

The Baobab Network Report
for
ZENMONDO Members
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Baobab Insights weekly round-up
News, views and analysis on tech and VC in Africa

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Forward

In today's roundup, we look at more initiatives from Africa's tech community aimed at tackling the COVID-19 crisis, focusing this week on projects in Nigeria and South Africa. Also, Beyoncé's dad has invested in a Nigerian music app and we speak to Africa's leading Ed-Tech investor.

Hello everyone,

We've got more healthcare hacks this week as Ventures Platform, 54gene and Zindi launch initiatives to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

Nigerian genomics start-up [54gene](#) has partnered with the [Nigerian Centre for Disease Control](#) and [Union Bank](#) to launch a new \$500k research fund for solutions that will reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

The money raised will increase COVID-19 testing capacity in Nigeria by up to 1,000 additional tests a day, with a focus on buying more testing instruments, procuring better biosafety material and improving the availability of protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers.



Source: [IT News Africa](#)

Elsewhere, Cape Town based AI and Data Science company [Zindi](#) has launched [a challenge](#) to their community of 12,000 data scientists, focused on stemming the spread and impact of coronavirus.

The challenge, sponsored by [AI4D](#), tasks scientists to create models that can use data to predict the global spread of COVID-19 over the next three months.

Source: [Techcrunch](#)

Also this week, Nigerian tech investor [Ventures Platform](#) has teamed up with the [Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation Council](#), launching an innovation challenge that offers training and funding for start-ups building solutions aimed at tackling COVID-19.

We've mapped the seven companies that got through to the final stage of the challenge, each winning a \$2k cash prize to go towards product development:



Source: [Ventures Platform](#)

The response to our call for COVID-19 tech initiatives last week has been incredible - please keep sending in your stories and we will do our best to feature them all.

A conversation with Africa's leading Ed-Tech investor

In our [Voice of the CEO series](#) we speak to start-up founders, industry experts and

corporate leaders to understand how digital technology is being applied to solve big challenges.



In this interview, we speak to Jamie Martin, Founder of Injini, Africa's first Ed-Tech incubator. Jamie explains why he felt driven to set up Injini back in 2016, he shares his views on how Ed-Tech in Africa is developing as a sector and he also dives into some of the challenges that founders face when trying to interact with governments, investors and policy makers around the world.

You can read the full interview [here](#).

News

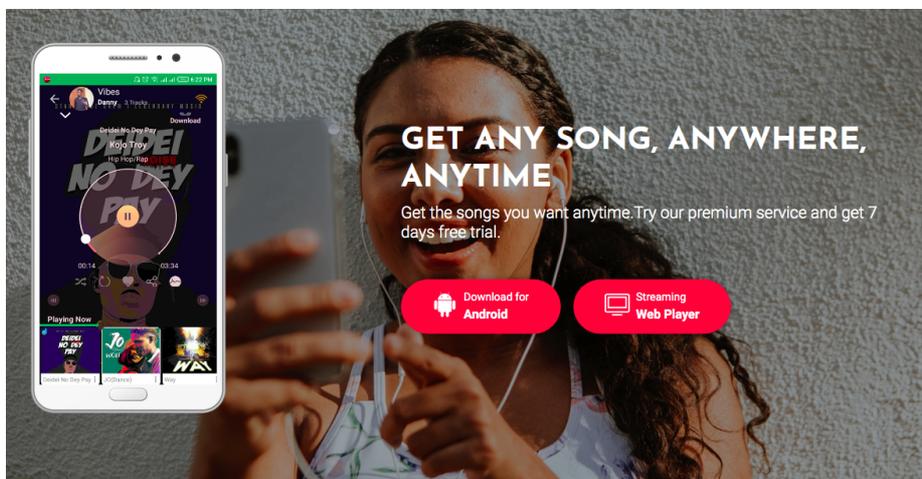
SA Government sets up debt relief fund for small businesses amid the COVID-19 crisis

South Africa's Department of Small Business Development is to establish a [Debt Relief Fund](#) to assist small businesses from any economic ramifications of the COVID-19 crisis.

Source: [Disrupt Africa](#)

Beyoncé's dad invests in Nigerian music start-up MePlaylist

Lagos-based music start-up [MePlaylist](#) has raised an [undisclosed amount of funding](#) from global investors, including Mathew Knowles, the father and former manager of Beyoncé.



Source: [Music Business Worldwide](#)

Deals

- Ivory Coast-based waste management start-up [Coliba](#) has raised funding from [GreenTec Capital Partners](#).

Chart of the week

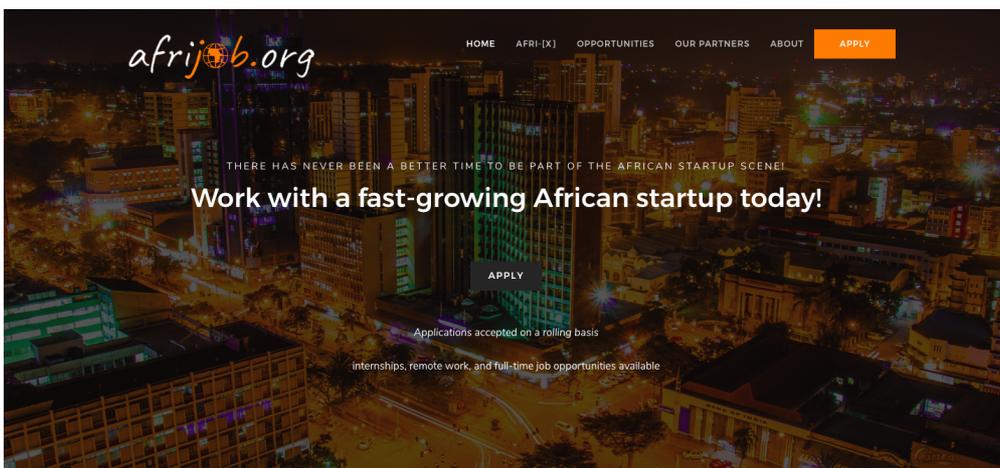
Nigerian genomics start-up [54gene](#) made headlines this week with the launch of their new COVID-19 research fund. In July of 2019, [we reported](#) on 54gene's \$4.5m seed round, and for this week's chart our analysts have pulled out some of the key investors that participated in that raise:



Source: [Baobab Insights](#)

Start-up spotlight

[Afrijobs](#) is an online recruitment platform that connects top talent from all over the world with fast-growing tech companies in Africa.



Founded in 2018 by Harriet Kariuki and Tre Hunt, Afrijobs has very quickly become a leading name in Africa's talent scene, unlocking great opportunities for companies and job seekers alike. A powerful platform for all your hiring needs!

Source: [The Afrijobs Network](#)

Know a company building something cool?

Nominate them for our weekly spotlight at team@baobabinsights.com.

Get in touch

Want to learn more about our content or send us feedback? Email us on team@baobabinsights.com.



Data in this newsletter comes from [Baobab Insights](#). Join Standard Chartered, Sanofi, Zephyr Acorn, Bluehaven Initiative, Johnson & Johnson and tonnes of other clients to get access to Africa's best VC data.

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