



Namibia's FDI
Performance Namibia's
FDI Performance

Omusati Welcomes
First Commercial Grape
Farm

Empowering
Namibia's Female
Entrepreneurs



Contents

Page

■ From the CEOs Desk	03
■ Investment Momentum: Namibia's FDI Performance in Early 2024	03
■ The Role of NIPDB in Namibia's Economic Growth	04
■ Lüderitz Town Council and NIPDB partner to host Town Transformation Forum	04
■ Otjimbele - Omusati Welcomes its First Commercial Grape Farm	05
■ Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: She Exports Accelerator Programme	05
■ The Role of Namibia's MICE Industry in Economic Development and Tourism Expansion	06
■ Enhancing Education Access for Namibian Youth	06
■ NIPDB, Namibia's First Point of Contact for Investors	07
■ Partner Appreciation	07
■ Empowering Namibia's Future Leaders	08
■ NIPDB's Policy Advocacy : Role Enhancing Namibia's Competitive Edge	08
■ President Mbumba meets with Elon Musk at #UNGA79 to explore technology investments and digital transformation in Namibia	09



In Loving Memory of His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob 1941 – 2024

With profound respect and heartfelt gratitude, we dedicate this edition of Ombuze to the life and legacy of our dearly departed President, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob.

A visionary leader, a steadfast advocate for Namibia's progress, and a beacon of unity, President Geingob's unwavering commitment to the development of our nation and its people will forever inspire us. His passion for economic transformation, inclusive growth, and the empowerment of every Namibian resonates deeply in the work we do at the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB).

As we honour his memory, we remain committed to carrying forward his vision of a prosperous, resilient and inclusive Namibia.

REST IN PEACE, SON OF THE SOIL. YOUR LEGACY ENDURES.

From the CEO's Desk



Nangula Nelulu Uaandja
NIPDB Chief Executive Officer
& Chairperson

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) Newsletter, your quarterly source of updates on our collaborations, activities, and key milestones. We have named it Ombuze, meaning 'news' in Otjiherero, one of Namibia's local languages.

As we work to strengthen ties between the public and private sectors, our mission remains clear: to create a business-friendly environment that attracts and retains both local and foreign investment, positioning Namibia as a prime destination for growth, living, and employment. All this with the ultimate aim of tackling the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty that continue to scourge our nation.

Since officially commencing operations on 1 April 2021, the NIPDB has been dedicated to promoting economic prosperity, and we are proud to continue the legacy of the Namibia Investment Centre (NIC), which laid the groundwork for our mandate. As the late President, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, wisely said, "Namibia is a child of international solidarity, midwived by the United Nations." In that same spirit of collaboration, the NIPDB exists today thanks to the contributions of many

individuals who continue to offer invaluable support and guidance.

This newsletter serves as a platform to strengthen our communication with you, our valued stakeholders. Through it, we aim to keep you informed, engaged, and aligned with our initiatives, which are rooted in shared national priorities. Every effort, decision, and collaboration we undertake at the NIPDB is aimed at driving positive change and contributing to the well-being of every Namibian.

As we approach the end of 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership throughout the year. Your contributions have been vital in driving our shared mission forward. As we look ahead, 2025 marks a significant milestone, the NIPDB's 5th anniversary. Together, we will continue unlocking opportunities, fostering innovation, and working toward a prosperous Namibia.

We wish you warm season's greetings to you and your loved ones. May this festive season bring joy, peace, and cherished moments.

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2025.

Nangula Nelulu Uaandja

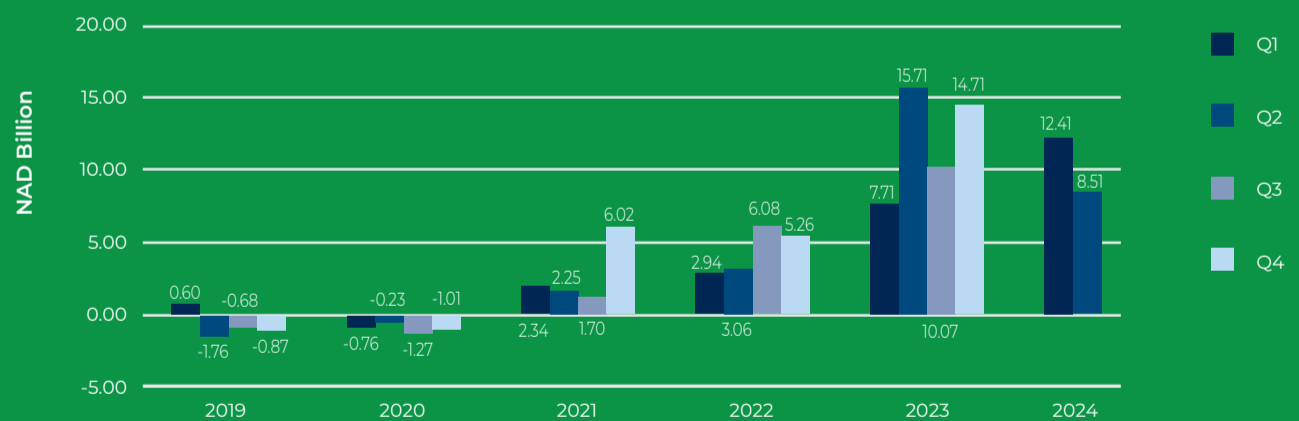
Investment Momentum: Namibia's FDI Performance in Early 2024

Namibia continues to see consistent and sizable inflows of FDI on a quarterly basis. In fact, FDI inflows have maintained uninterrupted positive growth from the first quarter of 2021 to the present. According to latest data from the Bank of Namibia, net FDI inflows amounted to N\$12.4 billion in the first quarter and N\$8.5 billion in the second quarter of 2024.

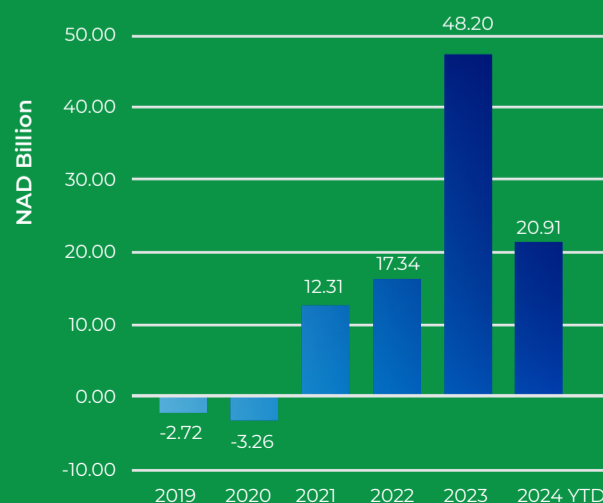
This growth is largely due to exploration investments in the extractive and hydrocarbons (oil and gas) sectors. And also largely on the back of a positive economic outlook (Oil & Gas, GH2, Critical Minerals), collective efforts by the government to promote the ease of doing business in Namibia and improved foreign investor sentiment.

This overall trend in FDI inflows is also reflected in the positive economic growth, with the economy seeing growth of 4.3% and 3.5% in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2024, respectively.

Namibia's Net Quarterly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows



Namibia's Net Annual FDI Inflows: 2019 to June 2024



Explainer: According to the Bank of Namibia, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) occurs when an investor residing in one economy makes an investment that gives control or a significant degree of influence on the management of an enterprise resident in another economy. This definition is provided in the sixth edition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) and the fourth edition of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BD4).

Source: Bank of Namibia



The Role of NIPDB in Namibia's Economic Growth

Since 2021, we have seen a recovery in investment inflows and economic growth. Namibia started to see regular and sizable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows and investor sentiment towards Namibia has improved, thanks to the joint efforts between the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) and various Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

In today's global economy, investment promotion and attraction have become essential for driving economic growth and ensuring sustainability. Recognising this, Namibia through the NIPDB has made it

a priority to position itself as a prime investment destination while intensifying efforts to diversify and build a more complex, resilient economy.

Thus, the NIPDB's role in Namibia's GDP formula is two-fold, increasing Investments and promoting export.

Public and Private Investments

Both public and private investments are universally recognised as a critical engine for economic growth. The NIPDB continues to prioritise attracting investments into a variety of sectors. By diversifying Namibia's economic base, we are able

to reduce our vulnerability to global commodity price shocks and create a more sustainable, balanced economy.

Export-led economic growth

The NIPDB is vital in promoting Namibia as an investment destination while supporting MSMEs, which are crucial to employment and economic growth. By addressing challenges like limited access to finance, markets, and expertise, the NIPDB empowers MSMEs through targeted programs focused on financing, market access, and capacity building.

The NIPDB has implemented

targeted programs to address these challenges by providing Namibian MSMEs with greater access to financing options, facilitating both domestic and foreign market access for their products and services, and offering capacity-building initiatives.

Namibia's focus on attracting FDI and empowering MSMEs, driven by NIPDB's strategic efforts, is advancing economic growth and diversification. By fostering investments and supporting local businesses, the country aims to build a resilient economy, create jobs, and enhance global competitiveness.

Lüderitz Town Council and NIPDB partner to host Transformation Forum

The Lüderitz Town Council, in collaboration with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), hosted a Stakeholder Forum under the theme "A New Dawn Awaits Lüderitz: The Catalyst for Industrial and Socio-Economic Growth."

Sponsored by Hyphen Hydrogen Energy and the Namibia Airports Company (NAC), the forum focused on the transformative potential of Oil & Gas and Green Hydrogen industries in driving Lüderitz's and Namibia's economic growth.

With Lüderitz positioned as a key player in Namibia's green industrialization, the forum convened 150 stakeholders at the Lüderitz Waterfront Auditorium.

Discussions centered on industry expectations, infrastructure readiness, town

planning, skills development, socio-economic impacts, and enterprise opportunities. The event emphasized the need for collaboration between public and private sectors to maximize these industries' benefits.

Lüderitz's abundant wind resources, strategic port, and rich heritage uniquely position it to drive Namibia's green economy. The forum underscored the importance of leveraging these assets through strategic planning and partnerships to ensure inclusive and long-term prosperity.

This event reaffirmed Lüderitz's potential as a hub for green industrialization, creating opportunities for residents and contributing to Namibia's broader economic landscape. It set a strong foundation for positioning the town as a leader in sustainable development and industrial growth.





Otjimbele - Omusati Welcomes its First Commercial Grape Farm

The Otjimbele project in the Omusati Region is a Namibian-Spanish agricultural collaboration that uses cutting-edge technology from Spain's ITUM Research Institute to grow diverse crops and climate-resilient seedless grapes suitable for the harsh climate in the north.

The project focuses on cultivating crops that are less common in the Namibian market, such as watermelon, maize, wheat, spanspek, sweet potato, and butternut. This initiative is part of a N\$120 million investment aimed at revitalizing the former Asparagus Agro-Processing Project by reducing imports and meeting local demand.

However, the cornerstone of the project is its commercial table grape production, a unique agricultural venture for the region. By introducing this high-value crop, the

initiative seeks to position Northern Namibia as a new hub for premium agricultural produce, generating employment opportunities and reducing the country's reliance on imported goods.

Located on 300 hectares within the Etunda Green Scheme Irrigation Project, the Otjimbele initiative began as a strategic reinvestment in a 15-hectare trial plot, and are currently harvesting and selling the grapes locally and in Namibia, but as production increases, exports to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Angola is expected. The expansion plans include the development of a state-of-the-art fresh produce center equipped with modular cold storage facilities. This initiative aims to position the Omusati Region as a pivotal hub in Southern Africa's agricultural supply chain.



Community benefits include:

- Empowerment of local vendors and supermarkets
- Stimulated regional economy
150 direct jobs projected to increase to 400 year-round
- Production of high-quality fodder to assist local farmers during the drought

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: She Exports Accelerator Programme

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) launched the She Exports Accelerator Programme, a groundbreaking initiative to empower women-led MSMEs in Namibia. This program addresses challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in becoming export-ready and accessing international markets.

Over two months, participants received targeted training in areas such as international trade agreements, global standards and certifications, export strategy development, and B2B matchmaking. Aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area's (AfCFTA) Protocol on Women and Youth, the program emphasized women's economic inclusion and their participation in global trade.

By equipping participants with essential tools and knowledge, the

initiative fosters business growth and positions women entrepreneurs as active contributors to Namibia's economic development and export potential.

This programme was made possible by a partnership between NIPDB, Coca-Cola Beverage Africa-Namibia (CCBA) and GSI Namibia. It was then successfully carried out through the Standards and Certification Workshops, Export Strategy Workshops, B2B Meetings and Certifications and Testing Fund activities.

The She Exports Accelerator Programme represents a key initiative to empower women and youth entrepreneurs, promote gender equality in business, and support Namibia's economic growth by expanding its export potential.



Tulimeyo Kaapanda, founder of Tuli Line, thrives as one of the beneficiaries of the She Exports Accelerator Programme.



The Role of Namibia's MICE Industry in Economic Development and Tourism Expansion

In recent years, Namibia has prioritized the growth of its Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) industry, focusing on attracting key international events to the country. This strategic emphasis on expanding MICE activities aligns with the goals set out in Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), which aims to promote inclusive, sustainable, and equitable growth across society. Additionally, the Namibia Tourism Recovery Plan 2022-2024 emphasizes the need to diversify tourism offerings, positioning the MICE industry as a catalyst for economic development, international collaboration, and tourism expansion.

Boosting the MICE industry is vital for a country as it attracts international events, driving tourism revenue, creating jobs, and showcasing the country's capabilities. This, in turn, supports infrastructure development and enhances the nation's global reputation, making it more appealing for future investment and international partnerships.

In 2024 Namibia proudly hosted the Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) and the African Union SME Forum. These high-profile gatherings attracted over 1,500 delegates from Namibia, across the African continent,

and around the globe. The presence of such a diverse and influential audience underscored Namibia's growing appeal as a premier destination for major international forums.

It is therefore safe to say that the MICE industry is vital to Namibia's economic growth, creating jobs, fostering skills, and enhancing its profile as a top business and leisure destination. It drives innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, offering immense potential for sustainable growth and economic diversification.

Enhancing Education Access for Namibian Youth

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)'s Study Opportunities Information Sharing Platform centralizes bursary, scholarship, and study opportunities from national and international sources. This platform empowers Namibian youth by providing accurate and accessible information to support informed educational decisions.

Namibian youth often face barriers to accessing opportunities due to limited internet access, lack of awareness, and challenges in submitting quality applications, particularly in rural areas.

The platform addresses these gaps in two phases:
Phase One: A web-based platform offering easy access to bursary and scholarship

information for youth with internet and smartphone access, integrated with NIPDB's social media for wider reach.

Phase Two: Targeted efforts in rural areas through partnerships with regional authorities, using bulletin boards and other offline methods to share information

and support quality platforms like Namibian Opportunities (established in 2015), NIPDB emphasizes its unique commitment to youth empowerment through education, skills development, and employment creation. This initiative strengthens NIPDB's mission to drive inclusive growth and unlock potential for Namibia's future leaders.

The platform focuses on opportunities in government, public and private sectors, and international scholarships tied to bilateral agreements with Namibia. It caters to youth aged 16-30, including post-secondary students and employed individuals seeking lifelong learning opportunities.



Snapshot from the official launch of the Study Opportunities Information Sharing Platform at the NIPDB offices.



NIPDB, Namibia's First Point of Contact for Investors

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) serves as the gateway for investors seeking opportunities in Namibia. Established in January 2021 and operating under the Office of the President, the NIPDB is dedicated to creating a transparent and business-friendly environment, grounded in Namibia's peace, stability, and the rule of law. As the country's lead investment promotion agency, the NIPDB plays a pivotal role in positioning Namibia as a preferred destination for global investment.

The NIPDB offers an end-to-end solution for investors, simplifying processes and eliminating bureaucratic barriers. Key services include facilitating exploratory visits, business registration, and securing visas, permits and licenses. By working closely with relevant agencies and addressing sector-specific challenges, the NIPDB ensures a conducive investment climate that promotes long-term success for investors.

The One-Stop Centre: Streamlining Investment Processes

At the heart of NIPDB's operations is the One-

Stop Centre, designed to connect investors with essential business services. This facility streamlines compliance with policies and legal requirements, eliminating red tape and bottlenecks.

By centralizing key services, the One-Stop Centre accelerates the process for investors to set up their businesses in Namibia, ensuring efficiency and convenience. The One-Stop Centre provides access to a range of services from various agencies, including:

Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA): Registration of business names, private/public companies, and close corporations.

City of Windhoek (CoW): Issuance of business registration certificates and certificates of fitness.

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR): Issuance of import/export permits for plants, animals, and related products, as well as registration of immovable property and real estate rights.

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and

Tourism (MEFT): Issuance of environmental clearance certificates, permits for wildlife and plant utilization, and gambling licenses.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety, and Security (MHAISS): Granting and issuing visas and permits to foreign nationals.

Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME): Issuance of licenses and permits for mineral rights, diamond, and petroleum activities.

Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC): Issuance of certificates of clearance, exemption certificates, and enforcement of compliance with competition laws.

Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA): Provision of land for industrial purposes.

By offering these services under one roof, the NIPDB significantly reduces the time and effort required for investors to start their operations in Namibia. This centralized approach enhances the ease of doing business, fosters collaboration among agencies, and ensures that investors receive tailored support.

Partner Appreciation

There is an African Proverb that says, **"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together!"**

As NIPDB and as a nation, we want to go FAR. And we understand that we need strategic partners to ensure we go the full distance in addressing the economic challenges our nation faces, as fast as possible. NIPDB would not have been able to achieve the many milestones it has realised to date without the support of its partners. Through our collaboration, which is aimed at driving economic development and growth, we are able to tap into project synergies that result in strategic, mutual value creation and positive impact.

Our partners helped us to effectively co-host international/ continental events such as the Africa Hospitality Investment Forum, the Global African Hydrogen Summit and the AU MSME Forum. Through their support, we amplified the Namibian narrative at investment events both at home and abroad. The considerable impact on MSME development, particularly with respect to advisory services and export promotion would not have been possible

without the engagement of key partners. And partner injections into nation branding and research on our country's competitiveness helped to inform and improve our efforts at positioning Namibia globally. Each of these partnered initiatives have empowered NIPDB to more effectively promote Namibia as an investment destination, to improve her competitiveness, and to enhance the viability of and exports by Namibian MSMEs.

While we appreciate every contribution, we wish to particularly recognise our top private sector partners in this respect: De Beers Namibia, Rossing Foundation, FirstRand Namibia (including RMB and FNB Namibia), Capricorn Group, Coca Cola Beverages and O&L Leisure, Nedbank

Namibia, Standard Bank Namibia, and Bank Windhoek.

In addition to the above, the NIPDB's programmes have benefited from valuable technical assistance from our partners at the European Union, GIZ, UNCTAD, the ICR Facility, International Labour Organisation, World Bank and the World Economic Forum.

NIPDB is incredibly grateful to our esteemed partners for their continued support. We aspire to form mutually beneficial relationships that positively impact Namibia's economic development trajectory, and hope that the NIPDB has been as valuable a partner to you, as you have been for us.





Empowering Namibia's Future Leaders

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), led by CEO Ms. Nangula Uaandja, has been hosting the future of tomorrow through the Oxungi Youth Engagement series aimed at empowering young professionals, entrepreneurs, and aspiring entrepreneurs through meaningful dialogue.

These regional sessions provide an open platform for Namibia's youth to engage with the NIPDB on economic issues, emerging opportunities, and how they can actively contribute to the nation's economic transformation.

As Namibia positions itself as a premier global investment destination, driven by emerging sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, and digital innovation, the youth are poised to be key drivers of this transformative growth. Through the Oxungi forum, Ms. Nangula Uaandja, highlights the immense opportunities available to young professionals, entrepreneurs, and aspiring leaders. She encourages them to actively engage with and harness the potential of these expanding sectors, emphasizing their role in shaping Namibia's economic future and ensuring sustainable development for generations to come.

The Oxungi sessions, which have already been held in the Khomas, Erongo, Kunene, Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West Regions, are a testament to NIPDB's commitment to youth empowerment. By reaching various regions and expanding nationwide in the coming months, the NIPDB is committed to equipping Namibian youth with the knowledge necessary to meet future job market demands. Through initiatives like the Oxungi forum, the NIPDB reaffirms its dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs, ensuring their active role in driving the country's sustainable development and long-term economic growth.

NIPDB's Policy Advocacy : Role Enhancing Namibia's Competitive Edge

Namibia's journey towards becoming a top-tier investment destination hinges on fostering a dynamic and competitive business environment. The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, not only by attracting foreign direct investment but also by advocating for policies that bolster local and international business growth.

NIPDB's policy advocacy role is multifaceted and involves:

- **Shaping the Investment Landscape:** By actively engaging with policymakers, we strive to create an environment that attracts both domestic and foreign investment. This involves advocating for policies that streamline regulations, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and promote innovation.

- **Maximizing the Benefits of FDI:** We work tirelessly to ensure that Namibia

derives maximum benefits from foreign direct investment. This includes advocating for policies that encourage technology transfer, skills development, and local content.

- **Boosting National Competitiveness:** In an increasingly globalized world, competitiveness is paramount. The NIPDB supports initiatives that enhance Namibia's position in global value chains, such as infrastructure development, trade facilitation, and human capital development.

Our policy recommendations are informed by robust research and extensive stakeholder consultations. By analysing global trends, benchmarking Namibia's performance, and engaging with businesses, we identify opportunities for improvement and advocate for evidence-based policy reforms. In this regard, indices such as the RMB Where to Invest in Africa Index, the IMD World

Competitiveness Yearbook, the World Bank's B-READY Report, and many more, are important sources of information.

We believe that a collaborative approach is essential to achieving our goals. By working closely with other government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), the private sector, as well as international partners, we can create a powerful synergy that drives economic growth and social progress. Platforms such as our Productivity Task Forces, Ease of Doing Business Committee, Competitiveness Roundtables with various OMAs, and Policy Working Committee are vital in this respect.

We invite you to be part of our journey. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in helping us create a more competitive and prosperous Namibia. Together, we can build a nation that stands at the forefront as an ideal investment destination.

President Mbumba meets with Elon Musk at #UNGA79 to explore technology investments and digital transformation in Namibia



On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 79, President Nangolo Mbumba and his Namibian delegation met with Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX, Tesla Motors, and Starlink, to explore investment opportunities in Namibia's technology sector.

The discussions centered on Starlink's potential investment in the country, focusing on how the satellite internet provider could help bridge Namibia's digital divide. Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, offers high-speed satellite internet to over 100 countries and aims to provide global mobile broadband, revolutionising internet access worldwide.

During the meeting, President Mbumba highlighted Namibia's readiness to embrace Starlink's advanced internet system and encouraged Musk to consider further investments in the country's tech sector.

Starlink already operates in several African nations, including Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, with plans to expand to Burundi. Namibia now looks forward to joining this growing network of digital transformation.

This initiative reflects Namibia's strong commitment to attracting investments and enhancing its digital infrastructure. Internet connectivity is crucial for driving economic growth, improving workplace productivity, and expanding access to education and healthcare. It also helps bridge social and economic disparities, fostering equal opportunities in an increasingly connected world.



T +264 (0) 83 333 8600
M info@nipdb.com
W www.nipdb.com

Investment House
C/o Garten & Dr. A B May Streets
Windhoek, Namibia



Follow us on social
media @nipdb