Background

In the world today, technology is a driving factor of transformation and development of individuals, societies and nations. The above assertion is true for the Pearl of Africa. Over the years, there has been mechanization of agricultural work, acquisition of machinery and setting up of industries to process our agricultural produce, a number of telecommunication networks setting up their infrastructure across the country, widespread acquisition of mobile phones, extension of internet to different areas across the country and the adoption of smart phones, which has facilitated software uptake in personal, business and national affairs in Uganda.

From China alone, Uganda’s imports in 2020 of electrical and electronic equipment were valued at US $ 238.58 M (Trading Economics). Some of these equipment include transmission apparatus for radiotelephony, TV receivers, semiconductor devices, cable and insulated electric conductors, phones, televisions, microphones, speakers, electrical lighting equipment, audio equipment, among others. Some of the electronic devices imported are such that they consist an entire system, for example, a set of cameras, digital video recorder and hard disk – comprising a CCTV camera security system, a set of motion sensors, door sensors, and a control panel – comprising a sensor based security system. Some of the electrical devices are as basic as analog torches powered by dc batteries.

Problem:

- we aren’t manufacturing the basics here

- why aren’t people manufacturing the basic things here?

- what is the cost of making a basic torch vs importing?

- what is the advantage of being able to make the basics from within in the next few years?

- how do we plan on manufacturing?