

# A nation powered by nature

**By NANGULA UAANDJA**

CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NAMIBIA INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD



**NANGULA UAANDJA** is a chartered accountant by profession. She led PwC Namibia as managing partner for 10 years and was a partner for a total of 18 years. Over the years she has grown a deep concern for the triple challenges of unemployment, inequality and poverty facing Namibia. This led her to serve as Deputy Chairperson on the President's high-level panel on the Namibian economy and compelled her to accept the appointment as the first CEO and Chairperson of Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board in 2020.

**G**reetings from Namibia, a nation of breathtaking beauty and untapped potential. Namibia stands at the precipice of an extraordinary transformation, catalysed by her abundant natural resources and leveraging the power of strategic partnerships to meaningfully contribute towards creating a sustainable future for her people and the world at large.

Nestled in the heart of Southern Africa, Namibia is what one would refer to as a natural beauty, characterised by endless horizons and picturesque landscapes. This is juxtaposed by modern infrastructure including sophisticated financial systems, a world class port and according to the Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum (2016- 2019), the best roads on the African continent. These are but some of the cornerstones of our economy, and equally our comparative advantage as an investment destination.

The allure of Namibia as an investment destination is not solely a matter of happenstance or geographical providence, but rather the result of deliberate, strategic and concerted efforts by the government to create a conducive environment that is responsive to the needs and expectations of investors. Political stability, sophisticated financial systems, trainable workforce and guaranteed investor protection make Namibia an extremely attractive destination. Ultimately, our aim is to attract foreign direct investment needed to enable the country to build a strong, private sector led economy and inclusive growth that drives employment creation and other economic opportunities for Namibians.



Aerial view of Tsau IlKhaeb national park

## **Green Hydrogen Potential**

Namibia is one of about four countries in the world with the abundance of the natural resources required to produce green hydrogen competitively, enabling the country to position itself to potentially become a renewable energy capital for Africa hub, and an international green hydrogen exporter within the next 10 years. The economic impact from the realisation of these ambitions cannot be overstated, particularly from the perspective of attracting foreign direct investment and related employment creation.

In May 2023, Namibia signed a historic Feasibility and Implementation Agreement with Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, the company that was selected as the preferred bidder to develop the country's first large-scale vertically integrated green hydrogen project in the Tsau IlKhaeb national park in 2021. With this agreement in place, Namibia is coming closer to realising her ambitions, while playing a significant role in decarbonising the planet and creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

From an investment attraction perspective, the NIPDB remains committed to collaborating with relevant public and private sector stakeholders to ensure Namibia sustains a conducive investment environment, underpinned by progressive policy frameworks and predictable structures and processes. In our quest to ensure that Namibia remains an attractive investment destination, we are deliberate in eliminating constraints that impact the ease of doing business in the country, from advocating for policy reforms to establishing an Investor One Stop Centre. One of the pivotal milestones in our journey so far as an IPA, the Investor One Stop Centre serves as a physical, single point of access to information and our facilitation services for investors. Essentially, with direct access to a host of business related services in a single location, investors no longer have to singlehandedly navigate through complex administrative processes in order to establish businesses in Namibia.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that Namibia is open for business. We welcome investors who are keen on developing and sustaining reciprocal relationships that create shared value - in which the investor is guaranteed a return on investment, while the government reaps economic benefits that enable a better quality of life for all Namibians.

We look forward to welcoming you to Namibia. **E**