

## **A letter from Melini Aleke regarding her current situation:**

This is Melini Aleke. I am 15 years old.

I come from Gibison Village T/A Mabuka in the district of Mulanje.

I am an orphan but living with granny. We are 4 children in the family and I am the third to be born. I am the only daughter in the family.

Both my father and mother passed away. It has been 9 years since my father left us for good.

Just in the same year after the death of our father, our mum went mad. I was very young by then and people are telling us that the madness problem came because our mum was concerned so much with the death of our father.

Our mum suffered for a long time. She passed away 3 years ago. Our grandmother has been struggling to take care of us.

I am in form 1 and always have big challenges of school fees and school materials like stationary, uniform and shoes. I really want help and if possible support me so that I can be educated and be responsible.

I am very interested in playing netball, visiting new places.

I like reading and like all subjects which we are learning at school.

When I finish secondary school, I would like to go to college and study nursing.

I would like to be a nurse. I always admire the nursing always wearing white dresses. I would also like to be helping sick people. Giving them hope.

I am always dreaming to be a reliable person in our community. I always wish to be some one who can support others when I start earning.

At home I can cook for the family, washing clothes of myself and granny even my brothers too.

We do go for swimming when it is warm sometimes. We have a big river called Likhubula which is a source of good water.

I am wishing you all the best.

Bye for now.

Melini.