

SCRIPT GREEN COMPUTERS UGANDA

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Is a way of dumping old computers?

Or is it a way of helping the people of Uganda getting an almost new system for an affordable price.

In the capital Kampala the company Green Computers Uganda started recently. There they refurbish old computers, install them with new software, and sell them. However critics regard it as a way of dumping obsolete computer models from Europe to Africa.

BETA

In these premises in the capital Kampala Green Computers Uganda has its plant. Inside there is a show room where the products are displayed, and promoted. The computers are assembled in the factory hall behind. The components are imported from a refurbishing plant in the United Kingdom. The parts here first undergo a quality check.

QUOTE SAUL KIMUDA

***For example this machine,
it has missing plates.
This is where someone can get their hands in,
and can get injured.
So immediately upon seeing that,
you fail it.
It should not go anywhere.***

QUOTE SAUL KIMUDA

***- What happens here?
What happens at the work bench the first thing we do is called data wiping.
Using software called Killerdisk
We wipe off any data that is there.
This is used equipment,
so you do not want anyone's data staying on it.***

QUOTE GILBERT MPUGA

According to Green Computers, Uganda could use these systems for its small enterprises.

In Uganda a great part of the economy is thriving on these businesses which are all over the city centre of Kampala.

It's a sector that so far managed very well without computers, for more than decades.

QUOTE PETER IGAGA, general manager Green Computers

We want them to run more effectively.

Because now with the IT revolution if Uganda does not change, Uganda will be left behind.

The company aims at taking the computers back at the end of their useful life.

To re-use the working components, and to re-sell high-value materials.

But for the old glass monitors there is no solution locally.

They're difficult to recycle, and contain a lot of toxic substances, like leaded glass.

From looking at the stocks here it is clear that there are many of these old monitors, because in Europe they moved on to flat screens.

Bringing the danger of these monitors being dumped in Uganda.

The manager of Green Computers is assured that the glass monitors will be sent back to the UK.

QUOTE PETER IGAGA

- are you sure that's going to happen?

Yes.

What we have done is sign a number of contracts to ensure that both they are secure and we are secure.

And make sure Uganda does not end as a dumping ground for obsolete machines.

The center hopes to re-furbish 10,000 computers a year,

with a retail price of \$175,

about a third of the cost of a new computer in Uganda.

This is Ruud Elmendorp, reporting from the capital Kampala.