



STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. WILFRIED I. EMVULA, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE 13TH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, USA

20th MAY 2014

At the onset, I would like to join those who spoke before me in congratulating you madam chair on your re-election as the chairperson of the 13th Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

Madam Chair

Article 95 of the Namibian constitution oblige the government to actively promote and maintain the welfare of its citizens by adopting policies aimed at ensuring that every citizen has a right to fair and reasonable access to public facilities and services in accordance with the law.

In adhering to this constitutional provision, Cabinet passed a Decision aimed at addressing development and human right challenges faced by the marginalized communities, through a special and targeted socio-economic programme.

For the purpose of governance, Namibia established a San Development programme in the Office of the Prime Minister, as an institutional mechanism to uplift the living condition of our marginalized people. The programme aims at integrating San, Ovatie and Ovatjimba Communities into the mainstream of the economy and bring them at par with the rest of the population.

The government resolved that education should be made free from pre-primary up to the Primary School level since January 2013. This resolution mainly benefitted the marginalized communities, resulting in a decrease of the school drop-out rate.

Madame Chair

Namibia as a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) (2007) is honouring the declaration through an uninterrupted commitment by implementing marginalised people rights through its targeted integration program.

Madame Chair

Namibia is addressing the detriments of poverty through the National Vision 2030. The current National Development Plan (NDP4) has prioritized the eradication of extreme poverty under its Desired Outcome No. 4, from its Strategic Initiative through which specific government Ministries and Agencies are stakeholders in implementation.

In addition, the government, private sector and agencies frequently use the media to advertise events, notifying and informing the nation on issues related to the marginalized people's development.

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Government has also created a dedicated website for information sharing purposes.

Madame Chair

In accordance with the UNDRIP Article 17(2)(3), the Government is promoting the protection of child labour through the National Labour Act 11 of 2007 by all its citizens.

Today as an ongoing process, a total of 5 out of 6 Marginalized Community Traditional Authorities have been recognized by Government and are all fully functional as representatives of marginalized communities at various levels through customary governance procedures.

In conclusion, allow me to inform that Namibia, having inherited socio-economic imbalances from the former colonial government, is still experiencing challenges in addressing the plight of the marginalized communities, more especially due to the intensity and diversity of the challenges. Hence, we invite the international community, to partner with us in this regard.

I THANK YOU