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PRESS RELEASE

Uganda's oldest university launches the first Digital Colour Xerox X700 in the country to secure academic documents

Uganda's oldest and largest institution of higher learning, Makerere University, has bought a Xerox X700 Digital Color Press and Xerox's advanced security software, FreeFlow Specialty Imaging Suite.

"The system will be used to securely print tamper-proof graduation certificates locally for Makerere and other universities, and no longer ship them from the UK at great expense," says Joseph Kirabo, Manager, Makerere University Printery.

"It will be used to print tickets for international sports matches involving Uganda's national teams. It will also fill a niche in the Ugandan market by supplying secure documents such as coupons, trade licences, land title certificates, environmental-related certificates, and invitation cards for VIP events." "Employing the Xerox X700 at Makerere University delivers three key benefits," says Abhay Agarwal, MD of Service & Computer Industries (SCI) in Uganda, a Bytes Document Solutions value-added reseller, which is the authorised Xerox distributor to 26 African countries. "It significantly reduces the costs of creating the certificates, it builds local, Ugandan capacity, and the university will improve return on investment (ROI) further by developing new lines of business through digital printing."

The University expects to print up to 30 000 certificates each year and an additional 45 000 certificates for other universities in Uganda, such as Mbarara University, Gulu University, and MUBS University, among others, and total ROI is expected to be achieved within 15 months.

Service and Computer Industries Ltd (SCI)-Uganda has provided secure IT solutions for more than 40 years, primarily in the financial services market, demonstrating its ability to offer a sound support solution at event the highest echelons of business.

The X700 Digital Color Press is a small footprint, production-capable printer with speed, paper handling and inline finishing capabilities that enable a wide range of high-value applications such as coated brochures, newsletters, presentations, direct mail, booklets and more. The system includes device security features such as password protection, data encryption, application of rights and privileges by user, IP filtering and more.

Creating tamper-proof certificates is achieved through Xerox's FreeFlow Specialty Imaging Suite that includes Glossmark Text, Correlation Text, Fluorescent Mark Text, Micro text, and Infrared Text. Variable information also improves security by encrypting unique information on each certificate.

"The text effects are applied to static and variable data and the university will apply multiple effects to individual certificates," says Hennie Du Plessis, CEO of Bytes Document Solutions. "The combined capabilities will make it almost impossible for anyone to forge certificates."

The print room is also physically secured with closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and access control facilities that restrict access. The physical environment that existed contained adequate air conditioning and lighting and a 15KVa stabiliser was installed to ensure clean power for the X700. Deploying the X700 took two weeks, there are only three operators,

which enhances security, and they were employed by the university. SCI Uganda maintains stock consumables and replacement parts at its site, it trains operators, will service the X700 and trains the operators to do their own first line support.

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