

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT

Drainages: A must in road prolongevity

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When a roadway fails, it is often due to inadequate drainage. This is why provision of adequate drainage is of paramount importance in road design and cannot be overemphasized. The presence of flood or moisture within the road way will adversely affect the engineering properties of the materials with which the roads were constructed. This brings to mind the reason for the poor condition of roads in most African countries or developing nations of the world. The roads are flooded, with so many potholes; sometimes the roads are not motor able due to cut or fill failure, road surface erosion or the fact that they have been over taken by flood and weakened sub grades. There is nowhere in the world where there is no flood immediately after a rain storm, but check out a country like the United States where flooded roads that are closed to traffic are opened within 24 hours to traffic, due to good drainage systems that are

in place, but we find the reverse is the case for most African countries. Some roads are closed during the raining season only to be opened during the dry season when there is no rain, this happens due to lack of drainages or inadequate drainage systems.

