



Fisheries management to reduce hunger, poverty; create jobs

Fisheries management plays an important role in reducing hunger and poverty, as well as creating jobs and sustainable growth in the southern African region.

This was the view shared by stakeholders at the first port-call event in Durban last month. The event was part of a survey programme of the research vessel, Dr Fridtjof Nansen. The vessel is an integral part of the EAF-Nansen Programme, executed by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in close collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) of Bergen, Norway, and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The programme has been the flagship of Norwegian development cooperation in fisheries for more than 40 years.

The event provided an opportunity to flag the collaboration between national authorities, Norway and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, as well as regional and international partners, to generate knowledge that can help address key issues facing the oceans today. The aim of the surveys by the research vessel is to collect data on distribution and abundance of fish stocks, biodiversity, environmental conditions, occurrence of micro plastics, using cutting-edge technology and sophisticated equipment to assist developing countries assemble scientific data critical to sustainable fisheries management, and to study how

a changing climate is affecting the oceans.

Speaking at the event, FAO representative in South Africa, Lewis Hove, underlined the importance of the partnership between the organisation and the Norwegian Government in implementing the project. Hove said besides information to make it possible to improve the management of fisheries, leading to more sustainable resources use, the associated research will allow a better understanding of impacts of climate change and other external factors, including pollution on aquatic ecosystems.

"This new and impressive ship brings important innovations and technological capabilities necessary to improve scientific research," Hove said. "The 2018 regional research programme of this new ship that we are welcoming, starts here in Durban, South Africa, and is expected to end in October 2018 in Phuket, Thailand."

"The survey will cover the south-eastern part of Africa and Indian Ocean, as well as the Bay of Bengal. This new and impressive ship brings important innovations and technological capabilities necessary to improve scientific research," Hove said.

He said the EAF/Nansen programme has a long and sustained history of practical, useful and innovative research around South Africa, and elsewhere in the world. Plus he added that this has been important in generating, not only knowledge, but valuable collaborations within and among countries.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Minister, Senzeni Zokwana, said



Dr Fridtjof Nansen Research Vessel. Photo: Norad/Ivan Arltine

the department's mandate is to promote the development and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the development of the local fisheries sector. The formal collaboration between South Africa and Norway in the field of Fisheries Management began after the first South African democratic election in 1994, when the two countries signed the Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate strengthening of the capacity of the new democratic government, post 1994.

Norwegian Ambassador to South Africa, Trine Skjolden, said Norway and South Africa have developed a close partnership in the Oceans Economy. "Marine Research, such as that provided for by the Nansen Programme, is of critical importance for unleashing the ocean's full potential in a sustainable manner," Skjolden said.

The EAF-Nansen Programme is becoming one of the main references for FAO in supporting African countries in their efforts to manage fisheries and

implement the principles of sustainable development. The programme is funded by the Government of Norway, through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and implemented by FAO, in close collaboration with the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research that operates the vessel and provides scientific services to the programme.

In 2017, the South African Government, through DAFF and Environmental Affairs, and FAO signed a cooperative programme agreement for the implementation of the EAF-Nansen Programme. These efforts are in line with global and regional priorities, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also consistent with FAO's Strategic Objective which is: "Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable."

Several survey legs have been planned and detailed planning is ongoing with the scientists of the region to set the priorities.

- Info: SANews - Edited.

Coega Development Corp optimistic about year 2018

Coega Development Corporation (CDC) started this new year with revived enthusiasm and encouragement from improved business confidence.

"We are optimistic about future business prospects," Dr Ayanda Vilakazi, CDC Unit head of Marketing, Brand and Corporate Communications, said.

The CDC is waiting for the completion of investment projects valued in excess of R12 billion. The projects include, Osho

Cement – R600 million; Customs Control Area (in the logistics sector); Beijing Automobile International Corporation (BAIC SA) – R11 billion; Hella (Automotive investment in the CDC Logistics Park) – R53.3 million and MM Engineering – R350 million.

And the CDC hopes to achieve a minimum of 12 investors with projected 675 additional jobs. Some of the targeted investment sectors include automotive,

agro-processing and chemicals just to mention a few.

Last year the corporation saw the successful completion of more than five projects, namely Kenako Concrete, Cromstar, National Ship Chandlers, Sanitech and FinCorp, valued at R180 million, Dr Vilakazi said. "On the jobs front the CDC to date in the FY2017/18 has created additional 9441 construction

jobs and a further 7953 operational jobs."

Vilakazi said the corporation has also set its sights on skills development through training more than 2716 people in the current FY. It will continue to be at the forefront of socio-economic development by creating jobs, infrastructure development and encourage skills development in the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality as well as other areas.



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