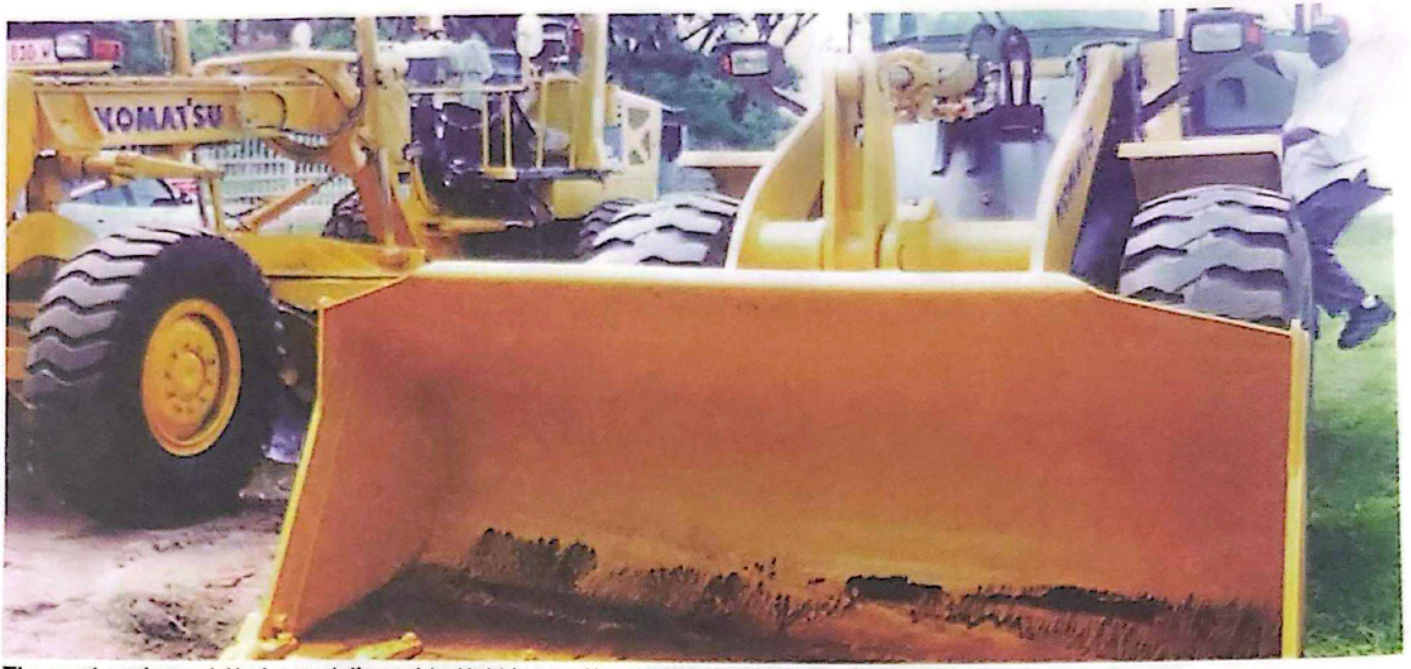

The road equipment that was delivered to Nebbi recently. Photo by Benedict Okethwengu

Nebbi to use new machines to open up new roads – officials

NEBBI

By Benedict Okethwengu

Residents of Nebbi district, who for long have been lamenting about the poor road network, have a reason to smile.

Ezrom William Alenyo, the Nebbi district chairperson, on Tuesday received equipment worth sh2.5b to help in improving the road network in the area.

The equipment, which included a grader and low-loader is part of the more than 1,000 pieces of machinery the Government purchased for distribution to all districts this year.

The equipment was commissioned during a low-key ceremony witnessed by a few political and technical leaders of the district.

Alenyo said after acquiring such machinery, the district would improve the road network for better productivity.

He also said the equipment would be used to open up new roads at sub-county level to ease access to markets by farmers.

Nebbi was ranked the best in Uganda in feeder road maintenance a decade ago, but the district has since been struggling to make the roads better.

"When we had good equipment, we were rated the best in the country in road maintenance. Now that the Government has given us new equipment, we shall get there again," Alenyo said.

Justus Rwothomio, one of the district engineering assistants, said the district is expected to receive more road equipment from the central government before the end of the year.

"We are expecting a tipper, water bowser and road roller soon, and we must be grateful to the Government for this offer," Rwothomio said. He said for the first two years, the Japanese company that supplied the equipment, including Komatsu, will repair it before handing the task over to the Government.

Rwothomio also said six personnel have been trained by the works ministry in how to effectively manage the machines.

"The equipment is highly computerised, and that means if we do not use it well, it can be taken away from us. It is my appeal that it is put to good use," he said.

Jimmy Operi, the Nebbi district secretary for works, said they hope to work on the entire road network in the district with the new machines.

He, however, advised the residents to avoid encroaching on road reserves.

BETWEEN THE LINES

The first batch of road construction equipment including excavators, graders, bulldozers and wheel loaders imported from Japan arrived in Uganda in May. It will be distributed to all the districts before end of the year.

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