COMPUTER HARDWARE

Computer Hardware is the collection of devices connected to form a computer system. These devices function differently but complementarily. Some function to input data (input devices); some function to output data (output devices); some collectively are called System (or processing) Unit, as they primarily function to process and manage data. Some others function to store data or information (storage devices).

Input Devices: a computer system consists of various input devices. As you know, input devices take input from the user. Depending upon the user requirement, a computer system may have different types of input devices. Some input devices are keyboard, mouse, trackball, joystick, scanner, light pen, drives, etc.

Output Devices: these are devices that bring out information in the form of text, image, audio, or video. The most important output devices are monitor, printer, and speaker.

System Unit: these are the devices that are contained in the computer tower. They are the major electronic components of the computers. They basically take in data through ports into the *motherboard*; process it through the *processor,* whilst the *RAM* hold the data temporarily. The *ROM*

contains the preinstalled software component of the computer. After information has been processed, they are still outputted through ports from the motherboard. Hard disks, drives and powerpack are also located in the system unit, but are not directly involved in the processing of data.

Storage Devices: these are devices that store information. Examples are hard disks, memory sticks, compact disks, digital video disks, etc.

Networking Devices: these are devices that are used to help the sharing of information among computers through wired or wireless connection. Examples are modem, routers, switches, cables, etc.