

... which marked the end of their technology camp at Gulu High school in February.

The event was organised by Yster Pearls Uganda. Akena, the team leader of the group,

Using the Arduino computers.

These are open-source electronics prototyping platforms. After two weeks of training, we were put in

... we came up with this idea.

The students believe that if this technology is transformed from the prototype form, it can

... that any additional way for them to find their way better would make a difference in their lives.

DRUG SAFETY VERIFICATION

By Noah Jagwe

How many times do you check the authenticity of any drugs you take? Expired and counterfeit drugs put human life at risk. Badru Ssenoga, a graduate of information technology, together with three colleagues, was inspired to create a software application to help ordinary people establish the genuineness of medicine.

The app, branded Musawo Drug helps one to verify medicine before swallowing it, to avoid taking outdated or fake drugs.

"A pharmacist can actually give you medicine without checking its expiry date," Ssenoga explained.

He is the managing director of iTech Gen IT solution, a registered company owned by four former schoolmates who studied computer science.

Ssenoga is a mobile App

FUTURE BUSINESS MODEL

The team hopes that their next step is to collaborate with drug companies to pay for this innovation and help the customers differentiate between counterfeit and original medicine.

developer, while the rest of the crew does web designing and management.

The app is a user-friendly innovation for the ordinary person and it can be downloaded from Google Playstore. At the moment, the app works with only coded medicines.

APP FEATURES

In addition to the verification of medicine, the app also

performs other functions such as providing general awareness about counterfeit drugs.

"The National Drug Authority has its own equipment. It requires trained personnel to operate it, which is not the case with this innovation," Ssenoga said, explaining that Musawo Drug is convenient because it is readily available on individual phones, which they move around with all the time.

The app also acts as a dose reminder to let a person know when they are supposed to take their medicine once programmed. This is done using an alarm that displays a simple note, depending on the programming by the user.

Ssenoga says the app would also be of help to pharmacists to stop them from buying fake drugs. They are also working on making an improved version with time.

WITH MUSAWO DRUG APP

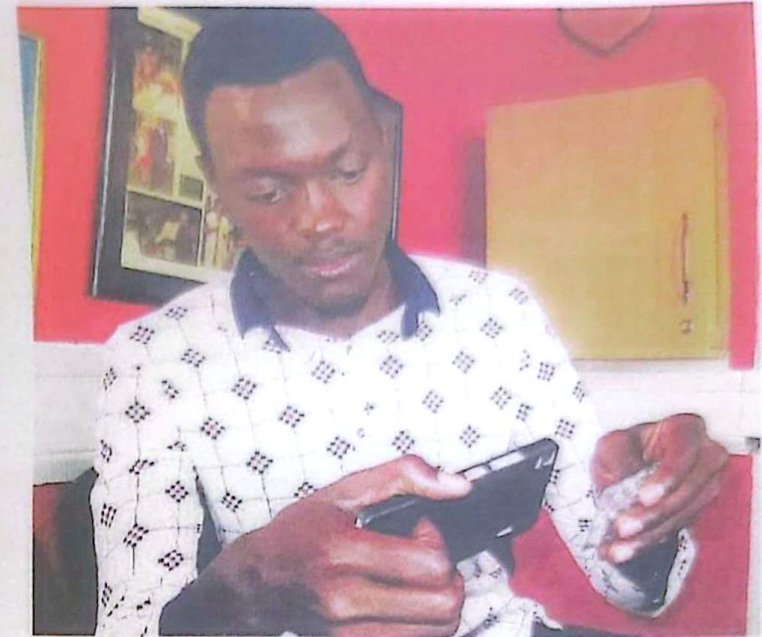
OPERATION

Having downloaded the app on Google Playstore, one has to type a quick response code (QR code) on the medicine strip, which is usually found at the back of the package, into the phone interface. The other option is to scan the code with one's phone.

Go to 'verify medical drug' and tap it, then wait for the feedback. You will receive a response showing the expiry date and description. The method is the same when checking out whether drugs are genuine.

If a person receives such a feedback and it is negative, they can immediately report the matter to the authorities.

Anyone with an ordinary phone can benefit from the App through an SMS sent to a server.



Ssenoga scanning medicine for verification