

## UNDP engages Erongo private sector on SDGs

UNDP Resident Representative (RR) to Namibia Kiki Gbeho met with private companies in the Erongo Region to further promote and engage coastal companies about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNDP RR visited the Areva Seawater Desalination Plant, which is said to be currently supplying approximately 70% of the water to the Erongo Region. She spent time at the African Deli factory in Walvis Bay, a startup which produces readymade traditional cuisine and employs 60 people, who are predominately women under the age of 35.



The following day, together with the Minister of Economic Planning, Hon. Tom Alweendo, the UNDP RR spoke to the private sector to solicit private sector engagement in the implementation of Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and provided an overview of the SDGs and their role in furthering the achievement of development agendas in Namibia. Local and regional authorities also attended the engagement.

The UNDP RR emphasized the critical role that the private sector plays in ensuring sustainable development and surmounting the last mile challenge of eradicating Namibia's 18% poverty and reducing the high inequality levels in the country.

"The private sector's drive, innovation and efficiency are required for the country to realise its Vision 2030 and the SDGs provide a good framework for doing so," the UNDP RR said.

Corporate social responsibility has broadened in scope and significantly contributes to development. The UNDP RR further remarked that doing business today is not just about the 'bottom line' but also about 'doing good'.

Hon. Alweendo acknowledged that NDP5 had been rolled out during difficult economic conditions, but that was seen as an opportunity by the government to reprioritize investments and expenditures in critical areas. **SDG 17 'Partnerships'**