

## Mbale gets new roads contractor

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**MBALE.** Mbale Municipal council authorities have identified a new contractor to complete the stalled roads projects in the area.

Zhongmei engineering group limited, a Chinese company, has been contracted to replace Plinth Technical Services, who were awarded the contract to tarmac 14km roads in June, 2014 at cost of Shs10.4 billion.

Plinth had its contract terminated in August last year over alleged failure to complete the project on time.

The stalled roads: Republic Street, Nabuyoga Rise, Pallisa Road and Mugisu hill, are being constructed by World Bank under Uganda Support to Municipality Infrastructure Development (USMID) programme.

The Municipal engineer, Mr Edison Kasaata, on Monday said the new contractor is expected to complete the works within four months.

*"We are still in phase one yet other Municipalities are in their final stages ready to take off to phase three. You should pave way for quality and speedy works so that we get to the next phase on time."*

**MR PAUL BATANDA,**  
MUNICIPAL TOWN CLERK

"We are now rest assured that within a short time, the new contractor will have completed the works," he said.

According to Mr Kasaata, the remaining works includes installing solar street lights, rectification of the drainage system covering, signage among other beautifications.

He said the work will cost the district Shs7.4 billion.

Mr Paul Batanda, the municipal town clerk, urged the civil servant and political leaders not to interfere with the road construction.

"We are still in phase one yet other Municipalities are in their final stages ready to take off to phase three. You should pave way for quality and speedy works so that we get to the next phase on time," Mr Batanda, said.

### Political interference

While assessing construction works in Mbale municipality in October last year, the World Bank officials, accused the officials of consistently failing to implement and supervise the projects under USMID.

Ms Dorcas Okalany, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Lands, advised the contractor to ensure value for money.

"There are higher expectations in the new contractor and let's hope that what we are relaunching today will have better fruits under your keen supervision and that there won't be any more delays," Ms Okalany said.

Ms Okalany revealed that upon completion, the second phase include rehabilitation of Naboa and Cathedral Avenue roads.