



The Rise Applications -

By Abraham Tembo

In 2019, Schmidt Futures co-founders Eric and Wendy Schmidt made a USD 1 billion philanthropic commitment to identify and support global talent. Therefore, Rise is an initiative of the Schmidt Futures, and the Rhodes Trust is the anchor program of that commitment.

Rise is an online mobile application that is accessible to students who are aged between 15 to 17. It consists of four stages upon which 500 finalists are selected for an opportunity that lasts a lifetime.

The benefits of being picked for this scholarship are estimated to exceed USD 500,000 for each student. The benefits include Education Support, participation in the Residential Summit, inclusion in the Global Winners Network, Mentorship and Career Services and Funding Opportunities.

The Rise application was quite an experience. It marked the first international application I was eligible to apply for and therefore, I was a little bit nervous.

The application was divided into four stages and each stage was to be video recorded. As students we picked areas or challenges in our society that we are passionate about and move us the most. We then proceeded to carry out research to ascertain how our immediate communities felt about the problems we had identified and were then tasked to propose solutions to those challenges.

As a first-time applicant, I was afraid to apply because I did not know how to make my work perfect. I was afraid of making a mistake and looking incompetent before the recipients of my application. However, I must state that I am so happy to have successfully concluded the application and being among the very first Zambian applicants.