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Lelapa AI to host a hackathon to launch its NLP API: The Vulavula API

Johannesburg - 27 April, 2024 - Africa's leading language AI startup, Lelapa AI, is yet to launch its groundbreaking NLP API, the Vulavula API. As part of the launch, Lelapa AI will host a hackathon on 29-30 June to unveil the Vulavula API to developers and innovators. The developers and innovators will utilise the API's revolutionary features to explore its game-changing capabilities.

With the hackathon, Lelapa AI is intending to test and get feedback on the API. Secondly, the hackathon is a platform for engaging clients who will also validate the proof of concept (POC) solutions developed using the Vulavula API. Lastly, the goal of this hackathon is to inspire African talent to develop innovative consumer-facing products or services, using the Vulavula API.

Approximately 30 developers will be recruited to join the hackathon. Participants from diverse backgrounds are welcome to apply, including university or college students, employed developers, self-employed professionals, and anyone passionate about AI, machine learning, and the future of African technology. Some of the problem statements that we are challenging participants to solve include the following:

- Audiobook app using text to speech.
- Transcription consumer facing app for ASR broadcasting.
- Real time speech to speech avatar/agent for one language.

Lelapa AI's CEO Pelonomi Moiloa says "By bringing together individuals with different experiences and interests, Lelapa AI seeks to foster collaboration and innovation, driving forward the advancement of language solutions in Africa and beyond".

The first, second, and third place winners of the hackathon will receive cash prizes that are structured as follows:

- **1st Prize:** R10 000 cash + R10k commission to build out POC over 2 months for Vulavula Demo day + tickets to Vulavula Demo day in September.
- **2nd Prize:** R5000 + swag item + tickets to Vulavula Demo day in September.
- **3rd Prize:** R2500 + swag item.

Lelapa AI will not leave the winners hanging after the hackathon, but will commit to helping them to further develop their solutions.

On this endeavour, Lelapa AI is collaborating with the University of Johannesburg's Technopreneurship Centre, Turn.io and Geekulcha. "This partnership represents a significant moment for Lelapa AI, as it aligns perfectly with our core purpose which is to organise African excellence to move humanity forward", Lelapa AI's Chief Technology Officer Jade Abbott contends.

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