

# Jinja cancels contract with Platex Construction

JINJA

By Doreen Musingo

The tender of Platex Construction Company based in Juba, South Sudan, to construct Main Street and Eng. Zikusooka streets in Jinja municipality, has been cancelled.

Majidu Batambuze, the Jinja Municipal mayor, said on Friday that the company had some anomalies, which prompted the municipal council to annul the contract.

He said construction works were expected to begin last month, but due to the anomalies with the contractor, they have re-advertised for a new contractor.

The two roads are to be reconstructed at a cost of sh17b, a grant from the World Bank under Phase one of the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development.

He said after the anomalies, they sought legal advice from the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

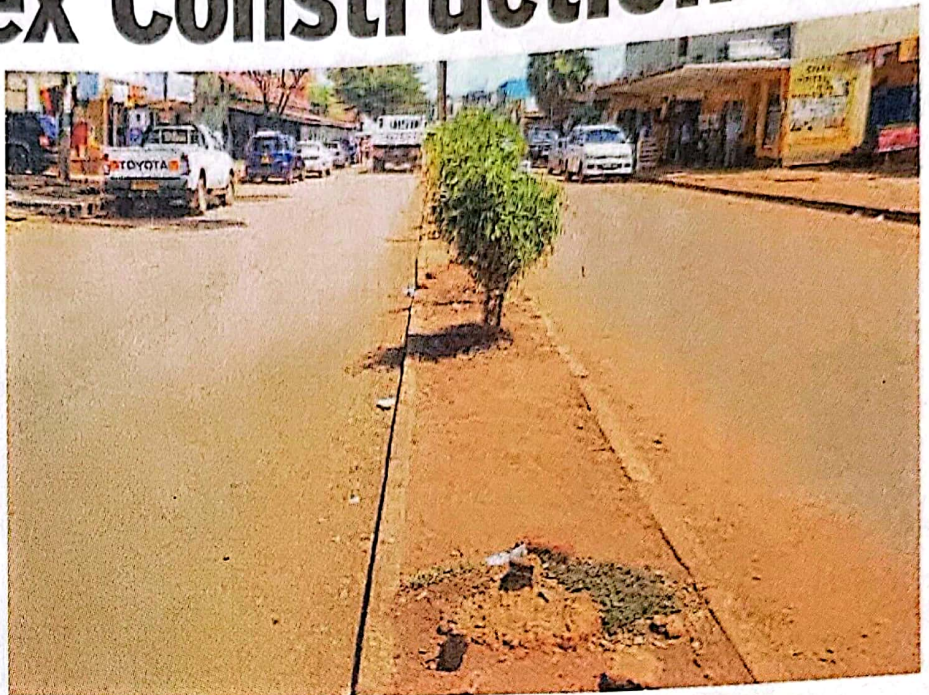
"We are under obligation to seek advice, which prompted us to call off the procurement process with the contractor," Batambuze explained.

He said the cancellation has caused a setback in the time schedule for the completion of the project, which is supposed to have ended by June next year.

He said the money is part of a loan from the World Bank, estimated at \$150m that will benefit 14 municipalities.

The contractor is supposed to work in other municipalities of Entebbe and Masaka, which were clustered with Jinja.

Rajab Kitto, the municipal relations officer, said so far, 14 contractors have picked bidding documents expressing interest in



Part of Main Street in Jinja which will be upgraded. Photo by D. Musingo

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

Jinja mayor Majidu Batambuze said construction works were expected to begin last month, but due to the anomalies with the contractor, they have re-advertised for a new contractor.

the project expected to commence by mid-September.

Kitto said once they get a new contractor, Main Street will have a new drainage system, pavers, curbs, walkways and solar street

lighting in the central islands and power cables will be relocated.

He explained that some changes have been made in designs, and from Jinja Central Police Station to Jinja-Mpya, parking area for vehicles will be removed and relocated on the sides.

"The removal of the parking yard was to create more space for another central island, where beautification will be constructed," he said.

Batambuze added that they would employ road scouts to oversee the beautification by monitoring people who misuse the road by dumping garbage on it.