

Scientists urged to co-operate in fight against cybercrime

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

Computer scientists in universities and other institutions of learning worldwide have been urged to produce tools that can be used to eliminate hackers and cyber-crime.

Prof. Nickson Kamukama, the deputy vice-chancellor in charge of academic affairs of Mbarara University of Science and Technology said criminals are exploiting the Internet to commit complex offences, which security agencies might find difficult to tackle alone without co-operation from computer scientists.

He expressed concern that many countries and companies are facing rising challenges posed by cyber-crime amid escalating economic costs from cyber-attacks.

Hacking, viruses and fraud are common, but Kamukama said there are other emerging cybercrimes, which he said can only be eliminated by scientists.

He also challenged companies and organisations to put in place strong cyber security measures to keep their customers safe and protect their digital assets against threats.

"You are responsible for the cybercrime that is taking place, which has become difficult to manage. It has even become difficult to set exams at universities. You have to help us address these issues that are now beyond a common man. Help our districts in e-procurement because we want to look at a paperless world. Put the right systems in place that will



Prof. Kamukama with some of the scientists during the Summer School training at Mbarara university Kihumuro campus. He called on scientists to fight against cyber-crime. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

help us to get the right information that will guide the decisions we are supposed to make," Kamukama said.

He also urged scientists to develop systems that will help districts to improve the way they carry out their work and do research that will cause a positive impact in the communities.

Kamukama was recently addressing 40 scientists and researchers who turned up for the second Summer School edition sponsored by Bright Project with funds from Swedish International Development Agency. Summer School aims at building capacity of scientists in innovative ICT for development.

The training, which was held

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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at Mbarara University, Kihumuro campus, attracted participants from Canada, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sweden, Namibia N

Eng. Bainomugisha, the chairperson of the Computer Science at Makerere University and programmes co-ordinator for the Bright Project, said universities are taking the challenge of cybercrime seriously and are now focusing on teaching students and researchers to tackle the challenges, but said they are limited by funding.

"All the research anywhere in the world requires funding. We still have a gap in funding our research with internal resources. In many cases it is not easy to attract funding from development funders. There are few funding agencies that will fund

154 schools closed in W...

WAKISO

By Job Nantakika

Wakiso district education officer Fredrick Kiyingi Kinyi said 154 schools have been closed in the district. Kiyingi displayed a block notice to school owners and operators to check and fix their schools.

According to Kiyingi, a total of 1,804 schools do not meet the required standards.

He added that the operation against cyber-crime will continue.

Kiyingi said two girls, in a...

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