



ROLE MODEL ... Gabriel Ananias, a 15-year-old learner at the Dagbreek school in Windhoek, participated in the 2014 World Down Syndrome Day video project themed 'Health Access and Equality for All'.

Namibia to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day

• **STAFF REPORTER**

NAMIBIA will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March this year.

In a press statement issued, the Down Syndrome Association of Namibia (DSAN), which is spearheading the Down Syndrome Day celebrations, said the day was aimed at raising public awareness, celebrating the achievements, and advocating for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down's syndrome.

DSAN said this year's Down Syndrome Day worldwide celebrations will focus on the access to health.

Describing it as a genetic condition, and not an illness, DSAN noted that people

living with Down's syndrome should have access to healthcare on an equal basis with others.

"There are just certain health issues that affect people with Down's syndrome more. Health professionals should be aware of these specific issues when treating a person," said DSAN, urging health professionals not to discriminate against individuals.

DSAN invites the public to contact them if they are living with people who have Down's syndrome.

"We like to share our experiences on medical issues, education and work opportunities with other parents and find solutions together," said DSAN.

19 MARCH 2014
THE NAMIBIAN