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innobiz DUT Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Newsletter



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INSPIRE
INNOVATE
CREATE

Opening Notes



It gives me great pleasure to present our second news letter for the year 2022 .

In the last quarter, the Centre focused greatly on the successful hosting of the inaugural hackathon. The favourable outcome of the first one lead to the execution of two more, all of which you will read about in this issue.

Ofcourse, I have to give credits to the leadership of Prof

Moyo, Prof Motaung and the incredible team responsible for this accomplishment. This achievement not only demonstrate and further highlights the need for the work that we do, but also gives recognition to the alignment of the Centre with the institutions ENVISION2030 strategic goal.

I look forward to the next quater as we equip our student entrepreneurs

with even more skills and knowledge to be successful in the entrepreneurial world and to ensure that they build sustainable businesses. Remember, whether you think you can or you can't - you are right.

***innobiz DUT
Senior Manager:
Ms Nontokozo G Ngcobo***

innobiz DUT hosts its first hackathon for the 2022 business incubation programme.



The innobiz DUT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation hosted a three-day hackathon programme for entrepreneurs in the 2022 business incubation intake, students from all Durban University of Technology (DUT) campuses arrived on Thursday the 21st of April for day one of the programme. The hackathon is a collection of workshops, mentorship and industry specific training that have been specifically curated as an induction for participating entrepreneurs, to assist with their innovative and high impact business ideas.

The training was attended by the Deputy-Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement (DVC:RIE) Professor Sibusiso Moyo, Technology, Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Director Professor Keolebogile Motaung and DUT procurement,

Director Ms. Nonhlanhla Gumbi. Professor Motaung welcomed students to the hackathon and congratulated them for making it to the final selection, ***“you have been selected out of 400 students as the best and with the most innovative ideas, you are special, make this opportunity count”***. innobiz DUT Midlands Manager Miss Nontokozi Ngcobo explained the Centre’s core offering, the incubation programme and what the hackathon will entail. Moreover, she encouraged student to take advantage of this opportunity and use it to propel their businesses to success.

Ngcobo credited the innobiz DUT team for their dedication in preparing for the hackathon and further shared words of encouragement to all student who took part in the training. ***“Take***

this opportunity seriously, the Centre is responsible for many successful small businesses that were initiated, groomed and accelerated by the Centre. These students started with just an idea and through expert training, and industry specific workshops the Centre has built them into successful entrepreneurs.” Ngcobo also added that the Centre does not only provide business support but also industry linkages and access to market.

When speaking on behalf of the DUT procurement office, Nonhlanhla Gumbi procurement director commended the students for taking the time to participate in this impactful programme and seeking alternative streams of income through entrepreneurship. “It’s so interesting to see the youth interested in entrepreneurship, creating a legacy for the next generation and contributing to the country’s economy. You could have done a lot of other things with your time, but you decided to be here, and I can assure you that you will not regret it” she added. Moreover, she encouraged students to think globally and look for opportunities beyond our borders.

Gumbi closed with an applause from the students in confirming that for the first time the institution will be working with students as suppliers through the innobiz DUT and encouraged students to approach

the Centre for assistance. Day 2 of the hackathon was joined by DVC:RIE Professor Sibusiso Moyo who addressed the students on the importance of entrepreneurship and its contribution to the economy and sustainable development goals. She encouraged students to develop innovative ideas that will contribute to the country's socio-economic issues, by solving long-standing problems in society or bring about convenience.

She also spoke on the importance of protecting those ideas and sharing them with only selected and qualified business advisors. Guest speaker Dr Hajira Mashego who is the founder of Fitness Junction Gym also engaged with students encouraging them to always be on the fore front of opportunities and to capitalize on chances to make money. She further advised entrepreneurs to find niche areas, to look for gaps in the industry and offer a unique value proposition that makes them distinct to the community they operate in. ***"There are many gyms in South Africa, but my niche was specifically offering this service in townships areas where most high profiles gyms are reluctant to go due to crime and other social issue, not only that but also offering an affordable service that our target can afford and that is what differentiates us from the rest".***

Dr Mashego encouraged entrepreneurs to find time to let loose and have fun, especially because the industry is very demanding and stressful. Diva Mobedi founder of Fashion by Lelaah and an alumni of the Centre shared a testimonial of her experience as an incubatee and how it helped propel her business to success. She encouraged students to be resilient, dedicated and to be each other's support system. ***"The***

Centre is here to help turn your ideas into a reality, but you must work hard and help each other along the way. It's not going to be easy, please be determined, don't stop believing and don't let failure stop you because we need you, the world needs entrepreneurs."

The student representative also formed part of the hackathon speakers to help inspire and motivate entrepreneurship at DUT. Zama Mncube the newly appointed DUT convocation president commended the Centre for the highly impactful programme and advised students that this is an opportunity to learn and grow as much as they can. ***"We want to appreciate the efforts of the Centre in inspiring entrepreneurship, and we also want to encourage students to capitalize on this opportunity as very few universities offer this service to their students."***

This was concurred by the current SRC president Sibusiso Gumede who also applauded the Centre for their role and contribution to innovation and entrepreneurship within the institution. Some of the information packed workshops and trainings that formed part of the hackathon were smart agriculture, design thinking, lean canvas model, prototyping and many more. The students were given an opportunity to present their business ideas to a panel of judges for deliberation, shortlisted business will form part of the 2022 business incubation programme.

Professor Motaung encouraged entrepreneurs to work hard and to always protect their ideas. ***"Hardwork and dedication are important. I look forward to your project and I wish you all the best."*** Mr Sikho Msomi also joined the speaker panel, he introduced students to the concept of hacking and prototyping. Msomi began with

explaining the hacking concept and familiarised student with the hackathon concept. He explained that it has less to do with the technological definition but more of leaning towards hacking, unpacking, learning and mastering the skill of entrepreneurship.

Msomi encouraged students to network and participate as there is a lot they can learn from the mentors and from each other. ***"We have created channels for engagement that will allow all entrepreneurs to engage with the business support team available, please utilize it and get as much information and support as you need."*** He continued, ***"prototyping is about learning and building, if you fail, you start again until you get it right, there are many tools and material available for utilization for designing prototyping, familiarize yourself with all these platforms"***.

Later in the evening, Professor Motaung facilitated a design thinking workshop aimed at inspiring creativity and innovation.

The workshop focused on identifying business opportunities and doing feasibility studies to determine the likelihood of the business succeeding. Day 2 of the hackathon started off with a continuation of the design thinking workshop facilitated by Mr Thobani Banda.

Dr Mashego further encouraged students to identify issues in their community as an inspiration for idea generation and find solutions that they can commercialize. ***"A good business is a business that solves a problem, when developing an idea ask yourself, why do people need this idea?"*** she added. ***"Passion is what keeps you in the business when things are tough, you should genuinely care for your business and the problem it solves if you want it to succeed"***.

innobiz DUT hosts hackathon for DUT student entrepreneurs.



The innobiz DUT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation hosted its second 3-day hackathon for the remainder of students shortlisted for the 2022 business incubation programme. The programme was held on the 6th of May 2022 and was attended by student entrepreneurs from all Durban University of Technology campuses.

The programme directed by innobiz business advisor Ms. Thabile Ndaba commenced with welcome remarks from the Durban University of Technology (DUT) Technology, Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Director Professor Keolebogile Motaung. In her speech she aligned the programme with the DUT strategy map, emphasizing

its contribution to creating innovative, entrepreneurial, and adaptive graduates. She further highlighted the importance of innovative entrepreneurship in the country, its contribution to sustainable development goals such as economic growth, zero hunger and zero poverty. ***“The innobiz DUT (office) is here to help you build businesses that are innovative and sustainable. Businesses that are not only for profit but also address socio-economic issues within the country and the region. As per the DUT values, our people will be creative, innovative and entrepreneurial”.***

innobiz DUT Centre Manager Ms. Nontokozi Ngcobo

welcomed students to the programme and explained the business of the day; she outlined the service flow of the innobiz DUT and the purpose of the hackathon programme. Ngcobo further encouraged students to utilise this opportunity, the mentors made available to them and the business support team to assist them in polishing their ideas.

Mr. Sikho Msomi, innobiz DUT Systems and Processes Officer also delivered a brief workshop on digital platforms that are crucial

for every entrepreneur to have and other tools that bring about convenience for all small businesses. The 3-day programme also included workshops such as Design Thinking, Lean Canvas Model, prototype building, idea generation, financial literacy amongst other critical entrepreneurial workshops for student entrepreneurs.

Day 2 included testimonials from DUT alumni and post incubation students who shared their entrepreneurial journey with the students

for motivation and encouragement. Ms. Ntobeko Mafu, founder of Madame clucks a lot and DUT alumni shared her testimonial as a product of the Centre, explaining why she decided to embark on her entrepreneurial journey, and why other people should consider it. ***“My ‘why’ is the wish to break the poverty chain in my family and to be able to take care of my son, that is why I have been consistent. If you do not have a clear ‘why’ you will get lost along the way, the only way to make it through is to be motivated and***

determined.”. Mafu encouraged students to interact and network with each other, build sustainable relationships, and sell their business to the right people.

Students worked tirelessly throughout the night putting together their business idea presentations that were submitted to a panel of judges for careful deliberation. Successful students will be shortlisted for the 2022 incubation programme.

INSPIRE
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CREATE

Innobiz hosts 3rd hackathon for students interested in entrepreneurship.



The innobiz DUT Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation hosted its third hackathon on Friday the 3rd of June; the hackathon was attended by over 50 student entrepreneurs from all DUT campuses.

While maintaining the same aim as the previous two hackathons, the third hackathon was a one-day programme facilitated by the Centre business support team. The students were trained on various business skills that included idea generation, where students had to identify an existing business and propose a solution that can be turned into a profitable business. It also included the lean canvas model, a tool that assists students in determining the feasibility of business ideas. The programme commenced with an outline of the

Centre's incubation programme by Business support coordinator Thobani Thusi, who encouraged student to fully invest their time and effort to this programme to realize its impact.

Another section of the programme included a pitch training, where students were taught on how to sell their businesses to potential sponsors. Selected students will be admitted into the business incubation programme that will assist provide students with services such as industry specific training, mentorship, access to market, linkages with industry connections, compliance, and seed funding. Centre Manager Nontokozo Ngcobo also addressed students where she commended students for considering entrepreneurship and attending the programme to

assist them with their business ideas. Ngcobo encouraged students to look beyond just the funding aspect of the programme but focus on the valuable information they will receive that will propel their businesses to success. ***"The content you will receive from the business incubation programme is more valuable than any amount of money, if you dedicate yourself enough and be committed to completing this programme your business might not even need the funding to start, it will succeed on its own".***

Judges Profiles



**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

DR HAJIRA MASHEGO
FOUNDER
Fitness Junction



**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

XOLANI ZONDI
DIRECTOR
X- Axis Consulting



**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

MS LUMKA SIBANYONI
MANAGING MEMBER
Cayman LB Consulting



**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

NOKUTHULA "NOKKY" NDLOVU
MENTOR AND COACH
Limit Breakers
Global Foundation



**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

KASLIN GOVENDER
FOUNDER AND CEO
Revolutionary Marketing
Media and ICT Solutions

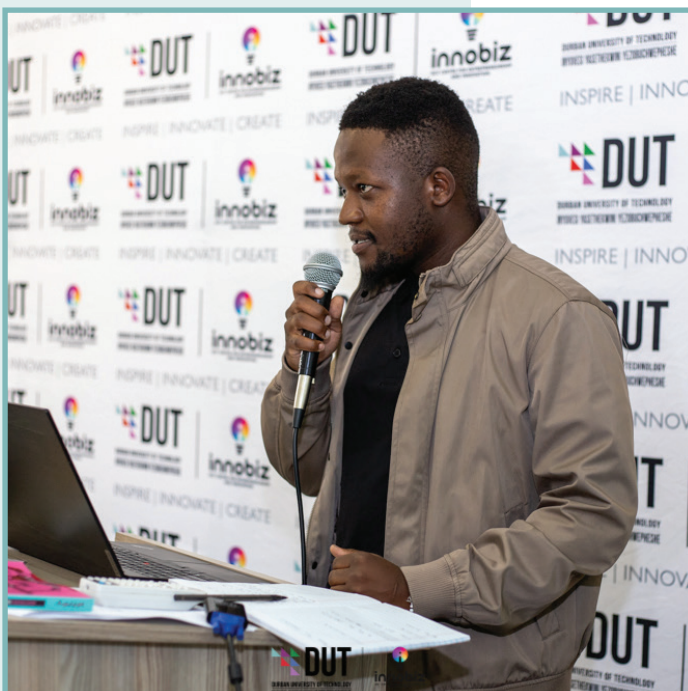


**innobiz DUT
hackathon
2022**

ZOH MASHABANE
CORPORATE BUSINESS COACH
RZD Coaching and training



Guest Speakers



Gallery First Hackathon



Second Hackathon



Third Hackathon





Activities



innobiz CSE U&G Fabrics Visit

For clothing and textile entrepreneurs, the Innobiz Centre for Social Entrepreneurship arranged a site visit at the U&G Fabrics business headquarters. In the textile industry, U&G Fabrics is a well-known company with a strong national presence and high-quality goods. They provide bespoke items, textiles for the home and lifestyle, a limited selection, and décor.

The purpose of this visit was to give entrepreneurs an opportunity to open a bulk buying account with U&G Fabrics, as well as to learn more about textile and network with industry leaders. The entrepreneurs were instructed on various types of fabrics, fabric movement, patterns, dyeing, wash care symbols, and international wall coverings symbols.



innobiz Enactus New Members Team Building

innobiz Enactus recently concluded its membership drive for the year 2022.

The mission at innobiz Enactus is to engage the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to use innovation and business principles to improve the world.

The drive, which attracted over 100 applications, was followed by interviews and successful entrepreneurs were then announced as members of the team.

To recognise this, the new cohort were inducted into the organisation at a team building hosted in Durban.

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Our Services

Business Support Services

- Company registration & compliance
- Marketing tool packages
- Intellectual Property

Access To Markets Access To Finance

- DUT seed funding
- External funding facilitation

Business Startup Training Certificate

- General business skills
- Finance management
- Operations

Personal Development

- Design thinking
- Leadership development
- Student development programmes

Business Mentorship & Coaching Various Technical Skills Training

- Technology
- Agriculture
- Textile
- Arts

Access To State Of The Art Facilities

Industry Funded Programmes Exchange Programmes

- Local and international
- National and global business competitions

Bootcamps

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