MAGILATECH

Godfrey Carlvin Magila

Founder & Global Chief Executive Officer, Magilatech

Technology entrepreneur | Cybersecurity specialist | Investor

Godfrey Carlvin Magila is a Tanzanian technology entrepreneur and investor, and the founder and Global CEO of Magilatech, an ISO 27001-certified cybersecurity and software company headquartered in Dar es Salaam with its global strategy office in Dubai and operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A self-taught programmer, he built one of the most consequential technology companies on the African continent from a $200 hackathon prize, without venture funding or a foreign parent company.

Early life

Born and raised in Tanzania, Magila lost both parents at a young age and put himself through university on a government scholarship and freelance software jobs. His fascination with technology began in childhood: relatives recall a six-year-old who could not be left alone with the family television without dismantling it, and a passion for computer games that grew into an obsession with how software works. He holds a Bachelor of Finance and Accounts degree from the Institute of Finance Management, and taught himself to code.

The spark: Nane Nane, 2011

At Tanzania's Nane Nane exhibition in August 2011, the country held its first-ever software development hackathon, organised with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH). The nineteen-year-old Magila entered and won. The prize was modest, $200 and a place in a technology mentoring programme, but it was enough. Magilatech was born the following year, incubated at the Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi) and supported by the Demeter Entrepreneurs Support Network.

Building Magilatech

In its early years the company took the work it could get: custom software development, cybersecurity audits, penetration testing and value-added services for mobile operators. Along the way it earned a reputation that money cannot buy, as a firm that understood both how to build software and how to break it, a combination that is rare in the security industry. The telecom sector noticed first.

In 2015 Magilatech signed its largest and most significant early contract, with Tigo Tanzania, to build and deploy Tigo Backup, a cloud backup platform with a full anti-theft suite: remote lock and wipe, real-time location tracking, SIM-change alerts, photo capture and call control, with key features working even without internet connectivity. Magila had pitched the idea directly to Tigo's CEO after a chance meeting at COSTECH. The platform reached millions of users and recovered more than 3,600 lost or stolen devices.

AT A GLANCE

2011
Won Tanzania's first software hackathon (Nane Nane)

2012
Magilatech incorporated, incubated at DTBi

2015
Tigo Backup contract — 3,600+ devices recovered

2017
Forbes Africa 30 Under 30

2019
AABLA Innovator of the Year

2020
Hisa Kiganjani — Tanzania's first mobile stock-trading platform, for the DSE

2026
1.01% shareholder, CRDB Bank Plc

ROLES

Founder & Global CEO, Magilatech
Microsoft 4Afrika trainer-of-trainers
WSA Country Expert, Tanzania

EDUCATION

B.A. Finance & Accounts, Institute of Finance Management (IFM)
Self-taught programmer

BASED IN

Dubai, UAE / Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

After Tigo, the doors opened. Magilatech's client list grew to include AIS Thailand, Airtel, Selcom, Azampay, Maxcom and DayOne Softcom, and the company reported revenue above $1 million by 2017. Beyond telecoms, Magila's team built a biometric voting system enabling people with disabilities to participate in elections, and Mobile Parliament, a platform that lets citizens follow parliamentary debates in real time from their phones. Other work includes the MyWorth microbanking platform for PACT's WORTH savings-group programme, built with Hewlett Packard Enterprise and live in Eswatini and Zambia since 2018.

Digitising the stock market

In 2020 Magilatech built Hisa Kiganjani ('shares in your palm'), the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange's official mobile trading platform and the first of its kind in Tanzania. Approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority, it lets investors open a CSD account, buy and sell listed shares and bonds, follow market data and take part in IPOs directly from a phone, extending the reach of the exchange to retail investors and remote areas for the first time. The DSE remains a Magilatech partner today.

Magilatech today

Over fifteen years of deliberate, largely quiet growth, Magilatech has evolved from a one-person software shop into a group whose systems guard government revenues worth hundreds of millions of dollars, run inside some of Africa's busiest airports, and whose security operations centres monitor banks, telcos and payment networks serving tens of millions of people. The company today spans cybersecurity, enterprise software, aviation systems and managed services, with a team of 150-plus across Tanzania, the UAE and DRC, more than 100 clients, and partners including Western Union, Equity Bank, MTN, Airtel, Ooredoo, Access Bank and the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. Magila represented the company on the Dark Stage at GISEC 2023 in Dubai.

Investor

Magila has also emerged as a significant private investor in Tanzania's financial sector. According to CRDB Bank Plc's shareholder disclosures for the quarter ending 30 June 2026, he holds 26.5 million shares in the bank, a 1.01% stake, making him one of only five individuals above the bank's public disclosure threshold and one of two who entered that circle in 2026. CRDB is Tanzania's largest bank and one of the largest in East Africa, with a market capitalisation exceeding $2.8 billion.

Recognition & roles

- Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 (2017)
- AABLA (All Africa Business Leaders Awards) Innovator of the Year (2019)
- Winner, Tanzania's first software development hackathon, Nane Nane / COSTECH (2011)
- Microsoft trainer-of-trainers, 4Afrika Initiative
- Country Expert for Tanzania, World Summit Awards (WSA)
- Speaker, Young African Entrepreneurs at Slush (2015); GISEC Dark Stage, Dubai (2023)

Philosophy

Magila describes himself as an optimist and idealist about technology, with occasional skepticism. His stated focus has been on cybersecurity and on using technology to widen inclusion and participation, and on building an ecosystem that creates more technology opportunities in and for Africa. Magilatech's own tagline captures the same idea: empowering technology innovation with heart.

SOURCES

Jamii Insight, 'Built in Africa, Trusted by the World: The Extraordinary Rise of Magilatech' series (June 2026); magilatech.com; The Citizen (2022); World Summit Awards profile; Startup Grind Dar es Salaam; TeKAfrica / Medium (2018); Demeter Entrepreneurs Support Network; CRDB Bank Plc Q2 2026 shareholder disclosure via a&b Tech & Finance Roundup (Aug 2026); DSE / African Markets on Hisa Kiganjani; LinkedIn. Compiled Sept 2026.