

# Katosi road work on schedule

By Charles Kakamwa

The executive director of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Allen Kagina, has said work on the 74km Mukono-Katosi road is moving steadily and the project will be completed within the agreed period.

Kagina noted that whereas there were delays in the first quarter caused by torrential rains and encumbrances emanating from the compensation of the affected people, works were on schedule.

"The project is still on course. We have no worries of delays," she said during a tour of the road on Friday together with members of the parliamentary committee on physical infrastructure.

She explained that so far, about 3,500 people affected by the project have been compensated, while the remaining group of about 500 will be taken care of soon.

"There were cases of land disputes in some families. Others had no land titles, but once the verification report is ready, we shall compensate them. Fortunately, the money is available," she added.

Kagina, who said UNRA was closely monitoring the project, said the contractor, SBI International, had been tasked to produce monthly reports, on the basis of which action could be taken in case of any failures.

"The country has been waiting for this road for long. It will help decongest the Kampala-Jinja highway," she observed

During the tour, committee



**Kagina (right) and Members of the parliamentary committee on infrastructure inspecting the Mukono-Kyotume-Katosi/Kisoga-Nyenga road on Friday**

members, led by their chairman, Ephraim Biraaro, expressed fear over the nature of culverts used, electric poles and houses still in the road reserve.

They were also worried about the safety of pupils at a school located in a sharp bend. However, Patrick Onyok who spoke on behalf of the resident engineer, said barriers will be erected to protect the pupils.

He explained that the type of culverts being used were the best considering the kind of soils in the area, adding that they can easily

be de-silted. He added that the electricity poles and other structures in the road reserve will soon be removed.

The road under construction starts from Ew'Antoni junction off the Kampala-Jinja highway, through the townships of Katosi, Kisoga, Nkokonjeru and Nyenga, before re-joining the highway at Njeru junction near Jinja.

The project, a joint venture between SBI and RCC will cost sh254b. It commenced on January 27, 2015 and is expected to be completed on July

25, 2017.

After six months, 5% of the work has been done so far, the consultant said. Earlier, the Government halted the construction work due to reports of corruption in the initial project.

Kagina and the MPs later visited the site of the new Nile Bridge that is under construction in Jinja.

The 525-metre bridge is being erected across the River Nile by Zenitaka-Hyundai, a joint venture. Kagina noted that the project was progressing well and that all affected people were compensated.