

24-25TH APRIL
2021



**EMPIRE PARTNER
FOUNDATION**
BUILDING AFRICA THROUGH TECH



Digital Citizen

Education

Hackathon

SPONSORED BY



The Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) hosted its 6th hackathon from 24 to 25 April, at our offices in Illovo Sandton .

The Digital Citizen Education Hackathon focused on the challenges of the South African Education system.

The hackathon is focused on how we can close the digital divide by creating a digital platform for rural and economically disadvantaged students.

The use of technology in the education sphere has become vital, yet it is not being used because of the digital divide that exists.

Educators and learners have had to adapt rapidly to a situation in which they are not allowed in-person contact. Because of this, many learners, parents, and teachers have been navigating secure online platforms, class video calls, and shared laptops, tablets, and smartphones on an almost daily basis.

South Africa has one of the most unequal school systems in the world, with the widest gap between the test scores of the top 20% of schools and the rest. Children in the top 200 schools achieve more distinctions in math's than children in the next 6,600 schools combined.

More than three quarters of children aged 9 cannot read for meaning, in some provinces this is as high as 91% (Limpopo) and 85% (Eastern Cape). Of 100 learners that start school, from grade 1 only 60 will make it to matric. Of these 60 only 30 will pass matric. These 30 only 14 will go to university.



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FAST FACTS

- 6 HOSTED HACKATHONS
- 12 UPCOMING HACKATHONS
- 217 TOTAL DEVELOPERS
- SABC NEWS COVERAGE
- AFRICAN NEWS COVERAGE
- 26 SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED
- 10 NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED
- 33 KEYNOTE SPEECHES
- 3 PERMANENT JOBS
- 10 INTERN OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
- 3 BURSARIES PROVIDED
- 4 WINNING TEAMS WITHIN OUR INCUBATION HUB

BUILD AFRICA THROUGH TECH

We are looking at how we can we create a platform to assist rural and economically disadvantaged students in South Africa.

“South Africa is failing too many of its young people when it comes to education. Although it has made significant progress since the end of apartheid in widening access, this has not always translated into a quality education for all pupils.

The system continues to be dogged by stark inequalities and chronic underperformance that have deep roots in the legacy of apartheid, but which are also not being effectively tackled by the current government. The result is many schools with poor educational outcomes.” – Amnesty International.



28 developers were selected from a pool of 94 applicants to take part in a 2-day hackathon that included a powerhouse breakfast on arrival, met with a networking session. We hosted the hackathon in cosy and professional boardrooms at 35 Ferguson Road, Illovo Sandton.

The Digital Citizen Education Hackathon not only aims to empower young tech developers but also to create tech entrepreneurs, in an effort to create and design innovative solutions that will have a deeper impact in South Africa.

It was a tight race within an atmosphere of coding and unleashed creativity. Despite the pressure and time-constraint, each team kept their calm and could produce advanced solutions.

The winning team "The Committee " however, stood out among the rest with their innovative solution that focused on Early Childhood Development whereby the solution would aid students in speech, language, early skill development in a fun and interactive way for young learners who are starting their school career!

And all of this was ideated and designed in a brief span of two days

We would like to give a special thank-you to Itakane ICT for sponsoring the prize money, Prime Holdings for sponsoring the boardrooms, Sandman productions that filmed the hackathon, and all the EPF staff. Thank you!



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