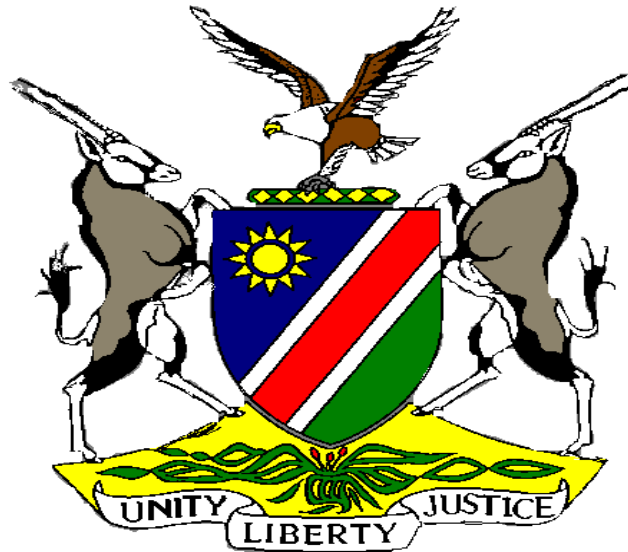


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



TALKING POINTS

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**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT,
REVIEW, EVALUATION AND COORDINATION FOR THE ACCELERATION OF
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN NAMIBIA**

20 October 2020

DROOMBOS, WINDHOEK

Checked against delivery

- It's a pleasure to share some time with you at this important Capacity Building Workshop;
- I read through the frank assessment of the capacity constraints within the policy making framework and I really need to commend the DG of the National Planning Commission, and his team, for this level of honest institutional self-evaluation.
- We can't fix problems that we are not willing to admit, and this workshop is a reminder that we can and must fix what is not working. It's also a reminder of the value of meaningful partnerships;
- The United Nations agencies that have responded positively to the NPC, and ensured this necessary intervention is realized, are proof that pragmatic partnerships matter;
- I have perused the *Training of NPC Officials on Public Policy Development and Policy Evaluation* concept note and it speaks credibly, and convincingly, about the different policy making processes that need to be changed;
- When dealing with reform, it is not only the processes that need to change, people also need to change;
- When we talk about the inefficiency of "the system," we often forget that we are the system. The system is a reflection of the people who work in it. To change the system, the people must change;
- We, correctly, spend lots of energy on scrutinizing the financial capital, and its utilization, in the public sector. It is my suggestion that it is as important to scrutinize the deployment of public sector human capital;
- Government is a service industry that relies on its human capital to identify and solve society's most complex problems. Central to this is people;
- To derive the best from people, we need capacity, consequences, and collaboration. We also need to encourage more young professionals to seek employment in the public sector as our most complex problems require our best brains. A good example is James Mnyupe – a former Managing Director of an investment management firm who took a significant pay cut to be part of the solution. Honourable Kandjoze is another professional who took the same route and sacrificed a lucrative career;
- I also wish to acknowledge the thousands of technocrats who are committed, hardworking and really go the extra mile – we only ever hear about civil servants who don't do their work and our stereotypes are often an affront to those who diligently perform thankless public sector duties;
- This workshop is recognition that Human capital is a transformative force when nurtured and developed; Good policy is made and implemented by good people, for the good of the people;
- It is thus unavoidable that as we seek to align our policies, we are also required to align our mindsets;
- We're all needed to play our part in making useful contributions to national unity, growth and inclusive development. From active citizenry, parents, teachers, academics, political, community, religious and traditional leaders – we all have a role to play;
- We all need to develop a constructive, solutions focused national mindset geared towards social cohesion and inclusive growth;

- This national mindset needs to be informed by evidence and needs to prevail over political, religious, ethnic or personal views;
- I was pleased to see the need for evidence-based policy as a thematic area in the concept note. While we are aware of the limitation of statistics, we are also aware of the need for high quality, reliable and timely data to guide policy making and invalidate intellectual narrow mindedness;
- It will also support the monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving our national development goals, and other internationally agreed goals such as the SDGS;
- This is also the building blocks of ensuring that the concept of development is pursued in a holistic manner. As we know, social challenges are inextricably linked to economic challenges;
- It is through evidence-based policy research and policy formulation that we will be able to mainstream human development concerns - such as employment, population, social protection, gender inequality and youth issues - into national policies and strategies;
- The current discussion around gender-based violence is a reminder that social issues, left unaddressed, quickly transform themselves into economic and political issues;
- We need constant reminders that we are a post conflict society and many of the wounds suffered by this nation remain unhealed;
- Unhealed trauma passes itself from generation to generation - those who are harmed the most are women and children;
- According to Oxfam, Levels of gender inequality in Africa also rank among the highest in the world and there is a strong connection between it and economic inequality;
- If the data tells us that African women and girls are more likely to be poor, the policies must specifically address issues of gender inequality and the protection of women and children from harm;
- It is through data that we will recognize the need to include, cost and fund (also needs clear timelines), social interventions within our national developmental frameworks;
- This is an important step in the ensuring the transformational change needed to envision and build a sustainable future for all of us;
- Thank you once again for inviting me to share some views on the type of workshops we want to see more of.

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