

The background of the slide is a light blue illustration. It depicts a person with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a white shirt, sitting at a desk and working on a laptop. A desk lamp is positioned to the left of the person, and a potted plant is to the right. On the desk, there are also some small bottles and papers. The overall style is clean and modern.

Africa Tech Report 2025: The Glitch & The Grind

We wake up. 2025 is the morning after the decade-long binge of **"Africa Rising."** The Venture Capitalists have flown back to Palo Alto, chasing the new deity of Generative AI. They left us with the bill—a splitting headache and the cold reality of a **Funding Winter that froze over.** The total funding for the year settled at **\$2.8 billion**, a stark retreat from the **\$3.9 billion** roar of 2023. The story is no longer one of limitless growth, but of a brutal, beautiful **fracture**—a signal fighting through the overwhelming noise of a system fundamentally at odds with itself.

I. The Capital Fever & The Funding Mirage

Money returned in 2025, but as a **mirage in a desert**. A splashy **\$289 million January** promised revival, a 240% year-on-year leap. The first half hauled in **\$1.42 billion**, a sign of cautious, selective confidence returning. But by year's end, the total told a different truth: **\$2.8 billion**. Down from 2023. A "cautious recovery" that felt, on the ground, like a **permanent contraction**.

The mood curdled. The mantra shifted from "**Growth at all costs**" to "**EBITDA**." A corporate acronym that tastes like ash in the mouth of a visionary. Capital was no longer a tide lifting all boats; it was a targeted drip, feeding only the most resilient vines.

\$2.8B

Total Funding

2025's brutal reality

\$289M

January High

The false dawn

240%

YoY Jump

Mirage of recovery

II. The Big Four & The Continent of Ghosts

Geography is destiny, and in 2025, the destiny was **hyper-concentration**. The "**Big Four**" continued their cannibalistic feast, swallowing the lion's share of capital, talent, and headlines. Nigeria and South Africa alone birthed most of the continent's fastest-growing companies. This is the ecosystem's brutal geography: **four pulsating hubs** in a vast landscape of **ghost-town potential**.



Lagos

The roaring engine



Johannesburg

The financial titan



Nairobi

The innovation hub



Cairo

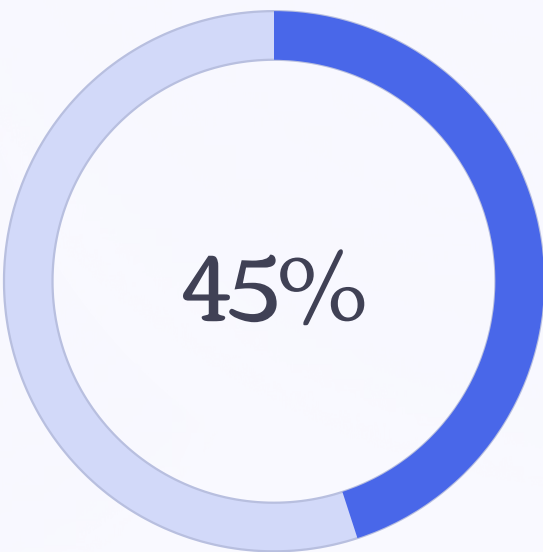
The northern anchor

Outside these hubs—in Rwanda, Ghana, Tanzania—ecosystems bud without equal rain. Founders become **survivalists**, rubbing sticks of pilot grants together, trying to start a fire in the perpetual shadow of the heat map. The "pan-African startup" is a myth perpetrated by those in the glowing cities; for the rest, it is a daily battle against **capital apartheid**.

III. Sector Splintering: Fintech's Ouroboros & The Cockroach Niche

Fintech remained the leviathan, the **Ouroboros**—the snake eternally consuming itself. It captured **45% of all capital**, a titanic engine solving and re-solving the problem of moving money from A to B, in a continent where Point A is often bankrupt. We have more neobanks than reliable banks, more payment gateways than paved gates. **Flutterwave, OPay, Moniepoint**—titans wrestling in mud for a shrinking pool of formal liquidity.

But 2025 was the year of the **Cockroach Startup**. Ugly. Small. Built for endurance, not spectacle.



Fintech's Grip
The Ouroboros feeds



PropTech Surge
Two deals, not a revolution

Climate Tech & Energy
Powering the Ferrari with something more than a donkey-cart grid

HealthTech
Attaching silicon to flesh

AgriTech
Attaching silicon to soil

These are not unicorns. They are cockroaches. They do not burn cash; they **feast on decay**, solving boring, dirty, essential problems. They are the ecosystem's immune response.

IV. The Raw Infrastructure: Elon's Net & The Diesel Cloud

While the coders code, **the lights go out**. We speak of **Data Centres** and **Cloud Regions** whilst the cloud itself runs on diesel. Africa hosts **less than 1% of global data centre capacity**. Our data, our digital soul, must travel to Europe and back, a costly, laggy pilgrimage. The promise of sovereign cloud is a whisper against the roar of the generator.



And above it all hangs **Elon's Net**. **Starlink** became the new god in 2025, beaming salvation to those who could afford the dish. It is the ultimate segregation: **those with the Dish, and those with the Dirt**.

Governments try to ban it, tax it, regulate it—but the signal, like water or hope, finds the cracks. It is not infrastructure; it is **infrastructure-as-a-lifeline**, a damning indictment of terrestrial failure.

V. The Talent: The Great Japa & The Digital Ghosts

Where are the builders? **Gone**. The "**Great Japa**" (Exodus 2.0) accelerated. The **Andela model** taught a generation to code, and the global market taught them to leave. We export our brightest minds faster than crude oil.

Those who remain are "**Digital Ghosts**." They live in Lagos but work on EST time. They earn in **Dollars** and spend in **Naira**, living like alien kings in a city of paupers.

They create a new class divide so sharp it could cut through the tension in a co-working space. The local ecosystem is starved of senior talent, left with juniors to maintain the legacy code of broken ambitions. We are not building a local future; we are **staffing the global present**.

The Great Japa

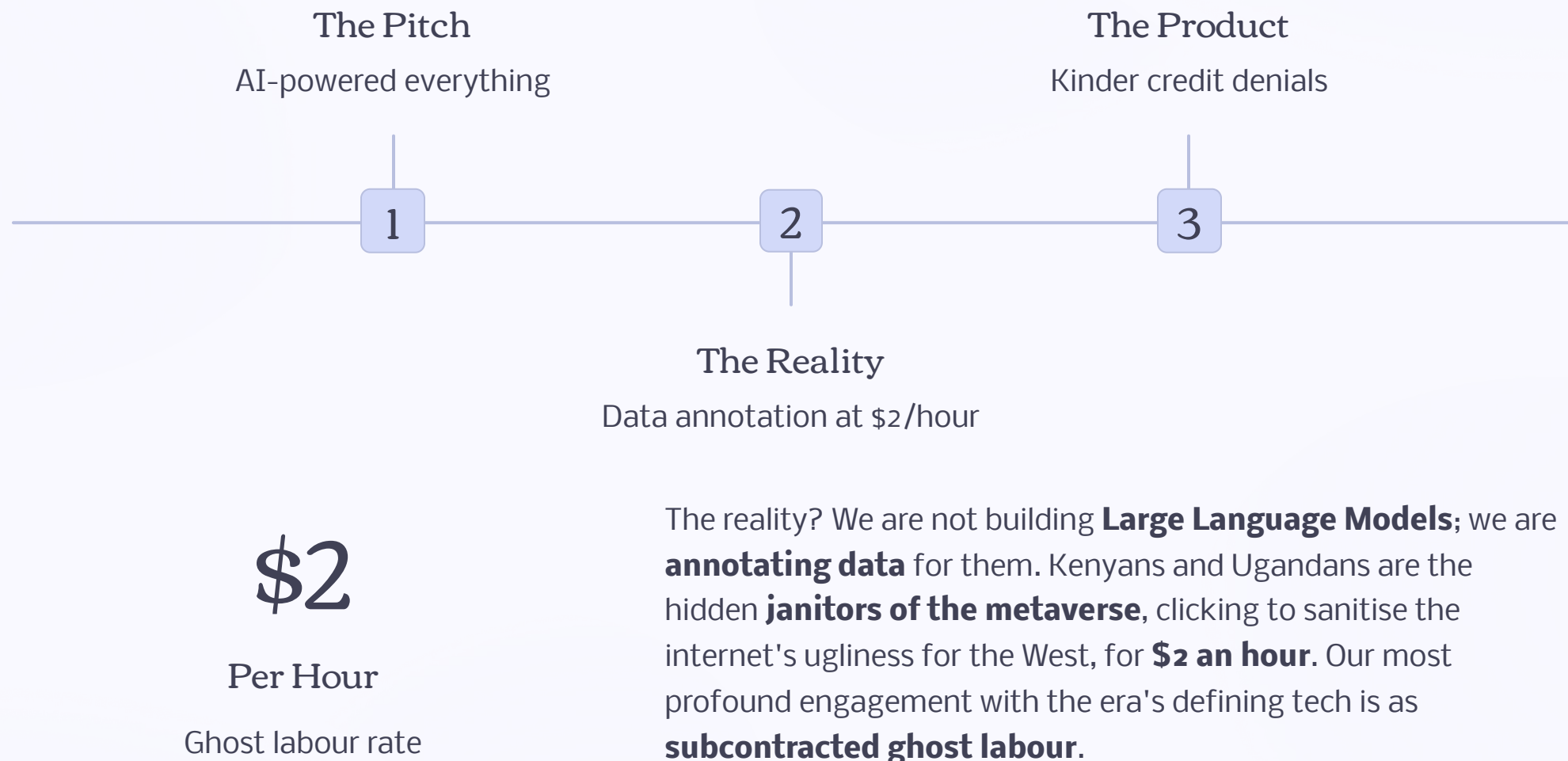
Export of brilliance

Digital Ghosts

Present but absent

VI. Artificial Intelligence: The Hallucinating Janitors

And of course, **AI**. The buzzword that refuses to die. In 2025, every startup slapped an "**AI Wrapper**" on their broken Excel model.



We deploy this hallowed intelligence to write kinder credit denial letters and generate marketing copy for products nobody can buy. It is the ultimate **tool of efficiency applied to a vacuum of opportunity**.

Conclusion: The Cockroach Era & The Asymptotic Dream

The **Unicorn is extinct**. Hunted to death by the winter.

Welcome to the **Cockroach Era**.

Not a Pitch Deck

A survival guide for the glitch

Not a Revolution

A persistent, productive glitch

Not Dying

Learning, violently, how to live

The State of African Tech in 2025 is **not a pitch deck**. It is a **survival guide**. It is the visceral understanding that technology will not save us from our foundational wounds—the darkness, the fragmentation, the decay. But if we are smart, ruthless, and resilient, it might help us **endure the night**.

2025 did not deliver a revolution. It delivered a **persistent, productive glitch**. A system learning to operate, brilliantly at times, within its own failures. The dream of a seamless, silicon-powered future is **asymptotic**—forever approaching, never touching the gritty, glorious, contradictory ground.

The pulse is erratic, but it persists.

The patient is not dying. It is learning, violently, how to live.