

Vehicle body challenges inspection contract

By Umaru Kashaka

The Uganda Motor Industry Association (UMIA) has challenged the implementation of the contract awarded to the General Society of Surveillance (SGS) to handle all vehicle inspections in Uganda.

The Government, on March 17, 2015, entered into a contract with SGS to conduct mandatory and compulsory motor vehicle inspection.

The contract covers all vehicular equipment.

Chris Bwanika, the legal counsel for UMIA, told the parliamentary committee on physical infrastructure yesterday that the contract was implemented without involving the dealers or manufacturers.

He also questioned the move to contract SGS in the absence of fair competition and sideline the service providers, members of UMIA, who are manufacturers or representatives of the official manufacturers of the vehicles in question.

Bwanika argued that the Government, which he said encourages the investments of members of UMIA to put up infrastructure in Uganda with capacity and facilities to do similar work, should have created vehicle inspection stations handled by UMIA members who can relieve SGS of the heavy load of all vehicles in the country.

UMIA plea

The association, which was

before MPs at Parliament yesterday, prayed that Parliament examines the government policy on motor vehicle inspection, the road safety regulations, the Ministry of Works standards set out in the manual of vehicle inspection in line with other policies of government, the Constitution and procurement laws, among others.

"Parliament should investigate the manner in which the SGS contract was procured and to recommend its cancellation or review, if found to offend the core principles of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority," Bwanika urged.

UMIA also prayed that Parliament recommends sustainable vehicle inspection arrangements, which embrace all national policies, laws and ensure value for money as well as road safety in Uganda.

The association also requested the committee to avail it with the SGS contract for inspection of vehicles 2015, record of the procurement process for the SGS contract, copies of the contract securities, performance appraisals of the SGS contract and reports of inspections carried out to date.

However, the committee, chaired by Bbaale County MP George Kumama, asked the dealers why they did not petition Parliament in time because it is now more than a year since SGS took over the contract. The dealers replied that they were engaging Ministry of Works officials, but they said they were not listened to.