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To All Members of the District Roads Committees

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Honorable members of Parliament
LCV Chairmen/Mayors
Chief Administrative Officers
District/Municipal Engineers
LCV Secretary of Works

ROLES OF THE DISTRICT ROADS COMMITTEE (DRC) UNDER THE UGANDA ROAD FUND (URF) ACT, 2008.

District Roads Committees (DRCs) and their equivalents in cities (Cities Roads Committees) are extremely important and all road users ought to pay close attention to the roles that these committees play as the quality and road conditions in the districts and cities are highly dependent on the oversight services provided by members of the District Roads Committees.

DRCs were established under Section 25(2) of the Uganda Road Fund (URF) Act, 2008 and the attendant regulations outline the roles of DRCs which essentially is to provide oversight over Road Funds allocated to local governments to undertake routine and periodic road maintenance of their road.

Every district and city must establish and operationalize a functional DRC to handle road users' opinions and grievances and provide oversight of the operations of the district to ensure that it complies with its requirements, encourage responsibility within the specified agency, make sure the district (including its municipality, town councils and sub-counties) submit to the Road Fund an agreed programs /work plan for roads to be maintained; and accountabilities (both physical and financial).

It is the responsibility of the DRC to prioritize roads that need to be worked on and submits an annual work plan to Road Fund for approval and subsequent funding. The DRC must prioritize roads in line with the Road Fund budget guidelines and the Road Fund Act, specifically Section 22 (2) (taking account of road conditions, maintenance requirements, traffic volumes, and road lengths). The roads should be equitably selected to cover all constituencies.

At each quarterly meeting, the DRC must inspect roads that have been funded by the Road Fund and subsequently authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer or the Town Clerk to submit the verified quarterly accountability reports. DRC Membership. According to Section 25(2) of the URF Act of 2008, the District roads committee is made up of the following members;

The District Chairperson or Mayor of the district, all Members of Parliament from the District, and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The District Engineer also doubles as the committee Secretary, The District, Secretary for Works, and the Municipal Engineer.

The mentioned members must convene as a committee to organize and hold its first meeting; elect a chairperson by section 25(3) of the Act, which lays out the committee's rules of

Organization and governance. The initial meeting must be called by the District Engineer who has been appointed as the committee's Secretary under section 25(4) of the Act, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) who is not eligible to be appointed as the chairperson of the committee will preside over the initial meetings. The District Chairperson, the Mayor of a local government in the district, or a Member of Parliament from the district are the members eligible for appointment as chairperson.

Anyone who, in the committee's judgment, possesses expert knowledge or information about the committee's duties may be invited to attend committee meetings. Such include; RDCs, Town clerks, UNRA station engineers, and representatives from the business sector. Even staff of Road Fund can be invited to a DRC meeting. A co-opted person is, however, not permitted to participate in committee decision-making. Furthermore, any committee member who has a direct or indirect interest in an issue that the committee is considering or is being asked to consider must disclose that interest at a committee meeting. Disclosure of conflicts of interest must be included in the meeting minutes; members having a conflict of interest are not allowed to be present during the discussion of the issue or participate in the decision-making process.

It is good practice to change the chairmanship of the DRC on an annual basis, and any member of the DRC with genuine evidence-based concerns can also be recommended to the Road Fund to withhold funding in circumstances where there are implementation challenges in the District. Furthermore, the Road Fund undertakes Monitoring and Evaluation of Road Works as well as Technical and Financial Audits on a sampling basis taking account of risk levels in any given District; and subsequently withholds funding or seeks recoveries.

The Chief Administrative Officers and District Engineers must always share the annual Road Fund Budgeting and operational guidelines with all members of the DRCs. The guidelines clearly outline the types of activities and cost estimates that are acceptable for funding. Furthermore; the quarterly release letters showing the amounts of monies received from Road Fund must be displayed on the District Notice Board. Members of Parliament are strongly encouraged to attend the quarterly DRC meetings and should take up DRC leadership to ensure value for money in the road works.

Finally, the members of Parliament are specially called upon to play their key roles of prioritizing planned road schemes, approval of quarterly accountabilities, and oversight to ensure judicious utilization of the road maintenance funds. This will ensure that the road asset value achieved through the enactment of the Uganda Road Fund Act, 2008 is preserved to spur national economic development.



Dr. Eng. Andrew G Naimanye

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY TO BOARD