**PDTP INTERNSHIP REPORT**

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# Introduction

My name is Brian Lyuba Ashiono and I am very proud to be part of the second cohort of the Presidential Digital Talent Programme. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science and Technology from Maseno University. My area of specialization is web and mobile application development.

I joined the Presidential Digital Talent Programme in September 2016. Since joining the program I have been lucky to be involved in several major projects. The Digital Literacy Programme is among those that I am proud to have participated in. I was deployed as a quality inspector in Vihiga County immediately after joining the Programme.

In January 2017, I joined Ministry of Health as an intern still under the PDTP. I mostly did ICT user support. I was also involved in a project to clean and update the Kenya Master Health facilities List (KMHFL).

In April of 2017, I joined GreenBell Comm. for my 2-month private sector internship. I was involved in the development of the Integrated Devolution Data Portal. I did a lot of backend coding for the application using php and the Joomla MVC framework.

Currently I am at the TSC where we are undertaking the digitization of all files.

# The Induction

The Presidential Digital Talent Programme started on the 4th of September 2016 with a one week induction course at the Kenya School of Government in Lower Kabete. The main purpose of the induction was to give us an overview of Government procedures and rules as well as best practices from the private sector companies. Some of the major lessons learnt include:

* Role of the Government in terms of service provision to its people.
* Protocols and expected behavior in the Government.
* Ethics and integrity.
* The National ICT Master Plan.
* Public procurement and disposal process.
* Software applications currently being by the Government such as IFMIS
* Ongoing ICT projects in the Government such as the NOFBI project.
* E-Government services.
* Information security.
* Project management.
* Human resource management
* Digital Literacy Programme Training at KEMI.

# My Experience

**SEPT-DEC (2016): Ministry of Health and Digital Literacy Programme**

My first placement in the public sector after the induction was in the Ministry of Health. My supervisors name was Mr. Apollo Muchilwa, the Acting Director of the ICT department in the ministry. My fellow interns and I only stayed in the ministry for about three weeks before we were deployed to the counties to rollout the Digital Literacy Program as quality inspectors. I was sent to Vihiga County where my supervisor was Mr. Tony Otieno, the Assistant ICT officer in the county.

**Ministry of Health (SEPT-OCT)**

* My fellow interns and I embarked on the cleaning of computers in the Ministry within the first few days of our arrival. This involved both software cleaning using the latest Kaspersky antivirus and also physical cleaning using blowers.
* We also offered ICT user support to the entire ministry upon request. Some of the main activities we did included troubleshooting and resolving network related problems, fixing issues with printers, troubleshooting computer hardware problems and fixing them and also dealing with operating system problems as well as other software such as Microsoft office.
* We also began the rollout of the new official Ministry of Health email addresses. We activated them for ministry employees and taught them how to use them.

**Digital Literacy Programme (OCT-DEC)**

I was deployed as a DLP quality inspector in Vihiga County. Apart from quality inspection, I also attended some DLP training seminars for head teachers. I also accompanied the contractor while delivering the DLP gadgets to some schools in the county. Some of my tasks included:

* Conducting of E-readiness assessments in all public primary schools within the county.
* Providing technical support to the Programme at the school level where required.
* Inspecting and verifying all DLP installations in schools.
* Record and reporting to ICTA all Digital Literacy Programme inquiries from the schools.
* Any other duty assigned by the AICTO such as the rollout of IP phones to the county offices.

**JAN-APRIL (2017): Ministry of Health**

After the DLP rollout in Vihiga County, I rejoined the Ministry of Health to continue with my public sector attachment. My major activities during this period included:

* Updating of The Kenya Master Health Faculties List (KMHFL) - This involved gathering information about all the health facilities in the country and updating the information on the database.
* Managing the network at Afya House where the Ministry of Health is located to ensure that both LAN and internet are available all the time and also to ensure that IFMIS users can connect to the servers.
* Troubleshooting the network in case of failure and provide solutions.
* Custom installations and upgrading of operating systems that still run Windows XP.
* Installation of computer, printer and scanner drivers.
* Setting up computers for use.
* Configuring computers with IP addresses and network printers.
* Supporting the end users to accomplish their tasks especially while using software such Microsoft office.
* Providing training to end users where possible to prevent repeat of mistakes.
* Networking and providing shared mechanism for printers and scanners.
* Upgrading of computer hardware.
* Installation of all necessary applications in the computer that support users.
* Reporting any major fault to the supervisor that paralyses the operations.
* Continuing with the rollout of the new official Ministry of Health email addresses.

**APRIL-JUNE (2017): GreenBell Communications Ltd.**

I joined GreenBell Comm. for my two-month private sector attachment. GreeBell is a digital agency operating since the year 2006 to deliver quality ICT solutions from web design and development, portals to digital strategies and backup services. My supervisor was Catherine Njau, The project manager at the company. While at the company I was involved in one major project namely:

* The Integrated Devolution Data Portal - I did a lot of backend coding for the web application using php and the Joomla MVC framework.

I was also able to learn a lot of new things during my time in the company including:

* Using the Joomla MVC Framework to develop web applications.
* Using Git Bash as a version control software.
* Coming up with joomla web templates using the Helix Framework.

**JULY-NOVEMBER (2017): The Teachers Service Commission (TSC)**

I joined The Teachers Service Commission after my private sector attachment as a continuation of my public sector attachment. ICTA deployed us to TSC so as to assist in the implementation of the TSC Digitization Project. Some of the major tasks that I undertook were:

* Scanning of files belonging to teachers as well as TSC staff.
* Indexing of the scanned files
* Quality assurance of the scanned files.

I was also involved in the development of the new TSC website after the digitization project came to a pause.

# Conclusion

I am really thankful to the ICT Authority for allowing me to be part of this Programme. I have been exposed to many people and things that I would otherwise never have gotten an opportunity to interact with. The skills I learnt throughout the entire internship have strengthen my career as well as my resolve to continue exploring new ideas.