

PRESS RELEASE: HULT PRIZE AT MAKERERE | ON-CAMPUS CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

Makerere University hosted this year's Hult Prize On-campus edition with the First Lady Honorable Janet Kataha Museveni who was represented by Hon. Frank Tumwebaze the Minister of ICT as the Guest of Honor. "Apart from giving her apologies, the first Lady Has given you 20 million" Hon. Tumwebaze said.

Over 100 prototypes were presented to the jury of social entrepreneurs and influential personalities around the country. Among the 71 teams that registered, Precotech a waste management system won the Hult Prize On-campus innovations challenge 2018 that took place on Thursday, 8th October, 2018 at Makerere University main building. Precotech will advance to the regional finals representing Makerere University and Uganda in March 2019 from where they will interact and compete with like-minded brains for a slot at the Grand Finale in New York City. "You have become the flag bearers of Makerere University in the Next stage of the competition "declared Silver Walugembe, the campus director.

"Precotech's innovation aims at breaking barriers to employment through training the unskilled, but also, using a concept that is easy to comprehend, that is, Trash for Cash. The team is comprised of the CEO and Head of the Legal Department, Mukisa Joshua William, a 3rd year law student, Babirye Victoria Sharon, the head of the Software Engineering Department, Ntulume Joseph Brian, the head of the System Engineering Department and Mutambuze Paul, the head of the Waste management, Innovations and Value-Added Chain Department, all final year student at the College of Information Technology at Makerere University. "Don't come up with these ideas for just your dissertation and making sure you get your degrees. Look at how you can continue with it. The government will support you by not taxing local content" Hon. Frank assured the innovators.

The Hult Prize innovation challenge is a start-up accelerator for impact entrepreneurship which brings together the brightest college and university students from around the globe to solve the worlds most pressing issues through pitching ideas and launching companies. The Hult Prize 2019 challenge is " Youth Unemployment" and the winning team will win a seed capital of one million USD at the grand finale in New York.

The jury consisted of Mr. Arinaitwe Rugyendo, the proprietor of the Red Pepper, Hakiza Ronald, founder and CEO of Ugabus, Katende Steven, a social entrepreneur and nominee of the Queens Young Leaders Award Nominee, Nyanjura Doreen, the Makerere University LC5 Councilor, Simon Ssenyonga, Eyeru Jacob of the Debating Society of Uganda, Mr. Patrick Enywaru, Founder and CEO Fade Media, Mr. Otim Jimmy Moses, Ms. Sarah Kobusingye, Mr. Hamid Tenywa, Mr. Kagoda Rogers, Ms. Rehma Kirunda and Mr. Mathias Ssemanda.

The competition had two highly competitive rounds, with the first round having two split sessions in the Senior Common Room and the University main hall. The jury selected six top teams that advanced to the second round of the competition. In the second round, the competing teams presented before a jury of fourteen that converged after the first round of the competition.

The event was presented by Hon Watum Patrick the 84th Guild ICT Minister, was convened and mobilized by the Campus director Mr. Walugembe Silver, with Ms. Ankunda Esther, Mr. Abdul Twaib Magambo, Ms. Kakai Dorothy, Mr. Kasule Jonathan Kalule and Ms. Ahimbisibwe Prize Mari as the organizing committee and Mr. Oyeki Gerald as moderator.

Special thanks to Honorable Janet Kataha Museveni, Honorable Frank Tumwebaze, Makerere University management, Mulago METS programme, Resilient Africa Network, Innovation Village, the Hult Prize team, and all the participants all the people who made this day a success. For more details and graphics about the event follow Hult Prize Makerere on Twitter using @hultatmak.

A CHALLENGE FOR US BY US.