

UN Namibia supports National Clean-up Campaign

Windhoek, 25 May: UN Namibia, led by the UN Country Team, joined the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), the City of Windhoek (CoW), development partners, the private sector and the public for the first National Clean-up. This campaign is aimed at keeping Namibia healthy and clean and was launched on 25 May 2018 in Windhoek's Goreangab informal settlement.



Speaking at the launch, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, emphasised the importance of keeping the Namibian house clean and urged every Namibian to keep and internalize the mantra 'My Waste, My Responsibility'. He said, "Let us seize this opportunity to make a positive impact and take significant steps forward in keeping Namibia Healthy and Clean".

The president further highlighted the importance of carrying out the significant task of cleaning the country on Africa Day and officially inaugurated Africa Day 2018 as the National Clean-up Campaign Day, saying, "An unhealthy Africa is unproductive and will not live up to the commitments of the Africa we want as espoused in Agenda 2063".

Following the President's remarks, the CoW provided a briefing on safety and recycling measures. The Goreangab informal settlement was one of the hardest hit settlements during the recent Hepatitis E outbreak late last year.

The UN, Namibia's 'Partner of choice', is steadfast in its commitment in supporting the GRN to provide clean sanitation and a sustainable living environment for its people. The national clean-up campaign is in line with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDGs 3 'Good Health and Well-being', 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation', 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and 13 'Climate Action'.

UN Namibia also recognises the importance of environmental sustainability, as highlighted through the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023 'Environmental Sustainability' pillar. The clean-up campaign is also in line with the upcoming World Environment Day, commemorated annually on 5 June 2018. This year's observance will be commemorated under the theme "Beating Plastic Pollution" and the clean-up was imperative as a precursor to the day.

Various private sector companies provided the necessary equipment for the clean-up including plastic bags, masks and hand sanitizer. UN Namibia staff members turned out in large numbers to provide support and demonstrate the importance of taking action on the ground and ensuring that our communities are clean.