The Build Challenge

FACT SHEET

Correct as at 25 November 2026

The Build Challenge: the key facts

What it is

A free national competition. Each learner finds a real problem in their community, uses an AI tool to build a live website that helps solve it, and pitches it in a video of 60 to 120 seconds. No experience is needed, and a phone is enough.

Who can enter

Any learner in Grade 10, 11 or 12 at a South African school, public or private, and home-schooled learners. Individual entries only, one per learner.

How to enter

1. Register at thebuildchallenge.com from 1 December 2026 at 7pm.
2. Choose a real problem in the community, from one of the themes or outside them.
3. Answer the guided prompt builder's questions. The AI tool builds the website.
4. Record the pitch video and submit both by midnight on 15 February 2027.

Taking part

More than 600 learners in all nine provinces signed up for updates before registration opened: 683 by 25 November 2026.

Judging

Scored on the idea, the build and the pitch. The rubric does not penalise unpolished design or second-language English. People's Choice goes to the public vote.

Safeguarding

Learners under 18 need a parent or guardian's consent, given on WhatsApp, before they submit. The public gallery shows first names only and has no comments. A winner can decline media coverage and still receive the full prize.

Organiser

Zaio Institute of Technology, Woodstock, Cape Town. QCTO-accredited.

Naming

On first mention, "The Build Challenge, brought to you by Zaio". After that, "the Build Challenge". Write "Zaio", not "ZAIO".

PRIZES

1st place	R40 000
2nd place	R25 000
People's Choice, by public vote	R10 000
The national winner's school	R25 000

KEY DATES

Registration opens on a YouTube live stream	1 Dec 2026, 7pm
Submissions close at midnight	15 Feb 2027
Public voting closes	15 Mar 2027
Winners announced	19 Mar 2027

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thebuildchallenge.com/media-kit

Logos, photos and the launch film

POWERED BY

ZAIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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