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Uganda's security robot

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A school science competition in Uganda has led to the development of a robot that is getting the attention of security experts. The robot is now a prototype, but if developed commercially, it has the ability to detect and detonate explosives. Isabel Nakirya reports from Kampala.

In a tiny computer laboratory at Makerere University, these three high school students have spent months doing research on how a bomb detector works. All aged 19, they've put their brain power together on a robot they hope will boost security in Uganda.

David Tusubira student SOT: "In the robot we have four wheels for motion, arm and we also have a mobile phone as a camera to act as sight. The robot is supposed to receive commands from the laptop and execute them"

As the culmination of a school science project, they've designed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot, or EOD, a device to help detect and detonate explosives. The students made a prototype out of local material some of it scavenged from broken down computers, some of it purchased from local shops

SOT: "We are using Bluetooth from the robot to the laptop. The mobile phone and the laptop have to be on the same wireless Internet network for the laptop to have a visual of the camera"

Their supervisor, Cosmas Mwikirize, says the point of the competition was to inspire Ugandan students to pursue careers in science and technology.

Cosmas Mwikirize, Supervisor SOT "It was their own idea that they start working on some projects that will be relevant to society. // What lacks in this country is not the lack of potential, it is the right mentorship and resource" After the robot has been tested in the field, it could be produced locally. And security experts say a locally produced bomb exploding robot would cost significantly less money than what the Ugandan government paid for two similar devices now in operation.

Judith Nabakooba Deputy police spokes person SOT "We keep on building our capacity as far as fighting terrorism is concerned and if it (robot) has now been developed within Uganda then the better for us because if it is developed to a desired level, then we shall be using our own and that is

what we are praying for." The student inventors plan to enroll at the University as engineering studentsnext semester.

Isabel Nakirya, Kampala SOT They say their dream, to develop acommercially made bomb detector for use by Ugandan security could beaccomplished by the end of this year ... if the government supports their project.Isabel Nakirya.

Editor:James |Source: CNTV

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