

Japan signs sh1.2b grant for community roads

By Nelson Kiva
and Richard Kanene

The governments of Uganda and Japan have entered a partnership to improve the community access roads.

This will be done through a Japanese technology known as Do-nou, which promotes the use of locally available materials.

Do-nou (wrapping soil in a gunny bag) is one of the traditional Japanese technologies.

The Japanese Ambassador to Uganda, Kazuaki Kameda, said the technology implementation in Uganda started in February last year.

Yesterday, Uganda and Japan signed a grant of \$341,266 (about sh1.2b) to implement the second year of the project.

In the first year of the three-year project, a total of 913 linear metres of impassable road sections have been improved using the technology at Kamwokya, Nakedde, Luguzi, Kabumba and Tumbali, all in Kampala and Wakiso districts.

Kameda said the project is implemented through Community Road Empowerment (CORE), a Japanese non-governmental organisation, which carries out spot improvement of community access roads using local materials and community participatory approach.

He said the technology is useful not only for economic development such as improving access roads, but also strengthens resilience towards natural disasters.

"At this time, climate change and high frequency



Iwamura, Kameda and Lokeris after signing the grant contract at the transport and works ministry head offices in Kampala yesterday. Photo by Nancy Nanyonga

BETWEEN THE LINES

This is going to be done through the use of Japanese technology known as Do-nou which allows the use of local materials and community participatory approach

of natural calamities are a global phenomenon and Uganda is not an exception in this regard. It is becoming increasingly important to establish disaster resilient communities," Kameda said.

Appreciating the Japan aid, state minister for works, Peter Lokeris, said the Government is grappling with the maintenance of the road network with limited funds.

"As you are all aware, Uganda is an agricultural country. With over 70% of the population involved in agriculture, the poor state of the feeder roads greatly affects production and marketing of their products," he said.

Out of the 129,469km total road network in the country, the community-access roads constitute about 50%.

Lokeris said reliable access to the rural areas was an essential requirement for economic growth and efficient provision of public services.

"This is a bridge to achieving Uganda's vision of a transformed society from peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years," he said.

Japan has also supported Uganda in execution of a

number of infrastructural projects, including the construction of bridges in northern Uganda, improvement of Gulu municipal roads and the new Nile Bridge.

This is on top of health and education programmes in different parts of the country.

The project manager of CORE, Yuka Iwamura, said 160 youths from Wakiso and Kampala have since been trained on spot improvement of the roads using the technology.

For the second year, the project will extend to western Uganda districts of Kyenjojo, Kabarole, Bunyangabu and Kasese. The project will extend to eastern Uganda in the third year.

Uga milk

By Samuel

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