



**NIPDB**  
Namibia Investment Promotion  
& Development Board

## Frequently Asked Questions: Investment Promotion

#	Question	Answers
1.	<i>What services does the NIPDB provide?</i>	<p>The NIPDB is the lead investment promotion agency for Namibia and was established in January 2021 under section 21 and serves as the first point of contact for investors and prospectors doing and wanting to do business in Namibia. We provide investor support and services such as facilitating exploratory visits, business registration, visas and permits application, obtaining licences, and forming partnership. We collaborate with relevant stakeholders to address investment &amp; business constraints by providing input to policy frameworks to create a conducive investment climate. Additionally, we provide aftercare services to current investors. The NIPDB also provides targeted support for the development, innovation and acceleration of SMEs in four areas mainly access to finance, access to markets and capacity building, and ideation.</p> <p>The NIPDB offers its services free of charge to both local and foreign investors.</p>
2.	<i>Are foreign investors treated the same as local investors in Namibia?</i>	<p>Yes, foreign investors in Namibia are treated the same as local investors. The Namibian government promotes a fair and open investment climate, ensuring that foreign investors have the same rights, protections, and obligations as local investors. This includes equal treatment in areas such as business registration, tax obligations and access to resources. For more information, please consult the <a href="#">Foreign Investments Act 27 of 1990</a> here.</p> <p>Additionally, all sectors are open and available to investment, both domestic and foreign. Section 3 (1) of the <i>Foreign Investments Act 27 of 1990</i> permits foreign nationals to invest in and engage in all business activities within Namibia that are open to Namibian citizens. However, Section 3 (4) allows for certain business activities to be reserved for Namibians subject to the</p>

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

 [info@nipdb.com](mailto:info@nipdb.com)  
[www.nipdb.com](http://www.nipdb.com)

 Private Bag 12039,  
Windhoek, Namibia

 +264 (0) 83 333 8600

**Board of Directors:** VJ Mungunda (Chairperson) · KP Ndilula (Deputy Chairperson)  
HB Gerdes · EV Hilger · D Honsbein · S Hugo · JY Mnyupe · MK Shipanga · N Nelulu Uaandja (Chief Executive Officer) (Ex Officio)  
**(Non-profit Association Incorporated under Section 21) - Registration Number: 21/2020/0929**



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		provisions of Section 7 (3). Section 3 (4) to date has not been exercised.
3.	<i>Do you issue investment certificates? How much do I pay to obtain one?</i>	The NIPDB does not issue investment certificates. However, section 4 of the <a href="#">Foreign Investments Act 27 of 1990</a> , makes provision for the Minister of Trade and Industry to issue certificates in respect of "Status Investments" as per eligibility criteria defined in section 5 of the act.
4.	<i>How long does it take to obtain an investment certificate?</i>	The Certificate of Status Investment is issued by the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade. The turnaround time for obtaining this certificate can vary from a few weeks to several months, depending on the specific project.
5.	<i>Do you offer incentives to investors?</i>	<p>The only such incentives being provided currently are those related to existing investors under the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) regime. The regime stopped taking on new participants in 2021 and will cease at the end of 2025.</p> <p>The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is currently contemplating new investment law as well as legislation relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZ's). Both of these regimes are expected to be enacted in 2025 or 2026.</p> <p>Namibia does offer a number of embedded incentives in its respective tax codes that will significantly impact the effective tax rate you might pay. An example of this is the unlimited carrying of business losses.</p> <p>Namibia also supports employee education and training through the Namibia Training Authority which you can read more about here: <a href="#">National Training Fund - NTA</a></p>
6.	<i>Can I obtain land in Namibia for my project?</i>	Yes, provided that the application is made in accordance with the provisions of all the relevant laws and regulations. The main laws that govern land matters in Namibia are the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act of 1995 and the Communal Land Reform Act of 2002. A process is currently underway to consolidate these two



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		<p>laws into a single document. Subject to the nature of the project in question, sector-specific laws will apply.</p> <p>You can read more about land ownership here:</p> <p><a href="#">Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 1995</a> <a href="#">Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002</a></p>
7.	<i>Do you have regional or international offices that can provide more information?</i>	<p>Investment and Export Promotion Attachés are stationed in several strategic locations worldwide including Pretoria (Republic of South Africa), Cairo (Egypt), London (United Kingdom), Beijing (People’s Republic of China) and New York (United States of America).</p> <p>Contact us at <a href="mailto:info@nipdb.com">info@nipdb.com</a> in order to be connected to one of our regional attachés.</p>
8.	<i>What is the process for obtaining necessary permits and licences for business operations?</i>	<p>All registrations related to business operations can be done at Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) where different forms apply depending on what type of business operations one wants to set up. For business registration, it is highly recommended to make use of the services of an auditor or legal firm, as the process can be complex, particularly in drafting the Memorandum and Articles of Association to align with the company’s specific structure and requirements. Permits and Licences for different sectors are issued at the respective government offices, ministries or agencies(OMAs).</p> <p>To streamline the process, the NIPDB operates an Investor One Stop Centre (OSC), which provides support and facilitation services for various permits and licenses issued by OMAs. The OSC serves as a central coordination point to fast-track applications and assist investors in navigating the business environment efficiently. Investors can leverage this service to ensure smoother processing of their business-related permits and licenses.</p> <p>You can contact BIPA here: <a href="#">BIPA</a></p>
9.	<i>How can the NIPDB assist with market research and</i>	<p>NIPDB does not conduct market research and feasibility studies on behalf of potential investors, but we do recommend a list of accredited service providers.</p>



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	<i>feasibility studies for potential investments?</i>	
10.	<i>What is the process for repatriating profits and dividends from investments in Namibia?</i>	<p>Under the Exchange Control Regulations of 1961, no person may take or send out of Namibia any foreign currency, gold, or securities without approval granted by the Exchange Control Division of the Bank of Namibia or submitted together with Form F.178. Letters of credit, bank drafts, travellers' cheques, or similar instruments of exchange are considered foreign currency in this context. It is important to note that the specific procedures and requirements may vary based on the type of investment, the amount of funds and current regulations. Consulting with legal and financial advisors familiar with Namibian laws and regulations is advisable to ensure compliance and facilitate smooth repatriation of profits and dividends.</p> <p>For more information about exchange control and the role of the Bank of Namibia, contact your Namibian bank or the consult the Bank of Namibia website: <a href="#">Bank of Namibia - Exchange Control Circulars</a></p>
11.	<i>Are there any special economic zones or industrial parks available for investors?</i>	No. However, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is currently drafting e Special Economic Zones legislation, expected to be promulgated in 2025 or 2026.
12.	<i>What is the dispute resolution mechanism for investors in Namibia?</i>	Namibia has a robust and independent judiciary system capable of resolving any disputes which may arise. Additionally, Section 13 (1) of the <i>Foreign Investment Act 27 of 1990</i> provides for the settlement of disputes through international arbitration if the investor prefers this option.
13.	<i>Does investing in Namibia require a minimum capital?</i>	There is no minimum investment requirement for Namibia.



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<p>14.</p>	<p><i>What special visa exists for investors?</i></p>	<p>Under the Immigration Control Act, foreign investors, business owners, and their specialised employees can apply for various visa and permit options, depending on the duration and nature of their business activities in Namibia.</p> <p>These include Short-Term Employment Permits/Work Visas, issued for periods ranging from 1 day to 6 months, suitable for temporary business engagements or specialised assignments. Investors requiring a longer stay may apply for a Long-Term Employment Permit, granted for durations between 12 to 60 months, allowing them to actively manage and operate their businesses in Namibia.</p> <p>Additionally, those who meet the necessary requirements can apply for a Permanent Residence Permit (PRP), which enables them to reside in Namibia on a permanent basis. The Immigration Selection Board (ISB) holds the discretion to grant or deny these permits, assessing each application based on compliance with the stipulated legal requirements.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p><i>What are the land allocation and ownership guidelines?</i></p>	<p>Land allocation and ownership in Namibia is guided by the <i>Communal Land Reform Act, 5 of 2002</i> and the <i>Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 6 of 1995</i>. These two laws should be read together with the <i>National Land Policy 1998</i>, the <i>National Resettlement Policy of 2001</i>, as well as the <i>Resolutions of the 2nd National Land Conference 2018</i>. All of these documents are freely downloadable online:</p> <p><a href="#">Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002</a>  <a href="#">Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 1995</a></p> <p><u>Communal Land:</u></p> <p>Communal land in Namibia refers to land that is collectively owned by communities and traditionally managed according to customary law. This land is typically used for farming, grazing, and settlement. This land is not for sale, but can be leased for development purposes. A foreign investor can lease 100 hectares of land for a maximum period of 10 years, more than that will require approval from the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform. Lease fees will be determined by the Land</p>



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		<p>Board based on the land's valuation and may be paid in installments if necessary. However, a foreign investor can sublease land from a government body that has existing leasehold rights over the land for a period agreed upon between the Lessor and Lessee.</p> <p><u>For commercial land</u></p> <p>Commercial land is privately owned land used for business, commercial agriculture, or large-scale enterprises. Ownership is granted through freehold titles.</p> <p>To lease the commercial land, the government does not accept a 50/50 lease arrangement; there must be one party that holds control. If the investor wishes to lease less than 51% of the land, no consent from the minister is required. The lessee and the lessor may proceed to enter into their agreement. Register the lease at the deeds office. When the investor wishes to lease 51% of the farm and above, an approved consent from the Minister of Agriculture Water and Land Reform is required. The Ministry does not participate in the negotiation of lease prices; this is determined by the lessor.</p> <p>To sell the commercial land: the owner of the commercial land who wishes to sell their land will require a certificate of waiver from the Ministry. The owner may then proceed to sell the land to their preferred buyer, with the price being determined by the seller and the buyer. The ministry will not be involved at this stage. Local investors are not required to obtain consent from the ministry and may lease any land of their choice from the lessor of their choice without needing prior approval.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><i>Does NIPDB only work with foreign investors?</i></p>	<p>No, the NIPDB facilitates and supports both domestic and foreign investors and prospectors, independent of the value of investment and nationality. Our aim is to promote Namibia as an investment destination of choice by improving the ease of doing business in Namibia for everyone.</p>



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17.	<i>Does NIPDB finance projects?</i>	No, the NIPDB does not finance projects. We only assist with referrals to possible partners who can provide project finance.
18.	<i>Does NIPDB provide sponsorships ?</i>	No. As an institution fully funded by the Government, we do not provide sponsorships and donations.
19.	Does NIPDB only facilitate investments in the priority sectors ?	No. While priority sectors have the potential for maximum socio-economic impact, the NIPDB does not discriminate in its provision of facilitation services. These services are offered free of charge with no fee or levy to domestic or foreign investors.
20.	What is the minimum wage in Namibia?	<p>With effect from 1 January 2025, the minimum wage for employees is N\$18.00 per hour.</p> <p>In order to catch up with this national minimum wage, domestic workers will start at N\$12/ hour with effect from 1 January 2025; N\$15.00 per hour from 1 January 2026; and N\$18.00 per hour from 1 January 2027.</p> <p>Agriculture workers are entitled to: (i) N\$10.00 per hour with effect from 1 January 2025; (ii) N\$14.00 per hour from 1 January 2026; and (iii) N\$18.00 per hour from 1 January 2027.</p> <p>Please see the resultant copy of the Government Gazette for your reference: <a href="#">Government Gazette on Minimum Wage</a> <a href="#">GOVERNMENT GAZETTE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA</a></p> <p><u>Implement robust feedback mechanisms to continuously gather and address stakeholder concerns.</u></p>
21.	<i>Is Namibia party to Trade Agreements with other countries?</i>	<p>Since its independence in 1990, Namibia has concluded a number of trade agreements.</p> <p>In 1995, the country acceded to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Namibia is a member of Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), and is therefore bound to the SACU agreement concluded in the year 2002.</p> <p>Through SACU, Namibia has successfully concluded Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA as follows :</p> <p>MERCOSUR PTA (2016)</p>



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		<p>EFTA (2008) Southern African Development Community (SADC) FTA (1998) AFCFTA FTA (2021) SADC-EU EPA (2016) SACU+Mozambique UK EPA (2021)</p> <p>Namibia also benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which is a United States Trade Act.</p>
22.	What kind of legal guarantees do investors have in Namibia?	Investors are protected in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which speaks particularly to the protection of ownership rights. Additionally, The <i>Foreign Investment Act 27 of 1990</i> and all other applicable national laws also support these constitutional principles.
23.	<i>How can I obtain a licence to export products from Namibia to another country?</i>	<p>The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade issues permits and licences to import and export products with other countries.</p> <p>Contact the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade for further information or consult their online portal at: <a href="#">Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade IMEX Portal</a></p>
24.	<i>I am conducting research and need information about a specific sector. Can you provide me with this information?</i>	Please refer to the official data sources such as institutional websites for sector-specific information. However, if the information required pertains to the NIPDB, please send your enquiry to : <a href="mailto:info@nipdb.com">info@nipdb.com</a>
25.	<i>I would like to understand the investment policies in Namibia.</i>	Namibia is currently guided by the <i>Foreign Investment Act 27 of 1990</i> in matters related to foreign investments. This law is being revised and may be replaced with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Act which is currently being contemplated by the Namibian Government. The new Act will cater for both domestic and foreign investors.
26.	<i>How can I obtain a letter of motivation or support</i>	The NIPDB does not provide motivational letters or letters of support to potential investors. We are able to provide a letter to indicate that you are a registered user of our





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	<i>from the NIPDB?</i>	<p>services, however we can not provide letters to support credit and funding debt applications.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, such a request should be addressed to: <a href="mailto:info@nipdb.com">info@nipdb.com</a></p>
27.	<i>How many hours are in the working week in Namibia and what holiday entitlements exist?</i>	<p>The Namibian Labour Act 6 of 1992 allows for a maximum of 45 hours of ordinary working hours per week, with a minimum of 8 hours per day, for a 5 days working week, and for full time employees per day, excluding meal breaks, with exceptions for overtime and Sundays. An employee is entitled to 24 days of annual leave per consecutive 12 month period of employment, and for 30 working days of sick leave per annum. You can consult the <a href="#">Labour Act 11 of 2007</a> here.</p>
28.	<i>What are the social insurance contribution costs to be paid to the government on top of salaries?</i>	<p>Social security is payable on a 50:50 ratio of contributions from employers and employees. The contributions are calculated at 0.9% of earnings, with a minimum monthly contribution of N\$2.70 and a maximum monthly contribution of N\$81.00 per party.</p> <p>Please find the reference above here: <a href="#">Namibia Tax Reference and Rate card</a></p>
29.	<i>Are there any restrictions on the free movement of capital in and out of Namibia? Are there any currency controls?</i>	<p>As per the Exchange Control Regulations of 1961, no person may take, or send out of Namibia, any foreign currency, gold or securities without an approval granted by the Exchange Control Division of the Bank of Namibia or, alternatively, be submitted together with Form F.178 (letters of credit, bank drafts, travellers' cheques or similar instruments of exchange should be regarded as foreign currency). For further information on your particular bank's restrictions or rules, please contact your local Namibian bank or forex dealer for further guidance.</p>
30.	<i>What internet connectivity speeds are available in Namibia, at what cost and from how many carriers?</i>	<p>In Namibia, internet speeds vary depending on location and provider, with options ranging from basic speeds like 4-6 Mbps in rural areas or on WIMAX, going up to high-speed fiber options reaching 130 Mbps and beyond, particularly in urban areas like Windhoek. Internet speeds in Windhoek averages 20-40 Mbps, depending on your purchased offering.</p>



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31.	<i>How can I obtain permanent residency in Namibia?</i>	<p>Permanent residence can be applied for in Namibia after the applicant has had ten (10) years of legal residence status within the country. Legal status of 10 years means that the applicant has either had a work permit for 10 years, or has married a Namibian citizen and has received a Certificate of Identity for 10 years or has had a study permit for 10 years.</p> <p>The Government of Namibia may in exceptional circumstances also consider awarding permanent residence when investors make significant, impactful investments.</p>
32.	<i>I need assistance with securing land. How can you help?</i>	<p>The Ministry Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is the authority on land matters. However, depending on where the land is located, one might need to engage with the relevant Local Authorities or Traditional Authorities. The NIPDB might be able to facilitate these engagements if there's a strong investment case. Please contact the NIPDB on <a href="mailto:info@nipdb.com">info@nipdb.com</a> for more information.</p>
33.	<i>What are the steps and requirements to request for and undertake a business exploratory visit to Namibia?</i>	<p>Kindly communicate the request to the NIPDB with specific information, delegation, sectors to be engaged with and exact business interests. The Board can then facilitate an exploratory visit through assisting with visa applications and other business meeting arrangements.</p> <p>Alternatively, you may apply for a business visa at any Namibian Embassy or High Commission, where applicable, or by submitting the relevant application forms to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.</p>
34.	<i>What are the requirements for expatriate work in Namibia?</i>	<p>Expatriates are required to apply for a formal employment permit, and their employer is required to provide proof that they were unable to secure the specified expertise locally by firstly advertising the vacancy in the local media.</p> <p>Business plans should accompany work permit applications submitted to the Ministry of Immigration Affairs, Safety and Security, along with the requisite motivation. This can be facilitated by the NIPDB.</p>



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<p>35.</p>	<p><i>What is the process for inflowing foreign funds for investment into Namibia?</i></p>	<p>In terms of the Financial Intelligence Act, 2012 (Act No 13 of 2012) (FIA), the primary mandate of the FIC is to protect the integrity and stability of the Namibian financial system, by monitoring and supervising the anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism and proliferation controls required to be implemented by businesses that are vulnerable to money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation activities.</p> <p>As such, any foreign investment funding will be channelled to the central bank for clearing, only after which the transfer of these funds to the investor preferred local commercial bank can be completed.</p>
<p>36.</p>	<p><i>What are the policies and regulations governing import/export in Namibia?</i></p>	<p>There is an import and export regulation governed under the <a href="https://www.lac.org.na/laws/annoSTAT/Import%20and%20Export%20Control%20Act%2030%20of%201994.pdf">https://www.lac.org.na/laws/annoSTAT/Import%20and%20Export%20Control%20Act%2030%20of%201994.pdf</a></p> <p>This regulation stipulates that an import and export licence, obtainable from the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, is required for any movement of goods into, or out of, the country. Furthermore, for certain agricultural products, such as live animals, a veterinary certificate is required in addition to the import and export permit.</p> <p>Various other terms and conditions are applicable, subject to the nature of the product being imported and/or exported, in accordance with the specific policy, or policies, that may be applicable to the aforementioned type of material, resource, or product. For example, forestry products that are exported in raw form attract an export levy, and dairy imports attract additional duties to protect the domestic dairy industry.</p>