



THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY

Windhoek, Namibia

May 20, 2024

Media Release

U.S. Ambassador Randy Berry Visits Southern Coastal Towns of Namibia to Strengthen Economic and Conservation Partnerships

Windhoek - U.S. Ambassador to Namibia Randy Berry completed a five-day tour of Namibia's southern coastal region, visiting Oranjemund, the Tsau ||Khaeb National Park, and Lüderitz from May 13 to May 17. The trip aimed to bolster economic ties and highlight ongoing conservation efforts between the United States and Namibia.

During his visit to Oranjemund, Ambassador Berry met with the Mayor, His Worship Elias Kasemba, and members of the Town Council. They discussed the growing economic opportunities in the region, emphasizing the mining sector's vital role in Namibia's economy.

At the Southern Coastal Mine, Ambassador Berry observed the extensive diamond field that significantly contributes to Namibia's economic development. The visit underscored the United States' position as one of the largest consumers of diamonds globally and its interest in the sector's success.

In Tsau ||Khaeb National Park, Ambassador Berry witnessed one of the planet's most diverse ecosystems, which includes dozens of plants unique to Namibia. This visit highlighted the importance of conservation efforts supported by the United States to preserve such rich biodiversity.

Ambassador Berry also visited Halifax Island with the Namibia Nature Foundation to observe the island's biodiversity firsthand. He met with the Namibia Foundation for the Conservation of SeaBirds (NAMCOB) and saw the local efforts to protect wildlife, including the island's penguin population.

At the historic site of Kolmanskop, Ambassador Berry noted its recent use as a filming location for the popular series "Fallout," which has garnered 65 million viewers. This visit showcased Namibia's cultural heritage and its potential for tourism and media production.

In Lüderitz, Ambassador Berry had a productive meeting with Honorable Deputy Mayor Bridgette Fredericks, and members of the Town Council. The discussions focused on the transformative developments in Namibia's energy sector that are driving significant economic changes in the region.

The Ambassador's tour also included a visit to the Kelp Blue laboratory. Here, Namibian scientists are pioneering kelp cultivation, with operations covering over four hectares. The cultivated kelp enhances marine habitats and is used to develop sustainable products, including fertilizers.

Ambassador Berry's visit to Namibia's southern coastal towns underscores the United States' commitment to strengthening bilateral trade ties and supporting sustainable development initiatives. The engagements reflect a shared vision of economic growth and environmental stewardship, fostering a prosperous future for both nations.

"I am thankful to have had the opportunity to spend the last week getting to know the communities and national parks of Namibia's southern coastal regions. In conversations with political and business leaders, conservation experts, scientists, and entrepreneurs, it's clear there is tremendous opportunity and potential. And as always, I was welcomed with the same generous Namibian hospitality I've come to know well. I Look forward to the next great visit!", stated Ambassador Berry in summarizing his first familiarization trip to the ||Kharas region.

###

PHOTOS:



Picture 1: Kelp blue staff with U.S. Ambassador to Namibia.

Front from left to right: Johanna Namupala, Aina Iyambula, Jacintha Kartyoa, Ambassador Randy Berry and Latungwa Mwachafa

Back: Ferdi Knoester



Picture 2:
Ambassador Randy Berry with Her Worship, Brigitte Fredericks, the Deputy Mayor of Lüderitz,
and members of the Town Council leadership.

ISSUED BY:
Tiffany Miller
U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer and Spokesperson
MillerT3@state.gov