

PRESS RELEASE



The National Transport and Logistics Policy

On 29th day of November 2021, Cabinet passed the National Transport and Logistics Policy. The Policy will from now on serve as the overall arching policy and regulatory framework for all transport and logistic infrastructure and services. In brief, bellow are the key points:

Policy Vision

A safe accessible and sustainable intermodal transport system to enhance Uganda's competitiveness

Policy Mission Statement

To provide reliable, safe, efficient and effective transport infrastructure and services that benefit all people and contribute to the social and economic development of Uganda.

Policy Overall Policy Objectives

The fundamental policy objectives are to:

- 1) Develop a multi-modal transport connectivity for Uganda's competitiveness in the national, regional and international markets;
- 2) Promote the National Construction Industry and encourage local content and private sector participation in the transport sector; ** Construction Sector - eg Pvt Individual have started to invest in roads TRP.*
- 3) Promote inclusive, safe and sustainable mobility;
- 4) Promote inclusive green growth in Transport and Logistics sector;
- 5) Develop a framework within which the appropriate human capacity, institutional and legal arrangements can be revitalised and strengthened; and
- 6) Promote research and development in Works and Transport Sector.

Key issues in the policy include:

Inter-modal Transport Planning and operations: Government is required to prioritize funding and planning for all transport modes of; Roads, Water, Air and Railway Transport. Each of these modes should be connected to each other for a seamless transport service system. This means, you should be able to board a

bus from your home to railway station, take train and get to Water, and finally take a plane flight in a seamless and uninterrupted manner.

Transport is now regarded as a public service to the people of Uganda as opposed to purely a private affair. Government now has a responsibility of not only investing in transport infrastructure but also in services and operations. As you have seen recently, government has invested in running the operation of Uganda Airlines, there are going to be more investments in operations of road, railway and water transport services in addition to the investments in the infrastructure.

Investment and protection of the Transport Infrastructure Assets: You have all witnessed the theft and vandalism of transport infrastructure assets especially road and railway transport (theft of land, road reserves, etc). The policy makes a strong case on how government will acquire and protect the transport infrastructure assets. All those that have used especially road reserves for private gain now stand warned. More regulations will be issued for implementation of this policy directive.

Regional Integration of transport infrastructure and services with the neighboring countries: You all know that Uganda is a landlocked (we now call it land-linked) country. We there rely so much on good and smooth transport services with our neighbors and trading partners especially when it comes to roads, railway and water. With this policy, government of Uganda will harmonized transport services with our neighbors.

Urban mobility and public transport: Government has over years invested heavily in rural/highway roads which has significantly improved mobility across all regions of Uganda. The policy now recognizes that transport in urban areas require robust planning and financing. Government will make deliberate investments in urban mobility to improve the efficiency of the cities and reduce the cost of doing business.

Strengthening the Local Construction Industry: You have all seen that most of the road construction projects have always been done by foreign companies. This has left the country's construction industry weak and this has in turn led to loss of jobs and reduced benefits that would have accrued from both forward and backward linkages. Through this policy, government will now make deliberate efforts in strengthening local construction companies' capacity to take on the much needed construction projects.

Transport Safety and Security: You all know that Uganda is currently faced with high road accidents. Over 10 people die on our roads daily. The policy has proposed plans to reduce this number by three thirds in the next 10 years and make our transport services become the safest in Africa.

Climate Change and Green Growth: Key to transport infrastructure maintenance is the mitigation of the effects of climate change. The policy has now adopted innovative technologies in construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure so as to make them more resilient and less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Way forward

Government is finalizing both the National Integrated Transport Master Plan and the National Expressway Master Plan. These will be used in implementing this approved policy.

Currently, the Ministry is now working on printing the approved policy which will be distributed widely. At the same time, we shall invite many of your representative in both national and regional policy dissemination workshops. This will enable everyone of us understand and appreciate the policy for effective implementation.