



5th Annual **internet summit**

**Expanding Digital Frontiers: Innovation,
Inclusion & Entrepreneurship**



Welcome to the 5th Annual Internet Summit



As we open this special edition of our event magazine, we celebrate not just another year, but a remarkable milestone — five years of conversations, connections, and collaborations that have shaped Africa's digital journey. What began as a platform to spark dialogue around the Internet has grown into a gathering that brings together innovators, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who share a common vision: to expand digital frontiers and unlock opportunities for all.

This year's theme, "Expanding Digital Frontiers – Innovation, Inclusion, and Entrepreneurship," reminds us that the Internet is more than technology — it is a powerful tool for empowerment, for creating jobs, for driving innovation, and for ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.

At this year's summit, you can look forward to thought-provoking keynote addresses, dynamic panel discussions, interactive workshops, and engaging showcases from leading innovators and entrepreneurs. The programme is designed to spark ideas, encourage collaboration, and highlight real solutions that are transforming communities and industries across Africa.

More and more, we are seeing that collaboration is no longer just a buzzword — it is fast becoming the new competition. The real breakthroughs are happening when industries, communities, and innovators choose to work together rather than in silos. This Summit provides the perfect platform to embrace that spirit: to listen, to share, and to build partnerships that will outlast the event itself.

Within these pages, you'll find thought leadership, programme highlights, and stories of the people and organizations making a difference. But more than that, this magazine is an invitation: to engage with the ideas, to be inspired by the journeys, and to connect with the community that continues to drive Africa's digital future forward.

Thank you for joining us at this milestone edition of the Internet Summit. Here's to the next chapter of innovation, inclusion, and impact.

Regards,
Divinity Roji

The Internet Summit is an annual multi-stakeholder ICT conference gathering here the ICT business and technical community come together to network and discuss Internet related issues, challenges and opportunities. As we embrace the new digital age, and new technologies in all the economic sectors we aim at ensuring that key players in the Internet space come together to discuss the internet spectrum and how it can benefit all economy sector. We achieve this through our thought provoking panel discussions and presentations.

The Internet Summit platform brings together thought leaders, public and private sectors, academia technical organisations, governmental institutions and civil society. The audience benefits from various local and international experts who deliver insightful knowledge on ICT technologies. Imbizo Events prides itself in creating platforms to discuss trending topic in the ICT sector and invites your company to partner with us in the development of this knowledge – enriching platform to discuss the challenges we are facing in the internet spectrum.

Key Attractions

Technology and Innovation Showcase

A dedicated showcase area where tech companies, startups, and digital service providers display their latest products, innovations, and solutions.



High-Impact Speaker Sessions

Presentations and keynote insights from industry leaders, tech innovators, and policy experts covering emerging internet trends and strategies.

Panel Discussions and Expert Dialogues

Engaging conversations around digital transformation, online safety, artificial intelligence, internet accessibility, and the future of connectivity.



Networking and Matchmaking Opportunities

Structured networking sessions designed to connect entrepreneurs, corporates, investors, and government representatives for collaboration and partnership.



Celebrating 20 years!

 **The Annual
iCT Summit**

SAVE THE DATE

25 - 27 November 2025

**Sandy McCowen**

Group Head of Content , Mpuma Kapa TV

Sandy McCowen is an award-winning journalist and producer, who has worked in television for over twenty years, covering news and human-interest stories from war zones, natural disasters, riots and crime-scenes for SABC and eNCA

“I’m excited to work with young talented producers to help them bring bold new visions to life.”

She then returned to her hometown of Gqeberha in 2022 to take up a position as Group head of content at Mpuma Kapa TV.

This role allows her to leverage her broadcasting experience to mentor emerging local producers and provide them with a platform on Mpuma Kapa TV to showcase their content to a wide Eastern Cape audience.

Raised in a third-generation taxi family in Manenberg, Imtiyaaz Riley has combined grassroots experience with bold innovation to transform mobility and payments in South Africa’s informal transport sector.

In 2021, he co-founded Loop to address the chaos of cash-based commuting, bringing safety, structure, and financial inclusion to millions who rely on minibus taxis daily. Loop allows commuters to book rides via WhatsApp, make secure payments through Chat-to-Pay and Tap-to-Phone, and even insure belongings during transit — creating an end-to-end solution that merges transport with financial empowerment.

Under his leadership, Loop has earned national and continental recognition, including Social Enterprise of the Year at South Africa’s 2024 Presidential MSME Awards, and was named Best Mobility & Logistics Startup in Africa. Partnering with Visa, Loop is expanding digital payments in underserved communities.

In 2025, Imtiyaaz was selected as a South African delegate to the Y20, contributing to global conversations on innovation and inclusive digital economies.

**Imtiyaaz Riley**

Founder & CEO , Loop

PANEL DISCUSSION

One of the key sessions at this year's Internet Summit is our thought-provoking panel discussion, "Innovative Models for Rural & Township Connectivity."

This session brings together changemakers who are reimagining how communities across Africa access the Internet. With a focus on practical solutions, social innovation, and sustainable models, the discussion will explore how collaboration across sectors is bridging the digital divide and unlocking opportunities for entrepreneurship, education, and economic growth.

Expect fresh perspectives, lived experiences, and inspiring stories of impact — as our panelists share not only the challenges, but also the innovative pathways that are reshaping Africa's connectivity landscape.



Llewellyn leads a dynamic team transforming education through technology, integrating employability and entrepreneurship into digital learning pathways.

As head of the I-CAN Centre, he has empowered over 20,000 citizens in 10 years with essential digital skills, making it a benchmark for inclusive education in marginalized communities.

He pioneered a model for public technology hubs that provide free internet, foster adoption, and deliver impactful training through strong public-private partnerships. In 2020, he received the Western Cape Entrepreneurship Recognition Award for Social Enterprise.



RLabs is a global social enterprise headquartered in Cape Town that has grown into a movement of hope, innovation, and economic empowerment.

Under her leadership, RLabs has expanded to over 20 countries, impacting more than 65 million lives by creating inclusive spaces for youth, women, and communities to access technology, skills, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

She also serves as interim Chairperson of AfriLabs, Africa's largest innovation hub network, driving collaboration and ecosystem growth. With over two decades of leadership, Rene is a recognized voice on innovation, social impact, and entrepreneurship across Africa and beyond.



Passionate about technology, education, and youth empowerment, she shapes the Academy's public voice and fosters meaningful partnerships.

With expertise in strategic communication, media engagement, and community outreach, she ensures the organization's mission and initiatives are effectively shared, enhancing its visibility and impact in digital literacy and coding education across underserved communities.

Known for her articulate, people-first approach, she manages communications, oversees public relations, and champions collaborative projects that advance accessible, future-ready tech education for all. She is a bridge-builder, advocate, and storyteller committed to using communication to drive change and inspire growth.

The Power of Local Media in a Digital Age

In a world where information travels faster than ever, local voices remain essential. While global platforms dominate much of the digital space, it is local media that ensures communities are seen, heard, and connected in meaningful ways.

Mpumala FreeVision has emerged as a vital player in this landscape — bringing news, entertainment, and educational content to millions of South Africans.

By focusing on stories that matter to everyday people, FreeVision has become more than a broadcaster; it is a bridge between communities, cultures, and opportunities.

As digital transformation reshapes how we access and share information, platforms like FreeVision are showing the power of inclusivity in media. Free-to-air access means that even the most remote households can connect, learn, and participate in the national conversation.

This is not just about broadcasting — it's about building a connected society.

For entrepreneurs, small businesses, and community leaders, FreeVision also provides a powerful platform for visibility. By showcasing local talent, highlighting grassroots initiatives, and amplifying regional stories, it supports economic empowerment and strengthens community pride.

In a digital age, local media isn't competing with global platforms — it's complementing them by telling the stories that might otherwise be overlooked. And as South Africa's digital frontier expands, FreeVision continues to play a critical role in ensuring no voice is left behind.

Free-to-air local media is connecting millions of South Africans to information, opportunity, and community stories — anytime, anywhere.



Scan me for FreeVision Play!

EVENT PROGRAMME

08:00 - 09:00

Arrival, Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:10

KICK OFF REMARKS

Ms. Divinity Roji, Project Manager, Imbizo Events

09:10 - 09:40

KEYNOTE INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Unlocking Africa's Digital Potential – The Next Decade

Mr. Mohele Wesi, Chief Executive Officer, ZADNA

09:40 - 10:40

PANEL DISCUSSION

Innovative Models for Rural & Township Connectivity

Mr. Llewellyn Scholtz, CEO, I-CAN Centre

Ms Sisanda Ngqiva, Communication Liaison Officer, CodeTelligence Academy

Ms. Rene Parker, Co - Founder & Director, RLABS

10:45 - 11:10

EXPERT TALK

Building South Africa's Digital Public Infrastructure and the Trillion-Rand Opportunity for Startups

Ms.Baratang Miya, Founder, Girlhype Coders Institute

11:10 - 11:20

Morning Break Session - Tea-Coffee/Showcase

11:20-11:55

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Monetizing the Internet for Small Businesses

Mr. Luvuyo Rani, Founder, Silulo Ulutho Technologies

11:55-12:10

EXPERT TALK

Regulating The Internet: Balancing Innovation & Consumer Protection

Ms. Gabriella Razzano, Executive Director, OpenUp

12:10 - 12:30

EXPERT TALK

Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools & Communities

Ms. Portia Masimula, Co-Founder, Karisani IT

12:30 - 13:00

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Financing Connectivity & Tech Start Ups

Mr. Thobela Ndlebe, Business Advisor , SEDFA (Western Cape)
Mr. Darryl Dennis, Chief Executive Officer, Nelson Mandela iHub

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH & NETWORKING

14:00 - 14:20

FOCUS TALK

Strengthening Cybersecurity Capacity for Africa's Digital Transformation

Dr. Luzuko Tekeni, Senior Lecturer, Cybersecurity Capacity Centre for Southern Africa (C3SA)

14:20 - 14:40

EXPERT TALK

Responsible AI adoption for modern organizations

Mr. Njabulo Mthombeni, Co - Founder, Auxo Digital

14:40 - 15:10

SUCCESS STORIES

CAPACITI/UVU AFRIKA

15:10 - 15:30

FIRESIDE CHAT

Women in Digital Leadership – Driving Inclusive Innovation

Ms. Keoikantse Botlholo, founder & CEO, CodeTelligence Academy

15:30 - 15:45

EXPERT TALK

TV the New Way – Digital Transformation in Community Broadcasting

Ms. Sandy Cowen, Mpuma Kapa TV

15:45-16:00

EXPERT TALK

Access to the Internet & Unlock More Digital Tools

Mr. Imtiyaaz, Founder & CEO, Loop SA

Afternoon Break Session - Tea-Coffee/Showcase



Molehe Wesli

Chief Executive Officer , .ZADNA

Join us for a forward-looking session that explores how Africa can harness the power of the Internet and technology to drive growth, inclusion, and innovation over the next ten years. This Industry Insights address will highlight emerging trends, opportunities, and strategies for unlocking the continent's digital potential. Attendees can expect thought-provoking perspectives, actionable ideas, and a vision for a future where connectivity, collaboration, and entrepreneurship reshape industries and communities across Africa.

Molehe Wesli is a distinguished leader in Information Communications and Technology (ICT) and Business with a wealth of expertise cultivated through various managerial roles.

Molehe Wesli is a distinguished leader in Information Communications and Technology (ICT) and Business with a wealth of expertise cultivated through various managerial roles.

Before assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer at .za Domain Name Authority (.ZADNA), Molehe served as Deputy Director of IT Strategic Support and Client Services at the University of Pretoria, where he supported the Chief Information Officer (CIO) in crafting strategic IT frameworks and systems to achieve organisational goals.

Molehe boasts a diverse skill set encompassing ICT regulation, ICT programme management, strategic leadership, service management, risk management, and corporate governance oversight.

He actively contributes as an Independent ICT Expert on several ICT Committees across various entities and holds a Council Member position at a Higher Education Institution.

Notably, he represents the African Region as one of three representatives on the ICANN ccNSO Council and a Board Member of the Africa Top Level Domains Organization (AFTLD). Additionally, he serves as a Councillor on the B-BBEE ICT Sector Council and has recently been nominated and selected as a finalist of the Forty under 40 South Africa 2024.

Furthermore, Molehe is pursuing a PhD in Information Systems at the University of Cape Town, showcasing his dedication to advancing the field. He also shares his expertise on Internet access and regulation, cybersecurity and the Fourth Industrial Revolution as an occasional contributor to Lesedi FM's current affairs program.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

This roundtable brings together industry leaders, investors, and innovators to explore the critical role of financing in driving Africa's digital transformation.

Participants will discuss strategies, challenges, and opportunities for funding connectivity projects and tech startups, sharing insights on sustainable investment models and public-private partnerships.

Attendees can expect practical advice, success stories, and collaborative solutions aimed at unlocking growth, accelerating innovation, and ensuring that emerging tech ventures have the resources to thrive across the continent.



Darryl Dennis

Chief Executive Officer Nelson
Mandela Innovation Hub

A seasoned leader in South Africa's technology sector, Darryl Dennis has dedicated his career to driving innovation, incubation, and digital transformation. With a law degree from Nelson Mandela University and management training from Manchester and Stellenbosch, he combines strong academic grounding with extensive industry expertise.

Darryl has held senior roles in multinational ICT firms and previously served as National Chairperson of the Black Information Technology Forum.

Today, he is recognized for championing entrepreneurship, expanding township innovation hubs, and shaping digital inclusion policies — building platforms that empower startups and strengthen South Africa's innovation ecosystem.



Thobela Ndlebe

Business Advisor
Small Enterprise Development and Finance
Agency

Thobela brings over 18 years of commercial experience in Enterprise and Business Development. He began his career more than 20 years ago with the Namac Trust, a legacy institution in the enterprise development space.

His professional background spans Operations Management, Productivity, and Supply Chain Management, having worked in the private sector with established companies such as Media24's logistics subsidiary, On the Dot Distribution, as well as serving in a consultancy capacity for Productivity SA.

Passionate about Enterprise Development, Thobela has successfully led numerous local and international mentorship programmes funded by both local and global partners. Among these, the highlight has been his leadership role in the SAPLATO Coaching and Mentorship Programme, which has made a significant impact on entrepreneurs and small businesses.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION MATTER!

At the heart of the 5th Annual Internet Summit lies a powerful truth: collaboration is not just a buzzword — it is the foundation of progress. This year's summit would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our partners, collaborators and exhibitors, whose commitment, resources, and vision make this platform stronger each year.

Relationships like these extend beyond sponsorship; they represent shared goals, collective action, and the belief that Africa's digital future is built together. Whether enabling dialogue, driving innovation, or amplifying our message, each partner has played a vital role in bringing this summit to life.

We thank you for walking this journey with us and for demonstrating that collaboration truly is the new competition.



CAPACITY

The 5th Annual Internet Summit



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