

Mazulu Samapande Represents RN in the annual inclusive festival in Lusaka

Most rural parts of Zambia lack sports activities and those that have are not inclusive. Response Network has come on board with an aim of helping out communities to realize their potential to use self-help approach in alleviating poverty through Sports and life skill.

The objective of the sports program is to create and enhance awareness and networking, through sports for development among rural communities of Kazungula and Zimba districts of Zambia on gender, gender based violence and inclusive sports through village sensitizations by 2022. With the intervention of Response Network, many people in various villages have been exposed to a lot of things and places. Below is a story of 16 years old Mazulu Samapande, with a physical disability from Mambova village 17km away from Kazungula boarder Southern part of Zambia. Mazulu attended the annual inclusive festival that was held in Lusaka, Zambia.



Mazulu said “I have always looked at my disability and I thought I cannot do what other able bodied children can do however, one time when Response Network sports staff came to my school and asked the head teacher that they wanted pupils to come and attend their trainings including those leaving with disabilities, I was selected to be part of the training.”

“When it came to practical I told them that I could not run and I suggested that if I could just watch my friends run, but the trainer refused telling me that I was one of the pupils who were going to run. I didn’t want to disappoint him and I did as he requested and as we started I felt I could even run faster, I was very happy at the end of the day. After one month they called and informed me that I was going to represent Response Network in Lusaka, this news

was very exciting and I was really very happy” Said Mazulu with a smile.

Further on during the event, Mazulu was interviewed by some media houses on how she feels being one of the participants “I have never seen Livingstone

and Lusaka before and I was amazed to see the things that I have only been reading from books, it was exciting to see the Kafue river, the Munali Hills and the Heroes Stadium in Lusaka. A lot of pupils living with different forms of disability were in attendance. We interacted and shared different experiences over our disabilities and also how they were doing in the sports fields, this increased my enthusiasm in sport. The event in my own expression has given me back my life that I had lost 6 years back this was as a result of different activities that I engaged myself in during the festival. I now know that my disability is not in ability and I have realized that I can always be a useful member of the community and I can positively contribute into sports. This has been an amazing adventure of my life and I thank Response Network for bringing back my life.”



Mazulu Samapande at Heroes Stadium, Lusaka.