

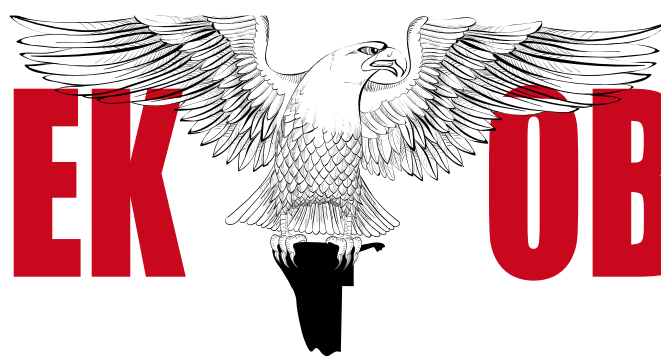


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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2026

'Whites choose careers, blacks beg for work' - Sisa Namandje

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Legal practitioner Sisa Namandje says black Namibians beg for work while white Namibians choose careers, arguing that almost 37 years after independence, a "deep happiness deficit" persists among the country's black majority. Delivering the inaugural John Akapandi Endjala Memorial Lecture in Windhoek yesterday on what would have been the late businessman's 63rd birthday, Namandje, who identified himself as a direct beneficiary of Endjala's mentorship, delivered the indictment of Namibia's post-independence economic transformation record. He argued that black Namibians remain unable to pursue the happiness promised in the Constitution's preamble due to a lack of meaningful legislative and policy action. Drawing on Article 23(2) of the Namibian Constitution which permits Parliament to enact laws



Let's admit, not much has happened. This is exactly why there remains a deep happiness deficit among black people in Namibia.

advancing those disadvantaged by apartheid, Namandje accused both the legislature and the executive of timidity, restraint and even modesty in addressing racial economic imbalances. "Let's admit, not much has happened," he told the audience. "This is exactly why there remains a deep happiness deficit among black people in Namibia." The lecture posed a key question to whether the right to the pursuit of happiness, stated in the preamble to the Namibian Constitution, can be

TO PAGE 2



Sisa Namandje

Thinking on empty

Not all underperformance is a skills problem. Sometimes people know exactly what to do — they just no longer have the mental clarity, emotional energy, or cognitive space to do it well. This is what happens when workplaces push people past healthy limits. They do not stop working. They start thinking on empty. Burnout is often described in emotional terms: exhaustion, frustration, detachment. But one of its most serious effects is cognitive. When people are overloaded for too long, critical thinking begins to erode. They become more reactive, less reflective, and more likely to fall back on habit instead of judgement.

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Itula questions N\$612 million solar deal linked to President's sons

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) president Panduleni Itula has raised fresh questions about a proposed N\$612 million solar power project linked to the Chinese-owned Tsumeb smelter. Itula alleged that companies associated with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's sons are involved in the development.

He has called for full public disclosure of the project's documentation. In a media statement released on Thursday, Itula presented what he described as the "Sinomine-Massaus power file", arguing that the public deserves answers regarding the ownership structure, licensing process and governance arrangements surrounding a project connected to one of Namibia's most strategic industrial assets. The opposition leader said the

issue is not whether members of the President's family may legally participate in business ventures, but whether sufficient transparency exists when politically connected individuals are linked to projects involving public institutions and regulated economic opportunities. "We are not saying the deal is corrupt. We are saying the public cannot verify that it is clean," Itula stated. At the centre of the controversy is a planned 20-megawatt solar

power facility intended to supply electricity to the Tsumeb smelter, a major industrial operation acquired by Chinese mining giant Sinomine Resource Group in 2024. According to documents cited by Itula, a memorandum of intent was signed between Sinomine and Massaus Investment CC, a company allegedly represented by Tate Nande Ndaitwah, one of the President's sons.

TO PAGE 2

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SCAN TO VIEW OUR MENU

'Whites choose careers, blacks beg for work' - Sisa Namandje

FROM PAGE 1

realised without tangible economic transformation policies favouring those who were socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged under apartheid.

Namandje argued that instead of being advanced ahead of whites, as the Constitution directs, black Namibians are being forced to compete on an unequal footing. He lamented that in the absence of strong legislation, black businesspeople have no legal basis to challenge what he called the inequitable empowerment of "generally well-to-do whites" and sometimes foreigners.

"More regrettable is the fact that blacks are now subjected to insult[s] when seeking to question the legitimacy and propriety of economic opportunities disproportionately given to the well-resourced whites," he said.

Drawing on a personal story to illustrate Endjala's impact, Namandje recounted how in March 2003, on the eve of his admission as a legal practitioner, he was refused office space by the owners of the Capital Centre building in central Windhoek, who deemed him a financial risk. Endjala, he said, stepped in, signing the lease in his own name.

"This impactful act enabled me, then an impressionable but socio-economically wounded young law graduate, to shine, to help, to build, to train and educate, to serve and uplift others," he said. "The rest is good history."

Namandje painted a picture of contemporary Namibia, where he said



Photo for illustration purposes only

job market segregation has become openly visible.

He claimed that a white person has "the luxury and comfort to conveniently choose a preferred career without the risk of ending up with nothing," while it is now common for 5 000 black Namibians to apply for a single cleaner's position.

He said it would be a shock to find a white person among those applicants, just as he would be surprised to see a white person applying to become a cadet constable in the Namibian Police or as an

immigration officer.

"There are now jobs conspicuously considered to be of lower quality to one racial group," he said.

"How then, in this society, can blacks pursue the promised happiness?"

Namandje also addressed the "vicarious and contagious" nature of black poverty, noting that even relatively successful black professionals are burdened by daily requests for donations for burials, school fees and basic food.

He cited WhatsApp groups created solely to seek small sums, arguing

that "black success is made illusory and futile" when the wealthy must constantly carry others.

"Poverty-induced mental distress is now a very serious health risk and, more alarmingly, suicides are on the rise in figures not seen before," he warned.

In direct criticism of Parliament, Namandje said that at some point in the past, the National Assembly floor had become the best place to learn how to throw "killer punches" and hurl degrading insults.

"We are in problems," he said flatly. He called for a total mindset

reconstruction, arguing that many aspiring public officials are not well-socialised into the fundamental values and norms of the Constitution.

He concluded that 37 years after Namibia's "dance for freedom," the country is still very far from enabling its citizens, especially black Namibians, to pursue a life of happiness.

"Akapandi tried until the last day of his life... People must first live before being asked to dream," Namandje stated.

Itula questions N\$612 million solar deal linked to President's sons

FROM PAGE 1

Itula further claimed the project is linked to Farm 865 Massaus in the Oshikoto Region, which he says is owned by President Nandi-Ndaitwah and her husband, retired General Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah.

The IPC leader questioned whether all relevant documentation relating to land use, project ownership and regulatory approvals has been made available to the public.

He also highlighted what he described as inconsistencies between company registration records, environmental clearance documentation and project agreements, saying these matters require clarification from the relevant authorities.

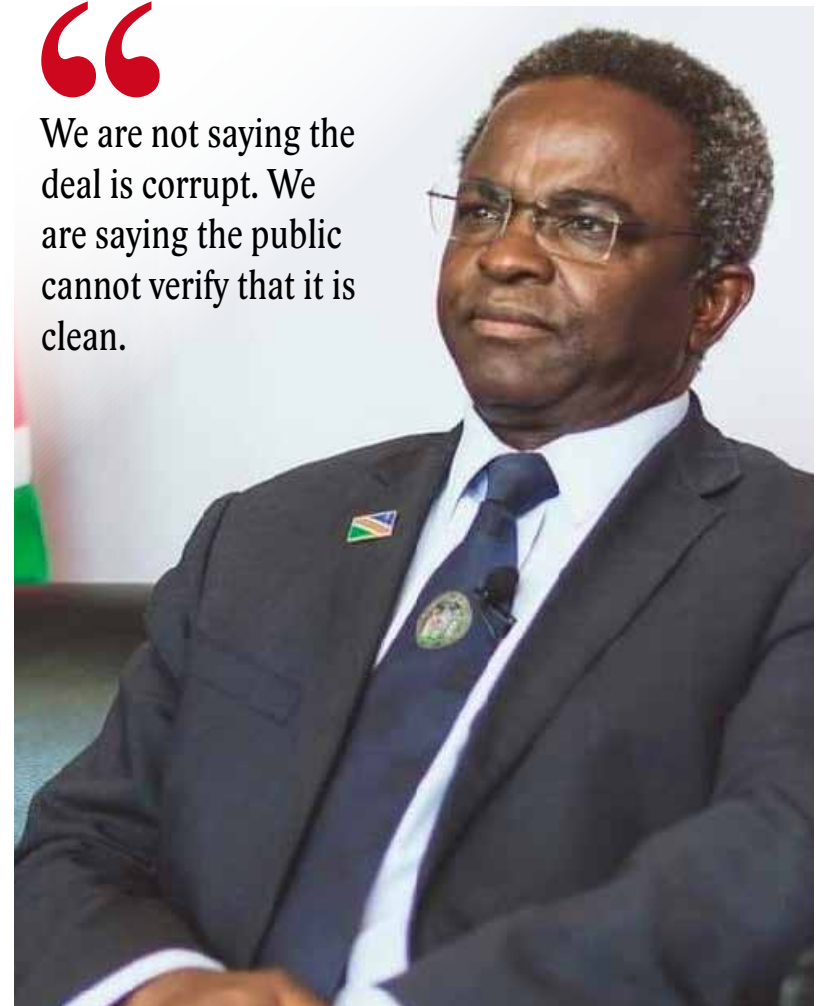
Among the key questions raised is the relationship between Massaus Investment CC and another entity, Massaus and Titan Energy Solutions, which reportedly holds environmental approvals linked to the project.

Itula additionally questioned whether public infrastructure, including the national electricity grid, would be utilised by the project and what agreements may exist between the developers, NamPower and other state institutions.

The allegations form part of a broader campaign by the IPC leader, who has in recent months raised concerns about what he describes as increasing links between politically connected individuals and opportunities in the petroleum, energy and logistics sectors. While no evidence of wrongdoing

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We are not saying the deal is corrupt. We are saying the public cannot verify that it is clean.



Panduleni Itula -Photo: Contributed

has been presented and no official findings have been made against any of the individuals or entities named in the statement, Itula argues that

greater transparency is required to assure the public that proper governance processes were followed.

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TUCNA urges govt to fix labour rights gaps

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

The Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA) has called for urgent reforms to labour legislation after Namibia was classified as a regular violator of workers' rights in the 2026 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index.

The report placed Namibia in the ITUC's "orange" category, highlighting concerns over restrictions affecting trade union registration, collective bargaining and the right to strike. TUCNA secretary general Mahongora Kavihuha said the rating should serve as a warning that workers' rights guaranteed by law are not always fully realised in practice. "We need to pull up our socks and realise that some of the restrictions contained in our laws can effectively amount to a denial of workers' rights," Kavihuha said during an interview with NBC Current Affairs. According to Kavihuha, Namibia's labour framework provides strong protections on paper, while workers often continue to face procedural and administrative barriers when attempting to exercise those rights. "If you read the laws, you may conclude that workers enjoy all the required protections. But when you look at the practical restrictions imposed on workers seeking to exercise those rights, a different picture emerges," he said. Among the concerns raised by TUCNA are the registration and deregistration of trade unions, which the federation argued can weaken workers' ability to organise and collectively represent their interests. Kavihuha also criticised lengthy dispute-resolution procedures and cooling-off periods required before workers can embark on industrial action. "When you grant a right but make the process of exercising that right excessively long and difficult, it effectively becomes a denial of that

right," he said. Recent labour disputes have highlighted growing tensions between organised labour, employers and government. Earlier this year, the Teachers' Union of Namibia (TUN) and the Public Service Union of Namibia (PSUN) rejected a collective agreement reached between the government and other public sector unions, arguing that the deal unfairly increased the financial burden on employees through higher medical aid contributions. In the fishing sector, TUCNA publicly criticised fishing companies over alleged retrenchments, delayed salary payments and poor working conditions, while accusing authorities of failing to adequately consult organised labour on decisions affecting workers. Similar concerns surfaced during the prolonged Namib Mills wage dispute, which resulted in a 59-day strike before government-mediated negotiations produced a settlement. Political analyst Harushando Joubert said the ITUC rating should not be viewed merely as an international assessment but as an indication of broader governance challenges within labour relations. "When workers feel that existing institutions are not responding effectively to their concerns, labour disputes become more frequent and trust in regulatory systems begins to erode," Joubert said. He said Namibia's challenge is not necessarily the absence of labour protections but ensuring that workers can access and exercise those rights without unnecessary obstacles. "The credibility of labour laws depends not only on what is written in legislation but also on whether workers, employers and unions believe the system is fair, accessible and responsive." Joubert added that stronger consultation among government, employers and labour



Mahongora Kavihuha - Photo: Contributed

representatives would be essential if Namibia hopes to improve its standing in future international assessments. "Meaningful social dialogue reduces conflict and strengthens legitimacy. Where stakeholders feel excluded from decision-making, disagreements are more likely to

escalate into industrial disputes," said Joubert. Kavihuha echoed similar sentiments, describing social dialogue as the most important tool for addressing labour rights concerns. "We should dialogue, dialogue and dialogue. In the absence of social dialogue, the situation is unlikely to

improve," he said. TUCNA has also pledged to intensify the reporting and documentation of labour rights violations to ensure workers' experiences are reflected in future international assessments. Questions sent to the ministry of labour had not been responded to at the time of publication.

[OFFICIAL]

WINDHOEK OBSERVER
DEMOCRACY IN THE DESERT

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Omuthiya periodical court to open next week

ALEXER NAMUNDJEMBO

Staff Writer

The Office of the Judiciary has announced that court operations at the Omuthiya Periodical Court will officially commence on Monday, 8 June 2026, bringing essential judicial services closer to residents of the Oshikoto Region.

“The initiation of court operations will provide essential judicial services to the community, enhance access to justice and facilitate the delivery of services in closer proximity to the community of Omuthiya and surrounding areas,” the Office of the Judiciary said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Currently, residents of Omuthiya travel to the Ondangwa Magistrate’s Court to access court services.

To address this, the Office of the Judiciary acquired and refurbished a property in Omuthiya to function as a temporary courthouse.

The temporary facility will ensure the continuity of judicial services until the completion of a larger, purpose-built and more inclusive courthouse. The Omuthiya Periodical Court will offer the full range of judicial and administrative services ordinarily available at magistrates courts throughout the country.

These include conducting criminal proceedings, the solemnization of marriages, handling maintenance disputes, payment of court fines, disbursement of witness fees, and receiving and refunding bail payments.

Media representatives have been invited to participate in a guided walkthrough of the court building on Friday, 5 June 2026 (today), to familiarise personnel with the court’s features and operational



Chief justice Peter Shivute - Photo: Contributed

procedures. “The Office of the Judiciary extends sincere gratitude to all stakeholders who collaborated to ensure the successful operationalisation of the Omuthiya Periodical Court,” said

Vikitoria Hango, deputy director of public relations in the Office of the Judiciary. The move follows years of appeals from regional leaders and residents. In 2025, the Windhoek Observer

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The initiation of court operations will provide essential judicial services to the community, enhance access to justice and facilitate the delivery of services in closer proximity to the community of Omuthiya and surrounding areas.

reported that the Office of the Judiciary was working to address long-standing complaints about the lack of magistrates’ courts in several major towns across the country. At the time, executive director in the judiciary, Bernhard Kukuri said measures were underway to bring court services closer to communities. “We cannot build now, but the house that we have managed to acquire will now be used as a court in the meantime until such a time that funds are available to construct a proper facility. We will now start to offload matters that are currently going to Ondangwa,” Kukuri told the Windhoek Observer in 2025. He added that for civil matters, the judiciary would look into whether additional facilities could be linked to provide services from there. Kukuri noted that although the judiciary’s capital budget for the 2025/26 financial year was focused on a new court project in Nkurenkuru, towns such as Omuthiya and Okahao remained priorities for future development. The judiciary was allocated N\$534.9 million set aside for operations and N\$240.9 million.

The issue had been raised repeatedly

by regional leaders.

Former Oshikoto governor Penda ya Ndakolo appealed for the urgent construction of a magistrate’s court in Omuthiya, stressing that residents had to travel up to 170 kilometres to Tsumeb or more than 100 kilometres to Ondangwa for hearings or marriages. A parliamentary oversight visit by the standing committee on constitutional and legal affairs also revealed that about 80% of cases handled at Ondangwa originated from Oshikoto. In 2018, Chief Justice Peter Shivute disclosed that plans for an Omuthiya court had already been drafted, but construction was waiting on financial resources.

Since gaining administrative independence in 2015 under Article 78(5) of the Constitution, the judiciary has been responsible for its own administration and budget, separate from the Ministry of Justice. “We are aware that Omuthiya, Nkurenkuru and Okahao are major towns without courts. These remain on our agenda,” Kukuri said in 2025, admitting that financial constraints remained a challenge but that the judiciary was committed to gradually expanding access to justice.

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Zelensky proposes face-to-face talks in open letter to Putin

Volodymyr Zelensky has called for a face-to-face meeting between himself and Vladimir Putin in a renewed bid to end the war.

In an open letter to the Russian president, the Ukrainian leader said it would be “wrong to simply wait” until the war in Europe becomes the focus of the US’s attention once more, adding peace could only come “through direct engagement between” Ukraine and Russia. He also called for a full ceasefire for the duration of proposed negotiations - something Putin ruled out earlier on Thursday.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he thought “it would be great” if the two leaders met.

The Kremlin confirmed it had received the letter and Putin would be briefed on it.

The tone of the letter was defiant, even mocking, drawing attention to Ukraine’s recent strikes on Russian territory.

Zelensky stated that “after 26 years in power, age is beginning to take its toll” on Putin.

The letter also provided an invitation. “Ukraine proposes ending this war through direct engagement between us — and you. I am proposing a meeting,” Zelensky wrote.

It’s not a new offer from Ukraine’s leader.

As it has before, the Kremlin responded, saying Zelensky was welcome to meet Putin in Moscow. What was notable was Kyiv’s public acknowledgement that the US “is fully focused on the issue of Iran”. “It would be wrong to simply wait until the war in Europe returns to the centre of its attention,” Zelensky wrote.

Speaking to foreign journalists in St Petersburg, without apparently having seen the contents of the letter, Putin said he was “certainly prepared and willing to reach an agreement with Ukraine”, but said compromises needed to be made.

Putin suggested that as Trump was busy with Iran, the EU could talk Zelensky into surrendering territory. Putin’s longstanding position has been that Ukraine should withdraw from four regions partially occupied by Russia - Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia - and give up its efforts to join Nato.

Ukraine has ruled out ceding territory, saying it would embolden Russia to invade again, as it had in 2022 when it launched its full-scale war eight years after illegally annexing Crimea.

Ceasefire negotiations have stalled in recent months, and previous peace talks in Geneva, Abu Dhabi and Istanbul have failed.

In the letter, which is more than 1,800 words long, Zelensky said: “It is not as if we in Ukraine are concerned about the fate of Russian soldiers after everything your war has brought to our country.

“But I do care about Ukrainians. We are losing our people, and every loss is painful to us.”

Zelensky said Russians had become tired of Ukrainian drone and missile attacks, petrol shortages and rising prices, as well as war.

“Do not be afraid to take the path out of this war. That is the main thing that is required of you now,” he implored

He said Ukraine was proposing to end the war “through direct engagement between us”.

Zelensky said face-to-face negotiations could take place in a country such as Switzerland or Turkey.

Ukrainian foreign minister Andriy Sybiha, said “this open letter is a “Whether Mr Zelensky is a legitimate representative of Ukraine, this is a question for the lawyers, for a legal analysis,” he said.

Trump said he thought the US had been instrumental in bringing the two countries closer to peace.

“I think it would be great if they met. They should. Get it done,” he said.

Asked about the compromises the two sides would have to make, he said he would “rather not say”.

“I want them each to make certain compromises, and I think they’re going to do it.” serious and meaningful proposal to end the war”.

“We expect a meaningful response to this proposal. It’s time to end this war. It’s time to choose peace,” he added.

The Ukrainian president’s letter came on the same day Putin was in St Petersburg, where a major economic forum is taking place.

The previous day Kyiv had launched a drone attack on the city’s outskirts, a strike mentioned in Zelensky’s message as “paying a visit”.

Separately Russian-backed authorities in occupied Crimea blamed Ukraine for the death of four people in attacks on Simferopol.

Ukraine said it had hit a fuel depot. During his press conference on Thursday, Putin appeared to immediately cast doubt on whether a meeting or deal could ever take place.

-BBC



Volodymyr Zelensky - Photo: BBC

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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 Onhuno in, Oshana Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Onhuno Roadblock Area. Oshana, 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-Tutalen. 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>https://forms.gle/SzEsvhyoNn8Dqseu9</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Scan me!</p> </div>		

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Editorial

Media freedom requires constant vigilance

The launch of the Seventh African Media Barometer (AMB) Report on Namibia this week provides an important opportunity for reflection on the state of media freedom, regulation and the broader information environment in the country.

Presented by Namibia Media Trust (NMT) Executive Director Zoé Titus, the report serves as both a progress assessment and a reminder that media freedom is never a permanent achievement but rather a principle that requires continuous protection and improvement. Namibia has long enjoyed a reputation as one of Africa's strongest performers in media freedom rankings. The country consistently scores highly in continental and international assessments, benefiting from constitutional protections for freedom of expression, an independent judiciary and a relatively diverse media landscape. These achievements should not be underestimated, particularly at a time when journalists in many parts of the world face increasing restrictions, intimidation and economic pressures.

However, the value of the African Media Barometer lies not in celebrating successes alone. Its purpose is to identify areas where improvement remains necessary and where existing protections may be vulnerable. The report therefore provides a useful mirror through which Namibia can evaluate whether its democratic institutions are keeping pace with changing realities. One of the central observations emerging from media assessments globally is that threats to media freedom are evolving. While direct government censorship remains a concern in some jurisdictions, modern challenges often take more subtle forms. Economic sustainability, ownership concentration, digital misinformation, online harassment and declining newsroom resources increasingly affect the ability of journalists to perform their public interest role effectively.

Namibia is not immune to these pressures. The country's media sector operates within a relatively small market. Many media houses face significant financial constraints, while advertising revenues remain limited. The economic realities confronting the industry have implications for newsroom capacity, investigative reporting and the ability to retain experienced journalists. Media freedom cannot be measured solely by the absence of censorship; it must also consider whether media institutions possess the resources necessary to fulfil their democratic responsibilities.

The role of public institutions is equally important. Government transparency and access to information remain essential pillars of a healthy democracy. Citizens are best served when public officials engage openly with the media and when journalists can obtain information without unnecessary barriers. Progress in this area strengthens public trust and contributes to informed national discourse.

The digital transformation of the media landscape presents both opportunities and challenges. Social media platforms have expanded access to information and amplified diverse voices. At the same time, they have created new concerns regarding misinformation, disinformation and the rapid spread of unverified content. Traditional media organisations increasingly find themselves competing in an environment where speed often takes precedence over accuracy.

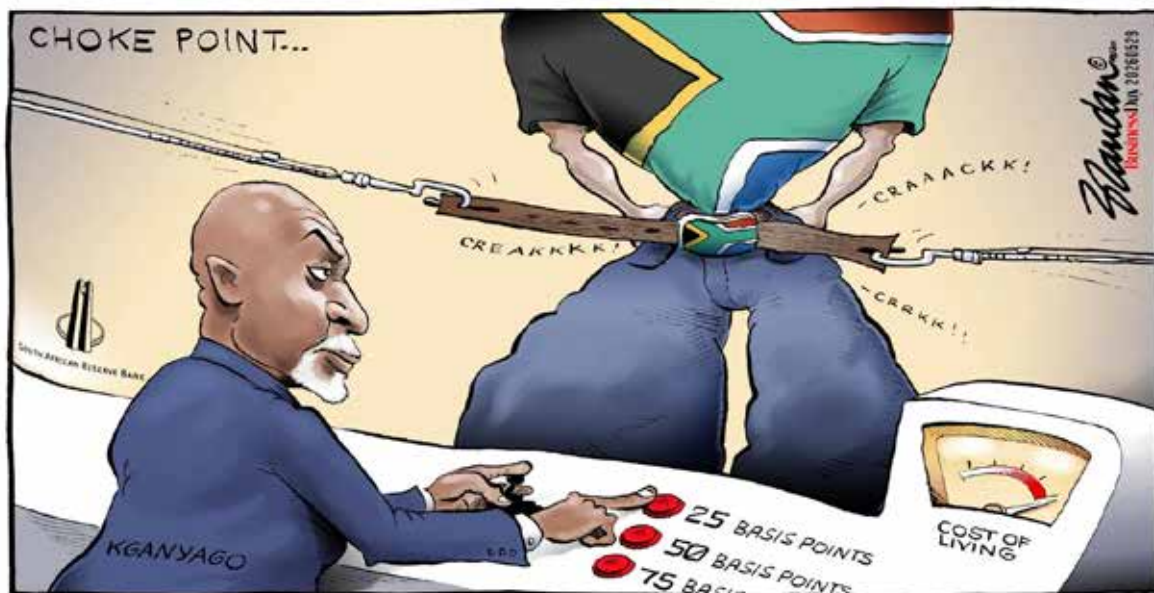
This reality places greater responsibility on professional journalism. Fact-checking, verification and adherence to ethical standards remain critical distinguishing features of credible media. In an era where information is abundant but trust is increasingly scarce, journalistic integrity becomes more valuable than ever. The African Media Barometer also highlights the importance of media

“

Freedom of expression and responsible journalism are not competing principles; they are mutually reinforcing foundations of a healthy information ecosystem.

regulation that supports freedom while ensuring accountability. Effective regulation should protect editorial independence, encourage professional standards and safeguard the public interest without imposing undue restrictions on media operations. Achieving this balance is not always easy, but it remains essential in any democratic society.

For Namibia, the continued development of self-regulatory mechanisms represents an important component of this framework. Strong self-regulation can help maintain professional standards while avoiding the risks associated with excessive state intervention in media affairs. Public confidence in the media is strengthened when complaints and ethical concerns can be addressed through credible and transparent processes. The discussion surrounding media freedom must also recognise the changing nature of journalism itself. Today's journalists operate in increasingly complex environments where they face legal, financial and digital risks. Online abuse and harassment have become significant concerns, particularly for women journalists and those covering controversial subjects. Ensuring that media practitioners can work safely and independently is therefore an important aspect of protecting media freedom. At the same time, media freedom carries responsibilities. Journalists and media institutions must remain committed to fairness, accuracy and ethical reporting. Public trust is earned through professionalism and accountability. Freedom of expression and responsible journalism are not competing principles; they are mutually reinforcing foundations of a healthy information ecosystem. The findings of the Seventh African Media Barometer should therefore be viewed neither as a cause for complacency nor as a source of alarm. Rather, they should serve as a constructive contribution to ongoing national conversations about democracy, governance and public accountability. Namibia's media environment has much to be proud of. The country continues to enjoy freedoms that many societies around the world still struggle to achieve. Yet preserving these freedoms requires sustained commitment from government, media organisations, civil society, the private sector and citizens alike. Democracy flourishes when information flows freely, when journalists can operate without fear and when citizens have access to diverse and credible sources of news and analysis. These principles remain as relevant today as they were at independence. The African Media Barometer reminds us that media freedom is not a destination reached once and for all. It is a continuous process of strengthening institutions, defending rights and adapting to new challenges. Namibia's task is to ensure that the freedoms earned over decades are preserved and enhanced for future generations. That responsibility belongs to all of us.



Are community gardens grander than grandiose?

“**Otjombinde community garden blossoms**” was the screaming headline of an article in a recent edition of one of the local English dailies.

Interestingly, the article was the second lead in that publication, a testimony to its importance, or pseudo-importance, if you will. Ordinarily, an article like this rarely finds its way into the mainstream media as a leading story.

But of what use is a garden in the rural constituency of Otjombinde, worse still in the Omaheke Region which is traditionally a livestock-rearing and production area? Yours Truly Ideologically cannot help but think loudly, for lack of an understanding of what interest such an article holds for the Otjombinde community itself.

The same question applies to the usefulness of a garden, except for the purely obvious: that it is not a permanent solution but merely a stopgap measure to the endemic problem of unemployment, particularly among the youth.

While 90 youths have been employed, that alone and notwithstanding the dire straits of most impoverished rural environs, including Otjombinde, epitomises the country's rural economic backwardness at best and generally.

Hence, gardening cannot be a cause for célèbre unless the garden connects meaningfully and purposefully, not to mention philosophically and ideologically, with what is supposed to be the constituency's economic mainstay: livestock production.

Not as an end in itself, but as a means toward an end. That end is agrarian reform, given that Otjombinde, and Namibia for that matter, is an agrarian village.

Whatever is envisaged, the first stepping stone is agrarian reform. If gardening in the constituency is to have any long-term meaning other than pure political development masturbations of its prime mover(s), it must connect and feed into what has long been, and shall continue to be, the mainstay of the constituency's subsistence economy: livestock production. We are all aware, least of all officialdom (meaning the government, its policymakers, its political principals, and let alone farmers' associations), of the elephant in the room regarding livestock production in this constituency, as is the case in many other rural constituencies of the country. That problem is the marketing of livestock.

Our rural areas have been rendered and relegated to backyard economies, as they are and continue to be today.

This is because prices for their livestock have been deliberately suppressed, thereby suffocating our rural economies and keeping them on the periphery of the mainstream economy, if not practically



Yours Truly Ideologically
with
Kae Matundu-Tjiparuru

arresting and/or underdeveloping our rural areas.

Needless to say, this is a situation the government is and must have been aware of. But for reasons known only to itself, it has been shy, and at best silent on the matter, at least in helping farmers confront the problem of livestock marketing in our rural areas.

Instead, the government comes with grandiose schemes that cannot be of any help unless they become an integral part of rural agrarian reform.

That, needless to say, cannot happen without first ensuring that livestock prices improve. Thus, gardening cannot and should not be an end in itself but rather a buttress, first and foremost, to the subsistence economies in most of our rural areas.

The end being modernising these subsistence economies into the mainstream economy, if need be. “If need be” because these economies are structurally and inherently outcasts, to say the least, of the capitalist economies of our urban areas, thus essentially serving such economies instead of being progressive, integral parts of the main economy.

Our rural economies were and have never been intended to one day prosper and become stable means of sustenance for the people in these rural areas.

Yours Truly Ideologically is not even aware of any philosophical or ideological conceptualisation for these gardens, including the much-talked-about green schemes, other than ideas subjected to trial and error.

Given the necessary philosophical and ideological foundation, one would have thought such projects could serve as economic models for the transformation of rural backyard economies to spur these areas toward, for starters, the necessary

agrarian egalitarian evolution, and ultimately an agrarian revolution. This stands in contrast to the officially trumpeted Vision 2030 regarding industrialisation, begging the question: How can one industrialise Namibia — a village that she is, and practically an agrarian economy at best if not most? Given the government's obvious non-ideological orientation and its laissez-faire disposition, these community gardens and green schemes shall remain just what they are: politically and policy-wise fashionable. On the face of it, they may seem beneficial, but they cannot be revolutionary unless tied to a philosophically and ideologically informed master agrarian reform plan. It is not as if crop production is alien among traditionally livestock-producing communities such as those in Omaheke. Coming a long way, Yours Truly Ideologically very well recalls almost every homestead having acres of gardens way back when villagers would shift from one homestead to another when rain came, preparing gardens.

Thus, there is nothing new the government can actually teach these communities about gardening, save for new methods of preparing land for crops.

These gardens, more than anything, never served as a substitute for livestock production but rather as a supplement to livestock production, which is and remains the main, if not the only, economic activity of these rural communities.

It is not as if, post-independence, traditionally livestock-producing rural communities have not been engaging in one form or another of crop production, albeit for cash more than anything, instead as a necessary and critical ingredient of and in livestock production.

Yet the produce from these farmers ends up in makeshift silos, if they can be called silos at all, eventually going to waste due to a lack of marketing avenues. A situation the reigning governor of Omaheke is very much aware of, but it seems he has been doing little about it.

Thus, the Otjombinde garden as a stand-alone is meaningless.

There is also a community garden in the Epukiro constituency under the auspices of the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority. Otjinene is to follow suit, with the Maharero Traditional Authority reportedly having earmarked and granted acres of land for this purpose during the Prime Minister's recent sojourn to the area on the occasion of Genocide Remembrance Day. More than anything, such gardens may be nothing more than grandiose plans without any material meaning, simply because they have not been designed with any meaningful purpose other than grander, to make the government seem as if it is truly developmentally minded and is doing something for and in our communities.

Safe baby abandonment—an act or preparedness? Should mothers abandon babies to ghosts and gunners?

SEM BILLY DAVID I

Recently, the Minister of Gender and Child Welfare, Emma Kantema, said that Namibia's Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015 now allows a mother in crisis to safely abandon her newborn baby at designated places such as police stations, hospitals, or schools without facing criminal charges, provided strict conditions are met. These efforts are meant to prevent baby dumping and protect innocent lives from suffering a harsh start to life. The intention is pure and should be welcomed. However, her statement raises serious concerns about how prepared we truly are to implement this in practice. What concrete preparations has the ministry made to ensure that these facilities are ready, and that social workers are in place to receive these babies? Or are mothers expected to abandon their babies to empty buildings, to ghosts and gunners?

Where exactly are these safe abandonment spots located? Is it just anywhere near the police station, in the yard, or at the gate? Has clear information been shared with the public? Is the public even aware of how this system is supposed to work?

While policymakers work hard to pass laws that protect child dignity and welfare and aim to stop baby dumping, the reality on the ground still raises questions. We must ask whether a practical system truly exists in terms of:

- the availability and readiness of facilities,
- the moral and emotional tension around last-minute emergency abandonment,
- the shared responsibility of parenting,
- access to information and services, and
- the protection of the child's dignity and future.

At present, many of the places indicated by the minister as stations for safe abandonment are not prepared, furnished, or properly designated to receive babies. These places are not staffed with trained social workers equipped with the skills to handle newborns and to provide counselling to mothers in crisis.

Police officers are trained primarily to deal with crime. Teachers are trained to educate. With their heavy workloads, they cannot realistically be expected to shift their attention to the delicate and demanding task of receiving and caring for abandoned babies. Meanwhile, social workers are largely invisible in many communities and in these facilities.

Has the ministry considered mothers who are afraid to come forward? If social workers are invisible, who exactly will receive these babies at the so-called safe centres?

In May 2024, I was featured in the Namibian Sun, calling on the ministry to deploy social workers to



the centres mentioned, and to make them accessible to the public so that people can register their problems, fears, and needs with them. I wish to reiterate and expand on those proposals.

Firstly, the ministry needs to conduct a proper feasibility study in communities to identify the root causes of baby dumping and to determine how best a baby can be safely abandoned at nearby legal facilities. Most of these cases occur in informal settlements and remote areas where the designated facilities may be very far away. This often happens because the public is not well informed or guided on what they are supposed to do. Recently, we heard about an incident involving a mother who threw her twins into a pod; this is very disturbing news, but as a nation, we can prevent such incidents from occurring.

The government's request for vulnerable mothers to place their babies in safe spaces can save lives through abandonment options, but these measures are not a complete solution. Governments must address the root causes that drive mothers to these desperate situations. Many women face stigma, bullying, and rejection by their families, not to mention their partners, poverty, abuse, and mental health challenges. If these underlying issues are not addressed, the problem will continue.

Secondly, the ministry should deploy or station social workers in all corners of our communities to educate people, highlight the key factors that contribute to baby dumping, and share information on how to act legally and safely if abandonment becomes the only option. We need community-based social workers just as we have community health workers. This will allow community members to approach them and register their problems early. The ministry should establish an office or at least a dedicated room for social workers at police stations, schools,

churches, and clinics—not just at big hospitals.

Thirdly, the ministry should construct dedicated, dignified spaces—small rooms or safe “baby cages” at the gates or within the premises of these facilities—where mothers can anonymously and safely leave babies, in line with Section 227 of the Act. This section outlines the legal procedure by which a parent can safely and anonymously leave an unwanted baby at an approved safe place. These spaces must not look like the sad scenes we often see now: babies dumped in cardboard boxes, wrapped in plastic, or covered in random materials. Properly designed safe surrender spaces can protect babies from injury, exposure, and trauma. Social workers or designated staff should be responsible for checking these spaces regularly—every morning and throughout the day—to ensure that no baby is left unattended.

Lastly, the ministry must provide clear public information on where mothers can go to register an unwanted pregnancy and seek help. Conditions should be put in place to ensure that mothers who come forward receive support—emotional, social, and where possible, material. Once an unwanted pregnancy is identified, or when a mother expresses concerns about raising her child, the government should provide comprehensive support. This support should go beyond diapers and infant formula. It should include food assistance, clothing, counseling, safe accommodation where necessary, and programs that help mothers become self-sufficient. This will help prevent desperate decisions and save both mothers and babies from tragic outcomes. At the same time, the ministry must put in place mechanisms to deal with fathers who refuse to take responsibility for their children. Baby dumping and unsafe abandonment are not just “women's issues”. They are a reflection of wider social, economic, and gender injustices.

Safe baby abandonment should not only exist on paper or in speeches. It must be supported by real preparation, real people, and real services. Otherwise, we risk creating a law that sounds compassionate, while in practice leaving mothers and babies alone with their fear, shame, and despair—abandoned not to safe hands, but to ghosts and gunners.

In conclusion, Namibia has a small population yet is a resource-rich country; however, we continue to witness alarming cases of abandoned babies and discarded foetuses.

This should be a wake-up call for policymakers. We require preventive measures rather than merely emergency responses, extensive media coverage, and countless speeches. **-Sem Billy David I is a youth leader and Community Activist**



Our unemployment rate, currently sitting at 32.7% makes for very depressing reading. The picture gets even more gloomy when we consider the fact that people who are willing and still able, have stopped looking for work. (Delwyn Verasamy/M&G)

SA: Life is becoming difficult

As South Africans, we are not immune to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Whatever happens in that part of the world, however remote, affects us directly.

Ask the motorist who has been confronted by the fuel price adjustments or the Putco bus commuter who finds that their trip home from Gandhi Square in Johannesburg now costs 10% more. Life is hard even for salaried people, who are not getting any increases in their pay packets. Unless one is imbued with the wisdom of an economist, it is almost pointless to talk about the plight of the unemployed.

What can you really do with a R370 monthly grant? What sort of grocery basket can you take home with the money?

Many of our homes are run by grandmothers whose only source of income is their monthly pension grant. Generations of grandchildren and other dependents rely on this money to ease their lives. Those who fare better—if that is even the correct framing of their hardship—receive child grants. State funds meant for the child becomes the primary capital to keep food on the table.

This is the pain our lead story this week is tackling. As is the parlance of the streets, there is no more soft life.

Somewhere on our social media pages, we lamented the closure of sugar giant Tongaat Hulett. When companies like these close,

it is not only the shareholders who are hit in the pocket. Entire families collapse; breadwinners lose their strength to provide, children drop out of school and the drug and prostitution industry gain new entrants.

A factory that closes is a human story of desolation and heartbreak. God forbid that one day soon, the single mothers who want a better life for their children will not be able to send them to school because they will not be able to afford the transport costs.

School transport runs on fuel, not charity and goodwill. The men and women who keep this industry afloat also have to take care of their living expenses.

Our unemployment rate, at 32.7%, makes for depressing reading. The picture becomes gloomier when we consider the fact that people have stopped looking for employment even though they are willing and able to work.

The price of bread is no longer just a hackneyed cliché. It is not a matter of mirth, something we can joke about. It is a reality. People are finding it hard to get by.

Tightening the belt has become an empty phrase because the girth on which the belt should rest has thinned.

The madness of the US-Israel-Iran war is doing no one any favours. It must end soon, otherwise the poor will have nothing to eat but the rich.

<https://mg.co.za/editorial/2026-06-05-its-a-tough-life/>

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KORYX ADVANCES COPPER PROJECT WITH NAMPOWER GRID DEAL



Koryx Copper and NamPower will begin designing the grid connection infrastructure required to support the Haib Copper mine operations.
- Photo: Contributed



Community gardeners take centre stage at Market Day

Beetroot, carrots, chillies, herbs and other vegetables grown in a Namibian community garden were showcased and sold at Shoprite Lafrenz in Windhoek during Market Day. This year, the project which annually provides local community gardeners with a valuable retail platform coincided with World Hunger Day, which is a global awareness day focused on food insecurity and sustainable solutions.

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Koryx advances copper project with NamPower grid deal

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Koryx Copper says it has made significant progress on infrastructure planning for its flagship Haib Copper Project in southern Namibia, including signing a memorandum of understanding with NamPower for a bulk electricity supply connection and advancing plans for water supply from the Orange River.

The company announced the developments as it continues work toward completing a pre-feasibility study (PFS) for the project, which is expected to be published later this year.

Under the agreement with NamPower, Koryx and the national power utility will begin designing the grid

connection infrastructure required to support the mine's operations. The project's power requirements are expected to be met through a hybrid system combining electricity from the national grid with solar photovoltaic generation and the potential addition of battery energy storage systems. The proposed power system is designed to meet an estimated peak demand of 152 MVA and annual electricity consumption of about 1,131 GWh.

Electricity would be supplied through a new double-circuit 220 kV overhead transmission line linking the mine to NamPower's Harib Substation, located approximately 68 kilometers away. Koryx said the design will allow for future expansion to 200 MVA, enabling the possible introduction of electric haul trucks equipped with

trolley-assist technology, which could significantly reduce diesel consumption.

The company noted that the project will require substantial upgrades to existing NamPower infrastructure as well as the construction of new transmission assets aimed at strengthening the national grid in southern Namibia.

Upon completion, the infrastructure is expected to be handed over to NamPower for operation and maintenance.

Discussions are continuing with NamPower to secure a formal grid power supply offer, which will serve as the basis for a final power supply agreement.

On water supply, Koryx is evaluating two options to meet the mine's estimated raw water demand of 20

million cubic meters annually.

These include sourcing water from the Orange River, located about 20 kilometers south of the project site, or from the Neckartal Dam, approximately 260 kilometers to the north.

The company said water from the Orange River remains the preferred option from both technical and financial perspectives.

Plans include a single abstraction point on the river and the development of off-channel water storage facilities to manage seasonal fluctuations and drought conditions.

Hydrological studies have indicated that a dedicated on-site reservoir will be required to ensure reliable supply during periods when river abstraction is restricted due to low water levels or drought.

Koryx said it is continuing its engagement with NamWater to ensure compliance with national water supply standards.

Once completed, the water infrastructure is expected to be transferred to NamWater, which would operate and maintain the system under an agreed tariff arrangement.

Koryx president and chief executive officer Heye Daun said recent metallurgical test work at the Haib project had confirmed the potential to improve processing grades through the use of coarse particle flotation technology.

Koryx Copper, headquartered in Luxembourg, owns 100% of the Haib Copper Project and is also expanding its copper exploration portfolio in Zambia.



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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%
Firststrand 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%

De Beers doubles down on natural diamonds with new campaign

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

De Beers Group has intensified its efforts to boost demand for natural diamonds, unveiling a new phase of its global 'Desert Diamonds' marketing campaign.

The company aims to capitalize on growing consumer interest while distinguishing natural stones from synthetic alternatives.

The renewed focus on natural diamonds carries particular weight for diamond-producing countries such as Namibia, Botswana, Angola and South Africa, where economies and mining sectors derive substantial value from natural diamond production.

Diamonds remain critical to Namibia's economy. The country produced 556,000 carats of diamonds in the first quarter ending 31 March 2026, up from 459,000 carats in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Debmarmine Namibia produced 1,435,000 carats in 2025.

Namdeb's land operations, meanwhile, produced 647,181 carats over the same year.

Namdeb Holdings, which is 50% owned by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and 50% by De Beers Group, and serves as the holding company for Namdeb Diamond Corporation and Debmarmine Namibia, paid royalties worth N\$260 million to the government.

Speaking at the annual JCK Las Vegas Show, the world's largest jewelry industry event, De Beers



De Beers has unveiled a new phase of its global Desert Diamonds marketing campaign promoting natural diamonds. - Photo: Contributed

Group chief executive officer Al Cook said the industry must unite behind natural diamonds to maximize emerging market opportunities.

"Consumer desire for natural diamonds is strong, but we need to work together as an industry in support of 'Desert Diamonds' to unlock the full value of the opportunity," Cook said.

He noted that the initial Desert Diamonds campaign, launched in late 2025, had already demonstrated its ability to stimulate demand for natural and coloured diamonds, prompting the company to expand the initiative with the introduction of "Desert Diamonds Icons."

The latest campaign will focus on four classic jewelry pieces

including stud earrings, eternity bands, tennis bracelets and halo pendants, which together account for approximately 70% of diamond jewelry purchases globally.

According to De Beers, the original campaign helped drive growth in natural diamond sales among independent jewelers in the United States, with sales increasing by 4% during the fourth quarter of 2025 and by 9% during the first quarter of 2026.

Sales of diamonds in the K-to-Z colour range recorded even stronger gains, rising by 15% and 19%, respectively, over the same periods.

Cook said the industry is operating in a rapidly changing retail environment as prices for synthetic, lab-grown diamonds

continue to decline.

"With the sustained falls in price of synthetic lab-grown diamonds, and large falls in demand for larger synthetic lab-grown diamonds, there may be challenges ahead for retailers who focus on synthetic lab-grown diamonds," he said.

De Beers argues that the weakening economics of lab-grown diamonds present an opportunity for the natural diamond sector to reinforce its position with consumers by emphasizing rarity, provenance and long-term value.

The company said the Desert Diamonds campaign will benefit from the industry's largest natural-diamond marketing budget in 15 years and is expected to have an even greater retail impact in 2026.

The campaign will also incorporate geo-targeted marketing designed to direct consumers to participating retailers.

Beyond marketing, De Beers highlighted broader industry efforts aimed at strengthening consumer confidence in natural diamonds.

The company said collaboration across the sector is delivering progress through initiatives such as Tracr, the blockchain-based diamond traceability platform.

De Beers also pointed to developments at the Natural Diamond Council, which has secured additional funding from diamond-producing countries and industry organizations.

"The natural way forward is clear to see," Cook said.

NNN calls for broader financial inclusion

Staff Writer

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called for greater financial inclusion, improved financial literacy and broader access to investment opportunities, saying these will be key to the continued development of Namibia's financial sector.

Nandi-Ndaitwah made the remarks during the 30th-anniversary celebration of Namibia Asset Management (NAM) at Droombos.

In an address read on her behalf by finance minister Ericah Shafudah, the President congratulated the company's board, management, staff and stakeholders on reaching the milestone, describing the anniversary as a testament to resilience, innovation, discipline and trust.

"Thirty years is not merely a measure of time. It is a testament to resilience, discipline, innovation and trust," the President said. She noted that Namibia's asset management industry has evolved from modest beginnings into a key

pillar of the economy, helping to mobilize domestic savings, deepen financial markets and support national development through prudent capital allocation.

According to the address, institutions such as NAM play a role that extends beyond generating financial returns by supporting the broader architecture of the country's financial system and ensuring that Namibian capital is directed toward productive economic activity.

The President observed that the work of asset managers ultimately affects ordinary Namibians, including workers preparing for retirement, families building wealth and individuals seeking long-term financial security.

"Asset managers are not only managing capital. They are safeguarding futures, preserving wealth and helping ordinary citizens participate meaningfully in the economic life of their country," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah credited asset managers with strengthening Namibia's capital markets through

active participation in bond issuances, equity markets and other financial instruments that support both government and private-sector financing needs. She said these efforts help reduce dependence on external funding while promoting domestic ownership and economic resilience.

Nandi-Ndaitwah urged the financial sector to focus on deepening capital markets while ensuring wider participation across all income groups and regions.

The address called for continued innovation in investment products, support for alternative asset classes, and stronger collaboration among government, regulators and industry players.

The President also stressed the importance of financial literacy, describing it as an essential life skill that should be accessible to all Namibians.

"Every Namibian should be empowered with a basic understanding of saving, budgeting, investing and retirement planning," she said.



Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

Travellers urged to consider trip cancellation insurance

Staff Writer

Travellers are being urged to consider trip cancellation insurance as a safeguard against financial losses caused by unexpected events that force them to cancel their travel plans.

According to Santam Namibia chief executive officer Franco Feris, uncertainty remains a reality for travellers, with factors such as illness, family emergencies and severe weather capable of disrupting even the most carefully planned holidays. Trip cancellation insurance is designed to reimburse travelers for prepaid, non-refundable expenses when unforeseen circumstances prevent them from travelling before their scheduled departure date.

Feris explained that the cover can protect significant travel investments. He cited the example of a family holiday to Mauritius costing more than N\$119 000, where a sudden medical emergency involving a family member shortly before departure could force travellers to cancel their trip.

“In such circumstances, trip cancellation cover can help travellers recover the non-refundable portion of their expenses, reducing the financial impact of cancelling the trip,” he said. The insurance typically covers non-refundable airline tickets, prepaid accommodation, tour packages, safaris, cruises, pre-booked excursions and event tickets purchased in advance.

However, Feris noted that claims are generally only valid when cancellations result from unforeseen events beyond the traveller’s control.



Franco Feris

These may include medical emergencies affecting the traveller or a travel companion, family bereavement, severe weather events, natural disasters, job loss or the theft of travel documents.

Supporting documentation, such as medical reports, proof of cancellation or airline reports, is usually required when submitting a claim.

The cover applies to cancellations before departure, while separate international journey curtailment or extension cover may apply when a trip is interrupted after travel has already commenced.

Feris cautioned that travellers should familiarise themselves with policy exclusions, as not all cancellations qualify for reimbursement. Common exclusions include

voluntary cancellations, changes of mind, missing or rejected visas, financial difficulties, pre-existing medical conditions, known events that occurred before the policy was purchased, pre-existing travel restrictions and war-related incidents. “It is imperative to always check your policy wording for full details to ensure you are aware of all the important information,” he said.

He added that trip cancellation insurance is particularly valuable for travellers who have invested heavily in non-refundable bookings, are travelling with children or elderly relatives, or are attending time-sensitive events such as weddings, conferences or group tours.

According to Feris, travellers should ideally purchase cancellation cover immediately after making their bookings to ensure they qualify for the full range of benefits and avoid time-related restrictions.

He also highlighted unspecified event cancellation insurance as an optional add-on that can provide broader protection against a wider range of cancellation scenarios.

The additional cover is generally required to be purchased within two to three days of making the first trip payment or deposit and at the same time as the base travel insurance policy.

Feris said travellers should assess the potential financial impact of losing prepaid travel expenses when deciding whether to purchase cancellation insurance.

“If you can’t afford to lose what you’ve paid for your trip, you can’t afford to travel without trip cancellation insurance,” he said.



Olebile Makhube

Bank Gaborone MD resigns

Staff Writer

The Capricorn Group has announced that Olebile Makhube will step down from her role as managing director of Bank Gaborone, a subsidiary of the group, to pursue other strategic interests and priorities.

Her resignation was acknowledged at the bank’s board meeting held on 28 May.

She will leave the group on 31 August. Over the coming months, she will focus on the orderly handover of her responsibilities to support a smooth transition.

“Since joining the group in February 2023, Makhube has been a valued

member of the Group Executive Committee and has provided steady leadership during an important period for both Bank Gaborone and the broader Botswana operating environment,” said Capricorn Group chief executive officer David Nuyoma. “Capricorn Group thanks her for her contribution, professionalism and commitment, and wishes her well in her future endeavours.”

To ensure continuity and stability, the group announced that an interim acting managing director for Bank Gaborone will be named soon.

The group has commenced a formal recruitment process for a permanent appointment.

Community gardeners take centre stage at Market Day

Staff Writer

Betroot, carrots, chillies, herbs and other vegetables grown in a Namibian community garden were showcased and sold at Shoprite Lafrenz in Windhoek during Market Day.

This year, the project which annually provides local community gardeners with a valuable retail platform coincided with World Hunger Day, which is a global awareness day focused on food insecurity and sustainable solutions.

Groot Aub Fresh Producers is among more than 300 community gardens supported by the Shoprite Group across southern Africa, helping to strengthen food security in the region.

“This year, Market Day provided nearly 60 local gardeners and cooperatives across the region with the opportunity to sell their fresh produce directly to the public, gain retail experience and strengthen the roots of small businesses that feed their communities,” said Sanjeev Raghubir, the group’s chief sustainability officer.

“Customers stocked up on local peppers, spinach, parsley and many other vegetables and fruits, met the small-scale farmers and learned about their sustainable growing methods. In



Groot Aub Fresh Producers recently took part in a Market Day organised by the Shoprite Group. - Photo: Contributed

some instances, they even purchased seedlings for their own home gardens.”

Located on the outskirts of

Windhoek, the Groot Aub Fresh Producers food garden grows a wide variety of crops, enabling project members to sell produce to

community members and create employment opportunities. Surplus produce from the six year old community garden is often donated

to a neighbouring old-age home and community centre.

“Through this Shoprite Group project, we get connected to other communities, which helps us to sell our products quicker and generate income more easily,” explained Julia Haipeing.

“For each community gardener taking part in Market Day, there is a story both of individual circumstance and a pathway toward a more grounded and food-secure life rooted in the soil,” Raghubir added.

“The power of this day is in taking this a step further by facilitating market entry with skills training.” Beyond Market Day, the Shoprite Group continues to support community food gardens through its Act For Change programme, which to date, has assisted hundreds of gardens with training, seedlings and infrastructure.

This year, the retailer marked the milestone of its 300th community garden located outside Bredasdorp, South Africa.

“It’s exciting to see the seeds we help sow within our communities grow and flourish,” said Raghubir.

“We are proud to champion the heroes of southern African gardens and small farms, who nourish their communities and their future through their own dedication and hard work.”



Angola will limit output of small rough this year. - Photo: Contributed

Angola to reduce supply of small diamonds

Angola will limit output of small rough in the coming months, aiming to avoid flooding the market, state-owned diamond miner Endiama has said.

Angola is the world's fastest-growing diamond-producing nation, with rough exports increasing 70% to 17.7 million carats in 2025.

However, many of those goods are in the smaller categories that have struggled in the past two years, leading to charges the African nation has contributed to a glut in polished under 1 carat.

The next sales of rough from Catoca and Luele, Angola's two largest mines, will see a "substantial reduction" in availability of small goods, Elton Escrivão, Endiama's commercial director, told Rapaport News Thursday at the Luxury show in Las Vegas.

"For the next three months, we are going to substantially reduce the volume of diamonds in the small sizes that we are putting in the market, especially when it comes to Catoca and Luele," Escrivão said.

The country aims to "protect the value of our production and...the market," he added.

Escrivão announced the move at a Natural Diamond Council (NDC) event about Angola's mining sector on the sidelines of the show.

"If necessary, we are going to extend this suspension to protect the market," he told the audience. "So you count on us the same way we count on all of you."

He declined to define "small sizes" or clarify whether this would entail mining less or building up more inventory. The country will provide more details in the coming days. "The most important [thing] is that the market will start receiving a substantially [lower] volume of small diamonds," Escrivão told Rapaport News. "It's crucial, considering the crucial role that Angola is playing right now in the diamond industry, that we take care of the market." Angola's diamond production jumped 8% to 15.2 million carats last year, with the average price falling 29% to \$102 per carat — indicating a shift to lower sizes. The African nation was planning to raise output to 16.2 million carats in 2026 at an average price of \$150 a carat, Bloomberg reported last month.

The spike in output since the launch of Luele in 2023 — transforming Angola into the world's third-largest producer — has coincided with production cuts in Botswana and Russia. This has created challenges as the industry tries to rationalize supply and help the market recover, as the February edition of the Rapaport

Research Report (now the Rapaport Intelligence Report) outlined.

De Beers CEO Al Cook applauded Angola's move at the miner's breakfast event at JCK Las Vegas on Friday, noting that this was "part of the long-term trend."

Canada, he observed, will see a sharp reduction in supply with the closure of Rio Tinto's Diavik mine, the owner of the Ekati deposit filing for creditor protection, and De Beers itself pausing new expansion at Gahcho Kué.

"It's possible that by this time next year, diamond supply out of Canada will be finished," Cook added. "That's a huge amount out of the market. We also expect responsible sales from Botswana and Russia, as well as Angola. Natural diamonds are going to get rarer."

Meanwhile, talks over De Beers' separation from current owner Anglo American are at a "very advanced stage," Cook said. "We expect...Anglo American [and] the government of Botswana to make an announcement on that in the very near future. All the partners that we're involved with in this sales process have deep ties to our industry. They love diamonds. They have a strong belief in De Beers and a strong belief in natural diamonds."

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IATA-ICAO deepen cooperation on boosting sustainable aviation fuels

Staff Writer

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) announced enhanced cooperation at ICAO Aviation Climate Week this week to advance transparency and integrity in tracking progress, and to accelerate the development and deployment of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF).

Close collaboration between industry and states, supported by robust systems and high-quality data, will aim to enable transparent and credible tracking of cleaner aviation energies and their contribution toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, in alignment with the respective IATA and ICAO ambitions and commitments.

Both organisations agreed to explore how SAF registries and the data they collect can support the implementation of the ICAO Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) monitoring and reporting methodology, as well as the consideration of fuel accounting systems for international aviation. "Credible tracking is necessary to know the emissions reductions delivered by SAF. The data collected by the CADO SAF Registry, among others, has the potential to meet this need," said IATA Director General Willie Walsh.

"By working with ICAO to strengthen how progress on SAF use is measured and reported, we can accelerate deployment, build trust across stakeholders, and put aviation on track for net zero by 2050.

This will set a great example for individual states to work with industry to make the most of the SAF data that



Juan Carlos Salazar

is being accumulated." ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar said: "Achieving ICAO's vision of net-zero carbon emissions from international aviation by 2050 will require unprecedented levels of transparency and cooperation across the entire sector.

This agreement will support the strengthening of ICAO's leadership as we support states and industry in their scaling up of sustainable aviation fuels and other aviation cleaner energies. "By improving our global monitoring capabilities and visibility into SAF production, distribution and use, we can support the integrity of global fuel accounting systems and ensure that climate investments are recognized consistently and transparently under ICAO frameworks."

The International Civil Aviation Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations, is leading its 193 member states' cooperation toward achieving air transport for all by 2050 with zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions. ICAO develops standards and policies for civil aviation and supports their implementation.

SA wool industry remains key economic driver

Staff Writer

South Africa's wool industry continues to play a significant role in the country's agricultural economy, despite its contribution having diminished from the dominant position it held more than a century ago, according to agricultural economist Wandile Sihlobo.

Speaking at the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA) Congress in Jeffreys Bay, Sihlobo reflected on the historical and current importance of wool production after attending a presentation by Stellenbosch University agricultural economist Professor Johann Kirsten. Kirsten highlighted the industry's historic significance, noting that wool production accounted for 71% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Cape Colony in 1866.

While South Africa's economy has since diversified and industrialised, Sihlobo said the wool industry remains an important contributor to the agricultural sector.

"Wool has always been part of the agricultural economy of South Africa

and the Cape Colony," he said, adding that wool has consistently ranked among South Africa's top 10 agricultural export products over the past century.

Sihlobo also pointed to the success of efforts by the NWGA, supported by government funding, to commercialise wool production in communal farming areas of the Eastern Cape.

He described the initiative as a significant but often overlooked achievement in integrating black farmers into the country's export-oriented wool value chain. According to figures shared at the congress, black farmers contributed just 0.5% of South Africa's total wool production in 1989. By 2026, that share had increased to 16%.

Sihlobo suggested the actual contribution may be higher when accounting for production from black farmers operating on freehold land in other parts of the country. The congress also examined opportunities to further expand the industry through improved sheep genetics, stronger biosecurity measures, better infrastructure and



South Africa's wool industry plays a significant role in South Africa's agricultural economy. - Photo: Contributed

enhanced efforts to combat stock theft.

Sihlobo said improving the quality of sheep farming and wool production in key regions such as the Eastern Cape, Free State and Northern Cape could help increase exports, particularly given strong demand from China. He noted that increased production volumes and improved wool quality

could have a substantial impact on rural economies by boosting farmer incomes and generating greater economic activity in farming communities.

During a panel discussion on building an inclusive and sustainable sheep economy, farmers, government officials and industry advisors identified breeding programmes,

biosecurity, stock theft and land governance as some of the key challenges facing the sector.

Sihlobo said continued collaboration between organised agriculture and government would be essential to unlocking the industry's growth potential and ensuring that more rural communities benefit from the wool value chain.

YOUNG OBSERVER

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

Tsumeb mother turns motherhood challenge into growing business



Africa's youth driving a transformative future

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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2026

Namibian men reflect on 'Fatherless'

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after Namibian author and lecturer Linda Perestrello published her book 'Fatherless', young men across the country say the work continues to spark conversations about identity, healing and the emotional impact of growing up without a father figure.

What began as Perestrello's personal story of navigating life with an absent father has evolved into a wider discussion among young readers, many of whom say the book challenged them to confront emotions they had long ignored.

Jason Uises, a 34-year-old Windhoek resident, said reading the book forced him to reflect on how fatherlessness has shaped the lives of many young Namibians. "I am very fortunate and grateful that I still have my father, but after reading the book, I realised how difficult it must have been for those who grew up without father figures," he said.

"You do not always realise how much it affects someone until they are older. You think you have moved on, but then you struggle with trust, relationships and confidence without understanding where those challenges come from."

Uises said many young men are taught to suppress emotions rather than discuss them openly.

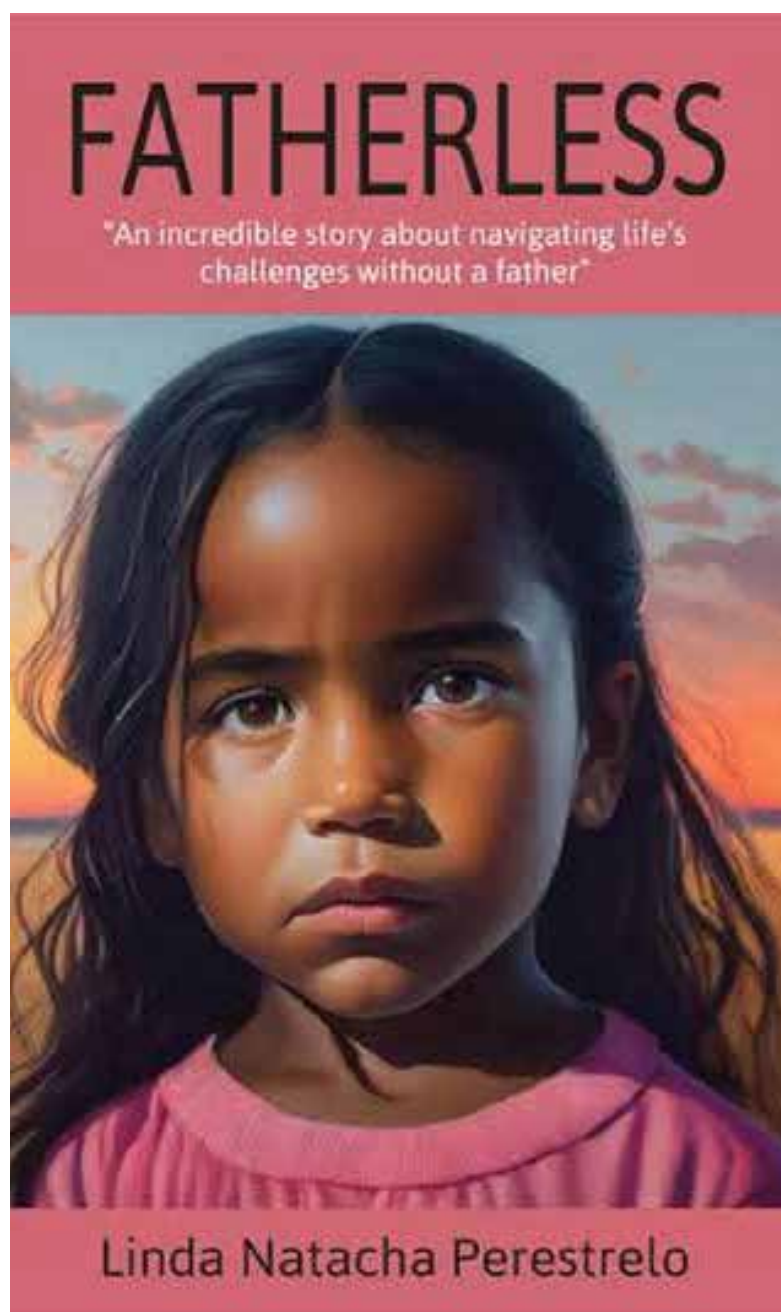
"As men, we are often told to be strong and move on because opening up is seen as weakness. In the location where I grew up, a man being vulnerable was not accepted. We rarely get opportunities to talk about the hurt that comes with growing up without a father figure," he said.

For university student Mervin Shekutamba Shikongo, the book resonated because it reflected experiences shared by many young Namibians.

"I saw parts of myself in the story," he said.

"Not everyone has the same experience, but many young people are carrying unanswered questions about their fathers and how that absence affected them."

Shikongo said the book prompted



him to reflect on children within his own family.

"The day I finished reading the book, my perspective changed completely. I looked at the children in my family who have been raised by my uncles because they do not know who their fathers are, and it broke my heart," he said.

"I found myself thinking about the sacrifices my uncle has made for them and for me. It also made me wonder how those children will feel one day when they begin to fully understand that their fathers were never there."

Mental health practitioner and youth counsellor Selma Kamutjindo said fatherlessness remains one of the recurring themes she encounters when working with young men.

"Many young men struggle with issues of identity, self-worth and emotional expression," she said. "While fatherlessness is not the only factor, it can significantly influence how young people view themselves and their relationships." The discussion comes at a time when Namibia continues to face growing mental health challenges,

“

I am very fortunate and grateful that I still have my father, but after reading the book, I realised how difficult it must have been for those who grew up without father figures.

particularly among men. According to figures released during World Mental Health Day commemorations in 2025, Namibia recorded 542 suicide deaths and 2,937 suicide attempts during the 2023/24 reporting period. Men accounted for 449 of the suicide deaths, representing more than 80% of reported cases. Kamutjindo said stigma continues to prevent many young men from seeking support.

"We are seeing more young men willing to talk, but there is still a perception that vulnerability is weakness," she said.

"Healing begins when people feel safe enough to tell their stories." She added that fathers play an important role in the emotional development of children.

"A father provides more than financial support. Children need guidance, affirmation, discipline, emotional connection and a consistent presence. When that presence is absent, some young people spend years trying to understand what was missing," she said.

"It does not mean every child without a father will struggle, but it does mean we need stronger support systems, mentors and family structures. Fathers must understand that showing up for their children can have a lasting impact on their confidence, wellbeing and future."

Perestrello said she never anticipated that the majority of readers who connected with Fatherless would be men.

"I thought 'Fatherless' would mainly connect with women, but about 70% of my readers turned out to be men," she said.

"It was both humbling and eye-opening."

She said many readers reached out to share how the book encouraged them to reflect on their own

experiences.

"Many told me the book made them stop and think about their own relationships," she said.

"Some even said it encouraged them to be more emotionally available to their children."

The response later inspired Perestrello to write Silent Struggles, a follow-up book exploring the emotional battles many men face behind closed doors.

"Writing Silent Struggles opened my eyes to how much pain men carry silently," she said.

"Society teaches men that vulnerability is weakness, so they bottle up their emotions. But behind quiet exteriors are hearts yearning to be understood."

She believes Namibia is slowly moving toward more open discussions about emotional wellbeing.

"We have not fully opened the space for men to be openly vulnerable yet," she said.

"But I believe that with time and continuous dialogue, both books can help create that space."

For many young readers, the lasting message of Fatherless is that healing is possible.

"He is not alone, that his feelings are valid, and that seeking help or expressing emotion is a sign of strength, not weakness," Perestrello said of the message she hopes young men take away from the book.

As conversations around mental health continue to gain momentum among Namibia's youth, many readers say the book has become more than a personal memoir. For them, it has opened a dialogue about family, identity and the importance of breaking cycles of silence.

"Fatherless" started as my story," Perestrello said, "but now it belongs to everyone who has ever felt unseen, unheard or unloved."

Tsumeb mother turns motherhood challenge into growing business

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

A Tsumeb-based entrepreneur is proving that some of the best business ideas can come from personal experiences.

Jamila Jokomo, a trained psychological counsellor and mother, has transformed her own breastfeeding journey into a growing online business that supports mothers across Namibia while encouraging young women to see challenges as opportunities for innovation.

What began as a personal solution during the early stages of motherhood has evolved into a business that now serves customers across the country.

Jokomo said the idea was born shortly after the birth of her firstborn daughter, when she was navigating the realities of exclusive breastfeeding.

“I used to make lactation cookies for myself and saw what a huge difference it made in my supply,” she said.

After sharing photos of the homemade cookies online, she was surprised by the response from other mothers.

“The response was unbelievable. I started to get orders from all over the country,” she said.

The growing demand inspired her to turn the idea into a business focused on supporting breastfeeding mothers through nutrient-rich snacks commonly known as lactation cookies.

For Jokomo, however, the business quickly became about more than selling products.

“I realised that my work would also involve counselling, sharing information and encouraging breastfeeding mothers to keep going,” she said.

As a trained counsellor, she found herself having conversations with women facing challenges that often go unnoticed, including exhaustion,



Jamila Jokomo - Photo: Contributor



Uushona added that young entrepreneurs are increasingly creating products and services that address challenges within their own communities.

“People are no longer waiting for jobs. They are identifying problems and creating solutions,” she said. For Jokomo, balancing entrepreneurship and motherhood has required discipline and determination.

She said there were times when managing family responsibilities alongside a growing business felt overwhelming, but having a clear purpose helped her stay focused. “First, start with why,” she advised. “If you know the reason behind your dreams, it becomes easier to keep going, even in tough seasons.”

Youth business mentor and small enterprise advocate Hilaria Nangula Nambala said young entrepreneurs often underestimate the value of solving niche problems.

“Not every successful business has to target millions of people,” Nambala said. “Some of the

strongest businesses are built around understanding a specific need and serving that market well.” She said women-led businesses continue to play an important role in Namibia’s entrepreneurial landscape, particularly in sectors related to health, wellness and family support.

Jokomo believes young people should not allow life changes or unexpected responsibilities to stop them from pursuing their goals. “Motherhood is not the reason to give up on yourself and your dreams,” she said.

“Motherhood is actually the highest initiation calling you forward into greatness, if you are open to see it and allow it.” Today, as more young Namibians look for ways to create their own opportunities, Jokomo’s journey serves as a reminder that innovation can sometimes start in the most ordinary places, even a home kitchen.

“If you want to build a business, you have to build the people,” she said. “The people will build your business.”



I used to make lactation cookies for myself and saw what a huge difference it made in my supply.

anxiety, and the pressures of balancing family life with work and other responsibilities.

Many young mothers, she said, enter parenthood without fully understanding the emotional and physical demands that come with breastfeeding.

“Being in isolation without help and still being expected to hold everything together while keeping your baby alive with breastmilk is a lot,” Jokomo said.

Her experience reflects a growing

trend among young Namibians who are using entrepreneurship to solve real-life problems within their communities.

Martha Uushona, a 28-year-old entrepreneurship student, said stories like Jokomo’s show that business opportunities do not always begin with large investments. “Many young people think they need a lot of money to start a business, but sometimes the best ideas come from everyday experiences,” she said.

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Africa's youth driving a transformative future

BINAIFER NOWROJEE
Staff Writer

Africa's challenges and opportunities are interrelated, as are its past and its future. Meeting them requires holistic and interconnected solutions. Africa must assert its leadership and exercise full agency over its destiny.

Africa is the world's youngest continent, home to more than a billion young people, constituting 60% of its population, with this number projected to double over the next quarter of a century. By 2050, one in every four people on the planet will be African.

As birth rates decline elsewhere, Africa's youth represents a demographic opportunity and the potential for a powerful force with a multi-layered transformative agenda. They want change, and are driving it from the ground up, pushing the world to re-imagine democracy, development, governance, leadership and institutions at all levels.

Open Society has always invested in young people in Africa. Our roots go back 45 years to the height of apartheid in South Africa, when our founder, George Soros, undertook his first major act of philanthropy by funding scholarships at the University of Cape Town. Those students become part of the generation that saw the fall of apartheid and, as the preamble to the 1996 Constitution states, laid "the foundations for a democratic and open society".

As Open Society's first president from Africa, I'm proud to continue this tradition with the launch of three, multi-year initiatives that invest in the holistic aspirations of an emerging generation for a more inclusive, just and peaceful continent. This work is African-led and born of African realities. It is guided by ubuntu principles — dignity, shared humanity and justice — and rooted in the conviction that communities on the ground are best placed to make decisions about their lives. At a time when many funders are retreating from Africa, we are reaffirming our commitment.

The three initiatives — Democratic Futures, Resource Futures and Transformative Peace — address issues that are interlinked. Civic engagement by citizens cannot flourish where communities are trapped in conflicts and subject to exclusion.

Peace cannot be sustained without a more inclusive system of governance that also delivers economic justice. And resource wealth, if not managed for the benefit of the people and communities from which it is extracted, can fuel violence, injustice and feed corruption.

There are both structural and super-structural factors that underlie Africa's pathway to prosperity and our work centres the democratic developmental role of African states in achieving transformation working in partnership with their citizens.

The solutions to Africa's governance, development and security problems offered by the three initiatives are mutually reinforcing, creating a cohesive strategy that shifts power to the people. More responsive and accountable governance enables



Young people who are pessimistic about their economic futures are unlikely to sit idly by waiting for change. They will demand it. Photo: Nichole Sobecki/AFP

more inclusive economies — a more equitable distribution of resource wealth weakens the drivers of conflict. And lasting peace allows for more inclusive forms of democratic practice.

The three initiatives centre African agency, without ignoring the global inequities and double standards that constrain development such as debt, inequitable risk profiling, unfair trade and punitive tariffs. The global has local impact and the local can reshape the global.

The Gen-Z protests in Kenya that began last year have grown into a movement for economic and political justice — one that has sustained its strength in the face of violent state repression and abductions, rather than dialogue and de-escalation. In Senegal, young people were at the heart of a popular movement that resisted repression for two years before sweeping away a president who was determined to extend his rule for a third term.

What is striking about these and other movements is that they represent a break from traditional forms of political organising with leadership hierarchies. They come together in digital spaces and manifest themselves in the streets; the repression they face is streamed live and documented. They shun the divide-and-rule carve-ups of their communities, transcending lines that were drawn by ethnicity, religion and region. They are locally rooted in action but have resonance nationally and regionally.

While these mobilisations have disrupted the status quo, the path to meaningful political change remains uncertain. There are complexities to youth engagement: some young people embrace activism while others navigate survival in economies that exclude them and many are sceptical of democratic institutions altogether. It is important to harness this passion and energy into the skillsets needed to step into the political leadership of the future.

Activism alone does not create change and where institutions are unresponsive to its demands, we have seen frustration, disengagement and even support for military regimes, as in Mali and Burkina Faso. The efforts

of young people who aspire to futures centred on the principles of dignity, inclusion and accountability require sustained support to help them move from protests to a trajectory of transformation.

West Africa, Ghana and Senegal have recently demonstrated the durability of their democracies — that while transitions of power may be challenging, they can be peaceful. Both democracies can serve as models for regional governance and civic engagement. But they also need support to address the economic challenges that undermine these democracies, particularly the crushing burden of unsustainable debt payments to international financial institutions. These are the consequences of a broken system where indebted African countries are forced to pay high interest rates on their borrowing and inflict austerity that hits the poorest people the hardest.

For centuries, Africans were subjected to slavery, racism and colonialism, the impacts of which are still with us today. We are proud to support calls for justice, reparations and cultural restitution to reclaim narratives of identity and memory for people of African descent. As part of these efforts, we have worked with the global reparations movement led by groups across Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the US, as well as supporting the work on this front by the governments of Barbados and Ghana.

Our second initiative, on Resources Futures, focuses on Africa's potential to leapfrog in its development — and avoid the resource curse. There is a scramble for the critical minerals under its soil, whether it's cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, lithium in Zimbabwe or platinum in South Africa. These are the coveted raw materials of green energy's future, the batteries that will power electric vehicles, wind turbines and electric grids.

For centuries, Africa's resources have been extracted to enrich others and to impoverish its people. That risk is severe at this moment. The countries that hold these deposits

are vulnerable to economic coercion, forced into deals made on unjust terms. Many of these countries are weighed down by debt and are desperate for urgent cash. Alone, they do not have the bargaining power to negotiate fair deals for their minerals with big buyers like the US or China.

Open Society wants to provide support that enables the supplier countries to build their capacity and competence to be able to negotiate better deals as well as build strong local content policies and capacities to undertake value addition, including through regional value chains.

The negotiations around critical minerals will require a wider bargaining bloc, within Africa and beyond it, in other developing countries that face the same challenge. There are imperatives that must anchor such negotiations and the rights and interests of mining-adjacent communities, as well as preventing extraction from becoming exploitation, so that their human

rights are respected, the local economy benefits, jobs are created and the environment is protected. The role of communities is also central to our third initiative, on Transformative Peace. The people who suffer in conflict, and are affected by its consequences, have for too long been viewed as objects, not as the agents of peacebuilding. Elite-driven, externally imposed frameworks have failed to rehumanise the victims and survivors of conflict — and they have failed Africa.

Lasting peace needs to have a social dimension focused on healing, a political dimension through transitional justice and an economic dimension that creates reparative economies. These three elements, each necessary for the success of the other, are not possible without communities being at the heart of peacebuilding efforts, especially women and young people. Examples of where women have been critical to peacebuilding include Rwanda, Liberia and Sudan.

Transformative peacebuilding needs to be bottom-up, not top-down. The infrastructure created by communities who possess the requisite local knowledge and social capital can be scaled up. It can support experts and governments in creating infrastructure across Africa's regions and beyond them — especially at a time when conflicts are intensifying, widening and proliferating.

Our work in Africa does not exist in isolation. It is a key part of broader efforts, globally, to help build a more just, inclusive, equitable and peaceful world. One where the local leads to change at national, regional and, ultimately, global level. And one where Africa asserts its place in the world as a continent of leadership, innovation and ideas, forging new paths, discarding outdated systems and redefining its future.

—Mail&Guardian

Binaifer Nowrojee is the president of Open Society Foundations.

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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**

Capacity Building



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Thinking on Empty

Not all underperformance is a skills problem. Sometimes people know exactly what to do — they just no longer have the mental clarity, emotional energy, or cognitive space to do it well. This is what happens when workplaces push people past healthy limits. They do not stop working. They start thinking on empty.

Burnout is often described in emotional terms: exhaustion, frustration, detachment. But one of its most serious effects is cognitive. When people are overloaded for too long, critical thinking begins to erode. They become more reactive, less reflective, and more likely to fall back on habit instead of judgement. In other words, they may still be busy, but the quality of their thinking quietly declines. This matters because modern work depends heavily on judgement. Employees are expected to solve problems, manage competing demands, communicate clearly, and make decisions under pressure. None of that happens well when the brain is operating in survival mode. Under chronic stress, people become narrower in their thinking. They focus on getting through the day, not thinking strategically. Small issues feel bigger. Complex situations feel harder. Patience drops. Creativity weakens. Mistakes increase. What may look like poor attitude or low performance is often the result of overload, not unwillingness. The danger is that many workplaces reward this state without realising it. Constant urgency is praised as commitment. Overextension is normalised.

People who are always available are seen as dependable, even when the quality of their work is slipping. Over time, the organisation starts depending on exhausted minds to make important decisions — and that is a costly risk.

Thinking on empty also affects teams. Communication becomes shorter and more defensive. People listen less carefully. Conflict rises more quickly because nobody has the emotional margin to pause and respond well. In this way, burnout spreads beyond the individual and begins to shape team culture.

The solution is not simply to tell people to rest more, although recovery matters. Organisations need to address the conditions that cause overload in the first place. That includes unrealistic workloads, poor role clarity, constant task switching, unnecessary meetings, and leadership habits that create pressure without support.

This is also where training and development matter. Leaders need to understand the cognitive effects of burnout. Teams need practical tools for workload management, prioritisation, communication, and resilience. Most importantly, organisations need to build cultures where sustained performance matters more than visible exhaustion. Critical thinking is one of the most valuable capabilities in the workplace. But it cannot survive in environments that drain people faster than they recover.

When employees are thinking on empty, the issue is not just wellbeing. It is performance, judgement, and organisational risk. And that is something no serious workplace can afford to ignore.



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Afrobeats celebrates cybercrime and it's becoming a global problem

When former US secretary of state Colin Powell took to a London stage alongside Nigerian artist Olu Maintain in 2008 and danced to a song called Yahoozee, he almost certainly didn't know that the track is widely understood in Nigeria as a celebration of internet fraud.

The moment became a striking illustration of something my research keeps returning to: how music can carry the moral codes of cybercrime far beyond their origins, laundering them in rhythm, recognition and prestige. Over the last ten years I've studied cybercriminal pathways, romance fraud, victimisation of senior citizens, business email compromise, and the cultural politics of cybercrime. My latest collaborative study examines 40 Afrobeats songs released between 2023 and 2025, looking for themes.

Afrobeats is the broad label often used for contemporary Nigerian and west African popular music that has come to dominate global streaming culture in the 2010s and 2020s. Driven by artists such as Burna Boy, Wizkid, Davido, Tems and Asake, it has grown from a regional sound into a global cultural force, filling arenas, winning major awards and shaping youth culture far beyond Africa.

Yet some of what travels with Afrobeats is more ambivalent. In the Nigerian context, the cybercrime most often referenced in music is linked to Yahoo Boys, a popular term for online fraudsters involved in scams such as romance fraud and advance fee fraud. In some lyrics, these figures are framed not simply as offenders but as resourceful hustlers or icons of success. Stay on top of happenings across Africa with expert news and analysis.

Follow our WhatsApp Channel The songs in our study all contain explicit references to online fraud. All were performed by male artists. And all were globally available on platforms like Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube. What we found goes well beyond glorification. Afrobeats, we argue, is functioning as a moral text – one that actively rationalises, spiritualises and normalises cybercrime for millions of listeners worldwide.

In other words, some of this music is doing more than making crime sound cool. It is helping listeners make sense of online fraud as acceptable, even justified. It wraps criminal behaviour in the language of hustle, survival and divine favour, making it feel not just normal, but earned. And because Afrobeats is now heard everywhere, these ideas are travelling with it.

More than just 'hustle culture' It is tempting to dismiss fraud themed lyrics as bravado. They can seem like a form of performative edginess, not unlike gangsta rap. Gangsta rap is a branch of hip hop in which hustling, toughness and street survival became both narrative material and cultural style.

But that reading misses the depth of what's happening. Our analysis



Afrobeats is popular with music fans around the world. - Photo :Wikimedia Commons

shows that these songs use subtle rhetorical moves to present fraud as something other than wrongdoing. One of the most pervasive techniques is what researchers call euphemistic labelling. Fraud is rarely called fraud in Afrobeats songs. It becomes “hustle”, “grind” or “blessing”. Lyrics frame scamming as honest work blessed by God, stripping away its moral weight. In one track, the phrase “work and pray for the payday” wraps a reference to cybercrime in the language of religious devotion and diligence. Victims fare even worse. In these songs, they are rarely granted humanity. They become “maga” or “mgbada”, terms linked to the Igbo word for antelope, casting the fraudster as hunter and the victim as prey. In this language, victims are no longer people to be harmed, but targets to be chased: “clients”, “profiles”, even “cash cows”. We argue that this dehumanisation is not incidental. It makes exploitation feel rational, even honourable.

God, juju, and the spiritual economy of fraud

Perhaps the most striking finding

in our research is the pervasiveness of what we call cyber-spiritualism. Across multiple tracks, success in online fraud is framed not as a product of skill or cunning but as a matter of divine favour and ritual protection. This aligns with a broader phenomenon scholars have documented in Nigeria known as “Yahoo Plus” or cyber spiritualism, a variant of internet fraud in which digital scamming is combined with spiritual practices such as juju rituals, charms and incantations. The idea is that metaphysical forces can be mobilised to manipulate victims, attract luck and protect perpetrators. What is striking is how openly some of these beliefs appear in music. One track includes lyrics invoking Aje – a Yoruba deity associated with wealth – while another frames a ritual object (“soap”) as essential spiritual insurance for a fraudster. Another song merges Islamic thanksgiving phrases with references to successful scam transactions, as if divine gratitude and financial crime can occupy the same moral space. Fraud, in this framing, is not a choice. It is

destiny. Why this matters beyond Nigeria The genre now circulates across continents, through algorithms and playlists, reaching audiences who may know little about Nigeria's specific struggles. These include a high unemployment rate, elite corruption, and the longer afterlives of British colonial rule. In some of these lyrical worlds, fraud is not framed simply as greed but as a way of taking back from a global order understood to have first taken from them. Similar justifications also appeared in interviews with active scammers in Ghana. The fraud narratives in these songs emerge from real and painful structural conditions: blocked opportunities, absent institutions, the pressure on young men to provide for their families. Understanding those conditions is essential. But as these lyrics travel globally, they become detached from their context. For diasporic or international listeners, “maga don pay”, meaning “the senseless animal has paid”, stops being a commentary on poverty and starts sounding like a lifestyle aesthetic, a marker of ingenuity, cosmopolitan

hustle and transgressive cool. Our research also reveals a telling career dynamic. Emerging artists lean heavily on fraud references to establish credibility and street authenticity. More established artists tend to drop them as their careers develop. Fraud talk, in other words, is a currency for those still trying to break through. This makes it all the more concentrated among the youngest, most influential voices in the genre.

What should be done?

I want to be clear: this research is not a moral panic about Afrobeats. The genre is not responsible for cybercrime, and reducing it to a crime soundtrack would be both inaccurate and deeply unfair to its richness and complexity. But music is never politically or morally neutral. When lyrics consistently dehumanise fraud victims, frame exploitation as a divine blessing and circulate these ideas to hundreds of millions of people, the cultural consequences are real. My previous study on scammers and their allies reports on that.

-The Conversation

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: +264 811 405 033
E-mail: info@dpe.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)



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* (Kashe) 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

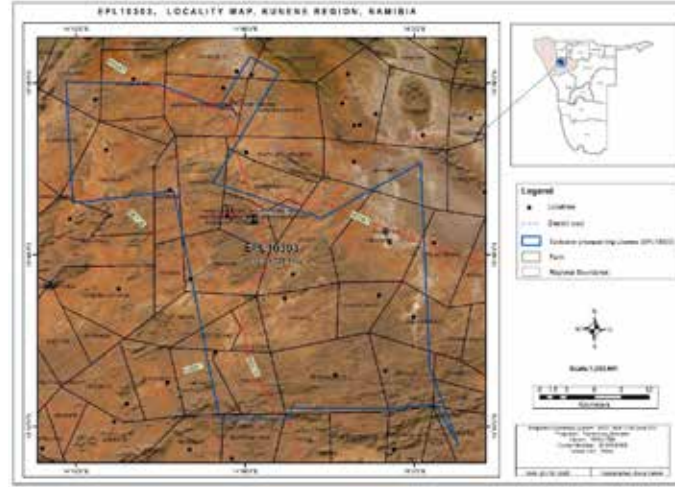
NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

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

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Lamine Yamal - Photo: Contributed

A higher ceiling than Messi? What next for Lamine Yamal?

GUILLEM BALAGUE
BBC SPORT COLUMNIST

Lionel Messi is in no doubt. Asked at a World Cup advertisement launch to name the best player of the new generation he said: "It would be Lamine. No doubt about it: for me, he is the best." That same week, American television network CBS asked Lamine Yamal on camera whether Spain would win the World Cup. He smiled and said "Yes". What makes Spain wonderkid Lamine Yamal genuinely remarkable is not merely the praise being heaped upon him; it is the composure with which he carries it, and the clarity with which he is already shaping his own identity as a footballer and as a man. He is 18 years old. He has already played in a Champions League semi-final, won a European Championship, and he has been given the number 10 shirt at Barcelona that Messi wore for almost 15 years. Yet the most striking thing about him is not the precocity. It is the serenity. Messi comparisons are inevitable. The comparison to Messi arrives whether Lamine Yamal wants it or not. For one thing, they are both left-footed, and the youngster's game is blessed with the same dribbling intelligence, the same deceptive ease, that makes the difficult look inevitable. In fact, he has had a much bigger influence than Messi at the same age, but it would be premature to suggest he can get to the same level. While comparisons may seem futile, one stat would suggest Lamine Yamal

is on his way to being Messi's worthy heir. At just 18, he has played 151 times for Barcelona. By the time Messi reached his 19th birthday on June 24, 2006, he had made just 41 top-flight appearances for the club. Ronaldinho, who played alongside Messi at the start of that golden era at Barcelona and won a Champions League with him, has drawn the lineage directly. "Messi and I made history, and now it is Lamine Yamal's turn. What he has already shown at such a young age is extraordinary," the Brazilian told Fifa's website in March. Former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand went further, when asked whether Yamal is already better than Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo were at a similar age. "Yes," Ferdinand replied on ESPN. "His potential or ceiling might be better than theirs. The body of work at 17 years old - no-one has done it. Pele may have, but I didn't see Pele." Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has watched Lamine Yamal develop across age groups with the national team and believes what he is seeing is not just talent. "He is a player blessed by God. Football geniuses have something special, and he has it," De la Fuente said. "You can immediately see those kinds of footballers who are touched by magic that says: you are going to be special." Hansi Flick, who sees him in training every day and has watched him perform in the biggest matches all

season, uses similar language. The Barcelona head coach said: "He is special, he is a genius. In the big matches, he shows up. Players do not usually reach this level of maturity until they are 24 or 25 years old. If this kind of talent only comes every half-century, I am glad it is for Barcelona." What separates Lamine Yamal from most prodigies is he is not trying to become Messi. He admires him, but there is a quiet stubbornness in how he frames his own ambition. "For me, Messi is the greatest football player in history," he said. "He is a legend and I do not find myself worthy of being compared to him. "I do not want to be Messi and he knows it. I want to follow my own path." The same applies when Cristiano Ronaldo enters the conversation. Lamine Yamal does not dismiss the comparison or the legacy - he just declines to organise his ambition around it. "It is best not to compare yourself to anyone," he said at an awards ceremony. "Players like Cristiano Ronaldo did what they did because they wanted to be themselves. I try to be me, play my game, and get people to recognise me for being Lamine." "Pressure does not exist, it's an excuse" Football is littered with any number of former pretenders to the Messi throne, all of whom have achieved and suffered varying degrees of success and adversity. Giovanni dos Santos, Gerard Deulofeu,

Ansu Fati, Munir El Haddadi and, most notably, Bojan Krkic are just a few of the players who have been cited as the next great thing. Lamine Yamal prefers to let the media talk the talk while he concentrates on walking the walk, even with the constant Ballon d'Or chatter that has followed him since he was 16. He plays so that people have fun. He wants children to want to be like him, not like Messi or Ronaldo. "I am not thinking about the Ballon d'Or. I want to enjoy myself and win with Barca and the national team," he said. "Pressure does not exist, it is an excuse. If you just think about enjoying yourself and having fun, there is no pressure." His youth coach Inocente Diaz, who watched him come through the Barcelona academy, was saying this years ago. "He is even better than Messi," he told Spanish newspaper Sport in 2025. "He possesses a unique blend of physical attributes reminiscent of both Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. In six years, he will win the Ballon d'Or." Lamine Yamal, for his part, keeps the World Cup in his sights. He has already told us what he thinks about Spain's chances there. One word, delivered in English. But behind the smile is a player who has been dreaming about this tournament his entire life. "I have always imagined playing in a World Cup, seeing my mother in the stands. I hope I can win it," he said. **-BBC**

GOSSIP

Liverpool have made contact with RB Leipzig over a move for Yan Diomande, Arsenal face competition from Paris St-Germain for two players, and Cologne winger Said El Mala is not keen on Brentford move.

Liverpool have stepped up their pursuit Ivory Coast winger Yan Diomande by making contact with German club RB Leipzig, who are determined not to sell the 19-year-old (Athletic - subscription required), external

Paris St-Germain are also interested in Diomande, who has suggested he would prefer a move to the French club. (Telefoot, via Mirror), external

Arsenal face competition from Paris St-Germain in trying to sign French forward Eli Junior Kroupi, 19, from Bournemouth and Argentina striker Julian Alvarez, 26, from Atletico Madrid. (Independent), external

Brentford have made an offer worth 50m euros (£43m) for Cologne's German winger Said El Mala, 19. (Bild - in German), external

However, El Mala has told Brentford that he does not want to join the Premier League club. (Sky Sports Germany), external

Chelsea defender Marc Cucurella, 27, is exploring a move away from Stamford Bridge, with Atletico Madrid set to make an opening offer for the Spain international. (Teamtalk, external)

Juventus want at least 30m euros (£26m) for 26-year-old Italian full-back Andrea Cambiaso, who has been linked with Chelsea and Barcelona. (Calciomercato - in Italian), external

Serbia striker Dusan Vlahovic will leave Juventus when his contract runs out at the end of June after the 26-year-old decided not to sign a new deal with the Italian club. (Football Italia), external

Juventus have rekindled their interest in Crystal Palace and France striker Jean-Philippe Mateta, 28, and are also keen on Atletico Madrid and Norway forward Alexander Sorloth, 30. (Gazzetta dello Sport - in Italian), external

AIK Stockholm say they are in talks to sell 18-year-old Nigerian winger Zadok Yohanna, who has been linked with Brighton, Chelsea and Newcastle United. (Northern Echo) **-BBC**