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### UNDP joins FG on 7-point agenda

The UNDP in Abuja reiterated its commitment to joining the federal government in the effort to eradicate poverty in the country.

Alberic Kacou, UNDP Representative in Nigeria gave the assurance at the official launching of the Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM) Report in Nigeria.

He said the effort was part of the strategies contained in the report tagged: "Creating value for all: Strategies for doing business work for the poor".

The Vice President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, represented at the occasion by the minister of national planning, Alhaji Sanusi Daggash, said "the report is very timely and relevant to our national development agenda.

"The message from this year's report is that for human development to last, our policies need to be pro-poor.

"The private sector has a lot to do in the transformation and development of the economy and how the poor can connect to the business world," Jonathan said.

The VP also said "the poor can be included in the private sector as producers or entrepreneurs, employees, clients and consumers".

He said the government on its part, collaborated with the private sector and initiated some elements of inclusive markets.

An example of this, Jonathan said, was the Small and Medium Enterprises Investment and Equity Scheme (SMEIES) and the Local Content Policy, among others.

"Though the Nigerian environment is not yet conducive for the private sector to operate effectively, the President has initiated the process of reversing the trend of infrastructure decay in the country.

"To this effect, a national emergency is about to be declared, with a view to dealing with these challenges frontally," Jonathan added.

He urged the private sector to look beyond "the usual" and discover "solutions towards establishing successful businesses and relationships with the poor".

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