

Firm bags deal to train college graduates in ICT

By FREDRICK OBUKA

The Ministry of Education has signed a memorandum of understanding with Techno Brain to train graduates from public colleges.

Targeted are technical, industrial, vocational, entrepreneurship and training institutions (TIVETIs) whose graduates are be trained in various information communication and technology (ICT) programmes.

Already, the institution has trained 120 lecturers from 43 TIVETIs across the country, who will then offer training in *Microsoft*, *Adobe*, and basic certification programs. The deal will offer the technology firm a leeway to set up centres equipped with IT infrastructure within the middle level institutions to offer computer related courses. Speaking

during the launch of Techno Brain Training Centre in Westlands, Nairobi, Vijay Balabhadra, General Manager Techno Brain said the firm was scouting for more partnership with internationally recognised information technology providers such as *Microsoft*, *Cisco* and *Certiport* to offer relevant courses to local students.

"We are planning to rollout in the first quarter. This is a programme aimed at equipping graduates with IT skills required in the current work environment," said Vijay Balabhadra, General Manager Techno Brain. "These are some of the programs that would assist the Government to move faster from an agricultural based to a knowledge economy," he observed.

The partnership comes in the wake of a baseline survey questioning preparedness of middle level

colleges in producing IT compliant graduates to match rapid changes in work environment that is quickly integrating ICT in operations.

The survey released last year noted that most TIVETIs run on old curriculum, lack the latest teaching tools and infrastructure.

They also have non-aligning policies, which make it hard to integrate ICT in their courses. The report also fault lecturers for lack of confidence to teach ICT topics, noting that this is real even among teachers who have knowledge in ICT.

An estimated 24 per cent of heads of department interviewed cited limited ICT skills and literacy among lecturers as a major challenge for integrating ICT to TIVET course provision. "Teacher confidence presents a particular challenge for ICT integration in tertiary colleges," the report says.