



Government commissioned 10 markets funded by the World Bank in the oil districts of Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube

By Joseph Bahingwire

ALBERTINE REGION GETS IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

Ten modern World Bank funded markets in three Albertine region districts of Hoima, Buliisa and Kikuube are nearing completion. The markets, which have generated excitement, were constructed under the Albertine Region Sustainable Development Project (ARS DP), which seeks to improve regional and local access to infrastructure, markets and skills development.

The Lot B markets are: Buliisa Central, Bugoigo, Walukuba, Ngwendo, Karakaba, Butiaba and Kalolo in Buliisa district. Others are Kabaale Market in Hoima district and Buhuka, as well as Kyangwali markets in Kikuube district.

These markets were expected to improve the working conditions of the vendors, generate employment for the local population and increase revenue to the local governments. Albertine Region Sustainable Development Project is a category B project as per World Bank categorisation.

During the tour to assess progress on the project in Buliisa district by the state minister for urban development, Obiga Kania, recently, he said some markets were almost complete and could be occupied.

The residents and local leaders expressed delight that the modern markets and roads would give the vendors an opportunity to have permanent and organised working stations with a good drainage system, water supply, sanitary facilities and hygienic vending stalls.

Allan Atugonza, the MP of Buliisa, said the project has changed their livelihood, adding that the markets will help boost local entrepreneurship, especially of women vendors, hence improving their economic wellbeing.

"The Albertine region project has improved the lives of the people of Buliisa. However, we still have some



Traders at their stalls. Leaders said the markets will help boost local entrepreneurship

The residents said the modern markets and roads will give vendors an opportunity to have permanent working stations with a good drainage system.

grievances that we need addressed before the road and markets are commissioned," he said. The MP cited the issue of flooding in Bunyoro, which he attributed to the poor drainage systems.

Atugonza blamed the contractors for not providing access to people's property during the construction of the roads in Buliisa town council. Denis Mwebaze, the project engineer, said they have delivered

the design. What we did is in the contract," he said.

However, Obiga Kania said he will not commission the project until all issues are addressed and the residents have agreed that they are contented with the quality of the roads.

"We always urge the residents to get involved in the construction to execution of projects so as to avoid such misunderstandings. The project will not be commissioned until all of us are satisfied with what has been done," he said.

The minister asked that all documents relating to the project be available to everyone interested so that they get to know what was in the contract.

When the minister visited the market at Biiso town council, it was agreed that the contractors followed what was in the contract and the minister ordered it opened to the vendors.

"From the start, we agreed that the market should be open and in my view the contractor did more than what was expected. Traders should start using the market immediately," he said.

Peter Oketch, the Biiso town council mayor, thanked the Government for constructing for them a modern market.

"The issue of garbage and toilets has been solved. This is a big improvement on what we previously had," Oketch said.

The LC5 chairperson of Buliisa district, Fred Lukumu, asked the minister to commission the entire project to allow people to benefit from the facilities.

"Let us not be rigid. As long as the contractors have not performed contrary to the contract, the project is ready for commissioning. Let us not deny the people an opportunity to start their work in the market," he said.

what was expected and many people are contented with the project.

"You can never satisfy everyone; we have provided over 125 access roads to people's properties and we believe that the project should be commissioned. Those who feel more access roads should be provided can add on those we provided," he said.

Lu Kai, the contract manager of the China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) said they followed the contract and have delivered everything required of them.

"We were contracted to construct the roads and we were not involved