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### **NATIONAL SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD OCEAN DAY**

11 June 2022, Swakopmund | The Benguela Current Convention (BCC) together with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), and the Namibia School Debate Association (NSDA) organized a national school debate championships in celebration of the 2022 World Ocean Day at The Dome in Swakopmund, Namibia. The debate challenge saw learners from all over Namibia debate on relevant topics about Namibia's maritime resources and associated industries.

The General Assembly of the United Nations passed resolution 63/111 on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008, officially recognizing 8<sup>th</sup> June as World Ocean Day. Namibia being a signatory to the United Nations, does recognize the significance of this day and therefore joins the global community in celebration of World Ocean Day. The theme for 2022 is "Revitaliation: Collective Action for the Ocean" which focuses on the oceans role in sustaining life and livelihoods. Additionally, the role of Namibia's President, His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, as one of the 14 global leaders serving on the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, emphasizes the importance that Namibia attaches to maintaining and adapting her marine economies into the future, to meet pressing and demanding challenges.

World Ocean Day provides an opportunity for all citizens to reflect on the benefits that are derived from the ocean. The celebration seeks to remind and encourage the community to take actions that contribute towards a healthy ocean through conservation and protection. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to promote public dialogue and knowledge on marine sciences and maritime affairs amongst school learners, youth, and the public.

The learners were competitive and each had their eyes on the prize however it was the Omusati region that walked away with first place, followed by the Oshana region in second place and Kavango West region in third place. All winning teams were awarded with a trophy and each learner and teacher was rewarded with a Samsung Galaxy Tab 7. Helvi Ndokosho, a teacher and debate coach from the Omusati region





expressed her gratitude for this initiative arranged by the organisers as well as the sponsorship received. “I hope that in the future more initiatives such as this one will be held for our learners to attend. I am also very proud of my team, we spent weeks practicing for this competition so I am very proud to take the trophy back home to our region.” said Ndokosho.

The debate was supported by DebMarine Namibia, Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust, Namport, Cadillu Fishing, Namsov, Namibia Marine Resources (NMR), Seawork Fish Processors, Omankete, Mbashe Fishing, Pereira Seafoods, and ExxonMobil.

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#### **Notes to editor:**

Image 1: Best female Debater (Oshana region)

Image 2: Best male Debater (Otjozondjupa region)

Image 3: Omusati winning team and NSDA president

#### **About**

The [Namibia Nature Foundation \(NNF\)](#) is a registered non-governmental organisation founded in 1987. It is a charitable and funding institution with an independent board of trustees. The foundation initiates, supports and promotes activities that conserve the environment, protect biodiversity and foster the sustainable and ethical use of natural resources.

The **Namibian Schools Debating Association (NSDA)** is a no-profit Association registered with the Ministry of Education since 2003, to carry out the mandate of debating activities in Namibian schools from primary to high school level. NSDA recognizes that “national competitiveness and international co-operation, especially in added economic activity, depends on knowledge, skills and competencies associated with abstract reasoning, analysis, and language and communication skills.

The [Benguela Current Convention \(BCC\)](#) is a treaty signed between the Governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa that established the first multi-sectoral intergovernmental organisation in the world based on the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach to ocean governance. The objective of the Convention is, to promote a coordinated approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME, in order to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.

