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Water infrastructure finance in Namibia: Analysing the participation of State and non-State actors

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¹ **Note:** The findings from this working paper does not in any way reflect the views of the Development Finance Centre (DEFIC). The views are only representative of the authors.

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Abstract

This research examined the State of water-infrastructure development finance in Namibia, by analysing the participation of State and non-State actors (NSAs) in water infrastructure development and finance using a mixed explorative qualitative and quantitative approach. It relied on a survey and a case study of State actors and NSAs involved in water infrastructure in Namibia. Data from both the structured infrastructure questionnaires and secondary data from document review were extracted, classified, and evaluated using statistical analysis tools. Data pertinent to the research were extrapolated to support the analysis of water infrastructure funding and financing structures.

This study found a continued dominance of State in water infrastructure development in Namibia; the presence of NSAs in the water infrastructure space is very limited. A Public Private Partnerships Act would allow non-State actors to participate freely in public infrastructure development. The lack of such enabling legislation in Namibia has prevented financial and technical partnerships between the State and NSAs. This absence has kept potential NSAs almost out of the water-infrastructure development business to complement the State. This phenomenon further exacerbates the continued burden on State finance resources to cater for infrastructure development.

Keywords: Water-infrastructure development finance | Non-State Actors | Namibia |