

# From Childhood to Code

A Journey of Faith, Resilience, and Innovation

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Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology

# Early Life and Family Background

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- Born in Pangani, Nairobi (2000)
- Relocated to Kasarani at age 3
- Firstborn of three boys
- Parents: James Kararu and Lenity Karegi
- Christian upbringing emphasising faith, discipline, and responsibility

# Primary School Leadership

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- **Linnet Academy** (2009–2015)
- Deputy Head Boy (2013–2015)
- Championed tree planting initiatives
- Advocated for improved school meals
- Developed early leadership and communication skills

# Secondary School and Technology Discovery

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- **Njiiri School** (Extra-County School)
- KCPE Score: 390 marks
- Christian Union, Red Cross, Chess Club
- Mt. Kenya Chess Tournament: Second Runners-up (Under 17)
- Discovered passion through computer studies

# University Choice and Academic Journey

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- **BSc Information Technology** at Dedan Kimathi University
- Mentored by Boniface Mwaniki (Systems Admin) and Peter Ngugi (Chief Accountant)
- Faced academic challenges: Calculus, Probability & Statistics II
- Two-year break: Mental health struggles and recovery
- Returned to complete studies with resilience

# Projects and Innovation

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## **ECOSWAP**

Android app (Kotlin, Supabase) for reusing and exchanging household items to reduce waste

## **Shamba Shape-app**

Farm management tool (Java) helping smallholder farmers track inputs, expenses, and yields

Both projects address real community needs through sustainable technology solutions

# Practical Skills Development

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- Member: GDSC DeKUT, DSAIc, DeKUT Android Club
- Programming Languages: C++, Java, Kotlin, Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS
- Frameworks: Node.js, React, Django, Flask
- Certifications: Zalego Front-End, CCNA, Azure Fundamentals
- Continuous learning through community engagement and formal training

# Challenges Overcome

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- Learning to interact with diverse cultures and perspectives
- Academic setbacks and developing resilience through failure
- Serious cycling accident: Recovery and overcoming trauma
- Climb to Educate Mt. Kenya: Respecting personal limits despite challenges
- Each challenge became an opportunity for personal growth



# Values and Beliefs

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- Christian faith as moral and spiritual foundation
- Community service: Church cleanups, children's home visits
- Environmental responsibility and outdoor adventure
- Ethics in technology: Privacy, security, integrity, and public good
- Commitment to technology that serves humanity

# Internship and Real-World Impact

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- **ICT Intern** at Outspan Teaching and Referral Hospital (Feb–Apr 2025)
- Supported computer systems in healthcare setting
- Witnessed how reliable IT infrastructure supports clinical operations
- Gained hands-on experience with systems administration and user support
- Affirmed commitment to IT careers with social impact

# Future Ambitions: Three Long-Term Goals

## Goal 1: Skilled Software and Mobile Developer

Build applications addressing real needs in healthcare, agriculture, and community services

## Goal 2: Technology Leader and Mentor

Empower younger developers through mentorship, leadership, and community engagement

## Goal 3: Socially Responsible Tech Startup

Co-found a venture promoting sustainability, equity, and access to technology

# Conclusion and Vision

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- **Key Lessons:** Faith, discipline, and resilience enable growth
- Community and mentors shape opportunity and character
- Technology is a powerful tool for service and positive change
- **Gratitude:** Family, teachers, mentors, and friends
- Committed to a life of service, faith, and innovation