



# AB4IR NEWS

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**TECHNOLOGY - INNOVATION - INCUBATION**



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# | Everything AB4IR

## CEO's Message



I am thrilled to be sharing with you the May newsletter, a month that we celebrated Africa month as an African continent. We celebrated Africa that is rich with minerals and dynamic possibilities, May also serves as an indication that we are progressively getting to the middle of the year and I am trusting that there has been some great progress and success in your businesses and personal life. Challenges are always part of the game, bear in mind that you still have six months to adjust, redirect all your efforts to ensure that you finish the year strong. In the month of May we managed to commence with recruitment of youth who are TVET students towards the Digital Pro Campus

course, this is being done in partnership with Digify Africa, the course is aimed at assisting the youth to make a better living in the digital space.

The introduction of our entrepreneurs to our business incubation programme in the gaming, virtual reality and animation sectors to our facility paved a way for the entrepreneurs who will be part of our family for period of 24 months. We wish all our entrepreneurs a wonderful journey ahead and successful businesses at the time of graduating from the incubator.

June is full of many activities, we cannot wait to host the inaugural Digital Youth Festival (DYF) and all hands are on deck and gearing up to kickstart the festival in Gauteng on 10 -11 June 2021 in our Mabopane facility, Tshwane South TVET College Odi Campus, after that the festival will be taken to two provinces, one being Limpopo, Vhembe TVET College on 17-18 June 2021 and Nelson Mandela Bay iHUB, Port

Elizabeth on 24-25 June 2021. We invite all interested partners to join hands with us as we upskill and expose the youth to the digital economy to enable them to be innovators and participate in the digital economy and we also call upon the township youth entrepreneurs to join this digital movement and walk away with key nuggets and tools that will help them to digitize their businesses and improve their future.

Connect with us on our social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram) for the latest news and updates on gaming, animation and virtual reality or contact us for more information and assistance on how you can be part of our community on +27 12 023 1761 and email: [admin@ab4ir.org](mailto:admin@ab4ir.org) and our website <https://ab4ir.org/>, we always want to hear from you.

On behalf of AB4IR team, I thank you for being part of our digital creative community. As President Cyril Ramaphosa have taken us back to level 2 Covid restriction due to 3<sup>rd</sup> wave as a country, remember to take care of yourselves and your loved ones during this period.

On that note I officially welcome you to Youth Month.....the future is digital!!!

## **Digital Youth Festival – To Take The Digital Future To SA's Youth**

The digital world evolves daily and staying relevant is critical to avoid being left behind. South African youth are faced with many challenges ranging from unemployment, lack of access to ICT resources to ability to participate in the digital economy. It is apparent that a lot still need to be done to ensure that the youth are provided with opportunities that will shape their future. In celebration of youth month, AB4IR, the digital innovation Hub based at the Tshwane South TVET College in Mabopane will be hosting their inaugural of Digital Youth Festival in June 2021. The festival will be hosted in three provinces in partnership with Vhembe TVET College, Makwarela Campus and Nelson Mandela Bay iHUB.

The objectives of the festival are to promote innovation and entrepreneurship amongst the youth, expose them to the digital economy, encourage them to be innovators and participate in technological revolution while embracing the fourth industrial revolution.

The festival will be launched on 10 June 2021 at the AB4IR premises in the Tshwane South TVET College, Odi Campus in Mabopane, Tshwane. Thereafter the festival will be taken to two other provinces namely Limpopo at Vhembe TVET College, Makwarela Campus on 17-18 June 2021 and Eastern Cape at Nelson Mandela Bay iHUB (Port Elizabeth) on 24-25 June 2021. Subsequent plan is to host the festival in all provinces during youth month. The festival is open to youth at no cost and will have the following element:

- Exhibitions
- Masterclasses
- Speakers representing various technical fields in the digital creative space
- The Pitching Den
- Showcasing/demonstration of various technologies
- Live entertainment and refreshments
- E-Sport tournament: section in the venue will entail several games ranging from Artificial Intelligence games, video games and board games.
- Chill zone and networking session

“As we empower the youth in the areas of technology, innovation, and business incubation, we understand how technology is a part of our daily lives and the fourth industrial revolution is upon us all. Our priority is to develop the youth and make sure that we empower them with future skills to take up space and ensure that they are included in the digital economy. We encourage them to come up with innovative ideas that will change their lives for the better. We are calling upon government and private sectors to partner with us as we empower the youth and grow South Africa together.” - **said Ms Kelebogile Molopyane, CEO, AB4IR.**

For more information on the festival and how to be a sponsor on all provinces kindly contact Ms Molebogeng Zondo on [info@dyf.co.za](mailto:info@dyf.co.za) or contact the below persons for the respective provinces, and visit our website on [www.dyf.co.za](http://www.dyf.co.za):

- For Tshwane kindly contact Ms Ingrid Mhlophe on [ingridm@ab4ir.org](mailto:ingridm@ab4ir.org)
- For Vhembe TVET College, Makwarela Campus kindly contact Ms Mususumeli Nwaila on [nwaila.mg@vhembecollege.edu.za](mailto:nwaila.mg@vhembecollege.edu.za)
- For Nelson Mandela Bay iHUB kindly contact Ms Sivuyo Ngcwangu on [sivuyon@nmbihub.co.za](mailto:sivuyon@nmbihub.co.za)

## AB4IR Induct Its Second Cohort



As part of its mandate, which is to provide support to entrepreneurs and enable them to upscale their businesses, AB4IR hosted an induction session for the latest addition of 6 incubatees in the gaming, animation and virtual reality on Friday, 14 May 2021. The session was hosted through a virtual platform to enable all entrepreneurs and those who were not able to attend in person to attend the session. Entrepreneurs were welcomed by AB4IR's Business Development Manager, Ms Ingrid Mhlophe with the support of the team. Incubatees were taken through AB4IR service offerings, sharing activities undertaken by AB4IR and the plans going forward. All incubatees were given an opportunity to introduce themselves, outline their expectations and the business support they require to enable them to upscale their businesses and be able to compete in the global economy. After the induction, entrepreneurs were provided with an opportunity to do the walk about of the facility to enable the start-ups to have the real-life experience of the facility and what the centre can offer to entrepreneurs in the digital creative industry. Overall, the event was well received by the entrepreneurs, and the starts-ups are looking forward to being part of the digital facility.

## Meet Our Start-ups

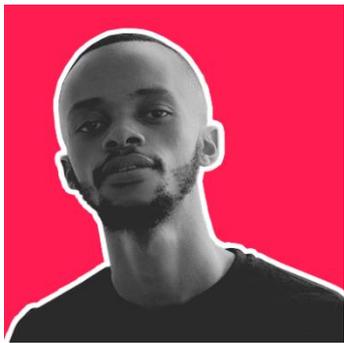


Bafana Makalima



### **Makalima Futuristics (Pty) Ltd T/A iPhiko UAV**

An unmanned aerial vehicle institute which was founded to research, develop and manufacture drone infrastructure for various solutions with express focus on medical deliveries.



Teboho Moreki



### **Busymoon Productions (Pty) Ltd**

An animation studio specializing in producing animated content for distribution purposes and as a service to clients.



Tshepo Molete



### **Infinit Shots (Pty) Ltd**

A boutique studio specializing in drone footage for the commercial and lifestyle industries.



Letlhogonolo Mokoena



**Mapula Designs (Pty) Ltd**

Developed Peacee which is a digital communication platform that allows bereaved families to share information of deceased funeral arrangements with family and other funeral attendees on a single platform.



Sipiwe Mashigo



**Bokgoni M Holdings (Pty) Ltd**

Entertainment business focusing on events providing videography, photography, and sound to clients as a service.



Kau Moropa



**Skinny Boy Technologies (Pty) Ltd**

A game development studio that develops PC, mobile and console games while also creating 2D and 3D animated content for clients.



Tinny Mahlope



**KuhleKonke Recruiting Solutions (Pty) Ltd**

A zero-rated mobile application aimed at assisting job seekers with developing/upgrading CV's, easy access to vacancies and receiving interview tips.



Letlile Makwela



**LLVM Group (Pty) Ltd**

An online mall that serves as a shopping platform consisting of various retail stores on one platform for ease of online shopping and checking out at once for delivery or collection at a convenient place.

# | Technology

## Canon Student Development Programme



Applications for the Canon Student Development Programme 2021 are open. 250 students will have the exclusive opportunity to have their portfolio reviewed by inspirational industry leaders and receive advice on how to advance their careers. Submit your portfolio now for a chance to take your first step into the pro world. Closing date for applications is the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

For your chance to take part in the Canon Student Development Programme, submit a digital portfolio with a maximum of two stories and include up to twenty fully captioned\* images, with an accompanying synopsis or description.

Applicants will need to include details of their school, institute, university or internship with magazines and agencies. Alongside this, we will require a short photographer's bio and if possible, a letter of presentation from your teacher, professor, editor or employer.

\*Image captions must be shared in a separate document.

### **Source:**

<https://www.canon.co.za/student-development-programme/>

# | Gaming

## SA Pro Players Share Tips On How To Maintain Good Gaming And Life Balance.



Many casual gamers have dreams to take their passion to the competitive realm, and often, gamers do this by gaming from sunrise to sunset.

But competitive gamers do not recommend this and says its crucial to maintaining a good balance between gaming and life.

South Africa's top competitive gamers from Goliath Gaming shared valuable tips to maintaining a good gaming and life balance.

Competitive Counter Strike player and CS team captain for Goliath Gaming, Ruan 'ELUSIVE' van Wyk, says it is important to establish a healthy routine.

"Make sure you get enough sleep; eat healthily and roughly at the same time each day; and try to do some form of physical exercise (even if it's just stretching or star jumps to get your heart pumping) daily."

Van Wyk added that gamers should practice with the intent of improving. "Evaluate yourself and your mental state each month and try to improve in areas you're falling short in. This will ensure you stay effective, motivated and balanced in your gaming and in life in general."

### **Source:**

<https://www.iol.co.za/technology/gaming/sa-pro-players-share-tips-on-how-to-maintain-good-gaming-and-life-balance-4c50755c-5374-474c-a10a-5da724c35657>

# | Around Africa

## South Africa's 'Silicon Valley' Has Over 450 Tech Firms And Employs More Than 40,000 People.



Cape Town has been ranked one of the world's fastest-growing regions for foreign direct investment, according to a report from fDi Intelligence, a data division of the Financial Times group.

The ranking also awarded South Africa first place in Africa for economic potential, start-up status and business friendliness.

In addition to receiving the largest number of foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in the software and IT services sector, South Africa also recorded the second-highest number of start-ups, after Nigeria.

Cape Town was awarded second place after Cairo for FDI strategy after displaying impressive initiative in creating the necessary infrastructure for a thriving tech ecosystem.

**Source:** <https://businesstech-co-za.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/businesstech.co.za/news/technology/489253/south-africas-silicon-valley-has-over-450-tech-firms-and-employs-more-than-40000-people/amp/>

## Young Man From Soshanguve Set To Launch His Own Laptop



Mahlangu said he was "still waiting for approval" for licensing from the Independent Communication Authority of SA, having "applied for it about two months ago."

when we think of computers our mind automatically jumps to big-name brands such as HP, Lenovo and Apple. But aspiring entrepreneur Mpumelelo Mahlangu is aiming to change this perception and show South Africans that local is lekker.

Mpumelelo recently founded and is about to launch the first-ever entry-level South African laptop Dot Connect. It's the first laptop to be launched by a black South African Township-based company and entrepreneur and competes with a wide range of budget entry-level laptops such as ASUS, ILIFE and Connex.

Mahlangu left matric knowing fully well that university was not his destiny yet after completing his matric he went onto Tshwane North and eventually Unisa to which he eventually dropped out to start his reptile rescue company and now Dot Connect Electronics, which has allowed him to create his first laptop.

Dot Connect was born during the COVID-19 pandemic began and South Africa went on lockdown. With movements restricted and many people working and learning from home, Mahlangu saw a gap in the market and came up with a solution to create his own entry-level laptop, a product for all consumers to afford.

"My inspiration came when I realised that with schools closing and thinking back to how I struggled to get through varsity without having my own laptop and having to depend on Cafés and computer labs. A lot of students like myself are going to struggle even harder with now the school setting being changed," Mahlangu said.



Pre order yours now: <https://dot-connect-electronics-pty-ltd.myshopify.com/>

Source: [https://www.techfinancials.co.za/2021/05/13/young-man-from-soshanguve-set-to-launch-his-own-laptop/?fbclid=IwAR1pfVpVKirJgC6q3cW0IL\\_jiOqjAkuNKcQjAi2o1NS9ObARte221NPnx5M](https://www.techfinancials.co.za/2021/05/13/young-man-from-soshanguve-set-to-launch-his-own-laptop/?fbclid=IwAR1pfVpVKirJgC6q3cW0IL_jiOqjAkuNKcQjAi2o1NS9ObARte221NPnx5M)

## **Government Wants South Africa To Build Its Own Phones And Other Tech Products.**



Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams says that sourcing of locally manufactured products remains a key priority focus.

Presenting her annual budget speech on Tuesday (18 May), Ndabeni-Abrahams said that her department, together with industry, has now identified several products that can be locally produced.

These include:

- Phones and accessories.
- Manufacturing of components for infrastructure / 5G network expansion.
- Sensors and telematics – which includes lidar.
- Smart metres for water and electricity and other tracking applications; and
- Satellites and drone components.

“As part of the implementation of these programmes, the department is working with the department of trade, industry, and competition to facilitate the establishment and operationalisation of an ICT Special Economic Zone (SEZ),” Ndabeni-Abrahams said.

“To date, a suitable land has been identified where this SEZ will be situated. The two departments are working towards the digital products I mentioned for local manufacturing, with government procurement capacity being utilised as a lever to enable the sector.”

The Minister said that the technology sector was seen as a key factor in helping South Africa's post-covid-19 recovery and as a job creator.

She added that her department has now finalised a 'digital economy master plan' and is currently engaging various stakeholders in the development of the implementation plan.

**Source:**

[https://businesstech.co-  
za.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/businesstech.co.za/news/technology/491559/goverme  
nt-wants-south-africa-to-build-its-own-phones-and-other-tech-products/amp/](https://businesstech.co.za.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/businesstech.co.za/news/technology/491559/government-wants-south-africa-to-build-its-own-phones-and-other-tech-products/amp/)

## | News around the world

### **Amazon Announces 10,000 UK Jobs And £10 Million Training Investment.**

The creation of new permanent roles nationwide will boost the economy and bring Amazon's total workforce to over 55,000 in 2021.



Amazon has announced that it will create more than 10,000 new permanent jobs in 2021, taking its total UK workforce to more than 55,000 people by the end of the year. In addition to this, Amazon will invest £10 million over three years to train up to 5,000 employees in new skills and support the government's investment programme.

The training will be offered through Amazon's Career Choice programme, which covers the course fees for Amazon employees interested in pursuing a future career outside of the company – an initiative that will grow the skills and employability of British workers.

Amazon is also partnering with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and local businesses to identify regional skills shortages and focus training on local demand – this will help meet the UK's future employment needs outside of Amazon while strengthening the economy.

## Amazon's Career Choice programme

Amazon employees have great opportunities to progress their careers, whether through improving existing skills or promotion into a managerial role.

For those who see their future outside of Amazon, the Career Choice programme offers funding for adult education, pre-paying 95% of tuition and associated fees for nationally recognised courses up to £8,000 over four years. Courses available range from accountancy to HGV drivers and software developers and are designed to help employees pursue careers beyond Amazon if they wish to do so.

Accredited Chambers of Commerce will have the chance to work with Amazon to identify and combat regional skills shortages. We will offer classroom-based learning through Career Choice and explore opportunities with the Accredited Chamber of Commerce network to provide practical work experience and mentoring in employees' chosen future professions.

**Source:** <https://blog.aboutamazon.co.uk/jobs-and-investment/amazon-announces-10-000-uk-jobs-and-10-million-training-investment>

## | Upcoming Events



## | Our Partners

