

UNDP Namibia celebrate 50th Anniversary

UNDP Namibia celebrated its 50th anniversary on the 24 February 2015, together with its key stakeholders and partners, and with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, as the guest of honour.

During her speech, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila explained how the work of the UNDP and its sister institutions has contributed to major development gains in several countries around the world.

“Your work is helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion through helping countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and building resilience in order to sustain development results” the Prime Minister said.

She further highlighted that looking ahead, both government and UN agencies must continue to enhance the role of the UN in promoting the reform in international development aid which is currently fragmented and stretches the capacities of developing countries through multiple and complex aid management requirements and conditionality's.

Also speaking at the celebrations, the UNDP Resident Representative Anita Kiki Gbeho stressed that the UN Family remains optimistic, and that it firmly believes that poverty can be eradicated and that 600 000 Namibians can be lifted out of poverty.

“We believe firmly in Namibia's Vision 2030 which calls for an industrialized nation driven by people who are skilled and healthy and who enjoy a peaceful nation that provides opportunities for all its women, men, boys and girls,” Ms Gbeho said.

The RR briefly highlighted some key achievements of the country office and the main contributions to Namibia's development over the past 26 years:

On knowledge generation; UNDP provided technical support for the development of NDP 3 & 4; assisted in the compilation of poverty profiles and supported the production of the Namibia Index of Multiple Deprivation.

On governance; UNDP supported the revision of electoral laws in 2014, the first national Anti-Corruption strategy (2016 -2020); the First Human Rights Action Plan and, the compilation of international human rights laws and treaties (2015 - 2019).

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to develop the Revised National Gender Policy (2010-2020), the National Gender and GBV Plans of Action (2010-2020; 2012-2016) and Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines. UNDP further supported the establishment of a Master's programme in Gender studies currently running at the University of Namibia.

On HIV, UNDP helped reach over 200 000 people with community led HIV programmes and developed guidelines to mainstream HIV and Gender into Environmental Impact Assessments. In Katima 2 weeks ago, we launched the first Know Your Epidemic, Know Your Response study in one of the highest prevalence regions of the country; Zambezi.

UNDP's largest programme is on energy and environment, which has helped channel over **70 million USD since the mid-90s** to this sector and expects to channel an additional 33 million over the next five years.

UNDP support includes: strengthening the management of national parks and conservancies, thereby expanding protected areas by over 60 000 sq km; and enhancing resilience activities to climate change for over 50 000 people, especially women.

UNDP has helped establish the Benguela Current Commission the world's first inter-governmental, initiative helping Angola, Namibia and South Africa manage their Marine Ecosystem; valued at an estimated USD 269 million per year.