The Build Challenge

MEDIA RELEASE

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Free national challenge asks Grade 10 to 12 learners to build a solution to a problem in their own community

Registration opens live on YouTube on 1 December at 7pm. Learners use an AI tool to build a working website, pitch it on video and compete for R100 000 in prizes.

Cape Town. Zaio Institute of Technology is inviting every Grade 10 to 12 learner in South Africa to find a real problem in their community and build a live website that helps solve it. The Build Challenge, brought to you by Zaio, is free to enter. Registration opens on 1 December 2026 at 7pm SAST, during a one-hour live stream on YouTube.

Learners enter on their own. Five themes help them find a problem worth solving: Youth & Education, Township Economy, Health & Wellbeing, Safety & Environment and Digital Access & Inclusion. A problem outside the themes is welcome too. The problems are ones they see every day, like free places to study after school that nobody can find online.

A guided prompt builder on the challenge platform asks each learner what the problem is, who it affects and what the website should do. Their answers become an instruction for an AI tool, which builds the site. Choosing the problem and explaining the fix stay with the learner. Each learner then records a pitch video of 60 to 120 seconds. No experience is needed, and a phone is enough.

The challenge carries R100 000 in prizes. First place wins R40 000, second place R25 000, and the People's Choice award, decided by a public vote, R10 000. The national winner's school receives a further R25 000.

More than 600 learners in all nine provinces have already signed up to hear when registration opens. Submissions close at midnight on 15 February 2027, public voting closes on 15 March, and the winners will be announced on 19 March 2027. Learners under 18 need a parent or guardian's consent to submit, and the public gallery shows first names only. The rules, the launch film and free classroom materials for teachers are at **thebuildchallenge.com**.

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ABOUT ZAIO

Zaio Institute of Technology is a QCTO-accredited tech education provider offering NQF Level 5 Occupational Certificates. Seven University of Cape Town students started it on campus. It has since taught more than 100 000 people and runs Innovation Hubs in Cape Town and Durban. zaio.io

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thebuildchallenge.com/media-kit
Logos, photos and the launch film

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