



UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE – WINDHOEK

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Namibian learners simulate diplomats

At 5th annual Model United Nations Namibia (MUNNAM) 2016 Conference.

Windhoek, 08 June 2016: Today, United Nations Information Centre Windhoek (UNIC) in partnership with MTN Business Namibia will host its annual Model United Nations Namibia (MUNNAM) High School Conference.

In line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals this year's Model United Nations Namibia (MUNNAM) High School Conference topic focuses on "Women Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development" and "Ensuring Universal Access to Water." Seventy delegates will take part in a Model UN General Assembly, which will take place 8-9 June 2016 at the Safari Court Conference Centre. The two day experience will expose learners from the Khomas, Erongo and Otjikoto Regions to the diplomatic manner in which real life diplomats conduct themselves at similar international conferences during consensus building, problem solving, negotiating and conflict resolution.

MUNNAM is supported by the Ministry of Education and has been sponsored by MTN Business Namibia since its inception in 2012. UNIC Windhoek's National Information Officer, Anthea Basson, notes, "This is the 5th year that UNIC Windhoek is hosting a Model UN conference for High School students, in partnership with MTN Business Namibia".

Basson continues, "The 5th Annual Conference poses a real challenge as two topics will be deliberated upon in the short span of two days, requiring the delegates to debate and draft resolutions more efficiently."

Mr. Keith Handura, MTN Business Namibia's Financial Manager, explains, "The Model UN program has grown from strength to strength, year on year, and recognized the immense educational and life skill value the program continues to offer participants. Our support of the Model UN programme stems from MTN Business' *21 Days of Y'ello Care*, an annual employee volunteerism initiative, where we endeavor to make a visible and sustained contribution to the societies in which we operate, make a meaningful contribution to improving education and highlight our commitment to corporate social investment. Throughout the years our staff have actively been involved and thus actively contribute to community development and are inspired to 'give back.'"

The Model UN programme, an international programme, was launched by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Namibia during 2012. The conference has become an annual event that high school learners have looked forward to for the past 5 years. UNIC Windhoek hosts, actively trains and supports schools in offering Model UN as an extracurricular activity.



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Secondary school students will have the opportunity to showcase their inner diplomat by tackling the given topic in committee simulations through cooperation in a safe and structured environment, while learning the in's and out's of how a United Nations Conference is conducted and how to conduct oneself at such an event. Such an event gives the student the chance to better understand the international system and the search for consensus on global issues of concern, while creating an international platform for the Namibian student to gain knowledge of other countries and the relationships between them.

This year's two topics are an integral component of the recently launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The focus is particularly on 'Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' and 'Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' which reflect UN treaties and conventions on women's rights.

The MUNNAM 2016 'delegates' will be tasked with finding innovative, realistic and progressive solutions for one of the problems that world leaders are faced with today; ensuring that women's rights are upheld and protected, and will have to go further by connecting this ideology with sustainable development. Delegates will then have to research universal access to water, a pressing issue that is especially relevant in Namibia.

Model United Nations conferences are held worldwide and are an educational vehicle for the youth, committed in providing engaged learning opportunities and to have a proud tradition of debate, ideas and innovation. Namibian schools reaped the rewards that this program for the past four years and have welcomed the experience the conferences offer to the learners.

While simulating the roles of international delegates, the students also gain leadership skills as well as research ability, writing, public speaking and problem solving skills through hands-on experiences. This program is one of the most effective methods of promoting youth empowerment and leadership.

At the end of the two day conference the best delegates will be honored at an award ceremony. This provides an incentive for learners to perform to the very best of their abilities during the duration of the conference.

Ends.

Issued by:

Welda Mouton

United Nations Information Centre Windhoek

Telephone: (+264 61) 2046346 or

Email: welda.mouton@unic.org.

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