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MEDIA INVITATION: SITA NATIONAL SCHOOL ROBOTICS CHALLENGE 2023

TO: ALL EDITORS

DATE: 24 MARCH 2023

SITA Acting Managing Director invites all media to the inaugural SITA Schools Robotics Challenge, which is part of its CSR programme, to be held at the University of Mpumalanga, in Mbombela.

Please find the details of the event below:

EVENT: SITA - School Robotics Challenge 2023

WHEN: 24 - 25 March 2023

WHERE: University of Mpumalanga, Mpumalanga Province

Please see the addendum below for further details of the day.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

SITA Spokesperson: Mr. Tlali Tlali

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Email: Tlali.Tlali@sita.co.za

RSVP: Tlali Tlali: As Per Details Above

SITA SCHOOL ROBOTICS CHALLENGE 2023: BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As part of SITA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) worked closely with its stakeholders including the Department of Basic Education (DBE), as the custodian department for basic education and curriculum in South Africa; and the University of Mpumalanga, in the implementation of this initiative.

The DBE identified 569 schools that are a right fit based for this SITA Robotics Challenge, to participate in this initiative.

The Robotics is aimed at challenging learners, to respond to socio-economic challenges the communities face on a daily basis. Robotics concept is designed to increase interest and proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) subject streams.

SITA encourages young people to apply STEM to find creative solutions, to solve challenges, and to address problems in their local communities and beyond.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROBOTICS CHALLENGE PROCESS:

- **DBE identified 569 schools from Grades 8 and 9, that are within DBE coding and robotics piloted schools.**
- **Grade 8s and 9s learners from different schools submitted essays where they identified problems and proposed solutions;**
- **20 winners were selected from 62 schools that entered, their robotic solutions now need to be developed;**
- **20 robotic prototypes solutions will be presented and demonstrated on 25 March 2023.**

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SITA ROBOTICS CHALLENGE AND COMPETITION:

- **Encourage innovative thinking, creative problem-solving, and teamwork to nurture social innovation ideas that address the community's most pressing problems.**
- **Assist learners from across the country to develop and enhance their skills and knowledge in the robotics space. The learners explore robotics technology through essay writing, solution design and development, presentation, and demonstrations for an existing problem or an innovative approach to a common activity or process that needs to be improved.**
- **Support the NDP objectives to: “improve education, training, and innovation” and “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities”.**
- **Through this initiative, ensure wider digitalization for young people.**

STAKEHOLDERS

SITA partnered in this initiative with some of the strategic stakeholders to make this initiative possible. The outline what role of some of these stakeholders in this initiative is.

- **DBE – custodian department responsible for education curriculum in SA, including the norms of standards in basic education across the country.**
- **University of Mpumalanga School of Computing and Mathematics – Identified as a strategic partner to for future collaboration with Research and Innovation. Guidance for mentors from the schools.**
- **SITA – Initiator, owner and implementor of the robotics challenge**
- **ICT Industry and Academic Institutions Mentors – Guiders of learners’ robotics prototypes**
- **Judges – Evaluators of learners’ prototypes to select the best solution**
- **Auditor – Ensure fairness and transparency in selecting the winners**

- **Learners, school Management and SGB – Beneficiaries**

VENUE SETTING FOR THE COMPETITION

- **Day 1: Hall, schools to be in groups where the learners assemble their robots.**
- **Day 2: Morning, Auditorium set up for schools to present robots.**
- **Day 2: Evening: Hall formal set up for Gala Prizegiving and awards.**

PRIZES

- **1st Prize - A STEM Lab equipment valued at R1 Million**
- **2nd Prize - A Cyberlab equipment valued at R700 000**
- **3rd Prize - Equipment to assist with STEM subjects valued at R300 000**

SCHOOLS

- **EASTERN CAPE** Lehana S.S, Ntapane J.S, Zinyosini S.S, Wesbank H.
- **FREE STATE** Bloemfontein H.S, Lenakeng H.S, Lenyora La Thutho H.S., Nkgopoleng S.S
- **GAUTENG** Bona Lesedi H.S, Cosmo City H.S, Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir School
- **KWAZULU-NATAL** Mnyamande S.S. Ntulibakayise S.S.
- **LIMPOPO** Ozias Davhana H.S.
- **MPUMALANGA** Sibukosetfu H.S.
- **NORTHERN CAPE** Douglas C.S.
- **WESTERN CAPE** Spine Road H.S. Bredasdorp H.S, Protea Heights Academy

ADDENDUM: PROGRAMME

Day 1: 24 March 2023

Time	Activity	Responsibility
08:00 – 08:30	Arrival	All
08:30 – 08:35	Opening	Programme Director
08:35 – 08:45	Welcome Remarks	Dr Mncedisi Bembe

08:45 – 08:55	“The Reason Why We are All Here”	Mr Sabelo Dlamini
08:55 – 09:15	Motivational Speech	Ms Shudufhadzo Musida
09:15 -11:00	Ready, Steady, Go & Learners start building	Programme Director (Name TBC)
11:00 – 11:20	Tea Break	
11:20 – 13:20	Continue building	Learners
13:20 – 13:30	Spot Prizes	Programme Director
13:30 –14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 14:45	Mental Wellness Check in	Ms Shudufhadzo Musida
14:45 – 15:45	Continue building	Learners
16:45 – 17:00	Tea Break	
17:00 – 18:00	Continue building	Learners
18:00 – 19:00	Continue Building and Closure	Learners

Day 2: 25 March 2023

Time	Activity	Responsibility
08:00 – 08:30	Arrival	
08:30 – 08:35	Opening by Programme Director	Mr Sabelo Dlamini
08:35 – 08:40	Robotic video/ Act	
08:40 – 08:45	Welcome Remarks	Mr Tlali Tlali
08:45 – 08:55	Encouragement Message	Mr Molatlhegi Kgauwe
08:55 – 09:10	Judges introduction	Programme Director
	Let’s begin	
	Demonstration (Team 1 - 4) 15min each	Learners
09:15– 10:15		
10:15-11:15	Demonstration (Team 5 -8) 15min each	Learners
11:15 – 11:30	Tea break	

11:30 – 12:30	Demonstration (Team 9 - 12) 15min each	Learners
12:30 – 13:30	Demonstration (Team 13 - 16) 15min each	Learners
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Last Demonstration (Team 17 - 20) 15min each	Learners
15:30 – 15:35	What's Next	Programme Director
15:35 – 15:45	Tea Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Learners Team Building	Learners & Teachers
15:45 – 18:00	Judges' deliberation	Judges

Time	Activity	Responsibility
Prize Giving Ceremony		
19:00 – 19:05	Opening	Opening Act
19:05 – 19:10	Programme Director: Ms Nelisiwe Dlamini	
19:15 – 19:30	Welcome Remarks	University of Mpumalanga Speaker
19:30 – 19:45	Message by Strategic partner	DBE representative
19:45 – 20:00	Keynote Speaker	Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Dr Stella Bvuma
20:00 – 20:30	Dinner	
20:30 – 21:00	Prize giving by (Board Member, DBE, AMD, HOD)	Facilitated by programme Director
21:00 – 21:15	Dessert	
21:15 – 21:20	Vote of thanks	SITA Provincial Manager, Mr Hope Mabitsela
21:20 – 22:30	Entertainment	ALL

ENDS