



Rapelang Rabana
ENTREPRENEUR | THOUGHT LEADER | SPEAKER



RAPELANG RABANA

SERIAL TECH ENTREPRENEUR AND INNOVATION ADVOCATE

SUGGESTED SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Featured on the cover of ForbesAfrica magazine before the age of 30, named Entrepreneur for the World by the *World Entrepreneurship Forum* and selected as a Young Global Leader by the *World Economic Forum* - Rapelang is an internationally lauded technology entrepreneur.

From her first startup straight out of university, Yeigo, to Chief Digital Officer at South Africa's largest IT company, Rapelang is a true digital native. Rapelang is the co-CEO of Imagine Worldwide, which operates across 7 African countries, providing tablet-based learning programs to develop literacy and numeracy skills in millions of young children. Rapelang is also the Founder of Rekindle Learning, an edtech company that enables organizations to easily codify and share institutional know-how amongst their teams to drive business performance.

As a Founding Partner at FFWD (fast forward) Innovation, Rapelang is experienced in accelerating the innovation agenda in large companies to extract business value. In 2021 she co-founded the VC fund Grindstone Ventures, as well as Norrsken Impact Accelerator, part of one of the world's largest impact funds, all to support and fund high-impact entrepreneurs.

MINI-PROFILE

Internationally renowned technology entrepreneur and education advocate, Rapelang has amassed 16+ years' experience building innovative businesses. She is the Co-CEO of Imagine Worldwide, and the Founder of Rekindle Learning. Rapelang is a thought leader and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum. BBusSci (Hons Comp. Sci), and M.Sc, University of Cape Town.



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FULL PROFILE

With Rapelang, you get to see digital technology through the eyes of a practical, hands-on innovator. From her first startup, straight out of university, Yeigo, to Chief Digital Officer of South Africa's largest IT company, Rapelang is a true digital native. Her talks and masterclasses reverse-engineer her 16+ years of experience in building tech companies, unpacking all things digital in a meaningful way to extract tangible business and social value.

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Rapelang provides hands-on digital innovation expertise, as well as a founding partner at FFWD (fast forward) Innovation, which helps companies innovate faster through data-driven experimentation. In 2021 she co-founded \$6.5m VC fund Grindstone Ventures, as well as Norrsken Impact Accelerator, part of one of the world's largest impact funds, all to support and fund high-impact entrepreneurs.

In 2023, Rapelang Rabana became the Co-CEO of Imagine Worldwide, an NGO operating across 7 African countries, providing tablet-based learning programs to develop literacy and numeracy skills in millions of young children. In partnership with the government of Malawi, Imagine is implementing the tablet program in all primary schools — projected to serve 3.5m students annually at full scale. Rapelang is also the Founder of Rekindle Learning, a dynamic edtech company that enables organizations to easily codify and share institutional know-how amongst their teams to drive business performance. Rekindle Learning, which was profiled in the *McKinsey Lions go Digital* report as a *striking innovation* in learning.

Rapelang has spoken at over 300 occasions on local and international platforms and has shared a stage with the likes of President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell. She obtained B. Business Science (Computer Science Honours) and an M.Sc from the University of Cape Town, giving her a technical and business background. She has since believed that there had to be better, simpler more effective ways to do things – and there is using digital technologies.

Recipient honours and awards: Young Global Leader; Cover ForbesAfrica before 30; Forbes 30 under 30 - Africa's Best Young Entrepreneurs; Fast Company Maverick; Choiseul 100 Africa; World Summit Awards Juror; Harambe Entrepreneur, Endeavor High-Impact Entrepreneur; Oprah Mag O Power List.