
**NAMIBIA
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
POLICY**

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Foreword

Our collective duty , as the main reference for planning and coordination of national development endeavours, is to offer more jobs which lead to the provision of income and ultimately lift up standards of living of the Namibian populace by way of achieving economic growth.

The National Planning Commission, guided by the Accra Agenda, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and its mandate as an agency of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, aspires to engage Development Partners around the principles of predictability, alignment, untied aid, and local ownership.

The Namibia Official Development Assistance (ODA) Policy attempts to provide clarity and also define the purpose of official development assistance in the Namibian developmental context. The ODA Policy effectively guides the strategies, instruments and guidelines that the Government of the Republic of Namibia adopts especially in development planning and cooperation.

In so doing, the National Planning Commission in cooperation with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors will minimise the likelihood of overlapping/duplication of developmental assistance so as to avoid a waste of limited resources.

Ultimately, for development assistance to be effective there is a need to work towards tackling symptoms and causes of social challenges such as poverty and unemployment.

We therefore, urge all stakeholders involved, directly or indirectly, in the development efforts to join us in the drive towards effective utilisation of ODA that would contribute to the realisation of our development endeavours.

Tom Alweendo
Director General of the National Planning Commission

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1. Introduction and Policy Objectives

The overall objective of Namibia's Official Development Assistance Policy is to guide the mobilisation and acceptance of ODA to optimally utilize it in an effective and efficient manner, so that the benefits of development assistance will become part and parcel of Namibia's development endeavours.

This policy provides a foundation on which Namibian stakeholders and development partners can work together in order to enhance the resource base of the Namibian Government.

ODA Definition

Official development assistance (ODA) consists of grants, concessional loans and technical assistance, mainly for socio-economic development, provided by a development partner to a recipient country.

2. Fundamental Guiding Principles

2.1 Rationale for ODA Policy

To provide clear direction in terms of the assessment, coordination and management of ODA in Namibia and to stipulate policy measures necessary to achieve internationally agreed and national development objectives and targets. It is also intended to act as a foundation to ensure transparency and accountability on the part of both the Government and development partners.

2.2 Acquisition of ODA

The roles and processes contained in Development Cooperation Guidelines shall constitute the procedures to be adopted in the soliciting, negotiating and managing of external assistance.

2.3 GRN and Development Partner Obligations

The Government of Namibia will continue to set its own development objectives and policies. It will seek to ensure that these are the outcome of broad dialogue and consultations across government, the private sector, and non state actors.

Development Partners shall ensure that all their interventions and activities in the development of Namibia are consistent with the country's own needs, priorities, policies, plans, strategies and country systems. ODA should build on the leadership, participation and commitment of Namibia and her citizens. Development partners should strive towards providing stable and predictable long-term resources flows to Namibia. ODA should be able to adjust to changing conditions, taking advantage of opportunities to maximize efficiency.

2.4 GRN –Development Partner Relationship

Namibia's interaction with development partners shall be based on constructive and regular dialogue that is guided by mutual respect in the spirit of partnership. The policy shall be a guiding document and it is envisaged that its revisions will arise as the priorities of Government and its development partners evolve.

2.5 Utilisation of ODA

ODA shall be utilised in such a manner so as to augment Government's Resources in order to implement priority projects and programmes identified in the Public Sector Investment Programme of the National Development Plans. In addition, ODA will be utilised to obtain demand-driven technical assistance with emphasis on skills and knowledge transfer in a sustainable manner.

2.6 Utilisation of ODA in Relation to Domestic Resources

The Namibian Government strives for self-sufficiency and to the maximum extent possible, to use ODA in supplementing domestic resources which are redistributed along Government's development priorities.

In order to reap maximum benefits from the ODA resources that Namibia receives, all ODA will be fully aligned to Namibia's core development priorities, and managed effectively and efficiently in a manner that supports the country's chosen development path to the fullest extent possible.

2.7 Preferred modes of ODA

Grants are, among other ODA modalities, the most preferred form of external assistance for the GRN. GRN shall not accept tied aid and ODA which is not aligned to the needs and priorities as indicated in National Development Plans and Strategies.

2.8 Recording of ODA

An online Aid Management System (Database) with Development Partners, O/M/As and/ or custodians of data will be established to capture ODA. The system will comprise of a customised country data structure.

2.9 Public Notification

The public and/or key stakeholders will be kept abreast of latest developments in respect of Namibia's ODA by way of electronic information distribution and print media.