

Trailers banned on Entebbe Expressway

By David Lumu

The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has banned heavy trucks from accessing the newly constructed Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, which is expected to be launched in May next year.

According to the project manager, Eng. Janet Birungi, weigh bridges have been installed at every toll point. These will ensure that trucks such as trailers and other heavy-load vehicles do not access the road, which cost the Government \$476m (about sh1.7 trillion). The road was constructed with the support from the Exim Bank of China.

Birungi, who was yesterday inspecting the progress of the road construction and compensation process, added that the expressway will be fenced to bar various access points, especially from several community feeder roads.

She also revealed that a procurement process for a firm that will operate the three toll plazas in Busega, Kajjansi and Mpala is in progress.

"The completion is at 86.6% and we are certain that the official opening shall be on May 5, 2018 as planned. It will be a toll road and users are expected to pay before using it. Three toll plazas have been erected to facilitate this payment.

The procurement process of the company that will operate the toll points is underway," she said.

The toll proceeds, Birungi said, will be used by the Government to pay back the loan from EXIM Bank. China Communications



Heavy-loaded trucks and trailers are not expected to use the Entebbe Expressway

Construction Company (CCCC) started construction of the expressway in November 2012.

UNRA officials said yesterday that delays have been occasioned by a litany of challenges, especially compensation and land acquisition related problems.

According to William Matovu, the head of land acquisition at UNRA, although 85% of the people affected by the project have been compensated, 15% of the people in Katabi are yet to be paid due to family

ON THE GROUND

"People in Katabi are the only people affected by the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway yet to be paid, but we anticipate that between January and March, we should have cleared them," UNRA official said.

disputes, land disputes, absentee landlord issues and lengthy bank processes related to mortgages.

"Out of the 491,000 project affected persons, we have paid 393,600, representing 85%. We have so far used sh281b out of the sh329b that the Government budgeted for this exercise," he said.

UNRA officials have also decried the increasing unauthorised use of the Kampala-Entebbe expressway before it is officially launched.