

# Arab Contractors mark

By Owen Wagabaza

**T**here is no corner of this country where the name Arab Contractors does not ring a bell.

The construction company, which has a global footprint, has executed several projects in Uganda over the last 20 years. Arab Contractors is an Egyptian construction and contracting company established in 1955 by Eng. Osman Ahmed Osman, an Egyptian entrepreneur and politician who also served as Egypt's housing minister under the Anwar Sadat's presidency.

Mahmoud Diaa Eldeen, the technical manager of Arab Contractors Uganda Ltd, says Osman foresaw the capabilities of the Egyptian workforce by founding Arab Contractors and consequently Egyptian contractors have been able to undertake many construction projects, including bridges in many parts of the world.

"He wanted to break the monopoly of foreign



**Mahmoud Diaa Eldeen, the technical manager of Arab Contractors Uganda**

contractors in this technically challenging engineering specialty and I can say his dream came to fruition as currently Egyptian contractors are dominating the construction industry in Egypt, Middle East and Africa," he says.

Diaa Eldeen adds that their construction projects in Egypt, Middle East and Africa show the Egyptian workforce's capabilities and as a result, Osman's name has become a trademark for high quality, commitment and timely completion of construction works.

"We believe that the



Trucks that are part of Arab Contractors fleet. The firm ensures that its vehicles are in sound mechanical condition

only way to pay tribute to his legacy is to go ahead in our path of success by continuously adding value to our construction works and while at the same time serving society," Diaa Eldeen says.

The company was

nationalised after the Egyptian revolution of 1952 and is currently owned by the Egyptian government.

And over the years, the company has participated in the social and economic development of Egypt through the construction of

high-profile projects. These include Aswan High Dam, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Cairo Regional Ring Road, Cairo-Alexandria desert road, Luxor International Airport, Sharm El Sheikh International Airport, Hurghada International Airport, Nador

International Airport, Borg El Arab Stadium and Yasser Arafat International Airport.

In Uganda, Arab Contractors have completed some of the most sophisticated yet amazing works. These include the construction of the Uganda Wildlife Authority

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# 20 years in Uganda

## The projects

Their range of services include monuments restoration, dredging and marine constructions, pipe jacking, foundation works, ready-mixed concrete, steelyard, scaffolding, metal moulds, concrete products, concrete manholes, blocks and interlocks, repair unit and wood products. Others are portable cabins, integrated systems for bridge construction, shipyards and manufacturing. The global contractors also offer engineering consultancy and technical services, networking and information systems, laboratory and equipment hiring.



The bunker for the radiotherapy machine at Uganda Cancer Institute in Mulago was built by Arab Contractors

headquarters, modernisation and development of NEMA house, vertical extension and renovation works at Kyambogo University. Others are construction of medical stores in Entebbe, extension of Makerere University Library, construction of the Mulago Specialised Maternal and Neonatal Healthcare Hospital and refurbishment of the radiotherapy machine bunker at Uganda Cancer institute among others.

### What we do?

Diaa Eldeen explains that the company deals in all construction activities such as building, transport, sanitation, industry, dams and irrigation systems.

He says the company constructs residential, commercial and public buildings, hotels and touristic structures. They also construct health facilities as well as administrative, cultural, religious and educational buildings.

In the sanitation department, which includes water and waste water, Arab Contractors can also do projects such as constructing networks, treatment plants, pumping stations, tunnels, siphons and tanks. They also do general planning for water/ waste water projects, pumping stations/ water distribution, water/ waste water treatment as well as pumping station and irrigation networks.

"We are also into transport, where we construct roads, bridges and flyovers, tunnels and railways, harbours and marine works, airports and runways. We also do earthmoving," Diaa Eldeen says. The company also constructs power stations, utilities, factories and transmission lines. They have the capacity to construct dams and irrigation structures and are also into agriculture and land reclamation.

They have a specialised department for dredging works, queries, foundation, mechanical and electrical erection and complementary works among others.

"We also have a specialised consulting engineering and technical services department

consisting of design, survey, executive supervision and the implementation methods development departments," Diaa Eldeen says.

### Machinery

Part of Arab Contractors competitive advantage comes from adopting efficient equipment management system, which looks mainly at minimising downtime.

According to Diaa Eldeen, this successful system is facilitated by the continuous purchase of the latest technology, which is also reliable.

The company has a short-list procurement policy of internationally recognised manufacturers as well as an economic replacement policy, which ensures operating a fleet within its profitable lifetime.

The company also has a fully-fledged rental department to satisfy and fulfil projects' unique needs and urgent cases. The aim is to avoid contractual delays.

"We also have the mobile and stationary maintenance and repair workshops, besides our operation and maintenance software covers all mechanical

management levels. We also make sure that our equipment is in top performance through an overhauling plan carried out at our overhauling workshop," Mahmoud says.

"We have also made it a policy to recruit the most competent operators and technicians out there, and we don't stop at that. We have a continuous upgrading training programme where our operators train from to be at par with the latest technology," he adds.

### Human resource

"We strongly believe that our greatest strength is the qualifications and expertise of our workforce when linked together with a singular shared vision. It is a vision that puts our clients' needs first, honours the talent dedication of individuals, and emphasizes a team oriented approach to problem solving," Diaa Eldeen says.

"With our vision intact and a senior management structure in place, we are confident that Arab Contractors will continue to build an organisation that is capable of addressing the needs of our clients from inception to completion.

Considering the Middle East and Africa as our global market place, we will continue to develop and/or acquire the manpower that is required to meet the evolving needs of our partners and clients," Diaa Eldeen says.

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