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Funders query Shs500b road project

BY MISAIRI THEMBO KAHUNGU
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KAMPALA. The African Development Bank, the funders of Busega-Mpigi dual carriageway, one of the major infrastructure projects in central Uganda, have asked Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) to re-evaluate the bidders seeking to undertake the project.

The funders said the initial evaluation report by UNRA had gaps and complained that some two companies had been unfairly disqualified.

The bidding process for the 23.7km project had stalled after some of the companies and whistleblowers cited unfairness in the deal.

At least 12 foreign firms had expressed interest and each paid Shs20b bid security with hope to be handed the responsibility to build the multi-billion road.

This newspaper understands that UNRA executive director Allen Kagina wrote to AfDB on May 15, submitting the evaluation report for review before the contract is awarded.

The bank was told in the report that two of the- China Gezhouba Company limited and Al Naboodah Construction Co. LLC had been disqualified in the preliminary round of evaluation because they did not guarantee availability of required equipment.

Mr Kennedy Mbekeani, the AfDB country manager, has demanded that UNRA resubmits a revised bid evaluation report for the bank's further review.