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Greetings from UNDP!

With the conclusion of the new framework agreement in September 2015 in the form of the 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development, the UNDP Country Office is currently working with the UN and national partners on domesticating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the South African context. This will include aligning the SDGs to the country's National Development Plan (NDP).

Working towards this end, from 15-16 June 2016, the Country Office supported UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa in hosting the first regional workshop aimed at rolling out the SDGs as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and their alignment to national visions and plans. The meeting was attended by over one hundred participants from various countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. Following the regional workshop on 17 June, the Country Office took this process into the national space organizing a multi-stakeholder public debate that served as a curtain raiser on the SDGs and their link to South Africa's National Development Plan. Following these initiatives we have begun to receive requests from various national partners to guide them through the localization of the SDGs. We are encouraged by this reaction and will seek to concretely support these efforts.

Our partnership with government has grown from strength to strength as we provide the support in the implementation of the National Development Plan which remains

the driving force for inclusive growth and development in the country.

The Country Office continues to work with a range of national and provincial partners to achieve the objectives set out in our Country Programme (2013-2017), which defines clear goals and targets in the areas of inclusive growth, climate change and greening South Africa's economy, democratic governance and service delivery, and supporting South Africa's regional and global engagement.

We have taken the initiative to introduce this quarterly newsletter to highlight some of the important work and strides we are making, in order to bring you closer to the beneficiaries that our programmes are impacting on, especially through the human interest stories that we will capture.

In the next newsletter we will report back on the International Aids Conference held from 17-21 July 2016 as well as the local government elections on 3 August 2016. We intend to bring more information of these two events as well as other activities that will take place during this quarter.

I sincerely hope you will find our first publication fruitful!

Gana Fofang

OR Tambo Debate Series- the new dynamic to support the National Development Plan

Since the adoption of the National Development Plan (NDP), the government has shifted its focus towards achieving the goals set out in the plan. In an attempt to contribute and assist government to effectively implement priorities outlined in the plan, the UNDP South Africa in partnership with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME); the Tambo Foundation (TF), and the Wits School of Governance (WSG) agreed to collaborate on an ambitious programme to support this new focus. To achieve this, a project was developed which includes three mutually reinforcing components, i) a series of public debates dubbed the OR Tambo Debate Series, ii) roundtable discussions on each of the debate topics for a more in-depth scrutiny, and iii) more detailed research and analysis on specific issues as may be required to generate new and practical solutions and ideas while providing tangible and actionable guidance to the government and its partners on implementing the NDP. The three components also intend to strengthen some of the high level proposals that are outlined in the plan.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Tambo Foundation, Mr. Mavuso Msimang, describes the debate series as a platform to pay homage to the life and work of Mr. Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC during the struggle's darkest days.

"As a struggle stalwart, Oliver Reginald Tambo was most noted for his exceptional leadership skills combined with hard-nosed political realism. The Tambo Foundation is delighted at the opportunity to support what is currently the most important debate in South Africa for public discussion," said Msimang.



Panellists at one of the debates: (L to R) Minister for Public Services and Administration Dr. Ngoako Ramatlhodi, Mr. E. Masilela, Mrs Phindile Baleni, Adv Richard Sizani and Prof Richard Levin Photo: UNDP SA

cross-section of South Africans and institutions on a forward looking discussion on the implementation of the NDP. It will also assist in suggesting solutions which the government can adopt to effectively implement its priority programmes that are voiced under a specific topic according to a chapter taken from the NDP.

Professor Anne Mc Lennan, of the WSG, described the debates as an opportunity for decision makers to critically look at what is stipulated in the NDP and see if they are indeed implementable and consider alternative options.

"What we are hoping is that the debates will open up the range of policy options that are available to decision makers in particular in relation to the current context based on current information and in that sense we are hoping that the debates will influence, to some extent the people who are making decisions both in the broader society, in business and in government, to think through some slightly different options." said Prof Mc Lennan.

Since the inception of the programme in July 2014, six public debates have taken place

tackling different development issues under the following themes; i) How to Implement the NDP, ii) Labour Markets and Social Protection, iii) International Relations, iv) Basic Education, v) Building a Capable State and vi) the Sustainable Development Goals. More are planned for 2016 and beyond.

While the real policy impact of these debates will most likely only be seen over the longer term, the debates have started to show positive results in terms of providing opportunities for policy discussions.

"We in Government are already beginning to see some benefits emerging from these debates. The debate on social protection has already led to some ground breaking research that we have carried out with the support of UNDP to see how government can extend social protection to informal workers", said Ms. Percy Moleke, Programme Manager for Research and Policy at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency.

The purpose of the debate series is to engage a

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OR Tambo Debate series, assisting in suggesting policy options

UNDP has been pleased to be part of this inclusive process. In the words of Mr. Gana Fofang, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, “the debate series serves as an important tool for policy renewal in several dimensions of human development by raising the quality of the debates on policy options for improving outcomes based on international experience and local realities. This is why UNDP, together with other UN agencies here in South Africa, have stepped up to financially and technically support this process as it allows us to draw on the outstanding national capacity available in the country while at the same time drawing on the wealth of global development experience and knowledge from across the United Nations system to inform the various topics”, he said.



UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative speaking during one of the debate series. Photo: UNDP SA

UNDP has committed a total of US\$220,000 to this programme for an initial period of two years with room for other partners to join and support the programme.

“the debate series serves as an important tool for policy renewal in several dimensions of human development by raising the quality of the debates on policy options for improving outcomes based on international experience and local realities”

Audience captured at some of the debate series



Coalition of actors and coordination needed to realise SDGs and Agenda 2063, say East and Southern African countries

Political leadership, prioritization amongst goals and an all-hands-on deck approach are needed if African countries are to succeed in implementing the universal Agenda 2030 and the continental Agenda 2063, aimed at inclusive prosperity for all, while securing the environment.

These were among the conclusions of a two-day meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, where more than 100 government officials, civil society and UN agency representatives from East and Southern Africa convened to discuss and share experiences about integrating the agendas into national development plans, and the different practical tools available to countries to do this.

The meeting was convened by the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa, together with the African Union Commission and in partnership with government of Kazakhstan.

In his opening remarks, South Africa's Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Mr. Jeff Radebe, emphasized the need for the two agendas to speak to each other. "At the core of all these is the urgency to address economic, social and environmental issues to improve the lives of our people," Minister Radebe said.

"These twin development agendas, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, are not about the United Nations and the African Union respectively, but the common desire to emancipate the people of the continent and the world from poverty, economic marginalization and inequality." The universal Agenda 2030 that includes 17 SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063 that seeks an



UNDP brings together more than 100 participants for SDG rollout workshop. Photo: UNDP

integrated, peaceful and prosperous continent broadly complement each other.

"There is a wide range of convergence between the two agendas and a mapping exercise has been done at goal, target and indicator level. The 17 SDGs are encapsulated into the 20 goals of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063," said Dr Anthony Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs with the African Union Commission.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Africa, Mr. Gana Fofang noted the sub-regional meeting was timely as many countries represented will be going into their national development planning processes. "Ensuring that the global and regional goals are incorporated in national development plans at the get-go will reduce transactional costs of implementing and reporting on parallel objectives," said Gana Fofang. "The investments made today will help focus the efforts of development actors and resources at various levels towards a common purpose and vision. But agendas remain mere words on paper unless they are implemented." During meeting discussions, common characteristics that emerged among countries

that have made progress on integrating the SDGs into national plans include an institutional setup at the highest political level and a multi-stakeholder approach with different actors through, for instance, a national steering committee.

The critical role of civil society in raising awareness about the agendas, and engaging the general public in implementation and monitoring progress on the development goals was highlighted by all participants, but sustainable funding for their activities was seen as a challenge.

"At the core of all these is the urgency to address economic, social and environmental issues to improve the lives of our people"

South Africa launches energy efficiency label campaign

With South Africa's on-going electricity crisis and in a bid to reduce the daily energy consumption per household, the Department of Energy (DoE) officially launched the energy efficiency labelling campaign at the 16th Africa Utility Week Conference held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. This initiative is part of the USD\$13 million project to promote energy efficiency in South Africa, supported by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through UNDP and implemented in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) and other key partners.

The mandatory energy efficiency label, which is being implemented on select local and internationally manufactured products, provides information on the appliance's annual energy consumption. Consumers buying energy efficient appliances will benefit from cost savings through a direct reduction in their monthly electricity charges. "But it's not only about saving money. Consumers who adhere to this label are also part of a broader movement to reduce the unrelenting pressure on South Africa's dwindling energy resources and contribute towards a greener South Africa," said Ms. Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Energy.

Speaking at the launch, on *the role of energy efficiency in reducing carbon emissions*, the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Walid Badawi, said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement (COP21) by countries, acknowledge that decisive action to adapt and mitigate climate change would be significant elements towards attaining sustainable development.

"The dedicated Goals SDG 7 and SDG 13, tasked nations to 'ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services' and to take 'urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts', respectively", said Badawi.

The Energy Efficiency standards were finalised in 2012 by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and since then manufacturers have been complying with the labelling appliances according to these standards. This is however, the first time the DoE together with

UNDP will back a consumer awareness

"My department is working with the DoE and we are targeting to achieve 15% by implementing energy efficiency measures in public buildings", said Jacob Maroga, Deputy Director General, for facilities management in the Department of Public Works.

"After cleaning up its asset register, the government has 100,000 properties under its control, making it the seventh largest landlord in South Africa" he added.

The partnership between UNDP and the DoE is



The Country Director for UNDP South Africa Mr. Walid Badawi speaking on *the role of energy efficiency in reducing carbon emissions*. Photo: UNDP SA

campaign to educate consumers about the label and the benefits of using electricity sparingly. "We are embarking on a vigorous communications campaign with the main objective to change consumers' buying behaviour when purchasing appliances," said Minister. Joemat-Pettersson.

undertaking further complementary work to promote energy efficiency. Among the programme's priorities are; improving monitoring, verification and enforcement of the use of the label and improving the capacity of the testing facilities as well as facilitating improved cooperation with the private sector especially product manufacturers.

“The dedicated Goals SDG 7 and SDG 13, tasked nations to ‘ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services’”

Malawi Parliamentary women caucus visit South Africa

Members of Parliament (MPs) from Malawi and South Africa recently met to exchange experiences on good practices in gender transformation. The interaction took place during a four-day visit by the Malawian Parliamentary delegation to South Africa which was hosted by UNWOMEN.

The visit also aimed to assist Malawian MPs acquire hands on experience on how South African women parliamentarians monitor integration of gender issues in national and local legislative processes, including Gender Responsive Budgeting; passing and implementing women-friendly legislation; understanding the interface between the caucus and women in their communities; building relationships with female MPs worldwide; using media and advocacy to push the gender agenda; and documenting best practices that can be replicated in Malawi building on the successes of South Africa's progress towards gender equality.

UNDP South Africa shared with the delegation some of the results of its work on governance and gender with a particular focus on the Parliamentary support. This included the

workshops that UNDP conducted on MDGs for Parliament, which resulted in the first South African Parliament Legislature MDGs Report, and a report on Parliament Multi-Party Women's Caucus on its Oversight of the Gendered Implications of the Implementation of the MDGs. The two programmes benefitted legislators from the National Assembly, National Council of Provinces, and the nine provincial legislatures.

The Malawian MPs also shared their successes and challenges, which they face in their everyday lives as they execute their duties of representing their constituencies and challenges women face in accessing services such as water and education.

"Just by being women, we face many challenges. We are not given the same opportunity as men. Our contribution is highly criticized, it is high time women were also considered as partners in development and not just as women," said Dr Jessie Kabwira, the Chairperson of the Women's Caucus in Malawi's Parliament, adding: "we need policies that destroy the power relations that have always been there and mostly affect women."

The discussions also focused on the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of Parliamentarians in contributing to the achievement of these global goals. They were also interested in knowing how UNDP can work with MPs to make sure that their constituencies are aware of the goals and are able to hold the government accountable in delivering on these goals.

The UNDP Country Director in South Africa, Mr. Walid Badawi, highlighted the important role that Parliamentarians can play to raise awareness among their constituencies about these goals. He cited an example of the South African context where the UN has translated the goals into ten local languages, and that the MPs could assist in making sure that these goals are taken to their respective constituencies so that the local communities are aware of them.

Mr. Badawi further commended UNWOMEN for organizing such an important visit that involves cross country experience sharing.

"These opportunities to learn about how countries like South Africa are addressing issues of gender mainstreaming within the legislature are a very welcome development. The UN and in particular UNDP is keen to promote more South-South Cooperation," he said.

In his remarks, the Deputy Representative, UNWOMEN Southern Africa Multi Country Office, Mr. Themba Kalua, thanked UNDP for hosting the delegation. "UNWOMEN appreciates the collegial relationship that we share with UNDP and we look forward to more of this kind of collaboration in the future," said Mr. Kalua.



Malawian Parliamentary delegation with UNDP and UN Women staff captured after the meeting. Photo: UNDP SA

Limpopo women preserve and revive cultural diversity and food sovereignty



Joyce showing off different local crop varieties that she grows. Photo: Mupo Foundation

Limpopo is well known for its rich indigenous culture and environment. However, due to modernization, industrialization and population growth, most of the indigenous plants and fresh waters are being lost and heavily polluted, respectively.

Vhembe District, historically known as Venda is a former Apartheid independent homeland in the Limpopo province in northern South Africa. The Soutpansberg mountain range dominates Venda and is one of the most bio-diverse areas with some of the last remaining indigenous forests in the country.

Joyce Mmbengeni, 64, divorced and a mother of 6 children, is one of the women whose life was heavily affected by the land degradation in the area. To live a better life was a farfetched dream for her. Since she was not able to get enough yield to take them through to the next harvesting season, she used to do domestic work to complement the little harvest they found. However, this was still not giving the family enough to survive.

“It was very hard for me to feed my family, there were times when we went to bed

without food. As a mother this used to pain me a lot, but there was nothing I could do as we did not have any alternatives. Our motherland had been washed away, the indigenous trees were no longer there,” explained Joyce.

Mupo Foundation, with funding from the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), implemented a project called; Securing local food sovereignty and enhancing climate resilience through ensuring the custodianship and access of local communities to biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. The primary objective of the project was to conserve and protect biodiversity, having a specific focus on sacred natural sites, which was supported by local knowledge systems and food control.

When the project came to Venda in 2013, Joyce was one of the 315 females who joined and benefited from this initiative. Today, these women are bringing food to their families. They are able to plant and get enough food due to the association and guidance they get from the project. They underwent a training which covered identification of indigenous trees, seeds, and food, methods of plant

multiplication including establishment of plant nursery. They also developed skills in selecting the best crop for seeds, packaging and labelling for future production.

The UNDP Programme Manager for Environment, Ms Maria Mbengashe showed her appreciation to what GEF Small Grants Programme has contributed to the communities of Limpopo and acknowledged the role that UNDP GEF/SGP played.

“We are humbled to have played a part in the success of this remarkable project, which contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals. Most notably in recognising how the environmental goods and services can play a significant role in enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities through food and seed security; strengthening the role of indigenous knowledge systems as well as amplifying the voice of local traditional structures in environmental conservation, especially those of women,” she said.

Women who are continuing with the agro-ecological food gardens and indigenous tree nursery programme are generating enough income to assist their families.

“Today I am able to grow enough crops for food and some for sale. From the sales, I make about R1000 a month which I use to buy some household necessities.” Joyce said. “I have even managed to build a decent house for my family which has three bedrooms and iron sheets roofing!” added Joyce excitedly.

GEF Small Grants Programme pumped in \$50,000 for the two-year project which benefited a total of 434 people including women and children.

UNDP South Africa participates in the Africa Regional Health, Gender and Capital Projects Initiative

UNDP South Africa is among 19 countries in Africa that are participating in the Health, Gender and Capital Projects initiative started by the UNDP Regional Service Centre and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Infrastructure development is a key driver of the African development agenda. It is a vital enabler for economic growth and structural transformation contributing significantly to human development, poverty reduction and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, besides the significant biophysical environmental impacts that the execution of large capital projects bring, there are broader health impacts and public health implications which do not often attract the same attention.

Activities associated with large capital projects impact on environmental, social, and institutional determinants of health and the resulting broader health impacts could include changes in diet, nutritional status, increased risk of infectious and non-communicable diseases, stress and mental health disorders, as well as substance abuse, alcoholism, violence, crime, conflict, and can cause various forms of accidents and injuries.

Accordingly, the AfDB and UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa have partnered in the implementation of the Health, Gender and Capital Projects initiative. The objective of this project is to stimulate increased access to health, HIV and gender services for construction/migrant workers as well as women and girls within project sites and project communities during and after the execution of large capital projects, including the extractive sector. The ultimate goal is to



An Infrastructure Project at Medupi Power Station in Lephalale, Limpopo Province.
Photo: Roman Crookes, Project Director, Medupi Power Station, 4 November 2014.
Construction

contribute to sustainable social and economic transformation on the African continent. This partnership comes at a critical point in Africa's growth and development as Africa is currently experiencing an unprecedented economic boom with increased foreign direct investment targeting commodities and mineral resources including oil and gas.

"Demand has escalated for improved railways, roads, dams, power stations, and other large infrastructure. South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030 has indeed prioritized infrastructure development; mainly large capital projects such as mining, transport, community services, trade, transport, energy and water to the tune of \$113 billion." Said Dr. Nelly Mwaka, UNDP Gender and HIV Programme Officer.

Through this project much awareness has been raised and continues to be generated around

the entire continent on the health and gender-related impacts of the execution of large capital projects.

"South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030 has indeed prioritized infrastructure development; mainly large capital projects such as mining, transport, community services, trade, transport, energy and water to the tune of \$113 billion"

Positioning SADC by aligning SDGs and Agenda 2063 with innovation as an anchor



CPSI CEO Ms Thuli Radebe giving the opening remarks. Photo: UNDP

South Africa, through the Ministry of Public Service and Administration, is the Online Regional Centre (ORC) co-ordinator of the content for the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Portal on behalf of the Southern African Development Community Region (SADC).

The UN has entrusted the South African government with this co-ordination function, to ensure that SADC's contribution to this global knowledge repository is maximized. To strengthen this collaboration the Department of Public Service and Administration established a platform, the Annual SADC UNPAN Workshop, for SADC partners to meet and explore ways of deepening their role and

participation as a Region.

UNDP in partnership with the Center for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) recently conducted the 7th Regional workshop, themed: *Positioning SADC UNPAN by Aligning Sustainable Development Goals*

(SDGs) and Agenda 2063 with Innovation as an Anchor. UNPAN is a virtual electronic network that promotes the sharing of knowledge on and exchange of innovative practices and lessons learned in public administration and management at local, national and international levels.

"The ultimate objective of this UNPAN workshop is to support the development of effective and efficient public administration systems and competencies especially in developing countries in their drive to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063," said Ms. Thuli Radebe, Chief Executive Officer of the CPSI.

UNDP's interest in supporting the event was to promote South-South learning on innovative public administration practices. "South-South cooperation is one of our priorities as expressed in the Country Programme Document (CPD) for South Africa. In all our programme priorities, which include governance and public service delivery, inclusive growth, energy and environment, South-South Cooperation is an important component," said UNDP Deputy Country Director (Operations) Ms. Dancilla Mukarubayiza.

This is an on going partnership between UNDP and the CPSI and it is bearing fruitful results. The two organizations partnered in 2015 June, to convene a similar regional workshop, and in December 2015 also together with UNDP Regional Services Centre and the Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE), they hosted a two day Regional Foresight Exchange Workshop for Development in Africa. The December workshop was primarily focused on introducing the concepts of Strategic Foresight, and how it can be applied at different stages in strategic planning, policy development, and innovation processes.



Handshake: UNDP Deputy Country Director Ms Dancilla Mukarubayiza and the High Commissioner for Singapore His Excellency Mr. Chua Thai Keong. Photo UNDP



Participants from Seychelles. Photo: UNDP

Who is Who in UNDP



Bongani Matomela - Programme Manager for Governance

Your full name and more about your educational background

I am Bongani Matomela, my middle name is President. I was given both names by my late uncle who was a clergyman. I studied public administration, completing a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Public Administration and did my Masters degree in international public administration at the University of North London.

Your career, when did you join UNDP and what inspired you to join?

I started my professional career at the dawn of democracy in South Africa, in my native Eastern Cape where I worked for a development planning NGO. I then moved to work for a university based public sector capacity building project for the Eastern Cape government, and thereafter took a break to further my studies. I worked for five and half years in government as Director responsible for knowledge management and learning with the Department of Public Service and Administration. Upon my departure from government I worked for almost four years as development consultant and researcher with particular focus on knowledge management and innovation, monitoring and evaluation and public sector capacity building, working on a range of government and donor funded programmes. I joined the UNDP in August 2015, and joining the UNDP was a natural career progression for me.

What are your hobbies?

I consider myself a health junkie, so I dabble in healthy food. I am no big eater either. I watch television (local dramas, local and international news, magazine and travel shows), read magazines/journals and books on social, economic and political topics.

Your dreams and aspirations?

To pursue my career further in international development. I also wouldn't mind a career in academia or some research fellowship with a prestigious international institution. Politics is a career option, who knows!

Your full name and more about your educational background

My name is Lerato G. Maimela, others call me Gloria, a name I intend to use when I hit my 50's. I have a certificate with UNISA in Supply Chain Management and another Procurement Certificate I have acquired within UNDP.

Your career, when did you join UNDP and what inspired you to join?

I started engaging with the UN in 2003 when I worked as a driver in UNFPA for a year. I left for a black owned private company as a receptionist and got an opportunity to come back in the UN system again as a driver for UNDP in 2005. With the interest in the field of procurement, I then started volunteering my assistance to the Procurement Associate, which then led to me acting as a Procurement Assistant for a year. With hard work and passion in this field, in 2008 I was appointed as a Procurement Assistant and then later in 2015, as a Procurement Associate, the position I am currently holding.

What are your hobbies?

I love cooking, spending time with my kids and watching reality shows. I also like going out once in a while, its very therapeutic.

Your dreams and aspirations?

I aspire to be an International Procurement Specialist/Advisor, be it within the UN system or outside of the UN, but my main objective is to be able to contribute positively to this field of work especially on policy related issues. UNDP has good Procurement Policies, Procedures and Practices that can be shared with other entities in reducing corruption within our country and globally. By that, making a difference in an ordinary citizen's life.

Your motto in life

My interpretation of my initials, L.G, is Life is Good, of which no matter how bad the situation may be, I know that Life is Good and God is Good!



Lerato G. Maimela - Procurement Associate

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