

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Gen. Kale Kayihura, has promised to support Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to establish a Forensics Science Training Institute.

He said forensics training is relevant in providing a scientific input to the criminal justice system in the country.

Kayihura pledged the support while visiting the university recently. His visit was a scoping exercise to the initiative and an interactive session in the development of the forensics institute.

The Police chief said the Uganda Police Force needs 2,000 scene of crime officers and 365 forensics specialists.

He said the officers will help the Police in analysing samples collected from scenes of crime, which would aid in identification of criminals.

"We urgently need forensics specialists in order to strengthen the criminal justice system in the east, central and the Horn of Africa," Kayihura said.

The scoping session was attended by a delegation from Cukurova University (Turkey), led by the vice-rector, Prof. Dr Halil Elekcioğlu and Prof. Mate Korkut Gulmen, who is the president of the Department of Forensics Medicine and Sciences.

Also part of the delegation was Prof. Dr Harun Arian and Prof. Dr Ufuk Gültekin, the vice-dean of the university's agriculture faculty.

The exercise came only days after



Kayihura (fifth-right), Mbarara University of Science and Technology staff and a delegation from Cukurova University after the launch of the forensics institute. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

Police chief Gen Kale Kayihura supports forensics training at Mbarara University

the signing of a memorandum of understanding between MUST and Cukurova University and the ground breaking for the regional Forensics Referral Centre at Naguru Police Headquarters in Kampala.

MUST vice-chancellor Prof. Celestino Obua said the forensics institute programme was in line with the university's planned introduction of a new dimension of forensics training.

He said the already-established

structures, such as the pathology department, medical laboratory sciences department and a research hub at the university will aid the planned forensics institute.

MUST also has an accredited programme of criminology.

Meanwhile, Cukurova University pledged to support MUST to advance their capabilities in forensics toxicology, forensics anthropology, forensics biology and medical legal investigations.

"This is a vote of confidence in the quality of training for MUST as a centre of excellence in Uganda and the region," Obua said.

Sharing his own forensics experience, Prof. Mate Korkut Gulmen emphasised the need to be careful and science-oriented while implementing forensics training and programmes.

He advised forensics scientists to work basing on standards, accuracy and quality assurance.