



**Foreword by  
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Chairman and Founder  
FIRST**

**I**t gives me great pleasure to introduce this Official Publication on the Republic of Namibia. I am extremely grateful to HE Linda Scott, High Commissioner of Namibia to the Court of St James’s and HE Charles Moore, His Majesty’s High Commissioner to Namibia, and their respective staff for all their help and guidance in the preparation of this publication. I am especially grateful to HE President Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, for contributing such an important and personal message.

The Republic of Namibia gained independence in 1990 and President Geingob was elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2019. The country enjoys a unique role in Africa and the wider world. Namibia has a key geopolitical position in southern Africa bordering the South Atlantic Ocean between Angola and South Africa. Namibia’s economy is underpinned by significant natural resource wealth, tourism and a growing industrial and service industry.

Diamonds, uranium, copper and gold are major mineral resources contributing to exports of more than US\$4 billion. Namibia is the fourth-largest exporter of non-ferrous minerals in Africa and the world’s fifth-largest producer of uranium. Rich alluvial diamond deposits contribute to Namibia’s position as a primary source of gem-quality diamonds.

Since independence, the government of Namibia has pursued a free market strategy to promote economic development with the aim of creating jobs and promoting universal prosperity. Real GDP growth rose to 4.6 per cent in 2022 from 3.5 per cent in 2021. Namibia’s business-friendly

environment offers many opportunities to the international investment community.

Namibia is also becoming a leader in the provision of green hydrogen – its green hydrogen strategy was launched at COP 27 and is designed to ensure Namibia becomes a net exporter of energy. His Excellency the President has confirmed that Namibia *‘shall deliver Namibia’s green hydrogen strategy outlining a clear pathway to unlocking even greater investment and establishing Namibia as a regional and global decarbonisation champion’*. Namibia is well placed to provide green hydrogen given its significant solar and wind generation capacity. This potential provides key opportunities for energy investors with a formal agreement recently signed with Hyphen Hydrogen Energy to develop a US\$10 billion hydrogen/ammonia complex.

Namibia has also become a regional logistics hub via the port at Walvis Bay enabling connections to road, rail and seaport facilities. This provides further impetus to attracting investment into key sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, metals and mining, oil and gas, agriculture, tourism and chemicals.

This official publication gives us all an opportunity to study the important developments in Namibia and to weigh carefully the many opportunities to work together even more closely.

We at FIRST are delighted to have been asked to produce this official publication and hope that it contributes, in a small way, to the increasing development and strengthening of Namibia’s international relationships, especially in the trade, investment and financial spheres. **F**