

KENYA WANTS TO BUILD SECOND PORT AT LAMU

New Vision (Uganda)

July 25, 2007

THE Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) is considering constructing a new port at Lamu, about 241km north of Mombasa, William Mtengo, the resident representative, has said.

Mtengo said a feasibility study for the project is being carried out.

"We have to plan knowing that there are physical limits to how much Mombasa Port can grow. It is already over-stretched according to maritime best practices."

"A second port could also help transport Uganda's fuel in future besides helping transport cargo to Somalia, Sudan and other neighbouring countries. We are sure Uganda's oil production is a matter of time," Mtengo told a press conference in Kampala.

There have been complaints of congestion at Mombasa and inconsistent and high tariffs.

"Nobody controls the tariffs of private truckers. That may be more expensive than the long distance costs by sea to Mombasa. Clearing agents may make it unnecessarily expensive," an importer said.

Mtengo said the final tariffs are due to the importers ignorance about the different charges and 'briefcase' organisations who want extra dues.

Commercially-viable quantities have been discovered in western Uganda. A mini-refinery is going to be set up.