# Victor Nzyoka Mutunga

# My Autobiograpy

## Roots and Beginnings

My name is Victor Nzyoka, and I'm 22 years old. I was born on September 5, 2002, in the small town of Masumba, in Kibwezi West, Makueni County, Kenya. Masumba, a rural settlement nestled in the semi-arid landscapes of Eastern Kenya, is where my roots run deep. The area is known for its resilient community, where farming and education form the backbone of daily life.

My father, Nicholus Malika, is a primary school teacher, and my mother, Eunice Mutindi, is a farmer. They named me Nzyoka, a name that carries cultural significance in our Kamba community. Growing up, I learned to appreciate both the value of education from my father and the importance of hard work and connection to the land from my mother.

I'm the last born of four children. My older siblings are Obadiah Mulinge, the firstborn; Purity Mutete, the second born; and Jeremiah Muoki, the third born. Our home was always filled with the sounds of laughter, occasional squabbles, and the constant hum of intellectual discourse. Being the youngest, I often found myself learning from my older siblings, whether it was helping with schoolwork or joining in their games.

My earliest memories are a patchwork of sensory experiences: the smell of Mom's homemade uji (porridge) wafting through the house, the feel of warm earth between my toes as I helped in our small shamba (farm), and the comforting sounds of my father reading to us in the evenings. These simple pleasures shaped my perspectives and values in ways I couldn't have imagined as a child.

Our family was neither rich nor poor, but comfortably middle-class by local standards. My parents, both first-generation college graduates, placed immense value on education and hard work. Our home had a small library of books, mostly educational, that my father had collected over the years. This environment proved instrumental in fostering my lifelong love for learning.

Growing up in Masumba presented its own set of challenges. Water scarcity was a constant concern, and I remember accompanying my mother on long walks to fetch water during dry seasons. These experiences taught me the value of natural resources and the importance of community cooperation in overcoming challenges.

My early education began at the local primary school where my father taught. Being a teacher's son came with its own set of expectations – I was expected to excel in my studies and set an example for other students. This pressure, while sometimes overwhelming, instilled in me a strong work ethic and a passion for academic achievement.

Outside of school, I was deeply influenced by our Kamba culture. I participated in community events, learned traditional stories from my grandparents, and even started learning to play the kayamba, a traditional musical instrument. These experiences gave me a strong sense of identity and connection to my heritage.

As a child, my aspirations were shaped by my environment. I dreamed of becoming a teacher like my father, seeing education as a powerful tool for change. However, as I grew older and learned more about the world beyond Masumba, my dreams expanded. I began to envision how I could contribute not just to my community, but to the broader world.

One person who had a significant impact on my early life, apart from my parents, was Mr. Mutua, my Standard 7 teacher. He recognized my potential and often gave me extra books to read and challenging problems to solve. His belief in me boosted my confidence and fueled my curiosity about the world.

As I reflect on these early years, I'm struck by how the seemingly ordinary details of one's origins can profoundly shape the course of a life. The values instilled by my parents, the influence of my siblings, the challenges and joys of life in Masumba, and the rich cultural heritage of the Kamba people all played crucial roles in molding the person I would become. But as with any life story, these were just the opening chapters. The real journey was yet to begin...

Childhood and Early Education

My formal education journey began at Kitende Primary School, a local institution that served as the foundation of my academic life. The school, with its modest buildings and dedicated teachers, was where I spent my formative years, from age 6 to 14.

Detailed memories from primary school include the excitement of early morning assemblies, the challenges of maintaining silence during lessons, and the joy of playing with friends during break times. It was here that I first realized my aptitude for subjects like mathematics and sciences.

One of the most significant milestones of my childhood was preparing for and taking the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams in 2015. The preparation was intense, with extra study sessions and practice papers becoming a regular part of my routine. When the results were finally announced, I had scored 281 marks.

During my primary school years, I formed close friendships that played a crucial role in my childhood. My closest friends were Mulandi Peter, Mulandi Musau, and Kimathi Ndoo. Together, we shared many adventures, supported each other in our studies, and created lasting memories.

My hobbies and interests during childhood largely revolved around outdoor activities and sports. These experiences not only provided fun but also helped in developing teamwork skills and physical fitness.

Adolescence and Secondary Education

My secondary education began with a year at Kazokeani Secondary School, followed by a transfer to Ndolo Boys Secondary School. This transition marked a significant period of adjustment and personal growth.

At Ndolo Boys, I encountered both academic achievements and challenges. The rigorous academic program pushed me to expand my intellectual boundaries. I became involved in various extracurricular activities, including the debate club and the science society, which complemented my classroom learning and helped develop my leadership skills.

One of my proudest academic achievements was being crowned the best student in my class on multiple occasions after exams. I also had the opportunity to participate in the Brookeside Mathematics Contest held at Makueni Boys, which was a challenging and rewarding experience.

During this time, I formed significant friendships that shaped my secondary school experience. Kelvin Samuel and Musyoka were among my closest friends. Tragically, Musyoka later passed away in a road accident while traveling with the Pwani University volleyball team. This loss was a profound and sobering experience that impacted my outlook on life.

Another important friendship was with Kelvin Kibui, who would later become the Christian Union (CU) chair at the university. Our shared interests and values formed the basis of a lasting friendship that would continue into our university years.

These years were crucial in my personal growth and identity formation. I learned the importance of resilience, the value of true friendship, and began to form a clearer picture of my future aspirations.

Young Adulthood and Higher Education

On October 4, 2021, I began a new chapter in my life when I joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. This transition to higher education opened up new horizons and opportunities.

My university experience has been rich and varied. I've been exposed to cutting-edge technology and ideas, allowing me to delve deeper into my passion for IT. As I progress through my degree, I am not only gaining technical skills but also developing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that will be crucial in my future career.

In terms of extracurricular activities, I became actively involved in the Christian Union, serving as the secretary while my friend Kelvin Kibui was the chair. This role has helped me develop leadership skills and deepen my spiritual life.

As for career aspirations, my studies in Information Technology have solidified my desire to work in this dynamic field. While I haven't had any formal internships yet, I'm eagerly looking forward to opportunities that will allow me to apply my knowledge in real-world settings.

My university life has also been a time of forming new relationships and strengthening existing ones. The diverse university community has exposed me to different perspectives and cultures, enriching my social experiences.

This period of young adulthood has been transformative, shaping my aspirations and my vision for the future. I look forward to contributing to the field of Information Technology upon graduation and continuing to grow both personally and professionally.