City description

Entebbe Municipality is situated in Wakiso District in the south west of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Located on a peninsula into the Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the world, the municipality spreads across an area of approximately 56.2 square kilometres (km²), of which almost 36% is water.

Entebbe hosts the Entebbe International Airport (EIA), which is the only international airport in the land-locked country and it handles international passenger and cargo traffic as well as domestic flights. The central area which stretches roughly from Entebbe to Jinja in the east of Kampala forms the economic centre of the country and is the densest area in terms of population.

City vision and mission

Uganda Vision 2040 emphasizes its urgent need for an integrated transport infrastructure to spur its economic growth. In line with the vision, Entebbe developed its second Municipal Five Year Development Plan (2015-2019) (MDP). Entebbe is envisioned to be a model self-sustaining municipality with a prosperous people by 2040, and strives to strengthen its competitiveness for sustainable service delivery and inclusive growth. The MDP details Entebbe’s strategic direction, development strategies and implementation measures by prioritizing interventions that contribute to the core projects and programs of the municipality. In terms of transport, the MDP touches on the road construction, building and physical planning.

Thematic areas

Road transport

1. Road network and infrastructure

Road transport is the dominant mode in Entebbe. The municipality has a total of 140.22 kilometers (km) of road network, out of which 32.7km are paved and of the paved roads, 19.58km are in good condition. In order to support the municipal urban needs for infrastructure improvement and to enhance the capacity targeted municipalities, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) launched the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program. The first phase of USMID will run over a period of six years (FY 2013/14-FY 2018/19) at a total cost of US$160 million.

Under the program, Entebbe has received a large amount of boost and rehabilitated several roads, for instance Church Road, Nyondo Road and Basude Rise Road. In addition, the municipality has opened up more roads, improved the road infrastructure and installed solar lights over 3km of roads, which increased the accessibility of the network and enhanced road safety. Routine maintenance of the roads has also been regularly carried out, which include repairing drainage channels, cleaning culvert, cutting grass, removing debris and patching potholes.
2. Public transport/ informal transport

In Entebbe, public transport services are mainly provided by informal and private sectors, resulting in unreliable and inefficient transport services. In general, there are three different modes of public transport, including inter-city buses, matatus (minibus taxis, typically a 14-seater bus), motorcycle taxis (boda boda) (Kamuhanda and Schmidt, 2009).

Air transport

Entebbe is an important entry point into Uganda internationally for both trade and other aspects of international relations thus is of important strategic value. There has been a steady increase in international passenger traffic, growing from 1.33 million in 2012 to 1.53 million in 2016. Meanwhile cargo traffic has been unstable from 2012 to 2016, reducing from 57,919 tonnes to 54,856 tonnes in 2014, but it increased to 59,556 tonnes in 2016. The international cargo traffic mainly consists of exports, including vegetables, fruits, flowers and other perishable products.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) project, which is funded by a grant of 9.5 million US Dollars from the Republic of Korea government aims to improve the air navigation services and automation of the Entebbe International Airport. Since April 2016, a number of project activities have been implemented, including development of airport infrastructure and IT technology (e.g. Airport Operations Database, Computerized Maintenance Management System), investment in tourism infrastructure (e.g. installation of Air Traffic Service Message Handling System) and human capacity building activities. Through this initiative, the municipal hopes to improve safety, efficiency and effectiveness of airport systems. Several other major projects are in the pipeline to upgrade the EIA. For instance, 150 additional parking slots will be added in the airport with an estimate cost of approximately 1.21 million Euros. Since June 2016, existing passenger terminal building has also been extended.

Since June 2018, the Kampala-Entebbe Express Highway (51km) which connects Kampala and the EIA is operational. The project was jointly funded by the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the Export-Import Bank of China (Exim Bank), with a total of 476 million US dollars. Developed and maintained by the Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA), the road hopes to reduce travel time from Kampala to Entebbe and ease traffic congestion.

References

