

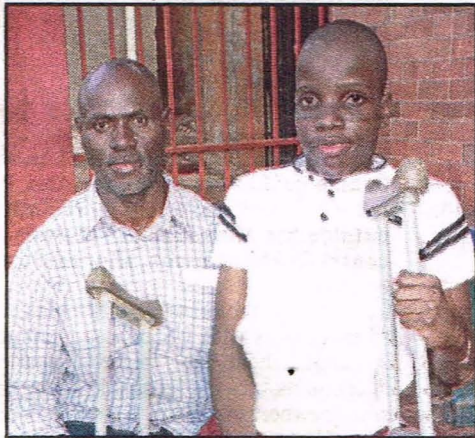
Candidate with spina bifida celebrates PLE victory

By Nelson Kiva
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Despite being born with spina bifida, Gerald Nyanzi Junior is among the candidates celebrating success in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

Nyanzi scored aggregate 12, placing him in Division One, and was among the 91,990 candidates nationwide who attained the top grade. For Nyanzi, the journey to academic success has been anything but easy.

Due to his condition, he is unable to walk without support



Gerald Nyanzi Junior of Munyonyo Parents School, who got aggregate 12, with his father Gerald Nyanzi

and often crawls. To attend school comfortably, he wears diapers because the lower part of his body

does not function properly.

He has studied at Munyonyo Parents School since Primary

Two, with his father escorting him to school as early as 5:00am each day.

Nyanzi praised his classmates and teachers for the support they have given him, including helping him change clothes and, at times, taking him home when necessary.

"I sat on a special chair during the examinations, which made it easier for me to write. That support helped me perform well," Nyanzi said.

Now, he is eagerly looking forward to joining secondary school.

Nyanzi's father, Gerald Nyanzi, said

he was overwhelmed with joy at his son's performance, describing it as a triumph of resilience and determination.

"Despite his disability, my son has passed well," he said.

According to the Uganda National Examinations Board, the number of candidates with special needs who registered to sit for the 2025 PLE rose to 3,636, up from 3,328 in 2024.

UNEB executive director Dan Odongo attributed the increase to growing awareness created by schools and the Ministry of Education and Sports.