

STATE MINISTER FOR KAMPALA AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS'  
REMARKS: CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES RAISED BY THE LORD  
MAYOR ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Venue: GOVERNMENT MEDIA CENTRE

Time: 12 00 hrs - 13 00hrs

**Distinguished members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Yesterday, in his characteristic ill-informed but sensationalist manner, the Lord Mayor of Kampala convened and addressed a press conference. I am here today for one simple task, to debunk his falsehoods, restore hope to our city and country away from his pessimistic naysaying and if he pleases, to invite him to *always do a little more consultation on issues before making a farce of himself before all and sundry.*

On the issue of the much needed roads rehabilitation in the City. The Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project (KCRRP) is part of a citywide infrastructural improvement program that seeks to meet the Government's long-term development strategy as outlined in the Government's Vision 2040, which aims to increase and improve the quality of infrastructure stock to foster transformation of the Uganda's economy from low income to a more competitive upper middle-income status. The project is aimed at tackling congestion in the city of Kampala through improvement of road network,

upgrading of traffic junctions, and enhanced drainage capacity to mitigate flooding on the streets.

The project entails improvement of 69.2 kilometres (km) of roads, 123km of non-motorized traffic facilities, and provision of street lighting. The full scope of works-obviously unknown to the Lord Mayor- on these roads include; pavement and drainage works, walkways, street lighting, traffic signals, dualling of carriageways, landscape works etc. Some of the roads go through wetlands and require a lot of fill material e.g. Sentema, Wamala, Portbell roads etc.

There is also a Tree planting (10,000 trees) component, construction of Six roadside markets for women vendors, 30 public toilets, Parking areas for trucks and bicycle taxis and Construction of bus depot. There was initially a component for the project to provide 50 eco-friendly buses but Following the presidential directive on construction of buses in Uganda, the procurement of eco-buses was changed to construction of the following roads:

-Old Kira (1.17km), Mpererwe-Kiti (10.7km), Ntinda-Kisaasi (2.7km) and Bukoto- Ntinda roads-1.8km (Kabira junction to Ntinda junction)-all of which were not part of the initial 69.2KM bringing the total road kilometers under this project to 85.57KM.

The project shall also have Complementary initiatives include Women and youth skills and entrepreneurship development, and institutional support to boost project execution capacity at KCCA.

To simply pick the project cost of USD 288 million and divide by 69.2km to get a unit cost for the kilometer as the Lord Mayor did, oblivious of the scope and other tenets of the project is, to put it mildly, simplistic!

**On the issue of the alleged land bonanza for vendors in Kisenyi.** The said land is private property which Government accessed on a short-term lease as KCCA grapples with building 2 markets per division as directed by the president to accommodate hawkers and vendors previously evicted from the streets. The land owner and government agreed that the hawkers and vendors use the land during the festivities for a bazaar. KCCA has NOT procured the said land.

Regarding illicit collections by KCCA officials as alleged by the Lord Mayor; we are glad that he promised to share more evidence on this to prove his allegations, which evidence we welcome in our bid to clean KCCA of corruption.

I thank You

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

**Hon. Kyofa Kabuye**