

Compensation claims stall Mukono-Katosi roadworks

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KAMPALA. Completion of the 74km Mukono-Katosi-Nyenga road on schedule lies in balance due to unresolved compensation disputes.

The roadworks were expected to be completed by mid-November this year but the prospect has faded after the contractor failed to compensate the affected persons.

The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) said it had given the joint contractors, SBI International and Reynolds Construction Company (RCC), up to November 13, 2017 to have completed the construction claims.

The UNRA project manager, Ms Harriet Namuwonge, said last week that 81 per cent of the total physical works had been completed.

However, she noted that the remaining work may not be completed by November 13, 2017 because about 4km of the road have not been worked on due to unresolved compensation issues.

"The progress is good because 81 per cent has been achieved but the contractor has one month to complete the work. The challenge is compensation of some of the people," said Ms Namuwonge.

She observed that the extension of the construction period will not affect the Shs254b budget for the entire

road project because the contractor is paid per work completed and certified by UNRA.

Ms Namuwonge said the pending section lies where the Standard Gauge Railway line will cross the road. The rest of the stretch was completed and handed over to UNRA.

At Mulajje zone in Nkokonjeru Town Council, Mr Godfrey Musisi, a businessman, is demanding Shs800m for his house and other property.

Mr William Matovu, UNRA's head of land acquisition, said Mr Musisi received Shs232m after two valuation exercises but refused to vacate the property, saying he wanted more money.

"The first consultant paid him

Shs111m but he demanded more. So together with the chief government valuer, another valuation was carried out with the final report quoting Shs221m which he also signed for. Now, he is demanding more, hence affecting work," said Mr Matovu.

When contacted, Mr Musisi con-

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The numbers. Out of the 4733 affected properties, 4191 have been compensated at Shs44b of the total compensation budget of Shs53b for the entire project.

firmed receiving Shs232m but said he will not vacate the property before full compensation of at least Shs800m.

"I took UNRA to court and the mediation yielded nothing. I lost my loyal tenant New Hope Primary School who used to pay me Shs1m per month. UNRA don't want to pay me by insisting that the title I presented was for a different piece of land," he said. The project manager for SBI and RCC, Mr Slavisa Lukovic, said if there was no compensation dispute, the road would be near completion by now. He said the contractors have already written to UNRA asking for extension of one year to complete the road.