

Student Profile

Name: **Biemba Elijah Kayawe**

Gender: Male

Date of birth: 4th 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 School**

2012 Level: **Grade 12**



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. However, 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. 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 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 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. She says that she is so grateful for the help of

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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.

Biemba’s Educational Background:

Primary - Mumana Basic School

While attending his primary school, Biemba woke up every day at 4:30 a.m so that he and his brother could walk to school (thus saving money for his mom). His hard work was one of many things that earned him a spot as a KF student.

Chalo Trust School

Grade 8

Grade 8 Achievements

- Most improved student
- 1st position in IT
- 3rd in cross country

Grade 9

Biemba maintained his brilliant academic focus during grade 9—attaining first position in mathematics, second in civics, and third in science. He said at the time that he had matured and learned new study skills. Biemba also began to involve himself in more extracurricular activities at school, helping him to improve his social skills.

Grade 9 Achievements

- Most improved student during term one
- 2nd position in the grade 9 class at the end of the year

Grade 10

Elijah has continued to thrive at Chalo during grade ten. At the end of term one he finished at second position, while second term saw him drop only slightly to number three. He is performing well in all subjects, particularly in math, science, and development studies. Biemba also had the opportunity to participate in the Model

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United Nations this past year, an experience that he thoroughly enjoyed. He spent a week of the August break doing a work experience program at Grandad Digital Printing, where he learned about the advertising and design industries. He even had the opportunity to design his own advertisements! While his term three grades have dropped, Elijah is determined to raise his performance in grade 11.

Grade 11

At the beginning of Grade 11, Biemba struggled a bit, but he still managed to achieve high marks. 1 A+, 3 A's and 2 B's brought him to 5th position in his class. This encouraged him to try that much harder in Term 2, and he succeeded in bouncing back. With 3 A+'s, 3 A's and 3 B's, he was back in 2nd position, reminding everyone of his motivation and focus, and earning him high praise from his teachers. "He is brilliant," one teacher said, "let him continue working hard."

Interests and Hobbies

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. Biemba plays on the schools football and basketball teams. When not on the field, he is running cross-country and track. He recently came out 1st in the 800 meter race and 2nd in the 400 meter race.

Biemba and several other KF students have been working on a service project entitled African Students Against Plastic (ASAP). The aim of the project is to spread awareness about environmental issues, especially climate change. This project has successfully surveyed Zambians about their plastic awareness, and has recently begun work on products made from recyclable materials and a book intended to spread awareness about environmental concerns.

Career Interests:

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. 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."

What others think of him:

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The principal of Chalo Trust has said that “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. I encourage him to explore the best of his intellectual capacity and excel beyond this result. It is possible!”

Biemba's Thoughts:

“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. “