



**EMPIRE PARTNER
FOUNDATION**
BUILDING AFRICA THROUGH TECH



Hydro Solution hackathon

FAST FACTS

R100M OF TECH DEVELOPED

48 TOTAL DEVELOPERS

30 MINUTE SABC NEWS FEATURE

14 FEMALE DEVELOPERS

7 SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED

4 NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED

3 KEYNOTE SPEECHES

3 JOBS OFFERED

1 BURSARY PROVIDED

1 GOAL: BUILD AFRICA THROUGH TECH

The support continued with help of R.AI and The Good People Data Company. When society comes together to create impact for others is where the beauty lies.

This led to the creation of the Digital GCR (Gauteng City Region) – a mega-platform to make existing and new information available to the public in order to bring the people closer to the municipality. Our focus was placed on the Gauteng City Region based on the fact that it is the economic hub of South Africa. Our first hackathon (Smart City Hackathon) took place in November 2020 where we invited 40 young South African developer to come together and collaborate in order to develop solutions to address the challenges of urbanisation in the GCR.

The Year of 2021 began with; the Hackathon under role of the Empire Partner Foundation, which encourages participating students and start-ups to be innovative, encourage collaboration and create new design thinking supported by rai and the good people data company.

What were the motives behind this hackathon and challenge?

Given the following awareness around currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exists, whole use technologies not yet invented in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet".

The Empire Partner Foundation, being a local non-profit organization committed to harnessing innovative technology to solve African challenges by taking a bold approach.

This hackathon was the first of twelve-monthly hackathons that the Foundation has planned for 2021

The hackathon was a success, attracting the interest of a number of developers, private sector experts and public sector decision-makers. A total of 48 developers participated in the hackathon.

To supplement the developers' context around the problem statement, we had three keynote speakers attend from sector-related organizations. The first keynote was presented by Khathu Mashau, Director of U Move Farming. The second keynote was presented by Jay Bhagwan, Executive Manager of Water Use & Waste Management at the Water Research Commission.

The final keynote was presented by Pule Setai, Chief Director of Provincial & Local Government Infrastructure at National Treasury. A bonus keynote was presented by



The developers enjoyed a weekend filled with applying their skills and talent to propose smart solutions to advance impact, added bonus was having access to community leaders, mentors and making new friends.

A total of seven teams competed against each other, receiving mentoring from the head developers of The Good People Data Company – Sanele Langa, Thulani Langa and their CTO, Keamogetswe Mashao.

The judging panel saw some quality solutions, however there was a clear winner, team VidlyIT, who took the winning spot after presenting a well-researched, multi-tier solution workable solution. Their idea explored use of strategically placed IoT smart water meter sensors to assess, aggregated smart reports on the water quantity and quality in circulation. The team, comprised of well balanced thinkers, lead the Empire Partner Foundation has to commit to mentoring them with for 6-months to further develop team skills.

“This is one example of how the Empire Partner Foundation is uncovering potential, empowering the technology enthusiasts for impact” the Empire Partner Foundation.

We want to make a significant contribution to the future-innovations. Digitization can play an essential role in this. To this end, it is important to investigate how we can bridge the gap between authorities, governments and society in the fields of artificial Intelligence, blockchain and IoT.

The task is to connect these worlds, so that they can reinforce each other in the present and the future thinking. The use of technology can give a boost to this. The hackathon for good, allowed for a platform where data is used to work on innovative technological solutions for social upliftment.

We would like to thank all our sponsors, government, startups and of cos, the students. The team is gearing up to host our next hackathon in February. To learn more about the Empire Partner Foundation, visit www.empirepartnerfoundation.org or find us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

