

WB says Tanzania's SGR project well placed to attract external funding



The World Bank has praised the decision of the Government of Tanzania to construct the country's first standard gauge railway, saying the historical event would put in place an infrastructure that is vital not only to the country's economy but also to interregional trade and development, TPJ has learnt.

World Bank Executive Director for Africa Group, Anne Kabagambe, expressed the sentiments recently when she toured the implementation of phase one of the project between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, vowing to drum up support for it at international financial institutions.

"I am happy to say I will be ambassador [for this project]," she said, adding, "I sincerely congratulate President John Magufuli for implementing this project. It is my hope that in future other international institutions, such as the World Bank, may come forward to financially support this project to its completion."

Tanzania Railways Corporation's Director of Civil Engineering Infrastructure, Felix Nlallo, told Ms Kabagambe that the project was being implemented non-stop, that is 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to ensure its timely completion.

He said the 300 kilometre-long first phase, costing TZS 2.7 trillion, started on May 2, 2017 and was scheduled to be completed on November 2, 2019 while the 422 kilometre-long second phase from Morogoro to Dodoma, costing TZS 4.4 trillion, would be completed in three years.

The standard railway project from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, which is being implemented using internal funds, is one of the big projects in the country at a cost of USD 1.92 billion.