

FIDE, the world's Chess Governing body has confirmed the award of a FIDE Master (FM) title to Uganda's teenage sensation Elijah Emojong following his splendid display in the Zone 4.2 Chess Championship that was held in Khartoum from 19th - 29th May 2011.

Irina Bebikova, a senior official of the Elista FIDE office confirmed the award of FM title to Emojong in a communication to the Uganda Chess Federation sent on Monday 12th September 2011.

Emojong registered a 55% score in the zonal event and went on to perform equally well in the Africa Individual Chess Championship held in Maputo Mozambique from 3rd to 14th June 2011. For his efforts, he has been rewarded with a prestigious FM title and an international rating of 2156, there by becoming the fifth highest active Ugandan chess player.

He also becomes the third FIDE Master in Uganda in addition to UK based brothers Stephen Kawuma and Moses Kawuma. The other two titled Ugandan chess players are Candidate Masters (CMs) Bob Bibasa and Patrick Kawuma who secured this title following good performances at the 2010 World Chess Olympiad held in Khanty Mansisyk, Russia.

FIDE's latest rating list also has two other new Ugandan faces Arthur Ssegwanyi with a rating of 2116 and Ivy Clare Amoko (the only female rated player in the country) with a rating of 1750. Amoko secured her rating after excelling on Uganda's board one at the 2010 Olympiad in Russia.

FIDE's current rating list has 10 active Ugandan players led by Grace Nsubuga with a rating of 2206 followed by FM Stephen Kawuma with 2196. If you add the inactive rated players (including retired or those who have not participated in an international event lately) the number of rated Ugandans is 25.