# AUTOBIOGRAPHY FOR ERIC ANTHONY KAMAU

**Chapter 1: Early Beginnings**

I was born on July 11th, 2002, at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, a city that has always been full of life and vibrancy. My mother, Rosemary Wangui, was a single parent, and from a young age, it was just the two of us navigating the world together. My father’s identity remains unknown to me, a mystery that has lingered in the background of my life, shaping my understanding of family in unique ways.

Growing up without a father figure might have been challenging, but my mother more than made up for it. She is the firstborn in a family of eight children, which includes five girls and three boys. This made her a natural leader and caretaker, a role she embraced not just within her own family but also with me. My mother’s strength and resilience have always been a source of inspiration for me. Despite the challenges she faced as a single parent, she provided me with a loving and supportive environment, ensuring that I never felt the absence of a father.

Our family lineage is known for its kindness, a trait that has been passed down through generations. My mother, like those before her, is known for her compassion and generosity. She taught me the importance of being kind to others, a lesson that has stayed with me throughout my life.

In those early years, I often found myself surrounded by my extended family, particularly my aunts and uncles. They played a significant role in my upbringing, each contributing in their own way to the person I would become. The close-knit nature of our family meant that I was never truly alone; there was always someone to turn to, someone who cared about my well-being.

As I reflect on those early years, I realize how formative they were. The love and support I received from my mother and extended family laid a strong foundation for my future. Although the absence of a father left a gap in my life, it was more than filled by the strength of the relationships I had with the other members of my family. This chapter of my life is one of resilience, love, and the power of a strong family bond.

**Chapter 2: Early Education and Adventures in Mozambique**

At the age of five, I began my educational journey at Prestige Academy in Donholm, Nairobi. Those early school years were filled with curiosity and excitement as I began to learn about the world around me. I quickly developed a love for learning, driven by my innate curiosity and the encouragement of my mother, who valued education deeply.

However, my schooling in Nairobi was short-lived. When I was eight years old, my mother’s business success led to a life-changing event: we relocated to Mozambique. This move came after she received a promotion, and it was a new adventure for both of us. Mozambique was different in every way—new language, culture, and environment. The experience broadened my horizons, even at such a young age.

In Mozambique, I made a close friend, a Portuguese girl whose name I sadly cannot remember. What I do remember is her kindness and the warmth she showed me during my time there. She helped me adapt to the new environment and language, making the transition easier. Her friendship was a significant part of my life during those two years, and even though our time together was brief, it left a lasting impression on me.

Living in Mozambique was not without its challenges, though. The education system there was different from what I had known in Kenya, and after two years, my mother began to worry that it wasn’t the right fit for me. She believed that the Kenyan education system would better suit my needs and offer more opportunities for my future. In 2009, after much deliberation, she made the difficult decision to move me back to Kenya.

One childhood memory from Mozambique stands out vividly. I was once shifted into three different classes in one day because I was considered too bright for each level. This experience gave me confidence in my academic abilities, reinforcing my belief in the power of education. However, it also made me realize that finding the right educational environment was crucial for my development.

Returning to Kenya marked the beginning of a new chapter in my life. I rejoined the Kenyan school system and continued my education, but the experiences I had in Mozambique stayed with me. They taught me resilience, adaptability, and the importance of friendship in unfamiliar circumstances. Those two years were a defining period in my early life, shaping my outlook on education and the world around me.

**Chapter 3: Returning to Kenya and Life with My Aunt**

In 2009, after our two-year stint in Mozambique, my mother made the decision to return to Kenya. The decision was primarily driven by her concern for my education; she felt that the Mozambican education system was not ideal for my long-term growth. Back in Nairobi, I re-enrolled in school at Epren Academy. Starting afresh in a familiar environment was both comforting and daunting. I was excited to reconnect with my roots, yet the transition from the Mozambican system required me to reorient myself academically.

Epren Academy, located in Nairobi, was where I completed Class 3 and the first term of Class 4. Adjusting to this new school was challenging at first, but it wasn’t long before I found my footing. I was determined to succeed, knowing that education was my key to a brighter future. The teachers at Epren were dedicated, and I found myself gradually catching up with the new curriculum.

During this time, I lived with my favorite aunt, Josephine Wanjiku. Aunt Josephine wasn't just my mother's sister; she was my second mother, a guiding force in my life. Living with her felt natural and reassuring. Her home became my sanctuary, a place where I could relax and feel loved. Aunt Josephine had always been there for me, and her support during this transition was invaluable. Her nurturing and guidance provided me with the stability I needed as I settled back into Kenyan life.

Our bond deepened when a new chapter unfolded in Aunt Josephine's life—her youngest child gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. This event marked a significant moment in our household, bringing joy and excitement, but also signaling a shift. With the arrival of the newborn, Aunt Josephine’s focus naturally shifted towards caring for the baby, and it became clear that the house was becoming busier. This change led to a new decision for me—boarding school.

In 2010, I was enrolled in Mount Sinai CMI School, a boarding school that would become my new home for the next few years. Boarding school was a whole new world. Although I had lived away from home before in Mozambique, this was different. Boarding school was structured and regimented, with routines that took some getting used to. I initially found the idea of living away from home intimidating, and the transition was challenging. However, the school environment also fostered independence and discipline, qualities that would serve me well in the future.

Despite the initial adjustment period, I eventually began to thrive at Mount Sinai. The school was more than just a place of learning; it became a community where I formed deep and lasting friendships. Among my closest friends were Trevor and Fabian, with whom I would later attend high school. Other friends, like Nikson, Tony, and Loryne, would cross paths with me again during my campus years. The camaraderie and shared experiences we built at Mount Sinai created bonds that have lasted through the years.

Academically, however, the road was not always smooth. Between Class 5 and Class 7, I faced significant challenges. My grades were not where I wanted them to be, and I struggled to keep up with the rigorous academic demands. There were times when I felt overwhelmed and disheartened by my performance, and I questioned whether I would be able to succeed. Yet, these struggles were also a time of growth and self-reflection.

A turning point came during the second term of Class 7. It was during this time that I received a much-needed wake-up call from my best friend, Mercy Vena. Mercy, who had always excelled academically, shared with me her secrets to success. She showed me that achieving excellence wasn't just about intelligence—it was about hard work, focus, and persistence. Inspired by her words and determined to turn things around, I began to dedicate myself to my studies with renewed energy. The results were remarkable. In a short period of time, I managed to improve my marks significantly, jumping from 297 to 412, a leap that filled me with immense pride and a renewed sense of purpose.

My time at Mount Sinai was also filled with extracurricular activities that enriched my school life. I participated in various sports, which not only helped me stay physically active but also taught me valuable lessons in teamwork and discipline. My involvement in the school’s drama club allowed me to explore my creative side, and it was an outlet where I could express myself in ways that academics couldn’t provide.

Living in a boarding school also taught me the importance of time management and responsibility. With no parents around to supervise every move, I learned how to balance my time between studies, social life, and personal growth. The experience fostered a sense of independence that would serve me well in the years to come.

In hindsight, the years I spent at Mount Sinai CMI School were transformative. They were filled with challenges and triumphs, struggles and growth. The friendships I formed, the lessons I learned, and the experiences I gained all played a crucial role in shaping the person I would become. These were the years when I learned that perseverance, focus, and the right support system could help me overcome any obstacle. My aunt's unwavering support, the camaraderie of my friends, and the lessons from both successes and failures set the foundation for the journey ahead.

**Chapter 4: High School Days at Anestar Lanet**

After completing my primary education and performing well in my KCPE examinations with 389 marks, I embarked on the next stage of my academic journey at Anestar Lanet High School. Located in Nakuru County, Anestar Lanet was a school known for its discipline and academic rigor, and I was excited to begin this new chapter. High school felt like a fresh start—an opportunity to reinvent myself, explore new interests, and build on the foundations laid during my primary school years.

Starting high school came with its own set of challenges. The academic expectations were higher, the competition was stiffer, and the workload was significantly heavier. Yet, I embraced these challenges with determination. From the beginning, I knew that high school would be a defining period in my life, and I was ready to make the most of it.

Anestar Lanet became a place where I excelled in my studies, particularly in the sciences. I developed a deep interest in subjects like mathematics, geography, and chemistry. Chemistry, in particular, became my passion. I found the subject both fascinating and intellectually stimulating, and it quickly became my favorite class. My dedication to chemistry paid off, as I began to receive recognition for my achievements in the subject. I was fortunate enough to represent my school in national chemistry competitions, where I competed against students from top schools like Utumishi Boys and Moi Forces Academy. These experiences not only boosted my confidence but also cemented my love for the sciences.

However, it wasn’t just academics that defined my high school experience. The friendships I formed during these years were equally important. Among my closest friends were Trevor and Fabian, who had been with me since primary school. We continued our journey together at Anestar Lanet, and our bond only grew stronger as we navigated the highs and lows of high school life. Together, we studied, played sports, and supported each other through the challenges of adolescence.

In addition to Trevor and Fabian, I also met new friends who would become an important part of my life. High school is a time of discovery, and the friendships I formed during these years reflected that. We shared not just academic struggles, but also the ups and downs of growing up. These friendships were built on trust, shared experiences, and mutual support, and they became a crucial part of my high school journey.

My teachers also played a significant role in shaping my high school experience. One of my most memorable teachers was Mr. Kefue, my mathematics teacher. Mr. Kefue had a unique way of making even the most complex mathematical concepts understandable. He had a funny accent, which often made the class laugh, but his teaching was no joke—he was a master at his craft. Under his guidance, my confidence in mathematics grew, and I began to excel in the subject.

Another influential figure was Mr. Thuo, my geography teacher. With his vast knowledge and engaging teaching style, he made geography come alive for me. Every lesson felt like an adventure as we explored the world’s landscapes, cultures, and environments. His passion for the subject was contagious, and he inspired me to develop a deep appreciation for geography. These teachers were more than just educators; they were mentors who nurtured my academic growth and encouraged me to strive for excellence.

High school wasn’t without its challenges, though. Balancing academics, extracurricular activities, and personal life was no easy feat. The pressure to perform well in exams was always present, and there were times when the stress felt overwhelming. However, I learned to manage my time effectively and stay focused on my goals. I was determined to succeed, and that determination saw me through even the toughest moments.

One of the proudest moments of my high school career was receiving my KCSE results. After years of hard work and dedication, I earned a B+ grade in the national exams. This achievement was a testament to my efforts, and it opened the door to new opportunities. It was a moment of validation, not just for me, but for my family and teachers who had supported me along the way.

Looking back, my years at Anestar Lanet were some of the most formative in my life. High school was where I discovered my academic strengths, forged lifelong friendships, and learned the value of perseverance. It was a time of growth, both academically and personally, and the lessons I learned during these years have stayed with me ever since. The discipline, work ethic, and love for learning that I developed in high school became the foundation for the next stage of my journey—university life at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

One of the most significant moments of my high school years was overcoming academic struggles. The transition to high school brought with it new challenges, and there were times when I faced difficulties in keeping up with the demanding curriculum. However, my determination and resilience helped me navigate these obstacles. The encouragement and support from my friends, teachers, and family played a crucial role in helping me persevere and eventually succeed.

My achievements in high school were a source of great pride and motivation. Graduating with a B+ grade in my KCSE examinations was a testament to my hard work and dedication. The experience of preparing for and taking the KCSE exams was both intense and rewarding. It was a culmination of years of learning and effort, and the result reflected my commitment to academic excellence.

High school was a formative period that shaped my future aspirations and set the stage for my next steps. The experiences and achievements of these years reinforced my passion for learning and laid the foundation for my career in technology

One of the most memorable experiences of high school was participating in various extracurricular activities. I was involved in several clubs and societies, which helped me develop leadership skills and explore new interests. Whether it was participating in debate competitions, joining science clubs, or engaging in community service, these activities enriched my high school experience and contributed to my personal growth.

High school also presented its share of challenges. The rigorous curriculum and the pressure to perform well in examinations were demanding. There were times when I struggled to keep up with the coursework and balance my various responsibilities. However, these challenges taught me resilience and perseverance. With the support of my teachers, friends, and family, I was able to overcome these obstacles and continue to strive for excellence.

The transition from primary to high school was significant. I found myself in a larger, more competitive environment where academic performance was closely scrutinized. The days were filled with new subjects, complex problems, and a growing sense of responsibility. Balancing academics with extracurricular activities became a crucial skill. I discovered that high school was not just about attending classes but about actively engaging with the material and seizing every opportunity to grow.

**Chapter 5: A New Horizon – University Life**

The transition from high school to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology marked a pivotal moment in my academic journey. With the excitement of beginning a new chapter in September 2021, I embarked on a path that promised not only advanced learning but also the opportunity to delve deeply into the world of technology. Each year of my university life was marked by distinct experiences and memorable stories that contributed to my growth both academically and personally.

\*\*First Year: Navigating New Beginnings\*\*

My first year at Dedan Kimathi University was a whirlwind of new experiences and challenges. The shift from high school to university brought with it a more demanding academic environment. The initial months were filled with a mix of orientation activities and the excitement of meeting new classmates. I recall one particular day when we had a campus-wide scavenger hunt organized by the student union. It was a fun and engaging way to get to know the campus and our fellow students. Forming teams with new friends, including Trevor and Fabian from high school, we navigated the campus, solving riddles and completing tasks. The event was not only enjoyable but also a great icebreaker, helping me feel more connected to my new environment.

Academically, the first year was a time of adjustment. I was introduced to core courses such as data analysis and introductory programming. One memorable project involved analyzing a large dataset to identify trends and patterns. Working late into the night in the computer lab with my classmates, I experienced the thrill of discovery as we uncovered significant insights from the data. This project was a formative experience that solidified my interest in data analysis and laid the groundwork for future endeavors.

\*\*Second Year: A Tri-Semester Experience\*\*

The second year of university was particularly eventful, with a tri-semester that included an internal attachment. This period was a blend of academic learning and practical experience. The attachment, which took place during the 2.3 trimester, was a significant part of our curriculum. I was fortunate to work with a talented team that included Roy, Muchina, Ian, and Mike. Our project focused on developing a bus booking system, a practical solution aimed at improving public transportation efficiency.

Our project involved designing a user-friendly interface, implementing a backend system for managing bookings, and ensuring data security. The process was both challenging and rewarding. I remember the late-night coding sessions, brainstorming meetings, and testing phases. One memorable moment was when we successfully integrated the payment gateway into the system. It was a major milestone that required extensive troubleshooting and collaboration. The sense of accomplishment when the system was finally up and running was incredibly satisfying. This project not only enhanced my technical skills but also taught me valuable lessons in teamwork and project management.

\*\*Third Year: Exploring New Frontiers\*\*

The third year of university was marked by deeper specialization in my chosen field of IT. As I delved into more advanced courses and projects, I had the opportunity to explore areas such as web development and mobile app development. One particularly memorable experience was working on a web development project for a local nonprofit organization. The project involved creating a website to help the organization reach a broader audience and manage its resources more effectively.

The project required a mix of technical skills and creativity. I worked closely with the organization’s team to understand their needs and design a website that aligned with their goals. The process included designing the user interface, developing the site’s functionality, and integrating features such as donation forms and event calendars. The satisfaction of seeing the website go live and receiving positive feedback from the organization was a highlight of my third year.

\*\*Fourth Year: The Red Eye Guard Project\*\*

The final year of university was a culmination of my academic journey and an opportunity to apply all that I had learned. One of the most significant projects of my fourth year was the development of the Red Eye Guard application. This project was particularly close to my heart as it addressed a pressing need in the healthcare sector. The Red Eye Guard application was designed to assist in the early detection of eye conditions through image classification.

The development of this application involved using TensorFlow Lite for image processing and classification. I spent countless hours refining the model, ensuring accuracy, and integrating the application with a user-friendly interface. One of the most memorable moments was during the testing phase when the application correctly identified various eye conditions from test images. Seeing the results in action and knowing that the application could potentially make a difference in people’s lives was incredibly rewarding.

In addition to the technical challenges, the project required effective communication and collaboration with healthcare professionals to ensure the application met their needs. The feedback and insights from these professionals were invaluable in refining the application and ensuring its effectiveness.

\*\*Looking Back: A Journey of Growth\*\*

Reflecting on my university journey, I am grateful for the diverse experiences and opportunities that have shaped my growth. Each year brought its own set of challenges and triumphs, contributing to my development as a student and a future professional. The first year’s exploration of new subjects, the second year’s practical experience, the third year’s specialized projects, and the final year’s impactful application all played a crucial role in preparing me for my career in technology.

As I look forward to graduating in December 2024, I carry with me the lessons learned and the memories created during these formative years. The support of my family, the camaraderie of my classmates, and the guidance of my mentors have all been integral to my success. The university experience has been a transformative journey, and I am excited to take the skills and knowledge I have gained into the next phase of my professional life.

**Chapter 6: Beyond the Classroom – Internships, Projects, and Professional Growth**

As I approached the end of my academic journey at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I began to focus more intently on transitioning from student life to the professional world. The final phase of my university experience was characterized by internships, hands-on projects, and preparation for a career in technology. This chapter highlights the pivotal experiences and growth that occurred during this crucial period.

#### \*\*Internships: Bridging Theory and Practice\*\*

One of the most impactful experiences during my final years at university was my internship placements. These internships were crucial in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application. They provided valuable insights into the tech industry and allowed me to gain practical experience in various areas of technology.

My first major internship was with a leading tech company, where I was involved in a data analysis project. The role required analyzing large datasets to extract meaningful insights and present findings to the team. This experience was both challenging and rewarding. I recall spending hours working with complex datasets, utilizing tools like Python and SQL to perform statistical analyses and visualize the data. The opportunity to present my findings to senior analysts and receive constructive feedback was invaluable. It reinforced my analytical skills and gave me a deeper understanding of how data-driven decisions are made in a professional setting.

In addition to data analysis, I had the chance to work on a project involving web development. This internship provided hands-on experience with front-end and back-end development, allowing me to contribute to the creation of a client’s website. I was involved in coding, testing, and debugging, working closely with a team of developers. The collaborative environment and the opportunity to work on a real-world project were incredibly enriching. It gave me a sense of how development projects are managed and executed in a professional environment.

\*\*Projects: Applying Knowledge to Real-World Problems\*\*

Throughout my time at university, I was fortunate to work on several impactful projects that allowed me to apply my technical skills to real-world problems. These projects were not only academic exercises but also opportunities to address practical challenges and contribute to meaningful solutions.

One notable project involved developing a mobile app designed to assist small businesses in managing their inventory. This project was a culmination of skills I had acquired in various courses, including mobile app development and data management. The app featured real-time inventory tracking, order management, and reporting functionalities. Working on this project required a deep understanding of user needs and technical requirements. The process of designing, developing, and testing the app was a valuable learning experience that enhanced my problem-solving and project management skills.

Another significant project was a collaborative effort with a team of students to create a platform for online education. The platform aimed to facilitate remote learning by providing tools for course management, student engagement, and assessment. My role involved developing interactive features and integrating multimedia content. The project’s success was a testament to the teamwork and creativity of our group. It also highlighted the growing importance of technology in education and the potential for tech solutions to address educational challenges.

\*\*Preparing for the Professional World\*\*

As graduation approached, I focused on preparing for the transition from university to the professional world. This preparation involved several key activities, including refining my resume, preparing for interviews, and networking with industry professionals.

I attended career development workshops and job fairs organized by the university, which provided valuable insights into the job market and the skills required by employers. These events offered opportunities to connect with potential employers, learn about industry trends, and gain advice on career planning. I also sought guidance from mentors and professionals in the field, including my mother, Josephine Wanjiku, whose support and advice were instrumental in shaping my career aspirations.

Networking played a crucial role in my career preparation. I actively participated in industry events, tech meetups, and professional forums to build connections with professionals and peers. These interactions not only expanded my network but also provided insights into various career paths and opportunities in the tech industry.

\*\*Looking Ahead: Embracing the Future\*\*

As I prepared to graduate and embark on my professional journey, I reflected on the experiences and growth that had shaped my university life. The internships, projects, and preparation for the professional world had equipped me with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the tech industry.

Graduating in December 2024 marked the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It was a moment of pride and achievement, representing the beginning of a new chapter in my career. The experiences gained during my time at Dedan Kimathi University, including the development of the Red Eye Guard application and the various internships and projects, had prepared me for the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

As I look forward to the future, I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities that await. The journey from student to professional is an ongoing process, and I am eager to continue learning, growing, and making a positive impact in the field of technology. The skills and experiences I have gained during my time at university will serve as a strong foundation as I embark on this new phase of my career.

In conclusion, the final years of university were marked by significant growth and preparation for the professional world. The internships, projects, and career preparation activities were integral to my development and success. As I graduate and move forward into the tech industry, I carry with me the lessons learned and the experiences gained during this transformative period.

**Chapter 7: Embracing the Professional World – Preparing for the Future**

As I approach the end of my academic journey at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, the focus is shifting towards preparing for the transition from student life to the professional world. Graduating in December 2024 marks a significant milestone and sets the stage for the next phase of my career. Although I have not yet undertaken an internship, the experiences and preparations during my final year are laying a strong foundation for my future in the tech industry.

\*\*Preparing for the Job Market: Strategic Planning\*\*

As graduation approaches, one of my primary goals has been to prepare effectively for entering the job market. This preparation involves several key activities, including refining my resume, preparing for job interviews, and engaging in career development activities. Crafting a compelling resume that highlights my skills, projects, and academic achievements has been a priority. I have focused on showcasing my technical skills, such as data analysis, web development, and mobile app development, as well as my involvement in significant projects like the Red Eye Guard application.

Preparing for job interviews has involved practicing responses to common questions, researching potential employers, and understanding industry trends. I have engaged in mock interviews and sought feedback from mentors and peers to improve my interview skills. These practices aim to ensure that I am well-prepared to articulate my experiences and skills effectively to prospective employers.

\*\*Enhancing Skills: Continuous Learning and Development\*\*

In addition to job preparation, I have remained committed to enhancing my technical skills and staying current with industry trends. The tech industry is known for its rapid pace of change, and continuous learning is essential for staying competitive. I have engaged in online courses, workshops, and webinars to expand my knowledge in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cybersecurity.

One memorable experience was attending a virtual conference on emerging technologies. The conference featured presentations from leading experts and offered insights into the latest developments in technology. Participating in these events has been instrumental in keeping me informed about industry advancements and exploring new areas of interest.

\*\*Building a Professional Network: Connecting with Industry Leaders\*\*

Networking has been a crucial aspect of my career preparation. Building connections with industry professionals, attending tech meetups, and participating in professional forums have all contributed to expanding my network. I have actively sought out opportunities to connect with individuals who can offer guidance, mentorship, and potential job opportunities.

One significant networking opportunity was participating in a virtual tech meetup focused on startup innovations. The event provided a platform to interact with entrepreneurs and tech leaders, discuss emerging trends, and learn about potential career paths in the startup ecosystem. These interactions have not only broadened my understanding of the industry but also opened doors for potential future collaborations and job prospects.

\*\*Developing Personal Projects: Applying Knowledge\*\*

In lieu of an internship, I have focused on developing personal projects that allow me to apply my skills and knowledge in real-world scenarios. Working on these projects has provided valuable hands-on experience and demonstrated my ability to tackle practical challenges.

One notable project has been further developing the Red Eye Guard application. This project involves refining the application’s functionality, enhancing the user interface, and incorporating feedback from potential users. The goal is to create a robust tool for early detection of eye conditions, and the project has provided insights into practical application development and user-centered design.

\*\*Looking Forward: Career Aspirations and Goals\*\*

As graduation approaches, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. My long-term career aspirations include pursuing roles in fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, and cybersecurity. I am eager to contribute to projects that leverage technology to solve real-world problems and make a positive impact.

In the coming months, I plan to actively seek out internships and job opportunities that align with my career goals. I am confident that the skills, knowledge, and experiences gained during my time at university will serve as a strong foundation for my professional journey.

In conclusion, preparing for the transition from university to the professional world has been a period of strategic planning, skill enhancement, and networking. Although I have not yet completed an internship, the experiences and preparations undertaken during my final year are equipping me to make a successful entry into the tech industry. As I approach graduation, I am enthusiastic about the future and the opportunities it holds for my career.