



**Speech for the Resident Representative  
for the UNDP at 50 Event  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

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The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Madam Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila;

Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi;

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honourable Pohamba Shifeeta;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

Your Excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Core;

My Colleagues Heads of UN Agencies; and Honorary member of the UN family in Namibia Hon Maureen Hinda;

Senior Government Officials;

Civil Society Organizations Represented;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Thank you very much for joining us to commemorate fifty years of global development assistance by the United Nations Development Programme.

**UNDP** was founded in 1966 to support member states respond to global development challenges. Over the years, UNDP has leveraged its knowledge, experience and resources in support of Governments and most importantly people to deliver programmes at country level.

For example:

- The Human Development Report that assists countries, including Namibia, gauge capacity for development.
- Policy advice that helped build the now famous Bolsa Familia social welfare program in Brazil. Through this program 22 million people were lifted out of poverty.
- Support to the Government of Senegal to implement a USD 400 million poverty eradication program (2014) assisting people to access electricity; water and sanitation; as well as creating employment and strengthening local capacity.

Our experience is not limited to the international arena, for example here in Namibia:

- **On knowledge generation;** UNDP provided technical support for the development of NDP 3 & 4; assisted in the compilation of poverty profiles and supported the production of the Namibia Index of Multiple Deprivation. These documents continue to guide overall development interventions, including poverty eradication efforts in the country.

Deputy Minister lipumbu, UNDP & the UN family stand ready to support the roll out of the SDGs in Namibia and the development of NDP 5.

- **On governance;** UNDP supported the revision of electoral laws in 2014, the first national Anti-Corruption strategy (2016 - 2020); the First Human Rights Action Plan and, the compilation of international human rights laws and treaties (2015 - 2019).

**Director General Noah and Advocate Walters**, we are ready to assist to turn these plans into actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- *UNDP also supported the **Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare** to develop the Revised National Gender Policy (2010-2020), the National Gender and GBV Plans of Action (2010-2020; 2012-2016) and Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines. UNDP further supported the establishment of a Master's programme in Gender studies currently running at the University of Namibia.*

**Deputy Minister Witbooi**, we stand ready to support coordination efforts and to reduce GBV in Namibia, we will ensure gender is mainstreamed in all our programmes.

- *On HIV, UNDP helped reach over 200 000 people with community led HIV programmes and developed guidelines to mainstream HIV and Gender into Environmental Impact Assessments. In Katima 2 weeks ago, we launched the first Know Your Epidemic, Know Your Response study in one of the highest prevalence regions of the country; Zambezi.*
- **Our largest programme is on energy and environment, we have helped channel over 70 million USD since the mid-90s to this sector and expect to channel an additional 33 million over the next five years.**

UNDP support includes: strengthening the management of national parks and conservancies, thereby expanding protected areas by over 60 000 sq km; and enhancing resilience activities to climate change for over 50 000 people, especially women.

UNDP has helped establish the Benguela Current Commission the worlds first inter-governmental, initiative helping Angola,

Namibia and South Africa manage their Marine Ecosystem; valued at an estimated USD 269 million per year.

**Minister Shifeta**, UNDP is ready for the 3rd phase of the Benguela Current Initiative; and, to expand community resilience, energy and water activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia has good stories to tell. The number of people living in poverty has reduced from 7 to 3 out of every 10 people. Namibia ranks third in the Education for All Development Index; HIV new infections have declined by over 50%.

There is still however unfinished business.

H.E. the President has declared a war on poverty and announced that in April this year, implementation of the Harambee Plan will begin. And as in any race, the last mile is always the hardest.

Therefore and in conclusion,

The UN Family remains optimistic. We believe firmly that poverty can be eradicated and that 600 000 Namibians can be lifted out of poverty.

We believe firmly in Namibia's Vision 2030 which calls for an industrialized nation driven by people who are skilled and healthy and who enjoy a peaceful nation that provides opportunities for all its women, men, boys and girls.

We want to be your trusted partner of choice and work with you to turn this vision into a reality!

I thank you.