

... flooded road on her way from Napak to deliver in Soroti Town.

BY STEVEN ARIONG
sariong@ug.nationmedia.com

MOROTO. An expectant mother and her unborn baby died on Tuesday after a vehicle she was travelling in failed to cross a flooded Lorengchora Bridge, 78kms on the Moroto-Soroti road. Torrential rain had pounded the area from Monday 8pm until 7am on that day.

The floods have since paralysed transport between Moroto and Soroti Town, leaving more than 200 vehicles piled up on both ends of the bridge.

Rose Angolere, 27, who was travelling from Matany in Napak District, to deliver in Soroti Town, did not make it to her destination as the vehicle she was travelling in got stuck at the flooded bridge, some 58kms to the town.

Labour pains

Angolere developed sudden labour pains as they waited in vain to cross the flooded bridge from 8am until 6.30pm when she breathed her last.

Chinese contractors, who had excavated a section of the road to install new culverts, also failed to tame the huge volume of gushing water.

Ms Sarah Nangiro, who had accompanied the victim, told *Daily Monitor* that she had preferred to deliver in Soroti where her husband, Mr John Moru, is working as a security guard. She blamed the Chinese contractors for making it difficult for the vehicles to pass that day.

"The water had reduced and as we pleaded to cross, the Chinese [contractors] started digging a deep trench and did not allow us to cross," she said.

Mother, baby perish as floods cut off Moroto



Efforts. Culverts are installed at Lorengchora Bridge in Napak District following the floods on Tuesday. PHOTO BY STEVEN ARIONG

But a one Mr Pong, one of the Chinese workers at the site, said the floods was unmanageable and they failed to create any safe passage for motorists.

Police not aware

However, Mr Richard Aruk Maruk, the regional police commander, said he had not received any report of the incident but promised to investigate the matter.

SITUATION AT HAND

Flooding. Several parts of the country are experiencing severe flooding following months of heavy rain. This week, UNRA suspended traffic on Nakalama-Tirinyi-Mbale highway after a section of the road was cut off by floods.

Moroto-Soroti road is being upgraded to bitumen by two Chinese contractors China Railway Number 3 and China Communications Construction Company Ltd. But the contractors are facing challenge of torrential rain and floods.

The Napak District Council chairperson, Mr Joseph Lomonyang, appealed to government intervene and reconnect the region to the rest of the country.

See

FA

Fac
for

KA
and
tomc
agrit
W
Mor
Zon
Dev
all
the
act
f
dir
pla
fo

pl
A
(I
n
r
h