I'm Bagirishya Rwema Dominique, a passionate software Developer currently pursuing a Master's degree in Information Technology at Carnegie Mellon University-Africa (CMU-Africa).

CMU-Africa is a vibrant community dedicated to fostering the next generation of African Tech leaders and innovators. Established in 2012 through a partnership between Carnegie Mellon University (in Pittsburgh), and the Rwandan government, we offer three Master's programs: Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology, and Electrical and Computer Engineering. (https://www.africa.engineering.cmu.edu/)

Last year, we celebrated a significant milestone – our 10th graduation ceremony! This momentous occasion saw 158 graduates representing 19 nationalities embark on their journeys as changemakers within their respective fields.

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In collaboration with MongoDB, we hosted a practical workshop designed to equip participants with hands-on skills in MongoDB data aggregation. This event aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. (https://www.mongodb.com/community/forums/t/mongodb-for-data-aggregation/244405)

The "CMU Africa Innovation Summit: Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Mindset" fostered a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the next generation. By bringing together inspiring speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities, the event aimed to equip young minds with the necessary skills and mindset to tackle challenges, create venturures, and drive positive change across Africa. (https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/hanga-weekly-roundup-ep-9-hanga-pitchfest-gfugf/)

In partnership with World Vision Rwanda, CMU Africa aimed to bridge the digital divide by providing crucial ICT training to 27 teachers in the Mahama refugee camp. This initiative empowered these educators with the skills to effectively integrate technology into their classrooms. (https://twitter.com/cmu\_africa/status/1692194437990842615)

The college's social media platforms:

https://www.youtube.com/@CMUAfrica

https://www.linkedin.com/school/carnegie-mellon-university-africa/

<https://twitter.com/cmu_africa>

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In my current role, I serve as a Commissioner and member of the RPF National Executive Committee, Rwanda's ruling party, under the leadership of President Paul Kagame. I head the ICT and Youth Development commission. In December 2023, we were developing a project for the party aimed at creating a platform for gathering information and citizen desires. This data would then be analyzed to inform the party, areas should focus on, based on citizens' desires, in preparation for the 2024-2029 manifesto for the upcoming July election In Rwanda. However, collaboration among the developers proved challenging. Bi-weekly meetings for reviewing and fixing bugs were time-consuming. As a Project Leader and an Experienced GitHub User, I taught them how to use the platform for collaboration. During a 40-minute session, I introduced them to pull requests, merging, and rollback options. This facilitated remote collaboration and allowed us to complete the project two weeks ahead of schedule.

In conclusion, one of my objectives will be to impart knowledge to the CMU-Africa community on how GitHub can optimize their workflow. For example, students still submit code-related assignments as zipped folders. As a GitHub Campus Expert, I will introduce them to GitHub Classrooms, GitHub Developer Packs, and more, aiming to enhance our learning experience. I believe that these efforts, coupled with participation in GitHub Campus Expert Trainings, will significantly contribute to my professional development in areas such as community leadership, software development, and public speaking.