DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

BY

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Life is a journey, and every journey has a beginning that shapes who we become. My story begins in the coastal city of Mombasa, Kenya, a place known for its vibrant culture, warm climate, and diverse communities. Growing up in this environment taught me early lessons about resilience, adaptability, and the importance of community. My name is Harun Mnjau Mwamunga**,** and this autobiography is a reflection of my life, the lessons I have learned, the challenges I have faced, and the dreams I continue to pursue.

In my family, there was a proverb often repeated: *"Muntu etu ndagha na vandu, vindu ndiva na muntu"* — loosely translated to mean, "A person without people is nothing, and people are nothing without a person." This saying has shaped my outlook on life. It reminded me that my existence is not only about my individual journey but also about the people around me. It taught me the value of working with others, building relationships, and giving back to the community that raises and nurtures us. From childhood, this wisdom became the foundation of my personal values: respect for people, a desire to uplift others, and the motivation to contribute positively wherever I go.

I was born into a modest family where hard work was not just encouraged but expected. My parents instilled in me a sense of discipline and dedication. They always emphasized that education would be my greatest inheritance. We did not have much in terms of material wealth, but we were rich in values. My upbringing was guided by humility, perseverance, and faith that tomorrow could always be better than today. I remember evenings when my parents would share stories of their struggles, sacrifices, and triumphs. Those stories were not just entertainment; they were lessons written into my mind, reminding me that every achievement in life comes with commitment and persistence.

Being born and raised in Mombasa also exposed me to diversity at a young age. The city is a melting pot of cultures, languages, and traditions. From the Swahili heritage along the coast to the many people who have moved from different parts of Kenya to make Mombasa their home, I grew up seeing and experiencing different ways of life. This exposure made me open-minded, tolerant, and adaptable. I learned to respect differences and to appreciate the richness that comes from diversity. These lessons have followed me throughout my education, my career experiences, and my personal life.

As I look back, I see my journey as a continuous thread of growth, starting with curiosity as a child, building a foundation in school, developing skills through education and training, and stepping into the professional world with dreams of creating meaningful impact. This autobiography captures each of these phases, weaving them together into a story that is not only mine but also a reflection of the people, institutions, and experiences that shaped me.

My introduction would not be complete without acknowledging the role of faith and hope in my life. I have always believed that my story is guided by something greater than myself. Faith has been my anchor during challenging moments, and hope has been my constant light when things seemed uncertain. These values continue to guide me, as I navigate my personal and professional journey.

This is who I am: a son, a student, a professional in the making, and above all, a dreamer who believes in the power of education, technology, and community. In the chapters that follow, I will take you through the stages of my life, from my early childhood in school, to my teenage years in high school, to my university life where I pursued my passion for Information Technology, and finally to my experiences in the professional world. It is my hope that through this story, you will see not just my achievements but also the struggles, sacrifices, and lessons that continue to define me.

CHAPTER TWO: EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

Every story of growth begins with the first steps in school, and for me, those steps were taken at Mary Joy Kindergarten and Primary School, where I spent eight unforgettable years of my life. Childhood is often described as the foundation of life, and for me, this stage was filled with curiosity, innocence, and the gradual realization that education would become the compass guiding my future.

I remember my earliest days in kindergarten, walking into the classroom with wide eyes and a mixture of fear and excitement. The brightly colored charts on the walls, the simple wooden desks, and the sound of children reciting the alphabet became the backdrop of my first encounters with learning. My teachers were patient and nurturing, guiding us through the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. At that age, I did not fully grasp the long-term importance of education, but I knew that every achievement, no matter how small, was celebrated. A correctly drawn letter, a neatly written number, or even a well-sung song during class presentations was enough to make me beam with pride.

The years in primary school at Mary Joy were full of both challenges and milestones. The academic journey was demanding but rewarding. I developed a love for reading, and storybooks became my constant companions. They introduced me to worlds beyond my own, teaching me about different cultures, histories, and possibilities. Mathematics, though challenging at first, gradually became a subject of interest, especially because I enjoyed solving problems and discovering logical patterns. Science fascinated me the most, as it made me curious about how the world worked—from the stars in the sky to the living creatures in our environment.

Life in primary school was not only about academics. It was also where I began to shape my personality, my friendships, and my early leadership skills. I vividly remember being chosen as a class monitor in the upper primary classes. Though the role was small, it taught me responsibility and accountability. I had to ensure that order was maintained in class, homework was submitted, and fellow pupils were attentive during lessons. It was not always easy, especially when my peers saw me as "one of them" but also as a leader. Balancing friendship and responsibility became an early lesson in leadership, a skill that would follow me into later stages of life.

Friendships formed during these years remain among the most genuine I have ever had. We laughed together, played football and traditional games during break time, and supported one another during difficult moments. I learned that teamwork was not just for adults in offices, it started in the playgrounds and classrooms of primary school. Whether we were working together on a group project, rehearsing for a drama performance, or cheering each other during sports day, I realized that we achieved more as a group than as individuals.

Of course, primary school was not without its challenges. Coming from a humble background, I sometimes lacked certain resources that others had, such as new textbooks, uniforms, or school supplies. But rather than discouraging me, these challenges motivated me to work harder. I understood from a young age that education was my ticket to a better future. My parents constantly reminded me that my performance in school would determine the opportunities ahead

of me. Their encouragement became the fuel that pushed me forward, even when the journey felt difficult.

One of the most memorable experiences in primary school was participating in co-curricular activities. I took part in debates, where I developed the confidence to stand before others and express my thoughts. At first, my voice trembled, and my arguments lacked structure, but over time I grew stronger, learning the art of persuasion and clarity. This not only built my confidence but also sharpened my communication skills, which later became a strength in my academic and professional life.

Sports also played a role in shaping my childhood. I loved football, not just for the game itself but for the sense of unity it brought among us. Running on the dusty field, chasing the ball with determination, and hearing the cheers from classmates was exhilarating. Though I was not always the top player, the spirit of the game instilled in me discipline, teamwork, and perseverance.

By the time I completed my eight years at Mary Joy, I was no longer the shy, wide-eyed child who had entered kindergarten. I had grown into a young boy full of dreams, shaped by the experiences, friendships, and lessons I carried with me. Primary school taught me resilience, discipline, and the importance of building a strong academic foundation. It also instilled in me the confidence to pursue bigger challenges, preparing me for the next stage of my journey: high school.

Looking back, I realize that Mary Joy was more than just a school, it was a second home where my identity was nurtured. It was the place where seeds of curiosity were planted, values of discipline were instilled, and the early spark of ambition was lit. The memories of those eight years remain close to my heart, and they continue to remind me that even the smallest beginnings can lead to great destinations.

CHAPTER THREE: HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

The transition from primary school to high school marked a major turning point in my life. After successfully completing my primary education, I was admitted to Kerugoya Boys High School, a respected institution known for its discipline and academic excellence. For four years, this school became the environment where my character, academic abilities, and ambitions were tested, refined, and strengthened. It was during this period that I began to mature, not just as a student but also as a young man preparing to face the wider world.

The first days at Kerugoya Boys remain fresh in my memory. I arrived with both excitement and fear, excited to join a new chapter of life, but nervous about fitting in among students from different backgrounds. The atmosphere was more demanding than in primary school. Everything seemed larger: the classrooms, the number of students, the expectations from teachers, and the workload of assignments. For the first time, I had to live away from home in a boarding environment, and this experience tested my independence. Managing time, keeping track of responsibilities, and learning how to balance schoolwork with personal life became essential lessons that I had to adapt to quickly.

Academically, Kerugoya Boys High School pushed me to new limits. The subjects became more complex, but I embraced them with determination. I found myself drawn to science and technology-related subjects because they challenged me intellectually and matched my natural curiosity. Mathematics became a subject I enjoyed solving, not because it was easy, but because it demanded logic, patience, and persistence. Computer studies sparked my interest in information technology, and though the facilities were limited, I made the most of every opportunity to learn. These interests would later grow into my passion for pursuing a degree in Information Technology at the university level.

Life in high school was not only about academics. It was also a period of self-discovery and personal growth. I learned important lessons in discipline, time management, and responsibility. Boarding life taught me resilience; waking up early for morning preps, attending classes all day, completing homework at night, and balancing co-curricular activities was not easy. Yet, these routines built endurance and a strong work ethic that still guides me today.

Friendships also played a huge role in shaping my high school years. I met peers from different parts of the country, each with unique backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Through late-night conversations in the dormitory, group discussions in class, and moments of laughter during sports, I formed bonds that were more like brotherhood than ordinary friendships. Some of these friends remain part of my life today, and I value the support and encouragement we gave one another during those formative years.

Co-curricular activities enriched my high school experience even further. I actively participated in academic clubs and debate societies, where I honed my public speaking and critical thinking skills. Standing in front of an audience, defending my ideas, and learning to listen respectfully to opposing views improved my confidence and broadened my perspective. I also joined sports activities, particularly football, which was a major unifying force among students. Running on

the pitch, strategizing with teammates, and celebrating victories gave me joy and a sense of belonging. These activities taught me the balance between academics and personal development.

Of course, the journey was not without challenges. There were times when academic pressure felt overwhelming, and I struggled to keep up with demanding coursework. There were also moments of homesickness, especially during the first year when I was still adjusting to boarding life. However, I quickly realized that challenges were part of growth. Each obstacle I faced became an opportunity to build resilience, problem-solving skills, and determination. Teachers often reminded us that success did not come easily, it required sacrifice, focus, and consistent effort.

One of the greatest lessons I carried from Kerugoya Boys was the importance of discipline. The school emphasized timekeeping, obedience, and respect for authority. Though strict at times, these rules shaped us into responsible individuals. They taught me that discipline is not about punishment but about self-control and making the right choices even when no one is watching.

By the time I completed my four years at Kerugoya Boys High School, I was no longer the unsure boy who had entered the gates for the first time. I had grown into a confident young man with a clearer sense of purpose. The experiences I had, both inside and outside the classroom, prepared me for the next stage of my journey, university life. High school gave me the resilience, academic foundation, and personal strength that I would carry with me to Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, where I would pursue my dream of becoming an Information Technology professional.

Looking back, I cherish my high school years as a period of transformation. It was a time of learning, growth, friendship, and discipline. It was in Kerugoya Boys that I learned that success is earned through hard work and consistency. These lessons became the building blocks upon which I would construct my university and professional journey.

CHAPTER FOUR: UNIVERSITY JOURNEY

If high school was a season of preparation, then my years at the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology **(DeKUT)** were the season of discovery and transformation. After years of hard work, discipline, and determination, I was admitted to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, a program that would not only sharpen my academic abilities but also shape my vision of the future. The four years I spent at DeKUT remain some of the most defining years of my life—filled with challenges, growth, achievements, and unforgettable experiences.

The first day I set foot on the DeKUT campus is still vivid in my mind. The university environment felt like a completely new world, vast lecture halls, modern laboratories, and the buzz of hundreds of students moving around with purpose. I was excited but also nervous. For the first time, I was truly independent, responsible for managing my own studies, finances, and personal life. Unlike high school, where routines were strict and structured, university life demanded self-discipline. No one followed up to ensure you attended lectures or completed assignments on time. Success depended entirely on personal initiative and commitment.

Academically, the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program was both challenging and rewarding. The coursework introduced me to a wide range of subjects, including programming, database systems, computer networks, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. Each unit opened my eyes to new possibilities and deepened my interest in technology. I remember struggling at first with programming languages such as C and Java. The syntax seemed foreign, and debugging errors tested my patience. Yet, over time, with practice and persistence, I grew comfortable and even began to enjoy solving programming challenges. The thrill of seeing a code run successfully after hours of effort was unmatched, it was a reminder that persistence always pays off.

One of the highlights of my university journey was working on practical projects. Unlike theory-heavy lessons, these projects gave me a chance to apply what I had learned to real-world problems. I particularly enjoyed building software systems that addressed practical needs. Among the most memorable projects was a functional authentication system in **C#**. It required me to design both frontend and backend components, integrating security features that ensured user data remained protected. Through this project, I developed a deeper understanding of system design, database management, and the importance of user experience in software development.

Another project that left a mark on my academic journey was the plagiarism detection system I built for DeKUT. Using natural language processing (NLP) techniques, I developed a system capable of detecting both direct matches and paraphrased similarities in academic work. The project was challenging, as it required combining linguistic knowledge with machine learning models. However, it was also highly rewarding because it addressed a real issue in academia: academic integrity. Successfully deploying this system gave me confidence in my ability to tackle complex problems using technology.

Equally significant was the project on student dropout prediction. Working with data on student grades, gender, credits enrolled, and GPA, I created models to predict which students were at risk of leaving school before completing their studies. This project opened my eyes to the power of data analysis and machine learning in solving societal challenges. More than just an academic task, it showed me that technology could be used not only in business and industry but also in education to improve student success and retention.

Life at DeKUT was not only about academics. University offered me opportunities to grow socially and personally. I made friends from different parts of Kenya, each with diverse cultures and perspectives. Group discussions, late-night coding sessions, and shared struggles during exams created bonds that remain strong even after graduation. I also engaged in extracurricular activities, from sports to university clubs, where I built leadership skills and expanded my networks. These experiences taught me the importance of balancing academics with social life, ensuring that I developed as a whole person rather than focusing only on books.

Challenges were an inevitable part of university life. There were moments when academic pressure became overwhelming, especially during exam periods when multiple deadlines coincided. Financial challenges also arose, and I sometimes struggled to meet the demands of university life. Yet, each challenge became a lesson in resilience. I learned how to prioritize, manage stress, and find creative solutions to problems. For instance, when I lacked resources to purchase certain software, I collaborated with classmates, shared ideas, and found open-source alternatives that allowed us to complete our projects successfully.

Perhaps the most profound lesson I learned in university was the value of independence and responsibility. Unlike earlier stages of education, university placed the burden of success squarely on the student. I realized that no one could push me harder than myself. I became more self-motivated, setting personal goals and working consistently to achieve them. This sense of independence prepared me for the professional world, where results matter more than excuses.

By the time I completed my four years at DeKUT, I was no longer just a student of Information Technology, I had become a young professional ready to apply my skills in the real world. I walked away not only with a degree but with confidence, practical experience, and a vision of how I wanted to use technology to make a difference.

Looking back, the university journey was transformative. It gave me knowledge, built my resilience, and nurtured my passion for technology. It challenged me to think critically, work collaboratively, and act responsibly. It was in DeKUT that I confirmed my path: to become a technologist, problem solver, and innovator.

CHAPTER FIVE: ATTACHMENT EXPERIENCE

After three years of intense academic training, I was ready to step out of the classroom and apply my knowledge in the real world. My opportunity came when I joined the Kenya Power and Lighting Company **(KPLC)** as an attachee for three months. This period of industrial attachment was more than just a requirement for my degree; it was a window into the professional world of technology, systems management, and corporate responsibility. It allowed me to test my skills, learn from experienced professionals, and witness how information technology functions in a large, dynamic organization.

On my first day at KPLC, I was both nervous and excited. The company's offices buzzed with activity—engineers, technicians, and IT staff moved around with clear purpose, attending to systems that were critical to the functioning of the company. The scale of operations was intimidating at first, but I quickly settled in as I was assigned to the IT department, where I would spend most of my time. My supervisors welcomed me warmly, treating me not just as a student but as a member of the team whose contribution mattered.

One of my earliest tasks was collaborating with teams to improve data security and system performance**.** At DeKUT, I had learned about encryption, access control, and firewalls, but here, I saw how those concepts were applied practically to safeguard sensitive data. Electricity distribution relies heavily on secure systems, and any breach could have catastrophic consequences. I participated in team meetings where strategies were discussed to strengthen firewalls, monitor networks for suspicious activity, and enforce user access controls. I realized that cybersecurity was not just about protecting computers—it was about safeguarding an entire infrastructure that millions of people depended on.

In addition to security, I was involved in designing frontend systems for authentication. This project reminded me of my earlier university work, but now the stakes were higher. The systems we built and refined had to be user-friendly, efficient, and above all, secure. Working on real company systems taught me the importance of usability; an authentication system that is too complex discourages users, while one that is too simple can create vulnerabilities. Striking the right balance was a lesson I carried with me long after my attachment.

My attachment also exposed me to the hardware and software challenges faced by a large organization. I frequently assisted in fixing both hardware and software issues, from troubleshooting network failures to repairing faulty machines. These tasks may have seemed routine, but they highlighted the importance of keeping every part of the system functional. A single malfunctioning computer could disrupt workflow and delay critical operations. Each time I successfully resolved an issue, I felt a sense of accomplishment and growing confidence in my abilities.

One of the most exciting experiences during my attachment was being involved in fieldwork to migrate users in a network. This task required visiting different company locations, working directly with staff, and ensuring smooth transitions to updated systems. The fieldwork demanded technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and good communication. I enjoyed interacting

with different departments, explaining technical issues in simple terms, and seeing how technology facilitated daily operations. The experience expanded my perspective, showing me that IT was not confined to computer screens—it was deeply integrated into every function of the company.

Perhaps the highlight of my attachment was the opportunity to learn and manage the SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition). SCADA is a sophisticated cybersecurity interface used to monitor and control industrial systems. At KPLC, it was a crucial tool for overseeing power distribution and detecting irregularities in the grid. Managing SCADA gave me firsthand experience with critical infrastructure technology. I was fascinated by how real-time data was collected, analyzed, and used to make rapid decisions that affected entire regions. The responsibility of working with such a system deepened my respect for the professionals who ensure that Kenya's power supply remains stable and secure.

Throughout my three months at KPLC, I gained far more than technical skills. I learned the value of teamwork, discipline, and accountability. Unlike university projects where deadlines were flexible, here every task had to be completed efficiently to keep operations running smoothly. I admired how colleagues collaborated, each bringing their expertise to solve complex problems. I also learned to adapt quickly, sometimes tasks changed suddenly, and I had to think on my feet to provide solutions.

The attachment also strengthened my professional communication skills. I interacted with engineers, managers, and technicians, learning how to present my ideas clearly and respectfully. I realized that in the workplace, technical knowledge alone is not enough; the ability to communicate effectively determines whether your ideas are understood and implemented.

By the end of my attachment, I had grown significantly as both a professional and a person. The experience gave me confidence in my abilities, confirmed my passion for information technology, and prepared me for the challenges of the career ahead. Walking away from KPLC after three months, I carried with me not just memories of systems and codes, but lessons of resilience, adaptability, and responsibility.

The attachment was a bridge between theory and practice—a place where the knowledge I had gained at DeKUT was tested, refined, and expanded. It gave me a glimpse of the professional world I aspired to join and reinforced my commitment to using technology to solve real-world problems.

CHAPTER SIX: PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As I advanced in my academic and professional journey, I discovered that true learning did not only come from classrooms, lectures, or even attachments—it came from the projects I chose to undertake and the challenges I dared to confront. These projects allowed me to merge theory with practice, creativity with discipline, and vision with execution. More importantly, they revealed to me the impact technology can have on real-life problems and the satisfaction of seeing a solution come to life. Among the projects I am most proud of are the plagiarism detection system for DeKUT and the student dropout prediction model. Both projects marked milestones in my life, testing my endurance, sharpening my skills, and affirming my passion for innovation.

The plagiarism detection system was born out of a simple but pressing problem: the need to uphold academic integrity at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Like many universities, DeKUT grappled with cases of students copying work without proper attribution. While there were commercial tools available in the market, they were either too expensive or not tailored to the needs of our institution. With this in mind, I decided to take up the challenge of developing a solution that was affordable, effective, and educational.

The project demanded a deep dive into Natural Language Processing (NLP**)** and machine learning algorithms. I researched different approaches, including exact text matching and paraphrase detection, before deciding to combine multiple techniques to improve accuracy. This was not a simple task. I spent long nights studying research papers, testing open-source models, and writing code that could handle different document formats such as PDF, DOCX, and TXT. What made the system unique was its dual role—not just detecting plagiarism but also offering explanations to students about why their work was flagged. This educational module transformed the tool from a policing mechanism into a learning aid, guiding students to improve their writing and citation practices.

When the project was finally deployed, the reception was overwhelming. Faculty appreciated its cost-effectiveness, while students found it to be a fair system that encouraged integrity rather than punishing them blindly. The success of the plagiarism detection system remains one of my proudest achievements because it aligned with my belief that technology should not only solve problems but also empower people to grow.

My second major project, the student dropout prediction model, was equally challenging and fulfilling. This project stemmed from a research initiative aimed at addressing the high rates of student dropout in universities. Many students failed to complete their studies due to a range of factors, academic performance, financial difficulties, distance from school, gender disparities, and the number of credits enrolled versus completed. The question was: could data provide insights into which students were at risk, and could universities intervene in time?

I set out to design a model that could analyze student data and predict dropout risks with reasonable accuracy. I began by gathering datasets that included variables such as GPA, grades, credit load, gender, and distance from campus. I applied statistical techniques and machine

learning algorithms to find patterns hidden within the data. At times, the complexity was overwhelming, handling missing data, cleaning large datasets, and selecting the right algorithms required patience and persistence. But each challenge strengthened my skills in data analysis and machine learning.

What motivated me most was the potential impact of the project. If successfully implemented, the model could help universities identify at-risk students early, allowing them to provide targeted support such as mentorship, counseling, or financial aid. The goal was not just prediction, it was prevention. By addressing dropout risks proactively, the system could change the course of a student's life.

When the model produced accurate predictions in its pilot phase, I felt a sense of accomplishment unlike any other. It was a testament to the power of data in solving human challenges and reaffirmed my commitment to using technology for social good.

Beyond these two major projects, I also participated in smaller yet meaningful initiatives. For example, I was part of a team that worked on designing authentication systems to improve user security, an area that resonated with the skills I honed during my attachment at KPLC. I also engaged in personal coding challenges, building small applications to test my skills in Java, Python, and C#. Each project, no matter the size, contributed to my growth, teaching me the value of resilience, curiosity, and continuous learning.

Looking back, these achievements were not just academic exercises, they were stepping stones that shaped me into the person I am today. They taught me how to approach problems methodically, how to collaborate with others, and how to keep pushing forward even when the journey seemed uncertain. Most importantly, they gave me confidence in my ability to innovate, to take ideas from conception to completion, and to create solutions that matter.

My projects and achievements are more than entries on a résumé; they are stories of perseverance, creativity, and impact. They remind me that each challenge is an opportunity to grow, and each success is a foundation for greater possibilities ahead.

CHAPTER SEVEN: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important aspects of my journey has been the steady and intentional development of my skills. Looking back, I see that skills are not acquired in a single moment or through a single experience; they are built brick by brick, day by day, through exposure, practice, and reflection. My education, projects, and attachment experiences have all contributed to shaping both my technical abilities and my soft skills, which together define who I am as a professional and as a person.

From an early stage in my university education, I gravitated toward programming. Learning languages like Java, Python, C, and C# challenged me to think logically, structure problems, and translate ideas into functioning systems. At first, writing code was intimidating, the smallest syntax error could crash a program—but with patience, I learned to embrace debugging as part of the process. Over time, programming became second nature, and I began to appreciate its power to transform abstract concepts into practical applications. My skills expanded further into HTML, CSS, and web development, enabling me to design both front-end and back-end systems that were functional and user-friendly.

Alongside programming, I nurtured a passion for data analysis. During my projects, I realized that data holds the key to understanding patterns and making informed decisions. I trained myself to not only clean and organize data but also to interpret it meaningfully. Using tools like Power BI, SQL Server, and Microsoft Excel, I learned how to transform raw numbers into clear insights, often presenting them through charts, reports, and dashboards. This skill has become invaluable, particularly in projects such as the student dropout prediction model, where data analysis played a central role.

Another key area of growth has been in networking and security. My attachment at Kenya Power and Lighting Company exposed me to real-world scenarios where the integrity and security of systems were paramount. It was here that I became familiar with SCADA systems and user access controls, both of which deepened my understanding of cybersecurity principles. Knowing that even a small vulnerability could jeopardize an entire organization taught me to value precision, vigilance, and responsibility when working with networks and sensitive data.

Beyond technical expertise, I have also cultivated vital soft skills. Communication stands out as one of the most important. Whether it was collaborating with teams during my attachment, explaining project findings to lecturers, or writing detailed documentation, I learned that the ability to express ideas clearly can make the difference between success and failure. Teamwork and leadership also developed naturally as I took part in group projects and initiatives. In such environments, I learned how to listen, respect diverse perspectives, and take initiative when necessary.

Equally significant has been the development of problem-solving and adaptability. Technology is ever-changing, and solutions that work today may not be relevant tomorrow. This reality pushed me to remain adaptable, eager to learn new frameworks, languages, or tools as needed. Each

obstacle I faced, whether a failed program or a misconfigured network, taught me resilience and creativity in finding solutions.

The balance of technical and soft skills has given me confidence to face the future. I do not see myself as just a programmer, analyst, or network engineer, I see myself as a holistic problem solver, someone who can combine technical expertise with human understanding to create meaningful change. These skills are not the end of my journey but rather the foundation upon which I will continue to grow, learning and unlearning as technology evolves.

CHAPTER EIGHT: PERSONAL LIFE AND VALUES

Outside the realm of academics and professional work, my personal life has always been the anchor that grounds me. I believe that who I am as a person is just as important as what I achieve in school or in my career. Growing up in Mombasa and spending years of my life in educational institutions shaped by discipline and culture, I developed a strong sense of identity that is rooted in family, faith, and community. My personal life is guided by simple but powerful principles, hard work, respect for others, humility, and integrity. These values not only influence the way I live but also guide the decisions I make and the way I relate with people around me.

Family plays a central role in my personal life. From an early age, my family instilled in me the importance of education, perseverance, and moral uprightness. Their support has been my pillar through every stage of life, from primary school all the way to my university years. I often recall moments when my parents encouraged me to push harder during challenging times, reminding me that education was the key to opening doors for the future. Their sacrifices taught me never to take opportunities for granted. Beyond education, my family also instilled in me the value of unity and compassion. I learned that no matter how busy or accomplished one becomes, family remains the foundation upon which one's life is built.

Faith is another cornerstone of my personal life. It has always given me strength during difficult times and humility during moments of success. Faith reminds me that life is bigger than myself and that every gift, talent, or opportunity I have is a blessing meant to be shared. It keeps me grounded, reminding me to stay grateful, patient, and kind to others. My faith also guides my moral compass, helping me to distinguish right from wrong and inspiring me to live with honesty and dignity.

In my personal life, I place great importance on friendships and human relationships. I have always valued loyalty and trust, choosing to surround myself with people who inspire me to grow and who challenge me to become better. To me, true friendship is not measured by how much time we spend together but by the depth of support and encouragement we give one another. Over the years, I have had the privilege of building friendships that have stood the test of time, offering both laughter and comfort in different seasons of life. These friendships have taught me the value of empathy, listening, and being present for others.

When it comes to personal values, I strongly believe in discipline and consistency. I have learned that talent alone is not enough; it must be accompanied by discipline if one is to succeed. Whether in academics, projects, or even personal goals, I strive to remain consistent in my efforts. Another value I hold dear is resilience. Life is never without challenges, and I have faced my share of setbacks along the way. However, I see every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow. This resilience has given me the courage to keep moving forward even when the path seems uncertain.

Equally important in my personal life is the value of service. I believe that life is most meaningful when we contribute to others. Over time, I have made conscious efforts to mentor peers, support group projects, and participate in community activities whenever possible. Acts of

service, no matter how small, remind me that we are interconnected and that the greatest legacy one can leave behind is the impact made on other people's lives.

Finally, I deeply value personal growth and lifelong learning. I see life as a continuous journey of improvement where every day presents a chance to be better than yesterday. Whether it is learning a new programming skill, reading an inspiring book, or simply reflecting on past experiences, I constantly look for ways to grow. To me, self-improvement is not about perfection but about progress. It is this mindset that keeps me curious, open-minded, and eager to embrace new opportunities.

In summary, my personal life and values form the backbone of who I am. They shape the way I think, act, and relate with the world around me. While my achievements may showcase what I have done, my values reveal who I truly am. They remind me that success without integrity is meaningless, and that true fulfillment comes not from material gains but from living a life rooted in purpose, respect, and compassion.

CHAPTER NINE: VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The future has always been a guiding light for me, something that shapes my thoughts, decisions, and ambitions. I often see life as a continuous journey where every step prepares us for the next, and every lesson builds the foundation for tomorrow. Standing at this point in my life, equipped with knowledge, skills, and experiences, I find myself filled with hope and optimism about what lies ahead. My vision for the future is not only about personal success but also about making meaningful contributions to my community, my country, and the wider world.

Professionally, I envision myself advancing as an Information Technology expert who continues to adapt to the ever-changing world of technology. The IT field is dynamic, and I know that for me to stay relevant and impactful, I must commit myself to continuous learning. I see myself specializing in critical areas such as cybersecurity, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. These fields are not only shaping the global technological landscape but also hold great potential for solving pressing societal challenges. My earlier exposure to cybersecurity while working with Kenya Power and Lighting Company, particularly when dealing with SCADA systems, ignited a strong interest in protecting critical infrastructure. I imagine a future where I can design and implement advanced security solutions that shield organizations from cyber threats. At the same time, my passion for data analysis and artificial intelligence drives me to dream of a career where I can use technology to make predictions, analyze patterns, and provide insights that influence decisions in sectors such as healthcare, education, and governance.

Beyond professional growth, I see myself as an innovator and researcher, someone who builds solutions that directly impact lives. The projects I have already worked on, such as the plagiarism detection system for DeKUT and the dropout prediction model, opened my eyes to the real-world problems that technology can solve. I envision scaling these projects to reach more people. The plagiarism detection system, for example, could evolve into a nationwide tool that promotes academic integrity across multiple institutions. The dropout prediction model could be expanded to become a government-supported system that helps identify and support vulnerable students before they leave school. These projects represent just the beginning of what I hope will become a lifelong pursuit: using technology to create practical, sustainable, and impactful solutions that bring about positive change.

My vision is not limited to personal or institutional impact; I also see myself contributing to national and regional development. Kenya, like much of Africa, is currently undergoing a digital revolution. Initiatives such as the government's Digital Superhighway and the growth of the Silicon Savannah demonstrate the potential of technology to transform economies and improve lives. In this context, I dream of playing an active role in shaping the country's digital future. One of my long-term goals is to establish technology hubs and mentorship programs where young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, can access training in programming, data analysis, and cybersecurity. I believe that by empowering the youth with digital skills, we can address unemployment, foster innovation, and create a self-reliant generation ready to compete on the global stage.

While my roots are firmly planted in Kenya, my aspirations extend far beyond national borders. I envision a future where I engage in global collaborations, work on international research projects, and share ideas with people from diverse backgrounds. Technology thrives on collaboration, and I want to immerse myself in global conversations that drive innovation. At the same time, I aim to bring back knowledge, strategies, and practices that can be adapted to address uniquely African problems. I want to show the world that Africa is not just a consumer of technology but also a source of innovation and solutions. By blending global exposure with local relevance, I hope to position myself as a bridge between worlds, carrying ideas across borders and adapting them for meaningful impact at home.

Of course, my vision for the future also extends to my personal life. I strongly believe that success is not only measured in wealth or professional recognition but also in the kind of life one builds for their family and community. I want to be able to provide a comfortable life for my family, inspire them through my achievements, and instill in them the values of hard work, humility, and service. I also want to remain connected to my community in Mombasa and Taita, supporting education initiatives and contributing to programs that uplift the less fortunate. To me, true success lies in the legacy one leaves behind, and I aspire to be remembered as someone who lifted others, created opportunities, and made a difference.

Ultimately, my long-term dream is to establish an institution or company that combines research, innovation, and training. I imagine a center where young minds come together to solve real-world problems using technology, where new ideas are nurtured, and where future leaders are trained. This institution would not only provide employment but also ensure continuity in technological advancement in Kenya and Africa as a whole. Through this, I want to create a legacy that goes beyond my lifetime, a lasting impact that continues to inspire and empower generations.

In conclusion, my vision for the future is built on three pillars: personal growth, societal contribution, and global engagement. I see myself as part of a new generation of Africans determined to use technology not just as a career path but as a tool for transformation. With resilience, determination, and the values I hold dear, I believe the future will be brighter not only for me but also for the many lives I hope to touch along the way.

CHAPTER 10: CLOSING REFLECTIONS

As I look back over the pages of my life's journey, I am struck by the remarkable truth that every experience, whether joyful or challenging, has shaped me into the person I am today. From my humble beginnings in Mombasa to my years of education at Mary Joy Kindergarten, Kerugoya Boys High School, and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, each stage of life added a layer of growth, wisdom, and resilience. These moments, both big and small, remind me that life is not a straight line but a series of lessons, victories, setbacks, and second chances that ultimately define our purpose.

Writing this autobiography has allowed me to pause and truly appreciate the blessings that have accompanied my journey. My family's unwavering support, the values instilled in me during childhood, the friends and mentors who walked with me, and the opportunities I have been given—all of these stand as pillars that have strengthened my resolve. More than achievements, it is these relationships and values that I carry closest to my heart, for they have kept me grounded even as I dreamed of greater heights.

If there is one lesson that echoes throughout my story, it is that resilience and determination can carry us through even the most uncertain of paths. Life has not always been easy, but every challenge has revealed a new strength within me. Whether it was navigating the rigors of academic life, learning the ropes of professional environments, or building systems that others could rely on, each experience reminded me that persistence and faith are essential companions on the road to success.

This conclusion is not an end, but rather a pause in an unfolding journey. The pages of my future are still blank, waiting to be filled with more stories of learning, growth, and impact. What I have accomplished so far is only the foundation for the man I strive to become, an individual committed to using his talents for the betterment of his community, his country, and the world at large. I believe that true fulfillment comes not from what we keep for ourselves but from what we give back, and I am determined to live by this principle.

As I close this chapter, I do so with gratitude and hope. Gratitude for the past that has molded me, and hope for the future that continues to call me forward. My autobiography is a reflection of where I have been, but it is also a declaration of where I am going. With faith, courage, and a deep sense of purpose, I step into tomorrow ready to embrace whatever lies ahead.