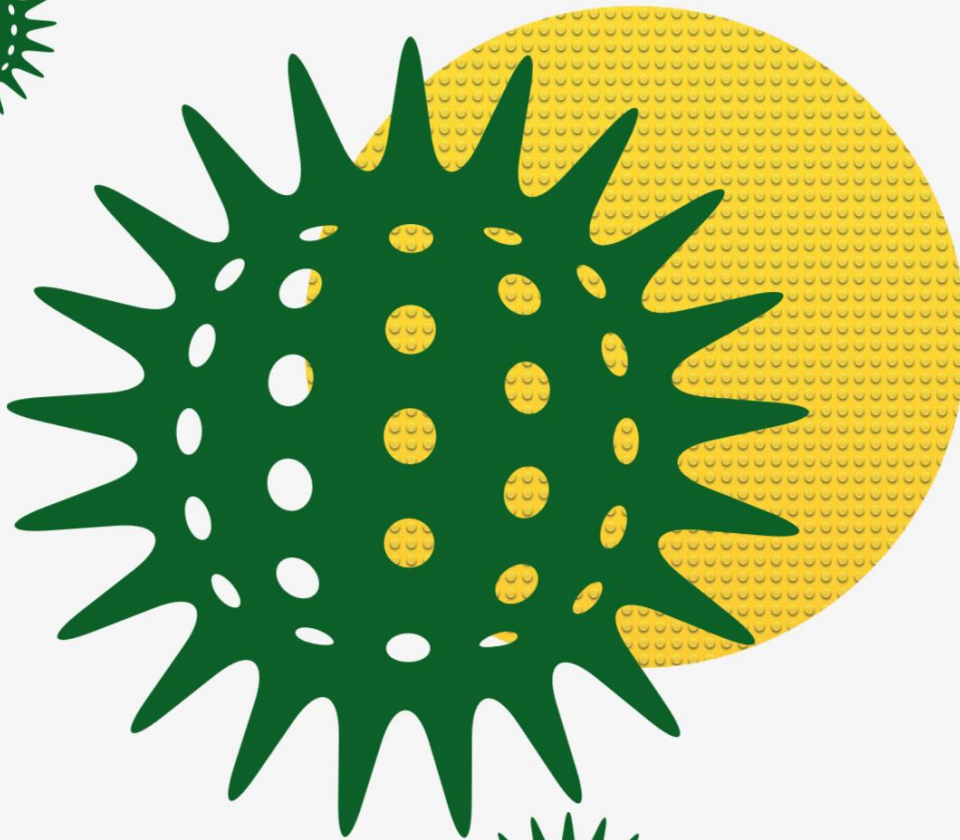
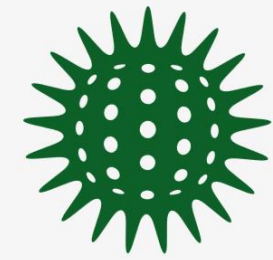


MAPUTIATOTA'S CORONA-STUCK NANO EBOOK 8



**PRACTICAL TIPS ON WHAT
TO DO WHILST STUCK AT
HOME.**

Live productively during the
Corona Virus lockdown!

Disclaimer

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Introduction

Welcome back dear reader. Thank you for your consistency! This is the **eighth** book in a **14 part** nano-ebook series. Just in case you've forgotten, I'm Maputiatota*, and I live in this amazing country, Zimbabwe. Very little content is available about how to live **productively** during the Corona Virus lockdown, and I am on a mission to leave you better than you were when the lockdown began.

Time to DIVE IN!

OPPORTUNITIES GALORE

Luck is when preparation meets opportunity. Let's have a look at a few opportunities to go after, or prepare for during this lockdown.

Before I get into the article I'll leave you with a few tips:

1. On twitter, try following the following pages: @YouthConnektZim , @oppsforafricans @ImpactHubHarare and @SiceloSTEMLADY
2. If you are a girl/woman then there are very many opportunities for you. Head over to my programming section, and I will give a little advice that will definitely transform your life!
3. Work on stopping what is called the "Imposter Syndrome" This is a belief that you aren't good enough, and that others won't value your input. Nonsense! YOU are good enough. Head over to [this link](#) (choose Episode 8) and listen to a good podcast by Simon Kaguramamba about how to combat this.

Enter a few competitions

Let's have a look at the following opportunities that you must apply for NOW!

Africa Food Prize 2020

Let's have a look at what the organizers of the event have to say

This is a recognized award for honouring the extraordinary individual or institution whose additions to agriculture in Africa have shaped or are shaping a new cycle of viable food security and economic opportunities for all Africans. The award can be given to any capable candidate, regardless of profession or vocation, whose work, and inputs deriving from the work, as had an evident impact on the African situation, nationally, regionally or for the continent.

Want to win \$100,000? Well then apply for it now! Head over to [this link](#) to find out more.

LeadTech

Here is what I got from the LeadTech website:

LeadTech is an **intensive 6-month incubation program** dedicated to early stage women-owned or women-led tech start-ups. Based on a competition model. The program aims to nurture and provide a supportive environment for women entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and become independent. The goal of the program is to foster innovation and entrepreneurship at start-up for scale and to strengthen sustainability of growth.

Sharing the belief that entrepreneurship and women's leadership are key drivers in transforming the African Continent, the **Mohammed VI Polytechnic University**, through its entity P-Curiosity Lab, have partnered with the **Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF)** to support 15 African young female entrepreneurs as part of the 2020 **LeadTech** startups promotion.

Interested? Head over to [this link](#) to find out more. Make sure you hit the apply button!

Global Tech Challenge

This is a challenge being supported by the worldbank. Let's see what they say about this programme

*We will reward scalable, innovative technological solutions that seek to empower women in four areas. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we will accept rapid response applications to fast track implementation of sustainable solutions around digital access and online content. **The deadline for rapid response solutions is extended to April 27, 2020. The deadline for regular solutions is extended to June 1, 2020.***

- **Platforms:** Solutions that increase the availability of locally relevant digital platforms catering to women. For example, local marketplaces and solutions building online communities for women.
- **Digital skills:** Solutions that support the development of digital skills by women and girls. For example, applications that use personalized and adaptive learning to teach basic, intermediate or advanced digital skills.
- **Online content:** Solutions that increase the availability of women-oriented content. For example, locally relevant content on reproductive health or to combat gender-based violence.
- **Enhancing digital access:** Solutions that focus on innovative business models that make it easier for women to access and use digital technologies and enable the use of digital identification, such as pay-as-you-go and other models that promote women's sustained use of mobile internet.

The winners will:

- Receive recognition and brand visibility at [CES 2021](#) as a Global Tech Challenge winner.
- Engage with governments and World Bank Group teams to potentially scale their solutions within development projects.
- Access mentorship from technology companies and World Bank leaders to help scale their solutions.

- Share their stories at multiple international fora such as CES 2021, regional conferences, and the [World Bank Group's Spring and Annual Meetings](#).
- Build their professional networks and raise their international profile and brand.

Zimbarsity

This is an initiative by a local company, Kelteve. Let's have a look at what this is all about:

Why Zimbarsity

Research and development is the fuel to the sustainable growth of an institution, corporation, nation and the world at large. Tertiary institutions for learning are racing to equip scholars with information and skill to add to the process of research and development at a global scale, therefore, scholars need to have research data at their disposal.

It is feeble and trivial to try and reinvent the wheel rather figure a way to make it faster. Zimbarsity helps scholars not to start at roots level on researching concepts that others have already researched on, therefore we offer this material at a fee for scholars to build upon existing research in the context of Zimbabwe to save time and resources.

Basically, Zimbarsity is acting as the next ResearchGate. If you don't know how ResearchGate is all about here are the basics. It is a platform for academics to share their research work. They collaborate, and come up with better research because they will base their work on previous work.

Some people are a bit sceptical about this, but I find it innovative. Well I guess time will tell! Head over to their site using [this link](#) to get all your questions answered. PS. This uses http instead of https so your browser might say this site is not safe...just ignore it.

Programming

Well I'm into programming (I currently design and develop C# desktop apps), so I definitely wouldn't leave this section out. This is a really great time to learn a programming language. Learn a simple programming language that you can use to develop applications, and this could be useful for rapid prototyping, a skill that will come in handy when going for hackathons (coding competitions)

Which language should I select?

Well I love C. I started with C and ended up using C#. Why you may ask? Because C# is quite similar to C, and therefore if one decides to learn how to program an arduino board, it will be very easy, and because it is very easy to make a program/system using Microsoft Visual Studio. Creating the user interface (that nice part that you see) requires no code at all – you just drag and drop items onto a windows form and BOOM! You're done. You will need to add code, and this is what may be a bit challenging. I would find it great to learn C#. Just go on YouTube, search for a guy called Bucky Roberts, and download his C# videos. Also download Microsoft visual studio 2012 (the old versions are more stable...). Have fun ☺

Don't like C# ? Well then try python. Its super easy, and it is really popular – and it seems as though its gaining popularity more and more. Know the basics. In the future when you find out more about data analytics machine learning, you will see how relevant it is. Case Study: There is currently a course called Hash Analytics, and it offers a certificate after you finish their Data Analytics Remote Internship. They use python and through this, one can learn the basics of Data Analytics. If you have \$10 US, you could add this course to your "Do by the end of the year" list. Head over to [this link](#) to find out more.

And women... this is the section I promised you

Relative to males, very few women are interested in engineering & technology. In an engineering class of 50, usually 8 or less are female. I don't know why this is so, but this is what is currently happening. This age is an era filled with opportunities for women in the technology field. Don't have a degree? It doesn't matter! What matters is your passion for technology, and being familiar with at least one programming language. Try C#. Develop rapid software prototypes. Enter hackathons (coding competitions). Show them your skills. Or..

Learn Data Analytics. Show of your skills at coding competitions. You will go places. Follow @SiceloSTEMLADY on twitter and get to see the opportunities she posts there. Also, just follow her to get inspired.

Conclusion

That's it for today. Tomorrow will be about ordering your phone, and a few must have apps!

I hope you enjoyed it. For more material, feel free to head over to my blog <https://maputiatotablog.wordpress.com>

I'm available on Instagram @ maputiatota, and on Twitter @ maputiatota
Don't be shy to say hi!