**Bio Steven Bernardus ǀHaraǂgeib**

Is a systems thinker, storyteller, and development strategist with over a decade of experience driving social and policy change across Africa. He works at the intersection of mental health, trauma-informed leadership, and governance innovation blending narrative, policy, and community practice into actionable, long-term transformation.

As a former Director and Head of Programs in the Presidency of Namibia, Steven led national efforts on gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, mental health, and youth leadership designing services that reached thousands and shaping international policy briefs on issues facing vulnerable populations. His ability to move seamlessly between political, grassroots, and global arenas has made him a trusted advisor to leaders, foundations, and movements across the continent.

Currently, Steven is an independent development practitioner consulting on high-impact projects across Africa, including those focused on transitional justice, youth-led policy, and institutional capacity-building. He is a member of the African Transitional Justice Experts Reference Group, contributing to continental efforts to address historical injustice and design pathways for societal healing. He is also the co-founder of PGPR Technologies, a social impact startup tackling food security, and the founder of Conversations for Change, a social enterprise providing tailored mental health support to young African leaders.

Steven’s work has earned him fellowships and recognition from institutions such as TEDx, the Atlantic Council, FutureElect, and TYI SADC 100, and he continues to speak and publish on topics such as leadership, African mental health systems, and governance futures. He has contributed to platforms across Africa, Europe, and the diaspora, and is increasingly sought after for his emotionally resonant, politically grounded framing of complex issues.

In 2021, he authored the book *Good Vibes and Butterflies*, which explores the inner lives of changemakers navigating trauma, hope, and personal growth. He also hosts *Good Vibes and the Butterfly Effect and Mens Club Radio*, a weekly podcast unpacking masculinity, mental health, and faith with warmth and truth-telling.

Currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.) at Cardiff University, Steven’s research explores the intersection of technology and mental health policy in Africa. A lifelong advocate, he co-founded the Young Achievers Empowerment Project at the age of 14 and remains deeply engaged in development work.

At the core of Steven’s work is a bold thesis: healing is strategy and the future belongs to leaders who can hold pain, power, and possibility in the same breath. His work lives where courage, systems thinking, and heart meet.