

# Report

DATAFEST •



KAMPALA 2021

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The **DataFest Kampala 2021** was launched on February 5th at Pollicy offices with a live livestream on our **Facebook page here**. And later hosted as a two-day hybrid (physical and virtual) event held at MoTIV in Kampala, Uganda on April 29th and 30th. The event was also streamed live on zoom and across all social media platforms including YouTube. It was also hosted in 5 separate locations (satellite locations including SafeBoda Academy in Kyebando, Laboremus offices in Bugolobi, SEMA office at Innovation Village in Ntinda, and ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) offices in Kololo), with each session simultaneously webcasting to provide participants with flexible participation options.

Under the theme **“Living With Data”**, the Fest convened data enthusiasts, tech experts, academicians, journalists, creatives, and other multi-demographic participants, to take part in realistic discussions under the subject. The conversations centered on the role that data plays in the different dimensions of our everyday lives. The two-day festival was jam-packed with inspirational sharing sessions, hands-on workshops, and engaging panel discussions. A multitude of topics revolving on the subject of Big Data and it’s share in the conversation for the future, were expounded on and among them included; data security, data collection, data analysis, visualization and machine learning as well as artificial intelligence.



# Day One

The MC's of the event were Shem Opolot who has 7 years of experience as a Health Policy Analyst and Brendalynn Kirungi is a storyteller, speaker, and talent coach who promotes storytelling as a compassionate act for personal, business, and community transformation.

The day commenced with a plenary address from Neema Iyer, the Executive Director of Pollicy who were the event's organizers. Iyer highlighted Pollicy's initiatives in the tech and data arena, with a keen emphasis on data feminism and skills development through training and mentoring young people to interest themselves in data and how it can be utilized. She recommended that such topics ought to take center stage and evoke conversation. Her address was followed by 4 lightning talks.

## Lightning Talks

These were sidebar discussions held simultaneously at the Fest, and during these talks, facilitators gave the audience insights into the future of technology in Uganda and across the globe. Key among the discussions was. How everyone can potentially be a player in the data gold mine, as a creator, analyzer and beneficiary of the available data. Below are highlights from each session;



## Charity Mugasha

Charity shared is activists with a vast experience on the wider spectrum of Human Rights law. As the Engagement Lead at Digital Human Rights Lab, she discussed the importance of data and the violations of human rights by service providers, individuals and other corporations in a quest to attain personal information.

The need to fight human rights violations online is as important as it is offline and in the courts of law. Charity emphasized that our online data footprint is a digital representation of who we are, and if anyone uses this kind of information without the owner's consent, it is a violation of one's human rights.

Charity emphasized that Africans should not rely on foreign powers to solve the challenges whose solutions are in our midst. We have the power to come up with the solutions to the challenges that we face, especially through human-centered design. With regards to inclusion. Who gets included. So many people do not have access to online tools or access to the internet. As we draft these laws online, we must consider who will be included. Governments should not, in turn, abdicate their responsibilities.

### **Adaugo Trinitas**

Code for Africa's Programs Manager Adaugo Trinitas, presented virtually from Lagos-Nigeria, about their WanaDATA Initiative. WanaDATA is an intersection of tech, data, and journalism in Africa aiming to revolutionize news gathering, fact checking and integration of AI into data sourcing and presentation. Her concern however was that data can often be discriminatory, resulting in gender-biased decisions.

### **Marrrian Gebresselasie**

The representative from Andariya Magazine Marrrian Gebresselasie of joined in from Kenya via Zoom, discussing the risks of non-inclusive and bad data explaining the catastrophes that this could lead to. She explained to the audience that while dealing with any data, whether sensitive or not, key to consider is accuracy, completeness, consistency, uniqueness, and timeliness.

### **Ronald Oyam**

The climax remarks of the lightning talk were made by Ronald Oyam of OpenStreetMap Uganda, who talked about how they use local mappers in urban planning for new cities across Uganda using remote and photomapping. OpenStreetMap Uganda empowers citizens to engage in the collection of data for mapmaking, while acknowledging holders that have accurate and up-to-date details. OpenStreetMap Uganda is currently running an online mapping training for over 100 youths to map their neighborhoods using open street map tools.





### **Keynote Address**

The event was honored with the presence of **Ms. Milly Nalukwago Isingoma**, the Assistant Commissioner Research, Planning, and Development at Uganda Revenue Authority as the Keynote speaker. Ms. Nalukwago spoke in-depth on the subject **Living with Data**. She emphasized that undoubtedly, data is a huge component of our lives, and that the earlier we get at dealing with it the better.

“Data is a golden key, and good data opens the door to effective decision-making; however, we must still remember data protection, safety, and storage. With COVID-19, we are uncertain of the population’s survival. For the ones surviving, they need to make decisions, and you cannot make an effective decision without data,” she said.

Collecting data and using it for decision making. I would put information together to empower my leaders at every level of employment till her current job. Data gives you confidence, integrity, knowledge and information. We live in a data age and therefore, there's a need to come up with complimented Policies that are aimed to drive the conversation and get everybody on board. The Need to define data; and collaborating with different partners, institutions, organizations and individuals under the theme: **Living with data**.

She urged young people to pursue data science and contribute to the country's economic independence, referencing that the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has over 600 job opportunities that require converting data into dashboards, emphasizing how these opportunities are out there for young data professionals to seize.

This was followed by a panel discussion that included fascinating conversions about how various organizations utilize data to fuel their operations and decisions. The different panels brought together professionals from various industries who included Edrine Wanyama from CIPESA, Esther Ndagire from Code for Africa, Vincent Arumadri from UCU, Dr. Louis Kamulegeya from Rocket Health and Anthony Ssebagereka from RAN/ Makerere University to discuss their everyday encounters with data, the opportunities

and challenges for data producers and consumers, and what the future holds for Africans in terms of data collection, processing, analysis, protection, and governance.

The discussions serve as a springboard for future engagements later in the DataFest activities on data from the perspectives of epidemiology, startups, civic tech, journalism, innovation and digital rights. Below is the summary of the panel discussions;

**What the government can do:** The Ugandan government plans to collaborate with private companies to develop the healthcare system through citizen science, said presenters Vincent Arumadri and Dr. Louis Kamulegeya. How everyone in the tech community aims to tap into this, is a rhetoric we ought to think on. This will aid in improving resource allocation for personnel and medication stock for those in the healthcare industries.

There is also great need for data privacy and protection legislation in Uganda and the necessity of having these to internationally recognized standards. This is because so many people are generating data and most of it is used with little or no credit offered to the initial source. This ultimately scares away potential data curation since there's no direct copy right channels to data protection.

Government needs to be part of the citizenry's desire for a technologically advanced society. Anthony Ssebagereka, one of the discussants emphasized the need for the government, in collaboration with higher learning institutions, to create a conducive environment for innovation around the use of data, which can better inform decision making and policy implementation. This can be achieved through modules, seminars and boot camps to create a platform that fosters tech talk.

**Investing in tech:** Having efficient tech that monitors data on patients helps to reduce the turnaround time while increasing service delivery in hospitals and clinics.

Esther Ndagire believes in a bottom-up, grassroots approach to driving creativity and decision making by incorporating data into our daily lives. This means that organizations should support creativity amongst their staff in terms of how better work can be executed using the available data.

**Data Policies and Regulation:** Uganda has seen its share of internet disruptions by the ICT space with the loss of connectivity for about a week and ongoing disruptions of social media. This is a clear indicator of the possibility of data rights infringement by the state. The society should therefore be empowered to have interest in data. There is political interference in the growth of the tech industry, leaving several innovators on the edge.

Besides the tech innovators struggling to stay alive, SafeBoda blew it up when it allegedly shared data contravening the data protection and privacy Act. Meaning that

people's data is risked by corporations. With such absurd loopholes in the tech industry in Uganda, potential investors could drift away to innovators in the neighboring countries within the region which in turn has a negative impact on Uganda's economy. According to the players, a section of innovators are going to move house away from Uganda and establish elsewhere.

**E-services:** Under NITA-U, a secure digital integration platform for Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local governments and other stakeholders will be launched to allow sharing of data and improve government efficiency and transparency. This is expected to ease e-service delivery to citizens both in urban and rural areas which would have otherwise required long travels, resultant delays and frustration.

Covid-19 has accelerated the use of e-services and digital tools across various sectors. In health, it has enabled planning, management, supply, distribution, delivery and monitoring of the Covid-19 vaccine by the Ministry of Health.

Later, a series of breakout sessions were offered for attendees to pick from, which included a variety of patriarchal hands-on workshops and panel discussions; specifics from each session are provided below;



### **Data & Art Creative Hustle Session: How Data & Tech Influence The Creative Industry**

The session was hosted in conjunction with MoTIV, The British Council, and Pollicy. This CreativesXData session focused amalgamation of data and technology and how this concept influences the work of creatives in the digital economy. Panelists shared their experiences but also gave key insights on how to adopt data in visual art through tools such as virtual reality. They also tackled the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on creativity and how young people can commercialize creative work with help from digital tools.

Copyright protection and registration of patents was discussed as means of avoiding ownership violation rights and copyright infringements while using tech platforms.

The session was attended by 50 people both physically and virtually with the majority (57%) being young people between ages 25 - 35. 68% of the participants were male and 32% female.



### **Data You Can Digest, by Aira Analytics**

Shem Opolot of Aira Analytics led an interactive session on the intricacies of data visualization, and how to use raw data to present insight and tell important stories. He explored the best tools to use, expounding on Microsoft Excel and emphasizing guiding principles that should be applied to each visualization task/project. He also mentioned how data visualization is influenced by the information you're attempting to convey to the audience.



### **Getting the workforce ready for the Data Science Opportunities, by Refactory**

In a session delivered by Joreen Arigye, a Data Analyst and Technical Facilitator at Refactory, who talked on getting the workforce ready for Data Science, the topic centered on data science opportunities. Participants were challenged throughout the session on how to get started in the data scientist sector, by exploring the various possible paths of what it would take to produce the suitable workforce for Uganda, approaches that can get interested persons started and working faster than the conventional education cycle.



## **Blending Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with Human Rights Advocacy, by DefendDefenders.**

The team from DefendDefenders broached the niche subject of artificial intelligence and human rights advocacy. Artificial Intelligence makes use of data to train machines. And while the benefits to this are enormous, we must not ignore the implications of the use of AI on our human rights such as the right to privacy. The use of AI by tech behemoths such as Google and Facebook as well our governments is increasingly revealed to be very intrusive, with a lot of data collected on us without our knowledge and consent. The need for advocacy to keep these custodians of data accountable has never been more important.

## **Surveillance, by People's Vaccine Kenya**

The People's Vaccine Kenya team published an extensive report on the surveillance by the state on citizens in Kenya using data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report questioned the conditions under which data collected was stored and utilized, and whether or not the public was adequately educated about the use of this data. The report also criticized the porous legislation in place in Kenya surrounding the protection data, as well as the lack of autonomy of any regulatory bodies in this regard. The report questioned the conditions under which data collected was stored and utilized, and whether or not the public was adequately educated about the use of this data. The report also criticized the porous legislation in place in Kenya surrounding the protection data, as well as the lack of autonomy of any regulatory bodies in this regard.

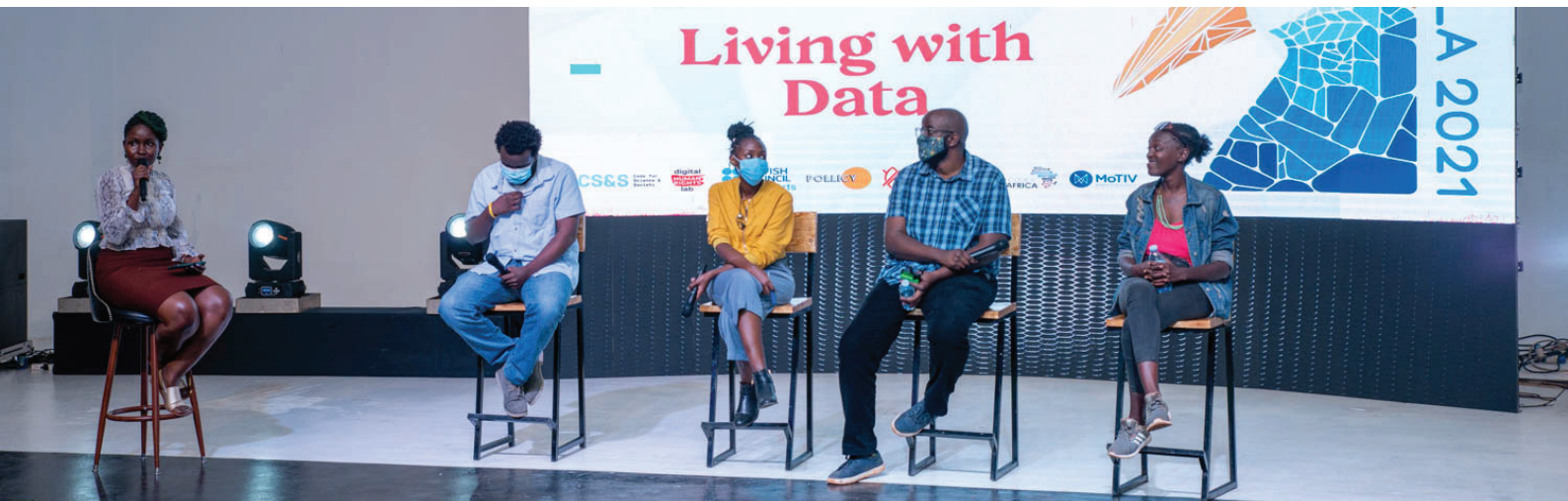


## **Don't get lost in the Random Forest: Beginner's guide, by Emata.**

This was an in-depth introductory workshop conducted by Moses Bomera, a Data Scientist from Emata, a spin-off of fintech company Laboremus Uganda with a goal to make farmer financing simple, available and affordable. They use alternative credit scoring and advanced data analytics to tailor credit limits to individual farmers. The introductory session on building machine learning models using Random Forest; a robust machine learning algorithm that can be used for a variety of tasks including regression and classification. He spoke at length about its classifications, pros, and

cons, and gave a walk-through demonstration on how it works, with participants using their laptops to try out for themselves.

The last session of day one was the screening of our mockumentary **"The Price is Wrong,"** a conversation on cybersecurity through the prism of comedy and realism. The production team, which comprised Omukama Studios' directors and creatives Peter Nuwagaba, Ntale Bahana, and Lesham Kengogo, and Edna Ninsiima, a feminist writer, communications practitioner, and social critic, then had a brief panel discussion on cybersecurity.



# Day Two

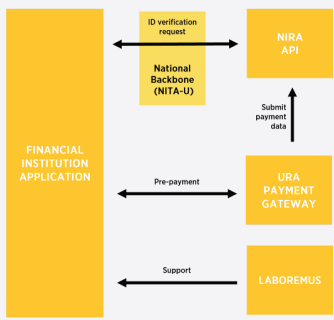
With a vision of spreading out DataFest Kampala as wide as possible over Kampala, we dedicated Day 2 to side events, where we had our various partners host their sessions at remote locations away from the main venue. And with our collaboration with SafeBoda, we had **promo codes** given out to participants so they could get free transport rides to the various locations.



## **Putting data into use for creativity and innovation, by RAN.**

ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) had some of the innovators from their incubator program show off how their different projects leverage data in order to provide a service. EzyAgric, led by Eunice Patricia Aber, is a mobile and web platform that provides farmers with data and statistics on farming and farming products. Akatale Fresh, led by Frank Mutaremwa, is a mobile and web platform that ensures that there is quality and good cost prices at your convenience.

This provides farmers with information on the different shifts in the market trends in terms of needs and consumption habits. MyLib, led by Andrew Mugerwa, is a blended e-learning solution app used in primary school to visualize what is taught in class. This app is used in classes to help students access quality and more interactive education. Centers4Her, led by Arafat Kabugo, is a digital platform designed to link survivors of gender-based violence to available post violence services nearest to them through a mobile app with ease and confidentiality. It's all gender inclusive. SafeBangle, led by Saul Kabali, is developing a wearable safety tool that can be used by the would-be victims of assaults, SGBV, and other forms of injustices to be empowered to call their trusted relatives and loved ones for help. The wearable safety tool will be used primarily by youths, students, to be their own champions against violence.



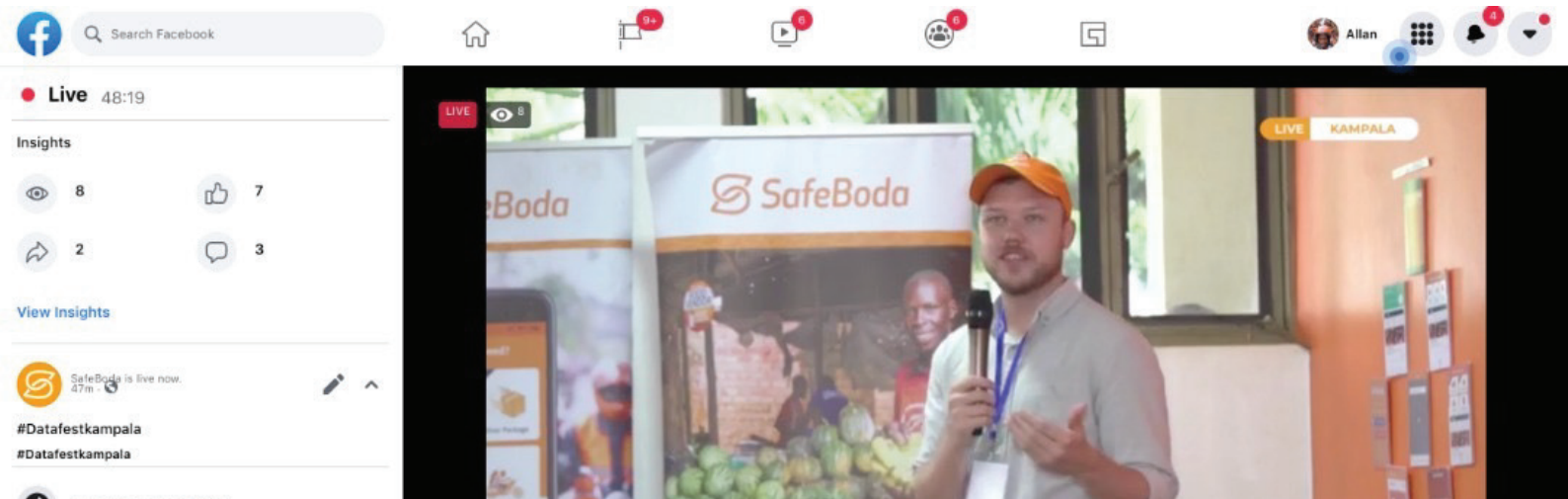
## HOW THE BANKS ARE CONNECTED TO NIRA

- What was the process to get access to the data?
- How can this process be improved?



### **Fueling Next Gen Fintechs; The Role of Government Data, by Laboremus.**

Charles Kibuuka, CTO, and Simon Asiimwe, Product Manager at Laboremus Uganda, a fintech infrastructure provider, discussed the role and need for more open government data that can be used to streamline the financial sector and enhance service delivery for customers during their session on fueling next Gen Fintechs. For example, Connecting financial institutions to the national identification database (NIRA). This reduces the time for loan approvals in the banks. Access to their government profile aids in the process of establishing creditworthiness. The use of data-driven fintech tools also allows for Anti Monetary Laundering verification.



### **Data for Decision Making and Intro to Metabase, by SafeBoda.**

At their SafeBoda Academy, SafeBoda held a two-part workshop. The first workshop went over the various scenarios in which participants can utilize data to inform their decision making in great detail. Data is vital in SafeBoda's operations, whether it is used to assess performance and establish goals for each department, or to explain consumer actions such as ride cancellation. The team then held a practical workshop session on how to utilize Metabase, a data analytics and visualization platform for efficiency and productivity dashboards, in the second session. Simon Robertson, the VP of Analytics, Edward Samuel Nabigwaku, a BI & Data Analyst, and Alex Muganyizi, a Data Analyst and Data Protection Officer of SafeBoda, conducted the sessions.



### **Using data to improve performance across various sectors by SEMA.**

SEMA led a discussion on the benefits of feedback data collected at scale and the benefits it has on service delivery. "Millions of citizens in East Africa rely on public services and most have no way of giving feedback and the government on the other hand has no way of collecting this information. The many suggestion boxes at these are not used or never opened at all if there is any feedback needed. Therefore, developing and deploying friendly data collection tools that allow citizens to give amounts of anonymous feedback goes a long way in improving overall service delivery and citizen satisfaction. There is just so much that citizens could use data for, only if they decided to use it. Data is very vital in decision making and improving service delivery" - Pamela Namala, Data Analyst, SEMA. It was great sharing how we have used data to effect policy change.



### **ClickUp for Project Management, by Defend Defenders.**

Daphne Nakabugo, DefendDefenders' Data & Documentation Lead, led a hands-on lesson on how to utilize the ClickUp app to monitor activities and projects. The ClickUp app/tool offers a simple and straightforward interface for individuals wanting to adapt and streamline their "Working From Home" models, particularly when working on multi-person/team focused projects. The session covered the app's best features, including task management, role assignment and collaboration, timelines and gantt charts, and interaction with other tools, such as Slack, which offers chat capabilities. This session also looked at how to use data to enhance service delivery, which needs diverse institutions and organizations to exchange data, perhaps fostering collaboration.

### **Music airplay on 30 Uganda Radio stations, by Radio Music Group.**

Rogers Twesigye, Team Lead at Radio Music Group, demonstrated their platform designed to study patterns in radio music airplay for artists, record labels or artist managers, music broadcasters, media, and public relations. They provided data on the most played songs on radio and trends through 2020, as well as the ramifications of radio exposure for artists, among other things.



### **COVID-19 and the water crisis, by InfoNile**

InfoNile is a collaborative cross-border group of Geo journalists with a mission to uncover critical stories on water issues in the 11 countries of the Nile River Basin through data-based multimedia storytelling. During this session, they shared information about their work and how they do it, such as mentoring and training journalists in data journalism and environmental/science reporting. They then shared two journalism projects on water scarcity: one by Sarah Mawerere of UBC on the flooding of Lake Victoria - a double tragedy during COVID 19 - and another by Arnest Tumwesigye of the New Vision on how, during COVID 19, Omoro District failed to raise shs1 billion for borehole repairs.



### **Digital security tools: Clinic for human rights defenders**

A Digital Security clinic session was a goldmine of must-know information on how to keep your data safe in the digital era. The session was led by the Digital Human Rights Lab's Community of Practice (CoP) on Digital Security and Cyber laws and legislation.

Session was delivered by Timothy Director, Programs at BarefootLaw, Brian Byaruhanga from Defenders Protection Initiative, Ruth Atim from the Gender Tech Initiative and Vivene Nattabi from Unwanted Witness. The session focused on data protection and laws in Uganda, its procedures, and existing inadequacies in the legislative system. Discussed also were methods of practicing caution in regards to one's personal data such as password management, data encryption, anonymous web browsing, 2-step verification for our online accounts, among others.



### **Data and the Minorities.**

Hosted in collaboration with the Digital Human Rights Lab's Community of Practice on Digital Inclusion, the discussion focused on Improving data collection and visibility for minorities, which highlighted the necessity to perform data collection that is inclusive of minorities/key population such as women, persons with disabilities, and sexual minorities such as members of the trans, gay, or lesbian communities. Inclusivity improves the formation of public policy and aids in the planning of all aspects of society. The major purpose of the session was to emphasize the need of ensuring equal access to ICT tools and equal enjoyment of the benefits that come with ICTs while advocating for digital human rights. Ayesiga Herbert and Bonnita Nyamwire from Pollicy led the session.

### **Using ICTs for Social Change**

The session was hosted in collaboration with Digital Human Rights Lab's Community of Practice on ICT 4 Advocacy and Innovation for Rural Development. The interactive workshop will focus on how diverse participants in the Human Rights sphere can use ICTs for advocacy in order to enhance social justice. There was also a Tech Demo of the Human rights violations tracker, a tool for recording and monitoring violations in order to offer a thorough, accurate, and verifiable info-pact in relation to incidences of COVID-19 associated human rights abuses in Uganda, which was projected on a live interactive tracker map. There was also a demonstration of children's online safety and a save the messenger campaign. Session was led by Andrew Gole from Encrypt Uganda, Goeffrey Odong from Forum for Rights Awareness and Monitoring Uganda (FORAMO) and Charles Ochan from U-touch Gulu.

## AirQo Low-Cost Air Quality Monitor Calibration Challenge by DataFest Kampala

\$250 USD

Powering up low cost air quality monitors in Kampala, Uganda

64 data scientists enrolled, 25 on the leaderboard

[Safety](#)[Health](#)[Prediction](#)[Structured](#)

Uganda 🇺🇬

29 April—30 April



### DataFest Hackathon

In collaboration with Zindi Africa and AirQo, we ran an online hackathon on the Zindi Africa platform over the course of DataFest Kampala that tasks participants to develop a model that takes low cost device data and other supplementary data, and transforms it as accurately as possible to the reference value. The end goal is to improve the accuracy of low cost air quality monitors built by AirQo in order to provide accurate insights to citizens and government alike.

DataFest Kampala Hackathon winners 2021;

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: ASSASSIN - Azer Ksouri - Prize: \$125**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Patrickpato - Patrick Ning'i - Prize: \$75**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Team Generation of Miracles - Prize: \$50**

## AirQo Low-Cost Air Quality Monitor Calibration Challenge

\$1,000 USD

Powering up low cost air quality monitors in Kampala, Uganda

265 data scientists enrolled, 161 on the leaderboard

[Safety](#)[Prediction](#)[Structured](#)

Uganda 🇺🇬

30 April—7 June 02:59

38 days



The hackathon continued and changed into a competition on the Zindi Platform and opened up to the broader online community of data scientists. The competition runs until 6th June Zindi Africa platform and has a cash prize of \$1000.

The two-day hybrid event culminated with a cocktail networking event, which allowed attendees, partners, and speakers to mingle, as well as an insight presentation from SafeBoda on the DataFest coupon experiment, Joshua Daaki - Digital Human Rights Lab on the DHRL innovation program, and fireside chats from Morine Amutorine on the Data Science Africa Ugandan Chapter and performances.



Pollicy organized Datafest Kampala in collaboration with Laboremus, SEMA, Resilience Innovation Lab Resilient Africa Network (RAN), Refactory, SafeBoda, and Innovation Village, with funding support from Code For Science and Society, DefendDefenders, Digital Human Rights Lab, British Council, Code for Africa, and the venue partner MoTIV. During the two-day event, Roke Telkom provided free internet connection to all participants.



# DataFest in Numbers

## 521 Total Participants

397

Virtual Participants

124

Physical Participants

373

Below Age 30

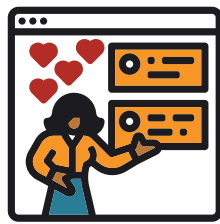
148

Age 30+



42

Speakers



95,144

Twitter Impressions



4

Lightning Talks



6

Breakaway Sessions



10

Side Events Hosted



5

Physical Locations



5

Host Partners



5

Funding Partners



5

Media Mentions



0

Misconduct Reports

## The following media outlets covered DataFest Kampala and its activities;

**NTV Uganda** - DATA FOR BUSINESS: Making informed decisions with data.



**Daily Monitor** NEWS BUSINESS OPED SPECIAL REPORTS MAGAZINES SPORTS

Daily Monitor / Business / Technology

### Stakeholders to discuss making data a regular conversation

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 2021



48.2m: The number of Internet users across East Africa. PHOTO/FILE.

**Daily Monitor** - Stakeholders to discuss making data a regular conversation.

### Pollicy Organizing 3rd Edition of DataFest, Focusing On Exploring The Role Data Plays

The DataFest Kampala will be held from 29th to 30th of April 2021 at MoTIV in Bugolobi.

Magazine Editor - February 15, 2021

2 minutes read



The DataFest Kampala to be held from 29th to 30th of April 2021 at MoTIV in Bugolobi. (COURTESY PHOTO/ Pollicy, Twitter)

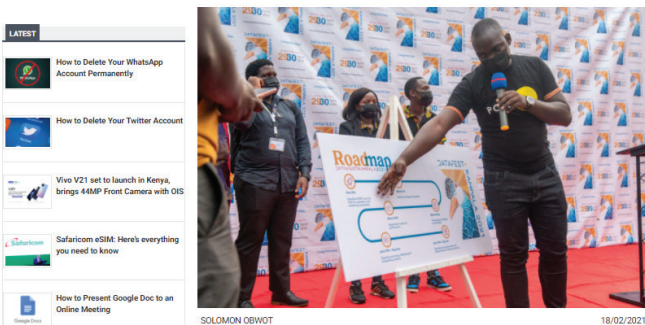
**PCTech Magazine** - Pollicy Organizing 3rd Edition of DataFest, Focusing On Exploring The Role Data Plays.



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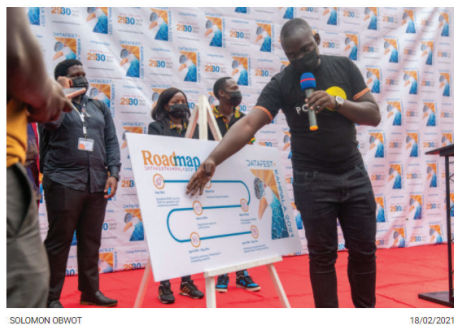
CHANNELS PRICEGATOR

### DataFest Kampala 2021: Pollicy Launches The Biggest Data Festival in Africa



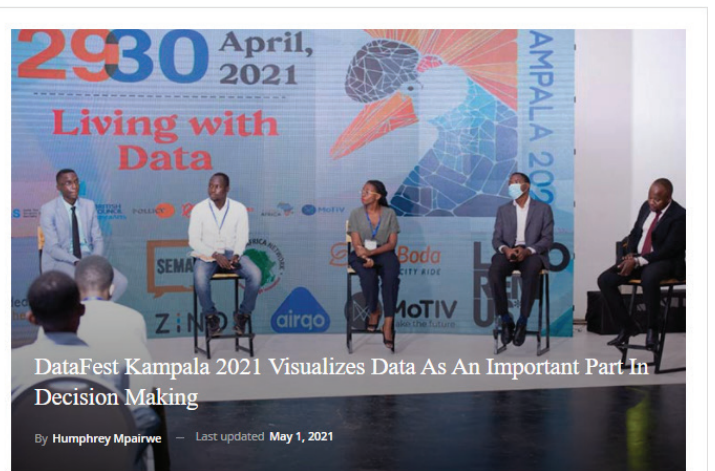
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SOLOMON OBIWOT 18/02/2021


**Dignited** - DataFest Kampala 2021: Pollicy Launches The Biggest Data Festival in Africa.



2930 April, 2021

### Living with Data

AMPALA 2021



DataFest Kampala 2021 Visualizes Data As An Important Part In Decision Making

By Humphrey Mpairwe - Last updated May 1, 2021

**TechPoint Magazine** - <https://techpoint-mag.com/datafest-kampala-2021-visualizes-data-relevance/>

**Pollicy Blog** - <https://pollicy.medium.com/inside-the-second-datafest-kampala-63a12342ad8c>



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