



Upgrading. The dusty Nyendo-Bukakata road that is planned to get tarmac in March. PHOTO BY MARTINS E. SSEKWEYAMA

Benefits. The project is expected to further boost economic development in Kalangala Islands.

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Works on Nyendo-Bukakata road set to commence - govt

MASAKA. Motorists using the Nyendo-Bukakata road that connects Masaka District to Kalangala Islands, can breathe a sigh of relief after government indicated that it had finally secured all funds required to tarmac it.

Government has in the last two decades been promising to tarmac the 41Km road, but this has remained on paper despite the road's economic significance.

However, a statement from the Ministry of Finance, suggests that the construction will commence in March.

The statement dated January 23 and signed by minister Matia Kasajja, indicates that the project will be financed using a loan from Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BEDEA) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

While BEDEA has committed \$12m (about Shs43.5b) to the project, OFID will support the project works with \$15m (about

Shs54.4b). According to Mr Kasajja, government and the Uganda National Roads Authority (Unra) are in final stages of furnishing the funders with all the contract requirements to ensure the project is not affected by any further delays.

The minister explained that government earlier attempts to have the road upgraded to tarmac stalled due to failure by the chosen contractor to submit acceptable performance guarantee to the funding agencies, which led to cancellation of the procurement process.

"The successful firm failed to provide an acceptable performance guarantee. Consequently, in November 2015, a letter for cancellation of procurement was issued to all bidders following failure by the best evaluated bidder to furnish a proper performance security," Mr Kasajja said in the statement.

However, he revealed that

government reawakened that process in January last year, and is yielding positive results - something that is giving a ray of hope towards improving the road, which is currently engulfed with potholes.

Shs43.5b

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY BEDEA HAS COMMITTED TO THE PROJECT

Shs54.4b

THE AMOUNT OF MONEY OFID HAS COMMITTED TO THE PROJECT

Earlier in 2015, Unra had drawn the road designs and compensated some of the project affected persons to pave

way for the road works to begin. The minister says the contractor yet to be identified will accordingly take into account all the earlier activities done on the road.

The much anticipated tarmac of Nyendo-Bukakata road comes a few weeks after the political leadership of Masaka and Kalangala districts exerted pressure on officials from the Manifesto Implementation Unit under the Office of the President over the default fulfillment of the ruling party manifesto pledge.

If the project goes as planned it will further spur economic development in Kalangala Islands where government through a public-private partnership with Kalangala Infrastructure Services Ltd has already injected colossal sum of money to improve marine transport services, clean water and electricity and roads construction.

stray dogs

to get rid of
Kuyunga Town,
d to poison all

RDC warns parents

SEMBABULE. Mr Henry Baguma, the Sembabule Resident District commissioner, has warned parents

Couples advised on testing

KAYUNGA. Mr Charles Walakira, the country director of Tender Mercies Outreach Foundation, has advised

Famine looms in Kayunga

KAYUNGA. Residents in Kayunga