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COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKS

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT LAB

**PROJECT TITLE: PLUMBAPP (Modern day Solution for the craftsman)**

In Kenya, there exist different sectors of our economy, and among the driving pillars of the economy are artisans. Craftsman is a word used to imply to people who are well qualified in a field and use their skills in exchange for money paid to them. Artisans include people like electricians, plumbers, carpenters, masons, and cupboard builders.

While moving into a new rental house, I encountered a very prominent problem that I thought could be affecting other citizens as well. I required the services of a plumber, it took me days to get one through the help of a caretaker, and I found this very inconvenient and inefficient given that if I was in dire need of the services and I barely know any person in the area. On further research, I have come to learn that the modern-day plumbers and artisans are having a shortage of an avenue where they can easily be accessed and services inquired without the need for connections or referrals. There is also a skill gap where currently in Kenya, many youths are going for engineering courses and architecture as opposed to going for artisan courses due to the notion that artisan work is for secondary school dropouts yet in real sense it is paying well(*Real estate players decry shortage of skilled plumbers, masons - Business Daily*, no date).

With PLUMBAPP, this web application built using Laravel, a PHP Framework will offer a secure avenue where skilled artisans will be able to create their profiles with, input their current location and a customer to be able to locate the artisan who is nearest to his location and contact him or her for services. It will further motivate the growth of the artisan industry and remove the notion that it is an industry for the low-level earners. PLUMBAPP will feature three users who are mainly the admin, the artisans, and the customers. The admin will be able to perform update functionalities of the other users and be able to delete users. The craftsmen will create profiles with PLUMBAPP that is uploading their profile pictures and provide details such as email phone number and their location saved in their profiles. Customers will create their account with PLUMBAPP and upon successful registration; they will locate artisans using their location details placed in their profiles and get in touch with the artisan of their choice depending on the factors of skills, nature of work, and location thereafter meeting with the artisans for the services they want.

References

*Real estate players decry shortage of skilled plumbers, masons - Business Daily* (no date). Available at: https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/economy/real-estate-players-decry-shortage-of-skilled-plumbers-masons-2155354 (Accessed: 24 January 2021).