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Afloat

There is an estimated amount of four and a half million homeless people in Nigeria alone. This staggering statistic shows that there is an innumerable number of people who struggle every day with the question of where to sleep, while most do not give the question a second thought--if even a first. It is a severe problem that no nation can completely deny. This is what my proposed invention, ‘*Afloat*’, sets to address.

However, there is something to be done. A study shows that out of a group of around 900 homeless people, 69.6% had mobile phones, 34.6% have smartphones, 52.9% have internet, while 19.5% extensively use it. That is a lot of people with phones. Imagine if there were an app that made sure they were secure and well cared for, that they had eaten and slept on a bed...

Afloat is specifically made for people financially challenged, those who do not have a place to rest their head. Afloat helps you to keep--well, afloat--and not drowned in debt.

So, what exactly can Afloat do?

Afloat can find jobs that are sustainable and quickly accepting, find odd jobs (like mowing the lawn or painting walls), help with the organization and publicity of food drives, find motels with great ratings and much more.

The app would also be designed with versality to cover different devices including, but not limited to, braille phones and older models such as Nokia’s. There would be text-to-speech options, speech-to-text options, transcriptions on videos and filters for job searches.

The afloat design is based off large, readable text because it is easier to read and a pictorial home page so that it does not confuse. It has cool colors like blue because these are repeatedly proven to relax nerves. It includes a playful theme that makes users want to use the app more.

Afloat would work on behalf of several sponsors and fundraisers. The money could also be collected through donations and selling of branded merchandise for people to show their support. Since it would be an app semi-operated by the local government area, a percentage of state funds could also be driven towards the project.

The Afloat project would also have a support group. These staff would need to be full-time to properly attend Afloat. This ensures that any mishaps get cleaned up quickly.

Afloat’s whole plan revolves around the idea that homelessness can be eradicated if we put plans into action. However, the project should not be seen as something you can just set in stone with words and deeds. You need to see it as a war against homelessness, something involving people and their stories. Something more fluid than stone, which we need to stay afloat on...

Afloat helps people to stay afloat, simply put, and find their footing. It helps end stories happily. This. This is what I want to invent.