

Lamwo leaders block Chinese company

Issue. They say the construction company has failed to fulfil its commitment.

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LAMWO. Local leaders in Agoro Sub-county, Lamwo District have blocked Chinese road giant Chongqing International Construction Company (CICO) from excavating rocks in the area over failure to upgrade roads.

The leaders accuse CICO, which is undertaking the construction of Acholibur-Musingo Road, of failing to upgrade a 20km murrum road stretching from Madi-Opei Sub-county to the quarry site in Tegot kwera and Anyul in Agoro sub-county.

Mr Denis Onyon, the Agoro Sub-county LC3 chairperson, said for the last three years since CICO started quarrying aggregates for construction of Acholibur-Musingo road, many roads in the areas have been degraded by heavy trucks.

He said they had reached an agreement with the company to have the 20km road upgraded to first class tarmac but nothing has been done.

Mr Onyon said they have resolved to stop the Chinese company from excavating rocks until they show commitment of the agreement.

"We have reached a resolution in our council meeting to stop the company from any further quarrying in the area until they show us commitment. Our roads have been degraded because of their activity and we can't accept them to continue," Mr Onyon told *Daily Monitor* in an interview Tuesday.



Quarrying. A woman collects stones at a quarry. Leaders in Agoro Sub-county, Lamwo District have blocked a Chinese company from excavating rocks in the area. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

He also noted that heavy rock blasting in the area also damaged of several buildings but the CICO has not compensated the affected residents.

When contacted, the CICO public relations officer, Mr Asumani Mugerere, said the leaders cannot block them because they have a five-year agreement permitting them to utilise the quarry site.

He denied knowledge of any agreement with local leaders to upgrade the said road.

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community where we operate through cooperate social responsibility. In this case we haven't decided yet on what to do," Mr Mugerere said.

He also revealed that they won't

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MR ASUMANI MUGERERE,
CICO PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

be affected by the threats since they have already excavated enough aggregates to complete the road.

Other incidents

Early this month, 36 residents of Kitgum District who are part of those affected by the upgrade of the Acholibur-Musingo road dragged to court CICO, Ugandan Roads Authority, Katu and Company Consulting surveyors and valuers over delayed construction and undervaluing of properties.