**INTRODUCTION**

My name is Vincent, and I was born in Thika at a hospital in Section 9. I spent my early childhood in Thika, where I attended Moi Primary School. The school was close to home, so walking to school every day was a routine. One vivid memory from those days is a dog that used to chase us every morning. It became such a problem that my parents had to report the issue to the local welfare office responsible for handling such matters. Despite these challenges, I was a quiet but very attentive child, known for being the smallest kid in our class. My best friend, Moses, and I shared a passion for drawing, often completing our homework quickly to spend time sketching our dream cars, houses, city buildings, and favorite cartoons.

My mother played a significant role in my education, helping me with my school subjects, although I did struggle in many areas. My interest in science was sparked in Class 7 when a teacher paired me with Maina, a talented student who consistently scored top marks. Maina and his older brother, who pursued civil engineering and architecture respectively, were significant influences on me. I eventually excelled in science, leading to my pursuit of Information Technology (IT) as a career.

In primary school, I never made it into the football team but excelled in gymnastics, representing our school in Thika Stadium. This experience allowed me to meet students from various schools across Kiambu County. I performed well in my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams, which led to my admission to MP Shah Chania High School in 2014. High school was a mix of achievements and failures for me. Although I was still small in stature, I grew taller by Form 3 in 2017. My strengths lay in chemistry and biology, while I struggled with physics and mathematics. Looking back, I wish I had taken more interest in these subjects.

During high school, I took on roles within the Catholic community, enjoying choir sessions and movie time on Saturdays. I often prioritized movie sessions over official Catholic meetings, a reflection of my natural inclination to prioritize activities I enjoyed. High school was also a time of learning discipline and responsibility, with my favorite teacher, Mrs. Mwadime, imparting valuable lessons. My physics teacher, known for his compelling stories, left a lasting impression on me, and his classes were always engaging.

One of my most memorable high school experiences was a near-suspension incident when I and a few friends sneaked into the school's swimming pool at irregular hours, resulting in a thorough punishment. Despite such misadventures, I eventually became the chairman of the Catholic Action (CA) community at our school. I gave my best effort in school and managed to secure a spot at one of the top universities in the country, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), to pursue IT. I firmly believe in the potential of IT innovations and the promising career opportunities they offer.

**EARLY LIFE AND BACKGROUND**

I was born and raised in Thika, attending Moi Primary School and later Chania High School before enrolling at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. Besides my academic pursuits, I have always been involved in my father's farm since early childhood, rearing chickens, rabbits, and cows. My passion for politics is something I attribute to my parents, who are also deeply interested in political matters. My father has been involved in farming and retail business in Thika town, while my mother is a librarian. I have two sisters, Njeri and Nancy, a brother named Kevin, and a nephew, Nathan. We are a close-knit family, and I consider it a blessing to have them all in my life.

Growing up in a Christian household, my parents instilled in me strong values and a deep sense of discipline. Influential figures in my early life included my science teacher, who nurtured my interest in sciences, and my math teacher, whose well-traveled experiences inspired me to value education and discipline. My father, deeply rooted in traditions, ensured I attended cultural events, imparting in me a knowledge of Kikuyu traditions that many of my peers lack.

**MY CAREER AT DEKUT**

I joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in 2019 and made it a point to attend all available classes. I became a member of "Climb to Educate," a club under the guidance of Mr. Mwai, which focuses on environmental conservation. Mr. Mwai emphasized the importance of leaving places cleaner than we found them and encouraged us to always use pavements to prevent environmental degradation. The club also included physical activities like running laps and team-building exercises, culminating in a memorable expedition to climb Mount Kenya. The experience taught me valuable life lessons, such as the importance of pacing oneself and appreciating the journey rather than rushing to the destination.

At university, I met people from diverse backgrounds and learned a lot from them. I attempted to learn salsa, introduced by a friend, but discovered that dancing was not my forte. However, I am determined to try again after graduation. One of my proudest achievements at university was developing an app that predicts energy usage in small households using Java and Python. This project, supervised by Hellen Mwangi, taught me a lot about coding and problem-solving.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have been involved in tutoring a young boy named Ethan in our estate, helping him develop his passion for computers, particularly artificial intelligence. My involvement in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) during election periods provided insights into the electoral process and exposed me to diverse perspectives.

One of the highlights of my university experience was attending the Data Science Africa (DSA) Nyeri event, where I was inspired by projects on machine learning from across Africa. This event motivated me to continue developing my application, EcoInsight.

**CAREER GOALS**

My immediate goal is to grow my coding skills through platforms like Teach2Give, which offers full-stack web development courses. I believe that IT innovations can significantly contribute to the country's development and provide numerous career opportunities. One of my future projects involves developing a blockchain-based system to prevent election rigging, inspired by the 2007 election violence that left many devastated. I firmly believe that technology can solve many societal issues.

In the long term, I aspire to join public office while still young, aiming to drive meaningful change in the country. With current widespread protests against government corruption, I believe that sincere and dedicated leaders are needed to steer the country towards a better future. I plan to be one of those leaders.

**PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS**

I believe in the power of willpower to achieve one's goals and the importance of challenges in making life meaningful. Overcoming challenges fosters growth and resilience, essential traits for success.

**SHORT TERM GOALS**

1. Finishing school and graduating.
2. Sourcing for online jobs, particularly in academic writing.
3. Developing networks with people in my vicinity.

**EXPANDING ON CAREERS AND PURSUITS, TRAVELS, ACTIVITIES**

**Careers and Pursuits:** My career path has been shaped by a strong foundation in IT, which I pursued diligently through my studies at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. The development of my energy usage prediction app was a significant milestone, combining my knowledge of Java and Python to create a practical solution for households. This project not only honed my technical skills but also reinforced my belief in the transformative power of technology. My involvement in tutoring Ethan reflects my commitment to giving back to the community and nurturing the next generation of tech enthusiasts.

**Travels:** Traveling has always been an enlightening experience for me. The Mount Kenya expedition, organized by the "Climb to Educate" club, was a transformative journey that taught me patience, perseverance, and the importance of appreciating nature. Witnessing the majestic eagles and the breathtaking scenery from the summit was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that deepened my connection with the environment. This journey also reinforced my belief in the importance of environmental conservation, a cause I continue to support through various initiatives.

**Activities:** My participation in extracurricular activities has been diverse, ranging from gymnastics in primary school to salsa dancing at university. While I may have failed miserably at salsa, the experience taught me resilience and the importance of trying new things. The IEBC stint during election periods was another significant activity, providing me with a deep understanding of the electoral process and the importance of transparency and integrity in elections. These experiences have shaped my holistic view of personal and professional development, emphasizing the need for continuous learning and growth.

**FINAL THOUGHTS AND MESSAGES TO THE READERS**

As I reflect on my journey so far, I am reminded of the importance of perseverance, discipline, and the willingness to embrace new experiences. Each phase of my life, from primary school in Thika to university at Dedan Kimathi, has been a learning curve filled with challenges and triumphs. The key takeaways from my journey are the value of hard work, the importance of staying true to one's passions, and the need to remain open to new opportunities.

To my readers, I hope my story inspires you to pursue your dreams relentlessly, embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and remain committed to making a positive impact in your community. Whether it is through your career, personal interests, or social contributions, remember that every effort counts towards building a better future. Stay curious, stay resilient, and never stop learning.