



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY PROJECT

"SGR Progress and Opportunities"

World Engineering Day 2026
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Core Outline

- ✓ Why SGR Matters
- ✓ Regional Context
- ✓ Uganda SGR Planned Network
- ✓ Engineering features of the project
- ✓ SGRP - Progress
- ✓ SGRP Opportunities
- ✓ Way Forward & Conclusion

Why the SGR Matters

Overview

- Major transformational infrastructure Project
- Designed to modernize Uganda's Railway Sector/system
- A critical driver of Regional trade & economic Transformation (Travel time & cost saving)
- Aligned to SDG (9,13 & 17) and NDP priorities

Project Rationale

- Reliable & Efficient
- Reduced logistics costs - constrains growth
- Greener transport &
- Improved safety

Supports industrialization and enhances regional trade competitiveness.

Regional Context & Journey

- SGR (Eastern Route) anchored on Northern Corridor Integration Projects (**NCIP**) designed to ensure seamless connectivity
- **Kenya:** Mombasa–Naivasha section is operational; extension toward Malaba to commence this year, 2026.
- **Uganda routes.** Connects to S. Sudan, DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania through Bukasa Port.

SGRP Journey

- **2014** NCIP regional protocol signed.
- **2024** EPC/T contract with **M/S Yapi Merkezi** for the Eastern Route. (**EUR 2.7Bn**)
- **2025** LNTP early works.
- Financial close targeted for **November 2026** and full works to commence thereafter.

Uganda SGR Planned Network



NB: To be developed in a phased manner starting with Malaba - Kampala

- **Eastern Route:** Malaba–Kampala (≈ 272 km incl. spurs) – priority **Phase 1**
- **Northern Route:** Tororo–Gulu–Nimule + Gulu–Pakwach–Vurra ≈ 762Km
- **Western Route:** Kampala–Bihanga–Kasese–Mpondwe (incl. spur to Hima) ≈ 383 km
- **Southern Route:** Bihanga–Mirama Hills (incl. spur to Muko) ≈ 280km
- **Regional links:** to Tanzania via Lake Victoria/Bukasa Port; to DRC via Vurra & Mpondwe, South Sudan via Nimule.

Engineering Features



CIVIL WORKS



Earthworks



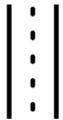
Engineering Structures

Bridges, Tunnel, Cut & Cover
Overpasses, Underpasses
Pedestrian & Animal Crossings
Retaining Walls



Drainage Structures

Culverts
Open Ditches



Road Works

Permanent Roads
Road Diversions



Buildings

Stations
Freight Yards & ICDs
Maintenance Facilities
Line Facilities



TRACK WORKS



Main Line & Sidings



SYSTEM WORKS



Signalling & Telecommunication



Electrification



MAIN EQUIPMENT FOR OPERATIONS



Rolling Stock



Maintenance Equipment for Rolling Stock



Freight Handling Equipment

- Nile River bridge crossing ~ 552m
- Mpologoma bridge ~ 243m
- Tunnel at Mbuya Hill ~ 2.1km
- major viaducts

Progress – Institutional Framework

- Regional Consultations
- Bilateral Coordination with Kenya for interoperability
- Uganda and Kenya have **harmonized standards** to ensure seamless cross border operations covering:
 - Track and structures
 - Traction power
 - Signaling and communications
 - Rolling stock and operations
- Government commitment and policy alignment.

Progress- Construction Readiness

- **Early Works & Design Progress**
 - GoU Preliminary Engineering Studies updated
 - Limited Notice to proceed (LNTTP) works underway
 - Preliminary design ≈ **85%** complete
 - Early works ≈ **75%** readiness
- **Land acquisition for the right -of-Way**
 - ≈160 km acquired (≈ **57%** of the main line)
 - Compensation ongoing.
- **Power Supply & Electrification**
 - High-voltage power to the Traction Power stations is at planning stage with key energy stakeholders.

Environment and Social Safeguards

- **ESIA & RAP updates**

- Updated ESIA and RAP report.
- Undertook a Rapid Risk Gap Analysis (RRGA) of the Project E & S instruments.
- Procuring a Gap Closure Consultant to address the RRGA gaps in final stages.
- Appointment of the Independent Environment and Social Consultant in final stages
- Complete internal E&S team is in place.

SGRP Opportunities

Up to 40% of the contract sum reserved for National Content in the EPC/T Contract.

Opportunities: Materials & Labour

- Cement 100% locally produced & procured
- Steel reinforcement bars
- Earthen materials (sand, ballast, aggregates, gravel, etc)
- Labour- Unskilled (100%), semi-skilled (90%), Skilled (50%), Skilled operators (20%), management (10%)

SGRP Opportunities

Opportunities: Services

- Fuel and Lubricants
- Consultancy services
- Trainings
- Financial Services
- Communication services
- Legal Services
- Security Services
- Equipment leasing/ construction
- Logistics, Clearing & Forwarding
- Civil works & structures
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Medical & health Services
- Insurance services

SGRP Opportunities

Opportunities for Engineers: Technical Fields

- Civil/Structural Engineering
- Railway Systems Engineering
- Electrical & Signaling
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Architectural Services
- Project & Contract Management



Industrial Development/ SGR Impact

The SGR enables:

- Rail-linked industrial parks
- Logistics hubs & dry ports
- Materials manufacturing & supply chains
- SME participation in rail supply ecosystems
- Lower logistics costs
- Industrial growth & jobs
- Regional trade integration

Capacity Building

- **Capacity development is embedded in project delivery:**
 - Counterpart staffing & skills transfer
 - Secondments and attachments
 - Structured training programs
 - ≥200 Ugandans targeted for training
- **Training spans:**
 - Railway engineering & systems
 - Contract & project management
 - Environmental safeguards
 - Operations & maintenance readiness

Risks & Mitigation

Risk

- Land acquisition delays
- Environmental impacts
- Power reliability
- Security & safety concerns
- Financing gaps
- Regional synchronisation

Mitigation

- Robust ESIA & RAP frameworks
- Phased implementation
- Early utility coordination
- Safety & surveillance systems
- Workforce training
- Stakeholder engagement

Policy & Regulation

- Strengthen rail regulation.
- Enable PPP participation in logistics, depots, operations, and industrial rail-linked zones.
- Harmonize regional standards.

Financing & Partnerships

- ❖ A blended financing model combines:
 - Government counterpart funding
 - Development finance institutions
 - Export Credit Agencies
- ❖ Strategic financing partnerships accelerates project delivery

Way Forward

- Continuing to accelerate financing negotiations
- Strengthening regional coordination
- Promote Local Content participation
- Enhance public awareness and Stakeholder buy –in



Conclusion

- SGR is a transformational national infrastructure project and its now ready for Construction works.
- Project is an Engineering legacy for the country & region and a catalyst for economic transformation.
- Engineers are therefore central to its sustainable Development , Operations & Maintenance

Its therefore important to leverage on smart engineering for sustainable future through innovation and digitalization to unlock Uganda's full economic potential.

“The train has left the station (paperwork) — and is accelerating towards construction, then completion, testing and commissioning.” No turning back



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING