

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of pink and purple, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some with thin white outlines, set against a light pink background.

# **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

## **EDNAH NGALA**

### **C027-01-1149/2021**

This is the story of my life. It is a story of struggle and triumph, of hope and despair. It is a story of how the human spirit can overcome even the most repressive forces. I have tried to make it a truthful story, neither apologizing for my mistakes nor exaggerating my virtues.

# Introduction

## ► **Early Life**

- My name is Ednah Ngala, and I hail from the vibrant town of Kibwezi, Kenya. I am the fifth born of six in my family. As I embark on this journey of documenting my life, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for the experiences that have molded me.

## ► **Family Values**

- My parents, both educators, instilled in me the value of education and the importance of hard work. They always encouraged me to dream big and pursue my passions, no matter the obstacles. Besides being teachers, they were farmers, who put their effort into growing different types of cash crops and family food.

## ► **Faith**

- Born into a Christian family, I attended Sunday services every week, where I

## **Name Meaning**

My name, Ednah, is of Hebrew origin, meaning "delight" or "rejuvenation." It signifies joy and renewal, qualities that I strive to embody in my life.

# Parents

- ▶ As educators, my parents have always emphasized the transformative power of education. They both pursued careers in teaching, driven by a passion to impart knowledge and shape young minds. Their classrooms were not just places of academic instruction but environments where students were encouraged to dream big, think critically, and develop a love for learning.
- ▶ **Farming**
  - ▶ In addition to their teaching careers, my parents are also dedicated farmers. They manage our family farm with the same dedication and diligence they bring to their classrooms. Our farm produces a variety of crops, including both cash crops and food for our family.

# Ethnicity

## ▶ Kamba Culture

- ▶ I am proud to identify as a Kamba, a member of one of Kenya's largest and most culturally rich ethnic groups. The Kamba people, also known as the Akamba, primarily reside in the southeastern regions of Kenya, particularly in the counties of Machakos, Makueni, and Kitui.

## ▶ Language

- ▶ Our language, Kikamba, is not just a means of communication but a vessel of our history and identity. My parents, Mr. Johnstone Ngala and Mrs. Reginah Ngala, ensured that we spoke Kikamba at home, preserving the linguistic nuances and wisdom embedded in our mother tongue.

# Family History

## Grandparents' Role

My grandparents were young heroes who actively participated in the struggle for Kenya's independence. In their teenage years, they selflessly dedicated themselves to supporting the freedom fighters by delivering food to their hidden locations.

## Impact of Involvement

Their involvement in the independence movement had a profound impact on their character and outlook on life. The experiences they endured during those turbulent times shaped them into individuals of immense strength and resilience.

# Family History

Legacy

My grandparents' legacy is a source of immense pride for our family. Their actions during the struggle for independence are a testament to the indomitable spirit that runs through our veins.

# Interesting Things About Where I Was Born

## ▶ Mount Kilimanjaro

- ▶ Adding to the enchantment of Kibwezi is the breathtaking view of Mount Kilimanjaro's snow-capped peaks. On clear days, the magnificent mountain stands tall against the horizon, its snowy summit glistening under the African sun

## ▶ Kibwezi Market

- ▶ The town's strategic location along the Nairobi-Mombasa highway has also made it a vibrant hub of activity. The constant movement of people and goods through Kibwezi brought a dynamic energy to the town.



# Early life

## ► Family Values

- Our family valued togetherness and hard work. Every Sunday, after church, we would gather around the dining table for a hearty family meal, sharing stories from our week.

## ► A Memorable Lesson

- One day, my parents instructed me to look after our cattle in the garden. As a young child, I was fearful and hesitant. I worried about the responsibility and the possibility of something going wrong.

## ► Relationship with Siblings

- My siblings and I shared a close bond. We supported each other in every possible way. Academically, we helped each other with homework and prepared for exams together.

## Primary school years

### ► Academics

- At Kawelu, I excelled in my studies, particularly in mathematics and English, influenced by my parents' professions. I was often at the top of my class, which motivated me to continue striving for excellence

### ► Extracurricular Activities

- Besides academics, I was actively involved in extracurricular activities. I joined the debate club, where I honed my public speaking and critical thinking skills.

# Challenges and Triumphs

- ▶ **Balancing Academics and Extracurriculars**

- ▶ Balancing academics and extracurricular activities was sometimes overwhelming. There were moments of self-doubt, especially when preparing for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams.

- ▶ **Overcoming Hurdles**

- ▶ But with the support of my family and teachers, I managed to overcome these hurdles and perform well in my exams.

- ▶ **Distance and Discipline**

- ▶ Walking miles from home to school was a distance. Sometimes, I would be punished for arriving late to school.

- ▶ **Overcoming Challenges**

- ▶ There were times when I felt overwhelmed, but I reminded myself of my goals and the importance of education.

- ▶ **Adapting to a New Routine**

- ▶ It took me some time to adjust to the new bedtime schedule. In primary school, I used to sleep at 9:30 pm, but now I was required to sleep at 10:30 pm and wake up at 4:00 am. I would take a cold bath and rush to morning preps.

- ▶ **Morning Preps**

- ▶ During preps, the duty teacher would patrol behind the classes to ensure everyone was engaged in personal studies.

# Secondary School: A Period of Growth

## ▶ Mukameni Secondary School

- ▶ After completing my primary education, I enrolled at Mukameni Secondary School from 2016 to 2019. My time at Mukameni was a period of significant growth and self-discovery.

## ▶ Adjusting to a New Environment

- ▶ This was my first time being away from my parents for an extended period. I carried out my school duties diligently, although I used to fear older students in Forms 2 to 4. Adjusting to a new environment came with unexpected

## ▶ Increased Workload

- ▶ The transition to secondary school was challenging. The workload was heavier, and the subjects were more complex. I had to learn to manage my time effectively and develop study habits that would help me succeed.

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# Extracurricular Adventures and Personal Growth

## ▶ Sports

- ▶ One of the avenues I ventured into was sports, where I found myself drawn to the camaraderie and adrenaline rush of competition. Joining the basketball team not only provided a physical outlet but also fostered a sense of teamwork and discipline.

## ▶ Drama

- ▶ In addition to sports, I sought solace and self-expression through the medium of drama. The school's drama club became a sanctuary where creativity knew no bounds.

## ▶ Lessons Learned

- ▶ As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I carry with me the lessons learned, the memories cherished, and the bonds forged within the storied halls of Graceland and Mukameni. Though the journey was marked by triumphs and trials, it is the sum of these experiences that has molded me into a person of character, integrity, and resilience.

## ▶ Cultural Exposure

- ▶ One of the most enriching aspects of my time at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has been the exposure to cultural diversity and the friendships I have forged along the way.

## ▶ Intercultural Understanding

- ▶ The university attracts students from all corners of Kenya and beyond, each bringing their unique traditions, languages, and perspectives. This melting pot of cultures has provided a vibrant and dynamic environment for personal growth and intercultural understanding.

## ▶ Building Connections

- ▶ Friendships formed at DeKUT have been an integral part of my university experience. In a place where everyone is away from home, the bonds we create become a source of support and camaraderie.

# University Life: A Journey of Growth and Discovery

- ▶ Embarking on the journey of higher learning marked a significant milestone in my life, opening doors to a world brimming with knowledge, opportunities, and growth. Leaving the familiar confines of secondary school behind, I entered Dedan Kimathi University of Technology with a mix of excitement and apprehension. The transition to university life required me to adapt quickly to new academic challenges and a more independent lifestyle.
- ▶ **Enrollment**
- ▶ In September 2021, I enrolled at DeKUT to pursue a degree in Bachelor of Business Information Technology. As I stepped onto the campus for the first time, I was greeted by a sense of anticipation and possibility.
- ▶ **Transitioning to University Life**
- ▶ Transitioning to university life came with its own set of challenges and new experiences. Staying alone in the hostels meant learning to manage my time and responsibilities independently.
- ▶ **Adapting to Independence**
- ▶ Deciding what to eat and preparing meals became a daily task, teaching me the importance of self-sufficiency and planning. Attending classes without the familiar sound of school bells was another adjustment, requiring me to develop a disciplined approach to managing my schedule.

# Acquisition of Skills and Coping with Challenges

## ► Technical Expertise

- Pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Business Information Technology has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of both business principles and technological advancements.

## ► Soft Skills Development

- Courses in programming, database management, and business analytics have equipped me with the technical expertise needed to thrive in today's digital economy. Additionally, soft skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication have been honed through various class projects, presentations, and collaborative assignments.

## ► Overcoming Challenges

- Coping with challenges has been an integral part of my university journey.

## ► Involvement in Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

### ► Cybersecurity

- I immersed myself in the field of cybersecurity, participating in workshops, seminars, and practical sessions that deepened my understanding of digital security threats and countermeasures.

### ► Networking

- Additionally, involvement in activities related to Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in networking to real-world scenarios, enhancing my technical skills and readiness for the industry.

### ► Innovation Hub

- As a member of DeKUT's innovation hub, DeHUB, I collaborated with fellow

## Looking Towards the Future

### ► Skills and Knowledge

- Armed with a solid foundation in business information technology from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), I am eager to embark on a career path that allows me to apply my skills and knowledge in practical settings.

### ► Future Goals

- Beyond academics, I aspire to contribute meaningfully to the tech industry, leveraging my education and passion for innovation to tackle real-world challenges.

### ► Technical Skills

### ► Leadership and Entrepreneurship

- My time at DeKUT has nurtured not just my technical skills but also my leadership abilities and entrepreneurial mindset through engagements with DeHUB and other campus initiatives.

### ► Future Focus

- As I prepare to graduate, I am focused on honing my abilities further, exploring opportunities that align with my interests in technology, business, and making a positive impact in the global community.

### ► Leadership and Entrepreneurship

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### ► Future Focus