

## Student Profile

Name: **Biemba Elijah Kayawe**

Gender: Male

Date of birth: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1994

Place of birth: Mufulira, Zambia

Mother's name: Juliet Lubumbe

Profession: Sells vegetables and chickens

Primary School: Mumana Basic School

Secondary School: **Chalo Trust Secondary School**

2010 Level: **Grade 10**



### Family Background:

Biemba's father left his mother when he was a young child. At the time, the family was living in the Copperbelt district. Biemba's mother has only one sibling, a sister who lives in Chamba Valley, outside of Lusaka. After her husband left her, Biemba's mother decided to move with her two sons to her sister's house in Chamba Valley.

Biemba's mother was not welcomed into her sister's house by her brother-in-law. Instead, the brother-in-law offered her a place to rent – a small, unfinished, primitive structure for which she pays K300,000 (approximately \$80) each month. Unfortunately, the structure was so infirm that it was collapsed, and she was forced to move into the house with her sister, brother-in-law, and their two children.

After her son leaves for school each morning, Biemba's mother cleans her sister's house and helps to feed their chickens. She then buys twenty chickens from her brother-in-law and walks for one hour to the market in Kaunda Square. She has her own customers, and she is usually able to sell all the chickens by evening. She also tends a vegetable garden, from which she is able to pluck vegetables every five days and sell them. Biemba's mother is trying to extend her vegetable garden so that she can increase her sales. She is barely able to pay her rent each month, but she has persevered and she is proud that her family has never gone hungry. She is a hard-working woman providing for her sons, hoping to provide her sons

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with a better future. She hopes in the future is to become independent of her sister and brother-in-law—to settle on her own plot of land, build a house, and have her own farm. While we spoke with her she said, “I am crying right now because I cannot manage. It is my elder sister, the one who took us from the Copperbelt, who takes care of me.” She says that she is so grateful for the help of the KF scholarship: “it has helped a lot. I’m a single parent. I do not have the resources to take them to a better school.” It has helped her to put food on the table and continue the education of her younger son.

Biemba’s mother says that Biemba is hard working and has never let her down. He often helps her in the garden and helps to feed the chickens. When he’s not working in the garden, Biemba is studying.

Biemba’s mother says that she will do anything to help her sons succeed in life. She will visit her son at his secondary school, even if the distance is great. She does not have enough money to take the bus, but she will walk to the school in order to support her son.

## Biemba’s Educational Background:

### **Primary – Mumana Basic School**

While attending his primary school, Biemba woke up everyday at 4:30 a.m. His mother helped him get ready, and fed him and his brother some porridge. At 5:30 a.m., Biemba and his brother would walk to school, taking one hour to arrive there and another hour arriving home. His favorite subjects at school were English, Social Studies and Science.

A very noteworthy thing to know about Biemba is that he and his brother chose to walk in order to save money for their mother and family.

### **Chalo Trust School**

#### *Grade 8*

Biemba was placed at Chalo Trust School as a member of the Kucetekela Foundation program. Following his enrollment, Biemba’s mother noticed an improvement in his work ethic. He made an effort to help other students with their studies.

He earned the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in his academic placement this term, moving him up from the 5<sup>th</sup> position he earned last term. He also earned the most improved student award.

Biemba’s Principal made this comment in his report:

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*Elijah is a brilliant and hardworking and respectful pupil who is always determined to excel in his academics. He has displayed a mature disposition in his conduct. Elijah's exam result is an excellent performance, a reflection of his dedication and commitment to excellence. I encourage him to explore the best of his intellectual capacity and excel beyond this result. It is possible!*

According to Biemba, the teachers at Chalo trust school are great! The best part of the school however, is the entertainment. He works hard, but still makes time for fun and games. What else would we expect from a fourteen year old? Along with being given the opportunity to improve his education, Biemba is also being exposed to an environment that allows him to adapt to this ever progressing world. This young man is progressing steadily towards his goal of becoming a doctor.

## *Grade 9*

Biemba maintained his brilliant academic focus this year — attaining first position in mathematics, second in civics, and third in science. In the first term he was voted most improved student by his teachers and in the second term he achieved the top marks in information and computing technology. He finished off the year in the second position in his class! He says this year he has matured and learned new study skills. He loves that there are always activities going on at Chalo, whether it be the dance competitions, movies, or board games. He has become much more social as a result, interacting with a greater number of people from all different backgrounds.

## Interests and Hobbies

Before enrolling in the KF program, Biemba enjoyed reading, playing football and listening to gospel music.

Now as a student at Chalo Trust School, Biemba is part of the Chess Club because he believes it improves his thinking. In the club he is among the best, placing within the top three consistently. He has also joined the JETS club, a club which hones students' skills in math and science. He enjoys working with his classmates on science projects and how he can connect what he learns in the classroom to practical applications. He recently participated in an experiment to make a magnet.

Biemba plays on the schools football and basketball teams. The football team had a great year—making it to the quarterfinals in a recent Independent School Association of Zambia (ISAZ) tournament. When not on the field, he is running cross-country and track. His events include the long jump and 800 meter. In these events, he usually places third, but says, “This year or next year I want to be coming out first.” When he isn't studying, playing chess, soccer or basketball, he enjoys reading comic books.

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## Career Interests:

While originally Biemba aspired to become a doctor, he now Biemba hopes to become an economist because he is interested in how an economy grows and hopes to help Zambia on its path to development. “I like things that make people work hard to achieve something.” He says his goal when he finished school is to help his family and relieve the burden on his mother.

## Biemba’s Role Model:

Biemba looks up to Ben Carson, an American neurosurgeon who was the first black doctor to separate Siamese twins. “He inspires me because he was a less intelligent person in his class, but he improved greatly and was on top. He is hard working and one of his books says you have to think big.”

## Biemba’s Thoughts

“Being a member of KF is a great thing. We are able to go to different places like Pamodzi hotel and Dream Valley. I also enjoy the way the teachers teach at Chalo Trust School. They treat everyone as if they are their own children. I also like the programs they offer here like the entertainment and the IT lab. We are allowed to go to the IT lab and surf the internet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. May the good Lord bless you KF and may you continue supporting children.

I have learnt a lot being a student of KF. I have learnt to be helpful and proud of who I am. I have learnt that you cannot achieve something without hard work. My favourite event was when we went to Palmwood [Lodge] with our mentors. It was exciting and fun. Why was it my favorite event? Well, it was my favourite event because all the KF members had to come together as one, and it showed unity among KF members.”