Why every parish needs 'digital askaris'



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As Uganda aggressively pivots towards a digital-first economy, the frontline of our national security has shifted. With the Parish Development Model (PDM) moving billions of shillings through digital systems, the Ugandan parish is now the target of high-tech thieves.

We are witnessing a new type of "night dancer"– the cybercriminal who steals without ever entering your compound. It is time for a strategic shift: every Ugandan parish now needs a dedicated "digital askari"– a parish cyber defence representative.

The logic is simple: when we build a new market or a school, we hire a watchman. As we build our digital economy through PDM and e-government services, why are we leaving the "digital gate" wide open?

A parish cyber defence representative is not just a computer technician; they are the village's first line of defence against the *mufere* (scammer) currently threatening our rural economy:

These digital askaris would ensure that co-operative society ·ders and farmers are not tricked into giving away their ·Ns or passwords to fraudsters.

The "digital VHT": Just as village health teams (VHTs) check on the physical health of our families, these representatives check the "health" of the devices used to access government money, ensuring they are not infected with viruses that steal data.

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