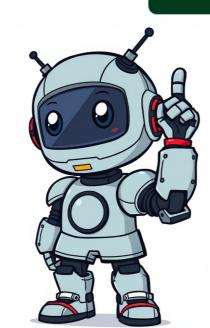
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Our friends at the Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE) have launched public voting for the BAKE Awards 2025, with a broader and more inclusive celebration of Kenyas digital creators. Unlike back in the day when we used to have just bloggers, this year, the awards go beyond traditional blogging, recognizing content across multiple platforms and formats.BAKE says the 2025 edition reflects the countrys evolving digital landscape, where creators engage audiences not only through blogs but also on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, podcasts, and newsletters. BAKE has adjusted its rules to accommodate hybrid creators who publish across social and web platforms, acknowledging the diversity of modern content creation. In addition to creativity and consistency, the panel considers relevance, civic impact, innovation, authenticity, and contribution to safe online spaces. This ensures that nominees are recognized not only for producing engaging content but also for responsibly shaping Kenyas digital culture. Some of the outstanding platforms nominated include Salukwa Farms, Techish Kenya, Mtoto News, The Manicured Farmer, and Kenyan Wallstreet. Public voting is now open until December 2, 2025, giving Kenyans the opportunity to support the creators they believe are driving digital excellence. Winners will be announced at the BAKE Awards Gala Night on December 6 in Nairobi. With the 2025 edition, BAKE has expanded its vision to reflect Kenyas dynamic content ecosystem. By recognizing creators across multiple platforms, the Awards celebrate innovation, authenticity, and impact, offering a comprehensive view of the countrys thriving digital community. Africas innovation economy is entering its next act, and the world is watching. The continent is shifting from dependence on aid to shaping AI policy frameworks, monetizing its creative industries, and deploying green technologies at scale. Speaking at the Africa is no longer watching the rest of the world from the sidelines. The story has shifted, said Ekeledo. Africa isnt playing catch up; its defining the future. Were building models of innovation that are decentralized, inclusive, and impact driven. Thats what this decade has proven. Hosted by AfriLabs, the continents largest network of over 500 technology and innovation hubs across 53 countries, this years Annual Gathering brought together governments, investors, corporates, and creatives under the theme Africas innovation future: Policy, Partnerships, and Progress. Far from being a distant dream, Africas innovation future is a reality waiting to be claimed. That was the resounding message as AfriLabs, in partnership with Timbuktu by UNDP, celebrated its 10th Anniversary Annual Gathering in Nairobi, Kenya. With participants from more than 70 countries, the event revolved around one bold truth: Africa has everything it needs to rise. We have the power to build a continent where every citizen enjoys access to quality education, affordable healthcare, food security, and meaningful work, Ekeledo said. But our goal must go beyond survival to shared prosperity. Africas economy, currently valued at \$3.4 trillion, could grow to over \$16 trillion by 2050, powered by innovation, continental trade integration under the African Continental trade integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and a rapidly advancing digital transformation. Founded in 2011 with just five hubs in four countries, AfriLabs now connects over 500 innovation hubs across 53 nations. In only a decade, it has supported thousands of startups, created jobs, influenced policy, and helped define Africas role in the global digital economy. Imagine an Africa where our innovators lead in artificial intelligence and green technology, where our creative industries and digital services employ millions, Ekeledo said. That Africa is within reach if we act with unity, strategy, and urgency. The gathering underscored that Africa stransformation will not come from aid but from innovation, entrepreneurship, and intra Africa stransformation. With the worlds youngest population, Africas youth are its greatest advantage, and AfriLabs aims to ensure they have the ecosystems, resources, and opportunities to lead this transformation. Through its partnership with Timbuktu by UNDP, AfriLabs is also strengthening engagement in policy reform and capital mobilization, ensuring innovation friendly policies and sustainable financing structures that allow African entrepreneurs to scale. Ekeledo emphasized that building a strong innovation ecosystem is not just about trust and collaboration. Partnerships are the currency of progress, she noted. No single hub, government, or investor can transform Africa alone but together, we can design the future we want. The Nairobi event was not merely a celebration of milestones; it was a recommitment to a continental mission. Africa will lead, but whether we will rise to the moment. The gathering closed with a call to action for innovators, governments, and investors across the continent to align around a shared purpose, to turn Africas immense potential into tangible prosperity. Because the future of Africas, and for the world. Ron Chiarello, PhD, has been appointed CEO after serving as co-CEO of 54gene, Inc. a health data technology company on a mission to transform racial disparity in genomics research data globally, as the firm positions itself to pursue new strategic partnerships and raise additional capital. Chiarello was serving as co-CEO since earlier this year. He was previously founder, CEO, and Chairman of Alveo Technologies. He also founded Jetalon Solutions, Etalon Technologies, and Orion Metrology, and held research positions at Stanford University and Argonne National Laboratory. Teresia Bost, who served as interim CEO since last October, will remain with the company as an advisor. Bost has over 20 years experience in health care and has held leadership roles at Celgene, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, and Quartet Health before joining 54gene. Bost took over after Dr. Abasi Ene-Obong steppeddown in October last year as CEO of 54gene, the African genomics company he founded in 2019. Ene-Obong supported the company in the role of Senior Advisor and retained his position on the 54gene Board of Directors. We appreciate the tremendous contributions Teresia has made to the company and are enthused to have strong and experienced leaders helping move the company forward, said Jenny Yip, Board Chair of 54gene and Managing Partner at Adjuvant Capital. We have great trust and confidence in the vision and discipline Ron brings to his elevated role and are grateful to add Tobis deep investment experience and expertise in Africa to our board. Teresia Bost Tobi Oke, Managing Partner of V8 Capital fund based in Lagos, Nigeria, has been appointed to 54genes Board of Directors. Prior to founding V8 Capital, Oke worked as the head of Intel Capital (Africa) and in leadership roles with Standard Chartered Private Equity, HSBC, and Booz Allen. Temi Awogboro, Founding Partner of Alcent Capital and Co-Founder of Kairos Angels, and MAGIC, venture capital funds investing globally with a portfolio in Africa, will serve as an advisor and Board of Directors observer. Awogboro previously was Executive Director of TPG portfolio company Evercare Hospital Lekki and regional lead with Evercare Health Fund. She began her career at Goldman Sachs. 54gene is solving the way for more inclusive healthcare outcomes, said Oke. With committed investors and partners in Africa and globally, we are solely focused on 54genes original mission and building a distinct and unprecedented platform in its diversity and scale. 54gene aims to significantly improve the inclusion of data from Africa. Most genomic data used for development research today is from Europe and North America, while less than 3% is from Africa. Increasing access to genomic data from African populations will improve the effectiveness and relevance of products to the health of African populations. The companys 600,000-sample capacity biobank, which already holds 130,000 samples, is the largest commercial biobank in Africa and one of the most diverse in the world. Through its robust partner and clinical network on the continent, 54gene has access to millions of patients to support its mission. To date, the company has raised \$45 million dollars from leading investors including Adjuvant Capital, V8 Capital, KdT Ventures, and Cathay AfricInvest Innovation Fund. TechBusinessStartupsMobileWomenGuidesEditions AdvertiseConferenceTechNightTechBusinessStartupsMobileWomenGuidesEditions AdvertiseConferenceTechNightTechBusinessAdvertiseConferenceTechNightTechBusinessAdvertiseConferenceTechNightTechNightTechBusinessAdvertiseConferenceTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechNightTechN

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