

By Emmanuel Affedda

BUSITEMA ALUMNI MAKE DOOR LOCK SYSTEM

The commonest way to secure doors is by use of padlocks, but sometimes thieves break them while the owner of the property is away.

This got former students of Busitema University thinking of alternative and more secure systems of locking doors.

Samuel Ojiambo, Jonathan Mwesigwa and Kato Kugonza, graduated with bachelor's of computer science and technology. They formed Maknovat Technology Limited, which came up with a GSM-based door lock monitoring system.

"This system can be installed in door locks to monitor whoever may be trying to open or break the door without your permission," Ojiambo revealed, adding that the idea was inspired by the increasing problems of burglary, despite the use of padlocks.

HOW IT WORKS

The system, which has at least two contacts saved in it, is set into the padlocks. If anyone is tampering with a door, trying to open it with a different key or trying to break the locks with a bar metal, an alarm will go off, thus alerting the neighbours that there is an intruder. At the same time, the system makes a phone call to the users of the phone numbers inserted in it for notification.

"It is advisable to use your contact and numbers of people you trust in the system. If a thief is trying to break the door and your number is called and it is found to be off, then another person whose number is in the system can be reached," Mwesigwa said.

Installing this system into an individual's doors costs sh450,000



The innovators show how the lock works

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and it will reduce one's anxiety about security of their property, but also stops thieves from easily accessing one's premises.

THE OBSTACLES

The team notes that there could be problems of mobile telephone networks, especially when installing the system in rural areas. "There is also a high cost associated with purchasing

machines; there is a limited market currently, because many people have not embraced this kind of technology. We also have limited capital to venture into our technology," they said. However, they have attained one achievement: being able to put the technology into practical use, though people have not yet started using it.

They hope to demonstrate the idea to the Police, so that they can encourage people to use the system as a way of fighting theft and burglary in homes and offices, especially around the city suburbs. They believe more people, if sensitised, would gladly adopt the door lock system.