



Remarks

By:

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Representative

**Introductory Remarks on Development Agenda 2030 and
the SDGs**

High Performance Movement Lecture Series

Namibian University of Science and Technology

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Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Economic Planning and Director

General of the National Planning Commission

Senior Government Officials Present

Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Vice Chancellor of the Namibia University of

Science and Technology

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Representatives from Private Sector

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening,

I would like to start by thanking the Ministry of Economic Planning for the opportunity to say a few words on the Global Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ahead of remarks by the Hon. Minister of Economic Planning.

Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are germane to shaping National Development Priorities as we work to jointly rid the world of poverty and ensure prosperity for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Sept 2015, a historic event took place; an event designed to change our world for the better.

Member states of the UN--including Namibia--signed off on an ambitious development agenda. An agenda to set us on a path towards ending poverty; saving our planet; and ensuring prosperity for all. Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were thus born.

Arriving at these 17 goals was a bottom up and consultative process. The SDGs therefore represent the aspirations of the world. The goals are people's voices, and they symbolize what people view as critical to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world has begun grappling with the implementation of the SDGs and the same holds true for Namibia.

From the Millennium Development Goals process, we learnt that mainstreaming common global agendas into national plans and policies; and ensuring that key populations are accounted for in these processes is key.

For example efforts to mainstream MGD 2 (**Achieve Universal Primary Education**), were instrumental, when Namibia through a requirement of its constitution, declared free primary education in 2013.

Lessons also noted the importance of resources, capacity and coordination if results are to be realized.

For example, improving child and maternal health is not merely a health issue. It requires related non-health interventions such as reducing adolescent child births, improving contraceptive use, and improving access to sanitation and improved water sources.¹

In order to improve adolescence sexual and reproductive health in the Namibia, government with the support of UNFPA has an ongoing training for health workers, specifically working at adolescent friendly health centers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As one of the ten member states to serve on the high level committee, on the SDGs. Namibia took a lead role in drafting the African Common Position, on the post 2015 Agenda.

¹ ECA MDG Report: Lessons Learnt in Implementing the MDGs; 2015

In addition Namibia continued to demonstrate its commitment with a National Launch to domesticate and popularize the SDGs in June last year. The Launch was broadcast in all 14 regions of the country. Members of the public were able to call in, and members of civil society, academia, private sector, and development partners joined government in attendance.

The adoption of the SDGs could not have come at a more opportune time for Namibia. While other countries would have to 'retrofit' the SDGs into their Development Frameworks, Namibia had just begun the drafting of NDP 5. This allowed for the mainstreaming of the SDGs into the Plan.

Currently, efforts are ongoing to develop a national indicator framework to guide implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

The fact that the SDGs are effectively integrated into the National Development Plan, which articulates National Development priorities will facilitate resource and capacity allocation.

Ladies and Gentlemen and in conclusion,

The realization of the Global Goals are directly relevant to all Namibia's Planning Frameworks: Vision 2030, NDP5, Harambee Prosperity Plan and the Poverty Blue Print. If we are to realize Vision

2030, and win the war on poverty, effective Development Planning -- that includes these goals -- is essential.

The UN continues to believe in Namibia's vision and that the war on poverty can be won.

We therefore reiterate our commitment to remain your partner of choice on this journey. A partner that will engage constructively until the job is done: a peaceful and prosperous Namibia driven by a healthy and educated people and where no one feels left out!

I thank you.