MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 7062
Kampala Uganda
Website: **http://cis.mak.ac.ug**

Tel: (Gen) +256-414-532631/4
Fax: +256-414-541068
E-mail: info@cis.mak.ac.ug

COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

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PRESS RELEASE

MAK STUDENTS DESIGN APPLICATION TO LOCATE PETROL STATIONS

A team of five students from the College of Computing and Information Sciences have developed a mobile software application that will help Ugandan motorists locate the nearest petrol station with the cheapest fuel and associated car services like washing bays and food courts.

The Mafuta Go application emerged the first runner-up at the Premier Mobile Awards in Barcelona, Spain - http://www.mobilepremierawards.com/winners/ thus winning the Ring Master Award. The students were represented by Ms. Christine Ampaire (a second-year Software Engineering student at Makerere) who presented Mafuta Go at the Barcelona Mobile World Congress 2012 (http://www.mobileworldcongress.com) to a panel of international jurists last month.

Christine and her team developed Mafuta Go during the Garage 48 event that was held in Uganda in September 2011. Thereafter, they pitched their innovation before a team of experts during the App Circus hosted by MobileMonday Kampala and it was selected to represent Uganda at the Mobile Premier Awards 2012. The team which includes: Wasaka Jjingo Kisakye, a computer engineering student; Gerald Odur Anickton, and Remo Samuel Paul both software engineering students; and James Muranga, an electrical engineering student were mentored by Richard Zulu, the organizer of Garage 48.

During the competition which drew 20 applications from 46 countries, the teams demonstrated the gradual steps of developing an application from building the prototype to an actual working

application before a panel of 10 judges. The competition also involved explaining the innovation's business model and how it would help users.

The Mafuta Go application can be accessed on web and by mobile phone users with an Internet browser and it uses an android platform although there are plans to create more platforms for access. It can be accessed at www.mafutago.com, or Facebook as "Mafuta Go" and follow them on twitter at @mafutago.

The application gives fuel stations an identity in form of their own name such as Shell Bugolobi or City Oil Bombo Road and offers motorist directions to the station of their choice. For mobile phones with GPS, the application enables a driver locate the different petrol stations in their direction. Currently, the team is seeking for information regarding the different pricing from station managers and the Crowd Sourcing approach where motorists submit prices from the respective stations where they are offered different services.

Their team leader, Christine Ampaire is also one of the Google Student Ambassadors for Makerere University.

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For more information please contact:
Ms. Christine Ampaire - Mafuta Go, Team Leader on 0778-607674
Ms. Maria Muzaaki - College Communication Officer on 0776-282421