

Japanese government donates 13 motorcycles to Nebbi, Pakwach

NEBBI

By Benedict Okethwengu

The Japanese government has donated 13 motorcycles worth sh127m to Nebbi and Pakwach districts to help in the data gathering and planning process.

The motorcycles were handed over in a ceremony attended by district leaders and officials from the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA) at the Nebbi district headquarters on Friday.

Atsushi Hanatani, the chief advisor JICA, said the intervention was meant to solve the transport difficulties being faced by sub-counties in carrying out development activities in the district.

He said under the project for capacity development of local government for strengthening community resilience in Acholi and West Nile sub-region, JICA would also install power at sub-counties.

"We are not only looking at transport, but also want to give them stable power supply. And that means we should be able to give them solar and generators," Hanatani said.

For the past years, authorities in Nebbi and Pakwach district,

"We are not only looking at transport, but also providing them with stable power supply such as solar and generators."

Hanatani

especially at the lower local government, have been grappling with the problem of transport and power supply.

Efforts to acquire new motorcycles never yielded any fruit as the local revenue of a sub-county hardly reaches sh10m.

Staff had to occasionally use bodaboda to carry out outreach programmes. Hiring bodaboda in the rough terrain like that of

Atego costs between sh5,000 to sh10,000

Patrick Agwokotho, the Atego sub-county chairperson, could not hide his excitement upon receiving the motorcycle.

He said lack of transport means had severely affected their ability to effectively mobilise people for development.

"I am grateful to those behind this donation. With the motorcycles, we shall be able to effectively mobilise our people to undertake development programmes," Agwokotho said.

Geoffrey Okaka, the Nebbi district chief administrative officer, also lauded the Japanese government for the donation.

Okaka said he was optimistic that with such facilities, the district would be able to mobilise the community in appreciating government programmes. He said the motorcycles will be given out to Parombo, Nyaravur and Nebbi sub-counties. Other beneficiaries are Ndhew, Erussi and Atego sub-counties.

He, however, cautioned the beneficiary sub-counties against misuse of the motorcycles, warning that he would not hesitate to withdraw them in case of misuse.