

Meet Rosemary Mbao



Rosemary Mbao

Profile	
Name	Rosemary Mbao
Birthday	May 7, 2004
Birth Place	Lusaka, Zambia
Area of Residence	George Compound
Father's Name	Samson Mbao
Father's Profession	Mechanic
Mother's Name	Susan Mbao
Mother's Profession	Tobacco plant worker
Primary School	Lilanda Primary School
Secondary School	Pestalozzi Education Centre
2020 Grade Level	Grade 11

Rosemary's Family

Rosemary's family of eight lives in a rented home in George Compound. Two of her older siblings should be in secondary school but are not currently enrolled. Her father works as a mechanic and her mother plants tobacco.

Rosemary's Educational Background

For primary school, Rosemary attended Lilanda Primary School. Her favorite subjects are science and mathematics. She has been class monitoress and regularly comes in number one and two in class.

Grade 8

Since arriving at Pestalozzi, Rosemary has continued with her academic excellence, passing in Term I with 489 out of 600 points and Term II with 456 points. In Term III she really excelled, surpassing her previous scores by earning 529 out of 600 points. Her favorite subjects in Grade 8 have been Religious Education and Geography, because in their own ways, each subject helps to illuminate more about the world around her. She relished the

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

challenges presented to her in history class this year, as she has already encountered the fact that what we think to be true about history depends heavily on the perspective that we tell stories from.

Grade 9

Rosemary kept on improving her results in Grade 9. In Term I, she scored 508.75, and in Term II she scored 526 out of 600 points. One of her favorite subjects this year was, again, Religious Education because she feels that it helps her discover new talents and explore new friendships. She also loved Civic Education this year because they learned all about human rights and she enjoys subjects that address how not to violate people's human rights. Her teachers said that she was one of the best Grade 9 students this year. They commented on how she not only strives to be the best, but that she is also always ready to lend a helping hand to her peers and assist them in their studies.

Grade 10

During Term I, Rosemary scored 515 out of 600 points on her final exams, receiving distinctions in every subject. The Principal commented that she is a very productive member of class. In Term II, Rosemary continued to excel with earning 524.5 out of 600 points. Her teachers comment that she is outstanding, self-motivated and impressive. Though high achieving, she has been asked to seek improvement in certain areas of physics. She continues to see her highest results in English and Religious Education. During Term II results collection, Rosemary's teacher of Commerce did remark on her ability to ask sharp questions in class that consistently keep him on his toes.

Rosemary's Extracurricular Interests

Outside of school, Rosemary enjoys playing football and taking part in drama at church. She says that playing sports helps to "keep ourselves busy." At Pestalozzi, she is an active member of the Debate Club. Her favorite debate to take part in this past year addressed the question: "Should parents choose their children's careers?" She also took part in the debate: "Should phones be allowed in school?" and her team won that debate and she even took home the award "Best Speaker". Her experiences in these debates led her to take part in PECMUN (Pestalozzi Education Centre Model United Nations) and ZAMUN (Zambia Model United Nations). She was nervous at first, to meet new people and debate with and against them, but she ended up having a lot of fun and pushed herself to talk a lot. At ZAMUN she got a certificate, and at PECMUN she won the award "Most Likely Delegate to Cause a War", which she felt very proud of for achieving.

In Grade 9, Rosemary participated in a dance that the students organized for the Independence Day celebration. She commented that she did not feel shy in performing, and she was actually very excited and had a great time being on stage. This experience, as well as her experience in drama at her church, led Rosemary to join the Drama Club. Now in Grade 10, she has started writing and producing plays that she hopes to put on for the school this upcoming year.

In Grade 10, Rosemary was accepted to attend the Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) program, where she learned from and collaborated with young leaders from across the

KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

continent. She credits YYAS for her improved communication skills. In Grade 10, she also participated in a debate competition, where she was given the title, “Best Debater.”

In the past year, she has also developed a newfound interest in reading and doing poetry and continued to choreograph school dance performances.

Honors, Awards, Certificates:

- Grade 10 Class Monitress
- Yale Young African Scholars Completion Certificate

Rosemary’s KF Involvement

Rosemary has become increasingly focused on a number of community service initiatives, including working at an orphanage, Hope International Centre. She also has become very interested in women’s empowerment after attending YYAS and came up with an idea to start coordinating young women to organize a waste management project in her community.

In December 2019, Rosemary completed her work experience placement at HOT FM, one of Zambia’s most popular radio stations. Rosemary worked under one of Zambia’s radio celebrities, Ketura, for her two-week tenure at HOT FM. She learned how to conduct meaningful interviews, helped co-host a radio show and feels the experience affirmed her interest in journalism and storytelling as a career pathway.

Rosemary’s Thoughts

Rosemary used to want to be a teacher when she grew up because she wanted to help children from backgrounds like hers. While she does believe that education is key to the development of her country, her interests have expanded and she now wants to work with the government and traditional leaders to end early marriage and support the girl child. Rosemary is very passionate about human rights and ensuring that every person, especially children, know their rights and become empowered to advocate for themselves.

Because not everyone in society has the ability to advocate for themselves, Rosemary was now considering a career in either journalism or law. Over the course of Grade 10, her interest in journalism grew. However, she also recognized she is talented in accounts so is also considering a career as an auditor.