

THOMAS MUIA MBULA

Software Developer | Backend & Integrations

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EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Backend-focused software developer at Jitume, a government agency working with the Technopolis Development Authority to equip young Kenyans with digital skills and access to online work. I earned the role by placing among the five national winners of the 2026 Jitume Digital Media Factory hackathon. My work centres on building and maintaining RESTful APIs in Python, designing the database layer behind them, integrating third-party services, and implementing authentication and role-based access control. Before this I spent eighteen months as a software engineering consultant with Makueni County Government, working across backend development and testing. I am a 2026 graduate of Moringa School's Software Engineering programme, and I also hold a BTech in Journalism and Mass Communication, a background that makes me comfortable writing clear documentation and explaining technical decisions to people who are not engineers.

KEY SKILLS

- **Backend development:** Design, build and maintain RESTful APIs in Python using FastAPI and Flask.
- **Third-party integrations:** Connect internal services to external APIs, handling data mapping, error states and retries; a core part of my current role.
- **Database design and querying:** Model relational schemas and write the SQL behind the endpoints I build, working in PostgreSQL and SQLite.
- **Authentication and access control:** Implement authentication flows and role-based permissions so the right users reach the right data.
- **Testing:** Write and maintain automated tests for backend services, and carry out manual and API-level testing before release.
- **Technical communication:** Journalism-trained writer; produce API documentation and handover notes that non-technical stakeholders can act on.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, JavaScript, SQL

Backend: FastAPI, Flask, REST API design, authentication & role-based access control

Frontend: Vue.js, React, HTML, CSS, Tailwind CSS

Databases: PostgreSQL, SQLite, relational schema design

Testing: Pytest, Postman, API and integration testing

Tools: Git, GitHub, Docker, Postman

WORK EXPERIENCE

Software Developer, Backend & Integrations | Jitume

August 2026 – Present

- Selected onto the engineering team after placing among five national winners of the 2026 Jitume Digital Media Factory hackathon.
- Build and maintain RESTful API endpoints serving the platform's core functionality.
- Integrate third-party APIs into the backend, handling data mapping, error states and failure recovery.
- Design database schemas and write the queries behind the endpoints I own.
- Implement authentication flows and role-based access control so each type of user reaches only the data they should.

Developer | Longhorn Publishers

January 2026 – May 2026

- Worked on Loho Learning, Longhorn's online learning platform, contributing to feature development across the product.
- Built and maintained frontend interfaces in Vue.js, translating designs into working, responsive views.
- Consumed and integrated backend APIs from the client side, handling loading, error and empty states.
- Worked within a development team using Git and GitHub for branching, code review and release.

Software Engineering Consultant, Backend & Testing | Makueni County Government

January 2024 – July 2025

- Consulted on backend development for county digital services, building and maintaining server-side functionality and the APIs behind it.
- Designed and queried the relational data layer supporting those services.
- Owned testing for the work I delivered — writing automated tests and carrying out API-level and manual testing ahead of release.

- Diagnosed and fixed defects raised against existing services, and documented the fixes for the county's internal team.
- Worked with non-technical county staff to turn service requirements into technical specifications.

PROJECTS & RECOGNITION

National Winner (Top 5), Jitume Digital Media Factory Hackathon, 2026

- Placed among five national winners from a countrywide field, which led directly to my current engineering role on the Jitume programme.
- Built a platform connecting creatives to the government agency, using AI agents to automate much of the administrative work between them.
- Code: github.com/Tommymuia/AI-Agent

EDUCATION

Moringa School, Software Engineering (Full Stack)

Graduated 29 July 2026

- Intensive project-based programme covering Python, Flask, FastAPI, JavaScript, React, Tailwind CSS, RESTful API design, testing and Git-based team workflows.

The Technical University of Kenya: BTech, Journalism and Mass Communication

2017 – 2022

- Research, documentation and communication training that transfers directly to requirements gathering, technical writing and stakeholder-facing work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Portfolio of live and personal projects: tommymuia.co.ke | Code: github.com/Tommymuia
- Interests: shipping backend systems end to end, API design, and continuing to build in public.

REFEREES

Fiona Kanyi, Career Coach, Moringa School
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Additional referees available upon request.