

## **DRAFT PRESENTATION**

### **DEMOLITION TALKS.**

#### **TOPIC: WHAT IS DRIVING THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS IN KENYA**

- Introduction
- Definition of riparian land
- Understanding why riparian zones are important and the reasons on why we should not construct on them
- What is the Kenyan government doing to protect riparian land

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **CONSTRUCTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Construction plays a vital role in physical, economic and social development of a country. However it is also linked to other environmental problems such as over extraction of raw materials from the environmental resources, reduction in water quality and degradation of valuable resource such as land. Reducing the environmental effects of construction requires a collaborative effort from many different stakeholders. While legislators work to create regulations surrounding construction waste management and green building construction. Construction professionals and companies also have a role to play.

### **THE FOCUS ON RIPARIAN LAND**

#### **What Is Riparian Land?**

According to the Kenya water resource management rules, in PART IX” “CONSERVATION OF RIPARIAN AND CATCHMENT AREAS”

“Riparian land”, does not imply a change of ownership but imposes management controls on land use for water resource quality as defined in these rules.

- ❖ Unless otherwise determined by a Water Resources Inspector, the riparian land on each side of a watercourse is defined as a minimum of six metres or equal to the full width of the watercourse up to a maximum of thirty metres on either side of the bank.
- ❖ The width of the watercourse is equal to the distance between the top edges of its banks.
- ❖ The riparian land is measured from the top edge of the bank of the watercourse and this applies to all **seasonal and perennial watercourses**.
- ❖ Unless otherwise determined by a Water Resources Inspector, the riparian land adjacent to a **lake**, reservoir or stagnant body of water is defined as a minimum of two metres vertical height or thirty metres horizontal distance, whichever is less, from the highest recorded water level.
- ❖ Unless otherwise determined by a Water Resources Inspector, the riparian land adjacent to the eye of a spring is a minimum radius of three metres to a maximum radius of fifteen metres, as measured from around the edge of the **spring**
- ❖ Unless otherwise determined by a Water Resources Inspector, the riparian land adjacent to the ocean is defined as a minimum of two metres vertical height or thirty metres horizontal distance from the high +water mark, whichever is less.

### **Why are riparian zones important?**

#### **Riparian zones are important because they:**

- ❖ **Trap sediment:** Riparian areas slow the flow of water, helping to ensure that sediments settle out before they reach the water course.
- ❖ **Filter and buffer water:** In addition to removing sediments, riparian vegetation can also trap nutrients and microscopic pathogens that are present in runoff. Studies have shown that a high percentage of pathogens and pollution-causing nutrients in runoff water can be removed by healthy riparian "buffer zones."

- ❖ **Build and maintain stream banks:** by trapping sediments and anchoring soils with their extensive root systems, plant communities help ensure that stream banks do not erode excessively.
- ❖ **Store floodwater and energy:** Flooded riparian areas act like a safety valve in the watershed because they slow water flows, reduce the size of a flood further downstream and the destructive power of fast-flowing water. When water speed doubles, its ability to erode increases *four times* and its ability to carry sediments increases *sixty-four times*.
- ❖ **Recharge groundwater:** Riparian areas can help to maintain local water tables.
- ❖ **Maintain biological diversity:** In the prairie landscape it has been estimated that riparian areas, which make up less than five percent of the land area, hold the majority of the remaining biological diversity. In some regions, riparian areas are the only remaining natural areas.
- ❖ **Buffer to pollutants :**The riparian vegetative zone serves as a buffer to pollutants entering a stream from runoff

### **What Is The Government Doing?**

The government of Kenya has rules and regulations that offer information on conservation of Riparian land and the environment resources in general. They include:

- ❖ Environmental Management and Coordination Act 1999.
- ❖ Wetland Regulations of 2009.
- ❖ Water Act 2016.

