



**TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA**  
**FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATICS**

MICHAEL ORINA  
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**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR NOMADIC EDUCATION  
IN KENYA**

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The organization that offered me Industrial Attachment opportunity is National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya which is a Semi-autonomous government agency domiciled in the Ministry of Education. Their Chief strategy is to improve Access, Retention, Transition, and Completion of Sustainable, Equitable, Quality Education for Nomadic Regions in Kenya.

### **Selection of the Establishment**

NACONEK's semi-autonomous structure within the Ministry of Education presents a dynamic and stimulating learning environment. I can observe and understand how a government agency operates with a degree of flexibility and independence, gaining valuable insights into a unique organizational model.

### **Application Procedure**

I submitted a letter of application for the industrial attachment and was subsequently invited for an interview. I was then offered the position.

### **Frame Conditions Agreed Upon**

It has been mutually agreed that my Industrial attachment is unpaid.

### **Job / Task Definition**

As an IT attachee, I assist various departments and teams within NACONEK with minor tasks related to their IT needs. This provides me with valuable exposure to a diverse range of IT applications and processes within an educational setting. These tasks include providing basic troubleshooting and support for hardware and software issues and assisting users with navigating and utilizing various IT applications.

Others include managing and maintaining the website and troubleshooting networks and printers.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency in the Ministry of Education. The council aspires to meet the education needs of the marginalized communities in Kenya, by ensuring that their traditions, values and norms are adequately addressed with the aim of achieving Education for all without forcing the target populations to choose between schooling against other priorities.

The establishment of the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) was informed by twin documents of Nomadic Education in Kenya, 2010 and Session Paper No. 14 of 2012. Further, the Council was established under Section 94 (1) and the 6th Schedule of the Basic Education Act of 2013 and officially launched in May 2015. The Council is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency in the State Department of Basic Education of the Ministry of Education. The establishment of NACONEK is contained in;

1. Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2015 on reforming education and training sector in Kenya.
2. Sessional Paper No.8 of October 2012 on the “Policy for suitable development of Northern Kenya and other arid lands” releasing our full potential”.
3. The Basic Education Act 2013, section 94 and the Sixth 6th Schedule.
4. The Policy Framework for Nomadic Education in Kenya, 2010.
5. The National Education Sector Strategic Plan (NESSP).
6. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010.
  - Article 56(b) also provides that “.... the state shall put in place affirmative action programs designed to ensure that minorities and marginalized groups are provided with special opportunities in education and economic fields”
  - Basic Education Act 2013, Section 39(c) states that it shall be the duty of the Cabinet Secretary to ensure that children belonging to marginalized, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups are not discriminated against and prevented from pursuing and completing basic education.”

### **Type of Ownership of the Organization**

The type of ownership of the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) is semi-autonomous. This means that it operates with some degree of independence from the government, but is ultimately accountable to the Ministry of Education.

### **The Sector It Operates in**

The National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) operates in the education sector. It specifically focuses on providing education services to nomadic communities in Kenya, which is a sub-sector within education.

Main sector:

Education: This sector encompasses all activities related to education and learning, from early childhood education to higher education and vocational training.

Sub-sector:

Nomadic education: This sub-sector focuses specifically on providing educational opportunities for nomadic communities. This includes developing culturally sensitive curricula, addressing the unique needs of mobile populations, and utilizing innovative approaches to reach children who may not have access to traditional schools.

Therefore, while NACONEK operates in the broader education sector, its primary focus and area of expertise lie within the specialized sub-sector of nomadic education.

### **Beneficiaries of the Organization**

The beneficiaries of the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) are primarily nomadic communities in Kenya. These communities include various ethnic groups who engage in pastoralism and have a mobile lifestyle.

Here's a breakdown of the specific groups benefiting from NACONEK's work:

Direct beneficiaries:

**Children:** NACONEK's primary focus is on providing access to quality education for children from nomadic communities. This includes ensuring that they have access to schools, qualified teachers, and culturally relevant curriculum materials.

**Youth:** NACONEK also supports youth from nomadic communities through various initiatives, such as vocational training programs and entrepreneurship development workshops. This helps them acquire skills and knowledge to improve their livelihoods.

**Women:** NACONEK recognizes the crucial role that women play in nomadic communities. They offer programs that promote literacy, life skills, and income-generating activities for women, empowering them to become more involved in decision-making processes.

Indirect beneficiaries:

**Families:** By supporting children and youth, NACONEK indirectly contributes to the well-being of families in nomadic communities. This can lead to improvements in health, nutrition, and overall quality of life.

**Communities:** As nomadic communities become more educated and empowered, they are better able to participate in the national economy and development process. This can benefit the entire country.

Additional beneficiaries:

**Teachers:** NACONEK provides training and professional development opportunities for teachers working in nomadic communities. This helps them acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively educate children from diverse backgrounds.

**Policymakers:** NACONEK provides research and data on the educational needs of nomadic communities. This information can be used by policymakers to develop and implement effective education policies and programs.

Overall, NACONEK's work has a positive impact on a wide range of individuals and groups, contributing to the advancement of nomadic communities in Kenya.

## **Organization Structure:**

**CEO:** Harun Yussuf

**Head of Programmes:** Kezia Wanderi

**Head of Corporate Affairs:** Murumba Chiuli

**Head of Procurement:** Justus Kirimi

**Head of Finance:** Ibrahim Dagane

**M & E:** Nathan Mutua / Zakaria Ismail

Teams:

**Finance Team:** Reporting to Head of Finance

**Procurement Team:** Reporting to Head of Procurement

**Communications Team:** Reporting to Head of Corporate Affairs

**Research Team:** Reporting to Head of Programmes

**School Meals Team:** Reporting to Head of School Meals

**Legal Officer:** Nicholas Kimutai (Directly under CEO)

**ICT Team:** Reporting to Head of Programmes

**Council Accountant:** Reporting to Head of Finance

**Assistant Director of Education:** Yano Kimosop (Directly under CEO)

**Head of School Meals:** Millicent Ochola (Reports to Head of Programmes)

**Head of HR:** Joel Okoth

**Admin:** Sam Ouma (Reports to Head of Administration)

**Policy and Programmes:** Abdi Osman (Reports to Head of Programmes)

**Consultant:** Edwin Saka (Directly under CEO)

**HR Team:** Reporting to Head of HR

**Planning Officer:** Derrick Wekesa (Reports to Head of Programmes)

**Principal Admin:** Patricia Tulel (Reports to Head of Administration)

**Resource Mobilization Team:** Reporting to Head of Corporate Affairs

**Reception Secretaries:** Reporting to Head of Administration

### **3.0 WORK STATION**

During my industrial attachment at the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK), I had the opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in various aspects of IT support and administration. My responsibilities encompassed a wide range of tasks, including:

#### **Technical Support:**

Resolved hardware and software issues for desktops, laptops, and printers, providing assistance to users via phone, email, and in person.

Diagnosed and repaired printer malfunctions, including paper jams and toner cartridge replacements.

Installed and configured new hardware and software, ensuring compatibility and functionality within the network.

Migrated user data and profiles to new computers, minimizing downtime and disruption.

Managed user accounts and access permissions, adhering to security protocols.

#### **Website Management and Maintenance:**

Assisted with the website overhaul project, contributing to content migration, design updates, and implementation of new features.

Performed ongoing website maintenance, such as updating content, fixing bugs, and monitoring performance for optimal user experience.

Attended a workshop in Nakuru specifically focused on website management and maintenance, enhancing my skills and knowledge in this area.

#### **Security and Network Administration:**

Implemented security measures to protect the organization's data and network from cyber threats, including regular updates of firewalls and antivirus software.

Monitored network activity for suspicious behavior and identified potential security risks.

Resolved network connectivity issues, ensuring stable and reliable access for users.

Configured network devices and equipment, maintaining network integrity and functionality.



#### Professional Development:

Attended a workshop in Naivasha on the Digital Attendance application, gaining valuable insights into its implementation and utilization.

Conducted research on emerging technologies and their potential applications within NACONEK, contributing to discussions on future advancements and improvements.

Networked with colleagues and stakeholders within the IT field, expanding my knowledge base and building professional connections.

#### Additional Activities:

Developed and maintained documentation for IT procedures, ensuring clarity and consistency in operational processes.

Assisted with the procurement of new IT equipment, participating in vendor selection and budgetary considerations.

Provided support for various administrative tasks, demonstrating adaptability and willingness to contribute beyond my immediate responsibilities.

Overall, my industrial attachment at NACONEK provided me with a comprehensive and rewarding learning experience. I gained valuable practical skills and knowledge in IT support and administration, fostered professional development through workshops and networking opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the organization's operations.

### **Description of Department**

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Department plays a vital role in supporting the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) in its mission to provide access to quality education for nomadic communities. Led by Head of Department, Noel Cheboryot, the team comprises dedicated individuals with a passion for leveraging technology to enhance educational opportunities.

Senior ICT Officer, Zakaria Ismail, brings extensive experience and expertise to the department, responsible for overseeing technical operations and ensuring smooth network functionality. ICT

Officers, Philipine Koima and Valentine Kamau, contribute their technical know-how and problem-solving skills to providing essential IT support for staff and users.

Furthermore, the department actively engages interns like you, providing invaluable learning opportunities and fostering the development of future IT professionals. Together, the team collaborates effectively to ensure reliable IT infrastructure, implement innovative solutions, and promote the effective use of technology across the organization.

### **Report of familiarization phase**

My first days at NACONEK were a flurry of activity. I met many new faces, attended numerous meetings, and absorbed a wealth of information about the organization and its mission. Everyone was welcoming and supportive, which eased my transition into the new environment. I was immediately excited to contribute my skills and knowledge to NACONEK's endeavors to improve education for nomadic communities. Although I still had much to learn, I was eager to begin working and make a positive impact.

### **Description of workstation**

My designated workspace is located within the ICT department. It consists of three individual workstations and offers a comfortable and collaborative environment. I share the room with other team members, fostering an atmosphere of open communication and knowledge exchange.

### **A Typical Day**

My daily activities at the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) are characterized by a structured yet dynamic environment that fosters continuous learning and meaningful contributions.

Morning:

09:00 AM - 09:15 AM: Arrive at the office and engage in preliminary tasks such as checking emails, reviewing schedules, and preparing for the day's activities.

09:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Participate in project meetings, actively listening to discussions, taking notes, and offering relevant insights and contributions.

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Assist senior ICT officers with technical tasks as assigned, which may include data entry, software updates, system maintenance, or other technical support.

Mid-morning:

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Utilize the mid-morning break to recharge and network with colleagues, fostering a positive and supportive work environment.

Afternoon:

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM: Dedicate this time to focused work on assigned tasks, which may encompass:

Development of educational materials tailored to the needs of nomadic communities.

Exploration and evaluation of new technologies and applications for potential implementation within NACONEK's initiatives.

Creation of presentations and reports using multimedia tools and visual aids for effective communication.

Collaboration with other teams, such as the education department, to share resources, expertise, and ensure project alignment.

Lunch:

01:00 PM - 02:00 PM: Take a lunch break to step away from the desk, relax, and engage in social interaction with colleagues.

Afternoon:

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM: The afternoon schedule may include:

Attendance at workshops and training sessions to enhance knowledge and skills in relevant areas.

Implementation of new technologies and solutions in accordance with established procedures and best practices.

Troubleshooting technical issues promptly and efficiently to ensure smooth operation of systems.

Conducting research and analysis to explore innovative methods for improving NACONEK's operations and services.

End of the Day:

04:00 PM - 05:00 PM: Wrap up the day by reviewing completed tasks, taking notes for future reference, finalizing any outstanding work, and preparing for the next day's activities.

05:00 PM: Depart from the office with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction derived from contributing to the advancement of NACONEK's mission and improving the lives of nomadic communities.

This daily routine provides a framework for my work at NACONEK, allowing me to navigate the dynamic environment while fulfilling my responsibilities and contributing to the organization's goals.

### **Mentoring situation**

As a new ICT intern at NACONEK, I am thrilled to be contributing my skills and knowledge to the organization's mission of improving education for nomadic communities. The collaborative and supportive environment fosters continuous learning and growth, enabling me to work alongside experienced professionals and gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within this field. I am particularly interested in exploring how innovative technologies can be utilized to address the unique needs of nomadic populations and ensure equitable access to quality education. This internship is a unique opportunity for me to make a meaningful impact and contribute to the advancement of education in underserved communities.

## **4.0 IMPACT OF THE INTERNSHIP**

### **Skills gained from the attachment**

My time working at NACONEK has been a valuable learning experience, allowing me to develop and refine a variety of skills in a dynamic and collaborative environment. Here are some of the key skills I have gained during my time with the organization:

#### **Technical Skills:**

**Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Skills:** I have gained hands-on experience in various ICT domains, including data management, software utilization, system maintenance, and troubleshooting. This has significantly enhanced my technical expertise and ability to contribute effectively to the organization's IT infrastructure.

**Learning Management Systems (LMS):** I have acquired proficiency in using and managing LMS platforms, allowing me to contribute to the development and delivery of online educational resources for nomadic communities.

**Research and Analysis:** I have honed my research skills through gathering and analyzing data, identifying trends, and presenting findings in clear and concise reports. This has proved invaluable in contributing to project proposals, impact assessments, and strategic planning.

#### **Soft Skills:**

**Communication and Collaboration:** Working within a diverse team has significantly improved my communication and collaboration skills. I can now effectively communicate complex information, collaborate with colleagues from different backgrounds, and constructively resolve challenges.

**Problem-solving and Critical Thinking:** I have developed my ability to analyze situations, identify problems, and propose effective solutions. This has been crucial in tackling technical issues, addressing operational challenges, and finding creative solutions to improve project outcomes.

**Adaptability and Initiative:** Working in a dynamic environment has fostered my adaptability and initiative. I can readily adapt to changing priorities, take ownership of tasks, and work independently while remaining accountable to the team.

Intercultural Sensitivity: Working with individuals from various nomadic communities has heightened my cultural sensitivity and understanding of diverse perspectives. This has enabled me to interact respectfully and effectively with stakeholders from different backgrounds.

#### Other Skills:

Project Management: I have gained experience in various stages of project management, including planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. This has equipped me with the skills to manage projects effectively and contribute to successful project outcomes.

Time Management: Juggling various tasks and deadlines has honed my time management skills. I can now prioritize effectively, manage my workload efficiently, and meet deadlines consistently.

Documentation and Reporting: I have developed my skills in creating clear, concise, and informative documentation, including reports, presentations, and technical manuals. This ensures effective communication and knowledge transfer within the organization.

Overall, my experience at NACONEK has been a journey of continuous learning and personal growth. The acquired skills will be invaluable assets as I move forward in my professional career and contribute to the advancement of education for marginalized communities.

### **Responsibilities undertaken during the attachment period**

During my attachment at the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK), I was involved in a variety of responsibilities that contributed to the organization's mission of improving education for nomadic communities. These responsibilities can be categorized into three main areas:

#### 1. Technical Support:

Assisted senior ICT officers with technical tasks such as data entry, software updates, system maintenance, and troubleshooting.

Monitored system performance and identified and resolved technical issues promptly.

Developed and implemented new IT solutions to address specific needs and improve efficiency.

Provided technical support to colleagues and staff members on various software applications and hardware equipment.

Maintained and updated records of IT assets and software licenses.

## 2. Project Support:

Contributed to the development and implementation of educational resources, such as interactive modules and online learning materials, tailored for nomadic communities.

Conducted research and analysis on relevant technologies and educational approaches for nomadic populations.

Prepared presentations and reports using multimedia tools to effectively communicate project findings and recommendations.

Coordinated with other departments and stakeholders to ensure smooth project implementation and achievement of objectives.

Participated in project meetings and workshops to actively contribute ideas and learn from the expertise of others.

## 3. Administrative and Research Support:

Provided administrative support to the ICT department, including managing schedules, organizing meetings, and preparing documents.

Conducted research on various topics related to nomadic communities and education, including best practices, emerging technologies, and policy frameworks.

Assisted with the development and maintenance of internal databases and information systems.

Drafted reports and summaries of research findings and presented them to relevant stakeholders.

Stayed updated on current trends and developments in the field of education and technology, particularly those relevant to nomadic communities.

These responsibilities provided me with valuable hands-on experience in various aspects of ICT operations and project management within the context of education for marginalized communities. They allowed me to develop my technical skills, project management abilities, and research and communication skills, while contributing significantly to NACONEK's goals and initiatives.

## **How my attachment affects my future career plans**

My attachment at the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) has significantly impacted my future career plans in several ways:

### **1. Increased Passion for Education and Technology:**

Working with NACONEK ignited my passion for the field of education, particularly the use of technology to address the challenges faced by underserved communities like nomadic populations.

Witnessing the positive impact of educational initiatives firsthand strengthened my desire to contribute to the advancement of education and equity in access to knowledge.

### **2. Enhanced Technical Skills and Knowledge:**

The hands-on experience gained through various technical tasks and project support has broadened my technical skillset, including data management, software development, and system maintenance.

This skillset will be crucial for pursuing a career in the field of educational technology or any related domain requiring technical expertise.

### **3. Developed Soft Skills and Project Management Abilities:**

The collaborative environment at NACONEK honed my communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, essential for success in any professional role.

My involvement in project planning, implementation, and monitoring developed my project management abilities, including time management, resource allocation, and stakeholder engagement.

### **4. Shaped Interests and Career Focus:**

My time at NACONEK solidified my interest in working with marginalized communities and utilizing technology to address their specific needs and challenges.

This experience has narrowed my career focus, encouraging me to pursue opportunities that allow me to contribute to closing the educational gap and empowering underserved populations.



## 5. Valuable Networking Opportunities:

The attachment provided me with the opportunity to meet and connect with professionals from diverse backgrounds working in the education and technology sectors.

This network will be invaluable for future career exploration, seeking advice, and potentially finding mentorship opportunities.

Overall, my experience at NACONEK has been instrumental in shaping my future career aspirations. It has exposed me to the challenges and opportunities within education technology, equipped me with essential skills, and ignited a passion for contributing to the advancement of education for marginalized communities. These factors will continue to guide my career decisions as I move forward.

## **Comparison of goals and expectations with actual experience**

My time at NACONEK not only met my expectations, but it also surpassed them in several unexpected and delightful ways. While I started the attachment with specific goals and aspirations, the actual experience proved to be even more enriching and rewarding.

### Skills and Knowledge:

My initial goal was to acquire practical skills in ICT and project management within the context of education for nomadic communities. This goal was not only met, but exceeded. I gained hands-on experience in various technical tasks, participated in project planning and implementation, and developed strong research and communication skills. Additionally, I was exposed to cutting-edge technologies relevant to nomadic education, expanding my knowledge base beyond my initial expectations.

### Impact and Contribution:

I hoped to make a positive contribution to NACONEK's mission by assisting with various projects and initiatives. This expectation was also exceeded. I directly contributed to the development of educational resources, conducted research and analysis, and presented findings to stakeholders. Witnessing the impact of my work on the organization and its beneficiaries was immensely rewarding, exceeding my initial hope of simply fulfilling assigned tasks.

#### Environment and Culture:

While I expected a collaborative and supportive work environment, the actual experience surpassed that expectation. The team at NACONEK welcomed me with open arms, providing constant support, guidance, and encouragement. The collaborative atmosphere fostered learning and growth, creating a truly positive and stimulating environment that far exceeded my initial expectations.

#### Learning and Development:

I anticipated opportunities for learning and professional development, but the extent and variety of these opportunities exceeded my expectations. I participated in workshops, learned new software and tools, and received valuable mentorship from experienced professionals. This continuous learning environment has significantly enhanced my skills and knowledge, contributing to my personal and professional growth beyond what I initially anticipated.

#### Overall Experience:

My attachment at NACONEK was an overwhelmingly positive experience that exceeded my expectations in virtually every aspect. From the skills and knowledge I acquired to the impact I made and the supportive environment I was part of, the entire experience was truly enriching and rewarding. It has undoubtedly shaped my future career aspirations and left me with lasting memories and valuable lessons.

#### **Outlook (e.g. project work, degree thesis, chances to start a career)**

My experience at NACONEK has been more than just an attachment; it has been a pivotal moment in my career journey. It has ignited my passion for leveraging technology to bridge the educational gap for marginalized communities, particularly nomadic populations. Working alongside dedicated professionals and witnessing the positive impact of the organization's initiatives has solidified my desire to build my career within this field.

The diverse skills I've acquired at NACONEK – from technical expertise and project management to research and communication – have equipped me with the necessary tools to thrive in this dynamic environment. My hands-on experience has given me a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within nomadic education, allowing me to contribute meaningfully and effectively.

Beyond skill development, NACONEK has provided me with invaluable insights into the world of education technology and international development. The collaborative and supportive environment has fostered my personal and professional growth, nurturing my confidence and ambition. The network I've built with passionate professionals has opened up exciting possibilities for future collaboration and mentorship.

My time at NACONEK has not only exceeded my initial expectations; it has also revealed a clear path for my future career aspirations. I am confident that the skills and knowledge I've gained, coupled with my unwavering commitment to educational equity, will enable me to make a significant impact in this field.

Therefore, I am deeply interested in pursuing a career at NACONEK. I believe my dedication, skills, and experience align perfectly with the organization's mission and values. I am eager to contribute to the development and implementation of innovative solutions that empower nomadic communities and ensure access to equitable and quality education for all.

This is not just an opportunity for employment; it is a chance to be part of a movement that is transforming lives and creating a brighter future for generations to come. I am confident that by joining NACONEK, I can turn my passion into a purpose and dedicate my skills to a cause that I truly believe in.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

My attachment at NACONEK led to several key conclusions about the field of nomadic education. Firstly, technology plays a vital role in overcoming geographical barriers and providing customized learning experiences for nomadic populations. Secondly, effective interventions require collaboration between various stakeholders to ensure resource mobilization and a comprehensive approach. Thirdly, continuous learning and adaptability are crucial for success in this dynamic environment. Fourthly, educational initiatives must empower communities and promote sustainable development through local ownership and culturally relevant resources. Finally, a career in nomadic education offers the opportunity for personal growth and making a positive impact on the lives of marginalized communities. Promoting equitable and inclusive education for all remains fundamental to this field.

The nomadic education sector is experiencing growing recognition with increasing focus on innovative solutions to cater to the unique needs of these communities. Technological advancements offer immense potential, while culturally sensitive approaches and collaboration between stakeholders are crucial for success. Resource limitations and infrastructure challenges require innovative solutions, while technology like AI promises further advancements. Community ownership and empowerment are key to sustainability, and continuous research is vital to address evolving needs. Advocacy and awareness raising are essential for driving policy changes and ensuring equitable access to education for all children, regardless of their background or lifestyle. Working in this challenging yet rewarding field offers the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of marginalized communities and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive future.