

PPDA GUIDELINES

Indigenous construction firms should handle 30% of the work for each contract

By Pascal Kwesiga

At least 30% of the construction works on all roads funded by the Government will be undertaken by local contractors. This includes the six expressways currently under design, according to the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA).

Under the new Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) guidelines, the indigenous construction firms should handle 30% of the work for each contract.

However, this does not apply to the projects already under construction, whether financed with direct funds from Government or loans.

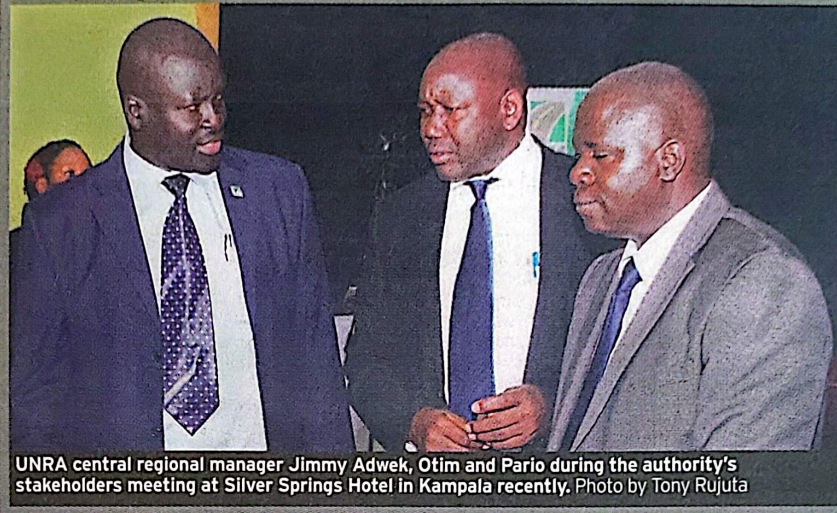
"The new guidelines were unveiled a few months ago, and there were already some projects under construction. But, local contractors will participate in all future projects," Joseph Otim, the director of road maintenance at UNRA, said.

He was responding to a question from the trade minister, Amelia Kyambadde, on how the authority plans to involve local construction firms in the execution of future infrastructure projects. "We have only foreign contractors on all projects under construction. We need to involve local contractors," the minister said.

The authority unveiled three new expressways under design — Nakasero-Northern Bypass, Kampala Outer Beltway (second ring road) and Kampala-Busunju-Hoima. The design was unveiled during UNRA's stakeholder engagement meeting with leaders from central region at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala yesterday.

The other expressways under design are the Kampala-Jinja, Kampala Southern Bypass,

Local contractors to gain from six expressways



UNRA central regional manager Jimmy Adwek, Otim and Pario during the authority's stakeholders meeting at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala recently. Photo by Tony Rujuta

Kampala-Bombo and Kampala Flyover.

"Of course some of these expressways will be funded with money from external sources. We shall negotiate with funders about involving the local contractors," Otim said.

Expressways

The 77km Kampala-Jinja Expressway, according to the blueprint, will start at Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) showground in Nakawa. It will traverse Kasokoso in Wakiso district, areas behind Kampala Industrial and Business Park, before crossing the existing Kampala-Jinja road in

Mukono district. The road will have eight lanes between Nakawa and Kyambogo (about 2.4km), six lanes between Kyambogo and Mukono (about 17km) and four lanes from Mukono to Jinja (about 57km). The 51km Southern Bypass, which will be linked to Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, will start at a point on the Kampala-Jinja Expressway and traverse areas such as Mutungo and end in Munyonyo.

Nakasero-Northern express route is planned to start somewhere around the Northern Bypass intersection at Kalerwe.

It will pick traffic from the Northern Bypass and deliver it to a yet-to-be determined point

in Nakasero. A feasibility study is underway for the Kampala-Bombo Expressway (about 30km), which will probably start from the Northern Bypass intersection at Kyebando or at a point on the existing Kampala-Bombo road. The Kampala Outer Beltway is planned to the second ring road skirting Kampala.

The first ring road traversing the outskirts of Kampala will be achieved after linking the Northern Bypass with the Southern Bypass, Kampala-Entebbe Expressway and Kampala-Jinja super highway. The planned Kampala-Busunju-Hoima is expected to pick traffic somewhere around any of the two ring roads to Hoima.

KAMPALA FLYOVER

The Kampala Flyover is expected to start around the Clock Tower

The Kampala Flyover is expected to have its starting point around the Clock Tower and deliver traffic to the existing Jinja Road.

"The design for some of these new expressways is going on. For some, we are procuring for design. The local contractors will participate in these projects, but we shall need a law not only PPDA guidelines, to negotiate their participation with foreign funders and firms," Lawrence Pario, the head of bridges and structures department at UNRA, said.

What leaders say

Several district leaders applauded UNRA for what they described as "good work" in improving the road network and maintenance across the country, but also pointed out more roads the authority should build.

Former finance minister, Syda Bumba, said: "Thank you (UNRA) for reducing the cost of production for the country. But let the authority have a proper road maintenance plan so that people do not have to demonstrate first."

Mathias Kigongo, the Buikwe district chairperson, said each road should have a clearly demarcated (road) reserve so UNRA does not have to appear to be extending it during expansion.