

Works sector registers progress

Roads. While campaigning, President Museveni unveiled a plan to construct 2000km of new roads during his five-year term.

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In 2016, President Museveni traversed the country, campaigning on the importance of developing and maintaining the road network, given that it accounts for 95 per cent of total traffic and links production areas to markets.

He unveiled a plan to construct 2000km of new roads during his five-year term once elected into office.

"This will increase tarmac roads from 4000km to 6000km," he said in the 2016-2021 manifesto.

He said over the five years, Ugandans would witness the rehabilitation of sections of national roads whereas some specific roads would be turned into dual carriages.

About 2205km of gravel would be tarmacked, 700km of old roads would be rehabilitated, and 2500km of paved roads would be maintained.

To reduce traffic jam which continues to cost businesses, President Museveni pledged to construct expressways within greater Kampala Metropolitan areas.

These include Kampala Southern Bypass, Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, Kampala-Jinja Expressway, Kampala-Bombo Expressway and Kibuye-Busega-Mpigi Expressway.

One of the NRM's first actions



Kampala-Entebbe Expressway is one of the big projects that the government is currently working on. PHOTO BY ERONIE KAMUKAMA

was adding 100km of paved road network. The Fort-Portal-Kamwenge and Ntungamo-Mirama hills made up this lot.

But the promise to prioritise construction of 25 roads in the five years is yet to pass. Roads such as Moroto-Kotido (101km), Atiak Kitgum (108km) and Kitgum-Koputh (165km) form a fraction for the 25 roads.

According to the Minister of Works and Transport, Ms Monica Azuba, the sector is now upgrading 22 road projects over 1420km.

About 423km of paved roads should be completed by end of financial year 2017/18.

"The above will increase total paved national road network from 3795km to 4680km in financial year 2017/18," she said

recently during the manifesto review last week.

Seven roads including Kano-Sembabule Villa Maria, Kampala-Entebbe Expressway and Mbarara Bypass are set for completion in this financial year. Six roads have been prioritised for implementation next financial year, including 191km Rwenkuny- Apac-Lira-Puranga Road.

ACHIEVEMENTS

President Museveni has now spent two years in the country's executive office and is registering remarkable achievements in the works and transport sector.

Government had already committed Shs1.2 trillion to construct a new cargo centre, new passenger terminal, runways, expand aprons and replace navigation aids.

The Ministry of Works completed 50 per cent of a new cargo centre whereas 10 per cent of works on the rehabilitation of the passenger terminal building have been done. Priority is to finish these works in the next financial year.

President Museveni in his manifesto promised to develop a new airport at Kabale (Hoima) to facilitate the development of the oil refinery ahead of 2020.

Financial year 2018/2019 is the year that 50 per cent of physical works will be completed.

"A commercial contract has already been signed and some works are ongoing. Procurement of a supervision consultant is in advanced stages," Ms Azuba says.

On the revival of the national airline, a task force has since been appointed on the same and the procurement process for six aircrafts to get the airline up and running in financial year 2018/19 has commenced.

On the other hand, the Standard Gauge Railway is in the pipeline.

The plan was to develop it with partner states, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan to link Mombasa, Nairobi, Kampala, Kigali and Juba. This should reduce the cost of doing business, according to President Museveni.



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