



Immanuel Ngatjizeko
Director General
National Planning Commission

Namibia's **2030 Vision** is one of the most important initiatives undertaken in the country since the drafting and acceptance of the National Constitution.

The Vision 2030 planning process commenced in January 1998, when His Excellency the President, Dr Sam Nujoma, drew attention to the need for members of the Cabinet to be clear about "... where we are, where we wish to go, and over what time frame." As a result, eight teams were tasked by the National Planning Commission to undertake research that would comprehensively chart the course.

A long-term vision is a unifying concept for a nation. Everyone would like to have access to good education for their children, good and accessible health care, a clean and productive environment, an efficient and profitable economy that supports full and rewarding employment, low levels of crime, a just and tolerant society and meaningful transparent governance.

Such vision also offers the nation an ideal to work towards. Furthermore, it sets key targets and identifies some approaches that could be applied. The eight thematic reports which feed into this long-term vision are:

1. Inequality and Social Welfare
2. Peace and Political Stability
3. Human Resources Development and Institutional Capacity Building
4. Macroeconomic Issues
5. Population, Health and Development
6. Namibia's Natural Resources Sector
7. Knowledge, Information and Technology, and
8. Factors of the External Environment

In preparing these reports for Vision 2030, three higher-order questions were asked, namely

1. What is *the national ideal* that Namibia is working towards?
2. What is *the cornerstone* of Namibia's approach and philosophy?
3. How does the national development process fit into the vision?



THE NATIONAL IDEAL

The Key Elements for the VISION for 2030 will Depict:

The people of Namibia as well developed, prosperous, healthy and confident in an atmosphere of interpersonal harmony, peace and political stability; and as such, Namibia is a developed country to be reckoned with as a high achiever in the comity of nations.

In essence, it is the collective wish of the Namibian people, and the Vision for 2030 and beyond, that Namibia enjoys:

- *Prosperity,*
- *Interpersonal Harmony,*
- *Peace, and*
- *Political Stability*

The People and Resource Base will Reflect that:

People are the nation's human wealth: a population of healthy, well-educated, skilled, pro-active and financially stable people with a broad range of talents and positive attitude towards themselves, their fellow citizens, their country and global humanity. Foreign professional people and global businesses will perceive Namibia as a good environment in which to invest and from which to do local and international work, thus creating both wealth and employment.

Natural resources- the nation's ecological wealth: healthy, productive land with effective water and mineral cycling leading to infrequent, low-level drought and flooding. Perennial rivers running permanently and clear, underground water levels stable and no silting of dams. No atmospheric pollution from croplands and rangelands and minimal pollution from urban and industrial areas will be permitted. Farms and natural ecosystems shall be productive, diverse, stable and sustainable – socially, economically and ecologically. Forests, savannas, deserts, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems will be open, diverse, stable and productive.

A Basic Principle

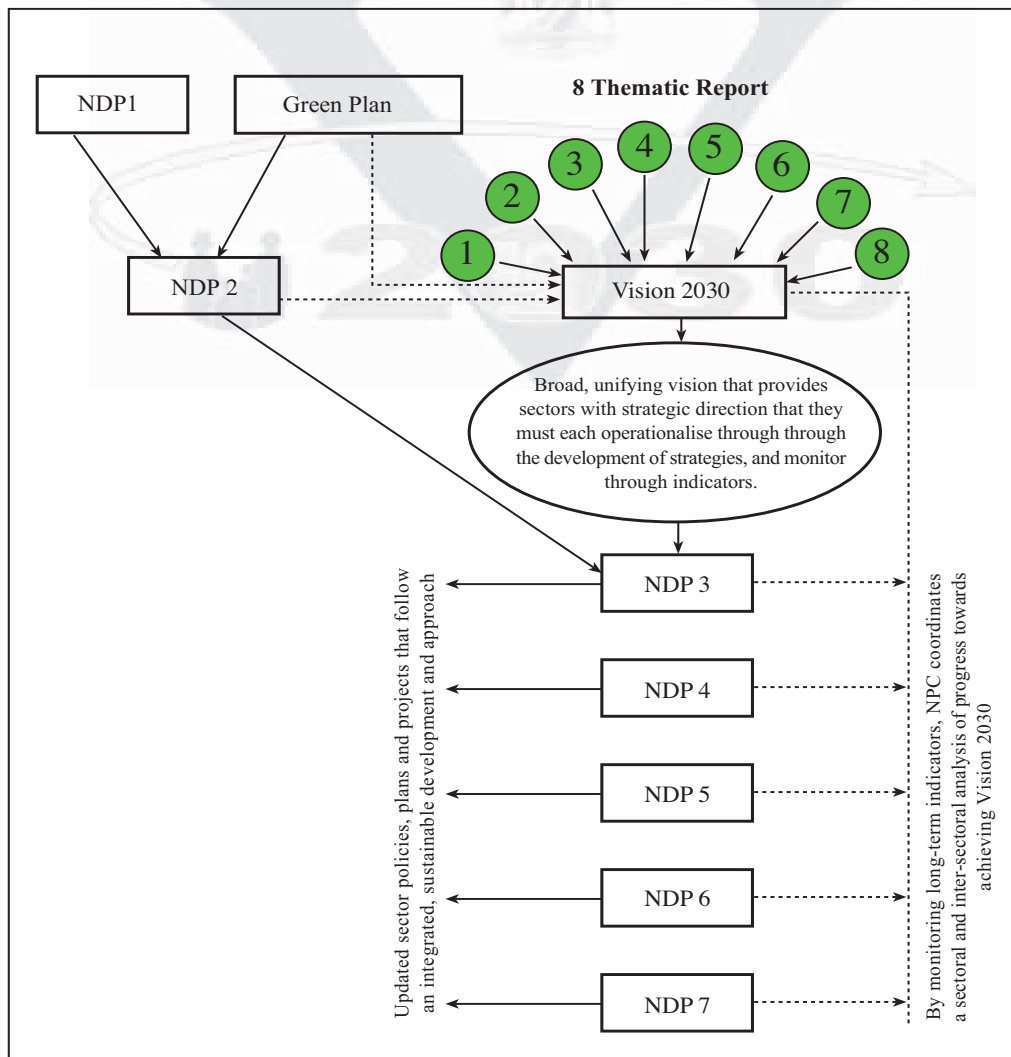
The concept of *sustainable development* is the cornerstone on which this work was based. Namibia has subscribed to this approach in its National Constitution, and has committed itself internationally, by adopting the United Nations Agenda 21 principles. The philosophy and principles of *sustainable development* cut across all sectors. Indeed, sustainable development is achieved only where sustainability in all sectors of endeavour is attained – social, economic and ecological. For the purposes of this study, *sustainable development* is defined as follows:

Sustainable Development

... development that meets the needs of the present without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The National Development Process

Namibia has embarked on a process of preparing and implementing five-year NDP. One shortcoming in these plans is that they tend to address immediate needs – a road, a clinic, a water point. What is missing in the process is a longer-term vision towards which each five-year plan should be working, including both the immediate needs of roads and water points, and the longer-term components that are needed to build a prosperous, productive and sustainable society. Vision 2030 provides this long-term perspective. The Vision 2030 initiative needs to be effectively linked and integrated into the NDP process, both institutionally and procedurally, to bring the two into highly productive synergy. The diagram below illustrates how this should be done.



The overriding prerequisite for the achievement of dynamic, efficient and sustainable development in Namibia is **Partnership**. Partnership between government and civil society, between different branches of government, with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and the international community. Between urban and rural societies and, ultimately, between all members of Namibian society. Vision 2030 is an initiative that can help to unify all Namibians to achieve their long-term development needs and initiatives, and promote and nurture partnerships.

This report draws on the eight thematic reports. It also draws on a national “Aspirations” workshop, a Decision-makers survey, regional consultations, Ministry-priorities and objectives, and a host of other national and local consultative and planning initiatives, including Regional Development Plans, Namibia’s second five-year NDP and Namibia’s Assessment Report to the World Summit for Sustainable Development.



Hon. Immanuel Ngatjizeko

Director General, National Planning Commission

