

PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAN SHIESHIE MATAKAYIA



Dan using a Perkins Braille Machine

Dan was born on 10th September, 1987 in Shiakungu village in Shinyalu Division of Kakamega County. He is the fifth born in the family of nine (9) of John Matakayia and Beliha Matakayia. He grew up in Shiakungu and attended Shikulu Primary from Nursery to standard eight in 1995-2003. His secondary education was at Mukumu High school in 2004- 2007, where he attained grade C in his KCSE.

Professional Background

Dan was recruited in Kenya Police Service in April 2008. After completion of his training at Kiganjo Police training college in May 2009, he was posted at Itabua Police Station in Embu and later transferred to Kisii Police Station.

Loss of vision

On the 21st September, 2013 at 5.30am while Dan was asleep; the wife woke up and poured concentrated Sulphuric Acid on his face and the entire upper part of his body. It caused a painful reaction all over the face, around his neck, right shoulder and the right hand. He was rushed to Hema hospital in Kisii where he received first Aid. He was later transferred to Kakamega County referral Hospital and later flown to Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) on the 26th September, 2013, where he was treated and his vision reassessed and confirmed the damage was quite acute and his sight was irreversible lost and hence could no longer see.

Referral and intervention at Kenya Society for the Blind

While at KNH the Doctors contacted the Kenya Society for the Blind for intervention in rehabilitation skills. KSB staff contacted assessment and introduced him to initial orientation and mobility skills while he was still in the ward. After discharge, he was admitted at Kenya Society for the Blind for rehabilitation, where he pursued Orientation & Mobility, Braille and Adapted Computer. Later he registered for advanced braille and use of electronic assistive devices such as Brilliant Display 40, Eye Solo Pal, Braille Note taker and use of an embosser.



Dan walking around using a white cane

Skill Progress /Aspiration

Before loss of vision, Dan had completed his Diploma course in Forensic Science and Criminology. After rehabilitation he has registered for a degree course in Counselling and Psychology at Mount Kenya University. He confesses that loss of sight and full rehabilitation has changed his perspective to life. He has managed to register a company that he runs as solo proprietor that focuses on supplies and services. He is also on the process of registering a foundation that he hopes to create awareness and stop acid attacks among citizen in Kenya and beyond. He hopes to continue with University studies till PhD level. He believes academic advancement will enable him to reach out to many who are depressed and rejected in Kenya and beyond.

He concludes that he is more focused and stronger in decision making, positive and productive than before.



Dan using a computer activated with JAWS