

Bad roads hamper relief delivery to landslide victims



Stuck. The State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Mr Musa Ecweru's official vehicle, stuck in mud in Lusabe Village, Bufupa parish, Masaba Sub-county in Sironko District yesterday.

PHOTO BY YAHUDU KITUNZI

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SIRONKO. The heavy rains pounding the Elgon sub-region have made many roads impassable, hampering the delivery of relief food to landslide survivors in Sironko District.

Mr Musa Ecweru, the State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, told *Daily Monitor* in an interview yesterday that they have failed to deliver the relief items to victims in Masaba Sub-county, Sironko District.

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MUSA ECWERU, STATE MINISTER FOR RELIEF AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

along the way,” Mr Ecweru, said.

The relief food, which includes 250 bags of maize flour, is now stuck at Sironko District headquarters as survivors continue to go without meals.

Mr Ecweru, however, said they have appealed to the Ministry of Works and Transport to intervene and fix the roads to allow the trucks to proceed to their destination.

“Let the line ministry take this matter as an emergency and use the funds in their possession to rehabilitate the bad sections of the road,” he said.

The Masaba Sub-county Chief, Ms Margaret Wetaka, said government should find a way of airlifting the relief items to the victims.

“The affected people are going without food. We ask government to find alternative means if road transport has failed,” she said.

Ms Wetaka said the victims are also in urgent need of mosquito nets, mattresses, bed sheets and other household items.

Mr George Ssonko, the Uganda National Roads Authority Mbale branch engineer, said they will work on the affected roads in the area to allow delivery of relief items.

The landslides hit the area two weeks ago, burying 10 people.

Only one body was retrieved from the mud for a decent burial.

The government has declared the scene a mass grave after a futile search for the rest of the bodies.