

## Learners shine at 6th annual MUNNAM High School Conference



Seventy-five learners from across Namibia represented various countries as delegates throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Model United Nations Namibia (MUNNAM) High School Conference, held from 7-8 June 2017.

Through experiencing real-life, problem solving approaches as applied at international conferences, the delegates were tasked with finding agreeable solutions to the two topics, ***“Harnessing the***

***Green Economy to Eradicate Poverty”*** and ***“Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Responses to Natural Disasters and other Emergencies.”***

Both topics were relevant to Namibia, especially with the repercussions of climate change and high levels of poverty. The topics also related to national, regional and international development goals, including the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In her keynote address at the opening ceremony of the conference, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Sanet Steenkamp commended the MUNNAM programme.

“The skills you gain through the Model UN experience will heighten your global awareness. Therefore, I am excited to see every Namibian child present here today, emerge as global citizens by becoming well versed not only in local issues facing young people today but also global challenges,” she said.

After two days of impressive deliberation and teamwork, the conference ended with an award ceremony sponsored by MUNNAM’s long standing sponsor, MTN Business Namibia. The ICT Company gave out NAD 9,000 to the top performing delegates and schools represented at the conference.

The Model UN programme, an international programme, was launched by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Windhoek in Namibia during 2012. To date, over 500 students have been actively engaged through the programme which has contributed to honing their leadership, writing, public speaking and problem-solving skills through hands-on experiences.