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Mpigi–Nakawuka roadworks progressing - govt

BY SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

KAMPALA. Construction works on the 72.5-kilometre Kampala–Nakawuka–Nateete–Mpigi road project are progressing steadily, despite delays caused by slow land acquisition and compensation of affected persons, the government has said.

The government-funded project, implemented by China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) under the supervision of the Ministry of Works and Transport, aims to upgrade key road links in Wakiso, Mpigi and parts of Kampala by transforming existing gravel roads into modern asphalt concrete highways.

Works underway include earthworks, swamp treatment and the construction of drainage infrastructure such as box culverts, pipe culverts and concrete U-drains. These activities are being carried out concurrently.

Road design

Speaking to the media at Nakawuka last week, the project site engineer, Mr Benjamin Simon Kayemba, said the roads are being constructed to widths of between 12 metres in rural sections and up to 19 metres in urban areas. The designs incorporate carriageways, shoulders, sidewalks, green belts and parking lanes to enhance mobility.

However, Mr Kayemba said progress has been constrained by delays in land acquisition and compensation.

"Although about 20 kilometres of land have been handed over so far, only 7.9 kilometres form a continuous stretch, making uninterrupted construction difficult," he said.

"The biggest challenge remains compensation. We appeal for the right-of-way from Kisubi to Nakawuka, as earlier promised by the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen Katumba Wamala, to be expedited. Once this is resolved, we are confident of delivering the project on time," Mr Kayemba added.

CCCC estimates that about 13 percent of the project has been completed so far.

Dust pollution

Addressing concerns over dust pollution, Mr Kayemba said mitigation measures are being implemented daily in active work zones and appealed to residents for patience.

Commenting on the compensation delays, the Senior Communications Officer at the Ministry of Works and Transport, Mr Allan Ssempebwa, attributed the challenge to delayed funding for the land compensation bill.

"Government has so far delivered 8km out of 13km on the Kisubi–Nakawuka road link, 5km out of 11km on Nakawuka–Maya, and 8km out of 20km on the Nakawuka–Kasanje–Mpigi link," Mr Ssempebwa said.

He added that the project remains a government priority, with additional compensation payments to project-affected persons earmarked under a forthcoming supplementary budget.

The project comprises five sections: Kisubi–Nakawuka–Nateete (27km), Nakawuka–Kasanje–Mpigi (22km), Nakawuka–Mawagulu–Nanziga–Maya (11km), Kasanje–Buwaya (9km), and Entebbe–Nakiwogo (3.5km). Construc-

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