

UNRA, local governments get shs102b for road maintainance

By Wilson Manishimwe and Edward Kayiwa

Shs102b has been released to several government agencies and sub-agencies for maintenance of public roads for the third quarter of the financial year 2017/18.

The funds were released by the Uganda Road Fund (URF). The agencies to benefit are Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), 121 local governments (districts and municipalities) and their sub-agencies town councils and sub-counties.

"The quarter 3 disbursement reflects 25% of URF annual roads maintenance budget of sh400b for this financial year. The cumulative release by the fund currently stands at sh279b since the financial year begun," reads part of the statement from URF.

The release of funds follows recent reports that URF was surviving on a constrained budget, an issue that forced the Government to increase its budget allocation from sh417b to sh619b this financial year

However; URF claims it needs sh800b to maintain Uganda's 140,000km roads and that the shortage forced the road fund to develop tools and procedures to guide funding for road maintenance for all agencies.

In this quarter, URF has experienced a shortfall of sh25b amounting to 6.29% of the agency's annual roads maintenance budget. Activities to be done include

routine and periodic maintenance, road safety works, Axle load control, ferry operations and maintenance, plant and equipment repairs, road materials among other things.

According to Ronald Namugera, the manager for policy and strategy, the road fund also conducts an annual road condition assessment survey to determine the size of the road, the traffic it supports and its condition before determining funding.

He said the fund also asks the agencies to do 100% routine manual maintenance on the roads, and routine mechanised maintenance of specific roads to keep them motorable through the year.

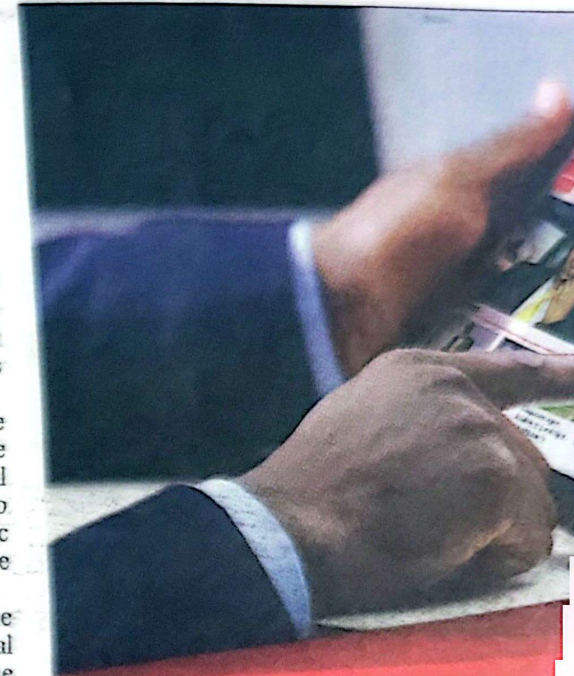
"We also do periodic maintenance every three years, and full rehabilitation where the road is becoming impassable," he said.

Districts such as Wakiso, Mukono, Mbarara, and Kisoro usually take the lion's share of funding because of their big traffic and large road networks, he added.

In this third quarter, KCCA will maintain 145km of paved and 120km unpaved roads.

KCCA will also undertake road markings and junction maintenance under its road safety programmes. URF will also finance transport studies on road safety and congestion on Kampala city roads.

"Districts will maintain 25,502km of roads and three bridges in this quarter," Namugera said.



THE BIGGEST
FROM UGANDA
Anytime, anywhere

www.nra.gov.ug

Stay up to date a the world.