

**STATEMENT BY MR. SYLVESTER MBANGU - DEPUTY
EXDECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF MS. WILHENCIA UIRAS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL
OPENNING OF THE FIRST SERIES OF MINI-WORKSHOPS OF THE
NAMIBIA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, 27 APRIL
2021.**

Director of ceremonies,

Officials of NPC, MHETI and NSA

Officials of UN Country Team in Namibia

Officials of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Officials of GIZ Namibia

Ladies and gentlemen

1. I am pleased to welcome you all to this official opening of the second series of Mini -Workshops of the Capacity Building on Policy Formulation/Development which has a significant contribution to the acceleration of SDGs. The theme for this mini-workshop is centred around Science, Technology and Innovation. This is due to the fact that partly the focus of this workshop will be on the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy which is

currently under development and is part of this workshop discussion. As we are aware that science, technology and innovation is one of the important drivers of economic growth that can lead to a self-reliant and self-sustained nation.

- 2.** As you are all aware, in 2020, National Planning Commission (NPC) launched the Capacity Building Training Programme on Public Policy Development, Review, Evaluation and Coordination. This was done in October 2020 at a 3-day workshop that was held at Droombos Lodge located at the outskirts of Windhoek and this has culminated in the hostage of today mini-workshop. I wish to inform you that, during this Financial Year 2021/22, NPC together with our partners (UN Namibia and GIZ) will host a number of series of different mini-workshops that will help us as government officials to hone on the skills that we have been interested in learning in order to close the gaps that exist in the spheres of public policy development, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

3. These series of training programmes are aimed at improving effectiveness and efficiency of government and public service delivery as we strive towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Namibia is known to be one of the countries with best polices in the world, however, there are still some notable challenges with respect to policy development, review, implementation monitoring and evaluation, which resulted in the approval of the revised structure of the (NPC) by Cabinet, in 2011. In this respect, the NPC Act (Act No. 15 of 1994) was reviewed and replaced by NPC Act (Act No. 2 of 2013). The NPC Act of 2013 has mandated NPC to coordinate the development of Government socio-economic policies to ensure consistency; and to evaluate Government socio-economic policies to establish their effectiveness.

- 5.** The consistency in the development/revision of such public policies and their effectiveness is critical in achieving the country's developmental aspirations, as stated in the current developmental plan under implementation, such as NDP5, HPPII and other national, regional and international frameworks such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and AU Agenda 2063.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 6.** NPC has managed to develop the following tools; **Guidelines to the structure of Public Policies Documents and Guidelines for the structure of Public Policies Making Process** that serve as guiding tools in carrying out our mandate. I understand that these Guidelines will also be discussed at this training workshop in order to improve their efficiency. I also understand that many topical and interesting pertinent topics pertaining to policy development will be discussed during this training workshop.

7. Despite the Guidelines in place, there are still challenges that has been experienced such as lack of requisite skills in public policy making processes to be able to give the best advice and direction in all policy aspects.

8. It was because of these concerns that NPC took an initiative to seek for support for capacity building in the areas of Public Policy. The UN Namibia and GIZ responded positively to this call and a Programme of support to this effect was facilitated to address this need as it was deemed important in fostering the implementation of the existing and future planning frameworks nationally and those that Namibia is party to in terms of international commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Before I conclude, I just want to say that the fact that we have allocated our valuable time to be here to attend this training

workshop, serves as a reminder on how important this initiative is and shows your commitment towards the development of this country.

10. I would like to emphasize our gratitude to the UN Namibia country team, UNDESA and GIZ Namibia for your continued support and making this project a success.

11. I sincerely hope that the discussions in this training workshop and the information shared can be applied effectively in your role as technocrats.

12. With these few remarks, I thank you all for coming and It is therefore my pleasure to officially open the training workshop. May you have a productive and successful training workshop.

I Thank You All.