

Delays push completion of Tororo-Gulu railway line to October

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GULU. The completion and commissioning of the Tororo-Gulu railway line has been pushed to October, with officials citing funding bottlenecks and extreme weather as key factors behind the delay.

The rehabilitation of the 375-kilometre metre-gauge line, undertaken by the Uganda Railways Corporation

(URC) with support from the European Union, was initially scheduled for completion in mid-2023 before being revised to February 2026.

However, URC spokesperson John Linonn Ssengendo confirmed at the weekend that the deadline has now been extended to October to allow the contractor to complete pending works and undertake remedial repairs on sections damaged by floods.

"Due to unforeseen challenges, we re-

quested an extension. The delivery date has been pushed forward up to October," Mr Ssengendo said.

An official from the contracting company, who preferred anonymity, yesterday attributed the delay to untimely disbursement of funds over the past three quarters, which affected procurement processes.

The official also cited heavy rains, particularly in eastern Uganda, which washed away some rehabilitated sec-

tions, forcing the contractor to redo work.

"The weather affected us significantly; in some sections, repairs of the damaged areas where we had already worked have to be done because water washed them off," the source added.

Strategic economic link

The Tororo-Gulu railway line fell out of service more than two decades ago, largely due to the insurgency by the

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and competition from heavy commercial trucks transporting cargo by road.

Its rehabilitation is expected to restore a critical cargo route linking Uganda to the port of Mombasa, while opening trade corridors to South Sudan and the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The line traverses seven districts, including Mbale City, Soroti, and Lira, before terminating at the already operational Gulu Logistics Hub.