

PAKWACH

By Robert Ariaka

Pakwach district has received sh3b under the intergovernmental transfers from World Bank to construct a seed secondary school in Wadelai.

The district on Tuesday handed over the site for construction to Rhema Engineering Company to start works at the school.

The construction works, which are supposed to start immediately, are expected to be completed in February 2024.

The district engineer, Godfrey Ochakacon, said the project will grade the football pitch, as well as construct the administration block, with all the accessories and furniture.

Other structures to be constructed are three classroom blocks (each with two classrooms), three blocks of teachers' houses (each with two units) to accommodate six teachers, a multipurpose hall, an ICT library and computer laboratory.

The funds will also be used to construct a science laboratory block, two blocks of five latrine stances, one for boys and the other for girls and four blocks of VIP latrines with two stances each for the teachers.

All the blocks will come with furniture components and electric sockets.

Ochakacon said the school has, unfortunately, not benefited from electricity connectivity and asked that solar power be installed.

He asked the community to be friendly to the contractor and for the latter to ensure that local content is considered.

Christine Acayo, the District Education Officer, said a rigorous procurement process was undertaken to get the contractor. She called for quality work for the project.

Acayo appealed to the community to supervise the work, attend site meetings and avoid speculation. Once completed, the facilities will enhance education for the learners.

Ronald Debo, the executive director of Rhema Engineering Company, said they were ready to start on the work.

"We shall start with site clearance and make concrete blocks to construct the walls," he said.

Debo said local content is considered in all the projects the company undertakes. He warned the locals who will benefit from the employment opportunities at the site to desist from drinking alcohol, smoking and laziness.

"We normally fire lazy workers, those who drink and smoke, to ensure quality work,"

PAKWACH GETS SH3B WORLD BANK FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT WADELAI SEED SS

PHOTOS BY ROBERT ARIAKA



Eseru (wearing white shirt) handing over the project documents to Debo as Omito (centre) and others witness the proceedings



The old grass-thatched house used by teachers as a staffroom and the new classroom and staffroom block that was constructed by the parents in Wadelai Secondary School

➤ Wadelai will become the second seed secondary school to be established in the district, after Alwi seed secondary school.

parents built a new classroom with a staffroom.

The school lacked a laboratory, library, administration block and teachers' accommodation.

Pithua is happy that the project will resolve the infrastructure challenge.

The school has 22 teachers, with a deficit of one to close the gap. It has been among the best performing schools in the greater Nebbi.

Pithua appealed to the Government to provide solar power to the school to solve the challenge of power and, in future, extend hydro electric power as well.

He said the new facilities, once completed, will increase the enrolment of the learners.

he added.

Steen Robert Omito, the district chairperson, said: "It took a long time for the project to be cleared, but we have finally handed over the site to the contractor. We know that inflation is hitting the country, but we should ensure value for money is seen."

He asked the district to shift the employees to the work area, where they can easily be monitored.

Omito also advised the contractor to put concrete casts at the basement of the buildings due to the sandy



Kenneth Pithua

texture of the soil in the area.

The chairman warned the contractor to desist from any

misconduct that may lead to teenage pregnancies, as is usually the case during the implementation of projects.

Paul Eseru, the Pakwach Resident District Commissioner, urged the contractor to adhere to the standard measures and considerations in the Bill of Quantities.

"We expect complaints from the community, interact with the locals to avoid conflicts," he added.

Eseru said the education performance in the district is also still below expectation.

Wadelai will become the second seed secondary school to be established in the district after Alwi Seed Secondary School.

Kenneth Pithua, the headteacher of the school, said Wadelai has 278 students. In 2019, the Government took over the school and recruited 21 teachers, with five support staff.

Established in 1985 as a community Catholic school, the institution has had insufficient structures, with only one block, which contains four classrooms and a staffroom. However, the