

# Stephen Kolesh

Nairobi

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I am a Machine Learning Engineer with over 3 years of experience, and my expertise lies in harnessing the power of data to drive strategic decision-making and deliver innovative solutions. With a strong foundation in statistical analysis, machine learning, and data manipulation, I have a proven ability to extract valuable insights from complex datasets. I am dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that drive data insights and empower informed decision-making.

## Work Experience

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### Machine Learning Engineer

Ngeni Labs - Nairobi, Kenya

March 2023 to Present

- Spearheaded the development and implementation of Key Performance Indicators(KPIs) in collaboration with various business, management, and data teams. These KPIs provided valuable insights into business performance and helped drive data-informed decision-making.
- Led cross-functional teams in delivering cutting-edge AI solutions that aligned with specific business objectives. By leveraging advancements in AI technologies, I successfully implemented projects that optimized processes and maximized efficiency.
- Expertly built and managed end-to-end machine learning models, utilizing a diverse range of models including Xgboost, Lightgbm, Catboost, and Linear models. These models were deployed to address complex business problems, such as demand forecasting, customer segmentation, and churn prediction, resulting in improved operational efficiency and revenue growth.
- Skillfully manipulated and analyzed large datasets using SQL to extract valuable insights and patterns. My proficiency in SQL allowed me to perform complex data manipulations and aggregations efficiently, facilitating the creation of actionable reports and dashboards.
- Implemented advanced data visualization techniques using Python's libraries, such as Matplotlib and Seaborn, to communicate complex findings in a clear and visually appealing manner. These visualizations helped stakeholders grasp insights more effectively and facilitated data-driven decision-making.
- Successfully optimized existing algorithms and processes by fine-tuning machine learning models and enhancing feature engineering. Through careful experimentation and iteration, I achieved significant performance improvements, which positively impacted the overall efficiency and accuracy of the solutions.

### Competitive Machine Learning Engineer

Zindi - Cape Town, Western Cape

March 2020 to Present

- Expertise in Diverse Domains: Demonstrated proficiency in handling data across diverse domains, including finance, healthcare, e-commerce, and social impact. My ability to adapt quickly to new industries allowed me to tackle a wide array of complex challenges.

- **Innovative Model Architectures:** Developed and implemented cutting-edge model architectures, such as deep learning neural networks, ensemble methods, and gradient boosting models, to achieve state-of-the-art results in various competitions.
- **Real-World Impact:** Leveraged data science skills to solve real-world problems presented in competitions, making a positive impact in areas such as poverty prediction, disease detection, and financial risk assessment.
- **Collaborative Problem Solving:** Actively participated in team-based competitions, collaborating with fellow data scientists to combine expertise and achieve outstanding results. My teamwork and leadership qualities contributed significantly to team success.
- **Continuous Learning:** Committed to continuous improvement by staying updated with the latest advancements in data science and exploring novel methodologies to maintain a competitive edge.

#### Key Achievements:

- **Conquered the ChatGPT ML Challenge:** Swahili News Classification with a cutting-edge classification algorithm that accurately identified Swahili news articles by category, enabling efficient information retrieval and categorization for readers.
- **Emerged third place in the AI Summit Challenge** by IndabaXKenya and DeKUT, successfully developing a powerful text classification model for university students in Kenya to support a mental health chatbot, providing crucial mental health support and resources to students in need

## Education

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### **Bachelor Of Computer Science in Computer Science**

Multimedia University Of Kenya

2019 to 2023

## Skills

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- Data Science
- Git
- Machine learning
- Deep learning
- Data visualization

## Certifications and Licenses

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### **Machine Learning Specialization by Coursera**

April 2023 to Present

### **Data Scientist Associate by Datacamp**

March 2023 to March 2025