

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WILL PROVIDE ABOUT SH720M FOR FURNISHING THE BLOCK

Govt secures funds for UMI block

By Andrew Masinde

The Government has secured sh7b to fund Uganda Management Institute (UMI)'s five-storey building that had stalled for close to four years, due to lack of money.

The money is from the African Development Bank (ADB), under the Support to Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) Project.

The ADB-HEST programme aims at contributing towards building Uganda's human capital skills development capacity – particularly in education, science and technology – to respond to labour market demands and spur productivity nationally.

Rose Kwatampora Oguttu, the head of projects and marketing at UMI, says the project that started in 2011, with funds internally generated by the institution and some from infrastructural funds by the Government. It came to a standstill when only 60% of the construction had been completed due to lack of funds.

She stressed that due to other needs, they could not afford to complete the structure.

"Last year, the Government pledged to take over the project and construction is expected to commence by September," she said.

Kwatampora says since UMI had started the construction and they had followed the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority regulations as required, the bank had



The stalled building at the Uganda Management Institute that will be completed using a loan from ADB

to make sure that the procurement is aligned to fit within their own regulations and to be sure that there is comfort when the new contract commences.

"We had to re-tender the remaining 40% of the construction project. We now have a new contractor. We expect the whole project to cost sh7b and the projected period to completion being seven months," Kwatampora says.

Peter Kibazo, the public relations

manager of UMI, says the building will solve space challenges that the institute is facing.

"This will attract more funding because the number of students is expected to increase," he says.

He adds that the building will house the ICT laboratory, library, offices and classrooms, each with a minimum capacity of 80 students.

"We are going to work closely with the education ministry because they

are the contractors and clients of ADB, while UMI is a resident client that will be monitoring the work," Kwatampora notes.

She adds that besides the construction, the bank will furnish the institution with furniture worth close to \$200,000 (about sh720m), ICT equipment worth \$1.1m (about sh3.9b), staff development whereby 15 staff members will be supported to acquire PhDs and five master's



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degrees (sh2.1b) and 79 students' scholarships worth sh600m.

As to why HEST supported UMI, a non-science institution, Kwatampora said UMI is the only institution that builds the capacity of both science or humanities specialists and also empowers them to be good managers at their respective disciplines.

"Because we are teachers of managers, it was paramount that we also benefit from the project, which is science-based," she noted.

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