

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

- 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

- **Linet 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

- **Njirri 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

- **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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- **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

- **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