



## France and Namibia sign grant agreement to promote public-private partnerships in Namibia

### Press Release



**Windhoek, 26 October 2018** – Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning of Namibia, has met Mr. Bruno Deprince, Southern Africa Regional Director of Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and H.E. Claire Bodonyi, French Ambassador to Namibia, today in Windhoek to sign a EUR 400,000 grant that will promote the emergence of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Namibia.

“We welcome AFD’s support to develop public-private partnerships in Namibia. Through its Public Private Partnership framework, the Government of Namibia views PPPs as critical to addressing existing infrastructure and service needs. This is in line with the country’s economic transformation policy that aims to create growth and job opportunities that will lift the income and quality of life for its citizens.”, said Hon. Obeth Kandjoze.

“Today’s agreement is another step in the cooperation between our two countries. It is the first financing agreement between the Republic of Namibia and the French Development Agency, since its establishment in Namibia in 1998, and we hope it will be followed by other ones in the near future. It perfectly illustrates our government’s new vision for solidarity investments.”, said H.E. Claire Bodonyi.

“AFD is looking to further develop its activities to contribute to the country’s development priorities. In the near future, we will bring a full time AFD presence in Windhoek. This will allow us to strengthen our relationships with local institutions and pursue our discussions with our counterparts to support Namibia’s economic transformation. This shows our commitment to accompanying Namibia in its path to sustainable economic development.”, said Mr. Bruno Deprince.

AFD's three-year grant will be used to identify potential PPP projects to be developed in priority; to build the capacity of public and private sector professionals in charge of implementing PPP projects; to conduct pre-feasibility studies for PPP projects; and to develop a PPP toolkit dedicated to public and private entities in charge of structuring PPP projects.

AFD's relationship with Namibia dates back to 1997, when the agency launched the identification of potential projects and areas of work in Namibia. It then went on to grant a EUR 35 million loan to NamPower in 2008 to develop its high tension transmission line to Zambia through the Caprivi Link. Earlier this year, AFD launched its SUNREF program in partnership with the Environment Investment Fund of Namibia. Through its partner banks FirstRand Namibia, Bank Windhoek and Nedbank Namibia, SUNREF offers financing to support private sector's investments in the areas of sustainable agriculture, sustainable tourism, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The signature of today's agreement reaffirms the willingness of AFD and the Government of Namibia to work together in key areas of interest prioritizing infrastructure. In the near future, AFD is looking to further develop its activities to contribute to the country's development priorities.

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**About Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**

AFD is an inclusive public financial institution and the main actor in France's development policy. It makes commitments to projects that genuinely improve the everyday lives of people, in developing and emerging countries and in the French overseas territories.

AFD works in many sectors – energy, health, biodiversity, water, digital technologies, training – and supports the transition to a safer, more equitable and more sustainable world: a world in common. Its action is fully in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through its network of 85 agencies, AFD operates in 109 countries and is currently supporting over 3,500 development projects. In 2017, it earmarked EUR 10.4bn to finance these projects.

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