

2025 IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS YEARBOOK

## NAMIBIA'S PERFORMANCE

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Hosted by:





Secretariat:







## WHAT IS COUNTRY COMPETITIVENESS

"An economy's competitiveness cannot be reduced to just its GDP and productivity; political, social and cultural dimensions are a reality for enterprises, too. Governments play a crucial role, by providing an environment characterized by efficient infrastructure, institutions, and policies that can encourage sustainable value creation on the part of enterprise."

IMD



## NAMIBIA IN THE IMD WCY: A TIMELINE

### **APRIL 2023**

Cabinet approves
NIPDB submission for
Namibia to take 1st
step to join WCY
rankings (i.e. Special
Report)

#### **SEPT - DEC 2023**

+100 surveys received

NIPDB engagements with Govt. OMAs to collect information required from local sources. NIPDB issues Executive Opinion Surveys to over 500 executives and senior managers - survey closed after

#### JULY 2024 - Dec 2024

NIPDB receives Namibia Special Report. Engagements with key stakeholders to develop Theory of Change to address weaknesses to enhance Namibia's

competitiveness

### **JULY 2025**

Competitiveness and key identified constraints (ease of doing business, skills availability and industry absorption, and digital capability features in NDP6

#### **AUGUST 2023**

Finalisation of contracting with IMD, with the support of **FirstRand Namibia**.
Engagements between NIPDB & IMD to ensure accuracy of process.

### **JAN-FEB 2024**

Resolution of data queries, final efforts to collect information from OMAs, data cleaning

### **MARCH 2025**

Cabinet approves Namibia's participation in the IMD WCY; approves ToC; instructs NPC to integrate competitiveness into NDP6 and to ensure that related priorities are reflected in the strategic plans of all Offices, Ministries, and Agencies (OMAs)



## ABOUT THE IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS YEARBOOK (WCY)

- The IMD WCY is a comprehensive annual report and worldwide reference point on the competitiveness of countries.
- Based on 341 competitiveness criteria, including an Executive Opinion Survey issued to 100 senior managers/executives.
- The criteria are based on comprehensive research and feedback from the business community, government agencies and academics.
- The 2025 Yearbook features 69 economies, chosen based on the availability of comparable international statistics and collaboration with Local Partner Institutions.
- Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Botswana are among the African countries featured in the 2025 Competitiveness Yearbook.





### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Countries use the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) primarily as a comprehensive benchmarking tool to assess and improve their economic and institutional performance. The main purposes and benefits of this exercise are as follows:

- Benchmarking and Policy Evaluation
- Informed Decision Making
- Holistic View of Competitiveness
- Learning and Best Practices
- Global Reference and Trend Analysis





- The IMD World Competitiveness ranking analyses and ranks the capacity of countries to create and maintain an environment that sustains the competitiveness of enterprises.
- This is based on the assumption that wealth creation takes place primarily at an enterprise level (whether private or state owned) this field of research is called "competitiveness of enterprises".
- However, enterprises operate in a national environment which enhances or hinders their ability to compete domestically or internationally this field of research is called "competitiveness of countries" and is covered by the World Competitiveness Ranking.
- The methodology of the World Competitiveness Ranking divides the national environment into four main factors: (1) Economic Performance (2) Government Efficiency (3) Business Efficiency (4) Infrastructure



## **METHODOLOGY**

- Each of these factors is divided into 5 sub-factors altogether 20 sub-factors.
- These 20 sub-factors comprise 341 criteria
- Each sub-factor, independently of the number of criteria it contains, has the same weight in the overall consolidation of results, that is 5% (20x5 =100).
- Criteria can be hard data, which analyzes competitiveness as it can be measured (e.g. GDP), or soft data, which analyzes competitiveness as it is perceived (e.g. availability of competent managers). Hard criteria represent a weight of 2/3 in the overall ranking whereas the survey data represent a weight of 1/3.
- Some criteria are for background information only, which means that they are not used in calculating the overall competitiveness ranking (e.g. population under 15).
- Finally, aggregating the results of the 20 sub-factors makes the total consolidation, which leads to the overall ranking of the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking.





Assesses the extent to which an economy fosters an environment in which enterprises can generate sustainable value creation



Extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness



Extent to which the national environment encourages enterprises to perform in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner



Extent to which basic, technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of businesses



## **ALL COUNTRY RANKINGS**





## **IN A NUTSHELL - IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS RANKING 2025**

# 69 Economies Compared

#### **Top 5 Economies**

- 1. Switzerland
- Singapore
   Hong Kong
- 4. Denmark
- 5. UAE

4 Factors

## **Economic Performance**

- 1. Singapore
- UAE
   USA
- 4. Malaysia
- 5. China

Government Efficiency

- I. Switzerland
- 2. Hong Kong 3. Singapore
- 4. UAE
- 5. Ireland

**Business Efficiency** 

- . Denmark.
- Hong Kong
   UAE
- . Taiwan
- 4. Taiwan 5. Qatar

Infrastructure

- 1. Switzerland
- Denmark
   Sweden
- Sweden
   Finland
- 5. Canada

20 Sub-Factor

- 1. Domestic Economy
- International Trade
   International
- Investment
  4. Employment
- 5. Prices

- 1. Public Finance
- 2. Tax Policy
- 3. Institutional Framework
- 4. Business Legislation
- 5. Societal Framework

- 1. Productivity
- 2. Labour Market
- 3. Finance
- 4. Management Practices
- 5. Attitudes & Values

1. Basic

- 2. Technology
- 3. Scientific
- 4. Health & Environment
- 5. Education





### **CHANGE IN NAMIBIA'S 2025 COMPETITIVENESS PERFORMANCE**





### **Economic Performance**



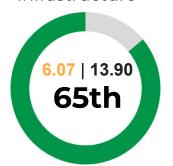
Assesses the extent to which an economy fosters an environment in which enterprises can generate sustainable value creation

### Government Efficiency



Extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness

#### Infrastructure



Extent to which basic, technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of businesses

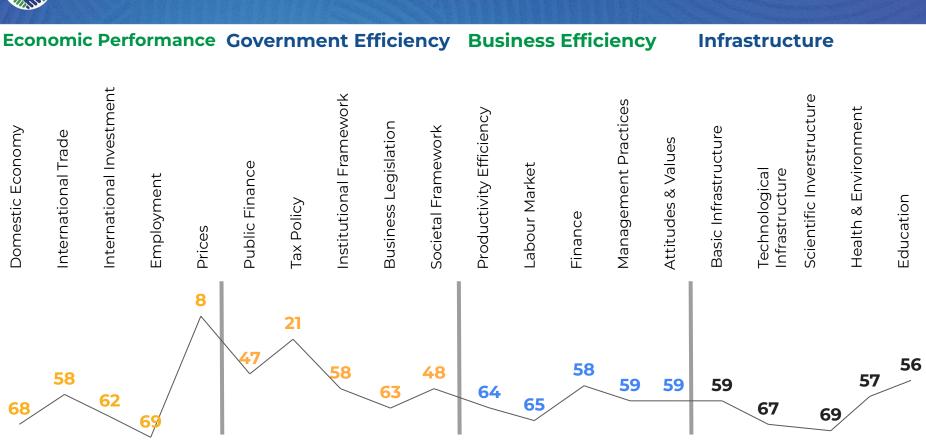
### **Business Efficiency**



Extent to which the national environment encourages enterprises to perform in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner

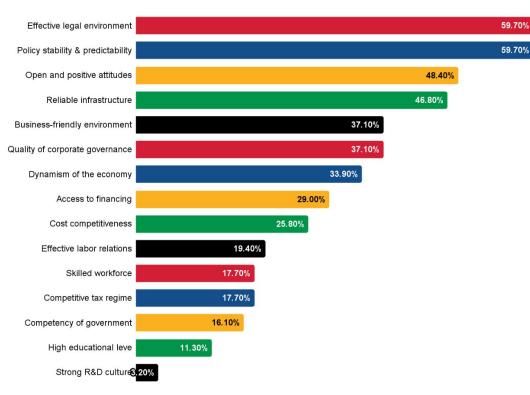


## NAMIBIA'S 2025 COMPETITIVENESS PERFORMANCE RANK





## **KEY ATTRACTIVENESS INDICATORS (EXECUTIVE OPINION SURVEY)**



Respondents were not asked to prioritise their choices

0.00% 25.00% 50.00% 75.00% 100.00%



## **NOTABLE STRENGTHS IN INDICATORS**





**GOVERNMENT** 

**EFFICIENCY** 





5

12

25

Cost of living index	2	Employer Social Security Tax Rate	4
Office Rent	2	Employee Social Security Tax Rate	5
Inward FDI (% of GDP)	3	Risk of Political Instability	15
Real GDP Growth	14	Media Bias	20

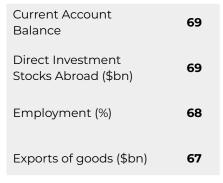
Compensation Levels	6	Public Expenditure on Education
Female Labour Force	30	Mobile Telephone Costs
Auditing and Accounting Practices	32	Renewable Practices Water Use Efficiency



## **NOTABLE WEAKNESSES IN INDICATORS**



## ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE





## GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY





### BUSINESS EFFICIENCY

Labour Force (%)	68
Skilled Labour	66
Use of Digital Tools	66
Finance Skills	64



#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Internet Bandwidth Speed	69
High-Tech Exports	68
Digital/Tech Skills	68
Human Development Index	66

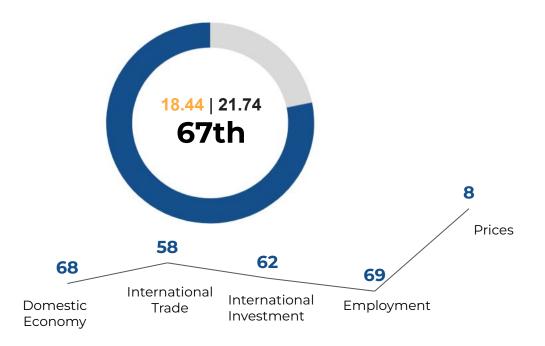




### **FACTOR 1: ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**



Assesses the extent to which an economy fosters an environment in which enterprises can generate sustainable value creation. (A total of **81** criteria are measured under this pillar)



**Domestic Economy** (25 indicators) - measures the size and the complexity of the economy of the country as well as the level of aggregate consumption and savings.

**International Trade** (25 indicators) - assesses the status of the import and export of goods, commercial services and tourist receipts.

International Investment (15 indicators) - captures the stock and flows of financial investments towards and outward the country.

**Employment** (10 indicators) - summarizes the most important indicators related to job markets.

**Prices** (6 indicators) - provides an evaluation of inflation and living costs in the country.



## **FACTOR 1: ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

The extent to which an economy fosters an environment in which enterprises can generate sustainable value creation.

STRENGTH (2023)	RANK (2023)	STRENGTH (2025)	RANK (2025)
Office rent	02	Cost-of-living index	02
Cost-of-living index	04	Office rent	02
Direct investment flows inward (% of GDP)	13	Direct investment flows inward (% of GDP)	03
Gasoline prices	17	Real GDP growth	14
Consumer price inflation	18	Direct investment stocks inward (% of GDP)	16
Trade to GDP ratio	18	Exports of goods (%)	17
Exports of goods (%)	20	Trade to GDP ratio	21
Direct investment flows abroad (% of GDP)	51	Terms of trade index	23
		Gasoline prices	27
		Tourism receipts	27



## **FACTOR 1: ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE**

The extent to which an economy fosters an environment in which enterprises can generate sustainable value creation.

WEAKNESS (2023)	RANK (2023)	WEAKNESS (2025)	RANK (2025)
Direct investment stocks inward (\$bn)	64	Current account balance	69
Exports of commercial services (\$bn)	63	Direct investment stocks abroad (\$bn)	69
Direct investment stocks abroad (\$bn	63	Employment (%)	68
Exports of goods (\$bn)	63	Exports of commercial services (\$bn)	67
Youth unemployment	62	Exports of goods (\$bn)	67
Unemployment rate	62	Direct investment stocks inward (\$bn)	67
Gross fixed capital formation (%)	62	Gross fixed capital formation (%)	67
Gross fixed capital formation - real growth	62	Direct investment flows abroad (% of GDP)	66
Employment (%)	62	Gross fixed capital formation - real growth	64
GDP (PPP) per capita	62	GDP (PPP) per capita	63



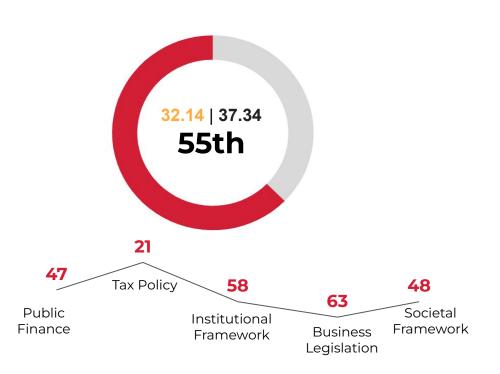


### **FACTOR 2: GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**



Assesses the extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness.

(A total of **76** indicators are measured under this pillar)



**Public Finance** (10 indicators) - assesses the sustainability of the government debt and budget.

**Tax Policy** (11 indicators) - measures taxation levels on individuals and businesses.

**Institutional Framework** (18 indicators) - accounts for state and central bank efficiency

**Business Legislation** (19 indicators) - determines how trade, competition and labour regulations support the competitiveness of the private sector.

**Societal Framework** (18 indicators) - encompasses a set of indicators to evaluate fairness of the judicial system, income and gender equality.



## **FACTOR 2: GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

Assesses the extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness.

(A total of **75** indicators are measured under this pillar)

STRENGTH (2023)	RANK (2023)	STRENGTH (2025)	RANK (2025)
Employer social security tax rate	06	Employer social security tax rate	04
Employee social security tax rate	07	Employee social security tax rate	05
Tariff barriers	09	Risk of political instability	15
Unemployment rate - gender ratio	10	Media bias	20
Government subsidies	13	Government subsidies	20
Freedom of the press	19	Pension funding	23
Consumption tax rate	22	Real personal taxes	24
Risk of political instability	26	Freedom of the press	25
Exchange rate stability	44	Consumption tax rate	25
		Collected total tax revenues	33



## **FACTOR 2: GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

Assesses the extent to which government policies are conducive to competitiveness. (A total of **75** indicators are measured under this pillar)

WEAKNESS(2023)	RANK (2023)	WEANESS (2025)	RANK (2025)
Immigration laws	65	Immigration laws	69
Inequality in life expectancy	64	Start-up days	68
Capital markets	63	State ownership of enterprises	68
Investment incentives	62	Investment incentives	66
State ownership of enterprises	61	Gini coefficient	65
Gini coefficient	60	Inequality in life expectancy	63
Sustainable Development Goals	60	Corporate tax rate on profit	63
Cost of capital	60	Protectionism	63
Protectionism	60	Start-up procedures	62
Adaptability of government policy	60	Cost of capital	62

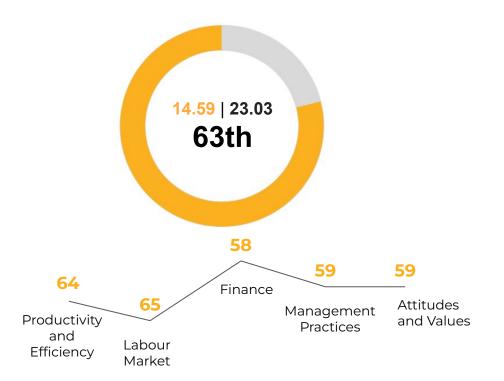




## **FACTOR 3: BUSINESS EFFICIENCY**



Assess the extent to which the national environment encourages enterprises to perform in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner. (A total of **75** indicators are measured under this pillar)



**Productivity and Efficiency** (10 indicators) - measures the overall productivity of companies and workers in the country.

**Labour Market** (25 indicators) - assesses the availability of skills for firms in the market and the cost of labour.

**Finance** (19 indicators) - evaluates the efficiency of banks and capital markets in providing credit to the private sector.

**Management Practices** (14 indicators) - estimates the efficacy of the management practices implemented in companies.

**Attitudes and Values** (7 indicators) - accounts for how values in the general society shape and affect the efficiency of firms.



## **FACTOR 3: BUSINESS EFFICIENCY**

The extent to which the national environment encourages enterprises to perform in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner.

STRENGTH (2023)	RANK (2023)	STRENGTH (2025)	RANK (2025)
Female labor force	02	Compensation levels	06
Women in management	03	Female labor force	30
Compensation levels	07	Auditing and accounting practices	32
Working hours	12		
Labor force - long-term growth	15		



## **FACTOR 3: BUSINESS EFFICIENCY**

The extent to which the national environment encourages enterprises to perform in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner.

WEAKNESS (2023)	RANK (2023)	WEAKNESS (2025)	RANK (2025)
Customer satisfaction	65	Labor force (%)	68
Entrepreneurship	65	Skilled labor	66
Use of digital tools and technologies	65	Entrepreneurship	66
Apprenticeships	65	Use of digital tools and technologies	66
Digital transformation in companies	65	Flexibility and adaptability	65
Flexibility and adaptability	64	Venture capital	65
Employee training	64	Customer satisfaction	64
Opportunities and threats	63	Finance skills	64
Finance skills	63	Apprenticeships	63
Agility of companies	63	Competent senior managers	62

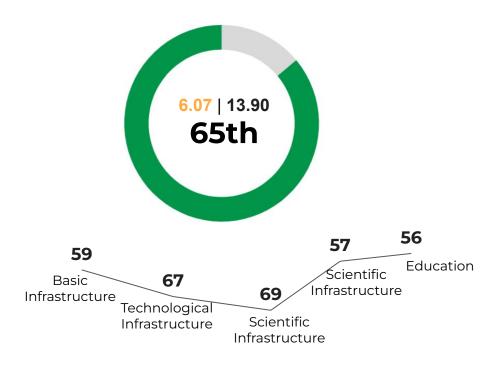




### **FACTOR 4: INFRASTRUCTURE**



Assess the extent to which basic, technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of businesses. (A total of **109** indicators are measured under this pillar)



**Basic Infrastructure** (20 indicators) - basic aspects of physical infrastructure as roads and transportation.

**Technological Infrastructure** (17 indicators) - technological resources

**Scientific Infrastructure** (23 indicators) - scientific capabilities

**Health and Environment** (30 indicators) - health and sustainability aspects

Education (19 indicators) - human capital quality



## **FACTOR 4: INFRASTRUCTURE**

The extent to which basic, technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of businesses.

STRENGTH (2023)	RANK (2023)	STRENGTH (2025)	RANK (2025)
Total public expenditure on education	05	Total public expenditure on education	01
Mobile telephone costs	05	Mobile telephone costs	05
Renewable energies (%)	13	Population - growth	09
Population - growth	15	Renewable energies (%)	12
Investment in Telecommunications	23	Total health expenditure	24
Total health expenditure	28	Pollution problems	24
Pollution problems	35	Water use efficiency	25
		Environmental laws	27



## **FACTOR 4: INFRASTRUCTURE**

The extent to which basic, technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of businesses.

WEAKNESS (2023)	RANK (2023)	WEAKNESS (2025)	RANK (2025)
Life expectancy at birth	65	Internet bandwidth speed	69
Internet users	65	Environmental agreements	68
Human development index	65	Medium- and high-tech value added	68
Medium- and high-tech value added	64	Dependency ratio	68
Internet bandwidth speed	64	Digital/Technological skills	68
Broadband subscribers	64	High-tech exports (%)	68
Environmental agreements	63	Broadband subscribers	67
Dependency ratio	63	Human development index	66
Knowledge transfer	63	Public-private partnerships	66
High-tech exports (%)	63	Life expectancy at birth	65





## **PEER GROUP ANALYSIS (2025 REPORT)**



**JORDAN 47/** 57.79



**PERU 60/** 45.89



**BOTSWANA 59/** 46.12



**SOUTH AFRICA 64/** 41.98



**MONGOLIA 65/** 40.91



**NAMIBIA 68/37.48** 

IMD includes a peer group analysis in its report, to assess how countries fare across the four factors in comparison to their peers. For the purpose of comparison of Namibia's performance, the peer group selected consists of Botswana, Jordan, Mongolia, Peru and South Africa.

The inclusion of a group of peers is fundamental because it enables us to contextualize the performance of Namibia in the different competitiveness sub-factors. This allows us to see the "distance" between Namibia and the different economies in the group. Knowing this distance will enable Namibia to set specific targets for the advancement of its competitiveness.



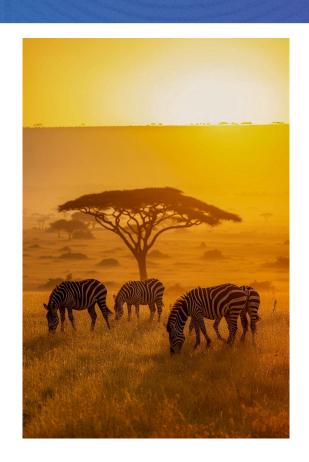
## AFRICA - REGIONAL GROUP ANALYSIS

FACTOR	NAMIBIA	BOTSWANA	KENYA	SOUTH AFRICA	GHANA	NIGERIA
Overall Ranking	68	59	56	64	61	67
Economic Performance	67	69	62	63	66	61
Government Efficiency	55	41	60	63	49	57
Business Efficiency	63	48	38	57	49	59
Infrastructure	65	59	64	62	67	68



## **CONTINENTAL OVERVIEW**

- ☐ **Kenya** emerged as the highest-ranked African country in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, placing 56th overall.
- ☐ The data reveals a broad trend of underperformance across all four competitiveness pillars among African countries.
- Despite overall low rankings, some countries demonstrated notable strengths. Botswana, for instance, performed relatively well in government efficiency, while Kenya stood out in business efficiency.
- All six African countries included in the rankings scored **above the global average in terms of economic opportunities.** However, there remains a consistent and significant concern about the state of education and healthcare across the continent, pointing to persistent structural development challenges.
- Namibia demonstrated competitive advantages in several areas relative to its African peers, including direct investment flows (as a percentage of GDP), office rent, and public expenditure on education.





## **ONGOING INTERVENTIONS**

- **Tax Relief Measures:** The 2024/25 national budget introduced tax relief for individuals and businesses, including a reduction in corporate tax, a youth unemployment tax incentive, and capital gains tax reforms.
- Approved by Cabinet in 2023, this incentive provides a tax subsidy to employers offering internships, aiming to boost skills and reduce unemployment.
- Enhanced Public-Private Dialogue: The government has established Productivity Task Forces (PTFs) and is set to launch the Namibia Public-Private Forum (NPPF) to strengthen dialogue between the public and private sectors, addressing sector-specific and broader economic issues.





## **ONGOING INTERVENTIONS**

**Introduction of E-Governance:** Namibia is prioritizing the digitalization of public services with a Digital Government Strategic Roadmap for 2024-2026. This includes the launch of an electronic visa application system in March 2025 and the planned introduction of electronic identity cards by mid-2026.

**Development of Key Legislation:** The finalization and forthcoming implementation of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill, the Special Economic Zone Bill, and the Investment Incentive Regulations are underway to strengthen the national investment climate.

**Competitiveness Coordination:** The government is developing a National Competitiveness Strategy (driven by NPC and NIPDB) and a National Productivity Policy (driven by MJLR). The National Planning Commission (NPC) is also incorporating competitiveness into the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).





RECOMMENDATION

## **POLICY INSIGHT AND IMPLICATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION			
Improved Educational Outcomes	Align education spending with measurable outcomes, focusing on demand-driven skills development, especially in digital and innovation-related competencies.		
Market Skills Availability And Labour Market Efficiency	Urgently reform the immigration framework by finalizing and enacting the Migration Bill to introduce a rare skills visa. Expedite and scale up efforts to expand and modernize vocational and technical training institutions, aligning curriculum with industry needs and embedding digital and green skills		
Strengthen the Investment Climate	Simplify and streamline immigration procedures for skilled expatriates and operationalize the country's investment incentive framework. Finalize and implement key legislative instruments like the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill, the Special Economic Zone Bill, and the Investment Incentive Regulations.		
Accelerate Digital Readiness	Invest in high-speed internet infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, foster public-private partnerships for broadband rollout and digital services, and facilitate affordable access to ICT devices and digital literacy programs.		
Optimise Public Sector Performance	Expedite the rollout of pending e-governance platforms, strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, and embrace adaptive policy processes.		



DECOMMENDATION

## **POLICY INSIGHTS AND IMPLICATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION			
Strengthen Data Collection	Improve national data collection and reporting across key areas, including infrastructure, skills, innovation, and business activity. This requires closer collaboration between the Namibia Statistics Agency, the National Planning Commission, and the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, as well as relevant ministries and public institutions.		
Increase Visibility of Policy Reforms, Strategic Initiatives, and Country Competitive Advantages by Government	Prioritize clear and consistent communication of policy reforms and strategic initiatives and proactively market Namibia's competitive advantages.		
Enhance Export Competitiveness through Strategic Diversification	Implement a targeted export diversification strategy to leverage global market opportunities in high-value sectors, supported by coordinated policy support, investment in trade-enabling infrastructure, streamlined export procedures, and strengthened trade facilitation mechanisms.		
Address the High Cost of Capital for Local Enterprise	Prioritize the finalization of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to strengthen domestic revenue mobilization, unlock green and blue bonds, and boost private sector investment. Strengthen local development finance institutions and crowd in private capital.		



### **THANK YOU**

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