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SPEAKERS

Lulama Mabunda, Mikateko Mathebula, India Sher, Samantha Brief, Sanaa Raseroka, Hayley McGowan, Itumeleng Mphure, Chad Fanaroff

S Samantha Brief 00:08

Welcome to miss eat Mullen puree from the eighth Ay ay ay ay, as well as our 2021 Model UN T haoma, Garwin, Chad, Mikkel Asana, Lilu, and India. Now, students, you did incredibly well in the Model UN. But before we jump into your experience with what you have done in the Model United Nations, I would like Mrs. Tumbling to tell us a little bit about herself, how she came about working for the CIA. Thank you, Marie to Malay.

I Itumeleng Mphure 00:44

Thank you very much. And thank you for having me. My name is Ito melon Porter. I am the youth programs officer at the South African Institute of International Affairs. I'm saya and I have been with saya since 2018. I've got a background in international relations. I studied international relations at adverts and have worked with a wide range of NGOs based in the country and the regions and have also worked for the African Union Commission. And I've been with saya for now close to four years now.

S Samantha Brief 01:22

Incredible, Mr. Mullen, you've got a wide range of experience. So for the Model UN, what is your aim? When you work with students from Southern Africa or? Well, basically mainly in the Sadek region, what is your aim was running the Model UN program.

I Itumeleng Mphure 01:40

So the aim of the man program is to offer learners the opportunity to improve their research skills, and for them to have a grasp of international topics together. And to learn more about the United Nations and other international and regional bodies.

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Samantha Brief 02:01

Would you say then, with our students in the southern African region, giving them this platform to research topics that are globally relevant? Or do you find that many of our students are focused more on what is happening on the African continent, with its range of problems.

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Itumeleng Mphure 02:21

So with our students that actually participate on the program, they are interested in all topics, so international topics, global topics, they are interested in regional topics, and even national topics, because how we run the man program is that it is not only concentrated on the United Nations, so it's Model United Nations. But we also have an adaptation of the program, which we call the model legislature program, which is similar to mine. But here they simulate what happens in the provincial legislatures. So there they get the opportunity to debate on issues that affect them within their specific provinces. So we cover a wide range of topics that are local, national, regional, and global. Would you

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Samantha Brief 03:13

say within the students that you have worked with for the last couple of years? Are they saw more males that are interested in the Model United Nations? Or are we seeing a lot more girls that are interested?

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Itumeleng Mphure 03:28

So for Model United Nations, we see both boys and girls, male and female, that are interested within the the man program is not predominantly male students that I can say, that are interested in it. And you know, what makes youth saya different in terms of our youth programs is that the demographics that we engage with are between the ages of 13 and 25. And that's across all our programs. So whereas with other youth centered programs, they concentrate on a specific demographic of young people, but we concentrate on learners we engaged learners that are in grade eight, up until they are in university and even when they are just starting out in their different career paths. So we are interested we engage with young people in those age groups, whether they be male or female, and we get equal interest from across all genders and spectrums.

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Samantha Brief 04:28

That is very encouraging to know. And it's also interesting to note that there's not really a big gender disparity when it comes to the Model United Nations. That is Ay ay ay ay ay is running. What are some of the characteristics that you hope that the students will adopt or that they refine upon when it comes to getting a small taste of politics, as well as what you said earlier on refining the research skills? What are those traits or qualities that you are looking for? In a student.

I Itumeleng Mphure 05:02

So what we hope to find in a student that participates in our programs is that we want young people that are very inquisitive. And young people that want to engage with global and national topics, keep engaged and would like to be able to develop them within their schoolwork, and later on in their lives, in their careers or in their university life. So with these programs, we'd like to get for young people to get improved on their research skills, debating how they able to relate to the rest of the world.

S Samantha Brief 05:41

First off very good traits to work on. Definitely. So especially in terms of relating to the rest of the world thing that is such a very heterogeneous population. I think that's a very good quality to work on. Great. Thank you so much, ma'am. I will definitely come back to us few more questions after we draw the students.

I Itumeleng Mphure 06:00

Thank you very much.

S Samantha Brief 06:02

Thank you. Right. So Haley, Chad, and Mika, your topic that you chose was the state of humanitarian relief, and the country that you represented, what Philippines? How did you feel when you started working on that topic? Could you relate to that topic? And did you feel nervous, then you had to research when you're to find out about your country's position, particularly since the Philippines is a developing nation? We are scared, could you relate to the state of humanitarian relief?

C Chad Fanaroff 06:39

I wouldn't say exactly nervous, I'd say it was actually quite enjoyable to research on the Philippines to see a crisis in the world from another point of view and how they are dealing to fix the crisis in their country. We can exactly relate to their crisis as they follow greater poverty and greater food source shortages than we do here in South Africa.

H Hayley McGowan 07:03

I mean, I'm always quite excited to learn about things I don't already know. And before Model UN, I didn't know much about the Philippines. So I think involving myself in what it looked like for this country that was suffering, great poverty, a lot of injustice. You know, these trends are quite often seen in many other places. So especially in South Africa, poverty and crime, and it's unfortunate. So I think it's always good to, you know, widen our horizons. So I was I was excited,

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Samantha Brief 07:38

cried Nica, how did you feel now, given that you were actually on the team that had to research about the privatization and militarization of space? And you told me confidently that you could not truly relate to that topic? And you were very brave in having said so and then you chose this state of humanitarian relief? How did you relate to the topic? And when you had to research your country's position of Philippine? How did you feel?

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Mikateko Mathebula 08:09

The reason I chose the humanitarian crisis in the Philippines is because I don't know much about like military and space. So I had more knowledge on like refugees. And it was also interesting learning new stuff from other people and other schools. And when doing research coming across stuff that you never knew about.

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Samantha Brief 08:36

Lulu and Sana, you had a very masculine if I can call it that, and remember, you're more than welcome to critique me. If I'm being incredibly biased, you had a very masculine topic, the militarization and the privatization of outer space. And you were given the enemy state, the United States of America. Sana, how did you feel when you chose to be with India on this team? And to research this topic? Could you relate to the topic?

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Sanaa Raseroka 09:12

I don't think I could relate to the topic, because it's not something that I know a lot about, especially with, like the militarization of space, I hadn't really looked up on it. I only really knew that people just wanted to send tech into space. But I felt quite overwhelmed by it.

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Samantha Brief 09:34

And how did you overcome that? overwhelmingness How did you grow from that?

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Sanaa Raseroka 09:39

I think having India with me, and also Lulu helped a lot because I knew I wasn't alone. And so I could talk to them. I could ask them for guidance.

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Samantha Brief 09:49

So it was genuinely a team effort.

S Sanaa Raseroka 09:51
It was a team method.

S Samantha Brief 09:53
India, how were you able to relate to the topic? And were you quite nervous when you had to take on the research, or were you quite excited to learn something new about it?

I India Sher 10:04
Originally, when I was given the challenge of this topic, I questioned myself a little bit. But then I realized that sometimes you have to face the challenges, and do the topics that wouldn't normally be set. Because it is a very masculine topic, but it just proves that a woman can do the same as a man doesn't make me any less. So why can't we? And why can we do better than men?

S Samantha Brief 10:29
Lulu, when the students were sort of fighting over you to join the team, and you had to basically choose based on their reasoning when I was training them to debate to the partner you have to work with, when you chose the privatization and militarization of space. Could you relate to the topic? And how did you feel when you had to embark on the respondents' research?

L Lulama Mabunda 10:56
It was because my original topic was the committee forest topic. It was something I could relate to with something I knew a lot of knowledge with something I had researched a lot of, especially because my TED speech was very similar to that. So when I was told that I could go to the desires, militarization and privatization of space, I was quite excited. But I was overwhelmed because it was a very masculine topic, and I didn't know much about it.

S Samantha Brief 11:26
Students listened for it mentioned that the Model UN aims to foster or to polish upon the research skills, debating skills, Goshi ation skills that they want children or students to hone. What you have done with a model, when you feel more confident in your research ability as a young student right now, how do you feel about it, Nika?

M Mikateko Mathebula 11:52
Before I did, Marie, and I didn't have much debating skills, but even though I didn't speak that much, I got debating tips from other students while they were debating with each other on the

much, I got debating tips from other students while they were debating with each other on the call. So I learned how to debate accurately and confidently with

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Samantha Brief 12:09

Haley, do you feel that you have grown in your negotiation ability? Because oftentimes, when you sit around that negotiating table, or you have to negotiate with a different political party, or members in politics, etc, first of all, it's usually a team effort. Do you feel when you work with Chad and Nicholas, that, as an associate, you actually honed in on the teamwork abilities as well?

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Hayley McGowan 12:37

Yeah, definitely. I know, we had a few mock debates in practice for Model UN. And I think, during that space, we learned how to negotiate and it sort of provided the structure for Model UN. I think on the day, we all got a little bit shy in it. It's a bit more scary than one anticipates. But it's, it's very fun. And those debates allowed us to grow and for our negotiating skills to grow. So I think I know a lot more on how to debate and reason with people than I did before model you in

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Samantha Brief 13:10

for Chad, when you were believed, negotiating and debating, etc. And I watched all of you closely, I noticed that you were in an ice hockey before, you're like the little Bulldogs you just charged and charged in charge? Do you feel that when it comes to debating within the model, you're insisting that you have sort of known about the art of negotiation, whereby instead of attacking, attacking, you've got to think strategically about it? Because this is what I noticed about you? Am I hitting the nail on the head?

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Chad Fanaroff 13:46

Definitely, ma'am. Also, before we did Model UN, I had to do public speaking before, never really enjoyed public speaking. But as we did Model UN, it has definitely shown that public speaking is a lot more enjoyable to do. And also, you're right, it does show when it comes to debating, you can't just push the person to try and answer the question in the way you wanted to push them out of the shadow into the right into the answer that they that you need. You need to strategically so that your answer is correct. Very much.

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Samantha Brief 14:21

So. In terms of your researching skills, do you feel that the Model United Nations gave you the platform to hone in on your researching skills to polish it a little bit more?

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Lulama Mabunda 14:33

Yes, I do feel that like I do feel that it has polished my researching skills a lot because when I started this topic, I did not know anything about it. I just knew what the title said motorisation and privatization of space. But I feel like I've become more interested in this type of debating and especially with the topic that was given to me and chose and I chose but I feel like general my research skills have improved, because the different teams and committees and people who I was debating with had so many other points and so many different strategies which they went towards and used, which I did take note of and I learned from them.

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Samantha Brief 15:16

I remember you made a very good point in the position paper that your children worked on, about how you you want to want the United States of America to sort of model in the code that I say that should not become the playground for colonization, as a young girl from a continent that has been colonized. Did that play a factor in your decision to have wanted that to be part of the United States of America position? In the debate? Yes, I

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Lulama Mabunda 15:49

did. As it was mentioned, as I mentioned, in the position, paper, being a country generally that has been colonized, I did not want that history to be brought upon in a different country, let alone the uprising of a different planet. Because the uprising of South Africa or Africa, in general, from being colonized, will take place if they different species or different people in a different talent. So I did not want that case to happen. And I did not want us to colonize different times.

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Samantha Brief 16:22

That's a very strong point. Thank you, Lulu. India, do you feel that in terms of your debating, you become more confident in voicing your opinion? Because you've got very strong opinions, too? Do you feel that the Model UN gave you that platform to come out of your shell a bit more?

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India Sher 16:39

I think it certainly did. Considering that Model UN is like it to me, it was a challenge, because originally I did it, not thinking much about it. And I thought it would be one of those projects that I did, that would just be there. And it would always just be something I did. But when I looked into it and further went into researching and everything else that I learned, it's something more than that. And it's something it's a memory, I'll remember forever, we experience because I work with great people, and I learn from their ideas and their aspects. And if I didn't know something I wasn't sure, I could get an opinion. But it wouldn't be one sided or biased. Because in terms of the privatization and militarization of outer space, you would not generally assume that it's only got to do with power, whereas it is a power play. But these experiences taught me to think outside my the box that I'm normally in and use other people's experiences and mine, to voice my opinion, which these skills will certainly help me in my future with developing the career or choosing

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Samantha Brief 17:46

the foreigner, you were very quiet when I started teaching you last year, in terms of becoming more confident has the Model United Nations helps you in that regard to voice your opinion, and to also wash opinion through your research your insight.

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Sanaa Raseroka 18:06

I think it has helped with voicing my opinions, because when I first started Model UN, I wasn't really educated per se on the topic. And so as I started doing more research on the topic, I started becoming more confident. And it also helped in other aspects of my life when which includes class as well.

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Samantha Brief 18:28

Listen to Ray, do you have any advice you would like to give the delegates, they are older now going to fifth grade at Santa Fe, they want to continue to swing participating in the Model UN? What advice would you confirm so that they can be successful once more in the AI Model United Nations

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Itumeleng Mphure 18:51

that advice that I would give to the learners for their participation in man for this year, is that they should keep an open mind. One thing that they all said during this podcast today is that when they were given this topic, they did not know much about the topic that they were put in, and the committee that they were put in all the country that they were representing. So always keep an open mind, always have a willingness to learn, to share, to learn from your peers, to hone your research skills to build your confidence. And to continue on using all the skills that you've learned from participating in Model United Nations, in your studies and in other programs or projects that you might be interested in.

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Samantha Brief 19:43

What was so different or what was so specific about the program that you ran last year in 2021.

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Itumeleng Mphure 19:52

So the main conference that your learner's participated in last year on the 16th of October 2021, is called the saya Johannesburg Model United Nations Conference. So SJ man in shorts. So what makes it different is that it is the largest man conference in southern Africa. And normally, we have about 300 learners that participate in it. And what made last year's one

different is that it didn't happen in person because of COVID. But we had it online. So we had participation from all provinces of South Africa. And we had five committees in which our different delegations participated in.

S Samantha Brief 20:37

And do you feel because it was online? Was it a success? In your opinion,

I Itumeleng Mphure 20:42

it was a success. So it's normally a success, whether it is in person or online. But the benefit of it being online is that our reach was wider. So we had people in places that are normally a bit hard to reach, participating in it last year.

S Samantha Brief 21:01

Great. And do you think it also took off nervous element Instituto that they were online, the cameras had to be off until they were presenting that, did you think that's helping nerves a little bit, rather than it being like face to face,

I Itumeleng Mphure 21:19

I think it did help with the nerves a bit because it was online. But what we have found out with man is that our participants really enjoy interacting with each other as delegations. So I think it being online made a bit easier, in terms of having a lot of people participate. But that element of our delegations seeing each other and being able to negotiate, and which with each other in person was a bit missing. But, you know, with the pandemic, we have had to adapt to our current times, and find creative ways of ensuring that our participants still get the same benefit and experience of man that they would have received if it was happening in person.

S Samantha Brief 22:07

Thank you very much. Looking forward. That is excellent advice. And it is always a benefit that you reach so many more schools and students, because of the online factor that's really good students for future in new institutions that age you Inc. One, what advice would you give them in order to join the NBA in? What would you tell them?

L Lulama Mabunda 22:32

Well, I would start with, don't be afraid to try something new. I learned that as a personal experience. Second, if you find a passion, or you really like talking to people or debating or researching, it's a really good thing to do. And for the future, though, kids and students that will be participating, go for it, don't be don't hold back, just go for it,

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Sanaa Raseroka 22:57

I would tell them that when you first start, you're going to feel like you're going you're going into something in over your head. And it's going to be really hard. But if you talk to your peers and talk about how, like how you're feeling that you're gonna, you're going to get through it and that it's going to, you're going to benefit from it,

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India Sher 23:15

I would have to say, send me that your fears are only limited by who you choose to be and who you are. So you must take the challenge. Just if you struggle, the struggle is worth it. In the end. In our situation, we didn't think we'd become where we are. But we came out on top because we tried. So my advice, like Linda said, is just do it. But also face your fears, because you only get to live life once and you may as well do it once now. And it's the best impact for you and everybody else who does it. So I would wish them good luck. It's gonna be a challenge. But if you face these things now in life later, when you give a job in Korea, it's going to be your benefit.

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Chad Fanaroff 24:00

And I have to say that even if you aren't confident in yourself, and you think that you can't do it, you should still give it a go. I think it's a great experience to go through. And it will really push out your self esteem and self confidence when it comes to public speaking after you do it.

M

Mikateko Mathebula 24:17

Once you're at the model, you NT just relax. Just relax and don't take it seriously but not too seriously. Like just let it flow.

H

Hayley McGowan 24:27

I think to extend on India's point and everyone else for a matter of fact, it's going to be difficult and I think that's the beauty of it. Do we sort of tend to thrive, especially for Model UN? When everything's high pressure? Everyone's a bit nervous. I think that's what makes it even more fun. I think so I think what advice I'd give is rely on the people around you. This is a tendency I have but the people in your committee are there to help you and you will grow really strong relationships with them and it ends up being a lot of fun when you work together, and you negotiate with each other. And I think that's advice I would give and encourage someone to do it because it is a lot of fun.

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Samantha Brief 25:09

Excellent. Thank you so much. Looking forward, do you have any last advice or words or encouragement for the interviewing students?

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Itumeleng Mphure 25:18

I would just like to encourage all learners to join in on Manta Sia. So at youth fire, we have a lot of exciting programs that are not only limited to Model United Nations, we have what we call the Youth Policy Committee, which gives young people the opportunity to engage in various public policy issues, and ranging from gender to climate change to education to inequality and the likes. So we encourage a lot of learners to just join in on our programs, join in on man and, and participate. So for the first half of the year, we will be running some workshops, man workshops, where participants and learners will get the opportunity to just learn more about negotiations, how to research and learn more about man. So we are very excited about those. And we will have lots more and Model United Nations programs and a whole lot of a wide range of programs at youth saya so we do encourage you to visit our social media platforms to visit our websites and just learn more about youth saya and get opportunity to engage with other young people around the country.

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Samantha Brief 26:39

Excellent and sounds incredibly exciting. Thank you so much from poorer. Thank you students for your time. Thank you to the community and everyone else who was involved. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you you've been listening to another production from solid gold podcasts.