

Landowner, UNRA locked in compensation row

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MUKONO. Mr Godfrey Musisi, a landowner in Mukono District, has placed a caveat on a strip of land where the Uganda National Roads Authority (Unra) intends the Mukono-Kyetume-Katosi-Nyenga Road to pass.

He said he will only lift the caveat after getting compensation from Unra for his house in Mulajje Parish that is in the middle of the strip.

Mr Musisi claims that Unra misled him to think that it was only the foundation of a commercial structure that he had put up near his house that was

in the strip earmarked for the road.

It was on that premise that he agreed to compensation.

To his surprise, he said, Unra later marked his house with an X, implying that it was to be demolished to pave way for the road.

"When I asked Unra to demolish the house too, would be affected," Mr Musisi told the *Daily Monitor* yesterday.

"If Unra cannot compensate me, let it construct that stretch elsewhere," he added.

When contacted, the Unra head of public and corporate affairs, Mr Mark Ssali, said Mr Musisi should avail the author-

ity with the specifics of his case.

"He (Mr Musisi) should contact Unra's land acquisition team. We have a transparent team," Mr Ssali said.

He, however, noted that some Project Affected Persons (PAPs) could be frustrated because of the way the process was handled by the consultant.

"Land acquisition was mishandled by the previous consultant. Many people were frustrated for a long time," he said.

The 'new Unra', he seemed to suggest, listens and is quick to respond to affected communities issues.

Reports about delays in compensating PAPs have become

common. However, this is because of the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017 proposal.

According to the new proposal, should Parliament approve the amendment, then, "where parties are unable to agree on the fair and adequate compensation payable...the government shall deposit in court or with any other competent authority the market value of the property as evaluated by the chief government valuer and the government shall take possession of the property pending determination by the court or other competent authority of the disputed amount of compensation".