



NamPPF
Namibia Public-Private Forum

Entrepreneurship, MSME Growth and Youth Development

NAMIBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE FORUM | 23-24 OCTOBER 2025

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Hosted by:



Republic of Namibia
National Planning Commission

Secretariat:



NIPDB
Namibia Investment Promotion
& Development Board



SCOPE AND OVERVIEW





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We Are the Entrepreneurs:

Entrepreneurship and the enterprises (MSMEs) we create are the **engine of inclusive growth**.

MSMEs make up over **90% of Namibian businesses** and drive **job creation, tax revenue, and production of goods and services in the country**.

Youth is the core entrepreneurship

Young people are a core part of the entrepreneurial landscape as

71% of population are under the age of 35; yet youth unemployment >44%

Committee mandate:

- Identify binding constraints
- Co-design practical reforms
- Support and drive implementation, accountability and delivery

Working Group Contributors:

Cross-sector team of entrepreneurs, MSME leaders, youth leaders, public sector, and policy advisors.

POLICY LANDSCAPE





POLICY LANDSCAPE: GOVERNMENT ACTION TO DATE

National Youth Development Fund:

Allocated N\$257 million for youth-led MSMEs, offering no-collateral loans and sector-specific grants.

EMPRETEC Namibia Programme:

Delivered entrepreneurial training and capacity building for MSMEs and startups.

National Mentoring & Coaching

Programme: Embedded mentorship into youth and MSME development pathways countrywide.

NDP6 (2025–2030):

Prioritised MSME formalisation, youth entrepreneurship, and innovation with measurable GDP uplift targets

SWAPO Manifesto Implementation Plan:

- Targets 500,000 jobs by 2030
- MSMEs activated as core delivery mechanism

Policy Intent Confirmed:

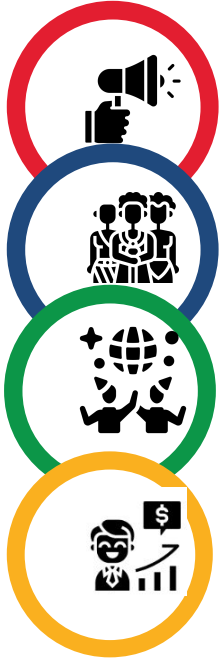
MSMEs and youth enterprises positioned as engines of inclusive growth and national transformation

PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS





NATIONAL PRIORITIES



Clear national intent:

- MSMEs are now a stated priority

Increased visibility:

- Entrepreneurs and youth are a focal point and clearly on the agenda

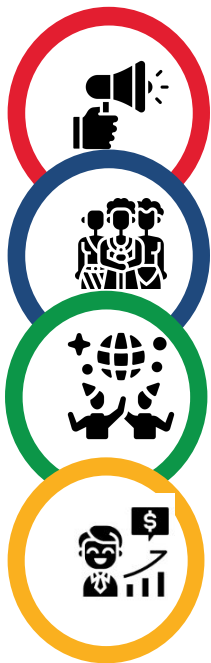
Capacity-building support:

- Emerging programs signal momentum, but remain fragmented
- **NDP6's** intent to industrialize, reduce youth unemployment, and promote inclusive growth aligns with core private sector goals.



MSME SECTOR CONSTRAINTS & CHALLENGES

Yet delivery gaps persist:



Challenging business climate:

- As illustrated by IMD report.

Significant finance constraints:

- Lacks deep capital, investment expertise, and bundled support such as project
- **Development Bank underperforming:**
DBN not fulfilling its mandate to support MSMEs and entrepreneurship
- **Tax and non-tax burden:**

High tax rates and red tape continue to undermine MSME competitiveness



POLICY IMPACT : WHAT IT MEANS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

Advancing MSME and youth entrepreneurship through increased competitiveness, reduced bureaucracy and collaboration

Strengthening MSME support via enterprise development, capacity building, and market access support

Improving access to funding through improved competitiveness, a capital friendly operating environment and funding and financing incentives for small and new businesses

Expanding access to non-loan funding: seed capital, grants, procurement-based financing, and investment readiness

Increased digitisation, transparency and accountability



PRIVATE SECTOR POTENTIAL : WHAT MORE WE CAN DO

Create jobs and improve lives

With the right environment, we can create a large number of jobs, quickly.

Make greater fiscal contributions

A larger private sector, and creator competitiveness, means we will pay more tax and employ more people who pay tax

Localise, Namibianise

A more competitive private sector will enhance localisation - more products and services will be competitively produced in country, thus reducing imports and increasing export

Transformation and CSI

A more competitive business climate will allow young Namibians to start and grow businesses that can compete with foreign and old companies, thus transforming and modernizing the private sector

A larger and more successful private sector will, as well as contributing more to the fiscus, do more for society including education and health programmes, youth programmes, creative industry programmes and sport.



WHAT PRIVATE SECTOR CAN AND CAN NOT (Challenges & Constraints)

We can:

- Create jobs, grow employment and household incomes
- Create industries, produce goods and services
- Pay tax and contribute to public goods, public infrastructure and social upliftment
- Hold hands with Government on socio economic projects and programmes
- Mentor MSMEs into procurement systems
- Invest in youth-led innovation and rural enterprises
- Digitise informal sectors and expand market access
- Co-finance and co-design delivery platforms and skills programmes

But we can't:

- Navigate confusing and extensive red tape, administrative challenges, and fragmented policies across OMAs
- Access early-stage finance in an uncompetitive environment that reduces chances of success.
- Compete fairly under a flat tax regime, **inconsistently applied procurement preferences**, and **high compliance costs that penalize early-stage MSMEs**
- Scale innovation when regulators offer no sandbox models outside finance
- Deliver at speed when licensing and permitting are slow, paper-based, and **intransparent**

RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSED ACTIONS





RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSED ACTIONS

Collaborative red-tape committee	Access to finance and pre-and-post investment support	Establish a progressive (bracketed) corporate tax rate	Establish a Hybrid Public–Private MSME One-Stop Hub
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private sector-led, cross-sectoral, with public sector collaboration• Identify and solve regulatory, service delivery, and accountability gaps• Enhance digitisation and modernisation of regulatory, registration, licensing and permitting systems• Embed clear timelines, escalation pathways, and public reporting across all	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add capital allocation expertise to Youth Empowerment Fund. Consider using the Fund to finance owner contribution so that MSMEs can leverage it to seek additional deb funding from institutions.• Radically reform DBN: capitalise, staff, and equip for MSME support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ease tax burden on startups and MSMEs• Enable reinvestment and growth for MSME's	<p>Centralize MSME support through a hybrid platform for registration, compliance, mentorship, and market access.</p>



OUR COMMITMENT

We are ready to
**partner, invest, and
deliver** across sectors,
regions, and
ecosystems

We ask for **enabling
reforms** to unlock our
full potential: red-tape
removal, finance reform,
and fair tax systems

With the right
reforms, we can
**surpass the
500,000 jobs
target**

Build a **resilient,
inclusive economy** that
leaves no one behind



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THANK YOU

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