

Tororo reaping from USMID project

Project. The Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development is a project funded by the World Bank and the government through a \$150m loan for a period.

BY NOBERT OOLA
noola@ug.nationmedia.com

KEY ISSUES

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Mr Akuma said they have strategised this in a five-year plan enforcing it with penalties to improve sanitation.

Tororo Municipality is one of the beneficiaries of the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) project funded by the World Bank and the government.

According to the residents, USMID project has sparked progressive changes in infrastructural development in the municipality.

In the first phase of funds released, Tororo Municipality received about Shs6.8b, which was for infrastructure development. This was invested in development of key roads.

Ideally the programme is meant to target key municipal intervention areas such as development of roads, enhancement of economic infrastructure to support the municipal capacity to generate adequate revenue to run its programs, projects meant to guide the physical development of the town and storm water and sewage waste management.

Achievement

Mr Akuma Muzamil Vunnimva, the Tororo Town clerk, said in phase one, the municipal was able to work on major roads within the municipality. They were also able to embark on the physical planning of the town.

"We were able to reevaluate property within the council to collect property rates," Mr Akuma said.

He said the interventions, which have been conducted in the municipality would not be possible if it was not for the intervention of USMID project.

Previously, the council was collecting about Shs680m. However, with the help of USMID, they were able to get the services of Uganda Local Government Finance Commission to come and assess all the potentials of revenue sources of the council.

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Mr Denis Oketch, the Tororo Municipal engineer, said they have been able to complete six roads with the USMID funding.

The roads include Baza Street, 0.498km (four lane road with cycling and parking lane), Kasim Road-0.2 km (single lane), Obweya Lane -0.206km (two lane road), Park lane -0.212 km (single lane with parking on both sides, Tagore East-0.28km (two lane road) and Tagore west 0.106km.

The total coverage of roads con-

structed to date is 1.5km of road networks within the municipal council.

Tororo Municipality has about 190 km of road networks and 60km is still unopened.

The municipal council has overall opened 130km of all roads in the municipality.

With the next batch of USMID funding, the council looks forward to rehabilitate and refurbish the taxi and bus park respectively.

The council will also earmark Shs3.5b for development of the market street lane.

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Among the notable challenges received is the overwhelming unmet expectation of the public.

Mr Oketch said residents expect more than what resources can do, putting the people charged with responsibility of execution on the spot.

Mr Oketch who also doubles as the project manager, said they have experienced a lot of abuse of works done from the public even with a lot of sensitisation.

This range from reckless parking, vandalism, and accidents resulting from reckless driving.

He appealed to members of the municipality to be more mindful of the resources put in since they are all beneficiaries of the project.

Maintenance among other bottlenecks, is another challenge the municipal council stands to face if it is to sustain progressive development of the municipal infrastructural development.

Threatened by the high costs of maintenance, the council hopes to



A boda boda rider carries a passenger on Obweya Lane in Tororo Municipality.

generate more revenue from within to effectively manage costs.

Mr Akuma said the municipality has been able to curb any corruption tendency by ensuring that all processes are transparent.

This, he said, enables members of the public to review and hold them accountable in areas they have not addressed well.

"It is important for the people to know how much has been received, what is to be done, and physical verification of what is actually done.

This promotes public accountability and institutional credibility," added Mr Akuma.

As a municipal council, he said they have chosen a different approach unlike their counterparts.

Other than contract management, the council has decided to be involved and focus on some parts of the infrastructural project management. This has helped them to effectively monitor the progress of developments in the municipality.

Baza Street, a four lane road with cycling and parking lane. This is one of the roads in Tororo Municipality constructed using USMID funds.

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NOBERT OOLA