Varsities hit by shortage of instructors

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KAMPALA: Makerere University has attributed the shortage of skilled technical instructors in the country to the government policy of turning vocational schools into universities which affected training.

In an interview yesterday, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, the Makerere University vice chancellor, said: "Universities train academicians and administrators. When all vocational schools were all turned into universities, we stopped training skilled technical instructors and as Makerere University, this is what we are working on now."

Yesterday, Nakawa Vocational Training Institute and the Innovations Village, signed a memorandum of understanding to provide technical assistance to industries by linking industries to qualified staff, especially in their engineering departments, following a realisation of a shortage of competent qualified engineers.

During the signing ceremony at the Nakawa-based institute, Mr Francis Omoo, the deputy principal of the vocational school, said they are registering an upsurge of collaborations between universities and big factories in the country which are hiring them to train students and upgrade skills of their staff.