Private Bag X1000, PRETORIA, 0001

Mr Malan Joubert
OfferZen Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr Malan

Request for assistance from OfferZen and the broader Tech Community

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic presents South Africa with a challenge unlike any we have faced in recent memory. The Presidency is counting on the support of partners from across society to deal with the pandemic and its impact on South Africa.

We acknowledge the contributions that OfferZen has made to the South African technology industry with the businesses and incubators you have started in the past. OfferZen, currently now has the largest tech community in the country and can access thousands of software makers and tech companies across various sectors. The contribution of the technology community and skills speak directly to the current needs of the country: As we have seen with other countries facing the pandemic, technology can play a crucial part in fighting both the effects of the virus and its socio-economic repercussions.

It is critical that the government works collaboratively with South African tech companies and individuals to leverage our tech capabilities in the fight against COVID-19 and its effects. We believe that OfferZen's position in the tech community is uniquely suited to assist us in making that happen.

We applaud your most recent initiative to rapidly develop the COVID-19 Vulnerability Map. The effectiveness of your approach is already evident in the collaboration between the South African SDG Hub at the University of Pretoria and numerous volunteers from the tech industry.

Motivation

I, therefore, formally request the assistance of OfferZen with the government's immediate and Post-COVID-19 social and economic response.

Specifically, we request that you work with the Presidency to:

1. Identify suitable projects that can have a material impact on the government's ability to respond to the crisis and implement an effective post-crisis economic response
2. Distribute this request and the identified projects to the broader tech community to raise awareness and galvanize support
3. Recruit and coordinate volunteers from this community for these projects
4. Connect tech community members to relevant government partners as per their identified needs, as is feasible
5. Build, maintain and manage a central hub to track and support the project status, owners and volunteers
6. Help align the tech community's volunteer efforts with the government's broader response strategy

Regards,

Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa
Head: Investment and Infrastructure Office
The Presidency
Date: 2020|03|24