

# United Africa to construct N\$324 million hotel

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Windhoek

The United Africa Group (UAG) is in the process of constructing a luxurious Hilton Garden Inn hotel in the heart of Windhoek. This will be the third Garden Inn hotel in Africa.

The construction of the hotel will cost approximately N\$324 million and it will solely be owned by (UAG). Construction is slated to start soon and is expected to be completed by early 2018.

"This hotel will be the biggest in the city with a huge conference and convention centre, restaurant and a parking lot of up to 350, and it will be having at least 180 rooms," said Haddis Tilahun, United Africa Group's founder and executive director at the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday.

The hotel will be an affiliate of the Hilton chain and will use the Cluster Management System, a methodology that will be used to differentiate the two hospitality industries, such as the grades of



Photo: Contributed

**Big plans...** United Africa's founder and executive director, Haddis Tilahun, with Deputy Prime Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah at the groundbreaking ceremony, while other dignitaries look on.

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Tilahun added that "the Cluster Management System will mean using the same philosophy as that of Hilton and the same brand, thus this will make it easier to manage, as it will be jointly managed, making it cost-effective and efficient."

In terms of employment, Tilahun said this project will create 300 jobs during the construction phase and another 180 when it becomes operational. He further pointed out that the project will immensely contribute to the country's economic growth.

UAG runs casinos in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Oshakati. In addition, the Group has a diverse business portfolio, such as hospitality, property development, renewable energy and travel.

The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, and the Minister of Economic Planning, Tom Alweendo, among others.