For those who do not know you, how would you describe yourself? I am a Kenyan entrepreneur, a husband and a father. I started my own company when I was only 22 years old. I am also a chairman of Home Afrika, a real estate company that was recently listed in the Nairobi Securities Exchange. I am also the chairman of Dimensions Architect and Interior Decoration, a firm I co-founded when I was 30 years old. I am also a chairman of Resorts and Cities the mother board for Longonot Gate, founded three years ago.

What pushed you to start a business that early and how did you manage, given that you were studying Architectural Science?

It was not easy for me in campus. After my father passed on while I was still young, my family and I had to find ways to make ends meet. When I joined campus, I needed to do something or find a way to get money to support my mother educate my younger siblings. I came up with the idea of designing models to sell to architectural firms. I used to supply my models to Symbion Architects, which came up. Now we have landmarks such as Migaa Golf and Country Club, Kilimati, Lakeside and Morningside, among others.

You sound like you came from a humble background? Yes, I did. I was brought up in Kikuyu, at the University of Nairobi staff quarters where my father was a lecturer. However, when I had just turned 20, I lost my father and we had to move to a semi-permanent house. I was forced to take up the responsibility of assisting my mother. We are 11 in our family and so it was a Herculean task for my mom who had been widowed.

This experience taught me that life is a journey with a lot of challenges but in all this we must find our purpose.

You managed to join the prestigious Alliance Boys High School. How did the experience shape your ideals?

Alliance is one of the most respected schools in Kenya. The school leaders instilled in us values of being responsible and always being ready to serve. Successful people had also graduated from this institution and we had to ensure that we were not the team to lower the standards. In my sixth year, I was appointed the head boy where I lead more than 700 students.

What tips would you give young people who want to venture into the real estate market?

Before you invest in any project, do a background check. Who are the owners? What is their long term plan? Is the land in question cleared with all government bodies? Has the project received all government clearance? Also consider the location of the project.

With the devolved government, urban rural migration is slowly taking place. Try investing in land and projects in the counties.