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the premier ICT conference on the continent

MINISTER OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO DEAL WITH CYBERSECURITY IN DIGITAL BUSINESS PROCESSES

"As we see an accelerated waves of digitisation, digitalisation, and digital transformation, cyber-attacks are growing in frequency and severity, there is a need an integrated approach to protect data and critical infrastructure," Philly Mapulane, Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies told Government Technology (GovTech) conference.

GovTech 2023, is a conference organised and hosted by the State Information and Technology (SITA). This year delegates discussed new technology drivers in the digital economy, digital transformation and inclusive growth at the Durban International Convention Centre.

CYBER CRIMINALS

Addressing delegates the 15th GovTech, Mapulane said data gathering and tracking of individual behaviours by digital firms has implications for cyber security. "We all know that if an organisation and even government department or state-owned enterprise does business anywhere on the Internet, it is likely not a question if, but when it will be targeted by cyber criminals.

HUAWEI
ORACLE
In2IT Technologies

“State-owned and run organisations, many of which are in charge of critical infrastructure, are no exception,” said Mapulane.

There have been several cyber-attacks and businesses in across the world, confirming that social networks and mobile device interconnectedness are a breeding ground for malware and Internet criminals.

Philly Mapulane, Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technology said cybersecurity has no boundaries and we can't afford to let our guards down anytime and any day

RECENT ATTACKS

There have been other prominent attacks. In 2021, an attack on the United States' Colonial Pipeline caused it to shut down for several days. President Joe Biden called a state of emergency.

In the United Kingdom, a technology supplier to the country's National Health Service fell victim to a ransomware attack in 2022, disrupting important functions.

In mid-2022, Estonia was the victim of its most intense cyber-attack since 2007. In May last year, a ransomware gang infiltrated Costa Rican government systems.

Recent malware attacks in the region have put organisations on high alert and, as a result, the network security market is poised for strong growth rates. Threats are becoming more sophisticated after each attack, making the challenge to manage and secure networks even more difficult.

So, it is important to be clear here — the protection of people's personal and government data, including state-owned enterprises as shown in the Transnet attack, is at the heart of the digital economy, digital transformation and inclusive growth.

HOW TO MAINSTREAM CYBERSECURITY

"Without cybersecurity, we risk missing out on the benefits of a society powered by responsible data use has to offer for the digital economy, digital transformation and inclusive growth.

The Minister offered the following solutions companies need to do to mainstream cybersecurity into their digital business processes:

- **Awareness and Training**: Educate employees about the importance of cybersecurity, often, human error can be the weakest link;
- **Investment:** View cybersecurity not as a cost, but an investment. This means not only investing in tools and technologies but also in skilled personnel;
- **Regular Audits and Assessments**: Regularly assess and audit your digital infrastructure to uncover and address vulnerabilities.
- **Collaboration:** Cybersecurity is a collective effort. Collaborate with experts, other businesses, and even competitors to share knowledge and best practices and
- **Stay Updated**: The digital landscape is evolving, and so are cyber threats. Staying updated on the latest threats and mitigation techniques is crucial.

"Let us remember that cybersecurity has no boundaries. We can't afford to let our guards down anytime and any day," Mapulane told delegates,

Day 2 of the 2023 Govtech was in a buzz just like the opening day, SITA Managing Director Dr Bongani Mabaso said. Thousands of delegates from across South Africa are attending the conference to catch the latest trends in the South African technology space

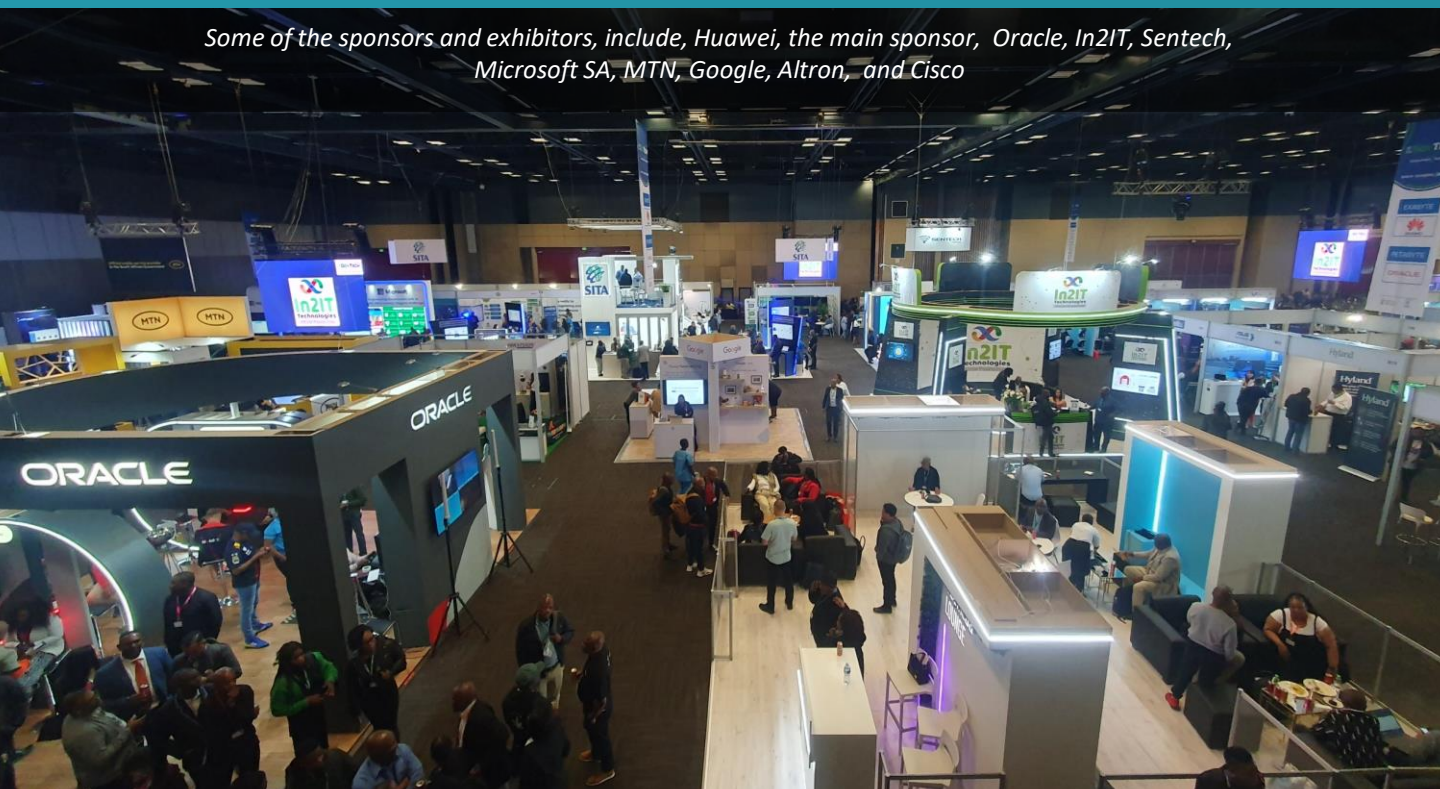
GOVTECH 2023 EXHIBITORS TALK ABOUT BENEFITS

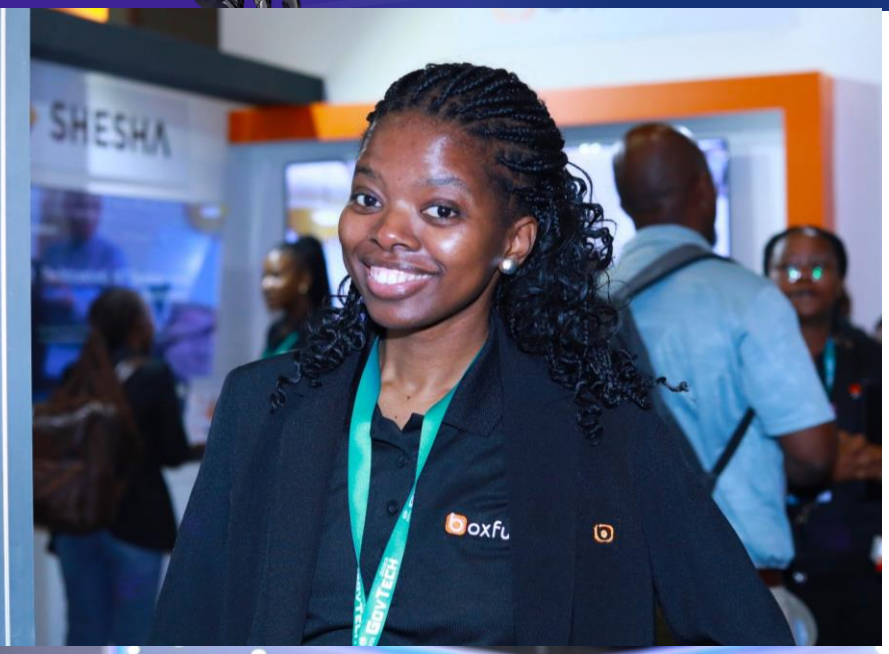
Exhibitions bring benefits to businesses. Exhibitors meet with potential customers and generate sales leads.

Some of the more than 50 exhibitors at the 2023 State Information Technology Agency's (SITA) Government Technology (GovTech) conference being held to discuss new technology drivers in the digital economy, digital transformation and inclusive growth, listed the following benefits:

- Raise awareness about products and services;
- Networking;
- Launching new product;
- Marketing and generate potential business leads;
- Develop and strengthen brand;
- Acquire information about new sector or industry developments;
- Stakeholder and customer engagement to strengthen relationships;
- Market intelligence and a chance to see what competitors are doing well and
- Develop understanding of target market needs and wants

Some of the sponsors and exhibitors, include, Huawei, the main sponsor, Oracle, In2IT, Sentech, Microsoft SA, MTN, Google, Altron, and Cisco





Software developers Boxfusion,

who have been a major player in the digitisation of back-end processes in government, was excited to market their company at Govtech. Lethabo Makgato from sales and Marketing said the company's software solutions were catered primarily to the public sector. On Tuesday night, during the Gala dinner, CEO of Boxfusion Xolile Ndlangana accepted the ICT award on behalf of the company in the category of Large ICT companies, who have a turnover of more than R50 million per annum.

Microsoft South Africa

Bearing in mind the discussions at of Govtech 2023, were about digital economy, digital transformation and inclusive growth, Microsoft South Africa's Director for Data and Artificial Intelligence. Ayanda Ngcebetsha said the software giant was here to help the South African government deliver on its mandate of digitisation. Ngcebetsha said Microsoft was bringing solutions that would be able to be scaled and help the government achieve its objectives. "Our partnership is to say how do we partner better with the government in terms of driving the platform economy forward, enabling skills at scale to enable some of the pertinent challenges that the government is facing today," Ngcebetsha said.

Virtual Reality Simulator

A learner from the Ozais Dhavana Secondary School in Limpopo, which featured a robotic prototype built by a team of young scientists, is testing out the virtual reality simulator exhibited at the 2023 Govtech.

The conference hosted around 10 schools, all of which brought their latest inventions to share with South Africa at Govtech.

INNOVATE. COLLABORATE. ENGAGE

DIGITAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS RECOGNISES CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE WORKING IN THE INFORMATION COMMUNICATION SECTOR.

An award makes the receiver feel that their work is valued, recognised and rewarded for accomplishments.

For a company and or an organisation, an award boosts the image of the brand, enhances stakeholder confidence and staff morale, thus attract talent and unlocks opportunities for networking.

Held at the 2023 State Information Technology Agency's (SITA) Government Technology (GovTech) conference **GovTech's Digital Public Service Awards** recognised the contributions and achievements of those working in the information communication sector.

The Digital Public Service Awards took place on the first day of GovTech 2023 in the following categories.

1. Community Builder
2. Digital Education;
3. Digital Governance;
4. ICT Large Companies;
5. SMME Recognition;
6. Digital Woman;
7. Government Technology Leader;
8. Digital Partnerships;
9. Africa Award and
10. Digital Innovator

Here are the winners Representatives of companies who won the SMME Award, Government Technology Leader Award and Digital Education did not attend the award ceremony, but sent video messages acknowledging the award.

COMMUNITY BUILDER RECOGNITION AWARD
Take Note IT Cyber Excellence Academy

INNOVATE. COLLABORATE. ENGAGE

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE
South African Local Government Association

LARGE ICT COMPANIES
Boxfusion CEO, Xolile Ndlangana received the award

DIGITAL WOMAN
Zandile Mkhwanazi

DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS
Liquid Intelligent Technologies and YES4YOUTH's IT training for children and young people

AFRICA AWARD
Liquid Intelligent Technologies

DIGITAL INNOVATOR AWARDS
Huawei Technologies South Africa