

Sh200b Ntungamo road commissioned

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

President Yoweri Museveni has commissioned the 59km Buteraniro-Rwentobo road in Ntungamo district and commended the local community for helping the Government in the fight against the theft of road construction materials.

Museveni urged locals to profitably use the road to improve their household incomes.

After commissioning the road, the President addressed a rally at Kyamate Secondary School grounds, where 30,000 crime preventers were passed out.

This was shortly after he had commissioned Nyamunuka and Rwansinga mosques in Kajara county. He contributed sh30m and sh20m to the mosques, respectively.

The ceremony in Ntungamo district was attended by the European Union (EU) envoy, Dr. Stefan Lock; the Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura and the executive director of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Allen Kagina, among others.

Kagina told the gathering that 92% of the funding for the road construction was sourced from the EU, while 8% was raised by the Government.

The road project cost sh218b, according to Kagina.

The project is part of the



President Museveni (centre) commissioning the Buteraniro-Rwentobo road section as EU's Dr. Stefan Lock (right) and other officials look on. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

Northern Corridor road, which starts from Mombasa, Kenya and ends in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The President said the construction of the regional road will reduce the cost of doing business and travel.

Museveni hailed the EU for supporting Uganda's road sector and revealed that the British government was financing the construction of the Ntungamo-Mirama hill road.

Museveni said the new road will help reduce the cost of doing business

He added that the EU is funding the section of the road from Ruti-Buteraniro-Rwentobo to the Rwanda border.

"As you know, this road was damaged, thus slowing down transport. We are happy that the EU eventually came in with funding and dealt

with the Mbarara-Kabale road, up to the border section," the President said.

"The Government has also funded other roads, including the Ishaka-Kagamba and the Mbarara-Kikagata roads," Museveni added.

He said the Government had created an enabling environment by providing peace, infrastructure and extending water and electricity services.

Museveni called on locals

to concentrate on improving their household incomes by engaging in wealth-creation projects.

The President also told them to avoid alcohol consumption and reckless living. He asked them to support the NRM Government.

According to Kagina, the national road network is currently stands at 21,000km, out of which 4,000km is paved (tarmac).

She said the Government will increase the paved roads network to 6,000km over the next five years.

Lock noted that Uganda is one step closer to becoming the regional transport hub.

He said the reconstruction of the Buteraniro-Rwentobo road section was part of the wider programme to reduce transportation constraints along the Northern Corridor, which is vital for Uganda and the East African region as a whole.

"Today's handover is in effect adding up a long list of interventions undertaken by the Government and supported by the European Development Fund and European Investment Bank for the Northern Corridor," he added.

Lock said the transport sector will remain one of the EU's priority areas of co-operation with Uganda in support of the country's second national development plan.