

Over 200 to train in road machine use

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

About 250 youth from western Uganda will be trained to operate road equipment.

The training, which was launched by works state minister Gen. Katumba Wamala on Monday, will take place at Mbarara High School.

The programme is aimed at addressing the shortage of road equipment operators in the country.

Katumba said the trainees will receive certificates but insisted that those who fail to satisfy the requirements of the training will not be awarded.

The project is a brainchild of President Yoweri Museveni, following the purchase of heavy road equipment for all districts in the country. Each district received a complete road unit of road equipment including a motor dragger, wheel loader, vibro roller, water bowser and two tippers.

"This is a huge investment where government has spent nearly sh600b. This equipment is durable and robust and can last 20 years. This investment, therefore, needs to be preserved through proper use and care," Wamala added.

So far, 750 operators from central, northern and eastern Uganda have been trained under the programme.



Katumba Wamala and officials after launching the training of road equipment operators in Mbarara on Monday. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

The works ministry permanent secretary, Waiswa Bageya, said the equipment is fitted with a tracking system and engineers in the ministry will be able to monitor fuel usage, engine performance and movement.

He appreciated the good relationship between Uganda and Japan, which supplied the equipment.

Bageya noted that one of the areas that will help Uganda attain middle income status is infrastructure. Mizumoto

Horii, the deputy head of mission of the Japanese Embassy in Uganda, who represented the ambassador, emphasised the significance of proper maintenance of the equipment.

He said the equipment will help to boost the local economy and promote commercialisation of agriculture by improving access to markets.

Horii said Japan will continue contributing to the smooth transport in Uganda.

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