

GOVT LAUNCHES SH48B MPERERWE-KITEEZI-KITI ROAD

By John Masaba

Government yesterday launched the sh48.7b Mpererwe-Kiteezi-Kiti road in a renewed effort to improve mobility, enhance connectivity and modernise road infrastructure in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

The nine-kilometre road, which is expected to be completed within 18 months, was launched yesterday in Kiteezi by Hajjat Minsa Kabanda, the Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs. The event was attended by local leaders, including Members of Parliament.

According to the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), the road stretches across Kampala and Wakiso districts, with four kilometres in Kampala and five in Wakiso. It is being constructed with funding from the African Development Bank under the Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project.

The contract has been awarded to China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Ltd, the firm behind the Entebbe Expressway, rehabilitation works at Entebbe International Airport, among other major projects.

The project comes as a relief to residents of the area, which is still recovering from the deadly landfill

About 740

Residents have voluntarily offered land for additional infrastructure, such as drainage channels and street lighting.

disaster that claimed dozens of lives on August 10, 2024, in Kiteezi. The landfill has since been decommissioned and the area is gradually transitioning back to residential use.

A DIRE NEED TO BE FULFILLED

Speaking at the launch held at St Stephen's Church of Uganda grounds in Kiteezi, KCCA deputy executive director Eng. Benon Higenyi said the road had long been a priority.

"We have had a lot of demand for this road and we thank God that construction is finally commencing. This road was critical during the operation of the Kiteezi dump-site and residents suffered from dust caused by heavy trucks, as well as mud due to its poor state. We are optimistic that, under



Forefront: Kabanda (right) with Eng. Higenyi (left) during the launch of the sh48.7b Mpererwe-Kiteezi-Kiti road yesterday

the Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project, connectivity between Kampala and Wakiso will improve," he said.

Higenyi also urged residents to co-operate with authorities to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

"We are going to provide ducts for utilities, such as water, telephone and internet cabling, to avoid cutting up the road after completion," he added, while urging the community to guard against vandalism and illegal rubbish disposal.

Officials also revealed that about 740 residents have voluntarily offered land to secure the right of way for additional infrastructure, such as drainage channels and street lighting.

Higenyi said the funds being used for the project had initially been earmarked for the procurement of five buses under an urban transport plan, but were later reallocated after the road project was deemed a higher priority.

"Previously, KCCA focused on

roads within Kampala while Wakiso handled its own projects, but now efforts are being combined. I thank KCCA for taking on this project and urge all leaders, regardless of political affiliation, to support and protect it," said Kabanda.

John Paul Maanasse, the highway engineer representing the contractor, said the project would go beyond road construction to improving livelihoods. He acknowledged that construction may cause temporary inconveniences, such as dust and noise, but pledged to minimise disruption to residents.

MORE FUNDS NEEDED

KCCA councillor John Mary Sebunifu, who represented Lord Mayor Elias Lukwago, said the city receives about sh150b annually against a requirement of sh2.4 trillion. Although funding has now improved to about sh1 trillion, it still falls short of the needs outlined in KCCA's five-year strategic plan.

Kyadondo East MP Muwada Nkuningi said the road project had been in the pipeline for more than 20 years but faced repeated delays due to funding constraints.

He urged the contractor to expedite the works in order to address the long-standing challenges faced by the residents.