

South African Model United Nations (SAMUN) Report

Date:	09 May, 29 August, 16 to 20 October 2015
Subject:	ENGLISH FAL
No of Teachers Expected:	42
No of Teachers Attended	42
No of Learners Expected	84
No of Learners Attended	84
Venues:	King Williamstown and Cape Town
Subject Planner:	ZN Fumba

1 Introduction

Model United Nations is one of the fastest-growing forms of debating in the world. Model UN is more than mere argumentation or debate, but involves the solving of complex problems facing the world through research and presentation. A Model UN delegate is placed in the shoes of an actual diplomat of a country and is expected to engage with the real issues faced by that diplomat and country. Simply put, Model UN involves the simulation of a debate or discussion in the United Nations. Delegates are expected to take on the roles of diplomats and to debate, discuss and find solutions to critical issues on the global agenda.

2 Format of the Conferences

The following gives a brief exposition of the structure of the South African Model United Nations (SAMUN) Conferences which take place on an annual basis.

2.1 SAMUN Provincial workshops

Workshops are held in each of the nine South African provinces and are aimed at introducing the United Nations as well as the style of debating to both learners and teachers. This is where learners are presented with the topic they will be debating at their provincial conference. In our province we had this workshop on the 9th of May at Kingsridge Girls High School in King Williamstown district where 42 teachers and 84 learners attended.

2.1.1 SAMUN Provincial conferences

Provincial conferences form part of the second component of the SAMUN and here all the participating teams debate with each other in their respective provinces. The winning team will represent their province at the SAMUN Cape Town International Conference, South Africa. The provincial topic was: A human rights approach to migration. Delegates had to address the following questions:

- 2.1.1.1 *How does your country view the CMW and explain why your country has or has not signed and ratified this international convention?*
- 2.1.1.2 *What impact has migration had on your country both historically and at present?*
- 2.1.1.3 *What measures, if any, should be taken by the UN/other member states to ensure that migrants are not subject to xenophobia, discrimination, human rights violations and human trafficking?*
- 2.1.1.4 *What does your country feel needs to be done to lessen the reasons for people to migrate? What efforts and contributions has your country made in this regard?*
- 2.2 The provincial leg of the conference:
- 2.2.1 The provincial contest was won by a team representing Libya. This was a team comprising Kingsridge Girls High as a privileged school and Hector Petersen as a disadvantaged school. They represented the province and simulating a new country namely Turkey.
- 2.2.2 SAMUN Cape Town International Conference
- 2.2.2.1 The winning teams from each of South Africa's nine provinces gather in Cape Town to debate against teams from other African countries and abroad in two UN General Assembly-style debates over four days. All South African provincial teams are allocated a tutor, who has an in-depth knowledge of international relations or is a previous participant of the SAMUN. International teams are also encouraged to appoint tutors. This year's conference took place from the 16th to the 20th of October 2015. The Eastern Cape team came third. One team member from Hector Petersen was chosen to be among the twelve member team to represent team South Africa.
- 2.2.2.2 Format of the Cape Town International Conference
The two components are: Two Model United Nations General Assembly and Debates
Individual interviews with each participant (South African delegates only)
- 2.3 Section 1: Format of the Model United Nations General Assembly Debates
There are two Model UN General Assembly debates on the following topics:
- 2.4 Terrorism: Protecting cultural artefacts and heritage sites.
- 2.5 The International Criminal Court: An anti-African bias?
- 2.6 Section 2: Format of the interviews
- 2.6.1 Each participant is interviewed during National Finals. The interviews are broad and general and focus on the participant's opinion. Terrorism: Protecting cultural artefacts and heritage sites. In this session the following questions were addressed by the delegates:
- 2.6.2 Does your country view the pillaging and destruction of historical sites as a current priority of the UN?
- 2.6.3 Are your country's current domestic laws, conventions and agreements sufficient in preventing the illicit trafficking of cultural goods?
- 2.6.4 What is your country doing to protect cultural artefacts and historic sites both outside and within your borders?
- 2.6.5 How can UNESCO ensure that the implementation of UN conventions is effective at combating the black market trade in historic artefacts?
- 2.6.6 What steps can be taken to promote international cooperation between sources counties (where property is taken from) and art importing counties (where most of the property ends up)?
The second General Assembly questions were as follows:
- 2.6.6.1 *Is your country a signatory to the Rome Statute? Explain your country's reasons for signing or not signing.*
- 2.6.6.2 *What is your country's views of South Africa's failure to arrest Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir earlier this year?*
- 2.6.6.3 *What is your country's views on the argument that the ICC unfairly and disproportionately targets African countries?*
- 2.6.6.4 *What is your country's views on the future of the ICC?*

3 Challenges

Challenges are aplenty in this program. Few of those are the following:

- 3.1 School register directly with the sponsor, Education Africa. This creates challenges because the district is not aware of the schools that participate. This results in having schools using funds from their coffers instead of requesting districts to supply them with transport. Subject advisors do not attend the provincial contest because they are not aware of the activity in their own districts.
- 3.2 No accommodation is provided for schools coming from long distances. They have to come in the morning and have to travel back through the night. This happens during the workshop in May and the provincial finals in August.
- 3.3 Catering is meagre, it should be better especially for long distance travellers.
- 3.4 No incentives for participants and winners in the form of motivational prize tokens except medals for winners at provincial and trophies and national.

Compiled by

ZN Fumba

Figure 1; Eastern Cape team with the tutor and two teachers



Figure 2: Eastern Cape Team with trophies for the 3rd position



Figure 3 Deputy Minister in the middle and Luyolo Mtetandaba from Hector Petersen HS, part of team SA to New York



Figure 4: Dr Nelson Mandela's cell in Robben Island during the tour of the place

THE BUGLE REPORT

The Kingsridge/Hector Petersen team which represented the Eastern Cape came 3rd in the South African Model UN International Conference held in Cape Town from the 15-20 October 2015. They came second in South Africa to a school from the Limpopo Province which represented France and placed first out of the South African sides. An American

school from Washington DC, which represented China, came first which placed Hector Petersen /KHS team third in the international section. KHS/Hector Petersen team represented Turkey. Two topics were: Terrorism: Protecting Cultural artefacts and heritage sites; The International Criminal Court: An anti-African bias?

The participants in this competition worked hard for many months to prepare. They were rewarded for their hard work by flying to Cape Town and staying in a Protea Hotel (the Breakwater) at the Waterfront. They were taken on a tour of the houses of Parliament and on sightseeing trip. They spent a night on Robben Island and were given insight into the daily discomforts and toils experienced by former prisoners.

One participant from each Province flies to New York to take part in the international round. The learner from Eastern/ Cape who was selected was Hector Petersen learner Luyolo Mtetandaba. The other participants who represented KHS/Hector Petersen were Ammarah Desai, Esihle Mhluzi, and Siphokazi Phetshwa. The team won the Provincial Model United Nations debate held in the EC Legislature on the 29th of August. They had to compete against sixteen schools.