

## Microsoft SA to upskill 3000 developers with new immersive programme

The Gauteng Department of e-Government and Microsoft have partnered to create the Gauteng Azure Training programme that is in collaboration with Andela and Geekulcha. The partnership aims to upskill developers in the province through an immersive programme where selected individuals will work to learn basic skills in Azure through the Microsoft Learn platform.



Photo by Windows on Unsplash

The programme seeks to engage and train 3000 developers in Gauteng and will run until the end of June 2021.

The Gauteng Provincial Government said the following on the collaboration:

"As South Africa moves further into the Fourth Industrial Revolution and cloud technology becomes ubiquitous, the Gauteng Provincial Government has recognised the need to accelerate digital transformation and skills development in the province by investing in programmes that empower the youth with relevant, future-ready skills."

The government said in a statement that the programme forms part of the provincial broader Township Economy Revitalisation strategy, which aims to ensure significant participation and meaningful inclusion of residents from traditionally underserved areas into the mainstream economy, by creating a platform for digital enablement for communities throughout the province.



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The programme is focused on training software engineers and developers in learning the basics of Microsoft Azure, a cloud platform delivered through Microsoft-managed datacentres comprising more than 200 products and cloud services to help build, run and manage applications across multiple clouds, on-premises and at the edge.

The Gauteng Azure Training Programme is open to anyone in the province, looking to grow their Azure software development skills and learn with a community of technologists.

## At the end of the programme, developers are expected to:

- Have proficiency in Azure technologies
- · Have improved competency in their existing technical skills

The learning programme will support the learners with a group of 300 volunteer Azure mentors. Learners will have an opportunity to be shortlisted to redeem a Microsoft Azure certification exam voucher to enrol and complete the exam.

"Building technical skill capability in both individuals and SMMEs is essential for South Africa to navigate rapid and ongoing digital transformation. Digital skills provide an effective tool to address unemployment and drive economic recovery and growth, making it a priority to continue investing in and partnering on critical programmes to harness these skills," says Sikhumbuzo Ngcobo, public sector Director at Microsoft South Africa.

The programme will be run by Andela, through the Andela Learning Community.

The call for applications kicked off on 22 February and all interested applicants can apply <u>here</u>. Applicants are required to be above 18 years of age, be willing to dedicate 10-15 hours per week for the length of the programme, be proficient in English, and should have a passion for learning software development.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 12 March 2021.

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