

MP asks Kalangala to thank govt

By ALI MAMBULE

The Bujumba Member of Parliament Fred Badda has asked the people of Kalangala commend the Government for the developments they have achieved.

He also urged them to welcome Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS), which has started a ferry service between the island and the mainland.

Addressing the public on Friday during the launch of the new Marine Vessel Pearl that will ply between Bugoma in Kalangala and Bukakkata in Masaka district, Badda said there was no more need for the public to fight KIS.

"I presented a petition in Parliament against KIS after realising that some of its activities were not in agreement with the residents but

after rectifying their terms and conditions, I turned to support them since they are going to give us what we expected," Badda told the gathering at Bugoma landing site.

Badda warned leaders in Kalangala district against misusing funds and diverting services meant for the residents to their personal use.

"There is a clique of people stealing almost everything which is brought to Kalangala. That clique stole over 100 solar panels that had been brought to generate energy to pump and clean water for Kalangala town residents. The same clique is stealing kept at the power generating centre that produces electricity for the district," Badda added.

Transport minister Abraham Byandala assured the islanders that the ferry services would remain free.



The MV Pearl will provide transport on L. Victoria between Kalangala and Masaka districts

business

Kalangala gets new ferry

Improve transport. The new ferry will improve business on the islands.

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KAMPALA. Travelling to and from Kalangala District via Bukakata Pier is set to improve following the launch of a new ferry - MV Pearl, to ply the route.

The new ferry is set to boost business on the island as it takes a maximum of 30 minutes to travel between Bukakata and Luuku, a vital entry point to Kalangala, 30 minutes faster than the Kalangala Ferry that has been taking more than one hour on the same route.

"We are committed to ensuring a safe and efficient water transport network in the country, to address the needs of the poor. It has taken seven years of patience before having this ferry. The delay was caused by internal mistakes and problems which we now know and will not do again," Eng James Byandala said while commissioning the Ferry at Luuku landing site, Kalangala District.

He added: "The ferry that has been plying the route for the last 16 years is going to be rehabilitated and relocated to Kiyindi-Buvuma where we expect another palm oil development to start soon."

MV Pearl has the capacity to carry 300 passengers and 20 vehicles per route, with a load capacity of up to 120 tonnes.

It is one of the two ferries Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) committed to deliver following the 2005 Memorandum of Understanding to develop infrastructure in Kalangala District. The MoU

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Other functions. Apart from the ferry services, KIS is supposed to generate power, supply water and maintain island road development in Kalangala over the next two years.

Ferries under UNRA. By June 2012, Uganda National Roads Authority operated only six ferries including Laropi, Masindi, Wanseko, Nakiwogo, Bukakata and Kiyindi.

Inefficient transport system. The launch of MV-Pearl comes at a time when the islands' economic contribution is still hindered by the lack of a sufficient transport system.

was signed between the government and Infraco, the parent company of KIS.

"MV Pearl has come to change transport in Kalangala. Another ferry that will work on the same route will also launch operations during the same time next year," Mr John Opiro, the managing director of KIS, told *Daily Monitor*.

According to the operational agreement, KIS will operate MV-Pearl as a free to use ferry travelling four return journeys every day. The government has agreed to pay Sh5 billion every year to KIS in form of maintenance and service provision fees.



Goods ready to be transported to Kalangala on the newly launched MV-Pearl. PHOTO BY NICHOLAS KALUNGI