

# Court halts Kampala-Jinja Expressway compensation

By Andante Okanya and Barbra Kabahumuza

Court has halted all compensation payment on land for the Kampala-Jinja Expressway project until the dispute between the private estate of Ssekabaka Daudi Chwa and Buganda Land Board (BLB) is resolved.

The order dated August 1, was issued by Justine Atukwasa, the assistant registrar of the Land Division of the High Court in Kampala.

"An interim order is hereby issued directing both parties to maintain the status quo of the suit," the order reads in part.

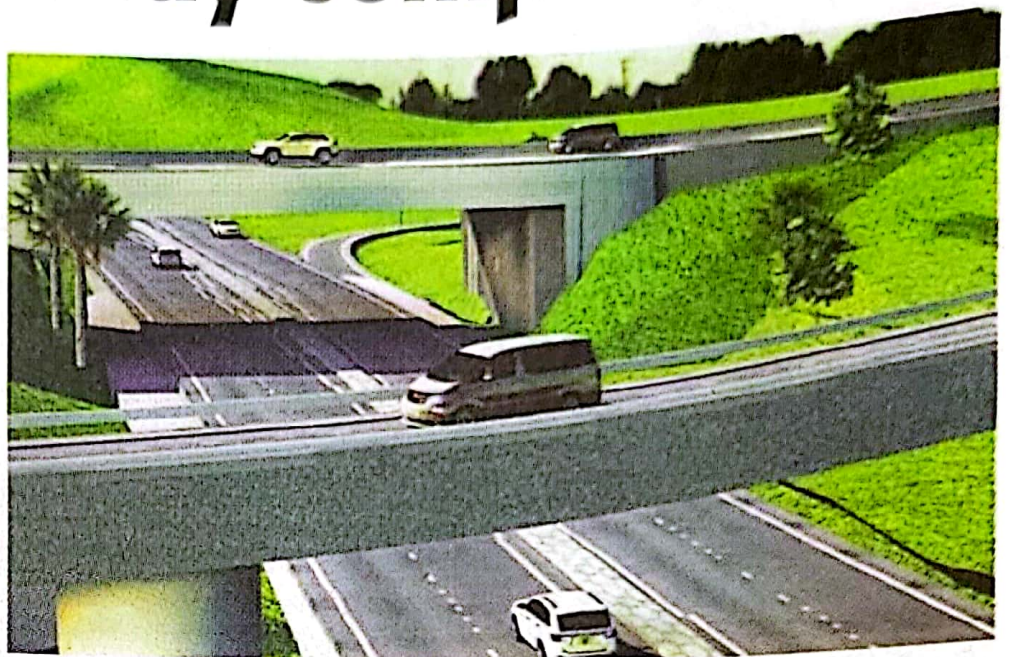
"Both parties are restrained from accessing any payment from the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) in respect of the compensation arising out of the subject of the suit until the hearing and final determination of the main application."

The court's directive was issued on the prompting of Prince Harold Kalemera, who is the team leader of a section of the beneficiaries of the estate. He filed an application against BLB.

Initially, UNRA had set aside sh400b for compensating the estimated 10,000 affected persons.

On June 22, the court issued an order, directing UNRA to deposit the money in the High Court account until the land dispute among the royals is resolved.

However, in a letter dated July 11, addressed to the the Family Court, UNRA explained a delay in disbursement of the funds by the national treasury.



An artist's impression of the Kampala-Jinja Expressway

But the authority said it would comply as soon as the funds are available.

Kalemera's lawyers are Steven Senkeezi, Swabur Marzuq and James Oluka. BLB lawyers are David Mpanga and Medard Sseggon.

Reigning Buganda monarch Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II is also a beneficiary of Chwa's estate. Kalemera, a cousin of Kabaka Mutebi, is son of late Prince Henry Kimera who died in 1991.

Chwa II was the 34th Kabaka of Buganda from 1897 until November 1939. He was succeeded by Mutebi's father, Edward Mutesa II.

The estate is part of the 350 square miles returned to the Kabaka when kingdoms were restored in 1993. It is currently managed by BLB.

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

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## Expressway plan

UNRA had earlier halted the project, with 80% compensation stalled in light of the row. The \$1.1b (about sh4 trillion) four-lane 95km road project, is scheduled to commence this year and completed in 2025.

According to UNRA, it will consist of two separate sections. The 77km Kampala-

Jinja mainline and the 18km Kampala Southern Bypass.

The Kampala-Jinja section commences at Shoprite, Lugogo in Nakawa Division, weaves through Kyambogo, branches into Kinawataka and Kasokoso in Kira Municipality.

It will then proceed to Namanve and Mukono and stop at the new Jinja bridge in Njeru, Buikwe district.

The four-lane dual carriage Kampala Southern Bypass will connect Bweyogerere in Wakiso district to Munyonyo in Makindye division, Kampala.

It will start at Bweyogerere, near Mandela National Stadium at Namboole, weave through Butabika, Luzira, and Kyeyitabya and stop at Munyonyo, from where it will connect to the southern spur of the Entebbe Expressway.