

# KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

## Student Profile

Name: **Matrina Mutale Mbulo**

Gender: Female

Date of birth: 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1998

Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Guardian: Gideon Phiri

Profession: Retired

Primary School: Mumana Basic School

Secondary School: **Pestalozzi Education Centre**

2012 Grade Level: **Grade 9**



## Family Background

Matrina has lived with her aunt and uncle in Kaunda Square since she was two years old. Her parents live out past McKinney in Chilama and are very poor. Her father is a garden boy and her mother stays home to look after her two siblings. Her Uncle Gideon took her in because her parents were having trouble providing for her. Gideon is 63 years old and is a retired driver for the Intercontinental hotel. In order to provide for his family, he does side jobs (driving and mechanic work) and rents out part of his home. He brings in about 1.4 million kwacha a month (\$300), which is supposed to support 12 children and relatives (5 of which are orphans). Though the family is lucky enough to live in a house that was purchased when Gideon was working, they are currently struggling to get by, especially since Gideon is growing older. He expressed real concern that if he could not find a way to pay for Matrina's schooling, a girl he describes as "very committed, with a lot of potential," he might have to send her back to live her parents who could marry her off. The highest level of education that anyone in the family has reached is grade 12.

## Matrina's Educational Background

### **Primary - Mumana Basic School**

Matrina studies at Mumana Basic School, where she has been ranked either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> for most of her school career. She loves her teachers, telling us that they "teach well and are well experienced" in their subjects. According to her, she is "one of the hardest working in the class." Matrina's teacher's agree: "She is cooperative, hardworking, and keeps herself busy studying every moment she is free," they say. Her favorite subjects are math, science, and English, and she told us that she loves to ask questions because she "always wants to

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learn more.” She has also been a captain in class, which means she helps the teacher monitor her fellow students.

## **At Chalo Trust School**

### *Grade 8*

Matrina has started her secondary education off on the right foot. She immediately impressed her teachers by earning 9 A’s in Term 1 and achieving the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in her class. In Term 2 she earned yet another 9 A’s, along with 2 B’s, and maintained her position of 3<sup>rd</sup> in her class. One teacher observed, “Matrina’s performance this term has been excellent. With a little extra work she could top the class.” She hopes her hard work in Term 3 will prove this teacher right.

### Matrina’s Interests

Matrina is a member of Girl Guides, a club at school that meets to discuss how one is supposed to live as a girl. She is also part of a cultural club whose mission is to “learn about our forefathers before independence.” At her church, the Reformed Church of Zambia, Matrina is a member of Girls Brigade, whose “aim is to help girls become followers of the church through self-control and self-discipline.” She also sings in the choir.

### Matrina’s Role Model

Matrina admires lawyers because they fight against corruption and are the ones who improve the country. “They help people not be involved in crimes,” she says.

### Career Interests

Matrina is interested in becoming a lawyer someday because she wants to help fight corruption, which is “bringing Zambia down.” She admires lawyers because “they fight against corruption and are the ones improving the country.” She also expressed sophisticated views on the problems she sees in her communities, claiming that as a lawyer she would fight against crime and encourage the government to improve the waste management, sanitation, and water systems in her neighborhood.

### What Others Think of Matrina

Matrina’s teachers described her as a very hardworking and determined student who is often a leader in class and in activities. Her grandfather says that: “she is very committed, a very good girl, and has a lot of potential. She will not disappoint. Her results are excellent

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and wants to do everything correct. She cares for the younger ones in her family. She is the “right girl.”

## Matrina’s Thoughts

“I try my best to separate myself from group influence. I am very intelligent and I believe that I will become somebody when I grow. I will not disappoint my family and I want to help them. I have the courage that I will become someone people admire.”