

Sh4b needed for city street lights

By Juliet Waiswa
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As Uganda was preparing for Pope Francis' visit on November 27, 2015, Kampala Capital City Authority promised to install 750 solar street lights along major roads in Kampala ahead of the event.

At least 40 of these lights were to be integrated with cameras to supplement the existing security camera infrastructure in the city and guarantee safety for the visiting pontiff. The project has not taken off to date.

KCCA assistant spokesperson Robert Kalumba said the authority is seeking sh4.4b for installation of street lights in the central business district. The lights, according to Kalumba, will be installed after Government approves the funds this financial year.

Kalumba revealed that KCCA has awarded a tender to a Chinese Company, Zhejianang Holley International Limited, but they are waiting for funds. KCCA requires close to 1,170 lights in all the five divisions, but wants to start with installing about 759 in the city centre in the current contract.

"KCCA has sought guidance from the finance ministry on the matter and we are waiting for confirmation," Kalumba explained.

He said last year in June,



Peter Kauju

KCCA terminated the sh7b street lighting project contract they had entered into with Philips East Africa on October 22, 2015, allegedly after the contractor failed to supply the required solar lamps.

He said Philips failed to deliver the lights by the end of the contract on December 22, 2015 and instead asked for a contract extension of one month, which KCCA granted, ending on January 21, 2016.

Meanwhile, KCCA has started testing the traffic lights at the Fairway road junction.

The junction has been developed under the Kampala Institutional and Infrastructure Development Project (KIID-P II), funded by the International Development Agency of the

World Bank in a contract signed in December 2014.

"We had some delays, but we are on course. We are on the final phase of setting, timing and testing the lights to ensure that they work according to the plan," Peter Kauju, the authority's spokesperson, explained.

The works on the lights started on Tuesday.

The traffic lights are to have sensors that will automatically change the timing of the traffic flow, depending on how many vehicles are in the queue, to cross. Because of the busy traffic at the junction, the lights have been fitted with lights for the pedestrian crossing.

The KIIDP-II project is aimed at enhancing the infrastructure and institutional capacity of KCCA so as to improve mobility in Kampala. The five-year project has a total lane length of 154km to be reconstructed, widened and dualled.

Earlier on, KCCA executive director Jennifer Musisi had also cautioned pedestrians intending to use the pedestrian crossing buttons to handle them delicately.

Musisi also revealed that they have developed a traffic control centre at the KCCA headquarters that would monitor city traffic lights and also locate drivers and riders who do not respect them.