

## **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

### **Dedication**

To my devoted parents, who have provided me with unwavering support throughout my life's journey. Your support, encouragement, and unshakable faith in me have been my compass on every journey. The principles you have established in me and the affection you have shown me are honored in my autobiography. I appreciate you always being there for me. And to Daniel and Angela, my siblings, who has been my lifelong partner, confidant, and source of strength. Your steadfast relationship has given me countless hours of fun, solace during trying times. And to the friends who have been really supportive in all my endeavors. 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 Grace Wanjiru Mbugua, and I was destined to leave an unforgettable mark on the world. Born on the 2<sup>th</sup> of May 2003, in the vibrant town of Kiambu, I was infused with the spirit of resilience from the very beginning. I was born as a Second born in a small family of two siblings in a serene village called Banana in Kiambaa Constituency. I was brought up in a Kikuyu village, growing up with an extraordinary experience that shaped my early childhood behavior.

As a child, I had a lot of responsibilities, and one of them being normal ladies' chores duties like washing the dishes and moping the house. Despite the endless chores, I still found time to play with my siblings and other children from the village. We invented games with makeshift toys like wooden sticks and kites made from dried banana leaves. We also played with marbles and the traditional game of *Kalongongo* commonly played by the Kikuyu kids.

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 lied 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.

I grew up in a loving Catholic home, where my parents instilled in me a strong faith from the very beginning. They taught me about the importance of God's love and grace, and they modeled for me what it means to live a life of integrity and compassion. As a child, I attended Mass regularly and participated in Sunday school and other religious activities at our local Catholic church. These experiences helped me to develop a deep understanding of the Bible and the Catholic faith.

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.

## Parents

I'm a proud Daughter of Mr. Patrick Mbugua and Mrs. Tabina Wambui who have greatly shaped my life into a responsible young lady. My dad came from Kiambaa village which is located in the slopes of Kiambu County while my mum came from Kimende village located at the serene and quiet environment of Kiambu county. My parents were fearless entrepreneurs who embarked on a journey to build their own business. Their entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering determination left an indelible mark on my life. From a young age, I witnessed my parents' passion and dedication to their vision. They took a leap of faith and started a small business from scratch, pouring their heart and soul into every aspect of its growth. I watched them navigate the challenges and triumphs, never losing sight of their dreams.

Their entrepreneurial mindset influenced me greatly. They taught me the value of taking risks, embracing innovation, and pursuing my passions. Their constant pursuit of excellence inspired me to think creatively and strive for greatness in all that I do. I absorbed their wisdom, learning about marketing, finance, and the art of negotiation at a young age.

Witnessing my parents overcome obstacles and achieve success taught me resilience and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. They showed me that failure is not a setback but rather an opportunity for growth and learning.

Looking back, I am grateful for the entrepreneurial foundation my parents laid for me. Their fearless pursuit of their dreams, coupled with their unwavering support, has shaped me into the ambitious and determined individual I am today. I carry their entrepreneurial spirit within me, and I am eager to make my own mark on the world."

### **Origin and meaning of my name**

The name Wanjiru, originating from the Agikuyu people of Kenya, is imbued with cultural significance and historical depth. In Kikuyu mythology, Wanjiru is often linked to a legendary figure revered for her power, wisdom, and beauty. One famous tale speaks of Wanjiru as a maiden

who was sacrificed to bring rain during a drought, reflecting themes of sacrifice and communal responsibility. The name itself is derived from the Kikuyu word "njiru," which means "darkness" or "night," symbolizing mystery, depth, and the profound nature of the individual bearing it. This connection to darkness does not denote negativity but rather the enigmatic and powerful qualities that are highly valued. In traditional Kikuyu society, names are chosen with great care, reflecting the circumstances surrounding a child's birth, the aspirations the parents have for their child, or honoring ancestral lineage. Wanjiru, therefore, is more than just a name; it encapsulates ideals of strength, resilience, and grace. Women named Wanjiru are often seen as embodying the traits of their namesake—courage, perseverance, and an intrinsic connection to their cultural heritage. The name also serves as a reminder of the rich oral traditions and the deep spiritual beliefs of the Kikuyu people, making it a symbol of both individual and collective identity within the community.

## **Ethnicity**

As a proud Kikuyu, I embrace my cultural heritage and the rich traditions that come with it. Both of my parents belong to the same ethnic group, which makes me a pure Kikuyu. Our ethnic group is part of the Bantu community within the diverse tapestry of Kenyan culture. Being a Kikuyu fills me with a deep sense of belonging and identity. Our cultural heritage is a mosaic of customs, rituals, and values that have been passed down through generations.

From our unique language to our traditional dances and celebrations, each aspect of our culture contributes to our collective identity. The beauty of being a Kikuyu lies in the diversity within our own ethnic group. We have different sub-tribes and clans, each with its own customs and traditions, yet united under the larger Kikuyu umbrella. This diversity within unity strengthens our bond as a community and enriches our cultural tapestry.

Embracing my Kikuyu heritage has shaped my worldview and instilled in me a profound appreciation for the importance of cultural diversity. It is a source of pride, reminding me of the richness and resilience of our people. As I navigate life, I carry the values and traditions of my Kikuyu heritage, honoring the legacy of those who came before me and shaping a future that embraces the beauty of our diverse world.

## **Family History**

My grandparents were young heroes who actively participated in the struggle for 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 shaped their lives and instilled in them a profound sense of duty and resilience. Coming from a community deeply rooted in agriculture, my grandparents were chosen for their expertise in farming to ensure the safe delivery of essential sustenance. Their contributions played a significant role in sustaining the brave individuals fighting for the liberation of our nation.

Today, our county remains a testament to the rich farming heritage inherited from those who fought for independence. The fertile lands continue to yield abundant harvests, providing sustenance not only for our local communities but also contributing to the nation's agricultural prosperity. The legacy of my grandparents' dedication to the cause of freedom lives on, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices made by previous generations. Their involvement in the struggle has deeply influenced my values and appreciation for the importance of community, hard work, and the profound impact that agriculture can have on our lives.

As I reflect on the incredible history that runs through my family, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. I am inspired to carry forward their legacy, contributing to the development of our agricultural heritage and honoring the sacrifices of those who came before us.

Our presence in Kiambu was not a matter of chance but a result of family inheritance. In our community, wealth was often measured by the ownership of land, and it held great significance in shaping our lives. As the generations passed, our ancestors had acquired sizable parcels of land, and it was their vision to pass down this invaluable asset to their children. The prospect of dividing the lands among the next generation became a driving force in our family's decision to settle in kiambu.

## **Interesting thing about where I was born**

Kiambu County, nestled in the central highlands of Kenya, is a region of significant historical, cultural, and economic importance. As a part of the larger Central Province, Kiambu boasts lush, rolling hills and fertile farmlands that have made it a pivotal agricultural hub in the country. The county is renowned for its tea and coffee plantations, which stretch across vast expanses and

contribute significantly to Kenya's reputation as a leading exporter of these commodities. The cool climate and rich soils create ideal conditions for these crops, making agriculture the backbone of Kiambu's economy.

Historically, Kiambu has been a significant area for the Kikuyu people, one of Kenya's largest ethnic groups. The name "Kiambu" itself is derived from the Kikuyu word "ki-ambû" which means "place of drizzles," highlighting the region's favourable climate. The Kikuyu have deep-rooted traditions and customs that continue to thrive in Kiambu, from their vibrant music and dance to their intricate beadwork and woodcarvings. The county is dotted with cultural sites and historical landmarks that tell the story of the Kikuyu's rich heritage and their role in Kenya's journey to independence.

In recent years, Kiambu has undergone rapid urbanization and development. Its proximity to Nairobi, Kenya's bustling capital, has spurred the growth of modern infrastructure and amenities. Towns such as Thika, Limuru, and Ruiru have seen significant expansion, blending modernity with tradition. Despite this rapid development, Kiambu has managed to retain its scenic beauty and cultural charm, offering a unique blend of urban and rural experiences. The county's diverse landscapes, from the serene tea fields of Limuru to the bustling markets of Thika, reflect the dynamic nature of Kiambu and its people. This blend of rich cultural heritage, economic vitality, and natural beauty makes Kiambu County a fascinating and integral part of Kenya.

### **Community Heritage**

As a Kikuyu girl born and raised in Kiambu County, I have always been surrounded by the rich community heritage that defines our region. The Kikuyu people, who make up the majority of our population, have a deep connection to their traditions and cultural practices, which have been passed down through generations. Our language, Gikuyu, along with our traditional songs, dances, and folklore, form the core of our identity. Growing up, I witnessed the agricultural prowess of our people, with our fertile lands yielding bountiful crops like coffee, tea, and various horticultural products. This deep connection to the land is a testament to our sustainable farming practices and our enduring relationship with nature.

In Kiambu, family and communal ties are the backbone of our social structure. The concept of 'harambee,' or pulling together, is deeply ingrained in our community. Whether it's during farming, building homes, or celebrating life events like weddings and initiation ceremonies, mutual assistance and collective effort are paramount. I have seen firsthand how our traditional rituals, such as the initiation rites of circumcision for boys and girls, mark the important transition from childhood to adulthood, instilling a sense of responsibility and belonging within our community.

Our heritage is also interwoven with Kenya's history of struggle for independence. The Mau Mau uprising, which played a crucial role in resisting British colonial rule, found strong support among the Kikuyu in Kiambu. Many historical sites and monuments in our county stand as a testament to the bravery and sacrifices of our Kikuyu freedom fighters.

Spiritual beliefs are another cornerstone of our heritage. We worship Ngai (God), who we believe resides on Mount Kenya. Sacred sites, traditional healers, and community elders hold esteemed positions, preserving the spiritual and cultural heritage of our people. Despite the changes brought about by modernization and urbanization, the essence of our Kikuyu heritage remains vibrant. Festivals, cultural exhibitions, and community gatherings are occasions where our rich heritage is celebrated and passed on to younger generations.

Growing up in Kiambu, I have always felt a strong sense of pride and belonging. Our cultural fabric is strong and enduring, and as a Kikuyu girl, I am part of this dynamic legacy. It is my hope and responsibility to contribute to the preservation and promotion of our rich heritage, ensuring that the traditions and values of our community continue to thrive for future generations.

## **Beginning years**

My journey into the world began on a balmy summer morning, amidst the comforting embrace of my family. I emerged into a world teeming with life, a vibrant tapestry of colors, sounds, and

textures. My senses were overwhelmed, yet I was filled with an insatiable curiosity, eager to explore this uncharted territory.

As a toddler, my days were filled with boundless energy and a thirst for knowledge. I crawled, then wobbled, and eventually walked, each step propelling me further into the wonders of my surroundings. I delighted in the simple pleasures of life, from the feel of the sun on my skin to the taste of freshly baked cookies.

### **The Joys of Childhood**

School became my second home, a place of camaraderie and learning. I reveled in the company of my peers, forming friendships that would last a lifetime. The classroom walls were transformed into portals to distant lands and unexplored realms, igniting my imagination and inspiring me to dream big.

Beyond the classroom, my childhood was a whirlwind of laughter and adventure. I spent countless hours exploring the neighborhood, transforming ordinary parks into enchanted forests and neighborhood streets into bustling cities. My imagination was my compass, guiding me through a world of endless possibilities.

### **Facing Challenges and Embracing Growth**

As I grew older, life presented me with its inevitable challenges. I faced setbacks, disappointments, and moments of doubt. Yet, these experiences only served to strengthen my resolve and deepen my resilience. I learned from my mistakes, embraced my imperfections, and discovered the power of perseverance.

Throughout my journey, I was surrounded by a loving and supportive family. They were my pillars of strength, my guiding lights, and the anchors that kept me grounded amidst the storms of life. Their unwavering love and belief in me fueled my determination and inspired me to reach for my dreams.

### **Nurturing Minds: A Detailed Analysis of Primary Education**



In the tapestry of my life, primary education serves as the foundational thread upon which my journey of learning and self-discovery was woven. Having attended Thimbigua primary school I reflect on those formative years, I am filled with gratitude for the educators, experiences, and environments that shaped my understanding of the world and ignited my passion for knowledge. In this detailed analysis, I will explore the multifaceted aspects of primary education, delving into its curriculum, pedagogy, social dynamics, and impact on personal development.

### **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.

### **Social Dynamics:**

Beyond the academic realm, primary education serves as a microcosm of society, where children learn valuable lessons about cooperation, empathy, and diversity. In the vibrant tapestry of the classroom, students from diverse backgrounds come together to form a community of learners,

each bringing their unique perspectives, experiences, and personalities to the table. Through collaborative projects, group activities, and peer interactions, students develop essential social skills such as teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution – skills that are essential for success in both academic and professional settings. Moreover, the classroom serves as a laboratory for cultivating values such as respect, tolerance, and inclusivity, laying the groundwork for a more harmonious and equitable society.

### **Impact on Personal Development:**

Perhaps most importantly, primary education plays a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of personal development. It is during these formative years that young minds are molded, passions are ignited, and dreams take flight. Through a combination of academic rigor, extracurricular activities, and character education, primary education equips students with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of adolescence and beyond. Moreover, it instills a sense of confidence, resilience, and self-efficacy that empowers students to overcome challenges, pursue their goals, and make meaningful contributions to the world. The friendships forged, lessons learned, and memories created during these foundational years leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of students, shaping the individuals they become and the paths they choose to follow.

### **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.

My primary school years were a magical and foundational time, where the seeds of curiosity were sown, and the essence of who I am began to take shape. As I reminisce about those early days, a flood of nostalgic memories transports me back to a world filled with wonder, innocence, and boundless exploration.

The school bell ringing in the crisp morning air marked the beginning of each day, and the vibrant classrooms became the backdrop for my first encounters with education. The alphabet transformed from a series of letters into the building blocks of language, and numbers evolved from abstract symbols into the tools for understanding the world around me. The enthusiasm of my teachers and the colorful learning materials created an environment where every day was an adventure in discovery.

Beyond the academic pursuits, the playground became a realm of unbridled joy. Recess was a sacred time filled with laughter, games, and the forging of friendships that would withstand the test of time. From trading snacks to competing in impromptu races, these simple moments were the building blocks of camaraderie and taught me the value of companionship.

Creative expression found its home in art classes, where crayons and construction paper became the instruments of my imagination. Each masterpiece, no matter how abstract or vibrant, was a testament to the uninhibited creativity that blossomed within those walls. The encouragement of my teachers fueled my artistic spirit and instilled in me the belief that self-expression is a powerful and beautiful force.

Field trips were like mini-adventures that extended the classroom into the world beyond. Whether exploring a local museum, a botanical garden, or the neighborhood park, these outings added a tangible dimension to my learning. They were the bridges between theory and reality, making education a living, breathing entity that extended far beyond the confines of textbooks.

As the final bell rang on the last day of primary school, a mixture of excitement and nostalgia filled the air. The sense of accomplishment in completing that chapter mingled with the anticipation of new beginnings in the next educational phase. I left primary school with more than just academic knowledge; I carried with me a treasure trove of experiences, friendships, and a sense of wonder that would continue to guide my journey through life.

In the grand tapestry of my autobiography, the primary school years stand as the vibrant and formative threads that laid the foundation for the person I am today. The lessons learned, friendships formed, and the joy of discovery during those early years remain eternally woven into the fabric of my being.

## **Shaping My Identity**

As I navigated the complexities of adolescence, I began to form my own identity. I explored my passions, discovered my talents, and developed my unique voice. I embraced my individuality, celebrating the qualities that made me unique and learning to appreciate the diversity of others.

Along the way, I encountered mentors and teachers who played pivotal roles in my development. They nurtured my intellectual curiosity, challenged me to think critically, and encouraged me to pursue my passions. Their guidance and support helped shape my perspective on life and instilled in me a lifelong love of learning.

In conclusion, primary education serves as the cornerstone of academic achievement, personal growth, and societal progress. Through a dynamic blend of curriculum, pedagogy, social dynamics, and personal development initiatives, it lays the groundwork for a lifetime of learning, discovery, and fulfillment. As I look back on my own primary education journey, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities it afforded me, the lessons it taught me, and the memories it created. It is my hope that this detailed analysis will shed light on the transformative power of primary education and inspire future generations to embrace the joy of learning, the beauty of diversity, and the limitless potential that lies within each and every one of us.

## **Beyond Boundaries: A Comprehensive Analysis of High School Education**

### **Introduction to St. Mary's Boys High School**

Stepping through the gates of Karuri high school on that crisp January morning in 2017 marked the beginning of a transformative journey. Nestled amidst the tranquil surroundings of Kiambu county, this esteemed institution stood as a beacon of opportunity and promise. At first glance, its imposing architecture and sprawling campus seemed daunting, but as I crossed the threshold, I sensed an atmosphere charged with possibility.

From the outset, Karuri high school exuded a sense of belonging, enveloping me in its warm embrace and welcoming me into its fold. It wasn't just a school; it was a sanctuary, a crucible where the raw material of youth would be refined into the pillars of character and intellect. As I navigated the corridors and mingled with my peers, I quickly realized that Karuri was more than just a place of learning—it was a community, a family united by a shared pursuit of excellence.

In the hallowed halls of Karuri high school I found not only textbooks and classrooms but also mentors who would shape my path and friends who would walk beside me. From the passionate educators who imparted wisdom with each lesson to the classmates who cheered me on in times of triumph and offered solace in moments of defeat, every interaction left an indelible mark on my journey.

As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into years, Karuri 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.

### **Academic Pursuits and Challenges**

Within the echoing halls of Karuri high school , the pursuit of knowledge was not merely a task but a shared passion that reverberated among students and teachers alike. From the very outset, I eagerly embraced the academic challenges that lay ahead, propelled by a desire to unravel the mysteries of subjects ranging from mathematics to literature.

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.

Late-night study sessions became a familiar ritual as I grappled with the complexities of coursework and prepared diligently for impending exams. The weight of academic expectations bore down upon me, and there were moments when setbacks threatened to derail my progress. However, in the face of adversity, I discovered a reservoir of resilience within myself.

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.

## **Extracurricular Adventures and Personal Growth**

Beyond the structured confines of the classroom, Karuri high School unfolded a vibrant tapestry of extracurricular activities, each thread weaving its own unique imprint onto my high school experience. With boundless enthusiasm, I eagerly embraced these opportunities, recognizing them as avenues for personal growth and self-discovery.

One of the avenues I ventured into was sports, where I found myself drawn to the camaraderie and adrenaline rush of competition. Joining the soccer 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 pitch.

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.

Through immersion in extracurricular activities like sports and drama, I not only cultivated a diverse skill set but also forged lasting friendships and memories that would endure beyond the confines of high school. These experiences enriched my educational journey, instilling in me a sense of purpose, resilience, and a passion for lifelong learning.

## **Reflections and Gratitude**

As I stand on the threshold of a new chapter in my life, bidding farewell to my alma mater, Karuri High School, I overcome with a profound sense of gratitude for the transformative journey that has brought me to this moment. Reflecting on my time within the hallowed halls of St. Mary's, I am reminded of the myriad experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today.

Foremost among these are the friendships forged in the crucible of shared challenges. Through late-night study sessions, exhilarating victories, and moments of vulnerability, I found a tribe of like-minded individuals who became my pillars of support and companions on life's journey. These bonds, forged in the fires of adversity, are etched into the very fabric of my being, a testament to the enduring power of camaraderie and solidarity.

Equally instrumental were the mentors who illuminated my path with their wisdom and guidance. From dedicated educators who nurtured my academic curiosity to coaches who instilled in me the values of discipline and perseverance, each mentor played a pivotal role in shaping my growth and development. Their belief in my potential inspired me to reach for the stars and embrace the challenges that lay ahead with confidence and determination.

As I reflect on my academic achievements, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Coming out of Karuri High school with a good grade not only validated years of hard work and dedication but also opened doors to new opportunities. It paved the way for me to pursue higher education at university, setting the stage for continued growth and exploration.

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 Karuri High school. 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.

### **Stepping into the Realm of Higher Learning**

My arrival at the university marked a pivotal transition in my journey, a step into a world of intellectual exploration, personal growth, and newfound independence. The sprawling campus, teeming with a diverse array of students from all walks of life, exuded an aura of excitement and anticipation.

Fueled by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to make a difference, I threw myself into my studies with unwavering determination. University opened doors to new horizons, exposing me to diverse perspectives and challenging me to think critically about the world around me. It was a time of growth and transformation, as I honed my intellect and discovered my passions amidst the hallowed halls of academia.

## **Introduction to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology**

October 2021 marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter in my educational journey as I embarked on my university studies at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT). Coming from the esteemed halls Karuri High School in Kiambu , where I had completed my secondary education, I was eager to immerse myself in a new academic environment and pursue my passion for Business Information Technology.

Enrolling in the Bachelor of Science program in Business Information Technology was a decision filled with anticipation and excitement. I saw it as an opportunity to delve deeper into the world of technology and business, with the goal of acquiring practical skills that would prepare me for the dynamic and fast-paced professional landscape ahead. The prospect of a four-year course was both daunting and exhilarating, promising a transformative journey of personal and intellectual growth.

As I stepped onto the campus of DeKUT 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.

## **Cultural Diversity and Friendship**

At Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), the vibrant tapestry of cultural diversity has been one of the most enriching facets of my educational journey. Interacting with students hailing from various tribes and regions across Kenya has provided me with a profound opportunity to expand my worldview and embrace the richness of Kenya's cultural mosaic.

Each peer brought with them a unique perspective shaped by their cultural heritage, traditions, and upbringing. From the bustling streets of Nairobi to the serene landscapes of the Rift Valley, the diverse backgrounds of my classmates enriched our interactions, fostering a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. Engaging in discussions, group projects, and extracurricular activities became windows into the diverse tapestry of Kenyan culture, allowing us to celebrate our differences while finding common ground in our shared aspirations for academic excellence and personal growth.



Through collaborative endeavors in lectures and group projects, I witnessed firsthand the power of diversity in driving innovation and fostering creativity. The fusion of different viewpoints and ideas not only enhanced the quality of our work but also broadened our perspectives, challenging us to think critically and approach problems from multiple angles.

Beyond academic pursuits, forging friendships with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds has been a transformative experience. These relationships transcended superficial differences, rooted in a shared bond forged through shared experiences and mutual respect. Whether celebrating cultural festivals, exchanging stories from our hometowns, or simply enjoying each other's company, our friendships became pillars of support and sources of inspiration, enriching my university experience in ways I had never imagined.

In essence, the opportunity to interact with students from diverse cultural backgrounds at DeKUT has been a cornerstone of my educational journey, fostering a spirit of inclusivity, mutual respect, and cultural appreciation that will continue to shape my worldview long after graduation.

### **Acquisition of Skills and Coping with Challenges**

My active participation in clubs and extracurricular activities at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has played a pivotal role in shaping my personal and professional development. Engaging in a myriad of activities, ranging from coding workshops to leadership seminars, has been instrumental in equipping me with a diverse range of technical and life-oriented skills.

Through coding workshops and software development projects, I honed my programming skills and gained proficiency in languages such as Java, Python, and HTML/CSS. These hands-on experiences not only deepened my understanding of software development principles but also instilled in me the importance of problem-solving and critical thinking in the field of technology.

Additionally, my involvement in computer repair and maintenance workshops provided me with practical skills in troubleshooting hardware and software issues, enabling me to address technical challenges with confidence and efficiency.

Beyond technical skills, engagement in leadership seminars and business management coursework broadened my horizons and enhanced my ability to navigate the complexities of the professional

world. Learning about strategic planning, financial management, and organizational behavior equipped me with essential business management skills that are invaluable in today's competitive marketplace.

Moreover, the rigorous academic curriculum at DeKUT taught me the importance of time management, self-discipline, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Balancing coursework, club activities, and personal commitments required a concerted effort, but through dedication and determination, I learned to thrive in the dynamic and demanding environment of university life.

Overall, my involvement in clubs and extracurricular activities at DeKUT has been transformative, providing me with a holistic education that extends beyond the confines of the classroom. The diverse array of skills and experiences gained have prepared me to excel in the ever-evolving landscape of technology and business, empowering me to pursue my aspirations with confidence and resilience.

### **Involvement in Clubs and Extracurricular Activities**

Settling into life at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) was a pivotal moment for me, marked by the excitement of new beginnings and the promise of endless possibilities. Eager to immerse myself fully in the university experience, I wasted no time in seizing the opportunity to join various clubs and organizations that resonated with my interests and aspirations.

From the Business Club to the IT Society, each club offered a unique platform for me to explore my passions, hone my skills, and expand my network. In the Business Club, I delved into the intricacies of entrepreneurship, finance, and marketing, gaining insights into the world of business that complemented my academic studies. Through workshops, guest lectures, and networking events, I had the opportunity to interact with industry professionals and gain valuable insights into real-world business practices.

Similarly, my involvement in the IT Society provided me with a forum to delve deeper into my passion for technology and innovation. From coding competitions to hackathons, I immersed myself in a world of creativity and problem-solving, sharpening my technical skills and collaborating with like-minded peers on projects that pushed the boundaries of innovation.

Engaging in club activities not only broadened my horizons but also exposed me to valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth. Workshops and seminars equipped me with practical skills and knowledge that complemented my academic studies, while hands-on projects provided me with the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios.

Overall, my involvement in clubs and organizations at DeKUT has been instrumental in shaping my university experience, providing me with a platform to explore my interests, develop new skills, and forge meaningful connections. As I continue on my academic journey, I am grateful for the invaluable experiences and friendships that these clubs have afforded me, and I look forward to the continued growth and opportunities that lie ahead.

### **Looking Towards the Future**

As I approach the final stages of my academic journey at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for the next phase of my life. With the completion of my coursework set for December 2024, I eagerly await the momentous occasion of graduation, even though the ceremony itself will be scheduled at a later date in the course of the year.

Despite the graduation ceremony not being in April, I am buoyed by the knowledge that my years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance have culminated in this significant milestone. Armed with a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Technology and a wealth of practical experience gained through internships, extracurricular activities, and coursework, I am ready to embark on the journey beyond academia with confidence and determination.

As I reflect on my time at DeKUT, I am grateful for the transformative experiences, lifelong friendships, and invaluable lessons that have shaped my university experience. From the challenges of academic rigor to the joys of personal growth and discovery, each moment has been a stepping stone towards personal and professional fulfillment.

Although the uncertainty surrounding the scheduling of the graduation ceremony may cast a shadow of disappointment, I choose to focus on the bright future that lies ahead. I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during my time at DeKUT to make meaningful contributions to society and pursue my passions with enthusiasm and determination.

As I eagerly await the opportunity to celebrate this significant milestone with my fellow graduates, faculty, and loved ones, I am filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement that have sustained me throughout my academic journey. The journey may have been arduous at times, but the rewards are immeasurable, and I look forward to embracing the opportunities that the future holds with optimism and anticipation.

As I pen these final words, I am humbled by the realization that life is but a fleeting moment in the grand tapestry of existence. Yet, in the brief time we are given, we have the power to leave a lasting legacy through the lives we touch and the memories we create.

To my family, friends, and mentors who have walked alongside me on this journey, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your love, support, and encouragement have been the guiding light that has illuminated my path through the darkest of nights.

As I bid farewell to these pages, I am filled with a sense of peace and fulfillment. My autobiography may be but a glimpse into the tapestry of my life, but it is a testament to the beauty of the human experience – a journey of love, loss, and everything in between.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the realization of this autobiography. Your unwavering support and encouragement have been the driving force behind this endeavor, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

