

24-25TH APRIL
2021



**EMPIRE PARTNER
FOUNDATION**
BUILDING AFRICA THROUGH TECH



Digital Citizen

Informal housing

Hackathon

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FAST FACTS

The Empire Partner Foundation (EPF) hosted its 6th hackathon from 29 to 30 May, at our offices in Illovo Sandton .

The Digital Citizen Informal Housing Hackathon focused on the challenges within informal settlements in South Africa.

The hackathon is focused on how we can use digital technology to improve the lives of citizens living in informal communities.

Slightly over four-fifths (80,1%) of South African households lived in formal dwellings in 2017, followed by 13,6% in informal dwellings, and 5,5% in traditional dwellings. The highest percentage of households that lived in formal dwellings was observed in Limpopo at 91,7%, while the lowest was the Eastern Cape at 70,4%. Approximately one-fifth of households lived in informal dwellings in North West (19,9%) and Gauteng (19,8%).

With this alarming statistic in mind, we know that to solve the issue of providing affordable housing to disadvantaged South Africans cannot be solved over night. However we do know that there are tech solutions that can improve the lives of the citizens living in these informal settlements

- 7 HOSTED HACKATHONS
- 12 UPCOMING HACKATHONS
- 237 TOTAL DEVELOPERS
- SABC NEWS COVERAGE
- AFRICAN NEWS COVERAGE
- 30 SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED
- 10 NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED
- 36 KEYNOTE SPEECHES
- 3 PERMANENT JOBS
- 10 INTERN OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
- 3 BURSARIES PROVIDED
- 5 WINNING TEAMS WITHIN OUR INCUBATION HUB

BUILD AFRICA THROUGH TECH

How can Digital Technology Help Improve Life in Informal Settlements ?

Digital technology will play a critical role in fuelling innovation responsive to the needs of those living in informal settlements.

By leveraging digital technology and partnering with the mobile industry, cities and innovators can unlock innovative business models that have the capacity to make basic services more affordable and more reliable in informal settlements.



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40 developers were selected from a pool of 115 applicants to take part in a 2-day hackathon that included a powerhouse breakfast on arrival, met with a networking session. However due to transportation issues only 20 developers were able to make it to the hackathon.

This did not stop the hackathon from proceeding, instead we continued to host the hackathon in our mission to help improve the lives of every citizen in South Africa. We hosted the hackathon in cosy and professional boardrooms at 35 Ferguson Road, Illovo Sandton.

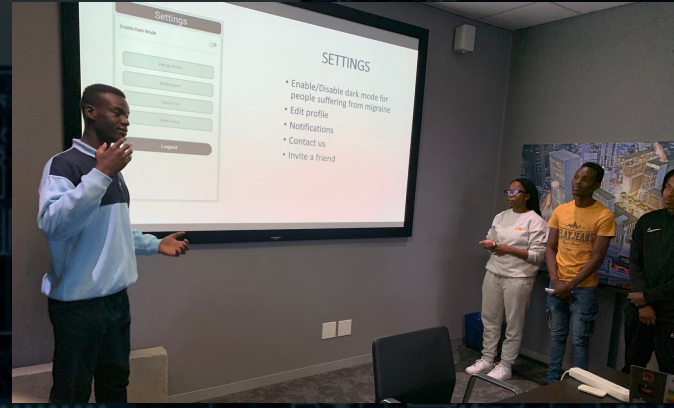
The Digital Citizen Informal Housing Hackathon not only aims to empower young tech developers but also to create tech entrepreneurs, in an effort to create and design innovative solutions that will have a deeper impact in South Africa.

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 Legends " 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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ASHANTI
DATA SCIENCE SPECIALIST

