

SPEECH BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

H.E JESSICA ALUPO ON THE OCCASION TO OFFICIALLY COMMISSION THE KAMPALA NORTHERN BYPASS EXPANSION PROJECT.

JAN.23, 2022

The EU Head of Delegation to Uganda

Hon. Ministers of Works and Finance

The EDs-UNRA and KCCA

Religious and Political leaders

All invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Today is yet another beautiful day, in the journey of our country Uganda, where we gather to commission the Kampala Northern bypass expansion.

Northern Bypass measures 21km with 17.5km of single carriageway and 3.5km of dual carriageway, and, with the improved capacity of the 17.5km section to a dual carriageway standard. With the connection to other routes and the Express highway, the Northern bypass is a landmark of ease, convenience, accessibility and by its nature, impressive design.

This occasion is of particular importance not just to me, but to all Ugandans because the Northern by pass is a gateway to deeper and stronger opportunities, as part of walking the journey to the country's vision. I am honored to join H.E The President and the entire Cabinet

that has undertaken to commission other projects elsewhere within this same period. Some of the projects launched include the

1. Oil roads:

Hoima-Butiaba Wanseko

Bulima-Kabwoya

Kigumba-Bulima
2. Tirinyi-Pallisa-Kumi/Pallisa-Kamonkoli
3. Nakalama-Tirinyi-Mbale
4. Masaka-Bukakata road
5. Masaka Town Roads
6. Muyembe Kapchorwa
7. Fortportal-Hima
8. Budo and Nabbingo Access roads
9. Kyenjojo-Kabwoya
10. Anaka and Gulu City roads
11. Mpigi Town roads
12. Mbarara Town roads

With over 341kms of roads added in the last financial year, Government of Uganda now boasts of a total of 5591kms of total paved national road network.

It is worth noting that during the financial year 2020/21, UNRA completed the construction of:

221kms of national roads

120km of town roads

16 bridges

And, rehabilitation of 167.7km of roads.

I congratulate Ministry of works and UNRA for this, and many more upcoming projects. God has indeed, been faithful to Uganda.

Just last week, I officiated at the start of another road construction of a 24.5km security road from Olilim to Ongonga and I know more roads are lined up for construction. The NRM Government and has indeed, defined Uganda's priorities!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Northern Corridor Route, which links the port of Mombasa in Kenya to Bujumbura in Burundi via Nairobi, Kampala and Kigali in Rwanda defines our goals, our vision, our aspirations, for a common, united East Africa and the wider market. It is not a coincidence therefore, that the two Governments of Uganda and DRC also agreed to widen accessibility and ease of movement, of our goods and services, through constriction of roads into Eastern DRC.

Hon Minister, distinguished guests, allow me to say that with all this investment in infrastructure, we are not just securing a future. We are now racing into that future, a future where more opportunities for the youth, for entrepreneurs, for our farmers, for our goods can be enhanced, where the economy will thrive. Construction of this road is indeed, part of the bold initiatives, one of the many that government undertook to contribute to the transformation of livelihoods through the creation of sustainable opportunities in terms of jobs and businesses.

I'd therefore like to thank the EU Group for its support to development of construction of infrastructure, which we are all aware, is the engine of development.

I'm also particularly happy that in spite of the challenges that caused the delay of this particular project, we are at the finishing line, enabling us now, to move onto the next, in what we promised the citizens, especially in the 2021-2026 period. Little wonder that other

major projects are being launched elsewhere. I do congratulate you-UNRA, and indeed Government, upon these milestones. Today, I must say, no part of the country is marginalized.

However, there is one thing I have taken note of and reading the project brief gave me insights into some of those challenges that led to the delay.

- That the project started in 2004, but the contractor was provided with 100% access to site in September 2019 should be reason enough to support government initiatives on land for development.
- That 54.81 acres of the 59.52 acres have been compensated, accounting for 92.1% should guide our inner collective discussions on how we move forward collectively, as land owners, law makers among others.
- That we lose approximately 27 million dollars every year because of delay in agreeing and securing land for infrastructural side negates the journey of development.

That is why government decided to introduce different measures of resolving disputes and securing land for infrastructure and once again, I pledge Cabinet's support and commitment to these processes such that nothing gets in the way of development.

I would like to thank you once again for inviting me to officiate at this very important function and with these few remarks, I hereby declare Northern bypass expansion officially open.

For God and my country.

