

Swimming: Masakha plots for Olympics stardom

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Joshua Masakha of Aga Khan Academy after a swimming competition.

Every time the young and sensational swimmer Joshua Masakha dives in for a swimming competition, he's mind is always set on making headlines.

He hardly disappoints. His prowess in the pool is unmatched. As he emerges from the bluish waters, new times are recorded.

At the age of 12 years, Masakha has set six national records and is looking forward to being one of the country's most celebrated swimmers.

"For one to be an Olympian, a lot of dedication is required. All dreams are possible, just that we need to work harder to achieve them," said Masakha.

Despite the current situation due to the covid-19 pandemic, which makes it difficult for him to train, the swimmer says dry land practices build a lot of mental and physical strength.

Born on November 26, 2007 in Mombasa, Masakha is a pupil at the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa and started swimming when he was three, under coach Elizabeth Muli.

Joshua said coach Muli would always tell him that he will be a great swimmer.

"As I advanced, I did not take swimming seriously until when coach Solomon Kingori encouraged me to join the school's swimming team. Once I did, I have never looked back."

Last year was one of his best in his swimming career. He broke six national records.

"I broke the 50m freestyle record in 10-11 years at the National Trials in Kasarani in April and in November, I broke 50m free style short course and 100m free style short course 10-11 years records," said Masakha.

"I have three individual national records and three relay records."

"I just want to thank all the coaches who have handled me since I started swimming, especially Abdul Malik, who keeps motivating and inspiring me," said Masakha, whose favourite food is chicken biriani.

"My cherished dream is to represent Kenya in the Olympics."

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