



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Welcoming Remarks By:

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National Human Development Report Workshop

27 November 2017

Windhoek

Namibia

Hon. Deputy Minister of Economic Planning, National Planning
Commission Lucia Ipumbu;
Mr. Mbangi, Chief National Development Plan Advice, National
Planning Commission;
Officials from the Governments of the Republic of Namibia;
Invited Guests from Academia, Think Tanks, CSO/NGOs, Private
Sector, Parastatals, Media, and Development Partner;
UN Agencies;
Representative of the Human Development Report Office and Chief
Facilitator of this Workshop;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

I am pleased to welcome you to UN house, and to this workshop, to embark on Namibia's next National Human Development Report.

This workshop will provide participants an opportunity to strengthen perspectives, share experiences, and learn best practice on human development.

Through this workshop, participants will also collectively begin to develop strategies to translate National Human Development Report messages into programmes and policies.

Facilitator of this workshop,

The first Global Human Development Report (GHDR) was published in 1990. Since then 26 Global (GHDRs), and 700 National and Regional Human Development Reports (NHDRs/RHDRs) have been written worldwide.

And so far three NHDRs have been published in Namibia on:

- Alcohol and Human Development in Namibia (1999);
- Gender Violence in Namibia (2001); and
- My Future, My Nation: Investing in Youth and Human Development (2009/2010).

The proposed theme for the next Namibia NHDR is: “Addressing Inequality and Disparities: Towards a New Deal for All Namibians.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While poverty has steadily and significantly declined since independence, the same cannot be said about inequality. It is thus crucial to understand the dynamics of inequality and disparities in Namibia, and propose possible interventions to address this challenge.

Inequality as measured by the Gini co-efficient is currently estimated at 0.572 classifying Namibia as one of the most unequal countries in the world. Between 1993 and 2015, poverty was reduced by 51.3 % while inequality reduced by only 7.4 %.

It is necessary to interrogate why inequality has persisted in Namibia, a resource rich country which has registered high economic growth over the last twenty-six years. (Averaging 4.2 percent over the 1993-2015 period).

The NHDR will focus on possible policy proposals and strategies aimed at reducing inequality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sustainable Development Goals are founded on the principle of leaving no one behind. Achieving the SDGs will mean that poverty and inequality in all its forms will have been eradicated.

If Namibia is to realise this aspiration, then we must first understand the structural drivers of poverty and inequality and identify the ways and means to address them.

The NHDR is neither a UNDP nor a GRN report, rather it is a country report. As the country starts implementation of NDP5 the HPP and the Blue Print on Poverty, the NHDR will provide the evidence base to shape collective action and develop the pathways to reduce inequality in Namibia.

It is therefore an opportune moment to bring together human development practitioners in Namibia to share experiences, and raise questions on how best to reduce inequality.

It is an opportune moment to move one step further towards winning Namibia's war on poverty and inequality.

We in the UN, your partner of choice, reiterate our pledge to wage this war with you; a war to reduce inequality; a war to ensure that no one feels left out.

Thank you.