the property, as soon as possible, to the lost property office of his or her employer or to the nearest police station and deposit it with the officer on duty and obtain a receipt for it.

Obstruction and disruption of traffic

19. (1) No person may park or allow a public transport vehicle to park in a stopping place designated for specific public transport vehicles.

(2) No public transport vehicle may traverse a pedestrian crossing when stopping to enable passenger to be picked up or dropped off.

(3) No public transport vehicle may park in a demarcated parking place longer than is required to enable waiting passengers to be picked up or dropped off.

Duties of pedestrians

20. (1) A pedestrian may only cross a public road at a pedestrian crossing or an intersection or at a distance further than 100 meters from such pedestrian crossing or intersection.

(2) Where a marked pedestrian crossing exists at an intersection, a pedestrian may only cross the intersection within the marked pedestrian crossing.

(3) Where a traffic-control light signal, which embodies pedestrian signals, operates at an intersection, a pedestrian may not commence to cross the roadway in a pedestrian crossing at the intersection while the red light of a pedestrian signal is displayed in the direction opposite to that in which he or she is proceeding.

(4) Where no pedestrian signals are operating at an intersection, but such intersection is controlled by a traffic control light signal, a pedestrian may not commence to cross the roadway in a pedestrian crossing at the intersection while the red light of the traffic-control light signal is displayed in the direction opposite to that in which he or she is proceeding.

(5) Where a traffic-control light signal, which embodies pedestrian signals, are operating at a pedestrian crossing elsewhere than at an intersection, a pedestrian may only commence to cross the roadway in the
pedestrian crossing when the green light of the pedestrian signal is displayed in the direction opposite to that in which he or she is proceeding.

(6) No pedestrian may carelessly, negligently or recklessly disregard, or endanger his or her own safety, or the safety of a person or vehicle using a public road.

**Use of hooter**

21. A person shall not, on a public road use the sounding device or hooter of a vehicle except when such use is necessary in order to comply with the provisions of this Act or any other written law.

**Prohibition on use of Communication device while driving**

22. (1) Subject to any other law, no person shall drive a motor vehicle on a public road while holding, using or operating a cellular or mobile phone or any other communication device in one or both hands or with any other part of the body unless such a cellular or mobile telephone or other communication device is affixed to the vehicle or is part of the fixture in the vehicle and remains so affixed while being used or operated, or is specially adapted or designed to be affixed to the person of the driver as headgear, and is so used.

(2) An authorized officer may, in the public interest and safety of the public, confiscate and impound a handheld communication device;

(3) The authorized officer shall, when confiscating any hand held communication device—

(a) inform the owner of such communication device of the reasons of confiscating and impounding;

(b) issue a receipt to the owner of such hand held communication device, stating the place at which such device may be claimed; and

(c) follow all procedures contained in any policy of the County dealing with the confiscation and impoundment of property.

**Penalty**

23. A person who contravenes a provision of this Part commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand or to imprisonment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or to both fine and imprisonment.

**Installation of street lights**

24. The County Government shall install street lights within the County with special attention to the following areas; Major Traffic Routes, High Crime Urban Areas, Town Centers, Pedestrian crossings, Pedestrian
Subways, residential areas, foot bridges and shopping centers.

**Maintenance of street lights**

25. The department shall be responsible for the maintenance of streetlights.

**Damage to street lights**

26. (1) No person shall willfully, carelessly or negligently cause damage to any streetlight.

(2) Any person who contravenes this section shall, upon conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding thirty thousand shillings or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year or to both.

**PART IV—PROVISIONS ON PARKING**

**Parking on a public road**

27. A person shall not park or permit a vehicle to be parked on a public road contrary to a traffic sign or in a manner that impedes the flow of traffic

**Prohibited parking areas**

28. Unless required or permitted by this Act or by a traffic control device, or in compliance with the directions of a traffic officer, or to avoid conflict with other traffic, a person shall not stop or park a vehicle—

(a) at an intersection nearer than 10 meters to the projection of the curb line immediately ahead or immediately to the rear;

(b) within ten (10) meters on the approach to a stop sign or yield signs;

(c) within five (5) meters of any fire hydrant, or when the hydrant is not located at the curb, within 5 meters of the point on the edge of the roadway nearest the hydrant;

(d) within ten (10) meters of the approach to pedestrian crossing;

(e) on a sidewalk;

(f) facing oncoming traffic;

(g) on any bridge or approach to any bridge;

(h) in a passenger loading or unloading space posted as such by a traffic control device except when actually taking or discharging passengers;

(i) on any portion of a public road posted as “No Parking”;

(j) on any land owned by the county which the county uses or
permits to be used as a playground recreation area, utility lot, or public park, except in such areas designated or posted for parking;

(k) on any space posted as a fire lane except for emergency vehicles;

(l) on any space posted for disabled persons parking unless such vehicle is designated as a disabled persons vehicle;

(m) in a transit zone except a transit vehicle;

(n) in such a manner so as to obstruct an emergency exit;

(o) in such a manner so as to obstruct the entrance or exit of a fire hall or ambulance station.

‘No parking’ and ‘street maintenance’ signs

29. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act the department through any of its authorized officers or employees, is authorized to cause moveable signs to be posted on or near a road to indicate ‘No Parking’ or ‘street maintenance’ and when so posted such signs shall take precedence over all other traffic control devices.

Towing of vehicles

30. Any vehicle parked contrary to this Act may be towed away at the owner's expense.

Parking on alleys

31. (1) A person shall not park a vehicle on an alley unless a traffic control device otherwise permits, except for the following purposes —

(a) the loading or unloading of goods from a commercial vehicle for a reasonable period;

(b) the loading or unloading of goods or passengers from a vehicle other than a commercial vehicle for a reasonable period.

(2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1) above, no person, while loading or unloading passengers or goods, shall park in such a manner as may obstruct the passage of other vehicles along the alley.
Parking on private property

32. A person shall not park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to be parked on private property without the permission or authorization of the owner of the private property or a person having lawful possession or control of the private property.

Parking of trailers on public road

33. A person shall not park or permit to be parked, any trailer on any public road unless the trailer is attached to a vehicle by which it may be propelled or drawn and when so attached, the trailer shall be deemed part of the vehicle and subject to the provisions pertaining to vehicles.

Parking on taxi Zone

34. A person shall not park or permit a vehicle that is not a taxicab to be parked, in an area posted as a taxi zone.

Parking a taxi cab within a taxi zone with ‘not for hire zone’

35. (1) The operator of a taxi cab, except when answering a call, shall not park the taxicab upon any roadway other than within a taxi zone, unless such taxicab is displaying a ‘Not for Hire" sign and the operator is out of the taxicab.

(2) Nothing in this part shall be construed as to allow parking contrary to any other provision of this Act.

Parallel parking

36. When parking a vehicle on roadway, a person may only park a vehicle—

(a) with the sides of the vehicle parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway, and the right wheels of the vehicle not more than 500 millimeters from the right curb or edge of the roadway; or

(b) in the case of a one-way highway where parking on either side is permitted, with the sides of the vehicle parallel to the curb or edge of the roadway, the roadway not more than 500 millimeters from that curb or edge, and the vehicle facing in the direction of travel authorized for the highway.

Angle parking where no parking

37. When a sign indicates that angle parking is permitted or required, and no parking guidelines are visible on the roadway —

(a) a person may only park a vehicle with the vehicles sides at an angle of between 30 and 60 degrees to the curb or edge of the roadway; and
(b) in the case of a vehicle other than a motorcycle, with the nearest wheel not more than 500 millimeters from the curb or edge of the roadway; or

(c) in the case of a motorcycle, with the nearest wheel of the motorcycle not more than 500 millimeters from the curb or edge of the roadway, and the motorcycle angled adjacent to the lane on which the motorcycle is parked.

PART VI—SAFE AND ADEQUATE SERVICE

Safe and adequate service

38. Every corporation, person or public transport service providers performing a transport service in the county shall furnish, with respect thereto, such service and facilities as shall be safe and adequate and in all respects just and reasonable.

(2) All charges made or demanded by any such corporation, person or transport service provider for the transportation of passengers or property or for any service rendered or to be rendered in connection therewith shall be just and reasonable and not more than allowed by law or by order of the director of transport and made as authorized by this Act.

(3) Every unjust or unreasonable charge made or demanded for any such service or transportation of passengers or property or in connection therewith or in excess of that allowed by law or by order of the director is prohibited.

(4) All transport service providers have a general duty to deal reasonably with customers and adequately address customer complaints.

Publication of tariff schedules

39. Every county transport service, provider shall with the department of transport and shall print and keep open to public inspection schedules showing the rates, fares and charges for the transportation of passengers and property within the county between each point upon its route and all other points thereon; and between each point upon its route and all points upon every route leased, operated or controlled by it.

Changes in fares and charges

40. (1) Unless the county-director of transport otherwise orders, no change shall be made in any rate, fare or charge, or joint rate, fare or charge, which shall have been filed and published by a county transport service provider in compliance with this Act, except after 30 days’ notice to the director.

(2) The director, for good cause shown, may allow changes in rates
without requiring the thirty days' notice and publication herein provided for, by duly filing and publishing in such manner as he or she may direct an order specifying the change so made and the time when it shall take effect; all such changes shall be immediately indicated upon its schedules by the county transport service provider.

PART VII—LIGHT RAILWAY

Development of light railway

41. The department may develop light railway works in the county and in connection thereto may maintain, improve or repair the light railway.

Power to enter upon land

42. (1) An authorized officer may, on production of his or her authorization if so requested by any person affected, for the purposes of this part enter on any land and—

(a) inspect and survey the land and make any inquiry, investigation or examination for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the land is suitable for the purposes of the construction of a light railway;

(b) carry out any investigation or examination thereon preliminary or incidental to the purposes aforesaid;

(c) bring thereon such other persons or equipment as she or he may reasonably consider necessary for the purposes of his or her functions under this section;

(d) line, sight, drill, bore, probe or excavate, or take such samples and carry out such tests as he or she reasonably considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of such functions.

(2) Before an authorized officer enters any dwelling house under subsection (1), he or she shall obtain the consent (which shall not be unreasonably withheld) of any owner or occupier of the dwelling house.

Regulation of light railway

43. (1) The Department may make regulations generally for the purposes of giving effect to this part.

(2) The Department may make regulations for the management, control, operation and the regulation of a light railway and in relation to the repair, improvement, extension and development thereof and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, in relation to any one or more of the following matters—
(a) the regulation of the times of arrival and departure of light railway vehicles;

(b) the prevention of the commission of nuisances in or upon light railway vehicles;

(c) the prevention of damage to light railway vehicles;

(d) the removal from or the prohibition of the use on a light railway line of any vehicle or thing which is or may become a danger to life, health, the operation or maintenance of a light railway or would otherwise interfere with the proper operation of a light railway;

(e) the fixing, altering, charging and recovery of fares, fees, tolls and charges in respect of the travelling upon or use of light railway vehicles;

(f) the general regulation, subject to any statutory provisions in that behalf, of the travelling upon or use of light railway vehicles and the working of light railway transport services by the Board;

(g) the safe custody and redelivery or disposal of any property found on or in any light railway vehicles of the County and the fixing of charges in respect thereof.

(2) Regulations under this section may contain such incidental, subsidiary and ancillary provisions as the Department considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations.

(3) A person who contravenes a regulation under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding shillings five hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

Trespass on a light railway

44. A person who trespasses on a light railway that is not on a public road or trespasses on any land, machinery or equipment used for the purposes of the light railway shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding shillings fifty thousand.

Use of a vehicle on a light railway

45. A person who uses or attempts to use a vehicle on a light railway with flange wheels or wheels suitable only for use on the rails of a light railway without the written consent of the Department shall be guilty of an offence and, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding shillings, five hundred "thousand or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six
months or to both.

**Obstructing authorized officer**

46. A person who obstructs or interferes with or assists a person to obstruct or interfere with any person in the performance of a function conferred on that person under this part shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding shillings five hundred thousand or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 year or to both.

**PART VIII—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Powers to make regulations**

47. The Executive committee member in consultation with the director of the department may pursuant to this Act may make regulations for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

**MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The main object of this bill is to provide for adequate, safe and efficient county transport facilities and services at a reasonable cost to the people.

The bill proposes to facilitate the management, planning, and development of county transport facilities and transport infrastructure.

The bill further proposes to give effect to, and ensure a balanced transport policy and planning.

**Part I** (clauses 1–4) of the Bill contains preliminary provisions. It names the proposed Act, defines the words and expressions used in the Bill, lists the objects of the proposed Act and its application.

**Part II** (Clauses 5-7) of the bill sets out the administrative framework of the Bill including the establishment, functions, powers and duties of the department of transport.

**Part III** (Clauses 8-26) of the bill provides for formalities to be complied with. This part provides for right of entry by an authorized officer in to a public vehicle, it further provides that a person shall not operate motor vehicle without a licence.

**Part IV** (Clauses 27-37) of the bill lists the places where a motor vehicle should not be parked. It provides that any vehicle parked contrary to this Act shall be towed.

**Part V** (Clauses 38-39) of the bill provides that unless the county-director of transport otherwise orders, no change shall be made in any
rate, fare or charge, or joint rate, fare or charge, which shall have been filed and published by a county transport service provider in compliance with this Act, except after 30 days’ notice to the director.

**Part VI (Clauses 40-41)** of the bill provides that the department may develop light railway works in the county and in connection may maintain, improve or repair the light railway.

**Part VII (Clauses 46-47)** of the bill provides for general provisions and gives the Executive committee member in consultation with the director of the department power to make regulations for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Dated the 21st April, 2015.

HON. PAUL YARAKI,
*Member, West Pokot County Assembly.*