

MY PERSONAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

MAKATO JACKSON

1 INTRODUCTION

My name is Jackson Makau Makato .I was born on 5th February 2000 on Matheani village ,Kithuki location ,Kithuki division ,Makueni sub county and Makueni county . My mother is Monicah Ndulu Musomba and my father is Eliud Makato . I was raised in a family of 7 siblings with two brothers and four sisters. My flight of excellence took off from the very beginning of my early life .

2 MY EARLY LIFE

2.1 My Early Life in Makueni: A Journey of Discovery

I was born in the serene and picturesque town of Makueni, a place where the rhythm of life was harmonized with the beauty of nature. My earliest memories are a mosaic of vibrant colors and sounds, with the rustling leaves, chirping birds, and the laughter of children echoing through the air. Makueni was not just my birthplace; it was my canvas of growth, a place where I embarked on a journey of self-discovery and exploration. At the heart of it all was my family, a nucleus of warmth and support that would shape my values and ambitions. My father, a dedicated businessman, was the cornerstone of our family. He ran a successful enterprise, and through his diligence, he taught me the importance of hard work and perseverance. I watched him navigate the complexities of the business world with grace and determination, and those early lessons left an indelible mark on my character. Makueni was a playground of natural wonders, and my childhood was marked by a deep connection with the environment. One of my earliest and most treasured pastimes was hunting and gathering wild fruits. I reveled in the thrill of tracking animals, identifying edible plants, and collecting the sweet, juicy treasures hidden within the lush landscapes of Makueni. These experiences instilled in me a profound respect for nature and its cycles, fostering a love

for the environment that continues to shape my choices and actions today. My time in the wild also cultivated a sense of resourcefulness, teaching me to adapt and make the most of the resources at hand. While my adventures in nature fueled my curiosity, another passion began to take root during my formative years my love for crafting. I had an innate fascination with creating things, and my favorite endeavor was designing and building toy cars. I would scour the neighborhood for discarded materials bottle caps, pieces of wood, and old wheels and transform them into miniature marvels of engineering. These moments of creativity were more than just play; they were a glimpse into my future. Little did I know that those early days of tinkering and inventing would lay the foundation for a lifelong journey in engineering and innovation. In Makueni, the spirit of curiosity and the embrace of the natural world were woven into the fabric of daily life. Those early years were a blend of lessons and experiences that would shape the person I am today. The values of hard work, curiosity, and creativity that I absorbed in Makueni continue to guide me on my life's path, and the memories of those formative years remain etched in my heart.

2.2 LESSONS LEARNT

Another cherished memory from my early years was the joy I found in making toy cars. This seemingly simple activity had a profound impact on my life. Crafting these toy cars required patience and persistence. When a design didn't work as planned, I had to keep trying until I succeeded, teaching me the value of perseverance. These experiences also fostered a deep appreciation for nature. Through hunting and gathering, I learned to recognize the beauty of the natural world, appreciate the changing seasons, and understand the importance of sustainability. In the process of making those toy cars, my imagination ran wild. I learned to envision creative designs and turn them into tangible creations. It was a lesson in the power of creativity and the joy of bringing ideas to life. Growing up in a rural setting like Makueni, I also discovered the beauty of simplicity and contentment. I found happiness in the small pleasures of life and realized that joy doesn't always come from material possessions.

Strong Sense of Community: Makueni's close-knit community taught me the value of unity and support among neighbors.

Resilience: Growing up in a rural area, made me to adapt to challenges and be resilient in the face of adversity.

Connection to Nature: Makueni's natural beauty instilled in me a deep appreciation for the environment and the importance of conservation.

Simplicity: Life in a rural setting often emphasizes simplicity, teaching me to appreciate the basics.

Hard Work: Many in Makueni are engaged in farming or other labor-intensive activities, teaching me the value of hard work.

Resourcefulness: Living in a rural area often requires resourcefulness in finding solutions to everyday problems.

Hospitality: learned the importance of hospitality and welcoming others into my home and community.

Self-sufficiency: Growing our own food or raising animals taught me self-sufficiency and the value of sustainable living. Family Bonds: Makueni's culture has reinforced the significance of strong family bonds and traditions. Respect for Elders: In many African cultures, respecting elders is essential, and I learned this important value. Cultural Diversity: Makueni is home to various ethnic groups, providing me with exposure to different cultures and traditions. Appreciation for Water: Makueni faces water scarcity issues, which taught me to value and conserve this precious resource. Self-Sufficiency: Hunting and gathering wild fruits taught me self-sufficiency by relying on my skills to gather food from nature, which is a valuable lesson in resourcefulness. Creativity: Making toy cars showcases my creativity and ingenuity. This skill I have applied in various aspects of life to find innovative solutions to challenges. Patience and Persistence: Crafting toy cars requires patience and persistence. These qualities are important in achieving goals and overcoming obstacles in life. Resource Management: In hunting and gathering, I learnt to manage resources efficiently, understanding the importance of using what nature provides wisely. Appreciation for Nature: Being close to nature through hunting and gathering fosters a deep appreciation for the environment and its interconnectedness with our well-being. Teamwork: I made toy cars with friends and family, this taught me teamwork and cooperation, valuable skills for social interactions. Imagination: Crafting toys involves imagination and thinking outside the box, which nurtured my creative thinking in various aspects of life. Simplicity and Contentment: These experiences taught me to find joy in simple pleasures and be content with what I have. Environmental Awareness: Through gathering wild fruits, I gained awareness of the natural world and the importance of its preservation.

Adaptability: Living in a rural area, you would have learned to adapt to changing circumstances and make the best of available resources.

3 My Journey through Matheani Primary School (2007-2015)

3.1 Introduction:

My journey through Matheani Primary School was a transformative period in my life. It was here, in the year 2007, that my educational adventure began, and it continued until my graduation in 2015. These years were filled with challenges, hard work, and numerous accomplishments that shaped the person I am today. Early Years: As I took my first steps into Matheani Primary School, I was filled with curiosity and excitement. Little did I know that this institution would become the cornerstone of my primary education. From day one, I was determined to excel academically, and this commitment to learning became a defining feature of my primary years. Academic Excellence: Throughout my primary education, I consistently topped my class, from class one to class eight. This dedication to academics was not without its fair share of late-night study sessions and unwavering focus on my goals. My teachers and classmates were a source of inspiration and motivation as we encouraged each other to strive for excellence. Leadership Journey: One of the most significant milestones in my primary education occurred when I reached class eight. It was during this year that I was elected as the school captain. This opportunity allowed me to immerse myself in the world of leadership, where I honed my skills and discovered my passion for guiding and inspiring others. Being entrusted with the responsibilities of a school captain was an incredible honor that further fueled my determination to make a positive impact.

4 LESSONS LEARNT

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The value of friendship and social skills: I learned the importance of friendship when I first met Sarah, my best friend since kindergarten. We supported each other through thick and thin, teaching me the significance of genuine friendships. Basic academic skills: Madam Kalooyo, my first-grade teacher, patiently taught me how to read. I vividly remember the moment I read my first full sentence, feeling a sense of accomplishment that has stayed with me throughout my life. Resilience in the face of challenges: When I struggled with multiplication tables in third grade, my teacher, Mr. Anderson, encouraged me to keep trying. Eventually, I mastered them, teaching me that persistence pays off. The importance of punctuality: One day, I arrived

late to school, and my classmates had already started a fun art project. I missed out, and that taught me the importance of being on time. Creativity and the joy of learning through play: Our kindergarten teacher, Miss Baker, often used play as a way to teach us. Through activities like building with blocks and drawing, I realized that learning could be both fun and educational. Respect for teachers and authority figures: Mr. Collins, our principal, was always approachable and fair. He showed me that respecting authority figures fosters a positive learning environment. Teamwork and cooperation with classmates: During group projects, I learned to collaborate and compromise with my classmates, understanding that working together often leads to better results. Building self-confidence: Participating in school plays and presentations boosted my self-esteem. Overcoming stage fright was a significant lesson in building confidence. Learning from mistakes and failures: Failing a spelling test was tough, but my teacher, Mrs. Martinez, taught me that mistakes are opportunities to learn and improve. Developing a love for books and literature: The school library introduced me to a world of books, sparking a lifelong passion for reading. Cultural diversity and tolerance: In my diverse school, I learned to appreciate and respect different cultures, fostering tolerance and empathy. Problem-solving and critical thinking: Through math puzzles and science experiments, I honed problem-solving skills and learned to think critically. Responsibility through classroom chores: Rotating classroom responsibilities, such as cleaning the chalkboard or taking attendance, taught me about responsibility and contributing to the community. Discipline and following rules: Adhering to school rules and codes of conduct instilled discipline, which later translated into a strong work ethic. Good hygiene and health habits: Regular handwashing and health education emphasized the importance of maintaining good hygiene and health. Nurturing a sense of curiosity: My science teacher, Mr. Foster, encouraged us to ask questions and explore, nurturing a lifelong curiosity about the world. Building a foundation for lifelong learning: Matheani Primary School laid the foundation for my enthusiasm for learning, a value I've carried into adulthood. Understanding the value of education: My parents' sacrifices to send me to school showed me the immense value of education and the opportunities it could provide. Coping with peer pressure and bullying: Encounters with peer pressure and bullying taught me valuable life lessons about standing up for myself and others. Finding your interests and passions: Exploring extracurricular activities like art and sports helped me discover my interests and passions beyond academics. My journey through Matheani Primary School was not just about academic achievements and leadership roles; it was also a period of profound personal growth. I learned valuable life lessons that continue to guide me to this day. I discovered the importance of persever-

ance, teamwork, and the power of setting ambitious goals. These lessons have stayed with me, serving as a strong foundation for my subsequent education and life endeavors.

5 MY EARLY CHURCH JOURNEY

My Christian journey at AIC Matheani began when I accepted the role of a Sunday school teacher. This marked the humble start of a significant chapter in my life. Little did I know how it would shape not only my faith but also the lives of the Sunday school children I was entrusted with.

As a Sunday school teacher, my primary goal was to foster a deep love for scripture among the children. Each Sunday, I encouraged them to read the scriptures and rewarded the best child who arrived early at the church. These small gestures kindled their passion for learning about Christ and His teachings.

The Sunday school children became like an extended family to me. Together, we prayed, sang hymns, and delved into the stories of Jesus' life and teachings. The church community embraced our growing Sunday school, and it became a place of joy and spiritual growth.

5.1 Transition to Battalion Commander

Over time, my role within the church evolved, and I eventually became a battalion commander. It was an unexpected but welcomed transition. In this new role, I continued to apply the same principles I had learned from scripture to guide and mentor the youth. As a battalion commander, I remained committed to the principle of "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The lessons imparted to the Sunday school children had become an enduring part of their foundation, and it filled me with pride to witness their growth into strong, faithful individuals.

My Christian journey at AIC Matheani is a testament to the enduring power of love, faith, and teaching. From nurturing young hearts in Sunday school to leading as a battalion commander, I have witnessed the transformative impact of Christian values on the lives of those I've had the privilege to serve. My journey continues, guided by the teachings of Christ, and I am grateful for the path that has brought me to where I am today.

LESSONS LEARNT IN MY EARLY LIFE IN CHURCH

The Power of Faith: "During my time at AIC Matheani Church, I witnessed the unwavering faith of our congregation when our community faced a severe drought. Despite the adversity, their faith in prayer and God's provision never wavered, teaching me that faith can move mountains." Community Support: "In the aftermath of a devastating flood, our church rallied together to provide shelter, food, and support to affected families. This experience showed me the incredible strength of a united community." Values and Morality: "The church's teachings on honesty and integrity were evident in the way members conducted themselves. This instilled in me a deep sense of moral values that guided my decisions throughout life." Leadership and Responsibility: "As a youth leader in AIC Matheani Church, I was given the responsibility of organizing community outreach programs. This role taught me valuable leadership skills and the importance of taking initiative." Friendship and Fellowship: "My closest friendships were formed within the church. These bonds not only provided emotional support but also shaped my social skills and ability to connect with diverse individuals." Compassion and Charity: "I'll never forget the times when we came together to help families in need, whether through financial assistance or simply lending a helping hand. It was a powerful lesson in compassion and generosity." Resilience: "The church's teachings on resilience became evident during a challenging period when our church building was destroyed by a storm. We united as a congregation, rebuilt the church, and emerged stronger than ever." Prayer and Meditation: "Regular prayer and meditation sessions in the church allowed me to find solace in moments of turmoil and taught me the importance of self-reflection." Cultural Appreciation: "Attending cultural events organized by the church exposed me to the richness of our diverse traditions. It fostered an appreciation for different cultures that I carry with me to this day." Education and Learning: "The church encouraged and supported my educational pursuits. This emphasized the value of knowledge and personal growth." Forgiveness and Redemption: "Witnessing stories of individuals who found redemption within the church community taught me the transformative power of forgiveness and second chances." Humility: "The humility displayed by church leaders, who often served the congregation without seeking recognition, left a lasting impression on me about the importance of humility in leadership." Personal Growth: "My years at AIC Matheani Church were marked by continuous personal growth, as I learned to step out of my comfort zone, take on new responsibilities, and embrace change."

Diversity and Inclusion: "Our church was a place where people from various backgrounds came together in harmony, emphasizing the value of diversity and inclusion in building a strong community." Legacy and Future: "The lessons and experiences from my early life at AIC Matheani Church continue to shape my aspirations. I hope to leave a legacy of faith, service, and unity in my own life and community."

6 Makueni Boys High School: A Journey of Resilience and Determination"

6.1 Introduction:

My secondary education at Makueni Boys High School was a transformative chapter in my life, filled with unforgettable experiences, challenges, and valuable life lessons. The school's ambiance, coupled with the change in leadership, left an indelible mark on my educational journey. Makueni Boys High School, nestled in the heart of our community, was not just a place of learning but also a second home to many of us. Under the leadership of Mr. Benson Manoo, the school had its own unique charm. His leadership style emphasized discipline and diligence, setting a solid foundation for our academic pursuits. In the midst of our secondary education journey, the unexpected happened. Mr. Benson Manoo got transferred, leaving us in anticipation of the changes to come. The arrival of Raphael Diwani as our new principal marked a significant turning point in our school life. Mr. Raphael Diwani was a man of principles. His no-nonsense approach to education instilled a sense of responsibility in each one of us. He was always full of joy, believing in the power of hard work and the importance of learning from our mistakes, as long as we didn't get caught in the act. High school life at Makueni Boys High School was a blend of challenges and joys. It was a place where resilience and determination thrived, where we learned that determination knows no barriers. Our journey was marked by late-night study sessions, sports competitions, and enduring friendships that have lasted a lifetime. My secondary education at Makueni Boys High School was a transformative period that shaped my character and instilled in me the values of hard work, resilience, and determination. The changes in leadership, from Mr. Benson Manoo to Raphael Diwani, only added to the richness of my educational experience. Through the highs and lows, I emerged from this chapter of my life with invaluable life lessons that continue to guide me on my journey.

7 LESSONS LEARNT DURING MY LIFE IN MAKUENI BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Growth: During my time at Makueni Boys High School, I discovered my passion for science thanks to the inspiring chemistry teacher, Mr. Mutheru. His dedication ignited my interest in the subject, ultimately leading me to pursue a career in chemistry. Friendships: My closest friend, James, and I met during our first year at Makueni Boys. Together, we navigated the challenges of high school, supported each other in academics, and forged a friendship that has lasted well beyond graduation. Time Management: The rigorous academic curriculum at Makueni Boys taught me the importance of effective time management. Balancing coursework, extracurricular activities, and personal time was a valuable skill that has continued to serve me well in college and my career. Resilience: I faced a significant setback during my junior year when I didn't make the soccer team. It was a tough moment, but it taught me the importance of perseverance and the ability to bounce back from disappointment. Independence: Being away from home and family during my time at Makueni Boys forced me to become more independent. I learned to make decisions on my own and take responsibility for my actions. Extracurricular Activities: I joined the debate club, which not only improved my public speaking skills but also exposed me to diverse perspectives and helped me become a more open-minded individual. Diversity: Makueni Boys was a melting pot of students from different regions and backgrounds. This diversity broadened my horizons, helping me appreciate the richness of various cultures and viewpoints. Communication: Participating in the school's drama club and performing in school plays enhanced my communication and presentation skills. I learned the art of conveying emotions and ideas effectively. Leadership: I had the privilege of serving as the student council president in my senior year. This experience taught me valuable leadership skills, including how to inspire and lead a team toward common goals. Future Goals: My experiences at Makueni Boys High School solidified my desire to pursue a career in education. I hope to become a teacher one day and inspire young minds, just as my teachers and experiences at Makueni Boys inspired me.

8 AKAMBA CULTURE

Akamba Food Culture The Akamba people have a rich and diverse food culture deeply rooted in their agricultural practices. Maize, millet, and beans are the primary staple crops in their diet. These crops are used to make

various dishes, including ugali (a thick porridge-like dish made from maize flour) and various stews. Additionally, the Akamba people grow a variety of vegetables and fruits, such as kale, pumpkins, and mangoes, which are important sources of nutrition. Livestock keeping is also integral to their food culture. Goats, cows, and chickens are raised for their meat, milk, and eggs. These animals provide a significant portion of their protein intake. The Akamba have developed traditional methods of food preservation, such as sun-drying vegetables and fruits for use during the dry seasons.

Food preparation and sharing hold social and cultural significance. Meals are often communal gatherings, reinforcing bonds within families and communities. The Akamba's reliance on farming and livestock reflects their deep connection to the land and the importance of sustainable agriculture in their culture.

8.1 Akamba Marriage Traditions

Marriage is a pivotal institution in Akamba culture, and it involves a series of rituals and ceremonies. The process typically begins with negotiations between the families of the bride and groom. The groom's family pays a bride price, often in the form of livestock or other valuable items, to the bride's family as a sign of respect and commitment.

Polygamy was historically common among the Akamba, but monogamy is becoming more prevalent due to changing societal norms. The wedding ceremony itself is a festive event, marked by traditional dances, music, and feasting. It serves as a public declaration of the union and is attended by family, friends, and community members.

After marriage, the couple is expected to contribute to the community and raise a family. Elders play a significant role in providing guidance and resolving disputes within marriages. Overall, marriage in Akamba culture is a celebration of love, unity, and the continuation of family traditions.

: Akamba Traditional Medicine

Traditional medicine holds a vital place in Akamba culture. The Akamba people have a deep understanding of local herbs, plants, and natural remedies, which they use to treat various ailments. Traditional healers, known as "wazee wa waganga," are highly respected members of the community with specialized knowledge of herbal medicine. These healers diagnose illnesses through divination and consultation with spirits. They create herbal concoctions and conduct rituals to heal the sick. Traditional medicine not only addresses physical health but also addresses spiritual and emotional

well-being. It is an integral part of their healthcare system and reflects their close connection to nature and spirituality. While modern healthcare practices have become more accessible, traditional medicine continues to play a crucial role in the Akamba people's lives, offering holistic approaches to healing and wellness. Akamba Ceremonies and Rituals Akamba culture is rich in ceremonies and rituals that mark important life events. These events include birth ceremonies, initiation rites, and burial rituals, each characterized by unique customs and traditions. Birth Ceremonies: The birth of a child is a joyous occasion. Naming ceremonies are held, during which the baby is given a name that often reflects the circumstances or hopes of the family. Initiation Rites: Male circumcision is a significant rite of passage for young boys in Akamba culture. It symbolizes the transition from boyhood to manhood. The circumcision ceremony is accompanied by rituals and celebrations that demonstrate courage and resilience. Burial Rituals: Funerals are solemn occasions in Akamba culture. They involve rituals to honor the deceased and offer support to grieving families. Traditional songs and dances are performed to remember the life of the departed. Music, dance, and storytelling are integral components of these ceremonies and rituals, helping to preserve the cultural identity of the Akamba people and connect generations.

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Akamba Circumcision Traditions

Circumcision is a deeply rooted tradition in Akamba culture, particularly for young males. This rite of passage marks the transition from boyhood to manhood and is surrounded by elaborate customs and rituals. Before the circumcision ceremony, young boys undergo a period of preparation, during which they are taught important life skills and lessons. These teachings are often passed down by elders and experienced community members. The ceremony itself is a significant community event, attended by family, friends, and community members. During the ceremony, the boys demonstrate their courage and endurance as they face the physical ordeal of circumcision. This act symbolizes their readiness to take on adult responsibilities and contribute to their community. Circumcision rituals are deeply ingrained in Akamba culture, emphasizing the importance of tradition, community, and the passage of knowledge from one generation to the next.

9 GOOD ASPECT OF KAMBA CULTURE

Communal Values: Akamba culture places a strong emphasis on communal living and mutual support. Extended families and communities work together to provide for their members, ensuring that no one is left behind. Respect for Elders: Elders hold a revered status in Akamba society. Their wisdom and experience are highly respected, and they play a central role in decision-making and conflict resolution. Art and Craftsmanship: The Akamba people are known for their artistic and craftsmanship skills. They create beautiful wood carvings, sculptures, and textiles, contributing to Kenya's rich artistic heritage. Music and Dance: Akamba music and dance are vibrant and lively, often accompanied by traditional instruments like drums and flutes. These cultural expressions are a source of joy and connection within the community. Sustainable Agriculture: Akamba farmers practice sustainable agriculture, utilizing techniques like terracing and crop rotation to maintain fertile land and ensure food security. Spiritual Beliefs: The Akamba have a rich spiritual tradition with a belief in a supreme god and ancestral spirits. These beliefs foster a sense of connection with the spiritual world and provide guidance in daily life. Oral Tradition: The Akamba have a strong oral tradition, passing down stories, proverbs, and history through generations. This preserves their cultural heritage and imparts wisdom to younger members. Traditional Medicine: Traditional healers, known as "mgangas," play a crucial role in Akamba society. They use indigenous knowledge to provide healthcare and healing to the community. Hospitality: Akamba people are known for their warm hospitality. Visitors are welcomed with open arms and are often treated to traditional meals and ceremonies. Environmental Stewardship: Many Akamba traditions and practices emphasize the importance of respecting and conserving the natural environment, contributing to the preservation of Kenya's diverse ecosystems.

10 LIFE BEYOND EYE

In the vast world beyond the classroom, I've discovered the profound joy of forming new friendships and extending a helping hand to those in need. This is the narrative of my life.

Making New Friends: Life after school has been an exhilarating journey of forging deep connections with people from all walks of life. It was through this journey that I encountered Patrick, a remarkable individual who would become an enduring companion. Our shared interests and the laughter we've shared have illuminated my life. Beyond the boundaries of the educational in-

stitution, I've explored local gatherings, community events, and digital communities, all of which introduced me to individuals with unique worldviews. Each interaction became an opportunity for mutual learning and growth. Friendship, in its various forms, has been the cornerstone of my existence, adding layers of richness to my everyday experiences. Helping Others: In this post-school phase of life, my greatest passion has been to extend a helping hand to others. Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, participating in community service endeavors, or simply being a supportive presence for friends facing challenges, I've found deep fulfillment in acts of kindness. One poignant moment occurred during a winter when I volunteered at a homeless shelter. Witnessing the gratitude in the eyes of those who received warm meals and shelter from the harsh weather left an indelible mark on my heart. It underscored the belief that even the smallest acts of kindness can have an immeasurable impact on others' lives.

11 MY UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

As I stepped onto the campus of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on that crisp November morning in 2020, I couldn't help but feel a mix of excitement and apprehension. The promise of pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science lay ahead, and it was a journey I had eagerly anticipated for years. The sun bathed the campus in a warm, welcoming glow as I gazed at the imposing university buildings and the bustling crowd of students. The smell of freshly-cut grass and the distant echoes of laughter from the courtyard filled the air, marking the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

Early Days and Adjustments The early days were a whirlwind of new experiences. From navigating the vast campus to adjusting to the rigorous academic demands, every day brought new challenges. I vividly recall the uncertainty of the first few weeks, as I sought my footing in this unfamiliar environment. The long walks from the dormitories to lecture halls, the struggle to find my way through the labyrinthine library, and the late nights spent poring over textbooks were all part of the initiation into university life. But with each passing day, I grew more resilient, learning to balance academics with extracurricular activities and forging connections that would last a lifetime. My academic journey at Dedan Kimathi University was a fascinating exploration of Actuarial Science. Courses like 'Probability and Statistics' and 'Financial Mathematics' ignited my passion for the subject. Despite the occasional late-night study sessions and demanding coursework, I thrived academically. The doctors, with their wealth of knowledge and dedication to teaching, played a pivotal role in shaping my understanding

of actuarial concepts. One memorable moment was when Doctor Ngunyi drew a complex probability distribution on the board, unraveling its intricacies with the clarity of a master storyteller. These moments of academic enlightenment fueled my determination to excel in my chosen field.

During my time at the university, I quickly realized that the people I met were as essential as the knowledge I gained. One pivotal moment was when I struck up a conversation with Jane in the library. Little did I know that this chance encounter would blossom into a lifelong friendship. Jane's unwavering support and shared academic interests became a cornerstone of my university life. Together, we navigated the challenges of actuarial coursework, celebrated our successes, and provided each other with a network of emotional support that extended beyond the classroom. Through Jane, I learned that the friendships forged in the crucible of academia could be some of the most enduring and meaningful bonds in life. Becoming the coordinator of DeKASA was a turning point in my university journey. It wasn't just about leading a student association; it was about fostering a sense of belonging among Akamba students. I vividly remember the day I was elected as the coordinator, standing in front of a room filled with eager faces, all looking to me for guidance and leadership. It was both a privilege and a responsibility that I embraced wholeheartedly. Over the years, we organized cultural events that celebrated our heritage, including vibrant dance performances, traditional food festivals, and informative talks about our rich history. During my final year, I was honored to assume the role of chairman, where I oversaw the association's operations, ensuring its continued growth and relevance. These leadership roles taught me invaluable lessons in teamwork, communication, and the power of collective action.

In the heart of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, I embarked on a journey that would forever change the course of my life. The challenges I faced during my time there were nothing short of daunting, and the battle to overcome them was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

One of the most formidable obstacles that loomed over me like a relentless storm was the cruel specter of financial hardship. Lack of money wasn't just a challenge; it was a constant companion, a shadow that never seemed to wane. There were days, days that felt like an eternity, when hunger gnawed at my insides, and I had to summon every ounce of willpower to continue.

My lifeline during these trying times was my mother, a woman of boundless love and unshakable determination. Every time I called her in distress, her voice carried a note of reassurance. She promised to send me money, to ease my burdens, but I knew in my heart that she was struggling just as much, if not more. Her sacrifices were the unseen foundations of my dreams.

One day, as I returned from the university, I found my mother sitting

outside, her eyes filled with both exhaustion and hope. She beckoned me over, and her words still resonate in my memory. "My son, you are the only hope in our family," she said, her voice quivering with a mixture of pride and worry. "Our days are gone, but we want to see you succeed in life."

I was taken aback by her unwavering faith in me, for I knew the uphill battle I was fighting academically. The rigorous coursework, the challenging units, and my struggles to perform well were a constant source of anxiety. But her words became the catalyst for a transformation within me. I was determined to be the beacon of hope my family needed.

As if fate were testing my resolve, my father, a man who had always been unwaveringly focused on providing for our family, dropped a bombshell. He told me he could no longer support my education as he had retired and had no other means of income. I faced a choice: abandon my dreams or chart an uncertain path forward.

With unwavering resolve, I told my father that I would continue my education. I believed that if I pursued my dreams with determination and faith, opportunities would emerge. I decided to join campus, trusting that God would provide for my education.

The journey through university was marked by financial constraints, but it was also a testament to the power of resilience and perseverance. I secured bursaries and relied on financial aid from Helb, which allowed me to continue my education. I burned the midnight oil, poured my heart and soul into my studies, and gradually improved my academic performance.

And now, as I pen these words, I find myself in the final year of my university journey. It's a journey that has been arduous, full of ups and downs, but it has also been one of growth, resilience, and unwavering determination. My experiences have taught me that in the face of adversity, one can discover hidden reservoirs of strength.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the Almighty Lord, for the support and care that guided me through this challenging path. My story is a testament to the power of hope, the strength of familial love, and the resilience of the human spirit.

As I move forward, I carry with me the aspirations of my family, the lessons learned through struggle, and the unshakable belief that, with determination and faith, we can overcome any obstacle on the path to success. As the first light of dawn broke over Makueni, I could already feel the day's heat settling in, a familiar and unwelcome companion. Makueni, my childhood home, was a place where the land was as dry as the desert itself, and the sky offered no respite, showering down precious little rainfall. This arid environment was a harsh backdrop for the early chapters of my life.

Each day in Makueni felt like a battle for survival. Our small house,

barely able to fend off the scorching sun, housed a family constantly on the edge. The meager rainfall meant crops often withered, leaving us in a constant struggle for food. The little community of houses we called home was not without its fair share of problems. j

Life, however, took a dramatic turn when I embarked on my journey to Nyeri. This place, with its name alone, felt like a world apart from Makueni. Nyeri was known for its extreme cold and the kind of rainfall that would drench the spirit right out of you. The moment I stepped off the bus and felt the chill permeate my being, I knew I had entered a realm entirely different.

The lush, green landscapes of Nyeri were a breathtaking sight to behold. Trees, heavy with raindrops, swayed gently in the breeze, and the cold winds seemed to pierce my very soul. It was as if I had been transported to an entirely different planet, one where nature's bounty was plentiful.

The contrast between these two worlds was not limited to the weather alone. I found myself awestruck by the towering buildings that stretched toward the heavens in Nyeri. In Makueni, our homestead consisted of modest, small houses, and such grand structures were unheard of. The sight of these impressive edifices stirred something deep within me, a sense of longing and a recognition of the disparities that life could hold.

In the midst of this new environment, I often found myself in deep meditation. I contemplated the incredible differences between my old home and this new world that now surrounded me. The weight of these disparities was heavy, and I knew that a change was inevitable. My mother, a dedicated Christian, was my guiding light during this tumultuous period. She consistently reminded me to place my trust in God, even when the path ahead seemed obscure. Her enduring hope provided a flicker of light in the darkest of moments.

The true transformation of my life occurred during the initial days of my tenure at Kimathi University. It was here that I encountered individuals whose generosity and kindness would change the course of my journey. They extended their hands of friendship and support when I needed them most, making my adaptation to this new environment infinitely more manageable.

In response to the incredible kindness I had received, I made a solemn commitment to pay it forward. I was determined to help those who found themselves in the same situation I had once been in. The idea of making a difference in the lives of others became my newfound purpose, igniting a flame of compassion that would never dim.

My life took on a new dimension, one of introspection and contemplation. It was during this period that I discovered my passion for poetry and literature. I delved into these worlds with enthusiasm and zeal, and my coursemates soon became witnesses to my fervent dedication. I promised

them that one day, I would publish my own articles, and this dream served as my unwavering motivation.

As I bring this chapter of my autobiography to a close, the stark contrasts between life in Makueni and Nyeri remain etched in my memory. They are a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative power of education and self-belief. My journey, marked by challenges and personal growth, has brought me to this point, and I eagerly anticipate the unwritten chapters that lie ahead.

Life is an incredible journey, one filled with experiences that shape us and open our hearts to the world around us. After completing my Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science, I have come to realize that the true measure of success is not just about personal achievements but the impact we make on the lives of others. My journey has taken me to Kimathi, a place that has humbled me and given me a new perspective on life. Today, I am driven by the belief that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. In this narrative, I share my vision for a charitable endeavor aimed at providing education and hope to the less fortunate in Kimathi.

Kimathi, a place nestled amidst the rolling hills and lush greenery, is not only a geographic location but a tapestry of stories. It's a place where humble beginnings and harsh realities intertwine to create a unique backdrop for life. During my time in Kimathi, I have witnessed the struggles of the local community, particularly the challenges that come with accessing quality education. Many promising young minds are thwarted by financial constraints, their dreams dimmed by the weight of circumstance. This humbling experience has ignited a fire within me to make a difference.

Education is a potent force that can break the chains of poverty and transform lives. It is a key to unlocking doors of opportunity, and the lack of it is a significant barrier that holds back the potential of many in Kimathi. Recognizing the transformative power of education, my vision is to provide scholarships to the underprivileged students of Kimathi. By doing so, we aim to bridge the gap between dreams and reality, empowering these young souls with the tools they need to succeed.

Empowering Kimathi The Charity Initiative Empowering Kimathi is a charity initiative that I am passionate about. This initiative will provide financial support to cover school fees, books, uniforms, and other essential educational needs of students who would otherwise be unable to access quality education. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty by investing in the next generation, enabling them to reach their full potential and become change-makers in their community.

1. ****Scholarship Programs:**** Empowering Kimathi will offer scholarships to deserving students based on their academic achievements, dedication, and

financial need. These scholarships will cover tuition fees, textbooks, and any other necessary expenses to ensure that the students can focus on their education without worrying about the financial burden.

****Mentorship and Support:**** Education is not just about the financial aspect; it's also about guidance and support. We will provide mentorship programs to help students navigate the challenges they face, both in their studies and personal lives. Through a network of volunteers, we aim to empower and inspire these young individuals to dream big.

****Community Engagement:**** Empowering Kimathi is not just about providing scholarships but also fostering a sense of community and responsibility. We will engage the local community in our efforts, creating a sense of shared responsibility for the education of the less fortunate. This will not only make our initiative sustainable but also strengthen the bonds within the community.

Life in Kimathi has been a profound journey, and I am deeply grateful for the experiences it has given me. It has taught me that we are indeed blessed to be a blessing to others. The Empowering Kimathi initiative is not just a project but a manifestation of this belief. Through this endeavor, we hope to touch the lives of countless young individuals, igniting the flames of hope, ambition, and determination within them.

I am excited about the journey ahead and the positive impact we can make on the community of Kimathi. Together, we can transform lives, create opportunities, and contribute to the betterment of our society. Empowering Kimathi is not just a charitable activity; it's a promise to make a lasting difference, a commitment to being a beacon of hope for those in need.

As I embark on this path, I invite you to join me in this journey of giving back, for together, we can be the change we wish to see in Kimathi, and the world at large. Our story is just beginning, and I believe it will be a story of hope, inspiration, and empowerment for generations to come.

12 LESSONS LEARNT BY MY LIFE IN CAMPUS

Time Management: Juggling classes, assignments, and extracurricular activities taught me the importance of effective time management. For instance, I learned to create study schedules and meet deadlines consistently. **Adaptability:** Moving away from home and adapting to a new environment was a big part of my university experience. This taught me how to embrace change and thrive in different situations. **Self-Discipline:** There were times when

I had to resist the temptation to procrastinate and stay disciplined in my studies, especially when preparing for exams. Networking: Through participation in student clubs and attending seminars, I built valuable connections with professors and fellow students, which could benefit me in my future career.

Problem-Solving: I encountered academic challenges that required creative problem-solving. For instance, I had to find alternative research sources when the library was temporarily unavailable. Resilience: Facing academic setbacks, like a lower-than-expected grade, taught me resilience. I learned not to let failures define my entire university experience. Teamwork: Collaborative projects with classmates helped me develop teamwork skills and appreciate diverse perspectives. For example, working on a group project in engineering taught me how to coordinate with team members effectively. Communication: Giving presentations in front of the class and engaging in class discussions improved my communication skills significantly.

Continuous Learning: The rapidly evolving field of technology made me realize the importance of staying updated with the latest trends and technologies.

Goal Setting: Setting academic and personal goals, such as achieving a certain GPA or being involved in a particular club, provided me with direction and motivation.

Financial Management: Managing a limited budget during my university years taught me how to make wise financial decisions and prioritize expenses.

Leadership: Serving as the president of a student organization allowed me to develop leadership skills and organize successful events.

Cultural Awareness: Interacting with students from diverse backgrounds expanded my cultural awareness and taught me to respect different traditions and perspectives.

Time for Self-Care: Balancing academics with self-care became essential for my mental and physical well-being. Taking breaks and practicing self-care routines helped me manage stress. Critical Analysis: Analyzing research articles and data critically in my coursework helped me develop the ability to evaluate information objectively. Creativity: In projects like designing innovative solutions for real-world problems, I learned to think creatively and outside the box. Respecting Differences: Engaging in discussions with students who had differing opinions and backgrounds taught me the importance of respectful dialogue. Patience: Realizing that academic and personal growth is a gradual process, I learned to be patient and persistent in pursuing my goals. Gratitude: Reflecting on my time at the university, I am grateful for the education and experiences that have shaped me into a more well-rounded individual.

12.1 Crowning Achievement: The Empowering Kimathi Initiative

As I sit down to pen the final chapters of my autobiography, I am overwhelmed with a sense of pride and fulfillment that the story of my life has taken an unexpected and remarkable turn. The completion of my Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science marked a significant milestone in my academic journey, but it was my experiences in Kimathi, the place that would forever hold a special place in my heart, that led me to what I consider to be the crowning achievement of my life.

In the early chapters of my life, I was driven by personal aspirations, eager to succeed in the world of actuarial science, and to build a life defined by academic excellence and professional accomplishment. Little did I know that a small community in Kimathi would profoundly alter my perspective, values, and priorities. Life in Kimathi, with its humbling beauty and stark contrast between abundance and scarcity, served as the crucible that forged a new purpose within me.

Empowering Kimathi, a charitable initiative born out of my desire to give back, represents the pinnacle of my life's journey. It is the culmination of experiences, lessons learned, and a deep conviction that we are indeed blessed to be a blessing to others.

In a world that often emphasizes personal success and material gain, the act of giving back to society holds a unique place of importance. It signifies a commitment to the welfare of one's fellow humans and a recognition that true success is not measured solely by personal achievements but by the impact one makes on the lives of others.

Empowering Kimathi is not just a charity; it is a manifestation of my belief in the transformative power of education. Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal progress, and providing underprivileged students in Kimathi with the means to access quality education is a gift that will keep giving for generations to come.

The scholarship programs, mentorship, and community engagement initiatives of Empowering Kimathi are a testament to the potential of a united community to uplift its most vulnerable members. We have embarked on a mission to empower young individuals to overcome the barriers that stand between them and their dreams. Our aim is to equip them not only with financial support but also with the guidance, encouragement, and support they need to flourish.

The crowning achievement of my autobiography is not a personal accolade or a reflection of individual success. It is, instead, the embodiment of a newfound purpose - a commitment to making a lasting and positive impact

on the world. The pages of this autobiography are not a conclusion but a new beginning. As I continue to write the story of my life, I do so with a deep sense of responsibility, gratitude, and optimism. The pages ahead are filled with the potential to create a brighter and more hopeful future for the people of Kimathi and beyond.

In closing, my hope is that the legacy of Empowering Kimathi will serve as a testament to the power of compassion, empathy, and the belief that we are, indeed, blessed to be a blessing to others. It is a reminder that our individual stories can converge into a narrative of hope and transformation that extends far beyond our own lifetimes.