

UNAIDS participates in *Adventure Into Citizenship Programme*

“Serving Humanity” #BeFree

The UNAIDS Country Representative to Namibia, Dr. Tharcisse Barihuta attended the Rotary Club Windhoek’s *Adventure Into Citizenship* programme on 15 June along with learners from several secondary schools around Windhoek.



After learning about the cycle of HIV transmission through Dr. Barihuta’s

Youth as Agents of Change in Health System presentation, students volunteered to be ambassadors of the #BeFree campaign for their respective schools.

The scholars then discussed family dynamics and its impact on preventing HIV transmission, coming to the conclusion that support systems at home help build children’s self-esteem and sense of self-worth. Likewise, open-minded parents that listen to their children and consider their feelings before making decisions also foster open relationships in which conversations about sexual health can occur. As for the father figure, the learners indicated that they think fathers should be supportive, interactive and show affection towards their children. Dr. Barihuta’s final message to the youth was for them to stay away from being blessee and blessers.

Dr. Barihuta’s comments were echoed by other inspirational guest speakers from various sectors, including Prof. Pio Lumanga from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), a female pilot Ulrike Bekker and Namibia’s Chef of the Year 2016 Jo-Andre Pretorius.