



BAOBABX

Advancing African Digital Humanities Ideation Hub (AADHiH)

ADVANCING AFRICAN DIGITAL HUMANITIES IDEATION HUB (AADHiH)

RECLAIMING AFRICAN VOICES HACKATHON



Design digital tools that recover, preserve, and amplify African histories, languages, and subaltern voices on African terms.

THE CORE CHALLENGE



Build digital tools or prototypes that recover, preserve, and amplify African histories, languages, and subaltern voices — especially those underrepresented in mainstream archives.



KEY DATES



17 JUNE 2026 —

Information Session | 17:30
on MS Teams | RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3PNOFGn>



9 JULY 2026 —

Project Concept Submission
Deadline | 16:00



10 JULY 2026 —

Finalists Announced | Via email



13–14 JULY 2026 —

Technical Orientation &
Red Horizon Metaverse Access



16 JULY 2026 —

Final Hackathon
Showcase Event



higher education
& training
Department
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UNISA



college of
human sciences



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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- ▶ Registered students in 2026
- ▶ Early-career researchers in 2026
- ▶ Participate individually
- ▶ Any software, platform, or technology welcome
- ▶ Must align with theme: Reclaiming African Voices



WHAT YOU'LL NEED (FINALS)

- ▶ Laptop (mandatory)
- ▶ Stable internet — minimum 10Mbps
- ▶ A functional prototype OR working concept
- ▶ A 2–3 min demo or walkthrough video
- ▶ Written narrative explaining your solution



POSSIBLE TRACKS



Oral Histories → Digital Archives

- ▶ Record, transcribe & archive oral histories
- ▶ AI transcription for African languages
- ▶ Community-owned archive platforms



Decolonising Archives

- ▶ Reinterpret colonial-era archives
- ▶ Annotation tools for counter-reading
- ▶ Visualise bias in colonial records



Language Preservation & NLP

- ▶ Chatbots & translation for African languages
- ▶ Datasets for under-resourced languages
- ▶ Voice-to-text tools for local dialects



Digital Mapping of Memory

- ▶ Interactive maps of historical events
- ▶ Geo-tagged storytelling & heritage sites
- ▶ Movements & community histories



Subaltern Voices & social media

- ▶ Archive & analyse digital activism
- ▶ Dashboards tracking hashtags & narratives
- ▶ Visualise protest movements over time



NOT LIMITED TO THESE TRACKS

Any digital humanities tool that reclaims, preserves, or amplifies African knowledge is welcome!



WHAT TO SUBMIT



1 PROTOTYPE

Functional prototype or clearly presented working concept



2 2–3 MIN VIDEO

Demo or walkthrough of your solution in action



3 WRITTEN NARRATIVE

Problem addressed, communities centred & relevance to African digital humanities



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HOW YOU'LL BE JUDGED



- 01**  **Humanities Depth & Relevance**
30% | Rich engagement with African histories, languages & cultures. Critical thinking and meaningful purpose beyond technical novelty.
- 02**  **Community Impact**
25% | Grounded in real community needs. Amplifies underrepresented voices. Clear social or cultural benefit.
- 03**  **Accessibility & Inclusivity**
20% | Considers language diversity, connectivity constraints & varying user abilities. Intuitive and context sensitive.
- 04**  **Creativity & Innovation**
15% | Original concept. Imaginative use of digital tools. Technology and humanities perspectives well integrated.
- 05**  **Sustainability & Future Potential**
10% | Potential for longevity, reuse or scaling. Ethical data practices and respect for community ownership.








THE PRIZE: RED HORIZON METAVERSE

TOP 50 SUBMISSIONS WIN AN EXCLUSIVE PLACE

THE EXPERIENCE

-  Immersive shared Mars base environment
-  Assume real leadership roles
-  Navigate 5 escalating high-stakes scenarios
-  Supply chain, cyber, tech investment & more
-  Works in-person, hybrid, or fully remote

REDBRAIN AI CHAIRMAN

-  Evaluates every decision in real time
-  Scores: financial, resilience, people & risk
-  Reveals trade-offs & consequences
-  Surfaces leadership patterns & blind spots
-  Shows impact — doesn't tell you what to do

“ Step into the future of leadership decision-making ”

More info: <https://bit.ly/4u4ArPv>



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HACKATHON INVITATION



KEY PRINCIPLES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS



Rooted in Africa

- ◀ Grounded in African contexts & epistemologies
- ◀ Ethical engagement with communities
- ◀ Clearly articulate whose voices are reclaimed



Accessible & Inclusive

- ◀ Prioritise accessibility & multilingualism
- ◀ Consider digital divides & local contexts
- ◀ Community participation at the core



Responsible & Purposeful

- ◀ Comply with POPIA data protection
- ◀ Show clear social & cultural value
- ◀ Be explainable, reflective & purpose-driven

GET INVOLVED



Contact & Submissions

chs-adh@unisa.ac.za



More Information

<https://bit.ly/4udlppx>



Submission

<https://bit.ly/4dHevF5>

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