

**STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BY HON. AGGREY HENRY BAGIIRE, MINISTER
OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS
CONSTRUCTION OF ALELESI BRIDGE AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE
SERVICES OF MV KYOGA ON 18 JULY 2018**

Rt. Hon. Speaker and colleagues, this response is in respect of rule 46 of our rules of procedure

1. Introduction

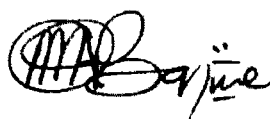
Rt.Hon. Speaker during the sitting of Parliament on 17th July 2018, Hon. David Abala MP Ngora County raised concerns related to the delayed Construction of Alelesi Bridge, connecting Pallisa to Ngora District and during the same sitting Hon. Okello Anthony MP Kioga County raised a matter relating to the urgency attached to the reinstatement of the services of MV Kyoga 2. Rt.Hon.Speaker, allow me to respond as follows

2. Progress on the Construction of Alelesi Bridge

Brief Background

The proposed bridge crossing, located 25 km from Pallisa Town, will connect Aleles in Pallisa District to Kdiike-Kobwin Road in Ngora District. Considering that Saaka Swamp is now motorable, connectivity at Aleles would afford a much shorter route for traffic from Kampala to the Teso Sub-Region and beyond. There is currently no motorable access at Alelesi and the local people have to use canoes that are navigated through a canal dug out in the papyrus swamp; whose width at the location is about 100m. The swamp essentially constitutes a 'neck' connecting two Lakes, viz. Lake Nyasala and Lake Nyaguo.

An attempt was made during CAIIP II (Community Access Infrastructure Improvement Project, Phase II - implemented by the Ministry of Local Government) to bridge this swamp but it was later established that the associated scope, complexity and cost of the intervention could not be accommodated within the project. Accordingly in 2017, the Ministry of Works and Transport was requested to plan for construction of an appropriate crossing at the location.



Progress

Reconnaissance visits have been carried out, following which a number of field surveys and investigations have been made; while some are now being concluded. In the meantime, however, preliminary (conceptual) engineering designs have been developed but a final decision of the engineering design to be adopted awaits full results of the requisite field investigations.

Project Timelines

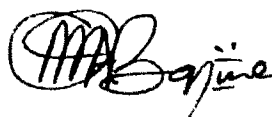
It is envisaged that final designs will be ready by end of September 2018; and the tendering process is expected to commence in October 2018. Award of the contract is expected by March 2019, while actual commencement of works in April 2019. Again due to envisaged scope, complexity and cost, the construction period is anticipated to be 12 months; hence completion is expected by June 2020

3. Progress on Reinstatement of the Services of MV Kyoga

The ferry route on Lake Kyoga i.e. Zengebe - Namasale is open and we are providing ferry services using MV Kyoga 1 ferry, which is managing the traffic at the moment

Normally, we operate two ferries i.e. MV Kyoga 1 and MV Kyoga 2 as interchangeably because traffic is not sufficient to operate them concurrently on the route but the latter was taken out of operation on 9th April 2018 due to a breakdown of one of its key components, the propeller. Initial repair interventions were undertaken but were not successful and it was concluded that a replacement of the propeller was necessary. The breakdown happened after expiry of the warranty period and therefore its replacement is the responsibility of Government

We were advised by the component manufacturer that this type of propeller is not readily available in stock and therefore has to be manufactured. A procurement of this propeller was started and we envisage delivery of the component within 3 - 4 months. The repair to restore the ferry will be undertaken immediately upon receipt of the spare component. The Ferry is expected to resume operations by end of September 2018. Orders for the propeller and related parts have already been placed.



As a long term solution, we initiated a procurement process for critical ferry spare parts including complete propulsion units to be supplied under a framework contract arrangement. This procurement is at bid evaluation stage. A framework contract, once signed, is expected to avert any delays associated with supply of ferry parts.

4. Conclusion

Rt.Hon.Speaker and Colleagues, I wish to assure Hon. Members of Parliament that the plans for construction of Alelesi bridge and reinstatement of the services of MV Kyoga 2 are on course. I commit myself to ensure implementation in line with the above timelines.

I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MA Benjume". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops for the letters "M" and "A", followed by "Benjume" in a more cursive script.