

Ednah Ngala

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Dedication

To my loving parents, who instilled in me the values of hard work, education, and resilience. To my siblings, whose support and companionship have been my constant strength. And to my friends and mentors, who have guided and encouraged me throughout my journey. This autobiography is a testament to your unwavering belief in me and the love and support that have shaped my life. Your confidence in me and continuous support have greatly influenced who I am today. I treasure you all.

Introduction

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.

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. This autobiography is not just a record of my academic achievements but also a testament to my resilience, passion, and unwavering commitment to my goals.

I found comfort in the embrace of my wise and loving parents who fostered my curiosity and shared the knowledge of their past experiences with me, providing the groundwork for the amazing voyage that lay ahead. My parents were strict but loving, and they instilled in us the values of respect and discipline. They taught me the importance of education and encouraged me to study hard.

Growing up in a close-knit community, I was surrounded by love and support. 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. Born into a Christian family, I attended Sunday services every week, where I learned more about God and His eternal presence. This upbringing made me a prayerful warrior, believing in God every day of my life.

Even as I grew older, my parents continued to nurture my faith. They encouraged me to ask questions and to seek God's guidance in all areas of my life. They also provided me with a strong support system, always there to offer encouragement and advice.

Origin and Meaning of My Name

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.

My second name, Mwongeli, is derived from the Kamba language, which is spoken by the Kamba people of Kenya. In Kamba culture, names carry significant meaning and are often reflective of the circumstances surrounding a child's birth, familial aspirations, or qualities parents hope their child will embody. The name Mwongeli means "one who praises" or "one who is grateful." This name reflects my deep sense of gratitude and my tendency to find joy and praise in the blessings of life.

In Kamba culture, praise and gratitude are integral aspects of community life. The Kamba people value harmonious living, mutual support, and the recognition of blessings, both great and small. Naming a child Mwongeli is a way to instill these values from an early age. It signifies a hope that the child will grow up appreciating and acknowledging the good in life, and in turn, bring positivity and thankfulness to those around them.

Together, my names represent a spirit of joy, renewal, and gratitude, which are core aspects of my personality and outlook on life. They remind me of my cultural heritage and the values my family and community hold dear. Embracing the meaning of my names helps me stay connected to my roots and encourages me to live a life filled with joy, appreciation, and positive energy.

Parent

My parents, Mr. Johnstone Ngala and Mrs. Reginah Ngala, are the foundation of my life and the pillars of our family. They hail from Matiliku, a serene and beautiful area in Makueni County, Kenya. Both of them have dedicated their lives to education and agriculture, embodying a perfect blend of intellectual pursuit and a deep connection to the land.

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. My father, Mr. Johnstone Ngala, is known for his expertise in mathematics and his ability to make complex concepts accessible to all students. My mother, Mrs. Reginah Ngala, excels in languages and literature, inspiring her students to appreciate the beauty of words and the power of storytelling.

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. Through farming, my parents have taught us the values of hard work, patience, and the rewards of nurturing the land. The farm is a testament to their belief in self-sufficiency and their deep respect for nature.

Faith plays a significant role in our family life, and my parents are compassionate and active members of our church. They have always been involved in church activities, from participating in Sunday services to organizing community outreach programs. Their faith has been a guiding light in their lives, providing them with strength and compassion that they extend to everyone around them. They have taught us to live with integrity, to be kind and compassionate to others, and to always seek guidance and wisdom through prayer.

As parents, Mr. Johnstone Ngala and Mrs. Reginah Ngala have instilled in their children the importance of education, hard work, and faith. They have been our greatest supporters and mentors, always encouraging us to pursue our dreams and to never give up, no matter the obstacles. Their love and dedication have created a nurturing environment where we felt valued and supported. They have taught us the importance of family, the joy of giving, and the fulfillment that comes from helping others.

My parents have also shown us the importance of balance. They manage to juggle their demanding careers, farming responsibilities, and church activities while always making time for their family. They have taught us that success is not just about professional achievements but also about maintaining strong family bonds and contributing to our community.

The lessons imparted by my parents go beyond academics and farming. They have shown us the importance of resilience and perseverance. Through their actions, they have demonstrated that life is a journey with ups and downs, and it is our attitude and determination that define

our path. They have taught us to face challenges head-on, to learn from our mistakes, and to celebrate our successes, no matter how small.

Ethnicity

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. My roots trace back to Matiliku in Makueni County, a place that embodies the essence of Kamba culture and traditions.

The Kamba community is known for its resilience, industriousness, and adaptability. Historically, the Akamba were renowned traders, traversing vast distances to engage in commerce with other communities. This spirit of enterprise is deeply ingrained in our culture, and it continues to influence the way we live and interact with the world today.

Growing up in a Kamba household, I was immersed in the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage. 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. The proverbs and stories they shared with us were not only entertaining but also conveyed important life lessons and values.

Our cultural practices and traditions are vibrant and varied. I vividly remember participating in and witnessing traditional ceremonies, such as weddings and initiation rites, which are integral to our social fabric. These ceremonies are marked by music, dance, and elaborate rituals that reflect our deep connection to our ancestry and our community. The sound of drums, the rhythm of traditional songs, and the sight of colorful attire are etched in my memory as symbols of our unity and cultural pride.

The Kamba people are also known for their craftsmanship, particularly in wood carving and basket weaving. These skills have been passed down through generations, and they reflect our creativity and resourcefulness. The beautifully carved wooden sculptures and intricately woven

baskets that adorn our home are not just decorative items but expressions of our artistic heritage. They remind me of the ingenuity and craftsmanship that characterize our people.

Agriculture is a central aspect of Kamba life. Our land in Matiliku, Makueni County, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of my parents and ancestors. Despite the challenges posed by the semi-arid climate, we have managed to cultivate crops and sustain our livelihoods through sheer determination and innovative farming techniques. This resilience is a hallmark of the Kamba spirit, and it has taught me the importance of perseverance and adaptability.

Faith and spirituality are deeply woven into the fabric of Kamba culture. Our family has always been active in the local church, and our Christian faith plays a significant role in our daily lives. The values of compassion, humility, and community service that are emphasized in our faith resonate with the traditional Kamba ethos. Our participation in church activities has strengthened our bonds with our neighbors and reinforced the sense of belonging to a larger community.

The Kamba people have a rich oral tradition, with stories and songs that convey our history, beliefs, and values. I grew up listening to my grandparents and parents recount tales of our ancestors, heroic deeds, and moral lessons. These narratives have shaped my understanding of who I am and where I come from. They have instilled in me a sense of pride in my heritage and a responsibility to preserve and pass on our traditions to future generations.

Family History:

My family history is a tapestry woven with threads of courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the cause of freedom. 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. This deep involvement in the fight for freedom not only shaped their lives but also instilled in them a profound sense of duty and resilience that has been passed down through generations.

Growing up in a community deeply rooted in agriculture, my grandparents possessed a wealth of knowledge and expertise in farming. This made them ideal candidates for a critical role in

the independence movement: ensuring the safe delivery of essential sustenance to the brave individuals fighting for our liberation. Their familiarity with the land and their farming skills allowed them to navigate the terrain with ease and discretion, ensuring that food supplies reached the freedom fighters without detection by colonial forces.

My grandparents' contributions played a significant role in sustaining the brave men and women who risked their lives for the cause of independence. Despite the dangers and hardships, they faced, they remained steadfast in their commitment. Their actions were driven by an unyielding belief in the importance of freedom and a deep sense of duty to their fellow Kenyans. They often recounted tales of narrow escapes, late-night missions, and the camaraderie that developed among those involved in the struggle. These stories were not just about the past but served as lessons in courage, sacrifice, and the power of collective action.

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. These qualities were evident in the way they approached every aspect of their lives, from farming to family to community service. They instilled in their children, including my parents, the values of hard work, perseverance, and a deep love for their country.

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. They taught us that true heroes are not always those who seek the spotlight but those who quietly and selflessly dedicate themselves to a cause greater than themselves. Their bravery and selflessness have been an enduring source of inspiration for me and my siblings.

The impact of their sacrifices is also evident in the progress and opportunities we enjoy today. The freedom they fought for paved the way for a brighter future for their descendants. It is a freedom that we do not take for granted, and we are constantly reminded of the price that was paid to secure it. Our family's history is a reminder that we have a responsibility to honor their legacy by contributing positively to our community and country.

In addition to their role in the independence movement, my grandparents were pillars of our community in Matiliku, Makueni County. Their dedication to farming and their commitment to improving agricultural practices benefited not only our family but also our neighbors. They

shared their knowledge freely, helping others to improve their yields and secure their livelihoods. This spirit of generosity and community service is a hallmark of our family's ethos.

My grandparents' story is not just a chapter in our family's history; it is a foundation upon which we build our future. It reminds us of the importance of resilience, the power of collective action, and the value of selfless service. Their legacy lives on in the values they imparted to us and in the way we choose to live our lives.

As I reflect on my family's history, I am filled with gratitude and pride. I am inspired by the bravery and determination of my grandparents and the enduring impact of their contributions to our nation's independence. Their story is a beacon of hope and a reminder that even in the face of great adversity, ordinary individuals can achieve extraordinary things. Their legacy is a guiding light, urging us to continue their work, uphold their values, and strive for a better, freer, and more just world.

Interesting Things About Where I Was Born

Growing up in Kibwezi, Makueni was a tapestry woven with the vibrant colors of community, nature, and history. Nestled in the heart of Kenya's eastern region, Kibwezi holds a special place in my autobiography. The town's unique charm and natural beauty evoke a sense of adventure and discovery that has profoundly shaped my identity.

One of the most captivating aspects of Kibwezi is its proximity to the Kyulu Hills, a range of volcanic hills that trace their origin to the eruptions of Mount Kilimanjaro. The sight of these majestic hills, with their lush green slopes and rugged terrain, never fails to inspire awe. As a child, I spent countless hours exploring the foothills, marveling at the rich biodiversity and the striking landscapes. The hills are home to various flora and fauna, offering a unique opportunity to observe nature in its purest form.

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. From our home, we could see this awe-inspiring sight, a constant reminder of the wonders of the natural world. The sight of Mount Kilimanjaro covered in snow is a rare and beautiful phenomenon, creating a surreal contrast

with the warm climate of Kibwezi. This view not only provided a picturesque backdrop to our daily lives but also instilled in me a sense of connection to the broader landscape of East Africa.

The rich history and culture of Kibwezi further enhance its allure. The town is steeped in traditions passed down through generations, and the sense of community is palpable. Festive occasions and communal gatherings were a regular part of life, bringing people together to celebrate and share stories. The warmth and hospitality of the people of Kibwezi are qualities that have deeply influenced my outlook on life. Growing up in such a close-knit community fostered a strong sense of belonging and taught me the importance of unity and cooperation.

Kibwezi's agricultural heritage is another fascinating aspect of the town. The fertile lands surrounding the area support a variety of crops, and farming is a way of life for many residents. My family, too, engaged in farming, and I have fond memories of helping out in the fields, learning about the different crops, and understanding the rhythms of the seasons. This connection to the land instilled in me a deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication that goes into cultivating the soil and producing food.

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. Markets were always bustling with traders selling fresh produce, handmade crafts, and other goods. This exposure to diverse cultures and ideas broadened my horizons and enriched my understanding of the world.

One of the most cherished memories of my childhood in Kibwezi is the clear night skies. Far from the city lights, the night sky was a canvas of twinkling stars, offering a spectacular view of the Milky Way. I would often lie on the grass, gazing up at the stars, and letting my imagination soar. These moments of tranquility and wonder fostered a sense of curiosity and a love for the mysteries of the universe.

Kibwezi is more than just a place of natural beauty and historical significance; it is a place where the essence of life is deeply felt and celebrated. The town's unique blend of nature, community, and culture has left an indelible mark on me. Growing up in Kibwezi has shaped my values, my perspective, and my appreciation for the simple yet profound joys of life. It is a place that I carry with me wherever I go, a source of inspiration and a reminder of the rich tapestry of experiences that have defined my journey.

Community Heritage

Kibwezi, a town deeply rooted in history, has a rich community heritage that traces back to the colonial era and the days of long-distance trade. Originally inherited from the British colonial administration, Kibwezi was strategically situated along the trade routes that connected the interior of Kenya to the coast. This location made it a vital stop for traders and merchants, who would rest and replenish their supplies before continuing their journeys. The town's heritage is a blend of diverse influences brought by the traders, including Swahili, Arab, and Indian cultures, which have left an indelible mark on the local traditions, cuisine, and architecture. This confluence of cultures created a vibrant community that thrived on mutual exchange and cooperation.

The legacy of long-distance trade is still evident in Kibwezi today. The town's markets bustle with activity, reminiscent of the days when caravans would converge to trade goods such as ivory, spices, and textiles. The heritage of trade has instilled a spirit of entrepreneurship and resilience in the community, with many residents continuing to engage in business and agriculture. The historical significance of Kibwezi is also preserved in its cultural practices and festivals, which celebrate the town's storied past and the diverse influences that have shaped its identity. This rich tapestry of heritage fosters a strong sense of community pride and continuity, ensuring that the legacy of Kibwezi's vibrant history is passed down through generations.

Early Life.

I was born and raised into a loving family in Kibwezi, Kenya. My early years were filled with the warmth and care of my parents and siblings. Our home was always bustling with activity, laughter, and the sound of my mother's cooking. My parents were both teachers, and they emphasized the importance of education from a young age. They were also farmers, teaching us the values of hard work and the joys of living off the land.

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. Birthdays were

particularly special in our household. We celebrated each birthday with great enthusiasm, hosting lively gatherings at our home. My mother would bake a delicious cake, and my father would set up games for us to play. These celebrations were not just about marking the passage of another year; they were about celebrating life, love, and family.

My parents' dual roles as educators and farmers had a profound influence on us. They taught us to value education, but they also instilled in us the importance of hard work and self-sufficiency. We learned to appreciate the land and the food it provided. I remember helping my parents plant crops, tend to the garden, and harvest produce. These activities taught me patience, responsibility, and the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of our lab or.

A Memorable Lesson in Responsibility

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. However, I eventually agreed, determined to prove myself capable. Despite my fears, I tried to focus on my task. However, the cattle managed to sneak into our neighbours' garden and ate her crops. Panic and guilt overwhelmed me, and I couldn't bear the thought of facing my parents.

Instead of returning home, I decided to sleep over at my friend's house. The following day, my parents came looking for me. When they found me, they were not only worried but also disappointed. As a consequence, they punished me by having me look after the cattle for a whole week without a break and no lunch within that week. This experience was a harsh but valuable lesson in responsibility and accountability. It taught me the importance of facing my fears and the consequences of my actions.

Relationship with My 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. In the kitchen, we worked as a team, assisting our mother in preparing meals. Each task, whether big or small, was an opportunity for us to bond and learn from one another.

I remember many evenings spent around the dining table, helping each other solve math problems or write essays. My older siblings were my mentors, guiding me through difficult

subjects and encouraging me to strive for excellence. In the kitchen, we would laugh and chat as we chopped vegetables and stirred pots, creating delicious meals together.

Primary School Years

My educational journey began at Kawelu Primary School. I was an eager student, always curious and ready to learn. The teachers at Kawelu were dedicated and nurturing, providing a strong foundation for my academic journey. My desire to join school was strong that i followed my elder sister one day after i found that she was going to school i followed her secretly and that is how i started going to school.

Academic

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. I participated in various school competitions and activities, which helped me develop confidence and leadership skills. I did not like the Social Studies subject since its content was vast and had many questions to answer. Due to that, i had a negative attitude towards it.

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. I also participated in sports, particularly athletics, where I learned the value of teamwork and perseverance. I also participated in playing netball, where I represented my school at the county level. It was my first time meeting students from different cultures, and the competition was enjoyable.

Curriculum:

At the heart of primary education lies a meticulously crafted curriculum designed to foster holistic growth and development. From the rudiments of language and mathematics to the wonders of science and social studies, each subject serves as a building block in the scaffolding of knowledge. Through a blend of structured lessons, hands-on activities, and experiential learning, educators strive to engage young minds and ignite a lifelong love of learning. The curriculum not only imparts academic knowledge but also cultivates essential life skills such

as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication – skills that are indispensable in navigating the complexities of the modern world.

Pedagogy

Central to the effectiveness of primary education is the pedagogical approach employed by educators. In my experience, a student-centered approach prevailed, with teachers serving as facilitators of learning rather than mere disseminators of information. Classrooms buzzed with activity as students collaborated on group projects, engaged in lively discussions, and explored concepts through hands-on experiments. This interactive and experiential approach not only enhanced comprehension but also fostered creativity, curiosity, and a sense of ownership over one's learning journey. Moreover, the incorporation of multimedia resources, educational technology, and real-world applications enriched the learning experience and made lessons more relevant and engaging.

Challenges Faced

However, my primary school years were not without challenges. 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. But with the support of my family and teachers, I managed to overcome these hurdles and perform well in my exams. Walking miles from home to school was a distance. Sometimes, I would be punished for arriving late to school.

Embracing Life's Journey

As I reflect on my journey thus far, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today. I have learned that life is a continuous process of learning, growing, and evolving. It is a tapestry woven with threads of joy, sorrow, triumph, and failure, each strand contributing to the rich texture of my existence.

I am excited to embrace the future, with all its challenges and opportunities. I am committed to making a positive impact on the world, to leaving it a better place than I found it. And I am forever grateful for the love, support, and guidance of those who have walked alongside me on this extraordinary journey.

Secondary School Experience

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. 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 challenges, such as receiving smaller portions of food than I was used to. Despite this, I learned to adapt. The school cafeteria posed another challenge, akin to a struggle for fitness. If you didn't manage to buy something within the allotted time, you risked going hungry until the next scheduled meal. It taught me the importance of time management and resilience in overcoming daily obstacles.

As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into years, Mukameni High School became my second home, a sanctuary where dreams took flight and aspirations soared. Little did I know then the profound impact it would have on my life, shaping not just my academic pursuits but also the very essence of who I am.

Transition to Secondary School

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. There were times when I felt overwhelmed, but I reminded myself of my goals and the importance of education. 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. During preps, the duty teacher would patrol behind the classes to ensure everyone was engaged in personal studies.

Academic Achievements

At Mukameni, I continued to excel in my studies. My Favorite subjects were Mathematics and Business Studies, which sparked my interest in pursuing a career in Business information technology. I was actively involved in school projects and competitions, often taking on leadership roles.

Guided by dedicated educators whose commitment to excellence knew no bounds, I embarked on a journey of intellectual discovery. Each lesson became a stepping stone towards my educational aspirations, igniting a thirst for learning that knew no bounds. Yet, as with any journey of growth, obstacles dotted the path ahead.

Through perseverance and determination, I navigated the academic landscape, emerging stronger and more resilient with each challenge overcome. Setbacks became opportunities for growth, and failures transformed into lessons learned. With unwavering resolve, I embraced the trials and triumphs of academic life, knowing that each obstacle was a stepping stone towards my ultimate goal: the pursuit of knowledge and the realization of my educational dreams.

Transfer to Graceland Girls' School

In 2019, I transferred to Graceland Girls' School to complete my secondary education. This move was driven by the desire to explore new opportunities and challenge myself in a different environment. Graceland provided a supportive and stimulating atmosphere that helped me grow academically and personally. Located in Nyahururu, in the scenic Rift Valley region of Laikipia County, the school offered not only academic excellence but also an inspiring natural setting.

One of the most remarkable features of Graceland Girls' School is its proximity to Thomson's Falls, a breathtaking waterfall just 5 kilometers away. This stunning natural landmark added a unique charm to the school environment, offering a serene and picturesque backdrop for our studies. The sound of the falls and the lush greenery surrounding the area created a tranquil atmosphere, perfect for reflection and relaxation. This close connection to nature enriched my educational experience, making my time at Graceland Girls' School truly memorable and transformative.

Extracurricular Adventures, Personal Growth and Challenges

Adapting to a new school was not easy. I had to make new friends, understand different teaching methods, and adjust to a new routine. Despite these challenges, I thrived at Graceland. I learned to be more independent, resilient, and adaptable. These qualities have stayed with me and continue to shape my approach to new experiences.

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. Whether it was the jubilation of victory or the resilience forged in defeat, each match became a crucible of valuable life lessons. Through the crucible of sport, I learned the importance of collaboration, leadership, and sportsmanship, skills that would prove invaluable beyond the court.

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. From the exhilarating rush of auditions to the transformative moments onstage, drama provided an outlet for me to explore the depths of my imagination and hone my communication skills. Whether assuming the role of a protagonist in a timeless classic or embodying the essence of a character in a contemporary play, each performance became a journey of self-discovery, allowing me to unearth facets of myself previously unknown.

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. And for that, I am eternally grateful

University Life

Stepping into the Realm of Higher Learning

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. Immersed in a diverse community of students and faculty, I found myself expanding my horizons, both intellectually and socially. The rigorous coursework and the stimulating environment pushed me to develop critical thinking skills, cultivate a strong work ethic, and strive for excellence in my chosen field of Bachelor of Business Information Technology.

Beyond the academic sphere, university life offered a plethora of extracurricular activities and experiences that enriched my personal development. Engaging in student organizations, participating in seminars, and attending workshops provided me with invaluable skills and insights that complemented my formal education. The dynamic campus life fostered a sense of camaraderie and collaboration, as I connected with peers who shared similar interests and aspirations. These experiences not only enhanced my leadership and communication abilities but also instilled in me a sense of responsibility and purpose. Stepping into the realm of higher learning was not just about acquiring knowledge; it was about evolving into a well-rounded individual prepared to navigate and contribute to the ever-changing landscape of the professional world.

Introduction to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

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. The vibrant atmosphere, buzzing with the energy of students eager to learn and explore, filled me with a sense of optimism for the journey that lay ahead. Little did I know then the profound impact that DeKUT would have on shaping my academic, personal, and professional trajectory in the years to come. The diverse community of learners and the dynamic academic environment provided a fertile ground for intellectual growth and discovery.

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. 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. Each of these experiences contributed to my growth, fostering a sense of resilience and adaptability that would serve me well throughout my time at DeKUT and beyond.

Cultural Diversity and Friendship

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. 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. Participating in various cultural events and activities on campus has allowed me to appreciate the richness of our differences while celebrating the common values that unite us. This exposure has broadened my horizons, making me more open-minded and empathetic towards others.

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. These friendships have been a cornerstone of my academic and social life, providing encouragement during challenging times and joy in moments of celebration. Whether it's late-night study sessions, group projects, or simply sharing meals and stories, the connections I have made have enriched my university journey. These relationships, built on mutual respect and shared experiences, have not only enhanced my understanding of different cultures but have also created a network of lifelong friends who continue to inspire and motivate me.

Acquisition of Skills and Coping with Challenges

Throughout my time at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), the acquisition of skills and the ability to cope with challenges have been pivotal in shaping my academic and personal development. Pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Business Information Technology has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of both business principles and technological advancements. 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. These skills have not only prepared me for my future career but have also instilled a sense of confidence and adaptability in facing complex problems.

Coping with challenges has been an integral part of my university journey. Transitioning from a structured secondary school environment to the self-directed nature of university life required

a significant adjustment. Living alone in the hostels, managing my daily schedule, and taking responsibility for my own meals were new experiences that tested my independence and resilience. Initially, the absence of bells to signal class times and the need to self-motivate to attend lectures were daunting. However, these challenges gradually transformed into opportunities for growth. Learning to balance academic responsibilities with personal well-being became a crucial lesson, and seeking support from peers and university resources played a vital role in this adjustment process.

Facing academic challenges was another significant aspect of my journey at DeKUT. The rigorous coursework and high expectations demanded dedication and perseverance. There were times when balancing multiple assignments, preparing for exams, and meeting project deadlines felt overwhelming. However, these challenges fostered a sense of discipline and time management. Engaging with professors during office hours, participating in study groups, and utilizing the university's academic support services proved invaluable. These experiences taught me that setbacks and difficulties are not obstacles but stepping stones towards personal and professional growth. Each challenge overcome reinforced my belief in my capabilities and underscored the importance of resilience and perseverance in achieving my goals.

Involvement in Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

During my time at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), I actively engaged in various clubs and extracurricular activities that enriched my university experience. 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. 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. As a member of DeKUT's innovation hub, DeHUB, I collaborated with fellow students on innovative projects, fostering creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. These extracurricular involvements not only complemented my academic pursuits but also provided valuable networking opportunities and hands-on learning experiences crucial for my professional development.

Looking Towards the Future

Looking towards the future, as I approach the completion of my degree in December 2024, I am filled with anticipation and determination. 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. My experiences at DeKUT, from academic pursuits to extracurricular activities like cybersecurity and networking, have equipped me with a versatile skill set and a deep understanding of the dynamic IT landscape.

Beyond academics, I aspire to contribute meaningfully to the tech industry, leveraging my education and passion for innovation to tackle real-world challenges. 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. 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. The journey ahead is one of growth, learning, and seizing opportunities to shape a future where technology drives positive change.

