



NIPDB

Namibia Investment Promotion
& Development Board

Media Release

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WINDHOEK - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Berlin and Windhoek Launch Landmark Skills Partnership to Empower Namibian Youth and Address Germany's Skilled Labour Shortage

Talentsbridge Namibia, a groundbreaking initiative between Namibia and Germany was officially launched today, marking a significant step toward addressing two critical socioeconomic challenges: Namibia's high youth unemployment rate and Germany's increasing shortage of skilled workers.

To effectively address these challenges, the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Berlin) partnered with TalentsBridge e.V to launch the pilot project for international workforce development. The initiative provides direct access to young Namibians to participate in a structured skills development programme that will prepare them and enhance their readiness for employment opportunities in both Germany and Namibia. The project is being developed in the context of the longstanding city partnership between Windhoek and Berlin.

To be implemented with the support of key stakeholders including the Ministry of International Relations and Trade, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts & Culture, and the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, TalentsBridge Namibia is envisaged to become a center of excellence that generates direct employment in key sectors starting with Industrial Electrics, Wholesale & Retail and Hospitality. Further to that it will ensure that Namibian youth are equipped not only for present day market demands, but also for the demands of a constantly evolving global economy.


The programme is firmly aligned with the strategic priorities of Namibia's National Development Plan 6 (NDP6), which prioritises youth empowerment, skills development, economic diversification and international partnerships as key drivers of inclusive economic growth. By strengthening the country's human capital, and facilitating labour pathways, Talentsbridge directly contributes towards alleviating the triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty, while increasing Namibia's competitiveness.

Applications for the first intake are now officially open to all Namibian youth across the country, and will close on 31 March 2026. The selection process will be transparent and merit-based, ensuring equal opportunity for all applicants. In the first year 100 young Namibians will be selected. The preparatory course including language lessons will start in May 2026, with the vocational training slated for 01 September 2026.

 C/O Garten Street
& Dr. A. B. May Street

 info@nipdb.com
www.nipdb.com

 Private Bag 13340,
Windhoek, Namibia

 +264 (0) 83 333 8600

Board Members: VJ Mungunda (Chairperson) · K Ndilula (Deputy Chairperson)
EV Hilger · D Honsbein · MK Shipanga · JJ Hauuanga (Acting Chief Executive Officer) (Ex Officio)
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Quotes from Speakers:

**1. Jessica Haaunga
Acting CEO: NIPDB:**

“For Namibia, TalentsBridge is a catalyst for stronger human capital, improved employability, and a more competitive investment environment. For investors, it provides assurance that Namibia is responsive to their needs, be it from a policy framework or skills availability perspective. As an investment-ready destination, we are ready to make the necessary investments to ensure that we develop and cultivate skills that are aligned to market demands and economic growth.”

2. Sebastian Stietzel, President of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman Talentsbridge

“Applying for training at the TalentsBridge Training Center marks the first step toward a new professional future for young people in Namibia. This is because the training, which is based on IHK standards, is geared toward the skilled labor needs of our partner companies. Those who complete the training and pass the exams can start working as skilled workers in Germany right away. Young people trained to IHK standards are also in high demand in Namibia. We are therefore very pleased that the Namibian government is providing such strong support for the TalentsBridge project as we now move into the decisive implementation phase of this joint project.”

**3. Dalia Mwiya, Director: TVET
Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts & Culture:**

“Namibia’s greatest natural resource is talent, and through TalentsBridge, we are focusing on skills with purpose. We are positioning Namibia as a nation that deeply values artisans as much as our academics. Vocational training is no longer a second option, it is a first choice for national growth and this is how we continue to build Namibia”.

Enquiries:

Catherine Shipushu
Senior Manager: Marketing, Communications and Branding
Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board
Phone: +264 811279069
Email: Catherine.Shipushu@nipdb.com

Claudia Engfeld
Press Officer
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Berlin
Phone: +49 3031510356
Email: claudia.engfeld@berlin.ihk.de

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