

NRM party chairperson Peter Ssenkungu said the Uganda

tree primary and secondary education and the youth and women funds will improve

manifesto, regardless of their political, religious and tribal affiliation," he said.

Saying the NRM manifesto

budget while others through the National Development Plan and relevant ministries.

As roads bad roads, he

Masaka on a fact-finding mission of government-funded programmes, including the Youth Livelihood Programme.

UNRA warns public against vandalising road signs

KABALE

By Job Namanya

The south-western regional manager of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Bennice Kiganda, has warned the public against pinning posters on road signs.

She said it has been a common practice by people, especially politicians, to stick posters onto road signs despite it being against road safety regulations.

Kiganda was addressing stakeholders during a south-western regional regulation engagement at Rukiiko Hall in Kabale municipality, Kabale district.

Kiganda said UNRA will ensure that anyone caught vandalising road signs is arrested.

"Every road sign has a function. However, if it is not well understood, as a result of being obscured by a poster, road users will not understand its message," she explained.

She added: "Supposing a road sign indicating a zebra crossing is covered, chances are high that a vehicle may knock people crossing that section of the road."

According to Kiganda, the roads authority will clean all road signs on highways by removing posters and notices on them.

UNRA also plans to sensitise the



UNRA's Kiganda (centre) interacting with Kabale district officials during a stakeholder's meeting break in Kabale. Photo by Job Namanya

public on the significance of road signs.

Meanwhile, Kiganda expressed concern over people who have continued to occupy road reserves, even after being compensated by UNRA.

Concerning the increasing number of humps on highways, Kiganda said UNRA does not recommend humps. However, due to indiscipline of some road users, they are prompted to put them on roads.

"Local leaders usually apply to UNRA to set up humps on their roads following increasing accidents.

"However, after proving that the indiscipline has reduced, you can re-apply to have the humps removed," she advised.

During the meeting, Rubanda district chief administrative officer Davis Dembe Beyeza asked UNRA to update some road signs on the Kabale-Kisoro

road that have expired messages.

"We have road signs indicating that, after Kisoro, one enters Kabale district, yet we have a new district there.

"The same case applies on the Kabale-Mbarara road, where posts indicate Kabale district after Ntungamo, yet it is Rukiga," Beyeza said.

Kabale district chairperson Patrick Besigye Keihwa urged stakeholders to embark on a mass sensitisation campaign on respecting road signs in order to curb road accidents.

He also asked UNRA to provide Kigezi regional office with more equipment to meet the recurrent demand for improved roads.

"During heavy rains, our roads get damaged due to the terrain of this place. With the limited equipment at the UNRA office, we find it hard to repair those roads.

"It is, therefore, important to have more equipment here to counteract the demand," Keihwa said.

Elly Maate, the Kigezi region Police spokesperson, asked Ugandans to arrest anyone they find committing crimes on roads and hand them over to the Police for justice.

Julius Kanyamunyu, a business development specialist at UNRA, said the roads body will, effective next year, begin charging companies that want to erect billboards in road reserves.