

NEW UNRA REGULATIONS ALSO PROVIDE FOR PUNISHMENT AGAINST WATER TRANSPORT ABUSE

By Ashraf Kasirye

Any individual who constructs an access road connecting to a national road without approval from Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) will be liable to imprisonment or pay a fine, according to the new regulations.

Building humps on roads without UNRA's approval will also attract a two-year jail term or heavy fine starting January.

The regulations were released by works minister Monica Ntege Azuba recently.

Yesterday, the UNRA director of road infrastructure protection, Reuben Tumwebaze, told *New Vision* that the new regulations are in categories.

The categories are general regulations, vehicle dimensions and road control regulations, as well as ferry management regulations.

Yesterday, UNRA met the local government chairpersons, MPs, resident district commissioners and Police commanders from central Uganda.

According to the general regulations, construction of a road that connects to a national road, which interferes with the proper function of any ditch or culvert on a national road, will be punishable.

Encroachment on the national road reserve or ferry landing facility by making or erecting any building, fence, billboard, signage, temporary kiosk, ditch or other obstacles will attract punishment.

"This is the reason we are

Ugandans face jail over unapproved access roads



Bulkwe district chairperson Mathias Kigongo speaks as Reuben Tumwebaze (seated left) and others listen during a sensitisation meeting about the new UNRA regulations yesterday. Photo by Ashraf Kasirye

engaging these leaders, so that they can go back and help us sensitise their people who need to thoroughly understand

the regulations before we begin implementing them," Tumwebaze noted.

UNRA's legal officer Jimmy

Kiwalabye said the road infrastructure committee has been established to help people go through an elaborate

application process before doing anything to national roads.

The regulations are in line

with the UNRA Act 2006.

"For the last 10 years, the authority has not had any regulations, which has made it so hard for it to implement many provisions in the UNRA Act," Tumwebaze said.

The regulations also clarify on the use of road reserves and explain how someone can use a road reserve with the guidance of UNRA.

Kiwalabye said the regulations protect traffic users from inconveniences, especially during road construction.

The regulations also provide for punishments against abusers of water transport.

Tumwebaze also said overloading has been decriminalised and that culprits will pay express penalties.

"This will help UNRA to facilitate trade instead of hindering its progress, because in the past we could impound a vehicle on Friday, and the owner gets a chance to get a court response on Monday, hence doing a big disservice to their businesses," he added.