



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 10:00 GMT, Friday 28th March

UNRA STEPS UP ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) this morning, held a sensitisation workshop for key stakeholders in the road sector to sensitise them about the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative Cost. UNRA which successfully joined the CoST programme late last year held a CoST Africa Regional Multi-stakeholder Forum at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala to engage with stakeholders and increase awareness and visibility of the CoST Uganda programme. The Minister of Works and Transport Hon Abraham Byandala officiated at the workshop which was also attended by representatives from existing CoST Countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

According to the Minister, “The CoST disclosure process will be piloted later this year on 10 road projects and will be scaled-up in due course. We believe that CoST will lead to better quality roads and improve value for public money. In addition to delivering better outcomes for citizens and communities in Uganda, CoST will deliver benefits to the the government and private sector.”

John Hawkins from the CoST international secretariat said, “CoST is part of a global transparency movement that aims to reduce mismanagement and corruption in public construction. We welcome UNRA to the cost family and look forward to supporting their programme.”

The Forum follows 3 days of workshops held in Kampala and Serena on the Lake Hotel. The first workshop was delivered to UNRA directors and senior managers to demonstrate CoST requirements and processes.

The second workshop involved 25 participants, including 10 representatives from Uganda and 14 regional international representatives from the four African countries and Afghanistan who joined the programme in October 2013. Over 2 days, the participants discussed how government capacity to disclose information from public infrastructure projects can be strengthened. It also shared experiences on civil society, private sector and government working together to improve transparency and accountability in the construction sector.

CoST Malawi Chair, Joe Ching'ani said “we congratulate UNRA on becoming the first procuring entity to initiate a CoST programme in Africa. They are also the first African country to join CoST since the launch of the Global Programme. We look forward to supporting UNRA in the implementation of their CoST programme.”

Following the initial CoST pilot, the global programme was launched in October 2012. In addition to the countries who attended the Regional Workshop, there are CoST programmes in El Salvador, Guatemala, Philippines, UK, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

CoST supports and works seamlessly with other global transparency initiatives, such as the Open Government Partnership. Further countries are expected to join the global programme during 2014.

***ENDS ***

Notes to Editors:

Information about CoST

Please see the attached one-page CoST summary for further detail about the programme, or visit our website at: www.constructiontransparency.org where a fuller information pack and case studies can be found within the Media Resources section. Information about the Uganda National Roads Authority can be found at: <http://www.unra.go.ug/>

Interview Opportunities

The CoST International Secretariat can arrange interviews with The Minister of Works and Transport Hon Abraham Byandala. We can also provide comment for other articles, photographs for publication and additional background information.

Contact details

Please contact Lara Samuels, CoST's Communications Adviser:

l.samuels@constructiontransparency.org

+44 (0)7801 271 102

Participation and support

Eight countries participated in the three year CoST pilot project - Ethiopia, Guatemala, Malawi, Philippines, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zambia - and all remain involved. El Salvador, Uganda, Afghanistan and Ukraine became CoST members in 2013.

The pilot was funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), and ran from 2008 to 2011. The CoST global programme, funded by the World Bank, was launched in 2012.

CoST is supported by public sector funders, civil society and private industry.

<http://www.constructiontransparency.org/site/cons/templates/generalsubnav.aspx?pageid=55&cc=gb&forumboardid=34&forumtopicid=34>

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