

Mbithi wants computer as core subject

BY HENRY WANYAMA

CURRICULUM review should make computer studies a core subject in schools, University of Nairobi vice chancellor Peter Mbithi said yesterday.

He said computer studies should be made a core subject like mathematics, English and Kiswahili, physics, biology and chemistry.

"The review of the current syllabus in computer studies should emphasise more on problem solving and innovations," Mbithi said.

He spoke at the Kenya Science campus during a seminar on ICT innovations for schools.

Mbithi said there should be an introduction to ICT at elementary school level with ICT integration in the syllabus in primary and junior secondary, with computer science in upper secondary.

Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi who was at the meeting said the ministry will forward the proposals from the seminar to the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

PAC to probe Sh826m NYS, Devolution saga

BY JAMES MBAKA

THE parliamentary watchdog Public Accounts Committee has moved to investigate alleged loss of Sh826 million at the National Youth Service and the Devolution ministry.

The committee chairman Rarieda MP Nicholas Gumbo yesterday said they have instructed the Auditor General Edward Ouko to conduct a special audit of the government's Integrated Financial Management Information System for the last three years.

This is after claims that the platform has become an easy target for hackers to siphon off public funds.

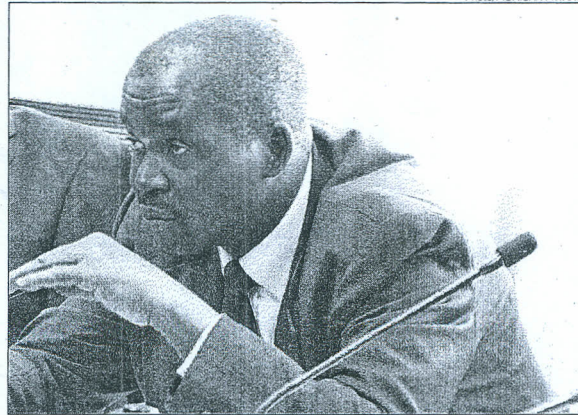
Speaking earlier when he appeared before the committee, Treasury CS Henry Rotich defended IFMIS software saying it was tamper-proof and ring-fenced against hacking.

"The system cannot be hacked unless someone steals a password. It is almost impossible to hack, but so far we have not witnessed any hacking," he said.

"What is being investigated is whether someone had access to the password."

Rotich said it will cost Sh24 billion to roll out the system, saying IFMIS has taken Sh5.5 billion although Parliamentary Budget office said the allocation was Sh8.2 billion.

"We pay for licences as we increase



Photo/MONICAH MWANGI

UNDER WATCH: PAC chairman Nicholas Gumbo during a session yesterday. Auditor General has been instructed to conduct a special audit.

the number of users into the system. The cost will continue to rise as we expand the system to cover everyone in the counties and the parastatals," he said.

Gumbo said their investigations will seek to establish if the taxpayer got the value of their money in the various NYS and Devolution ministry expenditures.

On whether the parliamentary investigations would be a duplication

of duties given that the Director of Criminal Investigations has already launched investigations through the Cyber Crime Unit, Gumbo said the police probe would be 'narrow' and limited to the criminal prism.

"Our oversight role will seek to see if the procurement laws were followed to the latter and if the expenditures done by both NYS and the Devolution ministry gave Kenyans the value for their money," he said.

Woman steals AP's gun in Embu

BY REUBEN GITHINJI

AN Embu town AP officer and a woman were yesterday arrested over the loss of a G3 rifle.

James Kariuki allegedly lost his gun to a woman he spent the night with at the Embu town AP lines on Wednesday.

A police source told the Star on condition of anonymity the woman stole the gun when Kariuki was asleep.

Seven deny assault in night club

BY CAROLYNE KUBWA

SEVEN women were yesterday charged in court with assaulting an army officer and two police officers in a Nairobi club.

Glady's Watere, Caroline Wachera, Tabitha Wanjiru, Valentine Ngugi and Agnes Ngugi were accused of assaulting the officers on June 10 at a club on Accra Road. They were released on Sh5,000 bail each.

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