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FORMER LADY
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA

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Onica
Geingos

Abridged Profile



100 Most Influential African Women”

Monica Geingos is a qualified lawyer with over 20 years of experience in the financial sector, including senior roles in capital markets, corporate finance, and private equity. She was awarded National Honours (Most Distinguished Order of Namibia) by Former President Pohamba for her “outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of Namibia.” She was inducted into the Namibian Business Hall of Fame and received numerous awards, such as the “Namibian Business Personality of the Year” and “Most Innovative Entrepreneur”. During her time in the private sector, Monica was regularly rated by local and continental media publications as one of the most influential Namibians and was recognised by international media as one of “Africa’s Top 100 Economic Leaders”.

Monica served as the 3rd First Lady of the Republic of Namibia from March 2015 to February 2024. Before assuming the role of First Lady in 2015, she was a co-shareholder and Managing Director of Namibia’s largest private equity fund for over a decade. During this time, she served on the boards of large public and private sector companies as either Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.



Due to her extensive corporate experience, she was a long-standing member of high-level policy advisory boards — such as the President’s Economic Advisory Council, the governing Party’s Think Tank, and the National Council of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry — with the mandate to advise on national policy formulation and implementation. She also made time to serve on boards such as the Association of Unlisted Investment Managers (Chairperson), the Steering Committee for the Namibian Financial Sector Charter (Secretary), the Listings Advisory Board of the Namibian Stock

Exchange, and the Public Office Bearers Commission (Vice-Chairperson).

During her tenure as First Lady, Monica combined her high-level corporate expertise with President Geingob’s war on poverty and inequality. Through the One Economy Foundation, Monica initiated numerous programmes focused on sustainably lifting vulnerable populations out of poverty traps. ONE aims to sustainably lift people out of poverty traps and ensure fair access to opportunities. Over

the past nine years, ONE has taken key learnings from the #BeFree Movement and institutionalised them into Project #BeFree — a one-stop youth centre that provides a continuum of holistic, youth-friendly healthcare services, including life skills programmes, mental health support, the full spectrum of adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services (including comprehensive sexuality education), skills and leadership development, entrepreneurship development, and adolescent-friendly edutainment.



In addition, Project #BeFree has several smart partnerships in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to ensure that the project closes the mental health and SRH service delivery gaps experienced by young people.

Monica served as the President of the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD) from June 2022 to February 2024. During her tenure, she spearheaded the inception of the #WeAreEqual campaign aimed at advocating for gender equity in Africa.

In terms of current obligations, Monica has accepted the naming of a school, "Monica Geingos Junior Secondary School", and a "Monica Geingos" street, both in peri-urban areas, to recognise her active role in advocating for a pro-poor policy environment in the advancement of equal education and decent shelter.

Regarding her international obligations, Monica is the co-chair of the Global Council on Inequality, AIDS, and Pandemics, which creates a policy environment for addressing inequalities linked to AIDS and

Former Lady of the Republic of Namibia

pandemics. Additionally, Monica is the Chairperson of the Africa REACH Leadership Council, an initiative to create a new action agenda around ending AIDS in children and youth in Africa. She further serves on the following entities: Chairperson of the Monrovia-based Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development; Chancellor of the Kigali-based Kepler College; and director of the California-based WomenLift Health. She is also a Leadership Council member of Concordia, a New York-based non-profit that builds global partnerships for social impact. Concordia draws its leadership from former government leaders, policy experts, and industry leaders.

Monica is committed to utilising her institutional and strategic experience in the public and private sectors in Africa to influence institutional change and support women and young people on their leadership paths.





monica geingos

Monica has received numerous merit awards throughout her professional career. She is the UNAIDS Special Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent Girls, a recipient of the "Change the World Award" from the Professional Speakers Association, and has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy from Jharkhand Rai University. She was honoured with the international "World Without AIDS" Award for her advocacy work in the fight against AIDS. She was awarded the annual Concordia Leadership Award for her global leadership and "unique and powerful efforts to lead the way for health and socio-economic empowerment." Various international organisations and publications have ranked Monica as one of the "100 Most Reputable Africans" and one of the "100 Most Influential African Women". Monica is a recognised leader whose forthright speaking manner has made her a sought-after speaker, featured in prominent global publications and international news networks.

