John Mulimba, the state minister for Foreign Affairs in charge of regional affairs, said the talks will see great "We have moved from simply stabilising our common border to actively connecting our two nations. to gather dust; we will see them through." movement of e

Uganda Railways rehabilitates tanker wagons, revives fuel transport

By John Odyek

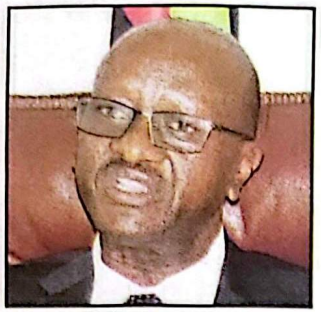
Uganda Railways Corporation (URC) has launched a major rehabilitation programme for fuel tank wagons in a renewed effort to restore rail-based fuel transportation into Uganda, a move expected to ease pressure on roads, strengthen fuel supply chains and revive multimodal transport on Lake Victoria.

READY TO BE DEPLOYED

The corporation has earmarked more than 100 fuel tank wagons for rehabilitation to support national fuel security and improve cargo movement through rail and water transport systems linking Uganda and Kenya. The first batch of 22 rehabilitated fuel tank wagons was completed last week at Nalukolongo Railway Workshop, marking a key milestone in URC's recovery efforts.

Benon Kajuna, the managing director of URC, said the rehabilitation demonstrates the corporation's growing technical capacity to handle major rolling stock repairs locally. "Over the years, the Corporation has developed the capacity to undertake major rolling stock repairs and overhauls. The tankers are now fully ready to be deployed along the Port Bell–Kisumu and Jinja Port–Kisumu routes to move fuel into the country," Kajuna said.

Under the arrangement, fuel tank wagons are transported by rail to Port Bell or Jinja Port, then loaded onto vessels operating across Lake Victoria to Kisumu. At Kisumu, the wagons are filled with fuel before being ferried back to Uganda, where locomotives haul them to inland destinations.



Benon Kajuna, managing director Uganda Railways



Rehabilitated wagons meant to restore rail-based fuel transportation into Uganda

According to URC, the journey between Kisumu and Port Bell takes about 18 hours, offering what government officials describe as a cheaper, safer and more efficient route for bulk cargo movement.

Kajuna said URC is preparing for expansion under financing secured from the African Development Bank. Part of the funding will support the construction of a new water vessel with a carrying capacity of 1,500 tonnes, nearly double the capacity of the current 880-tonne vessels.

He added that the same financing arrangement will facilitate the acquisition of additional fuel tank wagons as demand for petroleum products rises in Uganda and neighbouring countries.

URC is also positioning itself to increase exports by rail, transporting Ugandan products such as coffee, cocoa and other agricultural commodities to the Port of Mombasa for shipment to international markets.

"To facilitate this business segment, we commenced the procurement and acquisition of 10 locomotives and 100 wagons," Kajuna said.

RAILWAY LINE REHABILITATION

The corporation is planning full rehabilitation of the railway line between Mukono and Malaba to improve efficiency and reduce transit times, especially for perishable exports.

The programme forms part of Kajuna's 10-point recovery and growth strategy, aimed at restoring operational efficiency, expanding freight capacity and strengthening URC's financial sustainability.

The strategy also prioritises operationalisation of the Gulu Logistics Hub and the Tororo–Gulu railway line, projects considered critical to northern Uganda and regional trade corridors.

Recently, the outgoing Minister of State for Works and Transport, Fred Byamukama praised URC's progress.

He reaffirmed government support that will include settling outstanding debts that have constrained Uganda railways' nationwide operations.

Byamukama said rail transport remains critical to Uganda's competitiveness, noting that transporting cargo by rail costs between 6 and 12 cents per tonne per kilometre, compared to 20 and 25 cents per tonne per kilometre by road.

EXPANSION PREPARATIONS

URC currently operates two vessels on Lake Victoria MV Kaawa and Pamba. Each vessel carries up to 22 fuel tank wagons, with every tanker holding 50,000 litres of fuel, giving each vessel a carrying capacity of about 1.1 million litres per trip.

ERROR CLARIFICATION

Clarification on the advert for **The Presidential Industrial Hubs**, for the swearing in message of the President that ran on page 106 in the ***New Vision*** of **12th May,2026.**

Correction is hereby given that the caption on the *First Lady's picture* is, **First Lady Janet Kataaha *Museveni, Minister of Education and Sports.***

MANAGEMENT

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