



## Burundian Refugee Emerges Top Scorer in National Secondary Exams

**Nairobi**



# Burundian refugee emerges top scorer in National Secondary Exams



## ***Inset: Majambere Eleiezer at his former school, Somali Bantu Secondary School***

Thousands of refugee students in Kenya took part in the nationwide Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Exams that started on 11th March, ending on 1st April 2022.

Among them was Majambere, a 22 year old Burundian Refugee from Somali Bantu Secondary School (SBSS), one of the 9 Secondary Schools in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement managed by Windle International Kenya (WIK).

He emerged the top WIK student in the 2021 KCSE exams with an impressive score of A-(Minus).

Majambere is still coming to terms with the news as his parents, teachers and fellow students continue to celebrate his sterling performance.

***"I am extremely overjoyed that it paid off finally. It has been quite a journey."***

The second born in a family of 5 says that life in the camp has never been easy.

***"We fled Burundi, my home country, arriving in Kakuma Refugee Camp in 2015. It was hard rebuilding our lives from scratch but were determined to pick up the pieces."***

He gives credit to his parents for their incredible support and encouragement as he embarked on his education.

Majambere's father, Mr. Mugayo, reckons ***“When he enrolled in the camp schools, we could see the determination that he had to get an education. We had so much hope in him was therefore important to support and encourage him all through.”***

Expressing his happiness about the achievement of his student, Boniface Mwenda, the school principal adds, “Majambere was undoubtedly going to be a star. He is very God fearing, hardworking, self-driven, competitive, an active and good listener. He respects his teachers and fellow schoolmates. He has made us proud and has set the pace for other students,”

Life as a refugee student has its own fair share of challenges.

“I was enrolled in class 7 when we settled in Kakuma Refugee Camp. I had to quickly adapt to the new curriculum including learning Kiswahili and English Languages. I was encouraged when I scored 291 marks in my KCPE exams. When I joined SBSS, I knew my problems were far from over as my parents are jobless and could therefore not afford to buy learning materials. I first used a calculator in Form 4. We did not have electricity and many times I relied on a solar lamp at night to revise and do my assignments. Resources in schools are also limited and stretched.”

WIK Education Officer, George Nandi, says, “With the right school environment and adequate resources, refugee learners can perform very well. There are gaps such as insufficient teaching and learning materials, low teacher-learner ratios, and overcrowded classrooms among others.”

Majambere says that he wants to pursue medicine at the University. “I dream of one day becoming a great doctor and helping people access quality medical care.”

Secondary school is a critical step in the education continuum to livelihoods, professional training and higher education options for young people, contributing to durable solutions.

George Nandi says, “Education is the only take away for refugees. Learners are equipped with skills that lead to employability and livelihoods upon return to their mother countries.”

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No.10 Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road, Lavington  
P.O. Box 40521-00100 Nairobi  
Mobile +254 721 551 451, Email: [windle@windle.org](mailto:windle@windle.org)  
Website: [www.windle.org](http://www.windle.org)