

Learners encouraged to follow their #ProsperousPaths

Okahandja, 24 September: The UN System in Namibia (UN Namibia) discussed issues of the girl-child and gender inequality with over 200 learners at Okahandja Secondary School through the *Prosperous Paths: Empowering the Namibian Girl-Child* programme.

As part of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN is working towards achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, in line with SDG Goal 5. Through a variety of programmes, including *Prosperous Paths*, UN Namibia aims to motivate and inspire the youth to follow their dreams. UN Namibia also works to empower and educate the youth so that they can be employable tomorrow.



After successfully engaging with over 5,000 girls in Windhoek in 2016, UN Namibia has begun to roll out *Prosperous Paths* in Namibia's regions, starting with Okahandja in the Otjozondjupa region. Urging the female learners to use their unique talents and voices to bring about change, the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Kiki Gbeho, encouraged the learners to, "Take space, be prepared and dare to be different".

Taking space at the event, the learners voiced solutions for issues impacting their communities, including gender inequality, poverty and sexual violence. Highlighting the importance of education, one learner said that women and vulnerable groups should be empowered through various educational campaigns.

Another learner emphasised that sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education needs to start at home, with open conversations between parents and their children. Likewise, a learner mentioned that the conversation of sexual violence and gender inequality also needs to happen with boys from an early age. ***SDG 5 'Gender Equality'***