# **IT students accused of hacking and stealing from bank**

[**Wilson Odhiambo**](https://www.universityworldnews.com/fullsearch.php?mode=search&writer=Wilson+Odhiambo)  29 October 2020

Share

Two information technology (IT) students from Kenya’s Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) appeared in court after allegedly hacking into a local bank, stealing KES24.4 million (US$224,150) and attempting to defraud it of another KES190.7 million.  
  
Local news outlets, including the [***Daily Nation***](https://nation.africa/kenya/news/jkuat-students-charged-with-hacking-bank-2722762?view=htmlamp&__twitter_impression=true), reported that the two second-year IT students, Ann Wambui Nyoike (21) and Antony Mwangi Ngige (23), tried to steal from NCBA Bank Kenya.  
  
The two students appeared in the [**Milimani law courts**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMsyS3yxjQg) where they denied the charges before the resident magistrate, Carolyne Muthoni Njagi. The prosecution said that the crimes were committed between 20 and 22 October. It also added that the suspects committed the crimes alongside two others who were yet to be apprehended.  
  
But, according to the defence, the accused were actually trying to alert the bank of a glitch in its system and instead ended up being branded as suspects. Their lawyer explained that it was all a case of the whistleblower, Ngige, falling victim of his attempted good deed.  
  
“It is important that the court notes that whatever led to the charges against the accused persons, was communication by the first accused person, Ngige, to the bank, trying to give them a notice that their system had a problem,” the lawyer told the magistrate.  
  
“It is also important to note that the particular crime which they were allegedly accused of, happened on an IT platform, particularly a mobile phone application and it is the first accused person who wrote on his Twitter handle, informing the bank that there was a system glitch. When the bank failed to respond, he took it upon himself to write an SMS and was thus in communication with the bank,” he explained to the court.  
  
The lawyer added that the accused were summoned by the bank on Saturday 24 October, only to be arrested when they were asked to report back to the bank again on Monday.  
  
Magistrate Njagi set bail at KES500,000 (US$4,600) or deposit a bond of KES2 million (US$18,400). The two students will appear in court again on 10 November.