

is not of therapy for children battling cancer. She explained that hospitalisation often isolates children from school,

childhood for months or even years. "Treatment alone is not enough. We must also care for their mental

the project possible, the initiative deeply personal. "As a parent, seeing a child smile

District Naturinda commended Uswa

By John Masaba

The Government is considering changes to its borrowing procedures for road infrastructure financing in a bid to reduce delays in project implementation.

Under the proposed approach, road projects would be structured to include dedicated components for the compensation of project-affected persons, alongside other preparatory costs such as right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation.

The development was disclosed by works and transport minister Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala while speaking during an inter-ministerial committee meeting on Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Programme convened by the Office of the President at Golden Tulip Hotel in Kampala on Monday.

PAST LESSONS

The reform comes against the backdrop of persistent delays in infrastructure projects.

Govt moves to overhaul road financing model to cut delays

Currently, when securing loans, the Government is required to provide separate funding for related expenses, including compensation, acquisition of right of way, and relocation of utilities.

However, this arrangement has at times proved difficult due to competing budget priorities, contributing to slow implementation.

For example, while the Busega-Mpigi Expressway was launched in 2020 at a cost of about sh547b, its construction cost has more than doubled to over sh1.2 trillion, driven by land acquisition challenges and funding constraints.

"It is preferable that if you borrow money, it should be a full package. We have done this on the Namagumba-Sironko road and it has worked well. This approach will help minimise delays on projects," Gen Wamala said.

The meeting, chaired by Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs Minsa Kabanda brought together other leaders including State Minister for Kampala Kabuye Kyofatogabye, State Minister for Energy Opolot Okasai and deputy Inspector General of Government Patricia Ochan.

ROAD WORKS PROGRESS

During the event, it was noted that more than 100km of roads in Greater Kampala are currently under construction.

According to Kabanda, the programme is about 85% complete, with the Government expressing confidence that targets will be achieved despite earlier setbacks.

"We have talked about the right of way and the procurement process, which sometimes delays implementation, as well as utilities relocation



Minister Katumba Wamala

BETWEEN THE LINES

◉ The reform comes against the backdrop of persistent delays in infrastructure projects.

especially electrical cables and internet lines. They are affecting progress, but we have agreed to work together with those entities to address the remaining challenges," she said. A progress report indicates

that 107km of roads are under construction, while works on an additional 13km have commenced following procurement.

UTILITIES RELOCATION

Officials identified utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition as major bottlenecks affecting urban infrastructure delivery.

Monica Edemechu Ejua, an undersecretary in the Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, said many of Kampala's utilities were installed decades ago when the city was planned for about 50,000 residents. Today, the metropolitan population has grown to over 6.2 million, placing heavy pressure on ageing infrastructure.

"In the process of relocating these utilities, we have found that the costs are exorbitantly high. We would like the inter-

ministerial committee pronounce itself so that we have standard estimates for utility relocation depending on locality," she said.

Ejua added that Government has engaged multiple stakeholders, including electricity companies, water distributors, local government and telecom operators to improve coordination.

FUNDING MODEL

The GKMA Urban Development programme being implemented under the World Bank's Programme for Results Financing, which links disbursement of funds to verified performance outcomes. So far, about sh817b has been mobilised, largely through credit financing, supplemented by grants.

Beyond roads, the programme also includes development of markets to boost trade.