



KYAMBOGO LEADING THE WAY IN ICT INNOVATION



Dr. John Okuonzi, Director of ICT

When many big institutions in Uganda want a custom Information Communication Technology (ICT) solution for their operations, they simply turn to providers from foreign countries.

Kyambogo University chose a different route though. Dubbed 'e-Kampus,' what was started in 2009 by a team of innovators at the university led by Dr. John Okuonzi, director of ICT and services has since grown to be the most intricate and integrated solution of any university in the country to date.

e-Kampus supports both academic and administrative business processes at the university. From the moment a student is admitted to the university, to registration, continuous assessment and examination and finally to graduation, the system captures all these details.

"We have developed a system that manages all the business processes of the university. Kyambogo is the only university in Uganda that has come out with such an innovation. All activities in the

university use this system," explains Okuonzi.

The system is powered by 12 kilometres of fibre optic cables spread all-over the campus.

Keeping track of students record

Kyambogo University has a student population of over 20,000. That is on campus alone. The university also assesses a further 30,000 students and more in the National Teachers' Colleges, Primary Teachers' Colleges and Early Childhood Development teaching centres.

Managing the records of all these students simply by moving paper around is too tedious, and this is where e-Kampus comes in handy.

Through the system, one can register online to study at the university. When lecturers assess these students, their coursework and tests marks are uploaded on the system, so at any one given time, it is possible for one to track the performance of a student by simply clicking away on a computer or a mobile device.

No one can change marks in the system, unless they get an approval from a higher office. For example, for a lecturer to change marks, the head of department needs to approve, similarly, if the head of department wants to change anything, they will need an approval from a dean.

The interface of the system shows exactly how many students have fully registered at any given time. In fact, the big data system has the details and even passport photos of each and every one of the students at the university.

Beyond the academic records; e-Kampus also tracks how students pay their university fees. Whenever a student pays up in a bank, the system is immediately notified.

Prof. Eli Katunguka, the university's vice chancellor says the university's impressive ICT system has caught the eye of government, which has sanctioned the roll out of similar software named the Academic Information Management Systems (AIMS) in other public universities.

"Government has bought into our ICT system and we have been asked to build a new system, the Academic Information Management System based on the Kyambogo model. Mbarara University of

Science and Technology, Makerere University Business School, Uganda Management Institute are already on board," he says.

Chaotic past

Okuonzi says the system has helped bring sanity to a hitherto chaotic university.

"A few years ago, towards exam time, this place would be a nightmare. There would be long queues at offices as students tried to register in time for the exams. This led to other vices such as fraudulent behavior. Services had become too difficult, that some students had to pay off someone," he says.

Even without a card, a student will still be able to sit an exam, thanks to mobile applications linked

to the system.

"When a student has paid, they do not need to line up at any office anymore. You can actually walk to class with your phone, log into the mobile application and a lecturer will know your status,"

To protect the integrity of the system, it has security features like bar and QR codes that make it nearly impossible for anyone to forge a Kyambogo University document

"Previously, people could go to some places in Kampala to forge results, now the system makes this almost impossible. These codes read directly from our database, so an employee can quickly check and verify whether a document is from Kyambogo or not."



ICT Students