



**Who Is This Man?
Why AFRICA
May Never Be
The Same
Because
Of Him**

**MICHAEL
THOMPSON**

**What He's Built
Valued At Over
\$2.9 BILLION**

**AND HOW THIS TRAILBLAZER
MAY SURPRISE YOU**



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WHY AFRICA MAY NEVER BE THE SAME BECAUSE OF HIM



A Visionary in Disguise

When you first meet Michael Thompson, you might not immediately recognize the magnitude of his influence. A slender man standing at 5'10" with medium brown skin and glasses, his mild demeanor belies the intellectual powerhouse within. At 56 years old, this unassuming figure from Ashburn, Virginia, is on the brink of a technological revolution in Africa, driven by a mission that intertwines innovation, empowerment, and a deep-seated belief in the continent's potential.



Breaking Barriers in Streaming Media

Thompson's journey is one marked by brilliance and determination. By the age of 31, he had already ascended to the role of Vice President at Verizon Video Services, where he made waves in the burgeoning field of streaming media. In a time when the concept of streaming movies online was still in its infancy, Thompson developed a groundbreaking prototype that allowed for seamless streaming and a monetization framework that ensured royalties for content creators. Within just 30 days, his innovation captured the attention of major studios, including Sony, ABC, Disney, and Warner Bros., laying the groundwork for what would become the streaming revolution.

However, despite the promise of his prototype, Thompson's experience at Verizon taught him valuable lessons about corporate dynamics. The potential to lead the charge in streaming was overshadowed when the company shifted its focus, a decision that left Thompson feeling sidelined. "I learned that even the best ideas can be lost without the right support," he reflects. Determined not to let his innovations go unrecognized, he left Verizon with a renewed sense of purpose.

A Track Record of Success

In the years that followed, Thompson launched several successful ventures. He founded Food on a Move, a delivery service that grew to employ over 100 drivers, serving homes and businesses daily. He also created RadioDVR, a platform that garnered a subscriber base of over 150,000, allowing users to record their favorite shows. His ability to navigate complex business landscapes drew the attention of numerous corporations and government agencies, including NOAA, NASA, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, all of whom sought his expertise in building cutting-edge technology infrastructures.





Pioneering Change in Africa

Fast forward to today, and Michael Thompson stands at the helm of Sikhona, Inc., a company that embodies his vision for Africa's technological future. Currently splitting his time between Abuja, Nigeria, and Washington, D.C., he is deeply committed to uplifting the continent he affectionately refers to as "the Motherland." Recently, Sikhona achieved a staggering \$2.9 billion valuation based on just four of its many platforms—a testament to the groundbreaking work Thompson and his team are pursuing.

Thompson is acutely aware of the potential of Africa's youthful workforce, projected to reach over 1.7 billion by 2030. "This is a tremendous opportunity," he states emphatically. "That's why I'm here on the ground level, connecting with the community and understanding the challenges they face." His bi-coastal lifestyle allows him to bridge the gap between innovation and implementation, enabling him to witness firsthand the opportunities that arise amidst the challenges.

A Mission to Empower

The impact of Thompson's work has not gone unnoticed. Prominent leaders, including Prince Tsola Emiko of the Warri Kingdom, recognize the potential of Sikhona to drive meaningful change across Africa. With platforms such as TikTok and Facebook generating billions in advertising revenue—none of which are Black-owned—Thompson is determined to change the narrative. His upcoming app, DoYou, currently in beta, is designed to offer enhanced privacy and innovative features that could position it as a serious contender in the social media landscape.

"None of these platforms represent us," Thompson asserts, his passion palpable. "We're here to change that." The DoYou app is just one of the many initiatives he is spearheading to ensure that Africa's digital landscape is shaped by its own voices and innovations.

Grounded in Community

In addition to social media, Thompson is focused on practical solutions that address real-world challenges. He is working to improve internet access in local communities and is pioneering solar energy initiatives that promise sustainability and efficiency. His rideshare app, FastFare, is set to launch in Nigeria, creating opportunities in the gig economy while providing essential services to the community.

Thompson's persistence and resilience have become hallmarks of his career. He has turned down offers exceeding \$200 million to retain creative control over his projects—a decision that underscores his commitment to his vision. "I learned not to give up creative control of my projects," he explains, revealing the fierce competitor hidden beneath his calm exterior.

Inspiring the Next Generation

As Sikhona prepares to host its inaugural conference in July, bringing together the diaspora to discuss technological advancements and collaborative efforts, Thompson stands ready to inspire the next generation of innovators. "Sikhona means 'We are here for the world to see!'" he proudly declares, a mantra that reflects his mission to empower African communities and showcase their potential on the global stage.



A Movement for Change

In a world that often overlooks the contributions of Black innovators, Michael Thompson shines as a beacon of possibility. His journey, marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Africa, positions him as a transformative figure. With his wealth of experience and innovative spirit, he is not just a man—he is a movement.

As Michael Thompson forges ahead with Sikhona, he embodies the hope and promise of a new era for Africa. His vision extends far beyond mere profit; it is a call to action for a generation poised to reshape the narrative of technology and innovation on the continent. As he eloquently states, "Our platforms are for the world, but our hearts are here to empower our African brothers and sisters." With leaders like Thompson at the helm, Africa may indeed be on the cusp of an unprecedented technological renaissance.