



PRESS RELEASE

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NPC and UN Namibia host 2017 Development Partners' Forum

19 July 2017, Windhoek: The National Planning Commission (NPC) in partnership with the United Nations (UN) System in Namibia hosted the 2017 Development Partners' Forum (DPF) to brief development partners (DPs) on the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) Implementation Plan. The event, which took place at the UN House in Namibia, was attended by over 70 people representing the Bilateral and Multilateral Institutions, the Private Sector, Academia and Research Institutions as well as Civil Society Organizations.

Under the theme '*Partnering Towards Namibia's Prosperity*' the Forum aimed to provide an opportunity for the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) to brief DPs on the NDP5 Implementation Plan, to solicit feedback from DPs on possible areas of support as well as to agree on the sectoral coordination structure moving forward.

Coordinating DPs is one of the mechanisms for implementing the Principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, to which Namibia became a signatory in 2007. It aims at advancing the effectiveness of development efforts by all actors to deliver results that are long-lasting and contribute to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Whilst keeping the guiding principles of country ownership, alignment to national development priorities, harmonization of development work at country level, management of results and assurance of mutual accountability, the coordinated development efforts in Namibia have moved away from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Tom Alweendo, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the NPC, reiterated the importance of the Forum in strengthening partnership among Government and development partners. The Hon. Minister encouraged development partners to work together in achieving the priorities of NDP5, which has a large focus on sustainable economic growth. "NDP5 looks at how we can unlock sustainable economic growth, which can create employment and thus address poverty, in line with our call to eradicate poverty through the HPP," he said.

The UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) to Namibia, Kiki Gbeho said, "This year's event is even more important for Namibia and its War on Poverty, as we have moved from planning to implementation of the SDGs, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), Poverty Blue Print and now the NDP 5." The RC reiterated the UN System's support to GRN in implementing NDP5 and encouraged DPs to take hands in achieving development agendas. She said, "It is our hope that

this development forum will capitalize on strengthened coordination to help move Namibia closer to realizing Vision 2030.”

Development partners provided input into the proposed NDP5 coordination structure at sectoral level. Overall, the participants at the forum agreed on continuing to engage with one another in order to streamline development efforts in support of GRN.

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