

My name is Ignatius Juma Omondi, a Kenyan born citizen aged 22 years old having been born in 1991, in Western Kenya, Busia County in Butula District. I am the third born in the family of five.

My father died back in 2006 when I was still in class six and since then life has not been that easy for me and my entire family. My mother has since then struggled to make the ends meet but since she is jobless, it has not been that easy for her.

In 2006 when my father died I was still in class six but with all the challenges that I faced I never gave up in life, I soldiered on and managed to sit for my K.C.P.E exams and scored 345 marks in 2008. During the selection of students to join secondary, I was selected to join two provincial schools, that is Mundira secondary school and AC Butonge secondary school. I was not able to join any of these secondary schools that I was to join due to fee problems.

I stayed home almost the whole of 1st term in 2009 when I was required to join high school due to lack of school fees. My mum did all she can to see I join high school and she looked for a chance in a local day secondary school that was some miles away from home and I managed to join it. It was called Byumba Secondary school. I learned in Byumba for 1st term and 2nd term only because I was not able to pay for my school fee in third term. I only went back to do the end year exam in the third term.

The following year in 2010, I was again forced to search for another school as I could not have gone back to Byumba due to huge fee arrears which my mum could not have afforded to clear. My mum managed again to secure a chance in another local day school called Bumala AC Day Secondary school, I joined Bumala AC secondary school and still all was not well, I was always on the road going back for school fees. I survived that way completed form two and went to form three. In form three I only learned in 1st term, 2nd term, 3rd term again I spent almost the whole of it at home as the fee had again accumulated to a level that the school management could not have tolerated.



The following year in 2012 when I was to join form Four I again had to look for another school so that I can register for the KCSE exams. I never just wanted to drop out and leave everything from there. I myself made an effort, I went to another local day secondary school that had just started and which was yet to register it's 1<sup>st</sup> candidates to sit for the National exam that year. I pleaded with the principal of that secondary school which was called Buriya Secondary School and she accepted to register me as a candidate in her school together with her other 24 students. Since the school was new, and lacked a lot of facilities and skilled teaching staff and frequent missing of classes due to fee problem I was not able to perform well in sciences subjects which requires a lot of guidance from teachers. I made efforts in that KCSE exam and managed to score a C plain.

In 2013 after completing form four I started doing Jue Kulis in our local market working in a small King'zi as a so as to sustain myself and also assist my mother. I worked in the King'zi for the entire year and I managed to save 13,000 Kenya shillings as I had a dream of joining college this year 2014. In January this year I told my mum I want to look for a chance in a college so that I can go and study Project Management as I had a dream of one day becoming a project manager and I wanted to work towards my dream. I went to Kisumu Polytechnic I asked for the chance and I was given. I came back and presented the admission letter that I was given she acted on it did all she can and raised the rest of the fee that was required. I joined but my fee problem still continued this forced me to start an online search for a sponsor in Facebook, I approached one Mr Nelson Mwiruki and he supported me so much this term.

I feel I should be given this chance because I have a vision of being an important person in future. I need to have the knowledge and power to assist children in future who are just like me.