EPF TECH HUB

TBF AGRICULTURE HACKATHON

EMPIRE PARTNER FOUNDATION
THE HUB OF TECH AND CREATIVE ARTS

Sponsored by :

EPF TECH FUND

Date:
26-27 February 2022

Venue:

Physical: Thulamela Main Library, Vhembe, Limpopo.
Virtual: Discord

THULAMELA BUSINESS FORUM

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1ST PLACE : MAKWARELA CAMPUS 123

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Onndwela Luvhimbi Khathutshelo
Maxa Governor
Murendeni Musie
Tshanduko Walter Madida

Tondani Mamphiswana
Rudzani Mushathama
Khondani Khaphathe
Mutondi Ramukhuba

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2ND PLACE : CYBER TECHIES

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Mavhungu Mukwevho
Kwinda Vhuthu
Rakwambo Edzani
Munyamela Thendo

Mmboneni Carol
Mutula Madzanga Kimberly
Mei Farover
Matodzi Arehone

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3RD PLACE : TECHSOL

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Heritier Kaumbu
Caleb Lukombe
Guedaly Miteo
Ibrahim Lukombe

Lanrewaju Fajimi
Philiswa Mkhuzo
Kenan Kasongo
Israel Butalele

Empire Partner Foundation

- **Hybrid Hackathon hosted on 26th to 27th February 2022** in partnership with **Thulamela Business Forum** in **Vhembe, Limpopo.**

- **Thulamela Business Forum (TBF)** is a non-profit business forum that aims to meet the needs of businesses in the region.

- The hackathon physical event took place in **Vhembe, Limpopo,** and virtual participation was managed by EPF at their **head offices at 35 Ferguson Rd, Illovo, Sandton.**

- **100+ young digital innovators** in programming, marketing, finance and business were selected from a pool of over 200 applicants.

- **Hackathon Theme:** How can we help farmers become **smart farmers** using tech for their **produce tracing and route to market?**

FAST FACTS

- 15 HOSTED HACKATHONS

- 9 UPCOMING HACKATHONS IN 2022

- 800+ TOTAL DIGITAL INNOVATORS

- ITWEB NEWS COVERAGE

- 117 SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED

- 17 NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED

- 46 KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- 16 INTERN OPPORTUNITIES CREATED

- 10 BURSARIES PROVIDED

- 15 WINNING TEAMS WITHIN OUR INCUBATION

- **Context:** According to **Crop Tracker**, "Detailed farm **record keeping** is crucial when making important business or planning decisions for your operation. Keeping records of farming activities is not only **poor business practice**, but it is also **illegal.** For farms, records must be kept about expenses, labour, chemicals, pesticides, harvests and yields, plantings, shippings, and FSMA and **GAP compliance**. In order to practice safe farming, it is essential to be able to look back and see the full history of the product, from planting to shipping. A well-organized record will greatly simplify this process and make auditing season much simpler."

- **Jasmine Mokwena, EPF's Marketing & Hackathon Coordinator says.** "Agriculture is **one of the 10 public sector issues** that Empire Partner Foundation has mandated itself to solve through technology. EPF partnered with TBF to address the challenges that **South African small to medium-scale farmers** face in tracing their produce from farm en route to market, to **generate income and support their families**. This was EPF's **first offsite hackathon** for the team, which proved to be a success. EPF is thrilled to have the opportunity in effecting change in Limpopo and for a Limpopo team to have **taken the cup** in their **home ground**, was a bonus."

- **Ntsieni Mbulungeni, Chairperson of TBF, says:** "This hackathon will build the foundation to give the **youth the experience and confidence in using the technology to bring solutions** that are relevant to **improve** the **local economy** and scale these solutions to other relevant markets". "New digital capabilities offer us a unique and immediate opportunity to **transform food systems** and **accelerate impact towards zero hunger.** The new focus group will significantly contribute towards these efforts, bringing together AI [artificial intelligence] and IOT [internet of things] as key enablers behind new capabilities for **digital agriculture**."

- Team **"Makwarela Campus 123"** won the hackathon. Their solution is a mobile app called, **SMART FARMING,** making it easy to monitor a plant's growth, development, and distribution. In this way, farmers can stay informed about climate change, current market trends, and demand.

- **Tony Mamphiswana, Makwarela Campus 123's Team Leader** says: 'We honestly didn't expect to take first place, but we had faith and hopes in our solution. We had gathered enough information and put all our efforts to develop an efficient tech solution."

EPF TECH HUB

- **Special thanks to:**
- **EPF Tech Fund** for sponsoring the Agriculture Hackathon.
- **ITWeb** for covering our hackathon story.
- **Thulamela Business Forum** for initiating the partnership.
- **Youth Evolve** & **Azanian Vision Foundation** for coordinating the physical event.
- **MLAB,** the **Limpopo Government,** the **Thulamela Municipality, SEDA, NYDA,** the **Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), TLIU, CSIR, Agri Trade Hub, University of Limpopo, University of Venda, Vhembe TVET College** and **Madzivhandila College of Agriculture** for the support.

2022/03/02

PROUD SUPPORTERS