



DON'T BECOME A HEADLINE.

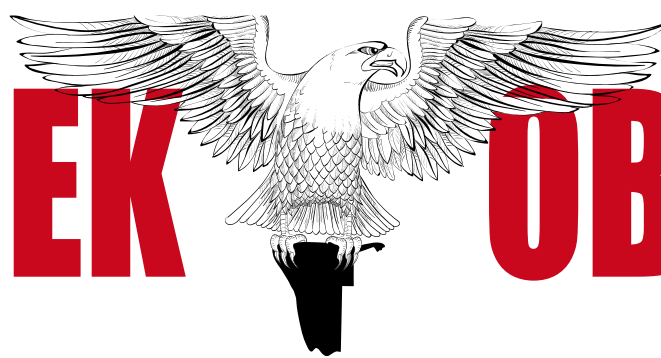
## DON'T DRIVE INTOXICATED!

DRIVE SOBER TO SAVE LIVES.

Do the Right Thing! Save Lives



SCAN QR CODE



# WINDHOEK

# OBSERVER

### DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR

State ordered to pay activists over arrests



## OBSERVER COASTAL

Works deputy minister assesses Walvis Bay's road infrastructure challenges



Namibia has N\$14.5 billion value addition opportunity



www.observer.com.na

PARAGON MEDIA

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026

# /Goagoses slams 10 protesters calling her "root of all evil"

RENTHIA KAIMBI  
Staff Writer

**E**rongo Governor Nathalia /Goagoses has condemned a petition calling her the "root of all evil", describing it as a defamatory personal attack rather than a legitimate governance complaint.

Speaking at a press conference in Swakopmund yesterday, the governor said she was petitioned by a group of 10 people led by one Stanislaus Napuka, who claimed to speak on behalf of the Daure Daman traditional community. The petition titled 'Petition for Governor's Removal,' dated 1 June 2026 and addressed to the Office of the Governor, accused /Goagoses of dishonourably disrespecting the Council of Elders by creating a position that is not found in the Daure Daman customary laws. "To call me, Nathalia, a corrupt governor to be removed, is definitely uncalled for," she said. "This is defamation of my character and this is tarnishing my reputation as a leader who came to unite the



To call me, Nathalia, a corrupt governor to be removed, is definitely uncalled for. This is defamation of my character and this is tarnishing my reputation as a leader who came to unite the people of this region.

**-Nathalia /Goagoses**

people of this region."

The governor explained that the group's notice of petition was initially submitted to the Mondesa Police Station in Swakopmund on 2 June 2026.

She said she immediately notified both the station commander and the regional commander of her

TO PAGE 2



Nathalia /Goagoses

## The competence trap

Success can be dangerous. What once made them effective can quietly become the very thing that holds them back. This is the competence trap. The competence trap happens when past success creates too much confidence in old methods. People keep repeating what has worked before, even when the environment around them is changing. They are not lazy or careless. In fact, they are often highly experienced and respected.

PAGE 13

## PG recruitment hits dead end as eight candidates fail written test

RENTHIA KAIMBI  
Staff Writer

**T**he Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has been forced to restart the search for the next Prosecutor-General after none of the eight shortlisted candidates passed a written assessment, raising fresh questions about the depth of senior

prosecutorial talent in the country. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Commission revealed that the highest score among the applicants was just 49%, with the lowest at 30% out of a possible 100 marks. Candidates required at least 50% to pass the assessment. The assessment, which took place on 8 May 2026, was designed to test legal knowledge, analytical ability, legal reasoning and the practical

application of legal principles expected of the holder of one of the most powerful offices in Namibia's criminal justice system. The JSC said it had resolved not to advance any of the eight candidates to the public interview stage, concluding that the results did not demonstrate the requisite standard of legal knowledge and competence. "The Commission determined that the outcomes did not demonstrate

the requisite standard of legal knowledge and competence expected of a candidate for this office," the statement read. The position has been filled in an acting capacity since the term of former Prosecutor-General Martha Imalwa expired on 31 December 2025.

TO PAGE 2

EXPERIENCE CULINARY DELIGHT  
AT TASTE @HKIA. WHERE  
TANTALIZING FLAVORS AWAIT YOU.



# TASTE

RESTAURANT & BAR



SCAN TO VIEW OUR MENU

# /Goagoses slams 10 protesters calling her “root of all evil”

FROM PAGE 1

unavailability for 10 June 2026 due to prior official commitments that had already been confirmed.

In a letter dated 8 June 2026 addressed to Regional Commander Nikolaus Kupembona, /Goagoses wrote: “Kindly be informed that I will not be available to receive the petition on 10 June 2026 due to prior official commitments.” Despite this notification, the group showed up at her office yesterday to make what she termed “noise”. The governor stressed that the issues raised in the petition had nothing to do with governance concerns or administrative matters, but rather amounted to personal attacks on her persona. “And I condemn this in all earnestness,” she said.

According to the petition, the Daure Daman clan elected their chief, Isaskar Taurob, on 12 August 2025, with 410 votes and 98 Elders Council membership, alongside six traditional councillors who are paid by the government.

The petition, alleges that /Goagoses refused to sign the required forms following a courtesy call on 30 October 2025, and claims that the governor instead delivered a message that President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah allegedly ordered her to communicate to degazetted former chief, Sagarias Seibeb. The petition further accuses the governor of promoting an unelected individual, Herman Naruseb, as chief of the Daure Daman community at a National Heritage gathering held by the ministry of education in January, while the elected chief Taurob, was apparently left out. /Goagoses took particular issue with these accusations. “Whoever came to that meeting



The protesters calling for the removal of Erongo Governor, Nathalia /Goagoses. - Photo: Contributed

has nothing to do with me. I don’t decide which community members or which chief must come,” she stressed.

“I have no business in their community affairs. When we come to invite community leaders... I have no right whatsoever to exclude any member.”

She further dismissed as untrue the claim that she promoted unelected traditional leaders.

“It is untrue and I therefore demand credible evidence from this certain Napuka, who has no right to come and attack me as a person. I don’t even know in what capacity he is doing this,” she said.

The petition also demands the

closure of the Daure Daman Traditional Authority office, the suspension of all traditional councillors, and an appointment with the President by August 2026.

It further demands that the governor sign what it calls the “annexure C form”, asserting it is the community’s right to appoint its own chief and councillors.

The governor denied allegations that she is corrupt or has created disunity within the Daure Daman community. The petition claims she was removed from her previous post as chief regional officer of the Erongo region and accuses her of being “the root of all evil” within the Daure Daman clan.

It also alleges that on 30 October 2025, she told the Elders Council she would not discuss traditional matters with them while having spent the entire morning with Seibeb.

“When have I caused division, so much so, that I apparently was fired by the late president Hage Geingob as CRO, according to their document?”/Goagoses asked. “This is my name being tarnished to the core and something that I will never accept.”

She demanded evidence of her alleged removal as CRO, reiterating that the document before her was not a legitimate petition but a personal attack that should never

have been entertained by law enforcement.

“Law enforcement was listening when this governor was personally being attacked. I was accused of being corrupt. I was accused of creating disunity. I was accused of being removed as CRO by nine people. Nine people and Mr. Napuka, who was entertained by the police in this region,” she stressed. Due to the deeply personal nature of the petition, /Goagoses said she has consulted her legal counsel for advice on the way forward.

“I need to protect my name which I have carried in public service for more than 45 years,” she stated.

## PG recruitment hits dead end as eight candidates fail written test

FROM PAGE 1

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, acting on the JSC’s recommendation, appointed Imalwa as Acting Prosecutor-General for one year, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026, to ensure the office continued functioning while the substantive recruitment was finalised.

The Commission has now decided to recommence the entire recruitment process and will invite fresh applications, with a closing date of 31 July 2026.

Candidates who took part in the previous round are not barred from applying again.

In a notable shift, the Commission announced that the written assessment in the new process will be conducted on an open-book basis, with certain reference materials made available to shortlisted applicants during the test.

It stressed that this change should not be seen as lowering standards, but rather as reflecting the practical realities of the Prosecutor-General’s role.



Martha Imalwa

“The Prosecutor-General is expected not only to know the law but also to identify, interpret and apply

relevant legal sources effectively in resolving complex legal questions,” the statement said.

“The ability to apply and engage critically with such materials rather than to reproduce them from memory is, itself, a core competency.”

The office of the Prosecutor-General is constitutionally mandated to institute and conduct criminal proceedings on behalf of the State, handle criminal appeals before superior courts and exercise oversight over delegated prosecutors.

The Commission noted that the holder must possess a strong and demonstrable grasp of legal principles, prosecutorial functions and criminal justice processes. Despite the setback, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to a fair, transparent and merit-based appointment process in line with the Constitution.

The public can now expect a renewed call for applications as the search for Namibia’s top prosecutor resumes from scratch.

**WINDHOEK OBSERVER**  
DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR

The story continues beyond the page.

Follow The Windhoek Observer on Social Media for:

- Breaking News & Developing Stories
- Opinions that spark conversation
- Visual storytelling, archives and history

With Voices from:

- Coastal Observer
- Young Observer
- Observer Money

Windhoek Observer

@whkobserver

@ObserverNamibia



From the newsroom to your timeline, stay connected to Namibia's independent voice.

Contact us  
+264 81 220 1799

Email us  
sales@observer.com.na

Visit Us Online  
www.observer24.com.na

# State ordered to pay activists over arrests

**PATIENCE MAKWELE**  
*Staff Writer*

**The High Court has ordered suspended Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Joseph Shikongo and the ministry of home affairs, immigration, safety and security to compensate activists Michael Amushelelo and Dimbulukeni Nauyoma for their arrests, detention, and prosecution following an anti-unemployment protest in 2023.**

In a judgment delivered on Wednesday, the court awarded Amushelelo N\$300,000 in damages and Nauyoma N\$80,000. The government was also ordered to pay their legal costs.

The case stems from the pair's arrests during a planned protest against unemployment in Windhoek on 21 March 2023, which coincided with Namibia's Independence Day celebrations.

The demonstration was cancelled by Shikongo, a decision the activists challenged, arguing that their constitutional rights to assemble peacefully and express themselves had been violated.

Their lawyer, Kadhila Amoomo, described the ruling as a watershed moment for civil liberties in Namibia.

"This is a watershed judgment in the history of Namibia because it speaks directly to the constitutional right to assemble and protest. It sends a strong message that state power has limits and that constitutional rights cannot simply be suspended through administrative decisions," Amoomo said. Reacting to the ruling, Amushelelo said on his social media platforms that the judgment vindicated a struggle he had pursued for more than three years.

"My fellow Namibians, we must never forget that people died and some were brutally tortured in order for us to have fundamental rights. On 21 March 2023, we were exercising our constitutional rights to assemble peaceably and without arms," he said in a statement issued shortly after the judgment. Amushelelo further alleged that his arrest was politically motivated and linked to his public calls at the time for Shikongo's suspension. He also criticised aspects of the criminal justice process that followed his arrest, although those allegations were not tested in the civil proceedings that resulted in Wednesday's judgment.

Political commentator Erickson Mbangi Rukoro stated that the ruling goes beyond compensation and strikes at the heart of democratic accountability. "What makes this judgment significant is not the amount awarded but the principle affirmed by the court. Constitutional rights are meaningful only when there are consequences for violating them. The court has effectively reminded public officials that they exercise

authority under the Constitution and not above it," he said.

Rukoro said the ruling could have a lasting effect on how future protests are managed.

"For years, there has been uncertainty about where the line is between maintaining public order and restricting fundamental freedoms. This judgment provides a clearer signal that state institutions must approach protests from a rights-based perspective rather than a control-based perspective," he added.

In a telephonic interview with the *Windhoek Observer*, constitutional law expert Josephine Lumba Mukena said the ruling reinforces longstanding constitutional protections that have existed since independence.

"The Constitution is very clear regarding freedom of assembly and expression. What the court appears to have done is reaffirm that these rights cannot be curtailed arbitrarily. Any restriction must satisfy strict constitutional requirements and must be justifiable in a democratic society," she stated.

Mukena warned that unlawful decisions by state officials can carry financial consequences for taxpayers.

"When public officials act outside the law, it is often the public purse that ultimately bears the cost. This is why adherence to constitutional standards is not merely a legal obligation but also a governance and accountability issue," said Mukena. Meanwhile, political analyst Alex Murangi said the judgment may encourage greater civic participation among Namibians who have become reluctant to engage in public demonstrations.

"Many citizens have become hesitant to exercise their constitutional rights because they fear intimidation, arrest, or lengthy legal battles. This ruling may restore confidence that the courts remain an important avenue for protecting democratic freedoms," Murangi said. He added that the case also highlights the importance of judicial oversight in a constitutional democracy.

"Democracy is not measured by elections alone. It is also measured by whether citizens can criticise authority, organise peacefully, and challenge government decisions without fear of unlawful reprisals," he said.

Human rights advocate Maxine Tuyoleni Haitembu said the judgment should serve as a catalyst for institutional reform within law enforcement agencies.

"The significance of this case lies in its potential to change behaviour. The police have a legitimate public order, but that responsibility must always be exercised within constitutional boundaries. There is a need for ongoing training and awareness among law enforcement



**In a judgment delivered on Wednesday, the court awarded Amushelelo N\$300,000 in damages and Nauyoma N\$80,000. The government was also ordered to pay legal costs. . - Photo: Contributed**

officers regarding protest rights and civil liberties," Haitembu remarked. She further stated that accountability mechanisms become

meaningful only when violations carry consequences. "When courts hold state institutions accountable, it strengthens public

confidence in the rule of law and reinforces the principle that no one is above the Constitution," she added.

**Choose More. Switch to LOVE**

**Wouldn't you love more than what you're used to?**

Experience the bank that puts love into banking and brings everything together to simplify your life. **More heart. Smarter banking. More value.**

Scan to get started.

Or contact our 24-hour Customer Service Centre on 083 299 1200 and switch today.

Come, journey with us.

**Bank Windhoek**  
a member of Capricorn Group



Senior staff at the launch of the Standard Operating Procedures on the Management of Complaints in the health ministry. -Photo: Contributed

## Health ministry rolls out new complaints system

**PATIENCE MAKWELE**  
Staff Writer

**H**ealth Minister Esperance Luvindao has acknowledged growing public frustration over conditions in Namibia's public health system, including allegations of negligence, poor communication, discrimination, and the unauthorised sharing of patient information.

The admission came as the ministry unveiled a new complaints management system aimed at improving accountability. Speaking at the launch of the ministry's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Management of Complaints in Windhoek on Wednesday, Luvindao said the ministry could no longer ignore concerns repeatedly raised by patients and their families.

"For too long, the headlines in our national media have painted a distressed picture of our public health institutions. We have heard the cries of the Namibian people," she said. Luvindao cited reports of resource shortages, deteriorating infrastructure, allegations of neglect, poor communication between healthcare workers and patients, and claims that treatment is sometimes influenced by social status rather than medical urgency. "Perhaps most painful are the reports of unprofessionalism, allegations of neglect, poor communication, and the heartbreaking claim that treatment is sometimes based on social status rather than medical urgency," she said.

She also condemned incidents where patient videos and information were shared on social media without consent, describing such actions as a violation of trust.

The minister said the new complaints management framework is intended to address longstanding weaknesses that have left patients feeling unheard and forced many complaints to be escalated directly to senior ministry officials. Under the new system, complaints will be classified according to severity and handled within strict timelines.

Cases involving allegations of abuse, negligence, or deaths linked to healthcare services will be categorised as high-risk complaints and must be reported to facility management immediately, then escalated to senior ministry officials within 24 hours.

Other complaints relating to waiting times, cleanliness, staff conduct, and administrative delays will be handled through a structured reporting process beginning at facility level before moving through district, regional, and national structures where necessary.

"No voice should be ignored. We are tightening the net of accountability to ensure serious errors are investigated timeously," Luvindao said.

The ministry has also begun recruiting customer service officers to serve as dedicated points of contact for patients and families at public health facilities.

According to Luvindao, the officers will be responsible for registering complaints, tracking their progress, and ensuring complainants receive feedback.

"We are building a culture where a complaint is not viewed as an insult but as a vital piece of data that tells us where our system needs improvement," she said.

The move comes amid increasing public scrutiny of healthcare services, with patients frequently raising concerns over staff attitudes,

long waiting times, medicine shortages, and the quality of care at public facilities.

While acknowledging the challenges, Luvindao defended the majority of healthcare workers, saying many continue to provide quality care despite difficult working conditions.

"There is another side to the story that rarely makes the front pages. We continue to receive testimonies from patients who have experienced what I call pockets of excellence within our system," she said.

Health Professions Council of Namibia Registrar and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Cornelius Weyulu welcomed the initiative, saying effective complaints management is critical to strengthening public confidence in healthcare institutions.

"Timely acknowledgement, investigation, and resolution of complaints are not merely administrative obligations. They are essential elements of patient-centred care and good governance," Weyulu said.

He stressed that complaints should not be viewed solely as a tool for punishment but also as an opportunity to improve healthcare services and support professional development among health workers.

"Complaints, when managed constructively and fairly, provide valuable insights into systemic challenges, communication gaps, procedural shortcomings, and opportunities for improving patient care," he said.

Luvindao said the ministry would closely monitor implementation of the new system and expects improvements in service delivery as healthcare facilities become more responsive to patient concerns.

"The path to a responsive health system is paved with the voices of our patients," she said.

## PDM MP questions implementation of SORA commitments

**ALLEXER NAMUNDJEMBO**  
Staff Writer

**P**opular Democratic Movement (PDM) Member of Parliament Rosa Mbinge-Tjeundo has submitted questions to the minister in the Presidency, Charles Mubita, regarding the monitoring and delivery of projects announced during State of the Region Addresses (SORAs).

In her notice of question, set for Thursday next week, Mbinge-Tjeundo noted that the addresses were originally intended to provide Namibians with a transparent account of development progress and improvements in regional quality of life.

However, she argued that they have increasingly become platforms for announcing ambitious projects without proper mechanisms to measure delivery, evaluate impact, or hold authorities accountable.

She further stated that despite repeated promises of roads, schools, clinics, water infrastructure, and jobs, many communities continue to face the same developmental challenges each year.

"Year after year, citizens hear promises of roads, schools, clinics, water infrastructure, and employment opportunities, yet many communities continue to face the same developmental challenges," Mbinge-Tjeundo said in the notice.

The MP asked whether the Presidency maintains a formal monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the implementation of SORA commitments, and if not, why not. Referring to frequent qualified audit opinions and financial management concerns raised by the Auditor-General in several regional councils, she also questioned what measures the Presidency has taken to ensure effective management of public funds allocated to announced projects.

Mbinge-Tjeundo further requested that the minister clarify the respective roles of regional governors and regional councils in reporting on SORA projects.

In addition, she asked how the Presidency measures the socio-economic impact of these projects, particularly regarding employment, water access, healthcare, and rural development.

She also sought an indication of what percentage of projects announced during the previous SORA cycle have reached full operational status and



Rosa Mbinge-Tjeundo -Photo: Contributed

are currently delivering services to the public.

The questions are scheduled for reply in the National Assembly on 18 June 2026.

Political analyst Pinehas Simon told the *Windhoek Observer* on Wednesday that Mbinge-Tjeundo's questions reflect broader public concern over accountability in regional development planning.

"The State of the Region Addresses are important accountability tools, but their credibility hinges on follow-through," Simon said.

Simon added that when citizens continually hear new announcements without clear reporting on past commitments, a gap emerges between policy and lived experience. He observed that while the MP's questions are technical in nature, they point to a political reality where delivery either builds or erodes trust in governance.

"The questions about monitoring frameworks, financial management, and operational status are technical, but they speak to a political reality that delivery is where trust in governance is either built or eroded. Clarifying the roles of governors versus councils is also key, because overlapping mandates can blur lines of responsibility," he added.

Simon further noted that Parliament's role is to scrutinise implementation, and that these questions form a legitimate part of that oversight function.

# WANT TO ADVERTISE?

sales@observer.com.na  
marketing@observer.com.na



Deputy minister of works and transport, Hans Haikali, with the municipality of Walvis Bay leadership during his familiarisation visit yesterday. - Photo: Contributed

## Works deputy minister assesses Walvis Bay's road infrastructure challenges

**RENTHIA KAIMBI**  
Staff Writer

**D**eputy minister of works and transport, Hans Haikali, convened an urgent meeting with local government officials, engineers, and private contractors yesterday to assess the state of road infrastructure projects in Walvis Bay and to devise solutions for persistent challenges affecting the town's road network.

The session, which took place at the municipality's engineering headquarters, brought together the town's mayor Johanness Shimbilinga, chief executive officer Victoria Kapenda, technical teams from the municipality, the Roads Authority, Otesa Civil Engineering, Namibia Construction, Tulipamwe Consulting Engineers, and other key stakeholders.

The engagement was part of Haikali's broader effort to familiarise himself with on-the-ground conditions and to better

understand the factors that continue to hamper both new road construction and routine maintenance in Walvis Bay. Discussions revealed the unique environmental and operational pressures that set Walvis Bay apart from other Namibian towns. Engineers pointed to challenging geotechnical conditions, persistently high groundwater levels, aging underground sewer and water services, and the sheer volume of heavy traffic generated by port-related activities as primary obstacles. Haikali stressed that collaboration among all these parties is not optional but essential, as he called for practical, sustainable approaches to accelerate infrastructure delivery. "Walvis Bay plays a critical role in our national economy," Haikali said. "Addressing these road infrastructure challenges remains a priority, and we cannot afford delays that hurt residents, businesses, and the logistics chain." During the technical briefing,

the municipality's executive for Roads and Building Control, Theo Potgieter, outlined the progress of the ongoing road rehabilitation programme. He confirmed that several projects are already underway across the town, with some road sections nearing completion and a number of key intersections already upgraded. Potgieter added that additional roads have been earmarked for future rehabilitation, and that his team is investigating specialised technologies to replace aging sewer infrastructure without the need for extensive excavation. He explained that the condition of underground sewer and water pipes is one of the primary drivers of road deterioration, warning that failing to address these hidden networks would undermine any new investment in asphalt and paving. "If we simply repave without fixing what lies beneath, we will be back here in a few years with the same cracks and sinkholes," Potgieter noted.

Beyond the roads currently being rehabilitated under a memorandum of understanding between the municipality, the Road Fund Administration (RFA) and the Roads Authority, three arteries have been flagged as priority routes. These include Independence Road, Nathaniel Maxuilili Avenue, and Pelican Street. Other roads across the town will continue to receive attention through ongoing pothole repair and resealing programmes. However, technical experts cautioned that road rehabilitation is inherently lengthy due to the sequential phases of planning, design, procurement, and construction. In Walvis Bay, experts said, the timeline is further stretched by the town's tricky geotechnical conditions, groundwater issues, aging underground assets, and relentless heavy traffic, all of which demand specialised engineering solutions and meticulous project oversight.

The site visit and subsequent discussions provided a platform for stakeholders to share technical insights, air current frustrations, and explore innovative approaches that could ultimately benefit residents, businesses, and all road users. Haikali also made a surprise visit to the Natis office in Walvis Bay, where he directly engaged with members of the public to gauge their views on the service provided. According to a brief statement from his office, the majority of clients indicated they were satisfied with the service. However, a notable number of complaints centred on the learner's license process, with several individuals expressing frustration over having to rewrite the exam multiple times despite needing only one additional point to pass. The deputy minister took note of those concerns and indicated that they would be raised with relevant transport officials for further review.

# School survey reveals widespread vaping among teens

RENTHIA KAIMBI  
Staff Writer

**A** senior World Health Organization (WHO) official has warned that nicotine addiction among teenagers is not accidental but deliberately engineered by the tobacco and vape industry, as new national data reveals that nearly one in four school-going adolescents in Namibia currently uses vaping products.

Speaking at the World No Tobacco Day commemoration held at the Kuisebmond Stadium Sport Field in Walvis Bay last week, WHO Country Representative Dr. Richard Banda presented findings from the 2024 Namibia Global School-based Student Health Survey.

The survey found that 23% of students aged 13 to 17 currently use vaping products, 18% use other



Dr. Richard Banda  
- Photo: Contributed

tobacco products, while 9% smoke traditional cigarettes. Boys reported significantly higher usage rates, with nearly 30% admitting to e-cigarette use. Banda told an audience of government officials, health workers, and community members that the tobacco and nicotine industry has adapted its tactics to target young people through flavours, colourful designs, digital marketing, and social media influence. These products, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine pouches, are often presented as fashionable or less dangerous than traditional cigarettes. Banda rejected this framing. "The reality is clear. All tobacco use is risky, and nicotine is harmful to developing brains," he said. He explained that exposure to nicotine during adolescence can

affect brain development, increase dependence, and make quitting substantially harder later in life. The event was opened by Erongo Governor Nathalia /Goagoses, who warned that tobacco use is a primary cause of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and lung diseases. She advised young people to desist from all forms of tobacco use, including vaping and e-cigarettes. "What may look like fashion today may have dire consequences in future," she said. /Goagoses also noted that tobacco use leads to poverty as families divert funds from food, education, and healthcare to purchase tobacco products. She called on smokers to limit second-hand smoke exposure to others and the environment. Banda commended the Namibian

government for its leadership in tobacco control, including tightening market regulations, creating smoke-free public spaces, expanding community health education, and building accessible support systems to help people quit. He made a specific call to action regarding schools, arguing that every school should be tobacco-free and nicotine-free, and that every learner should receive accurate information on the harms of tobacco and nicotine. He reaffirmed WHO's commitment to support Namibia in protecting young people. "The tobacco and nicotine industry has engineered addiction for profit. Together, let us unmask the appeal. Together, let us protect Namibia's children and young people. Together, let us build a healthier, tobacco-free and nicotine-free generation," he said.

# Local businessman donates 1,500 sanitary pads to Erongo governor's office

RENTHIA KAIMBI  
Staff Writer

**B**enguela Petroleum Supplies, a Namibian-owned company based in the Erongo Region, has donated 1,500 sanitary pads valued at nearly N\$30,000 to the Office of the Erongo Governor.

The donation followed a courtesy visit aimed at aligning the company's future plans with regional development priorities, particularly youth unemployment. The donation was made in collaboration with JaDa Pads. Company founder Gideon Tshomokuti met with Erongo Governor Nathalia /Goagoses to provide an overview of Benguela Petroleum's operations and future plans.

The company operates in the downstream petroleum sector, supplying a wide range of fuel and oil products to various industries, including mining, fishing, aviation, rail transport, and road transport. Tshomokuti said the familiarisation visit was primarily intended to understand the governor's vision and plans for the region, especially as they pertain to youth unemployment.

"We have several developments in line and wanted to familiarise ourselves with the honourable governor's plans and vision for the region, so that we don't steer away from the needs of our people," he told the *Windhoek Observer* yesterday.

Jane-Juanita James, founder of JaDa Pads, told the *Windhoek Observer* that the donation was made possible through a collaborative partnership between JaDa Pads and Benguela Petroleum Supplies, led by Tshomokuti. She said his vision was to give back to the communities of the Erongo Region that have contributed to his personal and professional journey. "This initiative addresses an immediate need while reflecting a shared commitment to dignity, education, health, and empowerment," James said. James further explained that the



Erongo governor, Nathalia /Goagoses receiving a donation of 1 500 sanitary pads from Benguela Petroleum Supplies yesterday. - Photo: Contributed

donation also supports JaDa Pads' long-term vision of establishing a sustainable local manufacturing plant for sanitary pads in Namibia. Such a plant would create employment opportunities while strengthening local value chains, all while ensuring affordable menstrual hygiene products that are produced locally for Namibian women and girls. The initiative therefore serves a dual purpose, she said, by addressing the immediate need for sanitary products while simultaneously testing market demand ahead of potential local manufacturing and expansion efforts.

Period poverty remains a significant challenge in Namibia, with many young girls missing school due to lack of access to affordable menstrual hygiene products. The donation of 1,500 pads will be distributed through the Governor's Office to communities in need across the Erongo Region. The partnership between Benguela Petroleum Supplies and JaDa Pads represents a private sector contribution to addressing both economic and social challenges in the region. By combining Tshomokuti's resources and business network with James's expertise in menstrual

health products, the two entities say they have demonstrated a model of collaboration that addresses immediate humanitarian needs while building toward sustainable local production. /Goagoses described the donation of 1,500 sanitary pads to her office as a joyous day for destitute members of the community, expressing gratitude on behalf of the government and the people of the region. Speaking as a teacher and a mother, the governor said she is particularly mindful of young girls who sometimes skip school due to a lack of access to menstrual hygiene

products. "Today is another joyous joyous day in the lives of the destitute members of our society," /Goagoses said. "These young Namibians operating in the Erongo Region under the company operating as Benguela Petroleum Supplies have brought to the office of the governor a total of 1,500 sanitary pads. Something that, on behalf of our people and the government, I am grateful for." /Goagoses accepted the sanitary pads, which will be distributed to vulnerable girls and women across the region in consultation with the Directorate of Education within the Erongo Regional Council.

## Editorial

### Complete the prosecutor-general appointment without delay

**T**he process of appointing Namibia's next Prosecutor-General represents far more than the filling of a vacant office. It is a test of the country's commitment to transparency, institutional integrity and the rule of law.

With Advocate Martha Imalwa expected to leave office at the end of the year after more than two decades at the helm of the Prosecutor-General's Office, Namibia finds itself at an important crossroads. The nation now has an opportunity to demonstrate that key constitutional appointments are conducted openly, professionally and within a reasonable timeframe.

The Prosecutor-General occupies one of the most consequential positions in the country's justice system. The office determines whether criminal prosecutions proceed, oversees the work of prosecutors nationwide and serves as a crucial pillar in the fight against corruption and organised crime. Public confidence in the independence of this office is therefore essential.

It is encouraging that the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has already initiated the recruitment process and that reports indicate the field of candidates includes highly experienced legal practitioners. The existence of a competitive process itself is a positive development, as it reinforces the principle that public offices belong to institutions rather than individuals. However, the manner in which the process is concluded is equally important.

Namibia has, in recent years, witnessed growing public scrutiny over appointments to important public offices. Citizens increasingly expect openness, fairness and accountability from institutions entrusted with constitutional responsibilities. That expectation should not be viewed as hostility towards the system. Rather, it reflects a maturing democracy in which public trust is earned through transparent processes.

For this reason, the JSC should continue to communicate clearly with the public regarding the stages of the recruitment process. While not every internal deliberation can or should be conducted in public, providing regular updates helps prevent speculation and misinformation from filling the vacuum.

Equally important is the need to complete the process without unnecessary delay.

Interim arrangements are sometimes unavoidable. Continuity in public institutions must be maintained, and acting appointments can provide stability during periods of transition. Yet acting arrangements should remain exactly that, temporary measures rather than substitutes for permanent appointments.

Lengthy delays in filling constitutional positions inevitably create uncertainty. They invite rumours, encourage perceptions of political manoeuvring and may inadvertently undermine the authority of both the incumbent office bearer and the eventual successor. The consequences extend beyond perceptions alone.

The Prosecutor-General's Office currently carries immense responsibilities. High-profile

“

The existence of a competitive process itself is a positive development, as it reinforces the principle that public offices belong to institutions rather than individuals.

corruption matters, economic crimes and cases involving gender-based violence all demand public confidence in the prosecutorial system. Citizens must believe that prosecutorial decisions are made independently and without undue influence.

Whenever vacancies persist or appointments appear to drag on indefinitely, confidence in the justice system itself can begin to erode. Even if no impropriety exists, perceptions matter. In matters of justice, credibility is one of the most valuable assets any institution possesses.

Namibia's legal system has long enjoyed a reputation for independence and professionalism. That reputation has not emerged by accident. It has been built over decades through adherence to constitutional principles and respect for institutional processes.

The appointment of the next Prosecutor-General presents another opportunity to strengthen that legacy.

The successful candidate, whoever he or she may ultimately be, must enter office with unquestionable legitimacy. That legitimacy can only come from a process that is fair, transparent and completed within a reasonable period.

This is not about personalities. It is not about favouring one candidate over another. Nor is it a judgment on the distinguished service rendered by Advocate Imalwa throughout her tenure. Instead, it is about preserving confidence in the institutions that safeguard justice for all Namibians. The country deserves clarity. The legal fraternity deserves certainty. Most importantly, the public deserves assurance that one of the nation's most powerful constitutional offices is occupied through a process that commands confidence.

The Judicial Service Commission and the Presidency therefore carry a significant responsibility. They must ensure that the appointment process remains above reproach and that unnecessary delays are avoided.

A justice system does not rely solely on laws and courtrooms. It relies on trust. And trust, once eroded, is far more difficult to rebuild than it is to protect. For Namibia, the timely appointment of a new Prosecutor-General is not merely an administrative exercise. It is an investment in the credibility of the country's democratic institutions and in the continued strength of the rule of law. The process has begun. It should now be completed, openly, transparently and without delay.



### Ngurare right to worry about housing, but wrong to point fingers at who failed homeowners and the homeless

LAZARUS KWEDHI

**P**rime Minister Elijah Ngurare's recent call for "humanity over profit" in housing loan repayments has struck a nerve. Many Namibians are struggling with repossessions, arrears, and the fear of losing homes they have spent decades paying for.

The Prime Minister deserves credit for raising the issue and forcing it back onto the national agenda. But good intentions or political speeches do not guarantee good policy, in this case, if the diagnosis is wrong, which means the cure will not work. The Prime Minister's central complaint is that banks offer 20-year home loans while cars are financed over five years. The implication is that banks are cruel, profit-driven, and insensitive to the humanity of borrowers. The comparison sounds powerful politically, but economics tells a different incontestable fact.

First, the math. A mortgage of N\$830,000 at 9.5% interest paid over 5 years would require monthly installments of N\$17,450. The same loan over 20 years costs N\$7,756 per month.

Banks do not set 20 year terms to punish Namibians. They do it because that is the only term that makes monthly payments affordable for teachers, nurses, police officers, and other ordinary workers. Eliminate the 20-year loan and you do not force banks to be more humane. You eliminate home ownership for everyone except the wealthy.

Second, the business logic. Cars depreciate. A new car loses 20-30% of its value the moment it leaves the showroom and continues to fall each year.

Banks therefore keep terms short, around five years, to match the loan period to the asset's useful life and resale value. If a borrower defaults in year four, the bank can sell the car and recover most of the outstanding debt.

Housing appreciates. Land and buildings tend to increase in value over time, especially in urban areas. A 20-year loan matches the economic life of the asset. If a borrower defaults in year 10, the property is likely worth more than the outstanding balance, protecting both the bank and the homeowner's equity.

That is why mortgages globally run 15 to 30 years, while car loans do not. Therefore, conflicting the two reveals either economic illiteracy or deliberate political theatre. Neither serves Namibians who need real solutions.

The real crisis in Namibian housing is not loan duration, but the market forces such as supply and demand, cost, and adequacy. At this junction, government policy has failed the housing market on those measures. One can easily buy a car ranging from N\$100,000 to N\$600,000 because manufacturers produce them at scale and dealers compete on price.

However, such mathematics can not equally apply to the formal housing market in Namibia. There is no two-bedroom house in Windhoek for N\$600,000. Even the National Housing Enterprise, with up to 75% government subsidy, cannot deliver



adequate housing that people can afford to repay. NHE itself has described its default rates as "worryingly low", not because people are not trying to pay, but because instalments remain out of reach.

If the state's own housing arm, backed by subsidies and mandated to serve the public, cannot make units affordable, then blaming commercial banks for 20-year loan terms is dishonest, scapegoating to protect political careers.

The problem gets worse when we look at what government does build directly. Build Together and Shack Dwellers Federation units often have one bedroom and a toilet. In some cases they build a toilet.

That does not accommodate a family of four parents, a son, and a daughter. It does not provide privacy, dignity, or space for children to study or play. The government itself is perpetrating building "affordable" houses that fail the basic test of human decency which is far better than what the bank offers home loan repayment for 20 years.

It is not a market failure, but it is a government failure.

Commercial banks finance both developers and homebuyers because the government has outsourced or "deserted" its primary responsibility to provide affordable, accessible and sustainable housing for Namibians.

The state's job in housing is not to become a bank, but to service land, release title deeds, provide bulk infrastructure, and enable construction at a scale that brings down housing prices.

Banks worry about risk and return when having determined the housing price. They do not build roads, water pipes, or electricity networks.

Only the government can do that, if not, it comes at a cost that bears implications on housing prices. For too long, the government has leaned on banks and private developers to do the heavy lifting, then blamed them when prices are high. That is not policy. It is abdication.

Ngurare's speech on "humanity over profit" would carry more weight if his own government had not presided over Mass Housing units that remain unaffordable, over NHE defaults that remain high, and

over Build Together units that cannot house a family.

The amended Courts Act, which introduces reserve prices and requires court approval for repossession, is a step in the right direction.

It protects equity built up over years of payment. But it does not solve the deeper problem such as inadequate and affordable houses to meet demand. If we are serious about humanity in housing, the agenda must be honest and practical, not political manipulation of public minds.

Firstly, the government must go back to its primary role to service, release land and build public houses. Land prices and housing in urban areas are high as serviced plots are scarce because of the bureaucratic land delivery and housing.

Every month of delay in land servicing adds cost to the final house. Bulk infrastructure investment is not glamorous, but it is the single most effective way to lower the entry price for home ownership.

Secondly, the government must enable construction of adequate units for families. A house for a family of four cannot be one bedroom.

Building codes, approval processes, and state-funded projects must prioritize three and four-bedroom as well as space designs that allow children to grow with dignity. Affordability cannot mean shrinking a family into one room or shacks.

Thirdly, we must protect homeowner equity in repossession. The new Courts Act moves us in this direction by requiring reserve prices and judicial oversight. But we should go further.

After 10 or 15 years of repayment, a homeowner should not lose all equity because of a temporary income shock. Mechanisms such as deferred sale, rent-to-own conversion, or state buy-back can preserve savings and prevent families from falling back into the housing queue. None of this is easy. It costs money, it takes time, and it requires coordination across ministries and local authorities. But it is the only path that addresses the root cause of the crisis.

Attacking 20-year loans makes for good politics. It gives the impression of action without the hard work of delivery. Fixing housing supply and adequacy is harder. It requires budget allocations, land release, cutting the middleman out and accountability for implementation. But it is the only solution that will give Namibians real homes, not political speeches year in and out.

Namibians do not need politicians pretending that banks are the enemy. They need leaders who understand basic economics and will do the hard work of building.

We do not need more commissions of inquiry into bank interest rates. We need more serviced plots, more building materials released at cost, more approvals for adequate family housing, and more protection for the equity people build over decades.

The housing crisis will not be solved by shouting at the market. It will be solved by a government doing its job. That is the leadership Namibia needs.

# Andimba Herman Toivo ya Toivo's moral authority and his warning against Tribalism

PAUL T. SHIPALE

(with inputs by Folito Nghitongovali Diawara Gaspar)

## Ya Toivo's warning and the questions Namibia must confront

There are conversations that dominate Namibia's public space. We hear about economic growth, foreign investment, oil discoveries, mining expansion, GDP forecasts, and development plans. Politicians speak proudly of progress. Investors speak confidently of opportunity. Government reports point to stability and economic potential.

Yet there are other conversations that rarely receive the same attention such as the growing sea of tin (kambashus) shacks surrounding our towns and cities; the rising cost of fuel; the increasing price of water and electricity; the young graduate who cannot find work; the worker who has a job but remains poor; the family that must choose between transport, food, school fees, and rent.

These realities are visible everywhere, yet somehow remain absent from the centre of our national discourse.

At the same time, another conversation has begun to occupy increasing space in our politics and society; TRIBALISM.

It is here that the voice of Andimba Toivo ya Toivo returns with remarkable force and relevance. Indeed, nine years ago on 9 June 2017 ya Toivo passed on.

We remember his words when he said "Tribalism has no place in our society. We are Namibians first and should never allow ourselves to be divided. True national unity requires not only that we reject tribalism, but also that we confront poverty and inequality, which undermine the dignity for which we fought and hinder our nation's progress. Preserving that unity demands the commitment of all sectors of society, for no nation can remain united while inequality festers."

Few Namibians possessed Ya Toivo's moral authority. A freedom fighter, who cofounded the Ovamboland People's Congress (OPC) the forerunner of OPO and later SWAPO, a political prisoner, patriot, and nation builder, he understood that defeating colonialism was only the beginning of the national project. The greater challenge would come after independence: the challenge of building a nation.

Again and again, Ya Toivo warned that tribalism represented one of the greatest threats to Namibia's future. He urged Namibians to think of themselves first as citizens of one nation rather than members of competing ethnic communities. His warning remains relevant today. But perhaps the most important question is not whether tribalism is dangerous. The real question is why does tribalism continue to survive?

### The question we avoid

Many discussions about tribalism begin by condemning it. That is easy. But far more difficult is understanding it. If Namibia achieved political independence more than three decades ago, why do tribal loyalties continue to influence public life?

Why are government appointments often viewed through ethnic lenses? Why do political debates frequently

descend into questions of identity rather than policy? Why do some citizens trust tribal networks more than national institutions?

These are uncomfortable questions yet they are precisely the questions Ya Toivo would have wanted us to ask. Because tribalism does not emerge in a vacuum. People do not retreat into smaller identities when they feel secure within the larger national community.

They retreat when they feel excluded, unseen, unheard, or when they believe that opportunities are distributed unfairly. Tribalism may therefore be more than a cause of division. It may also be a symptom of deeper national failures.

### Beyond the tribal lens

It is not analytically sound to single out any Namibian "tribe" as inherently or uniquely "most tribalistic." What can be examined, instead, are the structural and historical conditions that produce perceptions of ethnic competition in Namibia.

These include uneven distributions of political and economic power, historical regional concentrations of opportunity and marginalization, and long standing patterns of party dominance that tend to reinforce localized identities.

In addition, colonial-era spatial governance, most notably the so-called "Red Line" veterinary and administrative boundary, continues to shape access to markets, land, and state services, effectively reproducing a divided national geography. When these material and institutional realities are viewed through an ethnic framework, they are often misread as "tribalism," when in fact they reflect deeper questions of state formation, uneven development, and inherited colonial spatial design.

### While we debate tribe, the shacks continue to grow

Across Namibia, informal settlements continue to expand. Every year, more families find themselves living in structures built from corrugated iron sheets and salvaged materials. Entire communities emerge without adequate infrastructure, sanitation, reliable electricity, or proper housing.

These settlements are not simply housing problems. They are national questions that each shack asks something of us. How can a resource rich country continue to produce such widespread insecurity?

Why does economic growth coexist with expanding informal settlements? Why do citizens contribute to the economy while remaining excluded from its rewards?

These are not questions for economists alone. They are questions about justice, about governance, about the social contract and, perhaps most importantly, about priorities. It is for this reason that we are glad when we heard Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare announcing that the government has declared housing and sanitation as national emergencies and priority areas, and that the state is accelerating a nationwide rollout by fast-tracking the formalization of informal settlements and upgrading basic services with an initial N\$34



million allocated from the disaster management budget for sanitation interventions.

### We are too few to be poor

The phrase by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah saying "We are too few to be poor" captures the country's paradox so clearly. Namibia has a population of little more than three million people. The country possesses diamonds, uranium, gold, fisheries, tourism assets, and now potentially significant oil and gas reserves. Many nations with far larger populations and fewer resources face greater structural challenges. Yet Namibia remains among the most unequal societies in the world. How is this possible? How does abundance coexist with deprivation? How can wealth and poverty occupy the same landscape so comfortably?

The problem cannot simply be a lack of resources. The problem is how resources are distributed. Who owns productive assets? Who benefits from economic growth? Who captures the rewards of development? Who bears its costs? These are political questions before they are economic ones. Because development is not merely about creating wealth. It is about deciding who benefits from it.

### We are too few to be divided

But there is another truth that deserves equal attention: we are too few to be divided.

Namibia's population is small. Its challenges are immense. Its future opportunities are extraordinary. At such a moment, tribal division is not merely unfortunate. It is self-defeating. Every hour spent arguing over ethnic and tribal loyalties is an hour not spent discussing housing, education, healthcare, employment, industrialisation, and poverty. Every political battle fought through tribal lenses distracts from the fundamental question of whether the nation is serving all its citizens. This is why Ya Toivo viewed tribalism as such a profound danger not because he opposed cultural identity. Quite the opposite, he celebrated Namibia's diversity. What concerned him was the political weaponisation of identity. He feared a future in which citizens would support leaders not because they offered solutions, but because they belonged to the same ethnic group. He feared a future where loyalty replaced accountability,

where patronage replaced merit, where tribe and a village replaced citizenship.

Such a future would not strengthen Namibia. It would weaken it.

### Two warnings, one nation

When reflecting on Namibia's present realities, it becomes impossible to ignore the remarkable convergence between the warnings of our iconic leaders Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo and Founding President Sam Nujoma.

Both men emerged from the liberation struggle with a profound understanding of the forces that could either strengthen or weaken the nation after independence.

Ya Toivo warned against tribalism and Nujoma warned against incomplete liberation. At first glance, these appear to be separate concerns. In reality, they are deeply connected.

Ya Toivo feared that Namibians would retreat into tribal identities if the idea of a common nation became weak. Founding Father Nujoma feared that political independence would lose meaning if it failed to deliver economic inclusion and social dignity.

Both understood that nation building required more than sovereignty. It required citizens to feel that they belonged to a common project. It required institutions that served all Namibians fairly. It required opportunities that extended beyond a privileged minority. Perhaps the most important question is whether the challenges confronting Namibia today are symptoms of the same unfinished journey. Can a nation remain united when large segments of its population feel excluded from prosperity? Can national identity flourish when informal settlements continue to expand around resource rich cities? Can citizens be expected to think first as Namibians when many feel disconnected from the benefits of development?

Neither Ya Toivo nor Nujoma believed that tribalism alone was the problem. Nor did they believe that economic growth alone was the solution. Both understood that unity, justice, dignity, and inclusion were inseparable. A nation divided by tribe cannot effectively develop. But a nation marked by deep inequality will also struggle to remain united.

### Who benefits from division?

Perhaps the most uncomfortable question of all is this who benefits from tribalism? Certainly not the young person looking for employment. Certainly not the mother waiting in line for water. Certainly not the family struggling with rising electricity prices. Certainly not the residents of informal settlements. Tribal division rarely benefits ordinary citizens. More often, it benefits political and economic elites who find division easier to manage than unity.

A population focused on ethnic competition is less likely to unite around demands for accountability, transparency, and equitable development. A divided society asks fewer questions about power. And it is power, not any tribe that ultimately determines who gets what, who gets contracts, land, opportunities, representation, and

a voice. The more we focus on tribe, the less we examine these questions.

### The unfinished promise

Independence was a remarkable achievement. But independence was never meant to be the final destination. It was meant to be the beginning.

The liberation struggle promised more than political freedom. It promised dignity, opportunity, and inclusion. It promised that national wealth would ultimately serve national development. For many Namibians, that promise remains unfinished.

Its incompleteness can be seen in the geography of our cities, in expanding informal settlements, in youth unemployment, in persistent inequality, in the growing gap between economic statistics and lived reality.

The challenge facing Namibia today is not whether independence was achieved. The challenge is whether its economic and social meaning has been fully realised.

### The Namibia Ya Toivo imagined

Ya Toivo understood that nation building required more than constitutions, elections, and a flag, it required a shared sense of destiny. A shared belief that every citizen belonged equally. A shared commitment to the common good. His warning against tribalism was ultimately a warning against allowing narrow and parochial loyalties to undermine national purpose. Today, his message invites us to ask deeper questions.

Why are so many Namibians still excluded from prosperity? Why do informal settlements continue to grow? Why does inequality remain so persistent? Why do some citizens feel disconnected from the nation's success? And why, in a country blessed with so much wealth, are so many still struggling to access the basics of a dignified life? These are the questions that matter.

### The measure of a nation

The true measure of Namibia will not be the number of barrels of oil discovered. It will not be the value of mineral exports. It will not be the growth rate announced in economic reports.

The true measure of Namibia will be whether ordinary citizens experience the benefits of the country's wealth. Whether a child born in a shack has the same opportunity as a child born into privilege.

Whether citizenship carries real economic meaning. Whether development reaches the margins as well as the centres of power. And whether Namibians can resist the temptation of division in favour of a shared national future.

For we are too few to be poor. And we are too few to be divided. Those two truths may ultimately be different expressions of the same national challenge: the challenge of building a Namibia where wealth serves the people, where citizenship matters more than tribe, ethnic or village affiliation and where the promise of independence finally becomes a reality for all.

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

## Market Highlights

### NAD per US Dollar

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

### NAD per British Pound

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

### NAD per Euro

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

## EXCHANGE RATES

### Major Pairs

N\$ / \$	16.5448	10 Jun 2026
N\$ / £	22.158	10 Jun 2026
N\$ / €	19.1175	10 Jun 2026
N\$ / AOA	0.0178	10 Jun 2026

**Repo**  
6.50  
**Prime**  
10.00

www.observer.com.na

PARAGON MEDIA

# Namibia has N\$14.5 billion value addition opportunity

CHAMWE KAIRA  
Staff Writer

**N**amibia has an opportunity to unlock approximately N\$14.5 billion in new manufacturing and value-addition activities, according to an analysis by Simonis Storm, which says the country's widening trade deficit highlights the urgency of industrialisation efforts.

In a report analysing Namibia's April 2026 trade figures alongside a recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assessment, Simonis Storm said the country's N\$4.4 billion trade deficit reflects longstanding structural challenges linked to the export of raw materials and the import of higher-value finished products.

The analysis draws on a UNCTAD Rapid Assessment published in February 2026 and developed in collaboration with the National Planning Commission.

The study identified 353 products across 23 sectors that Namibia could potentially manufacture using its existing productive capabilities.

According to Simonis Storm, the assessment estimates a weighted global export opportunity of US\$811 million, including 60 products linked to critical energy transition mineral value chains.

A further 33 products in the sector alone represent a potential market worth US\$221 million, with China, South Africa and France identified as key export destinations.

The report noted that regional opportunities within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) amount to roughly US\$334.5 million, while the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents additional export



Copper ore is exported at significantly lower values than refined copper products. - Photo: Contributed

prospects in countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria. Simonis Storm said Namibia also has import-substitution potential, with 68 products valued at US\$116.8 million that could be produced domestically instead of being imported.

The firm argued that April's trade data illustrates the country's dependence on exporting raw or minimally processed commodities. Non-monetary gold accounted for 17.7% of exports during the month, while uranium represented 15%.

However, Simonis Storm noted that much of the higher-value processing associated with these commodities occurs outside Namibia.

The report highlighted copper as an example, noting that copper ore is exported at significantly lower values than refined copper products.

Although the Tsumeb smelter produces blister copper, downstream manufacturing of products such as wire and cable remains limited. Meanwhile, Namibia imported N\$292 million worth of ores and concentrates of base metals in April,

products which Simonis Storm said often originate from local mines before being processed abroad and re-imported as finished goods.

The analysis also pointed to limited local beneficiation in the diamond sector and warned that while Namibia's ban on the export of unprocessed lithium supports value-addition objectives, processing infrastructure still needs to be developed.

Simonis Storm further cited UNCTAD findings showing that exports of processed copper and zinc

products have declined by 68% and 99%, respectively, in recent years. Simonis Storm estimated that the full diversification programme outlined by UNCTAD would require approximately US\$2.13 billion in investment and could create around 26,460 jobs.

The largest opportunities were identified in iron and steel manufacturing, machinery production, copper products, electrical equipment, food processing, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.



# Sea transport carried good worth N\$3.8 billion in April

CHAMWE KAIRA  
Staff Writer

**S**ea transport remained Namibia's leading export channel in April 2026, carrying goods worth N\$3.8 billion and accounting for 39% of the country's total exports, according to the latest Namibia International Merchandise Trade Statistics Bulletin.

The main commodities exported by sea were uranium, fish, and nickel ores and concentrates.

Air transport ranked second, contributing 32% of total export value, largely driven by shipments of non-monetary gold and diamonds.

Road transport accounted for the remaining 29%, with petroleum oils, fish and fertilizers making up the bulk of exports moved by road.



The main commodities exported by sea in April were uranium, fish, and nickel ores and concentrates. - Photo: Contributed

Despite the strong export values, the total volume of goods exported declined significantly. Namibia exported 256 596 tonnes of goods during April, representing a 24.8% decrease from

March 2026 and a 28.6% decline compared to April 2025. Road transport handled the largest export volume, with 167 133 tonnes leaving the country, down by 3,073

tonnes from the previous month and 51 tonnes compared to the same period last year.

Exports by sea totaled 89 272 tonnes, a sharp decline of 47.8% from March 2026 and 53.5% from April 2025. Air freight volumes remained relatively small, with only 190 tonnes exported, although this represented increases of 43.7% month-on-month and 58.6% year-on-year.

On the import side, road transport dominated by value, accounting for N\$8.7 billion or 61.7% of Namibia's total imports during April.

The highest-value imports transported by road included nickel ores and concentrates, commercial vehicles, and passenger vehicles.

Sea transport ranked second, accounting for 35.2% of total import value, with petroleum oils forming the largest share of goods imported by sea.

Air transport contributed 3.2% of import value, driven mainly by imports of diamonds, telecommunications equipment, and aircraft and related equipment.

In volume terms, Namibia imported 485 488 tonnes of goods during April 2026, an increase of 7% from March and 4.2% higher than the corresponding period in 2025.

Sea freight accounted for 257 708 tonnes of imported goods, although this represented a decline of 1.9% compared to March 2026 and 5% lower than April 2025.

Road imports totaled 227 542 tonnes, reflecting strong growth of 19.4% month-on-month and 17.1% year-on-year.

Air imports amounted to 165 tonnes, declining by 13.4% from the previous month and 1.8% compared to April 2025.

**CATALYST**  
INVESTMENT MANAGERS  
Email: [info@catalyst.com.na](mailto:info@catalyst.com.na) | Tel: +264833308080

TOP Gainers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
SBN Holdings Ltd	13.25	0.91%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	55.13	0.79%
Capricorn Group Limited (prev Capricorn Investment Group Ltd)	28.07	0.68%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	9.33	0.54%
Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd	5.52	0.36%

TOP Losers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.29	-0.08%
Oryx Properties Limited	13.64	-0.07%
Nictus Holdings - Nam	3.4	0.00%

TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Oceana Group Limited	63.60	5.14%
Momentum Metropolitan Holdings	38.26	5.08%
Santam Limited	378.51	3.71%
Truworths	52.69	3.56%
Sanlam Limited	84.50	3.31%

TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Paladin Energy Limited	108.91	-21.09%
B2Gold Corporation	65.4	-12.48%
Anglo-American plc	824.75	-8.51%
Investec Limited	136.03	-1.59%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.29	-0.08%

Currencies				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
USD/ZAR	16.5299	0.00%	0.69%	-0.40%
EUR/ZAR	19.096167	0.08%	-1.13%	-2.07%
GBP/ZAR	22.15172	0.48%	-0.99%	-0.76%
USD/EUR	0.8656135	-0.08%	2.12%	1.77%

Commodities				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
Brent Crude Oil (ICE \$/bbl)	91.45	-2.97%	-9.71%	50.29%
Gold NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	4260	-1.75%	-9.75%	-1.52%
Platinum NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	1708.60	-2.33%	-16.54%	-16.02%
Copper Cash Official LME (\$/mt)	13716.00	0.40%	2.02%	9.69%
Uranium Near Term (NYM \$/lbs)	84.90	-0.41%	-1.22%	4.04%

Money Market Rates				
	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	9 MONTH	12 MONTH
Average Bank NCDs	6.79	7.00	7.18	7.26
Treasury Bill Rates	7.10	7.29	7.32	7.42

JSE INDICES				
Share code	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
JSE ALSI	109,593.41	-1.38%	-5.7%	-4.06%
All Share Industrials	138,650.70	0.06%	-0.3%	-6.09%
Mid Cap	104,419.39	-1.08%	-5.7%	-6.99%
Small Cap	106,673.21	-0.38%	-0.5%	-0.81%
Industrial 25	129,404.41	0.09%	-0.4%	-6.68%
Financial 15	25,121.93	-0.77%	0.7%	1.79%
Resource 10	108,118.23	-3.95%	-17.4%	-8.97%
Top 40	101,656.21	-1.48%	-6.3%	-4.44%

World Market				
Share Code	Close	1D%	%1M	%YTD
FTSE100	10,227.33	-1.41%	-0.06%	-4.06%
S&P500	7,310.26	-0.26%	-0.17%	-6.09%
DAX	24,195.31	-0.74%	0.39%	-6.99%
ASX	8,653.30	-0.24%	-1.60%	-0.81%
NASDAQ	25,316.61	-0.97%	-2.17%	-6.68%
NSX Overall	2,268.72	-1.19%	-1.42%	9.46%
NSX Local	839.49	0.01%	0.62%	9.42%

# Simonis Storm cuts MTC rating to 'Hold'

Staff Writer

**M**obile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) remains a strong income-generating stock with a dominant position in the Namibian telecommunications market, but rising costs are beginning to weigh on profitability, according to stockbroking firm Simonis Storm Securities.

In its latest assessment of MTC, Simonis Storm downgraded the stock from "Buy" to "Hold" and lowered its target price to 1,035 cents, down from 1,073 cents.

The firm said MTC's interim results for the six months ended March 2026 showed that while revenue growth remains healthy, the company is struggling to convert that growth into stronger earnings.

"MTC remains a quality income stock with a dominant, defensive market position, strong cash generation, and credible exposure to data and enterprise growth," Simonis Storm said. "The first half of 2026, however, makes one point clear: cost control now matters as much as revenue growth."

MTC reported a 7.1% increase in revenue to N\$1.95 billion during the

period, driven by growth in prepaid services, roaming, and enterprise solutions. However, earnings increased by only 1.6%, reflecting pressure from a rising cost base. According to the analysis, prepaid revenue grew by 9.1% due to customer growth, increased adoption of Aweh bundles, and higher data consumption.

Roaming revenue surged 45.2%, supported by inbound Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity, while enterprise revenue rose 32.3% as customer numbers expanded by 37.8% and demand for integrated connectivity solutions increased. MTC's total subscriber base reached 2.37 million, with prepaid subscribers growing from 2.08 million to 2.16 million, and enterprise customers increasing from 16,017 to 22,075.

The report noted that contract revenue declined by 7.2% as a result of a deliberate affordability strategy that included offering additional free data and optimised bundles. Simonis Storm said the move was aimed at improving customer retention over the long term, despite creating short-term revenue pressure. The brokerage highlighted profitability as the key area of



MTC rising costs are beginning to weigh on profitability. - Photo: Contributed

concern. MTC's EBITDA margin declined to 47.4% from 49.4% a year earlier, as operating costs increased faster than revenue. Personnel expenses rose 18.6%, driven by higher headcount, employee regrading, and salary increases. Direct costs increased by 7.7% due to transmission lease expenses and new spectrum licence fees, while general and administrative costs climbed

12.9% because of higher spending on security, software, and facilities. "The result is best read as profitability protected despite a heavier cost base, not margin expansion," Simonis Storm said. Despite the margin pressure, the brokerage said MTC's strong cash generation and dividend payments continue to underpin the investment case.

Operating cash flow improved slightly to N\$670.8 million, while the company continued investing in network infrastructure and technology, spending N\$99.6 million on intangible assets. The board declared an interim dividend of 47.78 cents per share, up from 47.03 cents in the previous period, representing a payout of N\$358 million.

## MTC discontinues standalone free SMS services

Staff Writer

**M**obile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) has announced that, effective from 10 September, it will be discontinuing its free standalone SMS offering, which customers previously received upon recharging.

This move is part of MTC's ongoing efforts to enhance network efficiency and introduce more value-driven communication solutions for customers. The decision follows a steady shift in customer communication preferences, with increasing adoption of data-based messaging platforms such as WhatsApp, email, and other digital services.

"Our customers' communication needs are evolving rapidly. As part of our commitment to delivering improved services and innovative products, we are realigning our offerings to focus more on affordable data solutions," said Tim Ekanjio, Chief Marketing, Communication, and Sustainability Officer.

Ekanjio said shifting consumer needs have informed business decisions, such as the mass adoption of free Over-The-Top (OTT) apps.

The overwhelming popularity of internet-based messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and iMessage provides consumers with free, media-rich, and globally accessible chat options via standard data or Wi-Fi.

"It is also worth noting that SMSs have continued to be embedded within our evolved bundle offerings. Customers on our popular Aweh bundles and the T49 service plan for Prepaid already receive generous SMS allocations as part of those packages."

For Postpaid customers, Ekanjio said free SMSs remain included in the monthly Free Units allocation and Boost Bundles, ensuring continued access to SMS services where needed.

Ekanjio said that as a result, this change will have no material impact



Tim Ekanjio

**“**Our customers' communication needs are evolving rapidly. As part of our commitment to delivering improved services and innovative products, we are realigning our offerings to focus more on affordable data solutions.**”**

on customers on these offerings, and reflects a deliberate move to discontinue a standalone feature that has been overtaken by the richer, more relevant value provided by its current portfolio. Introduced in the early 2000s on the MTC network, the free SMS service was a complimentary bonus automatically loaded upon customer recharging. However, MTC has now said that over the years, with the advent of OTT services having taken over the now-dated SMS system, it was inevitable that this service would end.

## Ongwe uncovers 5km gold zone at Omatjete

CHAMWE KAIRA  
Staff Writer

**C**anadian-listed gold exploration company Ongwe Minerals has announced the discovery of a new five-kilometre-long gold-in-soil anomaly (zone) at its Nguni prospect, located approximately 17 kilometres from the company's existing Manga gold discovery at the Omatjete Gold Project.

The company described the Nguni prospect as a significant surface gold discovery situated along the Okondeka Fault Zone, a regional structural trend that also hosts Wia Gold's Kokoseb gold deposit, located about 55 kilometres away.

Ongwe Minerals chief executive officer Dave Underwood said the Nguni prospect represents the largest gold-in-soil anomaly he has encountered in Namibia since beginning exploration activities in the country in 2008. Underwood said the results are encouraging and comparable to those reported during the early stages of the Kokoseb discovery.

The company said the mineralisation occurs in what it describes as a favourable geological setting, where a regional-scale fault bends around brittle granitic intrusions, creating pathways for hydrothermal fluids associated with gold deposition. Ongwe is currently undertaking infill geological mapping and soil sampling to better define the extent of the mineralised footprint ahead of a planned drilling programme scheduled to commence in the second half of 2026.

The company noted that the Nguni prospect remains open to the north, east, and west.

The discovery forms part of Ongwe Minerals' broader exploration strategy across its three flagship projects



Dave Underwood

in Namibia's emerging Northwest Damara Gold Belt. These include the 151,800-hectare Omatjete Gold Project, which hosts both the Manga and Nguni prospects; the 154,000-hectare Khorixas Gold Project, home to the Belmont prospect, an orogenic gold system with a surface footprint of approximately 12 kilometres by six kilometres; and the 46,000-hectare Outjo Gold Project, located along strike from Osino Resources' Eureka gold discovery. At Nguni, the company is continuing high-resolution soil sampling on a 50-metre by 50-metre grid, supported

by detailed geological mapping. Exploration progress has been partially affected by alluvial scree cover across parts of the prospect area. Ongwe Minerals is focused on gold exploration in Namibia and is led by a team with previous involvement in several major discoveries and mine developments in the country, including the Twin Hills, Eureka, and Otjikoto gold deposits. The company said it will continue advancing both the Nguni and Manga prospects while expanding grassroots exploration activities across what it believes is a rapidly emerging gold district in northwestern Namibia.

# Navachab takes steps to establish underground mining operations

**Q**KR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine is taking important steps toward establishing underground mining operations as part of its long-term strategy to sustain and expand production.

Following a successful trial mining phase and encouraging geological results, the mine has progressed with underground development aimed at unlocking additional mineral resources that cannot be economically mined through open-pit methods. Underground Mining Project Manager, Venancio Guchu, said the current phase of development is focused on creating access for exploration drilling and gathering critical geological data required for future mining decisions.

“QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine is currently assessing the potential for a full underground mining operation following a successful trial mining phase conducted a few years ago. The geological continuity and geotechnical evaluations produced encouraging results,” said Guchu.

The underground work is concentrated on the Main Shoot and North Shoot mineralised zones located north of the existing open pits.

The orebody remains open at depth, indicating further exploration potential and future growth opportunities for the mine.

Safety remains a key priority for the project, with strict underground safety measures, controlled blasting methods and continuous geotechnical monitoring being implemented to ensure safe working conditions underground.

“We continue to conduct geotechnical



QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine is planning to start underground mining operations. - Photo: Contributed

drilling and analysis to ensure that our underground designs remain safe and reliable. By continuously focusing on safety, we ensure that underground operations are carefully managed and that employees are always protected,” Guchu added.

The project is also contributing

to employment creation and skills development for Namibians through collaboration with underground mining contractor Byrnetec.

Currently, 58 national employees are involved in the project, including 30 from the Karibib area.

Development activities are

progressing steadily, with approximately 390 metres completed along the Main Shoot decline. The first blast for the current phase was successfully carried out on 20 December 2025, while exploration drilling is expected to commence during the third quarter of 2026.

Despite challenges associated with balancing open-pit and underground activities, strong collaboration between departments has enabled the project to remain on track as Navachab moves closer toward future underground production. - Chamber of Mines of Namibia

# Tiger Brands switches on solar power at 7 factories

TERRI-ANN BROUWERS

**F**ood producer advances its renewable energy strategy as it works to source 31% of its electricity from renewables by 2030.

JSE-listed food production giant Tiger Brands has advanced its multi-million-rand sustainable infrastructure programme, confirming that seven of its South African manufacturing sites are now actively generating solar power.

The targeted capital deployment is part of a long-term decarbonisation roadmap designed to insulate the company’s manufacturing footprint from heavy reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

The fully operational facilities are located across the Free State, Gauteng, North West and KwaZulu-Natal, directly channelling clean energy into daily production activities.

Tiger Brands’ latest site to go live is its culinary manufacturing site in Boksburg, Gauteng.

The factory, which produces high-profile household brands such as All Gold Tomato Sauce, Crosse & Blackwell Mayonnaise and KOO Baked Beans, was commissioned under a commercial power purchase agreement (PPA) with energy

producer Solar Africa.

The agreement includes a 1.9 MWh solar installation, which has been supplying clean energy to the site since May 2026.

Praveen Balgobind, chief manufacturing officer at Tiger Brands, says the solar infrastructure drive serves a dual purpose of operational shielding and macro-economic transition.

“Our investment in renewable energy is about building a more resilient and sustainable manufacturing footprint while supporting South Africa’s transition to a lower-carbon economy.”

“Solar energy is already helping several of our manufacturing facilities reduce their dependence on conventional electricity sources while improving operational efficiency. Importantly, this is just one component of a broader renewable energy strategy that will continue to evolve over the coming years.”

The group’s overarching 2030 environmental stewardship targets dictate that it must source 31% of its total electrical energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030. Simultaneously, it is also aiming to reduce its carbon emissions by 30% and optimise internal energy efficiency by a matching 30% over the same



Solar panel installation at Tiger Brands’ culinary facility in Boksburg, Gauteng. -Photo: Supplied

period.

Off-site wheeling

To prevent cost overruns and operational mismatches across its varying commercial hubs, Tiger Brands is actively avoiding standardised utility updates across its network.

Its on-site renewable energy generation framework is paired with localised energy efficiency audits, advanced metering systems and tailored energy-saving interventions. Balgobind says localised assessment remains central to the group’s

manufacturing strategy:

“We are avoiding a blanket approach in favour of site-specific assessments. Our goal is to deploy tailored innovations and initiatives that address the unique needs of each location while systematically eliminating energy inefficiencies.” Beyond its immediate, localised property footprint, Tiger Brands is leveraging national grid logistics to hit its environmental benchmarks. Earlier in 2026, the group signed a landmark electricity wheeling agreement with renewable energy

supplier Apollo Africa.

The contract will allow off-site renewable electricity to be wheeled through the national grid directly to the company’s Gauteng manufacturing facilities beginning in 2028.

Through this municipal arrangement, Tiger Brands’ factories supplied via the Ekurhuleni Municipality are projected to receive approximately 60% of their total electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2028.

-moneyweb

# Afraid to retire? How to overcome your fear and enjoy retirement

**M**any seniors are afraid to retire. While not as terrifying as aerophobia (fear of flying), as common as nomophobia (fear of being without your phone) or as unnerving as coulrophobia (fear of clowns), fear of retirement is a real phenomenon for millions of older Americans. Take heart, though; there is still hope for a happy retirement.

If you're behind on savings, the fear is probably warranted. But even if you've accumulated a substantial nest egg, the thought of going without a regular paycheck can be scarier than a roomful of circus clowns. Why we are afraid to retire "Although someone may be financially well prepared to retire, emotionally it can be very difficult," says Edward Snyder, a certified financial planner in Carmel, Indiana.

A 2024 report from Northwestern Mutual found that Americans, on average, expect to work until age 65. But many work much longer than that, even if they can afford to retire. Workers aged 75 and up are the fastest-growing age group in the workforce, more than quadrupling in size over the last 60 years, according to the Pew Research Center. About 650,000 Americans in their eighties were working in 2022, according to an analysis of census data by the Wall Street Journal, up about 18% from a decade ago. Given the increase in longevity, it's not surprising that Americans are working longer, but the motivation to stay on the job isn't necessarily financial. A study from Hearts & Wallets, a research firm, reports that "whether households are retired or not has very little to do with investable assets." However, the downside to delaying retirement is that you may miss out on some of the best years of this stage of life. "We emphasize that retirement has the Go-Go, Slow-Go and No-Go years, and we don't want to see clients sacrifice their Go-Go years because they are afraid of uncertainty," says Nicholas Gertsema, a certified

financial planner in Saint Joseph, Missouri. Delaying retirement can also create stress in your marriage if your spouse has stopped working and doesn't want to hike the Camino de Santiago trail alone. Baby steps into retirement One of the most effective ways to make the transition to retirement is to do it gradually. Thanks to a tight labor market, along with the need to retain experienced workers, it's easier than ever to shift to phased retirement, which typically involves working fewer hours, sometimes in a mentorship role. Elizabeth Emshwiller retired in 2021 after 37 years as a registered nurse but found that she missed her patients and the camaraderie she experienced while working in a hospital. At the same time, she didn't want to work the long hours typically required of hospital staff nurses. She also wanted the flexibility to work on her own terms. While looking at jobs on Indeed.com in January 2022, Emshwiller learned about the Emeritus Nurse Program at the Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center, in Wilmington, N.C., which employs retired nurses to coach and mentor new nurses. She applied for the program and is now one of 12 emeritus nurses at the center. Emshwiller works four to five hours a day in the neurosurgery unit, which she requested because she had experience working there. On a typical day, she'll meet with new nurses to discuss physical therapy, diet and other recommendations for patients in their care. She chooses which days she wants to work. As for retiring a second time, "I haven't even thought about it," she says. "I love what I'm doing so much." Consider phased retirement. Nearly one-third of employers offered phased retirement in 2024, according to the non-profit Transamerica Institute. That number is more than double the number of companies offering phased retirement in 2016, according a survey

by the Society for Human Resource Management. Phased retirement can be a win-win for employers and employees. Companies continue to benefit from older workers' experience, and workers continue to earn some income while testing the retirement waters. Only a handful of companies have implemented formal phased retirement programs. Instead, the arrangement is usually done on an ad hoc basis, with employers more inclined to offer it to workers who have specific skills or experience they value. Snyder says many of his clients who worked for Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly continue to consult for the pharmaceutical company after they leave their jobs. If you're interested in phased retirement, start the conversation with your employer well before you plan to make the shift. Point out how the arrangement will benefit the company. Make sure you and your employer have a clear understanding of how many hours you'll work, says Chris Pollard, a CFP in Goshen, New York. That's particularly important if you're the type of worker who arrives early and stays late. "You don't want to become a full-time employee at half the pay," he says. In addition to agreeing on hours and pay, talk to your employer about whether you'll still be eligible for benefits, such as company-provided health insurance and participation in your retirement savings plan. Currently, employers are required to allow part-time employees to contribute to their retirement plan after they've worked at the company for at least 500 hours a year for three years, or more than 1,000 hours for one year. Starting in 2025, the eligibility threshold will decline to 500 hours a year for two years. But there's nothing to prevent your employer from allowing you to contribute to your retirement plan, even if you work fewer hours than that. <https://www.kiplinger.com/>

# Capacity Building



with

Diamond Training Institute

## The competence trap

**S**uccess can be dangerous. What once made them effective can quietly become the very thing that holds them back. This is the competence trap. The competence trap happens when past success creates too much confidence in old methods. People keep repeating what has worked before, even when the environment around them is changing. They are not lazy or careless. In fact, they are often highly experienced and respected. That is what makes the trap so difficult to see. It does not feel like decline. It feels like consistency. In many workplaces, competence becomes comfort. Teams rely on familiar processes, leaders trust the same approaches, and employees stay within skills they have already mastered. Over time, however, the market changes, customer expectations shift, technology advances, and new capabilities become necessary. The danger is that people who have been good for years may stop learning because they no longer feel the urgency to do so. This is where organisations quietly lose momentum. The competence trap is not about lacking skill. It is about being too attached to the skills that brought previous success. It shows up when experienced managers resist new leadership approaches, when teams avoid

digital tools because "the old way still works", or when strong performers stop developing because they believe they are already good enough. The result is slow decline hidden behind past achievement. Psychologically, this makes sense. People protect what has given them status, security, and confidence. Letting go of old competence can feel risky because it means stepping back into uncertainty. It is much easier to stay excellent at yesterday's work than to become a beginner again for tomorrow's demands. The solution is not to devalue competence, but to renew it. Organisations must create cultures where learning is seen as a sign of strength, not weakness. Leaders need to model curiosity, not just certainty. Employees need to be encouraged to ask not only, "What are we good at?" but also, "What might we need next?" This is why skills audits, targeted upskilling, coaching, and reflective leadership matter. They help organisations see where strength is becoming stagnation. They remind teams that competence must remain alive, not fixed. The most dangerous words in a changing workplace may be: We've always done it this way. Competence is valuable, but only when it keeps moving. The best organisations are not those that cling most tightly to what once worked. They are the ones that have the courage to outgrow their own success.



## PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENT SERVICES



Diamond Training Institute

Get reliable psychometric assessment tests to take the best decision in employee recruitment, management and development.

Services :

- Psychometric Assessments
- Gamified Assessments
- Talent Management
- Capability Assessment
- Organizational Design
- Structural and Talent Analytics

**WHY CHOOSE DTI?** With over 20 years of experience in psychometric assessments, DTI boasts a team of experienced psychologists and psychometrists, supported by extensive research, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of our assessment services.

CONTACT US TODAY

Powered by: bioSS Southern Africa



(Photo by Ernest Ankomah/Getty Images)

## African artistes such as Burna Boy, Davido And Tyla At the center shaping the sound of global culture as world cup opens

**A**frican music lovers from Nigeria and the diaspora on the current soundtrack defining global culture.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup opening ceremony on Thursday in Mexico City will feature some of the biggest names in global music, including Nigerian superstar Burna Boy and Colombian singer Shakira, in a showcase that supports the growing influence of African artistes on the world's largest sporting stage. FIFA said Burna Boy and Shakira will perform *Dai Dai*, the official song of the 2026 World Cup, during a ceremony scheduled to begin 90 minutes before kickoff of the tournament's opening match between Mexico and South Africa. The performance is being staged in support of the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, which aims to raise \$100 million by the end of the tournament to expand access to education and football opportunities for children worldwide. Darey Art Alade, the Co-founder and Chief Creative Officer of Nigeria-based integrated creative company Livespot, says the moment signals a broader shift in global culture. "Burna Boy standing on a World Cup stage is not just about representation;

it is about ownership of influence. African music has become one of the most important cultural languages in the world," he says to FORBES AFRICA. The opening ceremony will also feature South African singer Tyla alongside a lineup that includes Alejandro Fernández, Belinda, Danny Ocean, J Balvin, Lila Downs, Los Angeles Azules and Maná. "Burna Boy standing on a World Cup stage is not just about representation; it is about ownership of influence. African music has become one of the most important cultural languages in the world," he says to FORBES AFRICA. The opening ceremony will also feature South African singer Tyla alongside a lineup that includes Alejandro Fernández, Belinda, Danny Ocean, J Balvin, Lila Downs, Los Angeles Azules and Maná. A day before the opening ceremony, Nigerian singer Davido is scheduled to perform at FIFA's Countdown Concert at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles alongside Ava Max, BIA and Major Lazer. Dr Drew Uyi, a FIFA-licensed football agent and brand strategist, says the visibility generated by the World Cup could create lasting opportunities for

African creatives and businesses. "It strengthens Africa's connection to global audiences, opens new commercial opportunities and inspires a new generation of creatives to see that their talent can compete and thrive at the highest level," he says to FORBES AFRICA. African artistes are also prominently represented on the official FIFA World Cup 2026 album, an 18-track project that FIFA describes as the most extensive music collaboration in the tournament's history. The album includes Burna Boy, Davido, Rema, Ayra Starr and Tyla, as well as Stormzy, the British rapper of Ghanaian heritage, and Moroccan-American rapper French Montana. Dr Adesegun Adeosun Jnr, widely known as King Smade, founder of global cultural and entertainment organization SMADE Group and Co-founder of the annual three-day music festival Afro Nation, says to FORBES AFRICA that the inclusion of African artistes in the opening ceremony and official World Cup album demonstrates that African music has become a permanent part of the global mainstream. By opening the tournament in Mexico City, FIFA will begin a series of ceremonies across the three host


nations—Mexico, Canada and the United States (U.S.)—with additional performers expected to be announced throughout the competition featuring 104 matches across 16 host cities and ending on July 19 at New York New Jersey Stadium. "Fans will experience many of the tracks live during the Countdown Concert in Mexico City, Toronto and Los Angeles, as well as the opening ceremonies in Mexico, Canada and the United States," FIFA said in a statement. Africans in the diaspora point to the symbolic impact. Ada Onianwah, radio host and creator of *Ada's Room*, Canada's commercial radio program dedicated exclusively to Afrobeats, says the World Cup appearances illustrate how African culture has become an integral part of mainstream global entertainment. "African music isn't having a moment. It's shaping global culture," she says to FORBES AFRICA. That sentiment was echoed by Oluchukwu Umunnakwe, Founder of United Kingdom (U.K.)-based diversified organization DNC Group, who describes the development as evidence that African identity

is increasingly viewed as an advantage rather than a limitation in international creative industries. Isaac Ansah, Co-founder of African Fashion Week Toronto, calls the World Cup platform further confirmation of Africa's role as a cultural powerhouse, while Erika Enyolu, a public relations executive and Founder of Canada-based PR Diva TV, says the significance lies in the fact that such achievements are becoming expected rather than exceptional. "There was a time when African artistes were fighting for recognition outside their home markets. Today, they are helping define the soundtrack of global culture," she says to FORBES AFRICA. The prominence of African performers comes as the continent is expected to have a significant presence on the field as well. Ten African nations are set to compete in the tournament, including South Africa, which will face host nation Mexico in the opening match. Other African participants include Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Cape Verde, Egypt, Senegal, Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ghana. -Forbes Africa



**We are Hiring**  
**Physiotherapist**  
 Fully registered with HPCNA  
 Full time position at an outpatient based practice

Send your cv to  
[Gilead.physio@gmail.com](mailto:Gilead.physio@gmail.com)



**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 m<sup>3</sup>/d (75m<sup>3</sup>/h).

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

**A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON:**  
**DATE:** 13 June 2026  
**TIME:** 14h00  
**VENUE:** Paresis Hall Otjiwarongo

**CONTACT DETAILS:**  
 D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants (Namibia)  
 Tel: +264 61 302 672  
 Cell: +264 811405033  
 E-mail: [info@dpe.com.na](mailto: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 **9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:eias.public@serjaconsultants.com) (direct emails or scanned/photos of legible handwritten letters)

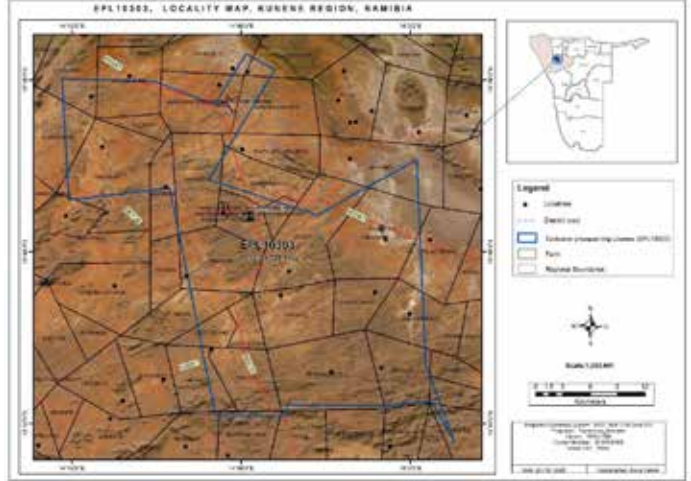
**NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING**

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 06<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 at Okanguati, Epupa Constituency, Kunene Region @ 10h00.

For any inquiries please contact;

**Consultant:** Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: [otahconsultants@gmail.com](mailto:otahconsultants@gmail.com)



EXPERIENCE CULINARY DELIGHT  
 AT TASTE @HKIA. WHERE  
 TANTALIZING FLAVORS AWAIT YOU.

**TASTE**  
 RESTAURANT & BAR




SCAN TO VIEW OUR MENU



## GOSSIP

Arsenal keen to sign Athletic Club winger Nico Williams, Juventus open talks with Aston Villa over deal for keeper Emiliano Martinez, while Paris St-Germain target Bayern Munich's Michael Olise.

Arsenal remain firmly in the hunt to sign Athletic Club and Spain winger Nico Williams, with Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United also interested in the 23-year-old. (Teamtalk), external

Juventus are in talks with Aston Villa to sign their Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, 33, who has already agreed personal terms. (Corriere dello Sport - in Italian), external

Paris St-Germain will try to sign Bayern Munich's 24-year-old French forward Michael Olise this summer. (L'Equipe - in French), external

Manchester United are monitoring Everton's 26-year-old Senegal forward Iliman Ndiaye as they look to bolster their squad for a Champions League return next season (Sky Sports), external

Liverpool are prepared to let Italy forward Federico Chiesa, 28, leave this summer for around £17m, with the player keen on a move back to Serie A. (Caughtoffside), external

Barcelona are aware of interest from Chelsea and Arsenal in Spain winger Dani Olmo, but will only allow the 28-year-old to leave if their £60m valuation is met. (Fichajes - in Spanish), external

France forward Mathys Tel, 21, could make a shock switch from Tottenham to Bournemouth this summer. (Teamtalk), external.

Barcelona intend to sell Spain midfielder Marc Casado to raise money for other signings, with Bayer Leverkusen and Premier League clubs tracking the 22-year-old. (Fichajes - in Spanish), external

Leeds United want to break their transfer record to sign Ivory Coast defender Ousmane Diomande from Sporting, with an offer of up to £35m and another £8m in add-ons. (Mirror), external

Crystal Palace are preparing to rival Everton for Middlesbrough's English midfielder Hayden Hackney, 23, this summer with a £20m offer. (Mail)

## Who will win the World Cup? BBC pundits make their predictions

**T**he World Cup starts in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium on Thursday and finishes in the MetLife Stadium near New York City on 19 July. Forty-eight teams will contest the tournament, which will be played out in 104 matches across three countries over 39 days, including the co-hosts - Canada, Mexico and the United States - plus holders Argentina. Who will get their hands on the famous gold trophy this time? Who are the other main contenders? And how will England and Scotland do? BBC Sport's TV and radio football pundits and co-commentators have predicted what will happen over the next five weeks, and we have asked AI and Opta's 'supercomputer' for their picks too.

### Play BBC Sport's new World Cup predictor game

Who will win the World Cup? Alan Shearer: France, but there's a caveat that comes with it - only if there is no in-house fighting. With the ability they have in forward positions, two or three big players are going to be left out every game, so it will come down to whether they cope with that in the right way.

Danny Murphy: It's hard to look past France with the firepower they have, when you think about extra time in hot weather against tired legs.

The likes of Rayan Cherki, Ousmane Dembele and Desire

Doue can't all start, but they can be gamechangers if they come on after 70 minutes in 30 degrees heat.

**Olivier Giroud:** For me the two strongest teams are France and Spain. But will they meet each other in the final or before?

That will be the question, but I obviously hope France will win.

**Wayne Rooney:** England and Spain will make the final, and hopefully England will win it.

**Thomas Frank:** France are up there of course, and Spain too because they are very clear in how they play. That gives them a massive strength, although I still doubt them a little because they rely on Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams as the wingers and, if they don't have them, I am not sure they have enough individual quality to do it in the end.

Along with Brazil, Argentina, England and Portugal, they are the main contenders. A lot of people are saying it is France or Spain, but for me it is between Brazil and England... and I am saying England!

**Micah Richards:** How teams deal with the humidity is going to play a big part at this tournament, so the South American teams will be strong.

But I just feel it's going to be a team who are really good at keeping the ball and that points me in the direction of Spain instead. Argentina will go close though, because of the way they work for Lionel Messi. I still think he can do something special, too.

**Steph Houghton:** Hopefully it's England but, looking at other teams, France have so much quality right through their team - especially in attacking areas. **Gael Clichy:** France, Spain and England are the three for me who will do well. Spain seem to win everything, at every age group, so of course they are up there, but being French I am going for them to win it.

**Joe Hart:** England. But I am not actually that bothered whether I am right or wrong. I just like to back my people and I want England to do it. **Martin Keown:** Looking at the draw, there will be some absolute blockbuster quarter-finals if the favourites win their groups, like England versus Brazil and Argentina against Portugal - or Messi against Cristiano Ronaldo. Isthis the hardest World Cup there has ever been to win? Maybe. It feels very open. My head is telling me the best team is France, my heart is telling me that it could be England.

**Paul Robinson:** The only thing that stops France from winning it is France. They will need a harmonious dressing room. **Pat Nevin:** This is a guess, but England have a real chance. Along with France, they are my favourites and it's a toss-up between the two as to who will win it. I also wouldn't be shocked if we get a left-field winner this time, and Morocco are the ones who jump

out at me, because I covered most of their games when they reached the last four in Qatar. From what I hear, they might be better now than they were then - and they were great then. They will be used to the heat too, which always helps.

**Ellen White:** Well, obviously I want England to win it. That's what I am going with, but if that wasn't to happen then France have a very good squad.

**Tony Pulis:** It's ridiculous that there are 48 teams, and 40 more games than last time. Fair play to all the countries that are going, everyone will enjoy it, but football at this level is now being used as a cash cow.

I've got Argentina, Brazil, France, England, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Senegal as my quarter-finalists. My pick to win it? France.

**Chris Sutton:** Spain are an outstanding team but I've gone for France to win the past two World Cups and I wasn't far wrong. I am not going to change my mind now - they didn't really click at the last Euros but I look at their frontline and think they will be hard to stop. Who will win the 2026 World Cup?

Total votes  
France (9): Scott Brown, Gael Clichy, Rachel Corsie, Olivier Giroud, Danny Murphy, Paul Robinson, Tony Pulis, Alan Shearer & Chris Sutton  
England (7): Thomas Frank, Joe Hart, Steph Houghton, Martin Keown, Wayne Rooney, Sue Smith & Ellen White  
Spain (1): Micah Richards- **BBC**