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Government urged to invest in ICT innovations



Prof Venasius Baryamureeba, the Makerere University vice chancellor and Mr Yang sign the MoU in Kampala last week. Photo by Faiswal Kasirye.

The government must invest more resources in research and innovation if it is to help the youth acquire relevant ICT skills in order to be competitive in the labour market, a Makerere University official has said.

The head of corporate relations CIT at Makerere University, Michael Niyitegeka, said ICT in schools has been ignored thus becoming one of the reasons for the country's slow technological development.

"We need to see innovation centres coming out of government if our youth are to acquire globally employable skills," he said.

Limited funding coupled with the lack of support for research and innovations have been cited as some of the major factors that encourage brain drain in Uganda and other Africa countries.

While signing a memorandum of understanding between Huawei Technologies and Makerere University the chief executive officer, Yang Yang noted that there is a huge opportunity in Uganda for building capacity in ICT technology thus forming the backbone for future professionalism.

The MoU will see ICT students receive scholarships and specialised ICT training. The project seeks to work closely with Makerere University to help in training the next generation of ICT professionals.

editorial@ug.nationmedia.com