

Procurement of Internet Services by Kibabii University By Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo

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Location and Establishment

- Kibabii University with current population of 7,000 students is located at Kibabii, seven kilometres from Bungoma Town along the Chwele Road on the southern western part of the slopes of Mount Elgon
- Kibabii University was established by Legal Notice No.115 of August 2011 as a constituent college of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.
- Operations commenced in March 2012 when the first crop of 333 students were admitted.

Location and Establishment

- The University was awarded charter by His Excellency Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, E.G.H., The President of the Republic of Kenya and the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces and Chancellor, Kibabii University to become the 23rd fully fledged university on 14th November 2015.
- The University started with 52 staff who were seconded from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in 2012, due to expansion the number has since increased to the current 352 staff

Demand for connectivity

- From the onset the need for internet connectivity became a key issue. In November 2013 a contract between the then Kibabii University College and KENET was signed for provision of internet to the University College at the rate 10Mbs.
- The capacity was increased to 20 Mbs in 2015

Demand for connectivity cont-1

- In 2016, due to the unreliability of radio link, KENET connected the University with a last mile fibre optic link from Kanduyi.
- The University also increased the consumption to 66 Mbs.
- In January 2017 the University increased consumption twice. First to 82.5 Mbs and soon after to the current 110 Mbs.

Coverage

• Network connectivity has been done within buildings and the whole University



Coverage



Issue of single sourcing

- When the University became a member of KENET the parties signed a three year contract that became effective in November 2013.
- On expiry in November 2016, renewal became an issue as KENAO had raised the issue of single sourcing based on the PP&ADA 2015.
- University requested KENET to provide a write up on the services they offer. In the write up dated 29th November, 2016 KENET indicated that:

Issue of single sourcing cont-1

- It is a consortium formed by higher education institutions to allow for bulk purchase of internet bandwidth and then redistribute
- It is a nonprofit making organization exempted from paying tax on services rendered.
- It provides training
- Facilitates seminars and workshops for CEOs, ICT Directors, Procurement officers and Finance officers

Issue of single sourcing cont-2

Hence being a member, Kibabii University did not just qualify to receive services but also additional benefits from KENET.

- KENET has donated seven switches to Kibabii University and three hot spots which have enabled the University to manage the wireless network making it more stable.
- KENET has also donated the EDUROAM package which allows the students and staff to access internet in other Universities

Procurement process

- The Directorate of ICT being the service department placed a requisition on 21st December, 2016 for provision of internet services to the procurement department of Kibabii University.
- The Procurement department on 22nd December, 2017 requested the accounting officer for approval.

Procurement process cont-1

- A request for quotation was sent to KENET who in turn sent a quotation dated 9th January, 2017, which was then evaluated by an appointed evaluation committee on 18th January, 2017.
- Award was given to KENET on 6th February, 2017 via letter Ref: KIBU/PROC/16-17/054

Procurement process cont-2

- KENET then responded writing an acceptance letter dated 14th February, 2017. After Kibabii University received the letter of acceptance from KENET, the Legal officer drafted a contract which was signed on 20th March, 2017 between the University and KENET.
- KENAO has not raised any issue so far