

Hoima road works begin

HOIMA

By Robert Atuhairwe

The civil works for the construction of the five roads under the second phase of Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) project has started in Hoima town.

The works, that started on Friday, are expected to last seven months, at a cost of sh14b.

Hoima municipal engineer Bonaventure Kiiza, said Abubaker Technical Services Limited, a local firm, has been awarded the contract, while Continuum Consulting Engineers are the supervising consultants.

The roads, which will be upgraded from gravel to bitumen standards, include: Wright Road (0.34km), Kwebiiha (0.2km), Bujumbura (0.3km), Republic (0.3km) and Bunyoro-Kitara (0.5km).

USMID is a World Bank-funded project through the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development, aimed at improving urban infrastructure.

Hoima is one of the 14 municipalities benefitting from the sh544b loan project to overhaul roads in Uganda.

A source close to the firm undertaking the works told *New Vision* on Tuesday that they started with Kwebiiha Road, where they were doing clearing and excavation to remove the top soil.

The roads, once complete, will be between 14 and 20 metres wide. The project involves construction of the drainage network and beautification of the road reserves.

Inaugurated three years ago, the



Construction works ongoing on Kwebiiha Road in Hoima town. Photo by Robert Atuhairwe

"One year from now, all roads in the entire central business area will be tarmac." Kiiza

first phase of the USMID project comprised seven roads to a tune of sh10b, whose completion is at penultimate stage.

Municipal sources say the road works are part of the 25-year physical development plan for Hoima Municipality, which was developed with support from the World Bank.

The physical plan was developed by Urban Research and Training

Consultancy East African Limited, to guide proper and organised growth of the town, which was also proposed as an oil city.

The new plan expanded the municipal council area to 228sq.km; with a road network of 606km, where only 3km of the central business area is paved.

Before Hoima attained municipal status in 2010, the town council covered 20sq.km with a road network of about 120km.

Kiiza said besides the USMID road projects, there will be a modern and internal road network and bypasses.

These, he noted, will connect the town to the oil mining areas of Kaiso-Tonya and the oil refinery in Buseruka sub-county on the shores of Lake Albert.

He said an additional 7km of the road network like those going to traditional worship places, including Bujumbura Catholic Church, St

Peter's Cathedral in Duhaga and Bwikya Mosque, will be paved.

Others will be the Kampala-Masindi bypass, Palace Road (Nest Harmony Road), Duhaga Roundabout (ginnery) connecting into Kaiso-Tonya or Butiaba Road and Magezi Road. Kiiza said they had already submitted to Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) the list of the roads to be worked on under the ongoing construction of the Kigumba-Kyenjonjo Road.

He noted that Comptran Engineering and Planning Associates (from Ghana) the consultant for Kigumba-Kyenjonjo Road had already started preliminary surveys of the additional roads.

"We don't know the cost yet, but we are aware the roads are supposed to be worked on and this implies that in one year from now, all roads in the entire central business area will be tarmac," Kiiza said.

lack of funds renders Ariia road equipment redundant