



EMPIRE PARTNER
FOUNDATION

THE HUB OF TECH AND CREATIVE ARTS

ENERGY HACKATHON

23-24 April 2022

Sponsored by:

EPF TECH FUND



Winning Team: Juvinae Tech

Top Row: Sibonginkosi Mazibuko, Letlhogonolo Koikoi, Nozipho Mthembu

Bottom Row: Emmanuel Nsanga, Lundiphile Matomela, Sharon Mathabathe

Empire Partner Foundation



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FAST FACTS

- EPF's 17th hackathon, hosted on the 23rd to 24th of April 2022, virtually on Discord digital platform and physically at our headquarters at 35 Ferguson Road, Illovo, Sandton.
- Hackathon focus: How can we use technology to create an integrated CSI platform with listings of IPP's and renewable energy companies?
- Context: According to an article from Azom, "The most significant and well-known obstacle to renewable energy adoption right now is the costs associated with building and installing facilities like solar or wind farms. As with most renewable sources of energy, solar and wind are quite cheap to operate, with their 'fuel' being free and maintenance being minimal."

<https://www.azom.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=18220>



- 17 HOSTED HACKATHONS
- 7 UPCOMING HACKATHONS IN 2022
- 900+ TOTAL DIGITAL INNOVATORS
- ITWEB NEWS COVERAGE
- 145 SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED
- 17 NEW PARTNERSHIPS SECURED
- 48 KEYNOTE SPEECHES
- 16 INTERN OPPORTUNITIES CREATED
- 10 BURSARIES PROVIDED
- 18 WINNING TEAMS WITHIN OUR INCUBATION HUB
- OVER HALF A MILLION RAND IN CASH PRIZES AWARDED

EPF then hosted an Energy Hackathon to address this challenge.

Jasmine Mokwena, EPF's Hackathon Event Coordinator says, "Energy is one of the 10 challenges EPF focuses on. The EPF Hackathons serve as a great opportunity for youth to collaborate intensively with each other, & discover their potential to use their skills in contributing to the economy of South Africa."



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100+ young digital innovators in programming, business, finance and marketing from across South Africa were selected to join the 9th hybrid hackathon.

The winning team, Juvinae Tech, awarded R8000 cash prize, now join the EPF Incubation Hub, where they will get support to become technopreneurs. Their solution is a business networking platform, called Juvinae Smart Energy, for IPP's, renewable energy companies & investors, that allows all parties to engage in promoting & initiating renewable energy & recycling projects.



Their team leader, Lethogonolo Koikoi, says, "Our success is purely based on team work, consistency and a good understanding of the professional nature required from us in order to get the work done. If any young digital innovator or group of innovators understand these 3 principles that lead us to our success, then their success is merely around the corner."



Second Place team, Binary Volts, came very close. They had a brilliant concept and great determination & potential that entered them into the Incubation Hub. Their solution, called Archangel, is a digital platform with a payment gateway/processor that supports all the major currencies including cryptocurrencies and allows funders to easily find and learn about IPP's as well as fund specific projects.

The team leader, Thuto Serapelo, when asked about his outstanding leadership skills, says 'The leadership style that I used was a combination of pacesetting and coaching inspired by a lot of the Silicon Valley technology founders I have studied, which involves leading from the front or by example I knew if they saw how hard I was working they would be motivated to work as hard too, setting high standards and coaching or encouraging everyone to strive to do their best work.'



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Jacqueline Govender, Co-Founder of Skills Blackboard (www.skillsblackboard.io), says “Skills Blackboard has partnered with EPF to address unemployment & the frustration that graduates face in finding relevant opportunities to internships/learnerships/WBL to upskill themselves. South Africa has no national skills database that offers a locally developed, data science enabled skills platform, which Skills Blackboard provides. We aim to improve the candidates access and visibility of viable opportunities by providing employers with the best suitable candidates by matching CV’s with job specifications using natural language processing models. We are turning to Higher Education Institutes to assist us so we can collectively play our part in helping to address this societal challenge. Skills Blackboard has placed 30 graduates in the first week of launch.”

Upcoming Hackathons

7 more monthly hybrid hackathons to be hosted in 2022 by Empire Partner Foundation. The next hybrid hackathon theme is the Great Kei Unemployment Hackathon on 7-8 May 2022, and the Small Business Development Hackathon and the 28-29 May 2022

Special thanks to:

- EPF Tech Fund for sponsoring the Hackathon
- ITWeb for covering our Hackathon story
- The keynote speaker: Hashveer Singh CA(SA) (Veers Group, Founder)
- The judges: Tshepo Molelekwa (Molakes Solar Group, Founder & CEO), Comfort Tlaka (Molakes Solar Group, Senior Technical Lead), Mary Angai (Molakes Solar Group, Director & Graphic Designer) & Devakshan Naicker (EPF, Electronics Engineer)
- Veers Group, Molakes Solar Group, Nala, Skills Blackboard
- Team Mentors from Skywalk Innovations & Itakane ICT
- Universities that EPF have partnered with in sourcing participants: WeThink-Code, Durban University of Technology (DUT) and the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal (UKZN)

PROUD SUPPORTERS

