



PRESIDENTIAL SWEARING-IN
12 MAY 2026



Inside progress on Kampala roadworks

Yoweri Museveni, the candidate of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party, after winning the January 15, presidential polls will today be sworn in for the seventh term, extending his rule to 45 years, after rising to power in January 1986.

BY BUSEIN SAMILU

The ongoing road constructions in Kampala and metropolitan areas which initially started in 2024 under the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Program (GKMA-UDP) is among the key infrastructural projects that president Museveni's government partially delivered in his 2021-2026 term that ended yesterday.

Yoweri Museveni, the candidate of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party, after winning the January 15, presidential polls will today be sworn in for the seventh term, extending his rule to 45 years, after rising to power in January 1986.

Almost throughout his entire previous 40-year tenure, Mr Museveni has faced challenges with road infrastructure especially in the cities where poor roads dominated the places.

For example, it was self-conviction to dress in a white attire while travelling on Lubugumu-Busabala road during dusty days—it was equally a self-proclaimed sentencing to drive on the same road during rainy days without extra cash in one's pockets.

From residents' testimonies, dust not only changed white clothes to brownish but also made it difficult to consume snacks sold on the roadsides, while mud would push cars away from the road to trenches only to be rescued by energetic youths who could charge between Shs5000 and Shs10,000.

The situation of this road in February last year forced the government through Makindye Ssabagabo Municipal Council to contract China first highway engineering co. Ltd to reconstruct this and other roads.

The project named Construction of Selected Roads in Makindye Ssa-

bagabo and, Entebbe Municipalities, LOT1 covered four roads including; Lubugumu-Busabala Link 1(2.3km), Lubugumu-Busabala Link 2(1.2km), Lubugumu-Busabala Link 3, (0.5km), and Lubugumu-Kakora (1km).

Stella Nakacwa, a resident and food vendor recalls the hustle: "I fry Irish potatoes (chips) but my business had gotten a major setback because of dust, customers ran away and the day I had that this road will be constructed I was the happiest," she said.

As Mr Museveni swears in, Ms Nakacwa shared the same happiness with the majority of the residents including boda boda riders, drivers, shop proprietors, among others who had been affected by the poor state of the roads.

"You were required to have two pairs of clothes if you wanted to put on white here, you put white inside



and clocked it with a dull color cloth otherwise you would reach your destination when you are too dirty," Joseph Musila a boda boda rider said.

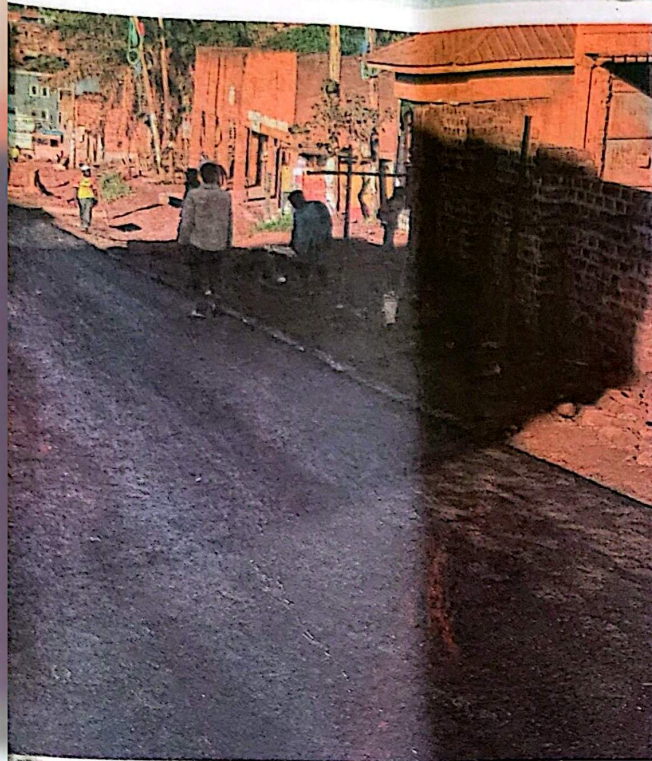
GKMA-UDP project

The Construction of Selected Roads in Makindye Ssabagabo and, Entebbe Municipalities project is part of the World Bank

funded Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Program (GKMA-UDP) which was launched by the Vice President Maj (rtd) Maj Jessica Alupo in September last year.

It is part of the broader GKMA Development Framework, 2040 which was approved by the Cabinet in 2013, where GKMA was gazetted as a Special Planning Area.

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According to the plan, the government planned to design and construct 440.19km of roads, 19 markets, two slaughter areas, and 54.5km of storm-water drainage in GKMA.

Of these 72.06km, four markets and three storm-water drainages totaling 22.5km were to be con-

structed in Kampala Capital City, 59.3km of roads, two markets, one slaughterhouse, and 2km storm water drainages in Mukono district local government, Makidnye Ssabagabo municipal council was to get 56.6km of roads, one market, a slaughterhouse, and two storm water drainages.

Wakiso district was earmarked to get 96.7km of roads, three markets, and one storm water drainage, Mukono municipal council was

earmarked to get 45.1km of roads, two markets, and one storm water drainage.

Relatedly, Nansana municipal council was to get 48km of roads, one market, a skilling center, and three storm water drainages, Mpigi district was to get 42.2km of roads, and two markets, Entebbe municipality had been earmarked 20.5km of roads, two markets and two storm water drainages, while Kira municipality, the first beneficiary will under the program get 46km roads and two markets.

To this effect a number of contracts have been awarded to various local and international firms to construct roads, and other infrastructures.

Progress

The State Minister for Kampala Metropolitan Area, Mr Kabuye Kyofatogabye, has revealed that the project is now at 45 percent success rate.

"We have not performed badly because when you look at the contracts we have awarded in the last two years, those pending and works on ground, we are at 45 percent," Mr Kyofatogabye who warned delayed contractors of possible reviews told the Monitor.

In February last year, the government contracted China First Highway Engineering Company to construct a selection of four roads in Makindye Ssabagabo and, Entebbe Municipalities,

Mr. Liu Guang, the firm's project manager said that the project has been implemented on time cur-

rently on asphalt with more than six months left to the 18-months delivery deadline.

"The project will greatly improve local transportation conditions, facilitate local residents' travel, improve the transportation network around Kampala, and promote sustainable development of the regional economy."

Ms Jacklyn Ihunde, the sociologist from CFHEC also said, "It has been a critical chapter in my professional career, helping me grow tremendously both in skills and in character. The challenges and rewards of working closely with the local community have left a deep mark on me, and I will always treasure this experience."

KCRRP

The Kampala Capital Authority (KCCA) is also implementing the Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project (KCRRP), which officials say is now at 78 percent success rate. KCRRP is purely covering city roads.

KCCA officials, and contractors said that the ongoing infrastructure once completed will reshape the capital and its surrounding into a modern, efficient and resilient city.

"We have moved from being a city riddled with potholes to almost a construction site. We know we have dug up roads, caused traffic gridlock, and inconvenienced many. But this is for the good of Kampala, you have to break eggs to make an omelette," said Benon Kigenyi, the KCCA Deputy Executive Director.

He revealed that supported by Shs900b (\$246.2 m) in civil works, the project covers the construction of 69.7 kilometres of roads, upgrading of 22 junctions, and development of 134 kilometres of non-motorised transport corridors.

Under the KCRRP, more than 120 kilometers of roads are being upgraded, including key routes such as Salaama Road, Spring Road, Fifth Street, Sixth Street, Seventh Street, Portbell, Spring, Old Mubende and Sir Apollo Kagwa Road. Works on corridors like Mpererwe-Kiteezi-Kiti Road are also going to commence.

The project, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), commenced in 2023 and goes beyond road surfacing.

It includes drainage upgrades to curb flooding, installation of street lighting to improve safety, and the introduction of signalised junctions to ease traffic flow at hotspots.

Officials from KCCA told reporters on Thursday last week that the KCRRP is 78 percent complete.

Jacob Byamukama, the project coordinator of KCCA, said that the overall physical progress had reached 77.66 percent, with 66.4 kilometres already paved with final asphalt which is about 71 percent of the total planned network, by March 31, 2026.

"Time elapsed stands at 73.1 per cent, suggesting the project is broadly on course despite delays in some sections. There are tangible improvements, especially on completed corridors where traffic flow has improved," he said.