

# **Autobiography of Michael Kimeu**

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## **Early Life and Background**

My name is Michael Kimeu, and my journey has been shaped by resilience, determination, and a passion for technology. Born with a disability, I am the firstborn in a family of three children. My early years were marked by numerous hospital visits, beginning with an admission to Kenyatta National Hospital and later to Kijabe Hospital. These experiences, while challenging, instilled in me a profound appreciation for life and the strength to overcome obstacles.

Growing up in Makueni County, Kenya, I faced many challenges that tested my resolve. Despite these hardships, I was fortunate to receive the love and support of my family, which became my bedrock. My parents always encouraged me to pursue my dreams and never let my disability define me. Their unwavering belief in my potential inspired me to strive for excellence in everything I undertook.

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## **Education and Scholarship**

I attended Masaku School for the Physically Disabled, where I received an education that nurtured my growing interest in Information Technology. The school provided a supportive environment where I could focus on my studies and develop my skills. It was here that I discovered my passion for technology, which would later shape my career aspirations.

After Masaku School, I attended Kathonzweni Boys' High School, where I developed a keen interest in Computer Studies. It was during this time that I resolved to pursue a computer-related course when I joined university. Despite facing financial difficulties, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the KCB Foundation before joining Form 1. This support came at a crucial time, as my father was involved in an accident in August 2016, significantly impacting our family's financial stability. The scholarship not only alleviated the financial burden but also motivated me to work harder to achieve my goals. Life has not been easy since then, but these hardships have only strengthened my resolve to succeed.

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## **University Life**

Currently, I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. My time at the university has been transformative, providing me with opportunities to expand my knowledge and gain practical experience in the field of IT. The rigorous academic curriculum has equipped me with a strong foundation in various aspects of technology, including programming, database management, and cybersecurity.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have actively participated in extracurricular activities, such as tech clubs and hackathons. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. My involvement in these activities has further fueled my passion for technology and reinforced my commitment to making a positive impact through my work.

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## **Professional Experience**

As a Backend Software Developer in the work-study program at the DeKUT Siemens Certification Center, I had the opportunity to apply my theoretical knowledge to practical projects. During my time at the center, I developed an inventory system to track and manage equipment efficiently. This project taught me the importance of meticulous planning and attention to detail in software development.

I also designed a management system to streamline administrative tasks and improve workflow. This experience provided valuable insights into the challenges of managing complex systems and highlighted the importance of user-centered design. Through these projects, I honed my problem-solving skills and gained hands-on experience in backend development.

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## **Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador**

My role as a Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic journey. As an ambassador, I organized and led workshops to enhance technical skills within the campus community. These workshops covered a range of topics, from basic programming to advanced cloud computing techniques.

Utilizing Microsoft Azure to host static web apps allowed me to gain practical experience in cloud services and software development. This experience not only expanded my technical skill set but also taught me the importance of scalability and reliability in cloud-based solutions. Additionally, I engaged in online training on Microsoft technologies and services to enhance my technical proficiency and earn various certifications.

Organizing the DeKUT HACKATHON 2024 was a significant milestone in my ambassador role. The hackathon focused on themes such as climate, healthcare, and education, and attracted participants from diverse backgrounds. This event showcased the power of collaboration and innovation in addressing global challenges. It was gratifying to see the creative solutions proposed by participants and to contribute to an event that fostered learning and growth.

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## **Content Intern at Eneza Education**

As a Content Intern at Eneza Education, I had the responsibility of ensuring the quality and accuracy of educational content on the Mwalimoo Platform. I efficiently uploaded offline-created lessons, ensuring they met the platform's standards. This role required meticulous attention to detail and a strong understanding of educational content management.

I reviewed responses provided by responders and the BOT, offering constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement. Collaborating with the content associate, I addressed content-related issues and discrepancies, ensuring that the platform delivered high-quality educational resources. This experience enhanced my content management skills and deepened my understanding of the importance of accessible and accurate educational materials.

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## **Special Needs Advocacy**

My role as the Special Needs Representative for the KCB Foundation Alumni Network has been a deeply personal and fulfilling experience. Advocating for the rights and needs of students with special needs within the alumni network has allowed me to give back to the community and support others facing similar challenges.

I organized and facilitated events and workshops aimed at raising awareness and providing support for special needs education. These events created a platform for sharing experiences, discussing challenges, and exploring solutions. Developing and implementing support programs to enhance the learning experience and well-being of students with special needs has been a central focus of my work.

Providing personalized support and guidance to students with special needs, helping them navigate academic and social challenges, has been incredibly rewarding. This role has reinforced my belief in the power of advocacy and the importance of creating inclusive environments that cater to the diverse needs of all students.

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## **Skills and Expertise**

Throughout my journey, I have developed a diverse set of skills that have prepared me for a career in the tech industry. My expertise includes Cloud Services (Microsoft Azure), Workshop Organization and Leadership, Content Management, Technical Training and Certification, Special Needs Advocacy and Support, Backend Software Development, Inventory Management, Problem-Solving, and Communication.

Each of these skills has been honed through practical experience and continuous learning. My technical proficiency in cloud services and backend development, combined with my ability

to organize and lead workshops, has positioned me to contribute effectively to dynamic work environments. My advocacy work and content management experience have further enriched my skill set, enabling me to approach challenges with a holistic perspective.

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## **Looking Ahead**

As I look to the future, I am motivated by a desire to make a positive impact and continuously learn and grow. My experiences have taught me the value of perseverance and the importance of giving back to the community. I aspire to leverage my skills and dedication to contribute effectively to a dynamic work environment and continue making a difference in the lives of others.

I am particularly interested in exploring opportunities in cloud computing, software development, and special needs advocacy. These fields align with my passion for technology and my commitment to creating inclusive and supportive environments. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and am eager to embrace new challenges and opportunities for growth.

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## **Reflections**

Reflecting on my journey, I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from my family, mentors, and community. Their belief in my potential has been a constant source of motivation and has empowered me to pursue my dreams relentlessly. Despite the challenges I have faced, I have always strived to maintain a positive outlook and remain focused on my goals.

The experiences I have had, both personal and professional, have shaped me into the person I am today. They have taught me the importance of resilience, adaptability, and compassion. As I continue my journey, I carry with me the lessons I have learned and the determination to make a meaningful impact in the world.

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## **Final Thoughts**

In conclusion, my journey has been one of resilience, learning, and growth. From overcoming personal challenges to pursuing my passion for technology, I have always strived to make the most of every opportunity. My experiences have equipped me with a diverse skill set and a deep understanding of the importance of inclusivity and support in education and the workplace.

I am excited about the future and the opportunities it holds. With a strong foundation in Information Technology and a commitment to making a positive impact, I am confident in

my ability to contribute effectively to any dynamic work environment. I look forward to continuing my journey, embracing new challenges, and making a difference in the lives of others.

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Michael Kimeu

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Before joining university KCB Foundation announced that the scholarship was to come to an end after completing form 4. Worries and despair hit me as my family/parents couldn't afford to pay the tuition fee and other essentials for me to join university. Fortunately KCB Foundation said that they were going to launch university scholarship. Ours was the first cohort to be sponsored to university by KCB Foundation. They later offered to provide each one of us with a laptop which was to help us in learning. When I was in second year, I requested the foundation to provide me with an electric wheelchair which they did without hesitation. Within a month of me informing them about the need for an electric wheelchair, it finally became a dream come true

ChatGPT

Memory updated

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During my second year, I requested the foundation to provide me with an electric wheelchair, which they did without hesitation. Within a month of informing them about the need for an electric wheelchair, it finally became a dream come true. This support significantly improved my mobility and independence, allowing me to focus more on my studies and extracurricular activities.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have actively participated in extracurricular activities, such as tech clubs and hackathons. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with like-minded individuals, exchange ideas, and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. My involvement in these activities has further fueled my passion for technology and reinforced my commitment to making a positive impact through my work.

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