

However, he says, for one kilogramme of sesame, it takes 10 litres of boiled water. After mixing the paste in water, they

until you get the sweetness you desire. One can use sugar, but we advise honey to avoid diabetes," Ddungu explains.

To a first timer, the juice tastes like sesame with sugar, but many who tried it said it was nice. The juice

it gets. Lopwonya says

BY AHMAD MUTO

Solomon Bwire, a student of Makerere University, Kampala, who hails from Busia, had a problem during his school days.

He says his pocket money was sometimes stolen in the dormitory, so he would need more money in the middle of the term. However, it would cost more for his mother to travel to bring him more upkeep. The easiest way would be to use mobile money, but schools do not allow students to have phones. A teacher would receive the money on the student's behalf, but that had its complications as well.

So when Bwire was at university, he teamed up with fellow students, Julius Kateregga and Albert Ahuura, to address the problem with what they call the Student Wallet.

Bwire initially wanted to use InterSwitch to enable a person with a SIMcard to withdraw money from automated teller machines (ATM) which would be a hard task.

"I had to develop software which can



Julius Kateregga and Solomon Bwire testing the student wallet app

enable an ATM use a SIMcard, but now the protocol for ATM is standard and is hard to crack. It will involve a lot of charges and legal work," he says.

The team realised that they only had two options: either to use radio frequency identity cards or near field communication. So they opted for

radio frequency identity cards because it is easy to use with their unique identification. It has a magnetic chip that can store passive details of the owner and is able to detect radio frequency waves where it is put.

HOW IT WORKS

First, a user's phone number is registered in the system to be able to receive money using the radio frequency identity card, the same way people pay for services using mobile money.

"Here, a sender will also click <<send>>, <<amount>>, <<unique ID>> then send to the number of the recipient. Within seconds, the money

STUDENT WALLET APP HELPS SAVE, APP CENTRAL

PHOTOS BY AHMAD MUTO

APP CENTRAL

our longer period, Ddungu says that they hope to get a big market.

name, they said it will lure customers to buy their product.

ENABLES WITHDRAWALS

will be on the recipient's chip. To withdraw, they go to the agent, who will be at the school, having the whole interface built on the mobile application. As the student's chip is placed on the system, the unique identification number is fed in the system that will display the image and details of the student. Then the student's PIN is entered and money is transferred from the chip to the agent's and they are able to cash the user (student)," explains Kateregga. The team also plans to roll out the system to the general public, including people who do not have phones.

The android application uses near field communication and phones. Without these, it can use the camera to scan the QR code of the chip, input the PIN and transfer money from their phone to the agent's, at a charge of sh660, which is lower than for mobile money service providers, according to Bwire.

WALLET APP

A USER'S PHONE NUMBER IS REGISTERED IN THE SYSTEM TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE MONEY BY PRESENTING A CHIP

SAFETY

On safety from fraud, they say the system is safe because it uses a PIN and a photo is displayed.

The system is already being tested at Makerere College School, Caltec Academy and Mengo Secondary School.

but there are companies that have a monopoly in the skills market.

"If you want to print 1000 T-shirts, you will choose a company, yet there are individuals who have the skills and resources to deliver," he says. The platform is strictly for freelancers looking to start out and not companies, although companies can go there to seek the required services.

To ensure quality, there is rating of services on the platform by clients and administrators rank the users basing on skill, how often they are hired and quality of work.

The higher one's ranking, the higher the chances of getting hired. The developers say they want quality work and so they have three rankings: A Smith for someone starting out, then they are approved to become a 'Dextar' and later a 'guru' when their quality of work has greatly improved.