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THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2026

NYS operates with four board members for over a year

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

...falling below statutory limit of at least seven members

The National Youth Service (NYS) has been operating with only four board members for more than a year, falling below the statutory minimum of seven prescribed by the NYS Act 6 of 2005. A governance expert has warned that while decisions may not be automatically void, the arrangement creates a credible concern about compliance and heightens governance risks. The current board comprises three members co-opted from the Namibian Police, Namibia Defence Force and Namibian Correctional Services, and one from the youth ministry, following the expiry of the previous board's term in June 2025. Sources have expressed fears that resolutions and directives passed under the status quo could be deemed null and void. They also said the absence of critical subcommittees meant to ensure



This creates a potentially significant legal question: Can a body that should legally have at least seven members continue exercising full board powers when only four members remain.

- Gerard Vries

accountability over executive power has left the institution vulnerable. When approached for comment, NYS Commissioner Felix Musukubili directed all queries elsewhere, stating: "Kindly engage the relevant authority. Board



Gerard Vries -Photos: Contributed

appointment is out of my scope and jurisdiction. Kindly engage with the ED or minister directly. They will be in a better position to assist." Responding to the *Windhoek Observer*, executive director in the ministry of education, innovation,



Felix Musukubili

youth, sports, arts and culture Gerard Vries, rejected what he called the characterisation of non-compliance. He explained that following the

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Germany funds 'Pamwe' project to tackle teenage pregnancy

The German government has invested N\$1.9 million to support the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) in rolling out the "Pamwe" project. The initiative is aimed at promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among young people in Namibia's rural regions. The agreement was signed on Monday by German Ambassador to Namibia Thorsten Hutter and NAPPA, represented by its chairperson, Sevelia Kasuto, executive director, Natalia Ihemba, and communication and advocacy manager, Louise Mhundwa.

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PDM MP questions minister on police vehicle shortages

ALEXER NAMUNDJEMBO
Staff Writer

Popular Democratic Movement member of parliament Winnie Moongo has tabled a series of questions for the minister of home affairs, immigration, safety and security, Lucia Lipumbu, over what she described as "persistent administrative and operational deficiencies" affecting police stations across Namibia.

In a notice of question set for Thursday, Moongo said communities continue to raise concerns about inadequate fleet management, weak logistical coordination, delayed vehicle and infrastructure maintenance, and uneven distribution of resources between regions. She added that some border patrol activities have allegedly been suspended for extended periods due to transport constraints.

"Police officers are expected to operate within overstretched administrative systems that negatively affect response times, service delivery and public confidence in law enforcement institutions," she said. Moongo is asking the minister how many police stations are currently operating without adequate vehicles and what actions have been implemented to address persistent delays in vehicle maintenance and

repairs within the police fleet. she also wants to know the impact of the suspension of border patrol operations on border security and what measures have been implemented to mitigate any resulting security risks. "The concerns expressed by communities across Namibia continue to expose a persistent pattern of administrative and

TO PAGE 2

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PDM member of parliament Winnie Moongo has raised concerns on police fleets. - Picture: Contributed

PDM MP questions minister on police vehicle shortages

FROM PAGE 1

operational deficiencies that are adversely affecting the effectiveness and service delivery of police stations nationwide,” she said in the notice. Among her questions, Moongo asked what criteria the ministry uses to determine the allocation of operational resources between urban and rural police stations.

She further questioned what accountability strategies are in place where operational failures are linked to poor management, negligence or ineffective resource utilization.

She is also pressing the ministry for a timeline to restore full operational capacity to police stations currently affected by vehicle shortages

and logistical and administrative constraints.

The questions come amid ongoing public debate over police visibility and response times, particularly in rural areas.

Iipumbu is expected to respond to the questions in the National Assembly next week.

Last year, the Namibian police

received 164 new vehicles to enhance law-enforcement operations across all 14 regions. The vehicles were handed over as part of a government- and stakeholder-funded initiative aimed at strengthening service delivery and improving police mobility. At the time, suspended Namibian Police Inspector-General Josef

Shikongo said the additional fleet would support the force’s operational readiness, particularly during the festive season. Shikongo added that the new vehicles would enable officers to respond more efficiently to incidents and extend their presence in communities beyond the holiday period.

NYS operates with four board members for over a year

FROM PAGE 1

expiry of the previous board’s term, a structured recruitment process was initiated, and four members were duly appointed as an interim measure, while remaining candidates underwent scrutiny and verification processes mandated by the appointing authority. Vries stated that the delay in finalising the remaining board appointments is attributable to processes that fall outside the ministry’s jurisdiction.

He added that appointments are made by the President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as head of service and that those processes have now been concluded.

The announcement of the remaining board members, he said, will be made public soon.

On the question of accountability, the ministry said it is satisfied that adequate mechanisms are in place, pointing to monthly and quarterly reports submitted to the executive director.

He noted that “to date, no material governance or financial risk has been identified as a result of the current board configuration.”

The ministry also clarified that no board subcommittees have been established under the current configuration, with members

“

This arrangement ensures deliberations remain transparent and collective, mitigating the governance risks that fragmented subcommittee structures might otherwise present.

-Gerard Vries

convening collectively as a full board. “This arrangement ensures deliberations remain transparent and collective, mitigating the governance risks that fragmented subcommittee structures might otherwise present,” he stated.

“The absence of a fully constituted board does not mean, nor does the law require, that an institution ceases to function.”

Vries further noted that the NYS is not an isolated case, as several state-owned enterprises continue to operate while board appointment processes are being concluded. He declined to characterise the situation as a governance crisis.

Governance expert Johann Coetzee

said operating with only four board members falls below the Act’s minimum of seven, which would constitute a governance concern and raise questions about compliance. While the Act contains a provision validating decisions made despite a vacancy, Coetzee cautioned that a legal distinction exists between a board with a few vacancies and one that has fallen below the statutory minimum required for its existence. “This creates a potentially significant legal question: Can a body that should legally have at least seven members continue exercising full board powers when only four members remain?” he asked, noting the answer would require interpretation by the courts or the attorney general. Regarding allegations of an ‘iron fist’ leadership at the NYS, Coetzee said a weakened board reduces oversight and accountability, creating “a higher governance risk” from a corporate governance perspective.

He concluded that while decisions are not automatically void, there is a stronger argument that decisions could become vulnerable to legal challenge, adding that the bigger issue may be “governance legitimacy and oversight” rather than immediate invalidity of all board actions.

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Leadership succession battle rocks SPYL Kavango East

PATIENCE MAKWELE

Staff Writer

A leadership dispute within the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL) in Kavango East has escalated after the regional executive committee suspended a senior youth leader pending an investigation — a move she has rejected as unconstitutional and politically motivated.

The suspension of SPYL regional secretary for information, publicity and mobilization, Bibiana Shapi, comes amid preparations for an extraordinary regional conference expected to fill the vacant regional secretary position following the resignation Anselm Marungu, who was appointed as deputy minister of environment, forestry and tourism. In a letter dated 1 June and addressed to the SWAPO party regional executive committee through regional coordinator Ottilie Shinduvi, the SPYL regional executive committee announced Shapi's suspension pending an investigation into allegations that she was involved in activities aimed at undermining the authority and unity of the regional executive committee.

According to the letter, Shapi is accused of participating in efforts to remove duly elected members of the regional executive committee.

"The decision to suspend Cde. Shapi was taken by the SPYL REC after receiving information regarding her alleged involvement in activities aimed at undermining the authority and unity of the regional executive committee through an alleged plot to remove duly elected REC members," the letter states.

The regional leadership said the suspension was necessary to safeguard the integrity of the investigation process and stressed that the action should not be interpreted as a finding of guilt. "It must be emphasized that this suspension is a precautionary measure and does not constitute a finding of guilt," the committee stated.

However, Shapi has strongly challenged the decision, arguing that the suspension was unlawful and carried out in violation of the SPYL constitution and established disciplinary procedures. In her response addressed to SPYL



Ephraim Nekongo - Photo: Contributed

Secretary Ephraim Nekongo on Tuesday, Shapi rejected the suspension and accused certain regional leaders of pursuing factional interests under the guise of disciplinary action. She further described the move as a "shameful factional exercise" aimed at dividing the youth league in the region. Central to Shapi's argument is her claim that the regional executive committee does not possess constitutional authority to suspend members. According to her interpretation of the SPYL constitution, the regional leadership may only recommend disciplinary action to higher structures, which must then consider and approve any suspension.

"The attempted suspension is therefore not only null and void, but plainly unconstitutional, as it exceeds the REC's constitutional mandate," she wrote. Shapi further claimed that no legitimate regional executive



The decision to suspend Cde. Shapi was taken by the SPYL REC after receiving information regarding her alleged involvement in activities aimed at undermining the authority and unity of the regional executive committee through an alleged plot to remove duly elected REC members.

committee meeting was convened to discuss her suspension and that no formal disciplinary process had been initiated against her prior to the announcement.

She alleges that she was never informed of any complaint, investigation or hearing, nor afforded an opportunity to respond to the allegations before the decision was communicated.

Shapi alleges that the allegations against her are part of broader internal efforts to influence leadership processes ahead of the conference.

"The claims against me are trumped-up and without foundation," she stated, adding that the move was intended to frustrate the implementation of decisions already taken by higher party structures.

Sources also raised concerns regarding the use of administrative materials in issuing the suspension letter, questioning how party resources and official stamps were utilised in the process.

In her appeal to the national leadership, Shapi called on the SPYL national executive committee to

declare the suspension null and void, to investigate those responsible for what she termed factional conduct, and to ensure that the extraordinary regional conference proceeds without further delay.

Political observers note that disputes over internal procedures and succession processes are not uncommon within youth political structures, particularly when leadership positions become vacant and competing interpretations of constitutional provisions emerge.

The latest developments have now placed the matter before national SPYL structures, with attention turning to whether the suspension was effected in accordance with party rules and whether the extraordinary regional conference will proceed as planned.

At the time of publication, responses were still being sought from SPYL Secretary Ephraim Nekongo, Regional Coordinator Ottilie Shinduvi and members of the regional leadership regarding the allegations raised by Shapi and the constitutional questions surrounding the suspension.

[OFFICIAL]

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Tsumkwe communities demand action on stalled development projects

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Community leaders in Tsumkwe have called for urgent intervention to revive several stalled development projects, including a multi-million-dollar agricultural initiative and a cultural museum that has remained incomplete for more than a decade. The concerns were raised during a three-day visit by a delegation from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), which is assessing living conditions, development challenges and service delivery in the constituency. The delegation visited several sites, including Tsumkwe Secondary School, the school hostel, Tsumkwe Clinic and multiple incomplete community projects.

Among the projects highlighted was the Tsumkwe Agricultural Hub and Integrated Food System project. Established to strengthen food security and create employment opportunities for local residents, it remains non-operational two years after its inauguration.

Senior Councillor of the Ju|'hoansi Traditional Authority, Fransina Ghauz, expressed frustration over the lack of progress, despite the traditional authority having allocated land for development initiatives intended to benefit the community.

"As we can see, this project is now standing still and is not moving forward," Ghauz said.

"As the traditional authority, we are not happy because we wrote letters requesting two boreholes to be drilled. After that was done, there has been no progress on the project."

She said traditional leaders had invited the OPM delegation to witness firsthand the state of several dormant projects and the impact their delays continue to have on local communities.

"We want these projects to start functioning so that they can help



Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Asser Ntinda with Tsumkwe locals during inspections.- Photo: Contributed

improve the livelihoods of the community," she added. The agricultural project was implemented by the World Food Programme in partnership with the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, the Tsumkwe community and the Tsumkwe Village Council on a 45-hectare site. The project includes three boreholes and a fish pond and was expected to serve as a catalyst for local food production and job creation. However, Ernestus Karabo, control officer for rural water supply at the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, said the initiative encountered

significant setbacks after water quality tests revealed that water from the existing boreholes was unsuitable for irrigation.

Karabo said the project was further affected by funding constraints, with efforts currently underway to secure resources for drilling additional boreholes needed to revive the initiative.

The OPM delegation also visited the Ju|'hoansi Cultural Museum, located approximately 10 kilometers outside Tsumkwe, where concerns were raised over a project that has remained incomplete since 2012.

The museum, which falls under

the management of the regional council, was intended to preserve and showcase the culture and heritage of the Ju|'hoansi people while creating tourism and economic opportunities for the local community.

Residents say the prolonged delay has left the project abandoned and unable to deliver the benefits originally envisioned.

The site inspections form part of a broader assessment by the Office of the Prime Minister aimed at identifying obstacles to development and improving service delivery in remote communities.

Special adviser to the prime minister,

Asser Ntinda, said a full assessment of the findings would be provided after all inspections in the constituency have been completed.

The visit comes amid growing calls from community leaders for government and development partners to ensure that public projects are completed and made operational so that intended beneficiaries can realize their economic and social benefits.

Residents expect that the visit will move beyond assessment and result in concrete action to revive projects that have remained dormant for years despite significant investment.

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Germany funds 'Pamwe' project to tackle teenage pregnancy

EUGENIA MOCHE
Staff Writer

The German government has invested N\$1.9 million to support the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) in rolling out the "Pamwe" project.

The initiative is aimed at promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among young people in Namibia's rural regions.

The agreement was signed on Monday by German Ambassador to Namibia Thorsten Hutter and NAPPA, represented by its chairperson, Sevelia Kasuto, executive director, Natalia Ihemba, and communication and advocacy manager, Louise Mhundwa. The project is being implemented in the Kavango, Kunene, and Omusati regions from 1 May to 31 December 2026.

'Pamwe', which means "Together" in several Namibian dialects, seeks to address teenage pregnancies, challenge cultural barriers, and expand access to youth-friendly health services.

The main objective of the Pamwe project is to reduce teenage pregnancies and confront attitudes that undermine SRHR, while building local, regional, and national capacity for gender-transformative change. It will deliver sexuality education, menstrual health and hygiene promotion, and improved access to health services for adolescent girls and boys, young women and men, and young people with disabilities across the three regions.

Hutter described teenage pregnancy as "one of the most significant barriers to equality and opportunity for young women and girls in Namibia."

He noted that Namibia's adolescent pregnancy rate is twice the global average, with rural areas recording even higher figures.

"This is a challenge that demands a thoughtful, community-rooted response. The 'Pamwe' project does exactly that: meeting young people where they are, promoting knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights while at the same time expanding their access to the health services they need and deserve," he said.

Ihemba, said the Pamwe project is not only a service delivery intervention but an investment in prevention, dignity and informed choice.

"Teenage pregnancy is often the visible outcome of deeper structural challenges, including poverty, limited access to accurate information, unequal gender relations, disability exclusion, and cultural barriers that silence young people from seeking help," she added.

She further noted that collaboration is key, stating: "As 'Pamwe' means 'Together', this is exactly the spirit required to address teenage pregnancy and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights.



'Pamwe', which means "Together" in several Namibian dialects, seeks to address teenage pregnancies, challenge cultural barriers, and expand access to youth-friendly health services.

No single institution can solve this challenge alone. It requires families, communities, government, civil society, development partners and young people working together to transform attitudes, strengthen referral pathways, and ensure that SRHR services are practical, confidential, youth-friendly and accessible to those most at risk."

Teenage pregnancy in Namibia remains a critical public health and human rights concern.

With a national rate of 82 pregnancies per 1,000 adolescents aged 15 to 19, according to the Namibia Demographic and Health Survey of 2013, the consequences are far-reaching.

Incidents involving school dropouts, increased gender inequality, unsafe abortions and in some case, infanticide are most acute in rural regions.

The Kunene, Kavango, and Omusati regions record some of the highest rates in the country.

The Pamwe project addresses these challenges through a multifaceted approach that includes training community leaders, educators and healthcare workers in gender-transformative methods.

These methods include delivering SRHR education in schools, communities, and health facilities, conducting mobile clinic outreaches, and ensuring that young people with disabilities have access to targeted SRHR information and services.

The funding forms part of the German Federal Foreign Office's global human rights programme, which supports around 130 projects annually across Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe.

NAPPA, a Namibian welfare organisation that has been active since 1996, has worked to improve sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for adolescents and young people nationwide.

With the Pamwe project, the association aims to strengthen its community-based interventions and ensure that young people in rural Namibia are not left behind.

By tackling teenage pregnancy through education, outreach, and collaboration, Pamwe seeks to create safer, more informed environments where adolescents can access services without fear, stigma or discrimination.



German ambassador to Namibia Thorsten Hutter with the NAPPA leadership on Monday. -Photo: Contributed

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ExxonMobil, JA Africa Launch STEM Africa 2.0. -Photo: Contributed

ExxonMobil, JA Africa launch STEM Africa 2.0

ALEXER NAMUNDJEMBO
Staff Writer

JA Africa, with support from the ExxonMobil Foundation and the Mindsinaction STEAM Centre, has launched the 2026 ExxonMobil Foundation STEM Africa Program to equip young Africans with critical skills in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and artificial intelligence (AI).

The 2026 edition, dubbed STEM Africa 2.0, will target 4,000 additional students aged 14 to 17 across the continent. It builds on a partnership that has already reached more than 10,000 young people in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Nigeria.

The launch comes as Africa's youth population grows rapidly while access to STEM and digital skills remains limited.

The program combines hands-on learning, mentorship from industry professionals and real-world problem-solving to prepare students for emerging sectors such as energy, sustainability and digital innovation.

Participants will move through a four-phase learning experience that includes STEM and AI quizzes, zonal competitions, national innovation camps and a final continental showcase at Africa Energy Week Conference. Organizers said the structure is designed to move beyond classroom theory and help students develop practical solutions to real-

world challenges while building confidence, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

"The future of Africa will be shaped by the ideas, ingenuity and leadership of its young people," said Simi Nwogugu, president and CEO of JA Africa.

"Through STEM Africa 2.0, we are not only strengthening STEM competencies but also opening pathways into artificial intelligence and innovation. This is about ensuring that young people across the continent are prepared to lead, create and solve problems that matter, both locally and globally."

Alvin Abraham, president of the ExxonMobil Foundation, said the initiative is part of a broader strategy to drive economic growth

through education.

"We believe that investing in young people is one of the most powerful ways to drive long-term economic growth and resilience," Abraham said.

"By supporting STEM Africa 2.0, we are helping to bridge the skills gap and enabling young people to engage with emerging technologies that will define the future of work." By integrating AI literacy into secondary school STEM education, the program aims to align with global workforce trends and strengthen links between education and employability.

It also seeks to expose participants to career pathways in high-growth sectors and build a pipeline of future innovators.

The program emphasizes inclusion

and gender balance, with a focus on underserved communities.

A monitoring and evaluation framework will track learning outcomes, behavioral shifts and long-term progression into STEM-related pathways.

In Namibia, the Mindsinaction STEAM Centre is facilitating school activations for the ExxonMobil Foundation STEM Africa Kahoot quizzes, zonal STEM quiz competitions and the National STEM Innovation Camp. Students will be selected from the camp to compete at the regional STEM finals in Cape Town.

Young people, educators and partners interested in the program can visit exxonmobilstemsafrica.org for more information

'Crazy' phone call between Trump and Netanyahu complicates Iran talks

Donald Trump has become the latest US president to find himself at odds with Benjamin Netanyahu, after reportedly clashing with the Israeli prime minister over military action in Lebanon that has thrown Washington's Iran diplomacy into crisis.

Tehran responded to Israel's strikes on Lebanon by threatening to suspend talks with the US - a potential setback to Trump's efforts to extricate himself from an unpopular war with Iran.

Trump was asked by a journalist about an Axios report that he had called Netanyahu "effing crazy" and accused him of ingratitude during a phone call on Monday. "I did," Trump told the Pod Force One podcast in an interview broadcast on Wednesday. "I wouldn't say angry. I was a little bit



Despite several public disagreements, Netanyahu has repeatedly called Trump Israel's "greatest" friend in Washington

perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon, you know."

Trump added: "I like Bibi a lot. And I work very well with him."

He would be far from the only US president to tangle with the Israeli PM. The prime minister has a long history of testing the White House's patience - and of politically surviving any fallout.

The latest reported clash came as Trump mulls a deal that would extend the US-Iran ceasefire and open the door to talks on the future of Tehran's nuclear programme. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz - a vital global shipping lane - is also at stake.

Netanyahu laughed off any suggestion of tensions with his American ally.

"Sometimes we have, as in the best of families, you have these tactical disagreements," he told CNBC in an interview on Wednesday. "We always find a way to work them out, and we do so as great friends." He added that the two can

"disagree in the morning" and be in agreement by afternoon.

Experts, however, cautioned that the call could point to frustration in the White House over the alignment of US and Israeli military and political goals nearly 100 days after they launched strikes on targets in Iran on 28 February.

"Netanyahu has a long history of doing his own dance, irrespective of what he has heard from Washington," Brett Bruen, a former diplomat and president of crisis communications agency the Global Situation Room, told the BBC. "Trump... decided to take the plunge with him, and is now learning a really hard lesson about what happens when you get into war with a pretty mercurial leader that has an agenda which doesn't always align with your own priorities," he added. -BBC

Nearly 1 000 bags of rubbish collected in Walvis Bay

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

More than 990 bags of rubbish were collected in Walvis Bay, after community members, businesses, volunteers, and municipal teams joined forces for the first Mayoral Clean Up Campaign two weeks ago. Led by Walvis Bay mayor Johannes Shimbilinga, the coordinated day transformed public spaces across the coastal town, with clean-up activities focused mainly in Kuisebmond, Narraville, and the town centre. Held in observance of World Biodiversity Day and under the global theme “Acting Locally for Global Impact,” the campaign began at Tataleni High School before participants dispersed to designated areas.

Addressing volunteers, Shimbilinga emphasised that the initiative represented more than a once-off exercise.

“This Mayoral Clean Up is not simply about picking up rubbish; it is about restoring dignity to our public spaces, protecting the plants and animals that share our environment, and inspiring others to follow our lead,” he said.

The Mayor thanked corporate partners, sponsors, and municipal teams, encouraging residents to continue reducing waste, reusing materials, and helping to protect local biodiversity.

The clean-up campaign comes amid growing public frustration over the town’s sanitation and waste management challenges.

Earlier this year, more than 4,500 residents signed a petition titled “Demand Urgent Municipal Reform in Walvis Bay,” accusing the local authority of fostering hazardous living conditions through systemic neglect.

According to the petition, residents have complained of inconsistent street cleaning and unreliable rubbish



Walvis Bay mayor Johannes Shimbilinga during the inaugural Mayoral Clean Up Campaign. - Photo: Contributed

removal, leaving piles of waste to accumulate in neighbourhoods.

In the informal settlements, a lack of adequate toilet facilities has reportedly forced some residents to resort to open defecation by the roadside, which petitioners described as “an affront to human dignity.” Motorists have also faced hazardous conditions on pothole-riddled roads,

leading to vehicle damage and safety risks.

In addition, residents claimed the municipality’s practice of burning rubbish at the local dump generates toxic plumes of smoke that blanket surrounding areas, harming health and creating unbearable living conditions.

The petition further accused the municipality of failing to

communicate plans, budgets, or progress on service delivery.

Residents demanded regular street cleaning, reliable rubbish removal, an immediate halt to dump burning, urgent provision of adequate toilet facilities in informal settlements, repair of roads, and a commitment to public sharing of action timelines. The municipality responded by hosting consultation meetings

with residents in town, as well as in the Narraville and Kuisebmond communities to address the issues.

Despite the ongoing challenges, Shimbilinga described the clean-up campaign as a positive first step, adding that lasting environmental change depends on continued personal responsibility and community participation.

Second suicide in days rocks Swakopmund

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Two separate suicide incidents within days of each other have shaken the coastal town, with the Erongo regional police confirming both cases.

Swakopmund resident Barbara Ludwig was found deceased in her vehicle in Kramersdorp suburb on Tuesday, after having been missing since earlier during the day. She is believed to have ended her life by shooting herself with a firearm. Sources claimed that a suicide note she left, presumably at her home, led her loved ones to phone the police,

giving a description of the vehicle she was driving.

Members of the Swakopmund Neighbourhood Watch spotted the vehicle and, upon closer inspection, found Ludwig deceased with a single gunshot wound to the her head not far from her vehicle.

As far as they could establish, the gunshot wound was self-inflicted. Ludwig, was remembered as the founder of pet supplies outlet Happy Pets in Swakopmund, which she allegedly sold a considerable time ago.

In a separate but related tragedy, the body of a prominent Tsumeb businessman washed ashore near Vierkantklip on Sunday,

approximately 600 metres south of the location where he is believed to have walked into the sea.

Nafutal Goodman Shinedima had been missing for four days prior to the discovery of his body.

A luxury sedan vehicle was found parked in such a way that it blocked the B2 coastal road’s entrance to Vierkantklip, drawing the attention of authorities.

The vehicle had remained in that position for several days. The Swakopmund police, assisted by the Namibia Marshal Rangers, towed the vehicle to the Mondesa police station.

A letter was found inside the abandoned vehicle, reportedly

containing at least one cellphone number to trace Shinedima’s next-of-kin.

Sean Naudé, commander of West Coast Guardian Sea Rescue, confirmed that a search at sea commenced on Saturday morning to try to locate Shinedima.

A member of Monarch Lifeguards assisted West Coast Guardian with foot patrols on the beach, and made the discovery.

The deceased was positively identified by his brother, and the body was transported to the Walvis Bay police mortuary.

The police in the Erongo region extended condolences to his family and friends.



Barbara Ludwig - Photo: Contributed

Swakop unveils new welcome sign

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Swakopmund officially unveiled its new welcome sign on Tuesday in a ceremony marked by celebration, community pride, and a clear vision for the town's future.

The town's mayor, Suamma Kautondokwa described the landmark not merely as an aesthetic addition but as the first step in a broader strategy to boost tourism, support local business, and enhance the town's identity as Namibia's premier holiday destination.

Kautondokwa acknowledged Nicole Buchert, the original concept designer and creative mind behind the project.

Buchert, who could not attend the unveiling, was represented by her parents instead.

"Through Nicole's contribution, we have created a feature that will proudly welcome residents and visitors to Swakopmund for many years to come," Kautondokwa said, thanking Buchert on behalf of the municipality and the town's people for leaving a lasting imprint on Swakopmund's visual identity.

Kautondokwa revealed that two additional welcome signs are already in planning, set to be installed at strategic entrances along the B2 Road from Arandis and the road to Henties Bay.

Engagements with relevant stakeholders are in their final stages, she confirmed, with implementation to follow once discussions conclude.



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A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

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NOTIFICATION AND CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 18 TELECOMMUNICATION BASE-TRANSCIVER STATION (BTS) TOWERS ON SELECTED SITES COUNTRYWIDE, NAMIBIA

D & P Engineers and Environmental Consultants hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the proposed development of eighteen (18) base transceiver station (BTS) towers.

Powercom (PTY) LTD herein referred to as the proponent has identified different areas that needs improved communication alternatives in Namibia due to growth in population and economic activities. To achieve the objective of improved telecommunication connectivity, Powercom has been appointed by Telecom Namibia its sister company to establish telecommunication towers across the identified different locations. In this respect, Powercom has identified sites to construct and operate 22 telecommunication base transceiver station towers across the country.

Powercom (the proponent) has appointed D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants to conduct the ESA processes for these proposed BTS tower developments. The EIA is being conducted to satisfy the Namibian environmental legislative requirements. The general public as well as any Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register their concerns and notify the consultant of any potential environmental and social impacts that may be triggered by the project.

The proposed projects for which the Environmental Clearance Certificates will be applied for are as follows:

<p>1. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Rundu, Kavango East.</p> <p>Site/Location: Kavango Centre of Excellence. Rundu, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°56'25.60"S 19°45'42.90"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 08:30 am Date: 26 May 2026</p>	<p>2. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Ohhuno in, Oshana Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Ohhuno Roadblock Area. Ohangwena, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°31'36.1"S 15°54'12.5"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 11:00 am Date: 27 May 2026</p>	<p>3. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Oshakati in Oshana Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: NPTH Premises, Oshakati complex. Oshana, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°47'13.78"S 15°42'0.08"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 15:30 pm Date: 27 May 2026</p>	<p>4. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Outapi (2x) in, Omusati Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Nakayale Proper (VTC) & Outapi Ext 8. Outapi, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°31'17.4"S 15°00'42.9"E & 17°29'43.6"S 14°58'54.7"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 11:00 am Date: 01 June 2026</p>
<p>5. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Ruacana, Omusati Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Oshifo. Ruacana, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°26'35.76"S 14°21'22.84"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 15:30 pm Date: 01 June 2026</p>	<p>6. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Opuwo, Kunene Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Otuzemba, Ext 1, Erf 513. Opuwo, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 18°02'49.50"S 13°50'57.70"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 08:30 am Date: 02 June 2026</p>	<p>7. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Lüderitz in, //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Lüderitz Ext 4 (Diamondberg). Lüderitz, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 26°39'6.70"S 15°09'12.77"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 09:30 am Date: 26 May 2026</p>	<p>8. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Lüderitz, in //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Nautilus Ext. 5. Lüderitz, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 26°37'52.27"S 15°10'48.19"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 14:20 pm Date: 26 May 2026</p>
<p>9. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Gobabis, Omaheke Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Epako Ext 2. Gobabis, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°25'57.33"S 18°59'13.56"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 12:00 pm Date: 28 May 2026</p>	<p>10. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Okahandja in, Otjozondjupa Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Oshetu / Khaibasen. Okahandja, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 21°59'53.97"S 16°53'35.74"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 11:00 am Date: 29 May 2026</p>	<p>11. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower in Okombahe, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Okombahe, Erongo, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 21°21'22.75"S 15°22'29.93"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 09:00 am Date: 01 June 2026</p>	<p>12. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Walvis Bay in Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Kuisebmond-Totaleni. Walvis Bay, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°55'29.01"S 14°32'29.65"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 10:00 am Date: 02 June 2026</p>
<p>13. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: ERF 2998, Narraville. Walvis bay, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°56'46.09"S 14°32'2.50"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 10:00 am Date: 02 June 2026</p>	<p>14. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Dolphin Beach, Walvis Bay, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°50'11.11"S 14°32'28.25"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 10:00 am Date: 02 June 2026</p>	<p>15. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Swakopmund in, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Maturura (DRC 2nd). Swakopmund, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°39'1.83"S 14°33'43.62"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 14:20 pm Date: 02 June 2026</p>	<p>16. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Swakopmund in, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Tamariskia, Swakopmund, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°39'26.73"S 14°32'25.55"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 14:20 pm Date: 02 June 2026</p>
<p>17. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Wlotzkasbaken Settlement in, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Wlotzkasbaken Settlement, Erongo, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°22'22.7"S 14°26'28.6"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite Time: 10:30 am Date: 03 June 2026</p>	<p>Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) Registration and submission of comments: To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with the consultant (contact details below) as an I&AP before end of business on 17 June 2026. A Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled for the project and is available upon request to the consultant, contact below.</p> <p>All registered I&APs will be informed throughout the assessment process and provided with further opportunities to review and submit comments. Comments can also be submitted via the online form provided. Please scan the QR code or use the link below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://forms.gle/SzEsvhyoNn8Daseu9</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Scan me!</p> </div>		

Contact Details: D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants
Attention: Ms. Kristian NN Shiwayu
 PO Box 8401, Windhoek, Namibia
 Email: info@dpe.com.na
 Tel: +264 61 302672

Editorial

Municipal debt crisis demands more than disconnection threats

The decision by Urban and Rural Development Minister James Sankwasa to direct municipalities to disconnect water and electricity services to government ministries, state-owned enterprises and large private companies that fail to settle outstanding municipal debts has ignited intense debate across the country.

On the surface, the directive appears both logical and overdue. Municipalities cannot continue to provide services indefinitely while carrying billions of dollars in unpaid debt. Local authorities rely heavily on revenue from rates, taxes, electricity and water payments to maintain roads, sanitation systems, waste management, public facilities and essential infrastructure. When major consumers fail to pay their bills, municipalities find themselves trapped in a cycle of financial distress that ultimately affects every resident.

The minister's intervention therefore addresses a very real and longstanding problem.

Yet while the principle of accountability is difficult to dispute, the practical implementation of the directive reveals a far more complex challenge than a simple debtor-creditor relationship.

The first complexity lies within government itself. Many of the institutions reportedly owing municipalities are state entities funded through the national budget. In effect, one arm of government is being instructed to disconnect another arm of government. The result could be a situation where public hospitals, schools, police facilities, courts or other essential services face disruptions because of financial disputes between state institutions.

Such an outcome would be difficult to justify. Citizens who depend on these services should not become collateral damage in a battle over unpaid accounts.

The second challenge concerns the underlying causes of municipal debt. Not all arrears arise from deliberate refusal to pay. Some state entities operate under severe budget constraints and may have accumulated debts over several years due to funding shortfalls. Likewise, some private companies may be facing genuine financial difficulties stemming from economic downturns, declining demand or operational challenges.

This does not excuse non-payment, but it does suggest that blanket disconnections may not always represent the most effective solution.

A third consideration is the broader economic environment. Namibia continues to grapple with high unemployment, sluggish economic growth in several sectors and increasing pressure on both public and private finances. Large-scale service disconnections could have unintended consequences for investment, employment and service delivery. If a major employer loses access to electricity or water, the impact may extend beyond management and shareholders. Workers, suppliers and surrounding communities could also feel the effects.

At the same time, municipalities themselves deserve greater scrutiny. Local authorities often point to unpaid debts as the primary source of their financial difficulties. While outstanding accounts undoubtedly represent a major challenge, many municipalities have also faced criticism over governance weaknesses, inefficient billing systems, poor debt collection practices and inadequate financial management.

Taxpayers and ratepayers are entitled to ask an important question: if all outstanding debts were collected tomorrow, would every municipality suddenly become financially sustainable?

The answer is unlikely to be that straightforward.

The municipal debt crisis therefore reflects deeper structural problems within local government financing. It is a symptom of a broader ecosystem in which national government, local authorities, state-owned enterprises and private businesses have become increasingly entangled in financial obligations that are often difficult to resolve. This reality calls for a balanced approach.

“

Taxpayers and ratepayers are entitled to ask an important question: if all outstanding debts were collected tomorrow, would every municipality suddenly become financially sustainable?”

The minister is correct to insist that municipalities cannot continue functioning as involuntary lenders to large institutions. The culture of non-payment, particularly among entities that possess the resources to meet their obligations, must come to an end. Accountability is essential for the sustainability of local government. However, enforcement should be accompanied by practical mechanisms that encourage resolution rather than simply punishment.

One possible solution would be the establishment of structured repayment agreements for major debtors. Instead of immediate disconnections, municipalities could negotiate binding payment plans with clear milestones and penalties for non-compliance. Such arrangements would allow municipalities to recover outstanding funds while ensuring continuity of essential services. Government could also consider creating an intergovernmental debt settlement framework specifically for public institutions. Where ministries and state-owned enterprises are involved, Treasury-led interventions may prove more effective than service disconnections. A coordinated national approach could help reconcile debts without disrupting public services.

For the private sector, differentiated treatment may be necessary. Companies that can demonstrate genuine financial hardship could be offered temporary repayment arrangements, while chronic defaulters who have the means to pay should face stricter enforcement measures. Equally important is the need for municipalities to strengthen their own financial management systems. Accurate billing, transparent accounting, efficient debt collection and regular audits are essential if public confidence is to be restored. Residents and businesses are more likely to meet their obligations when they believe their payments are being managed responsibly and translated into visible service delivery.

The current controversy should therefore be viewed as an opportunity rather than merely a confrontation. It has exposed weaknesses that have existed for years but have often been ignored. The debt crisis is not solely a municipal problem, a government problem or a private sector problem. It is a national governance challenge that requires cooperation across all levels of society.

Minister Sankwasa's directive has succeeded in drawing attention to an issue that can no longer be postponed. The next step, however, must move beyond threats and deadlines toward durable solutions. Namibia's municipalities need revenue to survive. Citizens need reliable services. Businesses need operational certainty. Government institutions need continuity. None of these objectives are mutually exclusive.

The ultimate goal should not be disconnection. It should be restoring a culture of payment, accountability and financial sustainability that ensures municipalities can fulfil their mandates while protecting the economic and social interests of the country as a whole.



Who Sees the Mother!

MORNA IKOSA

As we come to the end of the month we celebrate mothers, I could not, but reflect on a story that made headlines in every newspaper of the lady who allegedly dumped her twins in riverbed.

Newspapers are replete with stories of headlines about babies being abandoned in a riverbed, dumped in a pit latrine, left in a plastic bag, or discovered behind a building.

Society often reacts with outrage before compassion. Citing, "How could a mother do this?" But perhaps the more difficult question that no one bothers to ask is, What happened to that mother before she reached that moment of desperation?

Baby dumping is not simply a criminal issue. It is a social, economic, mental health, and human dignity crisis. It is a mirror reflecting how societies treat vulnerable women, especially poor women, young women, survivors of abuse, and mothers facing overwhelming emotional distress.

The uncomfortable truth is that baby abandonment happens in both developing and developed countries. However, the difference lies in how societies respond. Some countries punish desperate mothers. Others build systems that prevent desperation from turning into tragedy.

In the United States, despite being one of the world's wealthiest democracies, infant abandonment remains a serious concern. According to the National Safe Haven Alliance, more than 1,600 babies were illegally abandoned in the U.S. between 1999 and 2021. Of those, over 900 infants were found deceased. Yet the same report also revealed that more than 4,500 babies were safely surrendered under Safe Haven laws during that period.

These Safe Haven laws allow mothers in crisis to legally and anonymously hand over newborn babies at hospitals, fire stations, or designated safety centres without fear of prosecution. The laws emerged not because democratic societies condoned abandonment, but because they recognised a painful reality, yet sometimes panic, fear, trauma, poverty, abuse, postpartum depression, stigma, or abandonment by partners can push mothers into unimaginable psychological distress.



Countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, South Korea, and parts of the United States have also introduced "baby boxes" and other anonymous spaces where infants can be surrendered and immediately cared for. While these initiatives remain controversial, they are rooted in one principle, saving lives while supporting mothers in crisis.

What stands out in many forward thinking societies is the growing recognition that punishment alone does not solve the problem of baby dumping. That is why for a country like Namibia that has excellent laws that protect human rights, why they fail to also protect the vulnerable mother, and allow the partner to escape without any consequences.

It is time the boy child takes accountability and responsibility to taking part in the process of bringing life to earth. That responsibility can not solely rest on the mother alone. Too often, women who experience unplanned pregnancies, postpartum depression, rape, domestic abuse, or extreme poverty suffer in silence because society shames them rather than supports them. In many communities, a struggling mother is quickly labelled irresponsible, immoral, or unfit, while absent fathers, abusive partners, and broken support systems escape scrutiny. Research supported by UNICEF has repeatedly shown that child abandonment is often linked to factors like financial hardship, domestic violence, social stigma, homelessness,

mental health struggles, and lack of family support. UNICEF-supported research in Kazakhstan found that many abandonment cases could be prevented through early social intervention, psychological support, emergency shelter, and financial assistance for mothers.

A mother who dumps a baby may indeed need accountability where the law has been broken. But accountability without compassion will never prevent the next tragedy.

We must begin addressing the deeper issues. Postnatal depression, for instance, remains dangerously under-discussed across Africa. Many women experience severe depression, psychosis, anxiety, and emotional instability after childbirth. Some battle suicidal thoughts. Others experience complete emotional detachment from reality. Yet countless women are expected to simply "be strong," while carrying the emotional, physical, and financial burden of motherhood alone.

The World Health Organization estimates that about 1 in 5 women globally experience mental health challenges during pregnancy or after childbirth. In low- and middle-income countries, these struggles are often worsened by poverty, stigma, and lack of access to mental healthcare. When emotional distress meets desperation and isolation, tragic decisions can happen.

This is why the conversation on baby dumping cannot only be about criminality. It must also be about prevention. We need stronger maternal mental health services. We need emergency shelters for vulnerable women. We need accessible reproductive health education. We need fathers to take responsibility and be taken to account. We need communities that listen before judging. We need hospitals and social workers trained to identify mothers in distress before crisis escalates.

Most importantly, we need to restore humanity to how we speak about vulnerable women. A society is not judged by how loudly it condemns broken people. It is judged by how effectively it prevents people from breaking in the first place.

Morna Ikosa
Columnist

The views expressed in this article are not of her employer.

How constitutionalism is embodied in the life of the people

PAUL T. SHIPALE

(with inputs by Folito Nghitongovali Diawara Gaspar)

The woman that the constitution has never met

I imagine a woman living in a remote village that she has never read her country's Constitution. She may not know the names of the judges who interpret it or the parliamentarians who amend it. Yet every day her life is shaped by the success or failure of that constitutional order.

When her child falls ill, the nearest clinic is hours away. When her land rights are challenged, the legal system speaks a language she does not understand.

When public decisions affecting her community are made, her voice rarely reaches the rooms where those decisions are taken.

Officially, she is a citizen and statistically, she exists. Constitutionally, she enjoys the same rights as every other member of the nation.

Yet in practice, she often remains invisible. It is here that the true test of constitutionalism begins.

The greatest measure of a Constitution is not the elegance of its clauses, the sophistication of its legal doctrine, or the prestige of the institutions created to defend it. Its ultimate test lies in its ability to reach those who have historically remained beyond the horizon of power.

A Constitution succeeds not when it is admired by jurists but when it becomes meaningful in the lives of ordinary people.

The question is therefore simple but profound:

Can a Constitution claim legitimacy if those most in need of its protection rarely experience its presence?

The constitution as a system of visibility

A Constitution is more than a legal document, it is a political map of recognition.

It determines who is seen, who is heard, whose interests matter, and whose suffering demands a response from public institutions.

Every constitutional order distributes visibility.

Some groups become central to political calculations. Others remain at the margins, acknowledged in principle but neglected in practice.

This reality is particularly significant in many post-colonial societies, where the institutions inherited from colonial administration were often designed not to empower populations but to govern them from a distance.

Independence brought sovereignty and Constitutions brought citizenship.

Yet in many cases, structures of exclusion survived the transition.

The result is a paradox that continues to shape many African democracies that citizens may be legally included while remaining politically, economically, and socially invisible. The invisible are not outside the Constitution but they are the unfinished work of the Constitution.

The three faces of invisibility

Invisibility is not merely a social condition, it is a constitutional problem.

It appears in at least three interconnected forms.

Legal Invisibility - occurs when people cannot translate their experiences into

categories recognized by the law.

A pastoralist whose ancestral grazing routes have never been formally registered.

A rural community whose collective relationship to land does not fit modern property systems.

An informal trader criminalized by regulations designed for a different economic reality.

Such individuals are not outside the legal system per se, rather, the legal system struggles to recognize them. Their reality exists, but its language is absent from the law.

Epistemological Invisibility - A second form of exclusion emerges when institutions lack the conceptual tools necessary to understand certain ways of life.

Many African societies continue to organize social relations through communal obligations, customary authority, shared land use, and collective forms of decision making.

Yet state institutions frequently operate through assumptions imported from entirely different historical experiences. The problem is not always hostility but often it is blindness. Institutions fail to see what they were never designed to see.

Material Invisibility - The most visible form of invisibility is material. Rights may exist on paper while remaining inaccessible in practice.

The right to healthcare without hospitals.

The right to education without schools.

The right to participation without information, transportation, or communication infrastructure.

These are not fully realized rights. They are promises suspended between aspiration and reality.

A right that cannot be exercised is not yet a right but an aspiration waiting for power.

Beyond the myth of access

Much contemporary constitutional reform focuses on access to justice.

More lawyers.

More courts.

More procedures.

More technology.

These reforms matter but they are not enough.

The distance between a Constitution and its people is not measured only in kilometers, it is measured in recognition.

A citizen may enter a courtroom and still remain invisible.

A community may obtain legal representation and still discover that its reality cannot be translated into categories recognized by the legal system.

A Constitution becomes fragile when people stop seeing it as their own.

The challenge is therefore deeper than institutional expansion, it is institutional transformation.

Justice must learn to listen before it can judge.

The history that constitutions often forget

Every Constitution speaks about the future. The best constitutions also know how to speak honestly about the past.

Many post-colonial states emerged from histories marked by conquest, dispossession, racial hierarchy, civil conflict, forced displacement, and economic dependency.

Yet constitutional texts frequently speak about unity while remaining silent about the historical processes that fractured it. This is how the word



apartheid is nowhere to be found in the preamble of the South African constitution. Similarly, one will not find the word Genocide in the preamble of the Namibian Constitution because these were negotiated instruments with former oppressors. Silence may create temporary stability, it does not create reconciliation. History does not disappear because institutions refuse to mention it. Unacknowledged injustices often return in new forms of regional inequalities, ethnic tensions, distrust of public institutions, and recurring struggles over land, identity, and belonging. A mature constitutional order does not fear historical truth but it confronts it. The recognition of past exclusion is not a threat to national unity. It is one of the foundations upon which genuine unity can be built.

What Africa can teach constitutionalism

Constitutional theory has often treated Africa as a place where constitutional ideas are applied.

Perhaps it is time to reverse the question.

What can Africa teach constitutionalism?

African societies have long lived with multiple systems of authority operating simultaneously.

State law coexists with customary law. Formal institutions coexist with community structures. Individual rights coexist with communal obligations.

Many constitutional scholars view this complexity as a problem but it may also be a resource.

African constitutional thought reminds us that human beings are not isolated legal units.

They are members of communities. Their dignity is realized not only through individual freedom but also through recognition, belonging, and participation.

The philosophy of ubuntu captured in the Nguni saying, "a person is a person through other people" holds that one's humanity is woven together with the humanity of others.

Constitutionalism can learn from this tradition.

The purpose of a Constitution is not merely to regulate power. It is to create a political community in which every person can appear as fully human.

The question of economic sovereignty

There is another reality that constitutional debates often avoid. Rights require resources. Healthcare requires hospitals. Education requires schools. Justice requires institutions. Social protection requires fiscal capacity.

No constitutional order can escape

political economy.

This raises one of the central questions facing many developing democracies.

Can a state fully guarantee constitutional rights if it lacks control over the economic conditions necessary to realize them?

Many countries possess political sovereignty but operate within structures of economic dependency.

External debt, unequal trade relationships, capital flight, commodity dependence, and externally imposed policy constraints often limit the practical capacity of governments to fulfill constitutional commitments.

This does not invalidate constitutional rights but simply reveals a difficult truth that constitutional sovereignty without economic sovereignty is often incomplete.

A state may possess the legal authority to promise rights while lacking the material freedom to deliver them.

The article does not pretend to resolve this tension overnight.

What it insists upon is that the tension be named.

A Constitution that ignores the economic conditions necessary for the realization of rights risks becoming a performance rather than a living social contract.

The challenge of constitutionalism is therefore not only legal but economic, developmental, political and it is global.

From constitutional will to political belonging

Constitutions become powerful when citizens see themselves as their authors.

Political belonging cannot be created through legal declarations alone.

It emerges through participation.

People must have meaningful opportunities to influence decisions affecting their lives.

They must understand the laws that govern them.

They must be able to challenge authority without fear. We are not advocating for anarchism and reckless or premature actions of adventurism but neither do we subscribe to blind dogmatism which divorces theory and principles from progressive practices.

We are not advocating for opportunism rejecting revolutionary and progressive ideals in favor of short term gains of amassing wealth to dine and wine with the petty bourgeoisie. We also don't subscribe to purism questioning other people's patriotism and revolutionary credentials as that only leads to stagnation, exclusivity, factionalism and fragmentation instead of unity.

Democracy is not simply the right to vote every few years but the continuous capacity to shape public life.

Where participation is absent, constitutional rights gradually become distant promises.

Where participation flourishes, constitutional rights become living realities.

Active citizenship and the constitutional future

The most important constitutional advances rarely originate from courts alone.

They emerge from organized citizens. From youth and women's associations. From community organizations. From cooperatives.

From social movements. From trade unions. From ordinary people who refuse to remain invisible.

Rights become real when citizens transform constitutional principles into collective demands.

The Constitution ceases to be a text and becomes a social force.

This is why democratic governments should not fear civic mobilization. They should protect it.

A society in which citizens organize, question, propose, and participate is not a threat to constitutional order. It is evidence that constitutional order is alive.

Conclusion: From paper to flesh

A Constitution is not just a symbolic monument. It is not a sacred object to be admired from a distance.

It is a living project. Its purpose is not simply to describe an ideal society but to help create one.

The ultimate measure of constitutional success is not found in legal textbooks, constitutional courts, or political speeches but found in the gradual disappearance of invisibility.

A Constitution becomes a living document and more constitutional when more people can see themselves reflected within it.

When more communities are heard. When more lives matter politically.

When more citizens experience dignity not as a promise but as a reality.

The day constitutionalism fulfills its promise will not be marked by a judicial ceremony or a parliamentary declaration.

It will be marked by something far simpler.

The woman in the remote village will no longer experience the state as a distant abstraction nor will a Dhemba or Himba child stand on the roadside saying "maturiri ondjala", literally meaning we are crying of hunger.

Their voice will matter. Their rights will be accessible. Their dignity will produce institutional consequences.

The law will finally know their name. Only then will constitutionalism complete its journey from paper into flesh.

Until that day, the constitutional task remains unfinished.

Justice is not a destination reached once and for all. It is a continuous act of collective construction, renewed by each generation and measured by the lives it transforms.

And the name we give to that unfinished work is democracy with a human face and not just a neoliberal economy riddled with contradictions embedded in the macroeconomics of lowering tariffs, deregulating the economy, relying on foreign exchange or simply forex and attracting foreign direct investment with lofty promises of growing the economy to raise the GDP and lower inflation while at the same time creating unemployment with a fiscal policy relying on regressive taxation which targets individual taxes, fuel levy, taxing sugar, alcohol and what is called 'sin taxes'. At the same time there are skyrocketing prices with a high cost of living, killing local industries, if any, with no salary increments as often instructed by the IMF and the world bank with their structural adjustment policies yet there is tax evasion, price misinvoicing, transfer of profits and high capital flight by multinational or transnational corporations. Let justice be a continuous act of collective construction with the spirit of Ubuntu and democracy with a human face as opposed to just creating an elite class with a petty bourgeoisie at the highest echelons of our society. Let the constitution become a living document from paper to flesh.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of our employers or this newspaper. They represent our personal views as citizens and Pan-Africanists.

Market Highlights

NAD per US Dollar

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

NAD per British Pound

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

NAD per Euro

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

EXCHANGE RATES

Major Pairs

N\$ / \$	16.2954	03 Jun 2026
N\$ / £	21.9201	03 Jun 2026
N\$ / €	18.936	03 Jun 2026
N\$ / AOA	0.0175	03 Jun 2026

Repo	6.50
Prime	10.00

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PARAGON MEDIA

NaCC approves CNNC acquisition of stake in Bannerman Energy

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) has approved 11 merger transactions, imposing conditions on two mining-related acquisitions to safeguard public interest objectives, including employment creation, skills development, and greater participation of Namibian businesses in key sectors.

The Commission said it assessed each transaction to determine whether it was likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition, create or strengthen a dominant market position, and affect public interest considerations such as employment, industrial development, the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the competitiveness of Namibian industries. Among the transactions approved with conditions was the acquisition by CNNC Overseas Limited (CNOL) of a minority interest in Bannerman Energy (UK) Limited.

The deal relates to the Etango Uranium Project, which remains in the development phase and is not yet operational.

While the Commission found no competition concerns, it identified public interest issues and imposed conditions aimed at ensuring employment creation, skills development and transfer, and increased participation of Namibian firms, including SMEs, in the uranium value chain.

The Commission also approved, subject



The Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) has approved the acquisition by CNNC Overseas Limited (CNOL) of a minority interest in Bannerman Energy (UK) Limited. - Photo: Contributed

to conditions, the acquisition of control over Okorusu Holdings (Pty) Ltd and its associated fluorspar mining operations by Huajing Investment Limited and Walvis Bay Minerals (Hong Kong) Limited.

The transaction was assessed as a conglomerate merger with no competition concerns identified. However, the Commission noted significant public interest considerations linked to the planned restart of operations at the Okorusu mine. Conditions were imposed to ensure employment creation and protection, skills development and training, local

value addition and beneficiation, compliance with environmental, health and safety standards, and adherence to legislation governing foreign ownership of agricultural land.

The Commission said the conditions are intended to support sustainable and inclusive economic development. In addition, the NaCC approved nine transactions without conditions. These include the acquisition of control by Horizon Frontier Holdings Ltd over Kamino Minerals Ltd, the acquisition of a controlling interest in Craton Mining and Exploration (Pty) Ltd by Appian Omega Bidco Ltd, and Brookstone

Investments and Savanna Bloom Investments' acquisition of hospitality assets through Havenrock Investments (Pty) Ltd and Roidina Farm (Pty) Ltd. Other approved transactions include Nuvia Investments' acquisition of Store All Container Storage (Pty) Ltd, Motion JVCo Limited's acquisition of Castrol Group Holdings Limited, and the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund)'s acquisition of a minority shareholding in Nafasi Water Technologies (Pty) Ltd. The Commission also approved an exchange of participating interests in petroleum exploration licences involving

TotalEnergies EP Namibia BV and Windhoek PEL 28 BV. Although the transaction involved a horizontal overlap, the Commission found the resulting change in market share to be marginal and unlikely to affect competition. Further approvals were granted for Sedgeley Solar Management (Pty) Ltd's acquisition of sole control of Khomas Solar-Saver (Pty) Ltd and Maponya Energy (Pty) Ltd's acquisition of a majority shareholding in Unisun Energy (Pty) Ltd, which manages the Okatope Solar PV plant supplying electricity to NamPower.

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Africa Bitcoin Corporation increases its Bitcoin holdings

Staff Writer

Africa Bitcoin Corporation has increased its Bitcoin holdings after acquiring an additional 0.5085 Bitcoin (BTC) for N\$627,573, reinforcing its strategy of building a long-term Bitcoin treasury reserve.

The company, formerly known as Altvest Capital Limited, announced that the purchase was made on 27 May 2026 through its wholly owned subsidiary, Africa Bitcoin Strategies Proprietary Limited.

The Bitcoin was acquired on the open market at an average price of N\$1.23 million per BTC, including fees and expenses.

The acquisition was financed through an expansion of the group's secured digital asset lending facility, which is backed by a portion of its existing Bitcoin holdings. The facility carried a variable interest



Africa Bitcoin Corporation has increased its Bitcoin holdings.

- Photo: Contributed

rate linked to prevailing digital asset lending market conditions and was currently below 5% per annum.

Following the latest purchase, Africa Bitcoin Corporation's total Bitcoin holdings increased to 5.5331 BTC,

acquired at a cumulative cost of approximately N\$1.53 million per Bitcoin.

The company said its Bitcoin treasury strategy is aimed at increasing shareholders' economic exposure to

Bitcoin while preserving value through long-term accumulation.

It reiterated that it has adopted a "HODL" approach and has no current intention of selling its Bitcoin reserves. According to the company, its Bitcoin holdings generated a 10.1% increase in Sats-Per-Share (SPS) between 1 March and 27 May 2026. Since the launch of its Bitcoin treasury strategy in December 2024, SPS has increased by 429.2%, reflecting the growth in Bitcoin exposure attributable to each ordinary share in issue.

Africa Bitcoin Corporation highlighted Bitcoin's fixed supply, decentralised structure, growing institutional adoption, liquidity, and increasing regulatory recognition as key reasons underpinning its treasury strategy. Based on a Bitcoin market price of N\$6.85 million. The company accounts for its Bitcoin reserves as indefinite-life

intangible assets under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The group said it intends to continue accumulating Bitcoin as a long-term store of value and remains focused on expanding shareholder exposure to the potential upside of the digital asset over time.

Africa Bitcoin Corporation is planning to expand its Altvest Credit Opportunities Fund (ACOF) into Namibia in 2026 as part of a broader African growth strategy aimed at attracting new investors and deepening its footprint in regional capital markets.

The company is listed on the Namibian Securities Exchange.

The company said that investor roadshows are already underway in Namibia and Botswana to raise capital for ACOF, while expansion plans into Uganda and Kenya are also being prepared.



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TOP Gainers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd	5.52	3.18%
SBN Holdings Ltd	13.21	0.99%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	55.11	0.97%
Capricorn Group Limited (prev Capricorn Investment Group Ltd)	28.05	0.68%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	9.33	0.54%

TOP Losers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.3	-0.40%
Oryx Properties Limited	13.64	-0.07%
Nictus Holdings - Nam	3.4	0.00%

TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Anglo-American plc	901.49	4.50%
Paladin Energy Limited	138.02	4.07%
SBN Holdings Ltd	13.21	0.30%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	9.33	0.21%
Investec Limited	138.23	0.17%

TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Sanlam Limited	81.79	-5.80%
Standard Bank Group	304.39	-5.46%
Santam Limited	364.97	-4.63%
FirstRand Limited	90.09	-4.30%

Currencies				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
USD/ZAR	16.2832	-0.51%	-2.49%	-2.12%
EUR/ZAR	18.907236	-0.56%	-3.12%	-3.03%
GBP/ZAR	21.87892	-0.41%	-3.31%	-2.01%
USD/EUR	0.8612152	0.01%	0.78%	1.00%

Commodities				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
Brent Crude Oil (ICE \$/bbl)	96	1.07%	-11.25%	57.76%
Gold NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	4489.1	0.31%	-3.04%	3.78%
Platinum NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	1937.40	0.78%	-2.97%	-4.77%
Copper Cash Official LME (\$/mt)	13966.00	1.06%	8.31%	11.69%
Uranium Near Term (NYM \$/lbs)	85.90	-0.41%	0.12%	5.27%

Money Market Rates				
	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	9 MONTH	12 MONTH
Average Bank NCDs	6.79	7.01	7.18	7.26
Treasury Bill Rates	7.05	7.28	7.31	7.37

JSE INDICES				
Share code	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
JSE ALSI	112,987.06	-0.89%	-1.0%	-1.58%
All Share Industrials	137,662.34	-1.28%	1.0%	-5.50%
Mid Cap	105,684.29	0.14%	-5.3%	-7.01%
Small Cap	106,459.32	-0.93%	-0.1%	-0.45%
Industrial 25	128,489.84	-1.30%	0.9%	-6.03%
Financial 15	24,775.70	-0.58%	-1.5%	0.19%
Resource 10	122,285.38	-0.77%	-2.9%	-0.33%
Top 40	105,239.49	-0.96%	-0.9%	-1.59%

World Market				
Share Code	Close	1D%	%1M	%YTD
FTSE100	10,373.51	0.33%	0.09%	-1.58%
S&P500	7,565.96	0.13%	5.25%	-5.50%
DAX	24,795.94	0.48%	3.42%	-7.01%
ASX	8,785.70	-0.06%	-0.06%	-0.45%
NASDAQ	26,863.33	0.03%	7.88%	-6.03%
NSX Overall	2,338.53	-0.72%	3.48%	12.30%
NSX Local	838.97	0.04%	0.79%	9.32%

Swakopmund positioned as key trade hub under AfCFTA

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents significant opportunities for economic growth, trade expansion, and investment across the continent, with cities such as Swakopmund expected to play a critical role in enabling regional integration and market access.

This emerged during a presentation titled “Unpacking the AfCFTA & Access to Markets: The Role of Cities in Enabling Intra-Africa Trade” at the Invest in Africa Conference in Swakopmund.

The presentation highlighted how urban centres can drive trade through infrastructure development, logistics, industrialisation, and digital connectivity.

According to the presentation, the AfCFTA, which became operational on 1 January 2021, is the world’s largest single market for goods and services, covering 1.3 billion people across 55 African countries.

The agreement aims to promote intra-African trade and deepen economic integration on the continent.

World Bank projections cited during the presentation estimate that intra-African trade could generate US\$450 billion in output by 2035, increase wages across the continent by 10%, and lift 30 million people out of poverty.

The presentation stressed that cities are central to achieving these outcomes because they serve as hubs for production, consumption, innovation, and trade facilitation. Urban areas also host critical infrastructure, including roads, ports, rail networks, and airports, which



Swakopmund is expected to play a critical role in enabling regional integration and market access. - Photo: Contributed

are essential for moving goods and services efficiently. However, several challenges continue to constrain trade across Africa, including limited paved road networks, rapid urbanisation, weak urban planning, and gaps in digital infrastructure and electrification. To address these challenges, cities were urged to invest in transport infrastructure, logistics facilities, digital customs systems, and industrial development while promoting harmonised regulations aligned with AfCFTA objectives.

The presentation identified Swakopmund as a city well positioned to benefit from increased regional trade. The municipality’s vision is to become a leading smart city providing efficient and affordable services and infrastructure.

Among its strategic advantages are road links connecting Namibia to Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Angola; rail connections to South Africa; access to the Trans-Kalahari Trade Corridor; and proximity to Walvis Bay Port, a key regional gateway.

Swakopmund is also pursuing several infrastructure and industrial projects, including the development of a truck port at Nonidas, industrial zones, manufacturing opportunities, special economic zone initiatives, and urban agriculture projects.

Digital infrastructure is another focus area, with the city benefiting from two subsea cables serving the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, ongoing fibre-optic expansion, connectivity tower developments, and plans for data centres and digital learning

institutions.

Investment opportunities highlighted during the conference include the Kramersdorf Urban Development project, truck port development, an international specialised hospital, an international convention centre, and logistics and manufacturing ventures. The presentation concluded that cities remain central to Africa’s economic integration agenda, with Swakopmund strategically positioned to emerge as a regional trade hub as AfCFTA implementation gathers momentum across the continent.

Ninety One returns to growth as Sanlam deal boosts assets

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

South African-founded asset manager Ninety One returned to positive net inflows and significantly increased assets under management (AUM) during the year ended 31 March 2026, supported by the completion of its strategic transaction with Sanlam.

Namibia forms part of Ninety One’s African business.

Namibian pension funds and investors with exposure to Ninety One-backed investment strategies stand to benefit from a stronger performance by the South African-founded asset manager.

The group reported that AUM rose by 31% to £171.8 billion, from £130.8 billion a year earlier, driven by net inflows of £2.8 billion, positive market and foreign exchange movements of £19.9 billion, and the addition of £18.3 billion in assets transferred through the Sanlam transaction.

The deal involved the transfer of the active asset management businesses of Sanlam Investments UK and Sanlam Investment Management in South Africa to Ninety One, strengthening the firm’s position in its home market and internationally. Adjusted earnings per share increased by 12% to 17.4 pence, while adjusted operating profit rose 12% to £211.3

million.

Profit before tax improved to £207.5 million from £204.3 million in the previous financial year.

The company proposed a full-year dividend of 13.4 pence per share, up 10% from 12.2 pence previously.

Founder and chief executive officer Hendrik du Toit said the business had gained momentum over the past year. “Ninety One is a resilient and robust business with positive momentum.

The demand recovery for emerging markets is visible and our offering competitive. We are in a stronger position than a year ago,” he said. Africa remained the group’s largest client region, with assets under management increasing by 44% to £80.4 billion, from £55.7 billion. The growth reflected the impact of the Sanlam asset transfer as well as favourable market conditions.

The South African fund platform also recorded strong growth, with assets under management rising 32% to £17.5 billion.

Across asset classes, equities remained the largest component of assets under management at £77.4 billion, followed by fixed income at £43.7 billion and multi-asset portfolios at £27 billion.

Ninety One reported net inflows of £2.8 billion for the year, marking a turnaround from net outflows of £4.9 billion in the previous financial year. Including the Sanlam asset transfer,



Ninety One returned to positive net inflows during the year ended 31 March 2026. - Photo: Contributed

total inflows reached £21.1 billion. Equities generated net inflows of £1.2 billion, supported by demand for global equity and natural resource strategies, while fixed-income strategies attracted £1.1 billion in new money.

The South African fund platform recorded net inflows of £1.1 billion.

However, Africa as a client region experienced net outflows of £1.1 billion, as withdrawals from South African multi-asset and equity strategies outweighed inflows into fixed-income products and the fund platform. Regionally, Asia-Pacific was the strongest contributor to net inflows at £3.6 billion, followed by

Europe with £966 million and the Americas with £775 million. Du Toit said the company continued to invest in talent and technology while maintaining cost discipline, adding that several significant partnerships established during the year had strengthened the business for future growth.

Dis-Chem accelerates healthcare transformation strategy

Staff Writer

Dis-Chem Pharmacies Limited reported higher revenue for the financial year ended 28 February 2026, supported by stronger retail and wholesale trading, even as headline earnings declined due to investment spending and prior-year gains.

The group's revenue increased by 9.3% to N\$42.8 billion, driven by growth across its retail and wholesale divisions in an environment where consumers remained under financial pressure.

Dis-Chem operates multiple stores in Namibia, offering a wide range of health, wellness, and beauty products. The stores are situated in Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Walvis Bay.

Retail revenue rose 9% to N\$34 billion, supported by both internal supply to Dis-Chem stores and growth in external pharmacy clients.

Despite the top-line growth, earnings declined. Basic earnings per share fell 17.1% to 114.2 cents, while headline earnings per share dropped 17.3% to 113.7 cents.

The company attributed part of the decline to the absence of a once-off property gain recorded in the previous financial year. Excluding that gain, earnings still reflected a more moderate decline of about 11%.

The group declared a final dividend of 15.92 cents per share, bringing total dividends for the year to 45.34 cents, down 17.3% from the prior period.

Dis-Chem said its core retail operations performed strongly when adjusted for ecosystem investments and non-recurring costs, with core



Dis-Chem Pharmacies says its investment is focused on building digital and data-driven capabilities. - Photo: Contributed

retail profit before tax rising 27.1%. Excluding these items, group profit before tax increased 20.1%. A key feature of the results was continued heavy investment in the group's healthcare "ecosystem" strategy, which aims to shift Dis-Chem from a traditional pharmacy retailer into an integrated healthcare provider. During the period, the group invested

N\$330 million into initiatives such as its "X, bigly labs" innovation unit and Dis-Chem Life, as well as N\$115 million in costs linked to retiring its legacy loyalty programme and launching the new Better Rewards platform. The company said the investment is focused on building digital and data-driven capabilities, including

personalised rewards, new healthcare funding products, and upgraded retail formats such as its "Health Hub" store design. It expects these initiatives to begin generating net positive returns in the 2027 financial year. Operationally, like-for-like retail sales grew 5.3%, while cost pressures remained contained, with like-for-like

payroll costs rising 3.5%. Total income for the group increased 9.6% to N\$13.2 billion, with the overall margin slightly improving to 30.8%. Retail margins strengthened to 31.1%, supported by improved gross margins and data-led promotional strategies, while wholesale margins remained stable.

Breaking down silos between underwriting, claims and reinsurance

SESELIA NKOSHI

In a lot of insurance businesses, underwriting, claims, and reinsurance are split. Different teams, different focus areas. That part is normal, but it can also create a little distance, maybe more than people want.

Underwriting makes the call at the start, while claims deals with what shows up later. Reinsurance looks at how the risk gets spread further out. In essence it is about the same exposures, just at different stages. The issue is, they do not always connect as much as they should.

Claims teams, for instance, see how things actually play out. They see where losses come through, what keeps repeating, and what didn't behave like it was supposed to. If that stays within the claims environment, underwriting doesn't always benefit from it.

And at the same time, underwriting decisions do not just disappear once a policy is written. They come back later. If something wasn't fully understood upfront, or if there were gaps, it tends to surface when a claim is submitted. And that is rarely the best time to deal with it, because the problem is already in motion.

Reinsurance is directly linked to both underwriting quality and claims outcomes. It depends on clear, consistent risk assessment at inception, as reinsurers ultimately share in those risks. Weaknesses in underwriting can carry through



Sesilia Nkoshi

to claims, creating misalignment, uncertainty, or delays. At claims stage, reinsurers are often actively involved, particularly in large or complex losses. Where underwriting intent, policy terms, and reinsurance structures are aligned, claims flow more smoothly. Where they are not, pressure points arise quickly. Most of the time it doesn't take massive change. Better feedback from claims back into underwriting helps. Looking at larger loss events together helps too, because the story

becomes more visible. Even sharing information more regularly, in a practical way, can make a difference. Over time those minor shifts build a clearer, stronger view of risk across the whole organisation. Decisions start to feel a bit more grounded, and there are fewer surprises later on. It's not really about removing the silos, or pretending they never exist. It's more about making sure they do not block the information flow. ***Sesilia Nkoshi is Underwriting and Reinsurance Manager, Old Mutual Short-Term Insurance.**

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Rethinking the role of the employer in an age of constant reinvention

In a global environment increasingly defined by volatility, accelerated technological change, and shifting expectations of work, the idea of the employer is undergoing a fundamental redefinition.

Across markets, organizations are contending with a convergence of pressures. Digital transformation is reshaping how work is performed; economic uncertainty is recalibrating business priorities; and employees are demanding greater meaning, flexibility, and inclusion from the institutions they choose to engage with. In this context, traditional models of employment, often built around stability and predictability, are becoming less aligned with the realities of the present.

The challenge for leadership is no longer simply how to attract and retain talent, but how to build organizations that can adapt continuously while sustaining performance and human connection. This is particularly pronounced in Africa, where complexity is not an outlier but a defining feature of the operating environment. Diverse socio-economic conditions, evolving labor markets, and the imperative for inclusive growth require organizations to move beyond imported frameworks and engage more deeply with local realities. Within this context, the concept of a future-fit employer begins to take on a different meaning. It is less about scale or policy, and more about coherence. It requires an organization to align purpose, performance, and people in a way that is both practical and enduring. At Zeda, this alignment is anchored in a simple but expansive principle: Connecting Humanity.

Rather than functioning as a symbolic statement, this principle operates as a discipline that informs us as to how the organization engages with its people. It shapes leadership behavior, influences decision-making, and defines the nature of the employee experience. In practice, this manifests in structured and consistent engagement. Daily leadership touchpoints create space for both on-site and remote employees to be seen, heard, and supported, while reinforcing a culture in which performance expectations are balanced with genuine attention to their wellbeing.

These moments are not incidental. They form part of a deliberate system designed to sustain both

accountability and connection in equal measure. This approach becomes particularly relevant in an environment where change is continuous rather than episodic. Globally, organizations are moving away from static workforce models towards more fluid, capability-driven systems. The half-life of skills is shortening, career paths are becoming less linear, and the ability to adapt is emerging as a defining characteristic of both individuals and institutions.

In response, Zeda has restructured its talent strategy around three interconnected priorities: attracting capability, growing talent, and retaining critical skills. This approach is underpinned by skills-based planning, targeted development initiatives, and a clear emphasis on internal mobility and succession.

What distinguishes this model is its recognition that resilience is not a fixed outcome. It is built through continuous learning, structured opportunity, and the capacity to respond to evolving demands with agility.

Equally important is how employees are positioned within this system. In many organizations, engagement is treated as an output of good management. At Zeda, it is understood as a precondition for value creation. Employees are referred to as brand ambassadors, reflecting a more active and participatory role in shaping organizational performance. When individuals understand how their work connects to broader organizational objectives, and when they can see the tangible outcomes of their contribution, a deeper sense of ownership begins to emerge. This connection is reinforced through both quantitative and qualitative mechanisms, including engagement surveys, structured feedback forums, and ongoing leadership interaction. Importantly, Zeda's approach extends beyond measurement. While data provides valuable insight, it is complemented by a deliberate focus on listening. The ability to interpret employee sentiment, respond meaningfully, and adapt in real time is critical in ensuring that engagement remains authentic rather than performative.

This interplay between performance and experience is further shaped by the organization's approach to psychological safety. In high-performance environments, the pressure to deliver can often

limit openness and experimentation. However, sustained performance depends on the extent to which individuals feel able to contribute freely, challenge ideas, and learn from failure without fear of consequence.

Within Zeda, psychological safety is positioned not as a secondary consideration, but as a structural enabler of performance. This is supported by clearly defined performance frameworks to ensure fairness and consistency, alongside cultural practices that encourage dialogue, participation, and accountability.

The result is an environment in which individuals are both challenged and supported, with clarity around expectations and confidence in their ability to contribute meaningfully. In the African context, this model carries additional weight. The realities shaping the workforce across the continent are complex and varied, spanning socio-economic disparity, cultural diversity, and differing levels of access to opportunity.

As such, the application of standardized global approaches to employee value propositions is often insufficient. In these instances, relevance becomes the defining factor.

For organizations operating in this environment, this requires a more nuanced understanding of what employees value, not only in professional terms, but in relation to broader economic and social participation. It calls for an approach that integrates opportunity, dignity, and growth, while recognizing the role that employment plays in shaping both individual and collective outcomes.

Within this context, the definition of a top employer evolves accordingly. It is no longer determined solely by policy frameworks or external recognition, but by the organization's ability to create environments in which people can build sustainable careers, experience a genuine sense of belonging, and contribute to outcomes that extend beyond the business itself.

We don't see this as a static achievement. It is an ongoing process of alignment, requiring continuous attention to how purpose is translated into practice, how performance is enabled, and how people are supported within an ever-changing environment. - **Forbes Africa**

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Diamond of the month: May 2026 celebrating namibian excellence

DTI proudly recognises **Kornelius T. Shemuafeni as the Diamond of the Month for May 2026, honouring a remarkable act of bravery that captured the hearts of Namibians and demonstrated the profound impact that one individual can have in a moment of crisis.**

In a world where stories of heroism often seem reserved for public figures and uniformed professionals, Shemuafeni's actions serve as a powerful reminder that courage can emerge from ordinary people when it is needed most. His recognition comes after a selfless act that helped save the lives of nine-month-old twin babies during a life-threatening situation, an event that quickly drew admiration from communities across the country.

Faced with an emergency that demanded immediate action, Shemuafeni did not hesitate. Rather than standing by and waiting for others to intervene, he responded with courage, compassion, and a deep sense of responsibility. His willingness to place the safety and well-being of others above his own comfort exemplifies the qualities that define true community leadership. While many people aspire to make a difference in society, moments of genuine heroism are often measured by actions rather than words. Shemuafeni's response to the emergency demonstrated calmness under pressure and a commitment to helping those in need. His actions not only protected vulnerable lives but also inspired countless Namibians who followed the story. In many respects, the significance of his actions extends beyond the immediate incident itself. At a time

when communities around the world are increasingly challenged by social division and indifference, stories such as this remind us of the enduring values of humanity, kindness, and solidarity. They reinforce the belief that strong communities are built by individuals who are willing to step forward when others need help.

The Diamond of the Month initiative was established to celebrate Namibians whose actions contribute positively to society and inspire others through service, leadership, and excellence. While previous recipients have included business leaders, educators, athletes, public servants, and innovators, Shemuafeni's recognition highlights another important form of leadership—the leadership shown through character. His actions demonstrate that heroism is not always found in boardrooms, sporting arenas, or positions of authority. Sometimes it is found in everyday citizens who choose compassion over convenience and action over hesitation. By acting decisively during a critical moment, Shemuafeni became a symbol of the values that hold communities together.

As Namibia continues to celebrate individuals who make meaningful contributions to the nation, Kornelius T. Shemuafeni stands as a shining example of courage in action. His story reminds us that every person has the capacity to make a difference and that extraordinary acts often begin with an ordinary decision to help.

By honouring Kornelius T. Shemuafeni as the Diamond of the Month for May 2026, DTI celebrates not only a heroic act but also the spirit of compassion, responsibility, and service that strengthens communities and inspires a nation.



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Two-time Grammy winner Peabo Bryson, whose voice graced Disney classics and R&B charts for five decades, has died after a stroke

Peabo Bryson, the voice behind Disney's greatest love songs, dies at 75

The world of music lost one of its most-beloved voices on Tuesday, June 2, when two-time Grammy Award-winning R&B singer Peabo Bryson died at the age of 75. Surrounded by his family, Bryson died just days after suffering a stroke, leaving a legacy that stretches across five extraordinary decades of music. "We are tremendously moved by the outpouring of love, prayers and support from fans, friends and colleagues around the world," his family said in a statement. "His legacy and music will live on for generations to come." Born Robert Peapo Bryson on 13 April 1951, in Greenville, South Carolina, he knew from a young age

that music was his calling. "It's all I ever wanted to really deal with," he once recalled. He began performing professionally as a teenager, singing backing vocals with a local group before touring the Chitlin' Circuit and eventually catching the attention of Bang Records. By 1976, he had released his debut album and a star was quietly but unmistakably rising. His early career established him as a formidable force on the R&B charts. His 1978 single Reaching for the Sky broke into the Top 10 and a string of hits followed — among them If Ever You're in My Arms Again, Can You Stop the Rain, and Show & Tell, which climbed to No. 1 on the R&B chart in 1989. He

possessed a smooth, powerful tenor that could deliver both raw emotion and silky tenderness, making him the quintessential balladeer of his era. But it was his gift for the duet that would define his greatest chapter. His partnership with Roberta Flack produced some of the most cherished love songs of the 1980s, including Tonight, I Celebrate My Love and the pair released the acclaimed album Born to Love in 1983. Bryson credited Flack with teaching him the true art of the duet. "The secret to a really good duet is that you have to fall a little bit in love with your duet partner," he once said. That philosophy translated into

pure magic when Disney came calling. In 1991, his recording of Beauty and the Beast alongside a then-emerging Céline Dion became a cultural phenomenon, reaching No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 and earning both artists a Grammy Award. A year later, Bryson joined Regina Belle on A Whole New World from Aladdin — a song so soaring and universal that it became the first track from an animated film to reach No. 1 on the Hot 100, a record that stood for 30 years until Encanto's We Don't Talk About Bruno in 2022. The Disney collaborations introduced Bryson's voice to an entirely new generation of listeners worldwide, cementing his place

not just in R&B history but in the broader tapestry of popular culture. Throughout his career, Bryson released more than 20 studio albums and received eight Grammy nominations, winning twice. He survived a serious heart attack in 2019 and continued performing, driven by a love for his craft that never wavered. Colleagues remembered him not only for his talent, but for his warmth, generosity and the genuine emotional connection he brought to every performance. He is survived by his wife, Tanya Boniface Bryson, his daughter Linda, his son Robert and his grandchildren. - Mail&Guardian



NOTICE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COMPILATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND DECOMMISSIONING OF THE OTJIWARONGO - OMARASSA SCHEME EXTENSION PROJECT, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION.

Notice is hereby given to all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice 30 of 6 February 2012):

ACTIVITY: The construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Otjiwarongo - Omarassa Pipeline replacement project

THE PROPONENT: Namibia Water Corporation Ltd.

PROJECT LOCATION: Northeast of Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

NamWater intends to extend the Otjiwarongo-Omarassa Water Supply Scheme to improve the long-term water supply security to Otjiwarongo and the surrounding areas. The extension will include the connection of five (5) new production boreholes to the Okaputa pipeline. The new boreholes have a combined abstraction rate of 1,500 m³/d (75m³/h).

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND PUBLIC MEETING:

In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing to the contact details below on or before **22 June 2026**.

A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:

DATE: 13 June 2026

TIME: 14h00

VENUE: Paresis Hall Otjiwarongo

CONTACT DETAILS:

D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants (Namibia)
Tel: +264 61 302 672
Cell: +264 811405033
E-mail: info@dps.com.na

PUBLIC NOTICE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING TO LOW-VOLUME SEAL STANDARD (LVS) OF DR3645: OMUNTELE-ONANKE (±25.25KM) AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES IN THE OSHIKOTO REGION

The public is notified that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed project is a listed activity in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an EIA Study (EIA Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP)).

Project Proponent: Roads Authority (RA) Namibia

Appointed Environmental Consultant: Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (*Serja HGE Consultants*)

Project Description: The project activities entail the upgrading of the existing (±25.25km) gravel road DR3645: Omuntele-Onanke to low-volume seal (LVS) standards (tarred road). The road starts in Omuntele and ends in Onanke in the Omuntele Constituency, Oshikoto Region. The road was constructed around 2006/2007 using labour-based methods and is now planned and designed by Burmeister & Partners (Pty) Ltd Consulting Engineers for upgrading from gravel to a tarred road. Moreover, the project will also require materials from borrow pits and water supply for construction in proximity to the proposed road route.

The public is therefore invited, in terms of Regulations 21 to 24 of the EIA Regulations, to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit comments, concerns (**in writing**), or receive further information on the EIA Study. The deadline for registering and submitting comments, issues, or concerns is **Friday, 03 July 2026**.

Community Consultations: Meetings will be held along the road route, in Omuntele, Onanke, and areas between Omuntele and Onanke, between the **9th and 12th of June 2026**. The consultation meeting details will be communicated via email (to registered stakeholders/I&APs), the Omuntele Constituency Office, and village headmen in due course.

Contact Persons: Ms. Fredrika Shagama and Mr. Stefanus Johannes (Environmental Assessment Practitioners)

Mobile No: +264 81 749 9223 (Fredrika) / +264 81 400 0570 (Stefanus)

Email: eias_public@serjaconsultants.com (direct emails or scanned/photos of legible handwritten letters)



ADVERTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Envirodu Consulting & Training Solutions (ECUTS) cc hereby gives notice that **PowerCom (Pty) Ltd** intends to apply to the Environmental Commissioner for an **Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)** in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its Regulations (2012) for the following proposed activity:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed construction, installation, and operation of telecommunications infrastructure at the following sites:

Site Name	Region	Size
Batubaja	Zambezi	10 m x 8 m
Tjinga Valley (Rundu Ext 31)	Kavango East	10 m x 8 m
Sikanduko	Kavango East	10 m x 8 m
Henties Bay Ext 3	Erongo	10 m x 8 m
Henties Bay OMDEL Ext 3	Erongo	10 m x 8 m

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT:

In accordance with the Public Participation Process, all Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns, or objections regarding the proposed project in writing.

A **Background Information Document (BID)** is available upon request for those who register.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 5 June 2026.

To register, please contact:

Contact Person: Ms. Naemi Nelumbu

Email: nelumbu7@gmail.com



ENVIRODU CONSULTING & TRAINING SOLUTIONS CC
"Providing environmental-based solutions"


**PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT & PUBLIC
CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) and a Public Consultation Process (PCP) for an **existing** borrow pit are being conducted to realign gravel extraction from the existing borrow pit with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act.

On completion of the ESA and PCP, a formal application for an **Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)** will be made to the Office of Environmental Commissioner (OEC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for consideration to approve the required ECC.

Listed Activity	Mining and Quarrying Activities Activity No. 3.2: 'Other forms of mining or extraction of any natural resources whether regulated by law or not.'
Location	The existing borrow pit is on Portion 111 (a Portion of Portion 39) of the Consolidated Farm Tsumore No. 761 situated within the jurisdiction of the Tsumeb Municipality, Tsumeb, Oshikoto Region.
Promoter	Rainy Days Investments (Pty) Ltd
Closing Date	Stakeholders and interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) are hereby invited to register for the EIA and to submit their comments and/or concerns. The period for public consultation is between 8 May 2026 to 30 May 2026. A Background Information Document (BID) is available upon inquiry

EIA Consultant:



Fax: 088 645 026
Cell: 081 418 3125
Email: ekwao@iway.na

PUBLIC NOTICE: A CALL FOR PUBLIC, INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF OXIDATION PONDS FOR ARANOS TOWN – HARDAP REGION, NAMIBIA

EnviroPlan Consulting cc, would like to inform all interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) that an application for Environmental Clearance certificate will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007), Regulation 23 as follows;

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Purpose: To establish a sustainable wastewater treatment facility to improve sanitation, reduce pollution, and support urban growth.

Proponent: Aranos Town Council
Project Title: Construction of Oxidation Ponds for Wastewater Treatment and support structures.
Location: Aranos Town, Hardap Region, Namibia; approximately 0.7 km east of the Nosob River
Coordinates: S 24°08'43.8" E 015°08'10.2"

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS

As part of the ESIA process, public consultations are being held to share project information, identify potential environmental and social impacts, and obtain inputs from stakeholders and IAPs before finalisation of the Environmental scoping assessment. This will provide the public an opportunity to engage directly with the project designing team.

MEETING DETAILS

Location: Aranos – In the Location – big tree opposite Hotel hostel
Date & time: Friday 15th of May 2026 at 10:00 Hrs
Deadline for submission of Comments: 30 May 2026

REGISTRATION & DOCUMENTS

To register your attendance or request Background Information Document, please submit your details to: **The Environmental Consultant - EnviroPlan Consulting cc**
Phone: +264814087483 **Email:** info@enviroplanconsulting.com




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PUBLIC NOTICE: A CALL FOR PUBLIC, INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED INDIGENOUS TIMBER HARVESTING ON FARM NUMBER 1465 KAMPEGERE, MASHARE-KAWANGO EAST REGION, NAMIBIA.

On behalf of the project proponent, we would like to inform all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application for Environmental Clearance certificate will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007), Regulation 22 as follows;

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Purpose: The proponent intends to harvest six hundred (600) *Pterocarpus Angolensis* (Kasbe) and eight hundred (800) *Guibourtia Coleurupenna* (Rosewood) on Farm number 1465, Kampegere in Mashare constituency. The farm is a small-scale commercial farming unit with a total size of 2 564 Hectares. The intended use of harvested timber are wood carving, timber and other uses locally. The harvesting will be done using manual felling, chainsaw operations, and transportation via trucks to Rundu and other parts of the country within Namibia.

Proponent: Faustina N Coley
Location: Farm No 1465 Kampegere, Mashare-Kawango East region
Coordinates: 18 56' 00" S 20 08' 00" E

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIONS

As part of the ESIA process, public consultations are being held to share project information, identify potential environmental and social impacts, and obtain inputs from stakeholders and I&APs before finalisation of the Environmental scoping assessment. This will provide the public an opportunity to engage directly with the project designing team.

REGISTRATION & DOCUMENTS

To register and submit your inputs, please request Background Information Document and submit your details to: The Environmental Consultant on or before the 19th of May 2026
Phone: +264 81 4 087 480
Email: otahconsultants@gmail.com

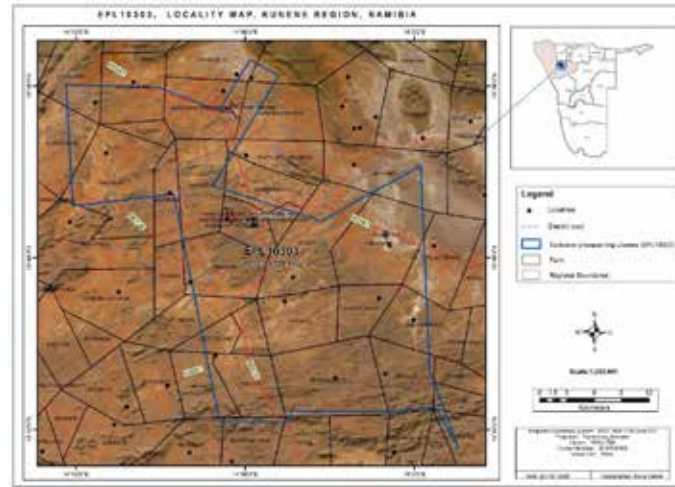
NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

Notice is hereby placed to inform all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism, in line with the provisions of Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 and its Regulations of 2012.

Proponent: Carrilo Investment (Pty) Ltd

Project Description: The project involves conducting an EIA for the establishment of exploration activities of base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals, precious metals and semi-precious stones on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 10303.

Project Location: Kamanjab, Kunene Region.



All Interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) are invited to register, request background information document and submit inputs on or before 19 June 2026. A public consultation is scheduled to take place on the 06th June 2026 at Kamanjab, Kunene Region @ 10h00.

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com



NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

Notice is hereby placed to inform all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism, in line with the provisions of Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 and its Regulations of 2012.

Proponent: Carrilo Investment (Pty) Ltd

Project Description:

- (a) The project involves conducting an EIA for the establishment of exploration activities of base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals and precious metals on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 10304.
- (b) The project involves conducting an EIA for the establishment of exploration activities of base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals, precious metals and semi-precious stones on Exclusive Prospecting License (EPL) No. 10305

Project Location:

- (a) The EPL 10304 is located at Omukurukaze village approximately 50 Km north-west of Okanguati, within the Epupa Constituency, Kunene Region.
- (b) The EPL 10305 is located approximately 40 Km north of Okanguati, within the Epupa Constituency, Kunene Region.

All Interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) are invited to register, request background information document and submit inputs on or before 19 June 2026. A public consultation is scheduled to take place on the 23th May 2026 at Okanguati, Epupa Constituency, Kunene Region @ 10h00.

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com



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African players to watch at World Cup 2026

A record 10 African countries will take part in the 2026 Fifa World Cup after the finals were expanded to 48 teams, with a host of star names hoping to go all the way and lift the trophy. Morocco made history in Qatar four years ago by becoming the first African side to reach the semi-finals. Cape Verde will make their tournament debut, while DR Congo return for the first time since 1974. BBC Sport Africa picks out seven players to keep an eye on in the United States, Mexico and Canada from 11 June to 19 July.

Antoine Semenyo (Ghana)

The London-born forward may have missed out on the Premier League title with Manchester City, but it was his stunning piece of skill which provided the winner in the FA Cup final against Chelsea last month. The 26-year-old is heading into the tournament off the back of his best ever league season in front of goal, with seven of his 17 efforts in the English top flight coming since his move to the Etihad Stadium in January. Semenyo could find himself carrying his nation's hopes, given that Ghana's other Premier League star, Tottenham's Mohammed Kudus, is out injured. The former Bournemouth man was part of Ghana's squad in 2022 but was used sparingly from the bench as the Black Stars suffered a group-

stage exit.

The West Africans missed out on the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) entirely, and Semenyo will be looking to score his first goal in a major tournament as Ghana face England, Croatia and Panama in Group L.

Yan Diomande (Ivory Coast)

The Elephants, returning to the World Cup for the first time since 2014, boast the best young player in the German Bundesliga. The 19-year-old scooped the Rookie of the Season award after his 12 goals and eight assists helped RB Leipzig finish third and return to the Champions League. As a result, he has been linked with big money moves to the likes of Liverpool and Chelsea. Diomande, who started four of his country's five games at Afcon 2025, attempted more dribbles and won more duels than anyone else in the Bundesliga in 2025-26, with his skill in one-on-one situations making him a dangerous attacking threat. Group E opponents Germany will therefore know all about his abilities, and the Ivorians will also face Ecuador and debutants Curacao. Ronwen Williams (South Africa) South Africa are back at the finals for the first time since hosting in 2010, with their first target to progress past the group stage. That is something Bafana Bafana have never managed, experiencing early exits in 1998 and 2002 before

also becoming the first host nation to fail to clear the opening hurdle. A strong core of players from dominant club side Mamelodi Sundowns is led by goalkeeper and captain Williams, who became known for his penalty-saving heroics after stopping four spot kicks in a shootout against Cape Verde in the Afcon 2023 quarter-finals. The 34-year-old, who says he "cherishes" his role as skipper, now has a wealth of big-game experience, having just clinched the African Champions League title with Sundowns. South Africa take on co-hosts Mexico in the tournament's opening game on 11 June before facing Czech Republic and South Korea.

Roberto 'Pico' Lopes

The centre-back has been a key component in a remarkable few years for tiny Cape Verde, who reached the last eight at Afcon 2023 before finishing above continental heavyweights Cameroon in qualifying for this year's World Cup. Shamrock Rovers man Lopes was first approached to play for the Blues Sharks via business networking platform LinkedIn, and he initially ignored the message because it was in Portuguese. The Dublin-born 33-year-old - whose strong Irish accent is likely to make him stand out during media duties - made his debut in 2019 and only missed one game in qualifying as the

Atlantic Ocean archipelago secured a place at the finals for the first time. Cape Verde face a daunting task in Group H, where they will come up against former winners Spain and Uruguay as well as Saudi Arabia, and Lopes' experience and leadership at the back could prove a big factor. Ismaila Sarr (Senegal) The 27-year-old may not have entirely lived up to his \$79.5m (£59m) price tag since joining Manchester City from Eintracht Frankfurt in January last year, but Marmoush helped Pep Guardiola's side pick up the League Cup and FA Cup this season. The forward only started eight of City's Premier League games in 2025-26 but he is among the first names on Egypt's teamsheet. Marmoush netted twice at Afcon 2025 as the North Africans finished fourth, and he will be aiming to build on those performances at his first World Cup. While the Pharaohs were the first African nation to take part, the record seven-time continental champions are still waiting to win a game at the World Cup - with a last-16 (first round) defeat in 1934 followed by group-stage exits in 1990 and 2018. With captain Mohamed Salah only recently back from injury after an underwhelming season with Liverpool, coach Hossam Hassan will expect Marmoush to deliver. **-BBC**

GOSSIP

AC Milan rival Premier League sides for West Ham's Crysencio Summerville, Real Madrid to sign Inter's Denzel Dumfries and Newcastle target Nigerian teenager Zadok Yohanna.

AC Milan have emerged as serious contenders to sign Crysencio Summerville, 24, from West Ham, with the Dutch winger also attracting interest from Tottenham and Aston Villa. (Teamtalk), external

Real Madrid are expected to trigger the £17.3m release clause to sign Inter Milan and Netherlands right-back Denzel Dumfries, 30. (Sky Sports), external

Newcastle have submitted a 24m euros (£20.7m) bid to sign AIK Stockholm's 18-year-old Nigerian winger Zadok Yohanna. (Expressen - in Swedish), external

Atletico Madrid are keen on Manchester City and Netherlands midfielder Tijjani Reijnders, 27. (Fichajes - in Spanish), external

Kieran McKenna and Thomas Frank are the leading contenders to replace outgoing Fulham boss Marco Silva, who is set to replace Jose Mourinho at Benfica. (Talksport), external

Manchester United have shelved contract talks with Bruno Fernandes, 31, after being assured the Portugal midfielder and club captain wants to stay at Old Trafford for the long term. (Mirror), external **-BBC**