

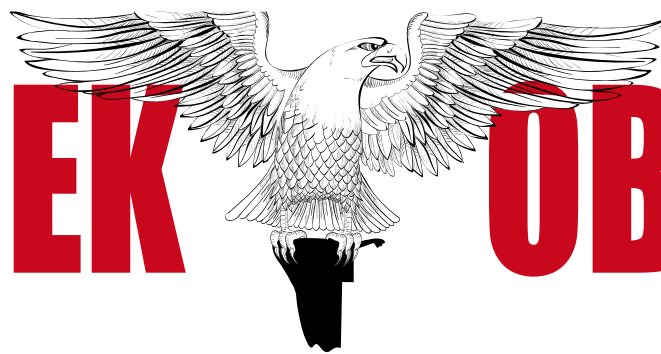


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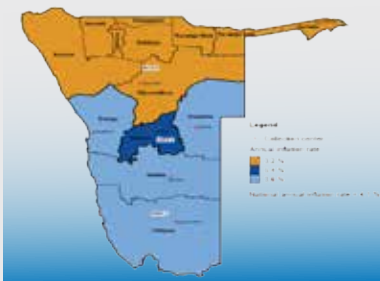
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FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2026

Stray animals in Khomas to get reflective gear

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Stray animals along the B1 road in the Khomas region are set to receive reflective gear as part of the Animal Visibility Project, with priority given to the high-risk stretch near the Mix informal settlement.

The project that was launched in December 2025 aims to reduce nighttime collisions between motorists and free-roaming livestock, which is a leading cause of fatal accidents on Namibian roads.

While an official handover ceremony originally scheduled for Monday, 8 June at the Khomas Governor's office has been indefinitely postponed, the *Windhoek Observer* understands that implementation plans for the region remain on track.

At the meeting, the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) intended to handover reflective collars and ear tags to mark the expansion of the Animal Visibility project along the B1 corridor in the Khomas region,



The end user, which is the farmer, benefits because if animals are found in the road reserve, drivers can easily spot them.

where stray cattle and other animals frequently wander onto the tarmac after dark.

Minister of works and transport Veikko Nekundi confirmed the Khomas rollout and the decision to prioritise the Mix informal settlement area.

The project was first piloted in the Omusati and Oshana regions, just weeks before the festive season last year.

NRSC acting executive secretary Ambrosius Tierspoor, previously

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Veikko Nekundi -Photo: Contributed

Formalisation of Orange River border still looming

Nearly two years after a technical committee reached an agreement, the formalisation of the long-disputed Orange River border between Namibia and South Africa remains unresolved, with the matter still looming over bilateral relations.

The dispute, which has been ongoing since Namibia's independence in 1990, boils down to a fundamental disagreement over where the international boundary lies along the Orange River, spanning roughly 600 kilometers of the shared border. Pretoria's claim relied on the colonial 1890

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Namibians jailed in SADC could soon finish prison terms locally

ALEXER NAMUNDJEMBO
Staff Writer

Convicted Namibians serving prison sentences in other Southern African countries may soon be transferred home to complete their jail terms, following the gazetting of an amended SADC protocol on prisoner transfers. The amendment, published in

Government Notice no. 177 of 2026 and seen by the *Windhoek Observer*, updates Namibia's ratification of the SADC Protocol on Inter-State Transfer of Sentenced Offenders. It was signed by home affairs minister Lucia Iipumbu on 29 January and appeared in the Government Gazette of 5 June 2026. The notice states that, under subsection 20(3) of the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Act of 2005,

Government Notice no. 151 of 11 July 2025 is amended by replacing the schedule with an updated version.

The new schedule outlines the full protocol adopted by SADC Heads of State and Government in Dar es Salaam on 18 August 2019. Its stated aim is to support the social reintegration of citizens sentenced for criminal offences committed in foreign countries.

The protocol's preamble adds that this goal is best achieved by allowing offenders to serve their sentences in their home countries. Under the protocol, a person sentenced to imprisonment in one SADC member state may be transferred to another member state to serve the remainder of their

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Stray animals in Khomas to get reflective gear

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told the *Windhoek Observer* that a six-month assessment period, ending in July 2026, was designed to test the durability and reflectivity of the gear under real conditions. “Over the six months, we will do assessments in the evening to see the reflex ability of the material and engage those communities,” Tierspoor said in an earlier interview. “The end user, which is the farmer, benefits because if animals are found in the road reserve, drivers can easily spot them.” The long-term goal, he added, is to make reflective ear tags for large livestock a legal requirement. Talks between the ministries of works and transport and agriculture are ongoing. However, a mass government-funded rollout remains unlikely. Tierspoor previously estimated that tagging

70% of Namibia’s 1.6 million livestock would cost the state about N\$180 million annually - a figure he described as unsustainable. Instead, the NRSC hopes to grow a private-sector market for reflective gear, with farmers eventually bearing the cost if the devices become mandatory by law. Tierspoor had pointed out that road accidents cost the government close to N\$500 million annually, with collisions with animals accounting for hundreds of deaths each year in Namibia. “If you institutionalise this, people along the main roads will be urged to buy reflective ear tags,” he said. “And if they don’t, we’ll put it in the law to say it is now unlawful for those large livestock to be without reflective ear tags because they’re killing our people.”

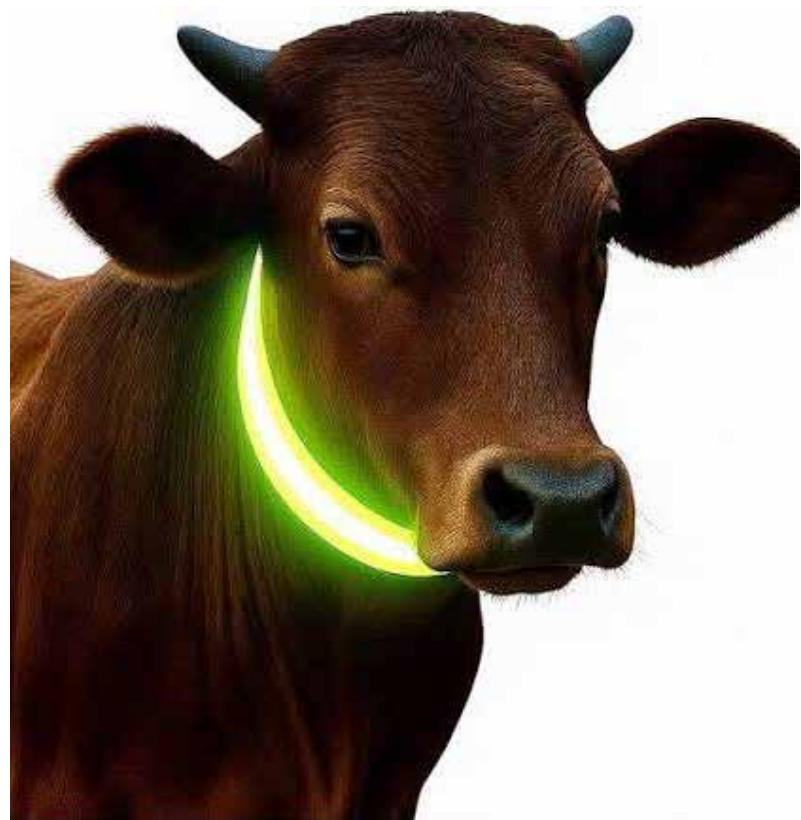


Photo used for illustration purposes only.

Namibians jailed in SADC could soon finish prison terms locally

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sentence. Requests can be lodged by any state party, the sentenced offender, or their representative. However, transfers are not automatic. Article 6 sets seven conditions that must be met, including that “the sentenced offender is a national of the administering state,” that “the sentence has become enforceable in the sentencing state and is no more subject to appeal or review,” and that “not less than six (6) months of the sentence have still to be served on the date of receipt of the request for transfer, unless otherwise agreed under exceptional circumstances.” Written consent from the offender is also mandatory. The protocol

includes several safeguards for prisoners. Article 8 guarantees that transferred offenders cannot be tried or convicted again for the same acts that led to their original sentence. Article 10 requires that the sentence be completed according to the laws of the receiving state but makes clear that the prisoner may not receive a harsher sentence than that imposed by the sentencing state. Clemency remains with the receiving country. Article 11 states that the administering state may grant pardon, amnesty, parole, or commutation of the sentence under its own constitution or laws.

All transfer requests must be made in writing and sent through diplomatic or previously agreed channels, according to Article 3. The receiving country is required to respond within a reasonable time, not exceeding 90 working days. Offenders must be informed of their rights under the protocol. Article 4 requires that sentenced offenders be told about the protocol’s contents and the legal effects of a possible transfer, and that they be provided with the relevant application form. The cost of transferring a prisoner shall be negotiated between the concerned states, the protocol

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Amushelelo files urgent court bid to remove B1 speed humps

ALEXER NAMUNDJEMBO
Staff Writer

Social justice activist Michael Amushelelo has filed an urgent application in the High Court seeking the immediate removal of speed humps installed on the B1 Western Bypass, arguing they are unlawful and pose a public hazard.

The matter is set to be heard before the High Court today, according to a Notice of Motion dated 11 June 2026 and seen by the *Windhoek Observer*. Amushelelo is expected to appear in person.

The case lists the minister of works and transport as the first respondent, while the Roads Authority (RA) and Attorney-General are listed as the second and third respondents, respectively.

In the application, Amushelelo requests that the court waive the standard legal procedures and service requirements outlined in the High Court Rules, and instead treat the matter as urgent under Rule 73. He is asking the court to rule that the installation of the physical speed humps on the B1 Western Bypass near the Northern Industrial Area is illegal, does not comply with the Road Traffic and Transport Act of 1999, and endangers public safety.

The notice further demands that the court order the ministry and RA to remove the speed humps within 24 hours of the court's ruling and return the road surface to its original, unblocked condition.

Amushelelo is also seeking a court order prohibiting the construction or approval of any future physical speed humps on any national highway or designated freeway in Namibia. The application further states that the first respondent and any other opposing respondents should be required to pay the legal costs on an

attorney-and-own-client scale, in addition to any further or alternative relief the court deems appropriate. "Take notice further that the accompanying founding affidavit of Michael-Ndali Saddam Amushelelo will be used in support of this application," the court document states.

The respondents had not filed answering papers at the time of publication.

The installed speed humps have been widely criticised, with Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) Member of Parliament Nelson Kalangula saying he has observed the chaos that has unfolded over the last few days on the roads.

"Just this past weekend, we already saw our first vehicle collisions on the newly erected speed humps along the B1 Western Bypass," he said while responding to the *Windhoek Observer* this week.

He had said this is a clear indicator that the current administration's approach to a very serious problem is reactive and short-sighted.

"The high number of pedestrian fatalities between the Independence Avenue interchange near Katutura Hospital and Lafrenz, as well as on the A1 near Prosperita, is completely unacceptable," he said.

However, Kalangula also noted that the ministry and RA are treating a national highway like a suburban residential street.

He added that the B1 Western Bypass and the A1 are critical economic arteries.

"They are designed with high-speed, efficient transit of goods and people in mind. Dumping massive, poorly planned speed humps on a 120 km/h international transit corridor does not create driver alertness; it creates massive traffic bottlenecks, severe rear-end collision risks, and inflicts structural damage on the vehicles of



Michael Amushelelo - Photo: Contributed

Namibians jailed in SADC could soon finish prison terms locally

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notes in Article 14. Transit through other SADC countries is permitted, and states are obliged to cooperate in facilitating such transit.

According to the notice, the protocol applies to all 16 SADC member states, including South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

It comes into force 30 days after the deposit of ratification instruments by two-thirds of member states, under Article 22.

Disputes over interpretation or implementation must first be resolved amicably. If that fails, member states are referred to the ministerial committee of the organ and, ultimately, to the SADC Tribunal.

"The decision of the SADC Tribunal shall be final and binding," Article 18 states.

The ministry of home affairs, immigration, safety and security did not respond to questions about how many Namibians could be affected or when the first transfers may occur. The Namibia Correctional Services

and ministry of justice had also not commented by the time of publication.

Social justice advocate Mateus Amakali told the *Windhoek Observer* on Thursday that the gazetted SADC protocol is a significant step toward humane correctional policy, but warned that implementation will determine its impact.

"Allowing Namibians jailed abroad to serve their sentences at home is fundamentally about dignity and rehabilitation," Amakali said.

"When people are closer to family, language, and community support, their chances of reintegrating and not reoffending improve dramatically. But the six-month minimum, consent requirements, and negotiated costs mean this won't help everyone," he added.

Amakali added that the government must be transparent about who qualifies for the prisoner transfers and ensure that correctional facilities are ready; otherwise, there is a risk of creating expectations that cannot be met. In February last year, the home affairs ministry said there were 69 Namibians serving terms in SADC prisons, while 465 prisoners from SADC countries were serving terms in Namibian prisons.

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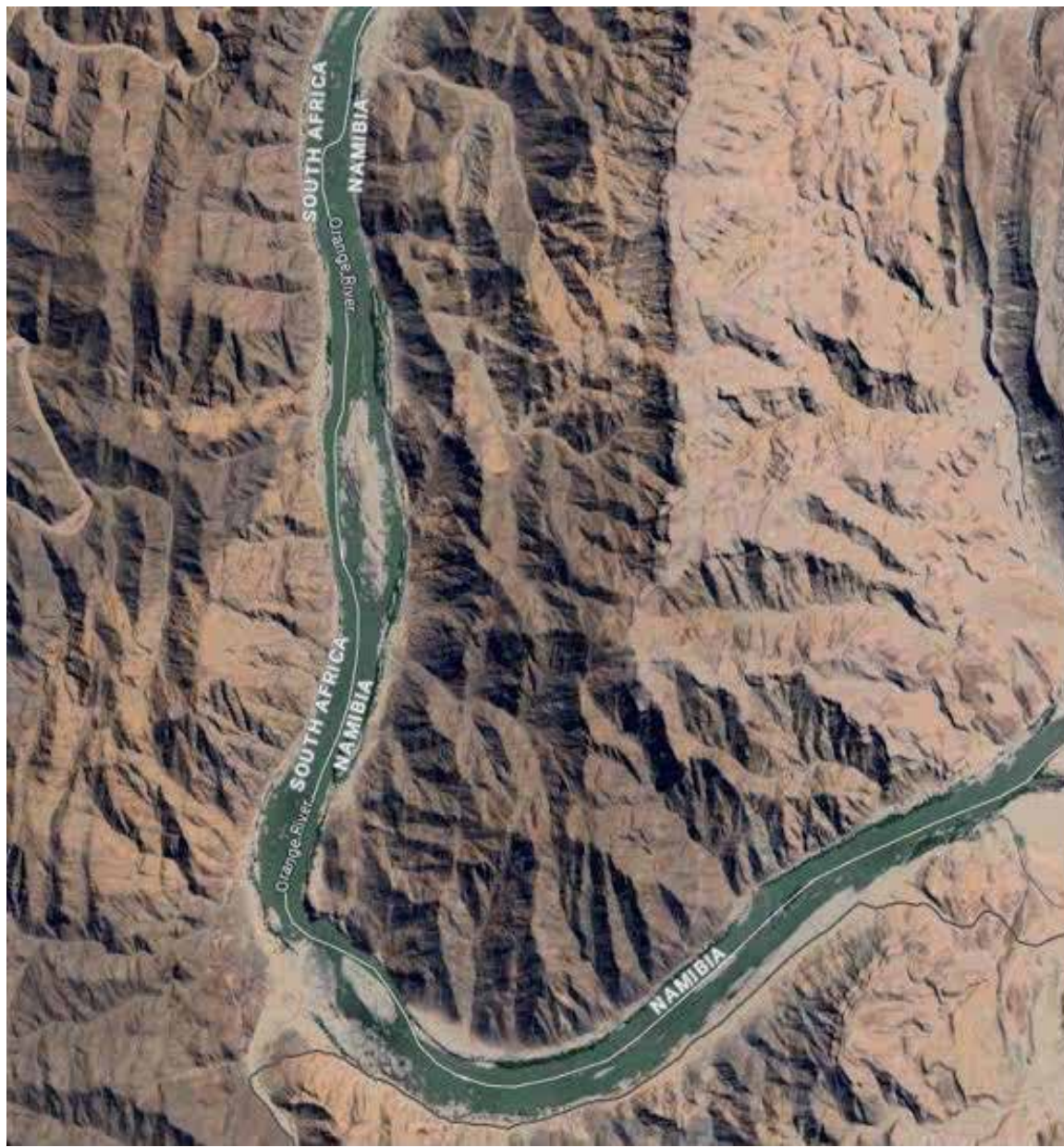
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Formalisation of Orange River border still looming

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after a technical committee reached an agreement, the formalisation of the long-disputed Orange River border between Namibia and South Africa remains unresolved, with the matter still looming over bilateral relations.

The dispute, which has been ongoing since Namibia's independence in 1990, boils down to a fundamental disagreement over where the international boundary lies along the Orange River, spanning roughly 600 kilometers of the shared border. Pretoria's claim relied on the colonial 1890 Helgoland-Zanzibar Treaty between Great Britain and Imperial Germany, which demarcated the boundary along the high-water mark of the northern bank of the river.

If strictly applied, this would put the entire width of the river under South African jurisdiction.

Namibia argued that international law and modern principles governing contiguous rivers favour a median line boundary, meaning the border should run right down the middle of the river, a position enshrined in its 1990 Constitution. The mouth of the Orange River and its surrounding alluvial banks are known to be rich in high-quality diamonds and other minerals, while the lower Orange River basin is vital for irrigation.

Namibia relies on this water for major agricultural exports such as high-value table grapes, as well as for mining and domestic consumption.

In October 2024, Namibia and South Africa unanimously adopted a report guiding negotiations surrounding the Orange River Boundary, following a meeting of the Political, Diplomatic, and Legal Committee of the Namibia-South Africa Bi-National Commission. During those discussions, committee members reviewed the comprehensive report presented by the Joint Committee of Experts, leading to its unanimous adoption. The then committee chairperson and minister of international relations, Peya Mushelenga, had expressed gratitude to the Joint Committee for their dedication and efforts in compiling the report, while emphasising the urgency of reaching a resolution.

"The discussions were conducted in a frank, open, and cordial manner guided by the principles of good neighbourliness, mutual respect, and trust," Mushelenga previously stated.

"Allow me at this juncture to express my most sincere gratitude to the Joint Committee of Experts for not only submitting and presenting their report but also for their tireless efforts and dedication aimed at assisting the two countries to reach a conclusion on the matter of the

Orange River Boundary, which has been the subject of negotiations between Namibia and South Africa since 1991."

The outcome of the meeting was forwarded to the Heads of State of both nations for further consideration.

Despite the adoption of the report, the final settlement now depends entirely on political timing and executive sign-off.

When contacted for comment regarding the matter last week, press secretary in the presidency, Jonas Mbambo told the *Windhoek Observer* that the formalisation of the disputed boundary could be a topic of discussion at a bi-national commission meeting between Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Cyril Ramaphosa next month.

"On the Orange River issue, Namibia and RSA are scheduled to have a bi-national commission meeting in July this year," said Mbambo.

"This is usually the platform where outstanding matters as well as new ideas and proposals to further strengthening of bilateral relations will be discussed."

He referred further questions to the ministry of international relations and trade.

Ndiita Hipondoka-Robiati, the executive director in the ministry, had not responded to related inquiries by the time of publication.

U.S. cracks down on global birth tourism networks, revokes hundreds of visas

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

The United States Department of State says it has dismantled multiple birth tourism networks operating across Africa and Europe, in a global crackdown that has led to the revocation of hundreds of visas.

The action targets foreign nationals accused of abusing the U.S. immigration system by travelling on visitor visas with the primary aim of giving birth in the United States to secure citizenship for their children. According to the State Department, the operations form part of broader efforts to tighten visa scrutiny worldwide and curb fraudulent use of U.S. travel documentation.

"Under President Trump, the State Department is defending the integrity of U.S. citizenship by ending illegal birth tourism schemes," the department said, adding that visitor visas are not intended for securing citizenship through childbirth.

The department stressed that "a U.S. visa is a privilege, not a right," warning that misuse of the system will result in enforcement action and permanent bans.

In West Africa, U.S. authorities uncovered what they described as a sophisticated network involving more than 100 foreign nationals allegedly using fraudulent documents and visa facilitators.

Officials said the group relied on "fixers" who helped applicants secure visas under false pretences, with the network now dismantled and visas revoked following investigations.

In Europe, U.S. embassies identified more than 400 suspected cases of birth tourism since 2024, linked to at least six companies allegedly assisting clients with visa applications, travel arrangements and delivery planning in the United States.

The State Department said those involved were either refused entry or permanently barred from returning to the country following enforcement action.

In North Africa, more than 100 visas were revoked after investigators determined that applicants had travelled primarily for the purpose of giving birth in the United States.

Officials said consular officers, working with law enforcement agencies and using data analytics, were able to identify and dismantle several coordinated networks.

The State Department said similar operations remain under investigation as it continues to intensify global monitoring of visa abuse and immigration fraud.

Political analysts and migration policy commentators have warned that the crackdown is likely to spill over into stricter U.S. visa screening for Namibian applicants, even though Namibia has not been directly linked to the birth tourism networks.

Migration policy commentator Ester // Garoëb told the *Windhoek Observer* that enforcement actions of this scale often trigger "blanket tightening" across entire regions, not just countries named in investigations.

"In reality, embassies do not isolate risk neatly by country once a pattern like this emerges," she said.

"What happens is that the entire region is reclassified in terms of scrutiny levels. For ordinary Namibians, that means more intrusive questioning, longer processing times and a much higher burden of proof to demonstrate genuine travel intent."

She warned that legitimate travellers, particularly first-time applicants are often the first to feel the impact of global enforcement.

Commenting on the matter, immigration policy commentator Lucius Josephat Lubonda said the real shift is not only enforcement but how the U.S. consular officers now interpret "intent" in visa applications.

He said heightened concern over fraud pushes embassies to adopt a more restrictive approval approach.

"When systems become alert to abuse, they do not just target the offenders, they tighten the filter for everyone," he said.

"That means applicants who are completely legitimate may still be declined simply because they cannot clearly demonstrate strong travel history or financial and social anchors."

He warned that Namibians with limited international travel records are likely to be most affected under stricter screening environments.

He added that the crackdown also exposes the growing use of data analytics and profiling tools in global visa decisions.

He further said while states have the right to protect immigration systems, the lack of transparency in algorithm-driven screening raises concerns for applicants in countries like Namibia.

"When risk scoring becomes part of visa assessment, applicants are often judged by systems they cannot see or challenge," he said.

"For smaller or developing countries, this can translate into higher refusal rates, even where no fraud exists."

He noted that African states may need stronger diplomatic engagement to ensure enforcement does not disproportionately disadvantage legitimate travellers.



Editorial

The boy-child crisis: Namibia's ticking time bomb

For years, public discourse in Namibia has rightly focused on empowering women and girls, correcting historical injustices and creating opportunities where barriers once existed.

Those efforts have yielded remarkable gains. Today, women are excelling in schools, universities and many professional fields. This progress deserves recognition and celebration. Yet, while the nation applauds these achievements, another reality is emerging quietly but alarmingly: Namibia's boys are falling behind.

The warning delivered this week by First Gentleman Epaphras Ndaitwah during a community engagement in Katima Mulilo should not be dismissed as an isolated concern. It should be viewed as a national wake-up call.

The statistics are sobering. At the University of Namibia's 2025/26 graduation, women accounted for 64.6% of graduates, compared to just 35.4% men. At the Namibia University of Science and Technology, women made up around 60% of graduates. Of the 13 newly qualified doctors who graduated during the same period, only three were male. These numbers do not represent healthy balance. Nor should they be interpreted as a competition between men and women. Rather, they reveal a widening gap that threatens the country's future social and economic stability.

Even more concerning is what happens before young men ever reach university. According to figures from the Ministry of Education, 8 720 boys dropped out of school in 2023 alone. Those statistics represent far more than learners leaving classrooms. They represent lost potential. Among them could have been future doctors, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, scientists and innovators who Namibia desperately needs. Every country depends on the productive participation of all its citizens. When a significant portion of one gender becomes disconnected from education and opportunity, the consequences eventually ripple throughout society.

History has shown that societies with large numbers of unemployed, uneducated and socially alienated young men often experience increased crime, substance abuse, domestic violence and social instability. These are not inevitable outcomes, but they become far more likely when young people lose hope and purpose. Namibia cannot afford to ignore this danger.

The crisis facing boys extends beyond education. The First Gentleman also highlighted another deeply troubling statistic: more than 80% of suicides recorded in Namibia involve men. Police reports from 2023/24 show 542 male suicide deaths compared to 80 female deaths. Among children, eight boys took their own lives compared to five girls.

These figures point to profound emotional and psychological struggles among men and boys.

For generations, boys have been taught to suppress emotions, avoid vulnerability and carry burdens in silence. Many grow up believing that seeking help is a sign of weakness. The result is often depression, substance abuse and tragic outcomes that could have been prevented.

This is why the conversation initiated by the Office of the First Gentleman is both timely and necessary.

Acknowledging the challenges facing boys does not undermine the progress made by girls and women. Supporting boys should never be interpreted as

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History has shown that societies with large numbers of unemployed, uneducated and socially alienated young men often experience increased crime, substance abuse, domestic violence and social instability.

reversing gender equality. Equality does not mean replacing one imbalance with another. It means ensuring that no one is left behind.

Namibia must resist the temptation to turn this issue into a gender debate. The success of women should not be viewed as the failure of men, just as addressing the struggles of boys should not be perceived as an attack on women's empowerment. Both realities can exist simultaneously. The real question is why so many boys are disengaging from education and society. Are schools failing to accommodate different learning needs? Are absent fathers contributing to the crisis? Is poverty forcing boys out of classrooms and into survival mode? Are substance abuse, peer pressure and social media influencing destructive behaviours? Why are boys increasingly disconnected from positive role models?

These are difficult questions, but they deserve honest answers. Government alone cannot solve this challenge.

Parents, teachers, churches, traditional leaders, communities and the private sector all have a role to play. Fathers must become more present. Schools must identify vulnerable boys earlier. Communities must create mentorship programmes and safe spaces where young men can talk openly about their struggles.

Perhaps most importantly, society must restore purpose and hope. Young boys need to believe that education matters. They need examples of responsible masculinity. They need guidance, discipline, encouragement and opportunities.

The First Gentleman's initiative of promoting positive masculinity offers an important starting point. Masculinity should not be defined by aggression or dominance, but by responsibility, integrity, compassion and service to others.

The truth is uncomfortable but unavoidable: neglecting the boy-child is a ticking time bomb.

If current trends continue unchecked, Namibia risks producing a generation of young men who feel excluded, disconnected and hopeless. Such an outcome would have devastating consequences not only for men themselves, but for families, communities and the nation's economy. A country cannot prosper when half of its human capital is underperforming. Namibia's future depends on the success of both girls and boys.

The challenge before us is not choosing one over the other. It is ensuring that both have equal opportunities to thrive. Because when boys fail, society eventually pays the price.

And by then, the cost may be far too high.



How accountable are community organisations?

How accountable are community organisations? Yours Truly Ideologically is posing this question disturbed greatly by news and complaints that have been filtering through for some time now from the peripheries concerning the lack of accountability among our community institutions.

Concerned because community organisations, ideally, are and should be the first among the firsts to usher in and spearhead egalitarianism as well as all the way guard, guide and protect such where and whenever it is realised among our communities. However, nascent such realisation may be.

In the belief and orientation of "to each according to his/her needs and from each according to his/her ability." Best placed to usher in socio-economic transformation where it is most needed, which is the local level.

Socialism cannot be ushered in and fostered among the broader Namibian society, other than starting from the base, which are our rural economic backyards, a situation imposed on them by capitalism. Which remains, to the detriment of the masses, including our rural peasants, the harsh and undesirable status quo.

Community institutions in many respects and aspects, such as farmers associations, at whatever level, from water points in villages, you name them to farmers associations, not to mention community development committees.

"What's good for the goose is good for the gander," the idiom goes. Simply meaning that if a particular action, rule, or treatment is acceptable for one person, it should be equally acceptable for another in a similar situation.

But this does not seem to be the case when it comes to accountability in and at the low levels of our various institutions, entities and organisations.

Be they farmers associations, water point committees and/or village committees. Where, worst of all, financial discipline is unheard of and community funds are spent unscrupulously without accountability and without following given financial accountability procedures, even the basic ones.

Where community funds are reported missing without anybody being called upon to account, despite particular and specific person(s) being in positions of responsibility and accountability regarding the given funds.

This is not only with reference to the funds of a specific organisation but pertains to the running and management and/or governance of all the affairs, including its assets and properties.

In the case of waterpoints, the prudent use of resources such as diesel for the engine. The maintenance of the waterpoint infrastructure, etc.

Yours Truly Ideologically is very much aware of even the state of dilapidation of water points in villages, including his own,



Yours Truly Ideologically
with
Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro

as if this village does not have a waterpoint management committee.

It is the responsibility of such to ensure the infrastructure is in a good condition. Thereby causing its regular upkeep, even if in doing so calling upon contributions from the villagers. All its take is an initiative by the management committee.

Likewise on a different level and pertaining to the Constituency, it is the responsibility of the local farmers association that farmers get every assistance possible to buttress their farming activities.

Like helping the farmers during droughts in any way possible, be it subsidising feed and/or any help necessary to help them through the drought, including helping farmers with relocation to better grazing during the drought.

Yours Truly Ideologically admittedly, perhaps due to his own ignorance, or being detached and remote from his rural surroundings euphemised as his home, despite being an economic banishment dating back to the days of colonialism, including Apartheid South Africa's occupation of the then South West Africa, is not aware of the efforts of, particularly, the farming association in the Epukiro Constituency in this regard.

Calling upon the association to help farmers where it can in this regard, is by any means not asking for a favour. But there is and should be a standing demand and expectation for the association to carry out its obligations in this regard.

When any farmer sells an animal, a levy is deducted which goes into the coffers of the association, the Eastern Epukiro Farmers Association (EEFA). Meaning the association is obligated to plough back into the farming community. This levy, in the first place, is its very lifeline financially.

Except for the association drawing on the fund so accumulated to help farmers in times of need, it has a fiduciary obligation to not only account regularly to its shareholders, the farmers, how such a fund is spent but equally how it is handled.

This obligates the association to issue its shareholders, the farmers, with regular

financial reports, as may be prescribed by its rules and regulations having given rise to its existence. Not to mention the fact that such financial statements must be audited.

At least the association is, once a year, having an annual general meeting as may be the case. If for one reason or the other it is unable to hold this, this cannot be forever, but just a matter of delay until it is in a position to.

But, "in one way or the other" means accountability must be in place. But it looks like for some associations, failure of financial accountability has become the rule rather than an exception.

It remains to be seen in the case of EEFA when last it produced an audited report. Not just for the farmers but for the broader EEFA's publics, internal as well as external. If it is to gain the necessary trust and confidence, be that of its immediate shareholders, the farmers, and/or that of the general public beyond its immediate environment.

One vehicle for such public information, because its financial statement is certainly public information, is its WhatsApp group. Yours Truly Ideologically, for one, surely must have missed it if it was ever posted.

EEFA must have been sourcing funds from all and sundry to help farmers. If its financial books are not an open book, certainly it does not auger well for the necessary trust and confidence should it wish to source funds from any other financial institution for whatever purpose it may wish to source such funds in the future.

Needless to say, EEFA, and any other farmers associations, for that matter, are better advised to up their games in this regard.

This does not only pertain to finances, but even to properties like farms, in the case of the associations which may possess farms and/or pieces of land.

How are they utilised and who benefits from them, other than a few individuals who may be close to whatever powers may be?

The same way we are quick to blame the government for lack of financial prudence and/or accountability, we must equally hold our own local institutions accountable in every respect and aspect.

Managers of such institutions who have fallen into the habit of being a law unto themselves through contagious camaraderie based on whatever non-transparent and unholy relationships.

Be it by virtue of their closeness to traditional authorities and/or whatever authority they may, they are simply running the risk of being arraigned by the law for corruption, mismanagement, misappropriation, and/or misuse, abuse and misapplication of public properties.

So they are better advised to wake up and smell the coffee.

To shape up or ship out. Let it be known, if such associations are not coming to the party, farmers can reserve their rights and obligation to hold them accountable.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is an option in this regard.

The geopolitical significance of the FIFA 2026 World Cup and the erosion of American universalism

PAUL T. SHIPALE

(with inputs by Folito Nghitongovali
Diawara Gaspar)

The 2026 FIFA World Cup was conceived as the ultimate celebration of football's global reach. For the first time in history, forty eight national teams will compete in a tournament jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, creating the largest and most geographically expansive World Cup ever organized.

On paper, the event represents the triumph of globalization. More nations will participate, more supporters will travel, and more audiences than ever before will share in football's most celebrated spectacle.

Yet as the tournament approaches, a profound contradiction is becoming increasingly visible.

The country hosting the majority of matches is also a country where immigration, border security, and international mobility have become deeply contested political issues.

This reality raises a question that extends far beyond football: Can a World Cup truly remain universal when access to it is mediated by one of the most unequal features of the modern international system - the ability to cross borders? This is not merely an administrative challenge.

It is a geopolitical question touching on sovereignty, legitimacy, globalization, soft power, and the evolving structure of international order in the twenty-first century.

Football and the promise of universality
Since its inception, the FIFA World Cup has embodied a powerful ideal that sport can temporarily transcend the hierarchies of international politics.

On the pitch, nations compete as formal equals. Economic wealth, military power, and geopolitical influence do not automatically determine victory. Every country enters the tournament with the possibility of success.

For ninety minutes, political rivalries often give way to a shared emotional experience. African, Asian, Latin American, European, Middle Eastern, and North American audiences become participants in a common global ritual. Football's appeal rests largely on this promise of universality.

Unlike many international institutions, which often reflect unequal distributions of power, football offers both the appearance and, to a significant extent, the reality of equal participation.

Yet universality depends upon access. When participation in a global event becomes increasingly influenced by passports, visa regimes, and discretionary border controls, the symbolic equality represented by football begins to weaken. The question ceases to be merely who can qualify for the tournament.

It becomes who can fully participate in the global experience surrounding it.

Mobility as geopolitical capital

One of the defining characteristics of contemporary globalization is the unequal distribution of mobility.

For decades, globalization was associated with the promise of openness. Goods, capital, information, and culture would move across borders with unprecedented speed. Humanity appeared to be entering an era of increasing interconnectedness. But globalization has always been selective.

Capital moves with remarkable freedom. Information crosses continents in seconds.

Multinational corporations operate across jurisdictions.

People do not enjoy the same freedom. The right to mobility remains profoundly

unequal and is determined largely by nationality rather than individual merit or circumstance.

A passport issued by a wealthy Western state grants access to much of the world. Passports from many countries in Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia often provide significantly fewer opportunities for international travel.

Citizenship has increasingly become a form of inherited geopolitical capital. In this sense, mobility itself has become a form of power.

The World Cup exposes this reality with unusual clarity. Football may claim universality, but participation in its greatest celebration remains constrained by one of globalization's most unequal dimensions; the freedom to move.

From liberal globalization to managed interdependence

The significance of the 2026 World Cup extends beyond sport because it arrives at a pivotal moment in international history. The tournament was awarded during an era when globalization still appeared resilient and expansive.

The decades following the Cold War were characterized by growing trade, increasing international travel, expanding economic integration, and confidence in a liberal international order largely shaped by the United States and its allies.

Many assumed borders would become progressively less important.

That assumption now appears increasingly uncertain.

The twenty-first century has witnessed a series of developments that have challenged that vision:

- The resurgence of nationalist politics across Western democracies.
- Brexit and renewed emphasis on sovereignty.
- Migration crises in Europe and North America.
- The securitization of borders following terrorism and geopolitical instability.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, which temporarily halted global mobility.
- Intensifying strategic competition among the United States, China, and Russia.

Globalization has not disappeared. Rather, it has evolved into a system of managed interdependence in which openness remains desirable but increasingly conditional. The 2026 World Cup may become one of the clearest symbols of that transformation.

When policy becomes symbolism

Concerns about access to the tournament are not entirely theoretical. Pundit and former England striker Ian Wright has labelled the tournament a "World Cup of chaos", saying in a video on Instagram:

"Every few hours, it's another story about fans denied, player denied, officials denied, journalists denied, now refs. 'I'm laughing but it's not funny. It's actually not funny and something has to be said. The most expensive tickets ever, expensive accommodation, transport through the roof.'" Ian said.

Indeed, in recent years, debates surrounding visa processing, travel restrictions, heightened scrutiny of certain nationalities, and uncertainties affecting individuals from politically sensitive countries have highlighted the intersection between international sport and immigration policy.

Most individual cases can be explained through administrative procedures or legitimate security considerations.

Indeed, every sovereign state possesses the right and responsibility to determine who enters its territory.

This point deserves recognition. Large scale sporting events involve genuine security challenges.

Governments are expected to protect



participants and spectators. No serious observer advocates the abandonment of border controls.

The issue is therefore not border management itself but perception. When a global sporting event becomes associated with uncertainty regarding access, symbolism begins to matter as much as policy.

In international politics, perceptions frequently shape legitimacy more powerfully than legal explanations. The question is not whether individual decisions are lawful but what those decisions communicate to a global audience.

Africa and the unequal geography of access

Nowhere is this contradiction more visible than in Africa.

The continent possesses one of the world's largest football audiences. African players are central figures in elite football. African supporters contribute enormously to the culture, passion, and global popularity of the game.

Yet African participation in major international sporting events has long been shaped by structural inequalities.

Travel costs remain significantly higher relative to average incomes.

Consular representation is often limited. Visa procedures can be lengthy, expensive, and uncertain.

Air connectivity between many African countries and major global destinations remains underdeveloped.

These barriers exist independently of any particular World Cup host.

They are manifestations of a broader hierarchy embedded within the international system.

The result is a striking paradox. African nations compete on equal terms on the pitch and African talent is celebrated globally.

African audiences are indispensable to football's commercial success.

Yet many Africans remain disproportionately excluded from physically participating in football's most important global gathering.

This is not simply a sporting issue. It reflects a wider reality in which representation and access remain unevenly distributed across the global order.

Sovereignty and the limits of global institutions

At the heart of this debate lies a tension that increasingly defines international politics.

On one side stands national sovereignty. States possess the legal authority to regulate entry into their territory.

Border control remains among the most fundamental expressions of state power.

On the other side stand international institutions and global events that depend

upon predictable cross border mobility. Organizations such as FIFA operate on the assumption that players, officials, journalists, commercial partners, and supporters can move across borders with relative certainty.

When sovereign authority and global mobility intersect, friction becomes inevitable.

The World Cup therefore reveals an important truth about contemporary governance.

Despite decades of globalization, states remain the ultimate gatekeepers of physical movement.

The authority of international institutions still ends where sovereign borders begin.

The World Cup as an instrument of soft power

Major sporting events have long functioned as instruments of international influence.

Governments invest heavily in hosting World Cups and Olympic Games because such events provide opportunities to shape global perceptions.

They showcase infrastructure, administrative competence, cultural attractiveness, and national prestige. From Beijing to Johannesburg, Moscow to Doha, major sporting events have served as platforms for national storytelling.

The United States understands this dynamic.

The 2026 World Cup offers an opportunity to reinforce its cultural influence and demonstrate leadership before a worldwide audience measured in billions.

Yet soft power differs fundamentally from military or economic power.

It cannot be imposed but must be accepted.

Its effectiveness depends on attraction, credibility, and legitimacy.

The more a nation is perceived as accessible, confident, and welcoming, the stronger its soft power becomes.

Conversely, when international audiences encounter barriers where they expected openness, the political benefits of hosting global events become less certain.

The limits of American universalism

At its deepest level, the debate surrounding the 2026 World Cup is not fundamentally about football.

Nor is it primarily about immigration policy but about the limits of American universalism.

By American universalism, we refer to the post-Cold War belief that institutions, norms, and values associated with the United States could provide a framework for global integration.

This vision emphasized openness, liberalization, free exchange, and the expansion of interconnected international systems.

For much of the post-Cold War era, American influence rested not only on military and economic strength but also on the perception that the United States represented a project with global aspirations rather than merely national interests.

The World Cup places that narrative under scrutiny.

To be clear, the United States is not the first World Cup host to confront contradictions between domestic policies and football's universal ideals.

Previous tournaments have generated controversies involving security, human rights, labor practices, or geopolitical tensions.

What makes the American case particularly significant is the country's historical role as the principal advocate of a liberal international order.

When access to a global event becomes conditioned by nationality, geography, and political circumstance, the gap between universal rhetoric and selective

mobility becomes increasingly visible. This matters because legitimacy remains one of the most important forms of power in international politics.

States can compel through force. They can influence through attraction.

But when the credibility of their values is questioned, their soft power begins to weaken.

A mirror of a changing world order

The United States hosted the World Cup in 1994 at the height of the unipolar era. The Cold War had ended.

American influence appeared unrivaled. Globalization seemed irreversible. The liberal international order appeared triumphant.

The United States will host again in 2026 under dramatically different circumstances.

Power is now more diffuse. China has emerged as a major geopolitical competitor.

Regional powers exercise greater influence. The Global South is demanding a stronger voice in international institutions.

Confidence in globalization has weakened. Faith in universal norms has become more contested.

The contrast between 1994 and 2026 reflects more than a change in football. It reflects a transformation in the structure of world politics itself.

Beyond football

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will undoubtedly be remembered for its goals, its stars, and its historic expansion.

Yet it may also be remembered as a symbol of one of the defining paradoxes of our age.

Humanity has never been more connected. Information travels instantly.

Markets operate globally. Cultures interact continuously.

And yet the movement of people remains profoundly unequal. The World Cup remains one of the few truly global rituals capable of bringing nearly every nation into a shared experience.

If even football becomes constrained by the realities of fragmented mobility and geopolitical division, then the tournament reveals something larger than the limitations of sport.

It reveals the limitations of globalization itself.

Ultimately, the most important question may not be who lifts the trophy in July 2026.

The more enduring question is whether the world's most universal sporting event can continue to embody the principle that made it universal in the first place: the belief that people from every nation, culture, and society belong equally within a common global arena.

The answer will not be determined solely on the pitch.

It will also be shaped at borders, airports, consulates, and checkpoints around the world.

For in the end, the true geopolitical significance of the 2026 FIFA World Cup lies not in the competition between nations, but in what it reveals about the world that nations now inhabit.

A world that remains deeply interconnected, yet increasingly divided. A world still searching for a balance between sovereignty and openness.

And a world in which the future of genuinely universal institutions can no longer be taken for granted.

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.

Inflation rises to 4.1% in May, highest this year

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The annual inflation rate accelerated to 4.1% in May, up from 3.5% recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

NSA Statistician-General and chief executive officer, Alex Shimuafeni, said the headline inflation rate for the 12 months ending May reached 4.1%, while the overall price level increased by 1.2% on a month-on-month basis, compared to 1.1% recorded in April 2026.

Core inflation, which excludes certain volatile items, stood at 3.1%, remaining below the headline

inflation rate.

The agency's zonal analysis showed that Zone 2, comprising the Khomas Region, recorded the highest annual inflation rate at 5.4% in May 2026.

This was followed by Zone 3, which includes the //Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke regions, with an inflation rate of 3.6%.

Zone 1, covering the Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi regions, recorded the lowest annual inflation rate at 3.2%.

Consumers in Zone 3 paid the highest average price for a 5kg bag of maize meal at N\$73.53, followed by Zone 1 at N\$70.14. Zone 2 consumers paid the lowest average price at N\$68.22.

For diesel, Zone 1 recorded the highest average price at N\$28.94 per litre, followed closely by Zone 3 at N\$28.89, while Zone 2 recorded the lowest average price at N\$28.75 per litre.

In Zone 1, annual inflation slowed to 3.2% from 3.5% recorded in May 2025. The deceleration was largely attributed to slower price increases in recreation and culture, food and non-alcoholic beverages, furniture and household equipment, and alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

On a monthly basis, inflation in Zone 1 stood at 1.1%, down slightly from 1.2% in the previous month.

Zone 2 experienced the strongest inflationary pressures, with annual inflation rising to 5.4% from 3.1% a

year earlier.

The increase was mainly driven by higher prices in transport, health, furniture and household equipment, and recreation and culture.

Month-on-month inflation in Zone 2 increased to 1.2% from 1.0% recorded in April.

Meanwhile, Zone 3 recorded an annual inflation rate of 3.6%, compared to 4.0% in May 2025.

The slower rate of inflation was mainly linked to lower price growth in alcoholic beverages and tobacco, miscellaneous goods and services, and food and non-alcoholic beverages.

On a monthly basis, inflation in Zone 3 remained unchanged at 1.1%, matching the rate recorded in the previous month.



Alex Shimuafeni



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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%



GIPF CEO and Principal Officer, Martin Inkumbi has said the strategic plan for 2026–2029 requires the fund to remain adaptable and resilient while maintaining a clear focus on its members. - Photo: GIPF

GIPF's asset base reaches N\$213 billion

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) currently has an asset base of N\$213.2 billion and delivered 15% net investment return over the past three years as at 31 January 2026.

The fund this week launched its three-year strategic plan (2026–2029), with board chairperson, Penda Ithindi, disclosing that the plan encompasses several strategic pillars that provide focus and direction on the sustainability of the fund, delivering excellent service, good governance and ethical leadership, organisational and employee capacity and socio-economic impact.

Ithindi said the successful implementation of the fund's strategic priorities will result in ensuring optimal cost management, risk mitigation, improving operational efficiency, strengthening governance systems and enable the GIPF to make impactful investments aligned with environmental, social and governance frameworks, prioritising member well-being and addressing the country's

national development goals.

The GIPF said it was a comprehensive and rigorous process that incorporated extensive external environmental scanning alongside careful consideration of potential risks, the ever-changing geo-political climates and market shifts.

The GIPF strategy was equally informed by stakeholder needs and expectations ensuring that the Fund's strategic direction is aligned with the reality in local, regional and international circumstances.

The GIPF said the strategic plan is aligned to its mandate and evolving operating environment.

"I am delighted to observe that the GIPF 3-year strategy is aligned to the country's developmental agendas such as Vision 2030, the National Development Plan (NDP 6) and the United National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to create societal value through stimulating economic activity, reducing poverty, promoting social development, and supporting regional equity" said Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare, in his speech delivered by Special Advisor, Asser Ntinda.

The NDP6 has 47 focus areas, 80 programmes, and 243 sub-programmes. To implement all these projects by 2030, the government needs N\$506.7 billion.

He added that GIPF as a responsible institutional investor, must work closely with its asset managers to allocate capital to sustainable development initiatives that generate measurable social and environmental outcomes as these investments contribute significantly to national development while preserving and growing value for the GIPF's members.

GIPF chief executive officer and principal officer, Martin Inkumbi added that the strategic plan for 2026–2029 requires the fund to remain adaptable and resilient while maintaining a clear focus on its members.

He added that the strategy reinforces a commitment to responsible governance, prudent investment management, and sustainable growth, while ensuring that the fund remains capable of supporting its members and their beneficiaries for generations to come.

Alexforbes integrates Namibia into regional fund system

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Financial services group, Alexander Forbes Group Holdings Limited (Alexforbes) has started consolidating its fund administration platforms across Namibia, South Africa and Botswana into a single system, a move aimed at improving client service, reducing costs and supporting future growth across the region.

The company said it has begun decommissioning its legacy fund administration systems as part of a broader technology modernisation programme.

Initial milestones have already been achieved and clients in the affected markets, including Namibia, have been engaged during the transition process.

The development forms part of Alexforbes' wider strategy to simplify operations, improve efficiency and strengthen its technology infrastructure.

The group said the integrated platform is expected to enhance client experience while providing a more scalable administration system over the medium term.

The update was released alongside the group's financial results for the year ended 31 March 2026, which showed strong growth in earnings and operating income.

Chief executive officer Dawie de Villiers said the company had delivered another solid year of performance while continuing to invest in technology and business simplification.

"We delivered strong growth in operating income and a 22% increase in normalised profit, while maintaining a robust balance sheet and high levels of client retention," De Villiers said.

He added that the company had made substantial progress in simplifying its business, strengthening accountability and improving service delivery, while investing in technology and advice-led



Alexander Forbes has commenced the decommissioning of legacy fund administration platforms and are consolidating into a single fund administration system across South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. - Photo: Contributed

client engagement.

Alexforbes reported that operating income increased by 10% to N\$4.85 billion during the year, supported by higher average assets, positive investment performance, strong client retention and new business growth in its investment and retail divisions. Operating expenses rose 9% to N\$3.85 billion, although the company said underlying expense growth was limited to 5% after adjusting for accounting changes and lease-related factors.

Normalised profit from operations increased by 22% to N\$1.03 billion,

reflecting improved operational performance across the group.

The company said its balance sheet remained strong, supported by continued cash generation from operations.

Regulatory surplus capital stood at N\$1.19 billion while available cash amounted to N\$860 million at year-end.

Alexforbes also declared a final cash dividend of 33 cents per share, bringing the total annual dividend to 57 cents per share, up 4% from the previous financial year.

Technology investment remained a key

focus during the period.

The company said several digital initiatives were successfully implemented, including cloud migration of administration systems and enhanced automation capabilities. A major administration system upgrade approved in August 2025 remains on schedule and is expected to deliver operational efficiencies by 2028.

The group said these technology investments had already contributed to improvements in client experience and operational stability, despite industry-wide disruptions linked to

pension reforms in South Africa.

In addition to the regional administration platform project, Alexforbes is pursuing a three-year initiative aimed at strengthening its position as a preferred investment partner in South Africa.

The strategy is designed to increase asset inflows, improve client retention and expand platform and product assets across both institutional and retail markets.

The company said strong institutional business flows and growing retail inflows during the year demonstrated early progress toward those objectives.

GIPF invested N\$1.25 billion in Goreangab Mall

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has fully disclosed its investments in Oryx Property Limited, in which GIPF holds a 29.46%.

Oryx Properties recently inaugurated the Goreangab Mall in Windhoek. The mall is a co-development between Oryx Properties Limited and Safland Property Group.

The project represents a total investment of approximately N\$300 million, fully funded by Oryx Properties Limited, which retains 100% ownership of the asset.

The GIPF awarded a mandate to the Frontier Property Trust, managed by Safland Property Group amounting to N\$450 million, that enabled the group to establish a presence in Namibia.

The GIPF general manager of Corporate Communication and Stakeholder Management, Edwin Tjiramba said the strategically positioned mall shall serve

the Goreangab, Katutura, and surrounding communities in Windhoek that have historically been underserved by formal commercial infrastructure.

The mall forms part of the broader Goreangab Waterfront Development, which includes 2 500 residential units and an integrated public transport facility which is currently under construction.

The Goreangab Mall accommodates more than 40 tenants, with Shoprite serving as the anchor tenant, which functions as the larger cornerstone and foundation of the mall.

The various tenants and services accommodated in this mall are inclusive of banking services through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to enable electronic banking that allows residents in the community to have access to banking facilities for cash withdrawals, depositing money and fund transfers that ensure the financial services needs of the surrounding communities are addressed.

The mall is home to other goods and services retailers' offerings including clothing, furniture, home décor, cosmetics and electronics at the doorsteps of residents in the surrounding areas saving them time, money and convenience of having to travel long distances to acquire goods and services required daily.

The development of the Goreangab Mall is estimated to have created approximately 786 jobs across the construction and post opening phases.

The construction of the mall provided about 360 jobs whereas the post opening phase is expected to provide roughly 426 jobs.

In addition, GIPF committed N\$800 million under a Core Plus Commercial Property Mandate to Oryx. This new unlisted vehicle is intended to finance similar retail developments and mall-type assets of this nature across the country.

The N\$800 million constitutes committed capital earmarked for the new unlisted investment vehicle.



Edwin Tjiramba



Alrosa's programme is aimed at generating sustainable long-term demand for natural diamonds. - Photo: Contributed

Alrosa develops programme for natural diamond promotion

Alrosa's supervisory board has approved a new project for promoting natural diamonds, which will run through 2030.

The programme is aimed at generating sustainable long-term demand for natural diamonds as a category in key global diamond-jewelry markets, the Russian miner said this week.

It will consist of generic marketing to stimulate demand, including strengthening the value positioning of mined diamonds as a symbol of authenticity and uniqueness and promoting the sustainability benefits of natural diamonds. The initiative will also support retail and consumer education, advance regulatory protection, and combat unfair practices.

Alrosa will take an omni-channel approach to marketing that covers the entire decision-making chain, from first contact with the consumer in the digital space to professional consultation at the point of sale

and the final selection of jewelry, it explained.

"The programme focuses on reinforcing the key advantages of natural diamonds: authenticity, natural rarity, uniqueness, emotional significance, and long-term value," Alrosa said.

"These characteristics fundamentally distinguish natural diamonds from industrial mass-produced products that attempt to copy them or exploit investments in the category. The communications platform will adapt to the cultural characteristics of priority consumer markets in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) countries, taking into account the generational characteristics of consumers, primarily Millennials and Generation Z, and developing new consumption occasions, such as personal purchases."

Alrosa will also educate consumers on how to differentiate natural

diamonds from synthetics, through the development of approaches to disclosing information about natural origin, supporting standard terminology distinctions and detection tools.

The goal is to ensure fair competition, protect consumers from misleading information, and reinforce the understanding that natural diamonds and synthetics are distinct products with different origins, value propositions, and market logic, Alrosa stated.

The implementation of the new programme directly follows a move from the government of Russia that mandates the use of only the word "synthetic" to refer to lab-grown. The new directive calls for weight for non-mined stones to be given only in grams and not carats and prohibits using the word "diamond" as well as the 4Cs characteristics associated with natural diamonds when describing the manmade product.

- rapaport.com

BoN says internal audit strengthens governance

Staff Writer

The Bank of Namibia this week hosted an Internal Audit Awareness Day engagement bringing together policymakers, governance practitioners, auditors, and public sector leaders to reflect on the evolving role of internal audit in strengthening governance, accountability, and institutional resilience.

Deputy Governor, Nicholas Mukasa highlighted the critical role of internal audit as an independent assurance function that strengthens governance, supports effective risk management, and promotes accountability across institutions.

He noted that strong internal audit functions provide organisations with the foresight, insight, and assurance required to navigate an increasingly complex operating environment while maintaining public trust.

The engagement was held under the theme of redefining internal audit's strategic value and explored how the profession is evolving from a traditional compliance-focused function into a strategic partner that contributes to organisational performance, sustainability, and long-term value creation.

Participants received insights from Blessing Nyandoro from the Auditor-General's office, who provided a perspective on the current state of governance and financial accountability in Namibia. His presentation highlighted the relationship between audit outcomes and governance effectiveness, emphasising the importance of strong internal controls, timely financial reporting, and proactive oversight mechanisms in improving accountability across public institutions.

During the panel discussion, participants emphasised the importance of continuous training and professional development to equip internal auditors with the skills required to address emerging risks and evolving governance expectations.



Nicholas Mukasa

Discussions highlighted the need for future-oriented public sector reforms, including the adoption of accrual-based frameworks at both national and local authority levels to enhance financial transparency, improve access to reliable information, and support evidence-based decision-making.

Panellists further noted that stronger governance frameworks should contribute to sustainable debt management, while performance agreements for executives can strengthen accountability and the implementation of audit recommendations.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of proactive stakeholder engagement, greater utilisation of technology and data analytics to generate actionable insights and raising internal awareness of the value of internal audit functions.

A key message emerging from the engagement was that internal auditors must be recognised and empowered as strategic partners whose contributions extend beyond compliance to support organisational performance, resilience, and long-term value creation.

The engagement concluded with a collective call for continued investment in internal audit capabilities, stronger governance frameworks, and greater adoption of innovative technologies to enable auditors to provide forward-looking assurance and advisory services that support sustainable institutional success.

Oil shock expected to lift inflation temporarily

Staff Writer

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the resulting surge in global oil prices are expected to push inflation higher in Namibia and South Africa over the coming months, although analysts believe the impact will be temporary and unlikely to trigger a prolonged inflation cycle.

According to a market analysis by Simonis Storm, Brent crude oil is currently trading near US\$93 per barrel after reaching US\$98 earlier this week, around 37% higher than a year ago.

The increase has already translated into higher fuel prices in both Namibia and South Africa, with fuel price adjustments recorded in April and May.

The report argues that the current situation represents a supply shock rather than a sustained demand-driven inflationary trend.

Analysts say weak economic conditions in both countries are likely to limit broader inflationary pressures. South Africa's unemployment rate remains above 31%, while Namibia continues to experience subdued credit growth.

The analysis notes that Namibia's inflation cycle likely reached its low point in March at 2.1%, before rising to 3.1% in April as fuel prices increased.

South Africa's inflation rate similarly rose from 3.1% to 4.0% during the same period.

Inflation in both countries is expected to climb further, potentially approaching 5% during the third quarter of 2026.

This would be driven by the expiry of temporary fuel levy relief measures and the broader impact of higher transport costs on food and utility prices.

Analysts forecast Namibia's average inflation rate for 2026 at approximately 4.5%, above the Bank



Brent crude oil is currently trading near US\$93 per barrel after reaching US\$98 earlier this week. - Photo: Contributed

of Namibia's current projection of 3.7%.

However, the report maintains that the increase will be temporary.

As oil price effects fade and base comparisons become more favourable, inflation is expected to decline from the fourth quarter onward and move back towards 3.5% during 2027.

South Africa's Reserve Bank increased its repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.0% on 28 May, marking its first rate increase since 2023.

The move was intended to reinforce inflation-fighting credibility and prevent temporary price pressures from becoming entrenched.

Analysts expect one further 25-basis-point increase in July, which would take the repo rate to 7.25%, before the tightening cycle ends.

In Namibia, the Bank of Namibia is expected to keep its repo rate unchanged at 6.5% at its upcoming June meeting.

The report estimates only a 20% probability of an additional 25-basis-point increase, mainly as a precaution should the South African rand come under significant pressure.

The report highlights strong demand for Namibian government securities, noting that Treasury bill yields are currently between 16 and 48 basis

points lower than equivalent South African instruments.

Particular attention is being given to Namibia's government bond market, where the yield curve remains exceptionally steep.

Yields range from 7.32% on the GC27 bond to 11.82% on the GC50 bond, a spread of approximately 450 basis points.

This compares with a slope of around 200 basis points on South Africa's government bond curve.

The analysis argues that the steep curve offers investors an opportunity to lock in double-digit nominal yields while long-term inflation expectations

remain anchored around 4%.

Under such conditions, investors could potentially earn real returns of between 6% and 7% on government debt.

Among nominal bonds, the report identifies the GC30 to GC35 segment as particularly attractive because it offers yields between 9.3% and 10.6% while providing additional return potential if interest rates begin falling.

Inflation-linked bonds also remain attractive, with real yields ranging from 4.5% to 6.1%. The GI36 and GI41 bonds were highlighted as offering some of the most attractive inflation-adjusted returns.

Fund to unlock SME growth launched

Staff Writer

Supporting the growth of small businesses to compete, grow and create jobs remains key to Namibia's economic development agenda.

In pursuit of this goal, the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (ProSME) development project in Namibia has introduced the SME Fund to strengthen the sustainability, competitiveness and growth potential of Namibian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The ProSME project is implemented through a partnership between the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Through this collaboration, the NPC ensures alignment with national development priorities, NIPDB

leads the implementation of the SME Fund as part of its MSME development and export promotion mandate, while GIZ provides technical expertise and international best practice.

As part of this project, a dedicated SME Fund has been made available to provide targeted financial support to women and youth-led businesses with the potential to expand.

The Fund is open to registered Namibian micro, small and medium enterprises with an annual turnover ranging from zero up to N\$10 million and at least 51% Namibian ownership and control, as defined under the National Informal Economy, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development (NIESED) Policy.

The successful applicants will receive grant funding ranging from N\$50,000 to N\$100,000.

The project will particularly focus on supporting businesses operating in high-potential sectors including agriculture, tourism, information and communication technology (ICT) and manufacturing, where small businesses can drive

employment creation, local value addition and strengthening Namibia's export base.

Speaking at the launch of the SME Fund, the acting chief executive officer of the NIPDB, Jessica Hauuanga emphasised that, "the SME Fund represents a deliberate effort to move beyond transactional support and invest in the long-term competitiveness of Namibian enterprises. By combining targeted grant funding with business development services and market access opportunities, we are equipping MSMEs with the capacity they need not just to survive, but to grow, create employment, and compete both at home and globally".

GIZ Namibia Country Director, Tobias Gerster emphasised that: "The partnership between Namibia and Germany is, at its core, a partnership between people; people with ideas, ambition, and the determination to create a better future for themselves and their communities."

Applications for the first funding cycle opened on 10 June 2026 and will close on 24 July 2026.



Jessica Hauuanga

YOUNG OBSERVER

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

‘Disability should not limit success’ - Witbooi



Your background should never limit your ambitions: Herunga



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Why society expects rape survivors to simply “move on”

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

The assault may last minutes. The trauma can last a lifetime.

Yet for many rape survivors, one of the most painful experiences comes long after the crime itself. It comes when family members, friends, colleagues and even entire communities expect them to carry on as though nothing happened.

For survivors, healing is rarely that simple.

Long after police reports have been filed and court proceedings concluded, many continue to battle anxiety, depression, nightmares, panic attacks, trust issues and emotional wounds invisible to those around them.

Despite growing awareness around gender-based violence, experts warn that Namibia still struggles to understand the long-term psychological impact of sexual violence and the burden survivors carry long after the headlines disappear.

The concern comes as Namibia continues to record alarming levels of rape and gender-based violence.

Police statistics show that 1 345 rape cases were recorded between April 2024 and February 2025 as part of 4 405 gender-based violence cases reported nationally.

Authorities and social workers have repeatedly warned that the figures likely represent only a fraction of actual cases because many survivors never report their assaults.

Research cited by international agencies further shows that violence against children remains widespread, with nearly two out of every five Namibian girls experiencing physical, sexual or emotional violence before reaching adulthood.

Many never receive assistance or report their experiences.

“People wanted me to be normal again”

For 28-year-old rape survivor Wendy (not her real name), the assault changed everything.

Speaking to the *Young Observer*, she recalled how what began as a family gathering became a nightmare she still carries with her today.

“It was on 26 December 2010. My family and I had gathered at one of my uncles’ houses in Academia to celebrate Family Day. We stayed up

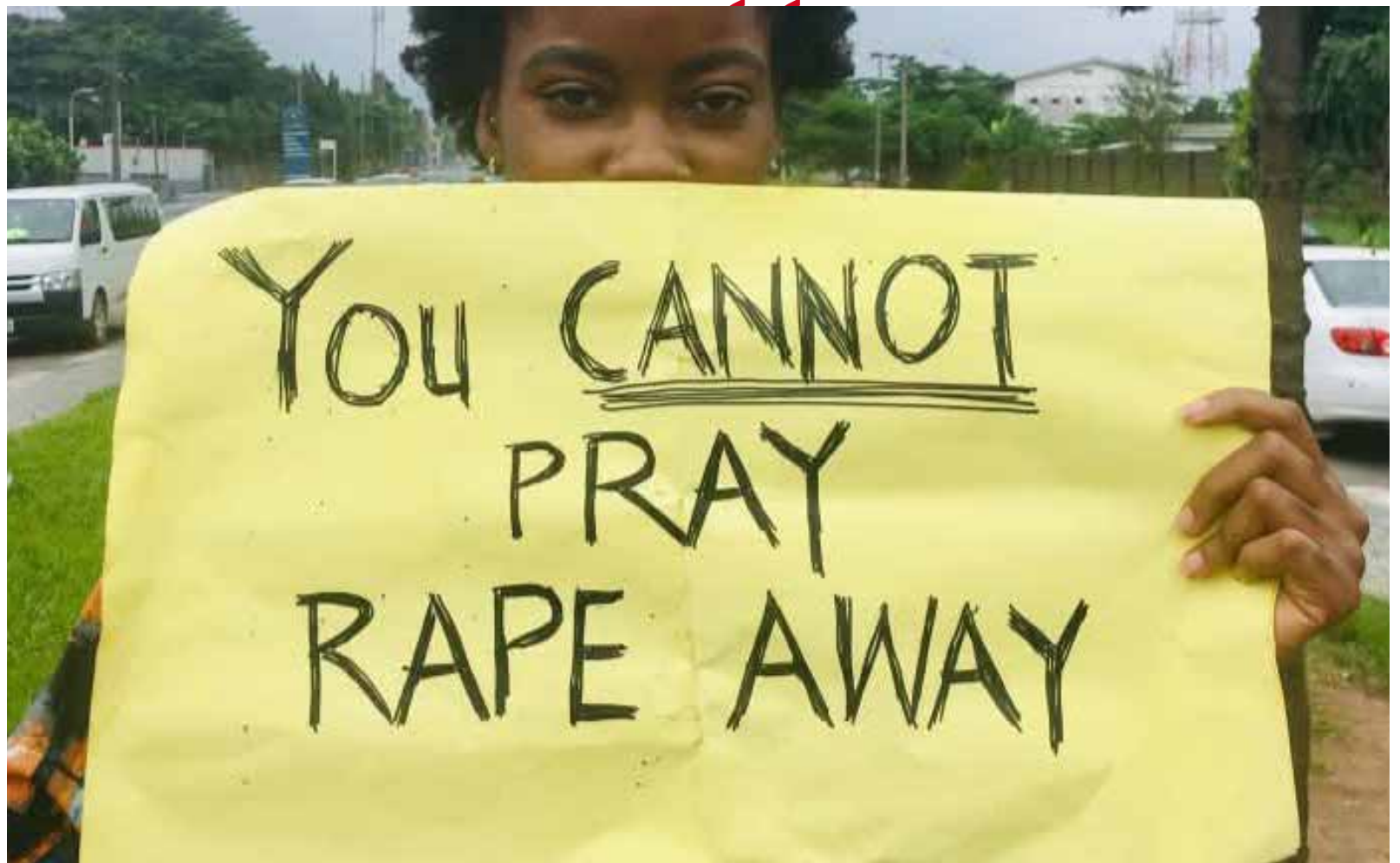


Photo for illustration purposes only.

late and one of my uncles brought muffins and gave me one. I ate it without knowing it had been spiked,” she recalled.

“About an hour later, I felt unwell and went to lie down in one of the guest rooms. I don’t know how long I was asleep, but I remember waking up and finding him on top of me. I tried to fight back, but I was too small. He forced himself on me.”

She said the man later forced her to shower and threatened her with a knife if she told anyone what had happened.

Today, nearly sixteen years later, she still remembers details she wishes she could forget.

“The worst part wasn’t even the court process,” she said.

“It was and still is the expectation that I should be normal again.

Whenever I react differently or struggle with certain things, people accuse me of having a victim mentality or wanting sympathy.”

She said support from relatives faded

quickly.

“People checked on me in the beginning. Then life continued for everyone else. I was expected to laugh, attend family gatherings and act like the old version of myself.” She adds: “What people don’t understand is that rape does not just take your body. It takes your sense of safety. It takes your trust. It changes how you see the world.”

Nearly sixteen years later, some nights she still wakes up from nightmares. Some conversations still trigger memories she wishes she could erase.

“You don’t move on from trauma because people are tired of hearing about it,” she said.

The invisible wounds
Clinical psychologist Anastasia France says one of the biggest misconceptions surrounding rape is the belief that recovery follows a fixed timeline.

“People often assume that because physical injuries have healed,

emotional wounds have healed too. Trauma does not work that way,” France said.

She explained that survivors frequently experience post-traumatic stress symptoms years after the assault.

“A smell, a voice, a location or even a news story can suddenly bring back memories. Many survivors continue living with anxiety, depression, self-blame, trust issues and hypervigilance long after the incident.”

France said society often deepens the trauma by demanding resilience instead of understanding.

“Survivors are told to be strong. They are told to stop dwelling on the past. They are told to forgive and move on. Those expectations create additional pressure and can make survivors feel guilty for still struggling.”

According to France, healing should never be measured by how quickly someone appears to recover.

“It should be measured by whether they are given the support,

understanding and professional help needed to heal at their own pace.”

The silence inside Namibian homes Experts believe part of the problem begins long before abuse occurs. Sex education remains one of the most uncomfortable conversations in many Namibian households. Children are frequently taught not to discuss sex, relationships, consent or even their own bodies.

Youth development specialist Nsala Yvonne Kamwi believes this culture of silence creates fertile ground for abuse.

“We cannot protect children from dangers they have never been taught to recognise,” she said.

“In many homes, talking about sex is considered disrespectful. Parents fear these conversations will encourage sexual activity. In reality, silence often leaves children vulnerable.”

Kamwi argued that children who understand concepts such as

Why society expects rape survivors to simply “move on”

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

bodily autonomy, consent and inappropriate touching are more likely to identify abuse and seek help.

“When we treat sex education as taboo, predators benefit.”

The danger often comes from within. Contrary to popular belief, many survivors are not harmed by strangers.

Social workers and child protection advocates say perpetrators are frequently relatives, caregivers, neighbours, family friends or trusted authority figures.

Social worker Ndesihafela Loini Shikongo said this reality helps explain why many cases never reach police stations.

“When the perpetrator is a family member, victims often face enormous pressure to remain silent,” she explained.

“They are told not to embarrass the family. They are told not to destroy someone’s future. Sometimes they are financially dependent on the very person who abused them.”

According to Shikongo, serial perpetrators often rely on this silence to continue offending.

“The public imagines predators hiding in dark alleys. In reality, many operate within homes and communities where they have easy access to children and vulnerable individuals.”

She believes stronger family conversations could help prevent abuse.

“Children must know that no adult has the right to touch them inappropriately, regardless of who that adult is.”

“The case ended, but the fear remained”

In the Zambezi Region, 25-year-old Namatama (not her real name) still carries the scars of what happened when she was 15 years old.

“I was raped when I was fifteen and my family immediately reported the matter to the police. The perpetrator was arrested,” she said.

“When his family came to ours, his mother questioned what I had been wearing and insisted that I had somehow seduced him. I still do not understand how a child could be blamed for something like that.”

Namatama said tensions between the two families escalated for months.

Eventually, her family stopped attending court proceedings and the case collapsed.

“Today he is still in the village. Both families have made peace, but I have not.”

She said she often avoids returning home during holidays.

“Rape changes you. I still struggle to feel comfortable around men. I still get flashbacks. Sometimes it becomes difficult to concentrate.”

Teaching boys before they become men

Youth advocate and men’s engagement specialist Daniel Natangwe Shikongo believes preventing rape requires changing how boys are raised.

“We spend a lot of time teaching

girls how to protect themselves, but not enough time teaching boys about respect, boundaries and consent,” he said.

According to Shikongo, many boys learn about sex through social media, pornography and peer groups rather than through healthy conversations at home.

“When conversations about sexuality are absent, young people often learn from the wrong sources.”

He believes meaningful progress will only happen when society challenges harmful ideas about masculinity.

“Many boys grow up believing dominance proves manhood. We need to teach empathy, accountability and respect from an early age. Until consent becomes a non-negotiable value, we will continue seeing these numbers.”

The cases we never hear about

The official figures remain troubling.

Yet experts believe the true number of rape cases in Namibia is likely far higher.

Fear, stigma, victim-blaming, economic dependence and mistrust of institutions continue to discourage reporting.

For survivor Anna (not her real name), silence once felt easier than speaking out.

She was assaulted by a relative when she was 13 years old. She never reported it.

“I thought nobody would believe me,” she said.

“I convinced myself it was not serious enough.”

More than a decade later, she still carries the consequences.

“I struggled with relationships for years. I blamed myself. I hated myself.”

Today, she speaks openly in the hope that other survivors will not suffer alone.

“The assault happened once,” she said. “The effects stayed with me for years.”

Beyond survival

France believes Namibia must move beyond viewing rape solely as a criminal justice issue.

“Justice is important, but healing requires much more than a conviction,” she said.

“It requires counseling. It requires family support. It requires communities that understand trauma and stop expecting survivors to simply move on.”

For survivors like Wendy, Namatama and Anna, the greatest challenge is often not what happened to them.

It is convincing others that the pain does not disappear simply because time has passed.

Every year, Namibia counts rape cases in police reports, court records and crime statistics.

What those numbers cannot measure are the sleepless nights, the broken trust, the interrupted childhoods and the silent battles many survivors continue fighting long after society has moved on.

For them, the assault may have lasted minutes.



Vice President Lucia Witbooi - Photo: Contributed

‘Disability should not limit success’ - Witbooi

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Vice President Lucia Witbooi has called for greater support for young entrepreneurs living with disabilities, saying they are proving every day that disability is not inability through business ownership, innovation and job creation.

Speaking at the closing of National Disability Week in Lüderitz on Thursday, Witbooi said young people with disabilities continue to make meaningful contributions to Namibia’s economy despite facing barriers that often limit their access to funding, training and business opportunities.

“You are changing our economy. You are starting businesses, employing fellow citizens and providing community leadership,” Witbooi said.

She noted that many young Namibians with disabilities are building successful enterprises, yet continue to encounter challenges that make it harder to compete on equal footing with other entrepreneurs.

Witbooi revealed that she has directed the Division of Disability Affairs to ensure income-generating projects for persons with disabilities are revived and operationalised through capacity building and additional resources.

The directive forms part of the government’s broader efforts to improve economic participation and

reduce dependence among persons with disabilities.

Youth entrepreneur and disability advocate Cataleya Mwaka Simwanza said many young people with disabilities possess the talent and determination to succeed in business but often struggle to access financing.

“Most young entrepreneurs with disabilities are not asking for special treatment. What they want is equal access to opportunities. A lot of times as a society we still view disability as a risk factor rather than looking at the viability of the business idea. That mindset continues to lock many young people out of economic opportunities,” Simwanza said.

She said access to startup capital, mentorship and business development programmes remains a major obstacle for aspiring entrepreneurs.

“When young people with disabilities are given the right tools and support, they become employers instead of job seekers. We have seen examples of youth-owned businesses in tailoring, technology, agriculture and retail succeeding despite limited resources,” she added.

Disability rights activist and youth development specialist Simon Kamonde welcomed the government’s commitment to revive disability projects but cautioned that implementation would be key.

“We have heard many good policies

over the years, but young people want to see action. Reviving projects should not simply mean reopening facilities. It should mean creating sustainable businesses that generate income and allow young people with disabilities to become economically independent,” Kamonde said.

He added that youth unemployment remains disproportionately high among persons with disabilities due to discrimination, inaccessible workplaces and limited training opportunities.

“Many young people with disabilities are highly educated and skilled, yet they remain excluded from economic participation. Supporting disability-owned businesses is one of the most practical ways to create jobs and reduce poverty within this community,” he said.

According to Witbooi, the government remains committed to closing gaps in access, participation and representation for persons with disabilities through various programmes, including financial support, rehabilitation services, assistive devices and skills development initiatives.

She urged both the public and private sectors to play a greater role in supporting disability inclusion, saying an inclusive Namibia can only be achieved when every citizen is given a fair opportunity to contribute to national development.

Your background should never limit your ambitions: Herunga

PATIENCE MAKWELE

Staff Writer

Former Olympic athlete Tjipekapora Herunga is encouraging young Namibians not to allow their backgrounds, circumstances or geographical location to define their ambitions, saying success is possible for anyone willing to work hard and remain focused on their goals.

Herunga's journey from the small village of Ehungiro in the Otjinene Constituency to competing on the world's biggest sporting stage serves as proof that determination can overcome even the most difficult obstacles.

Today, the former national sprinter is using her experiences to mentor young athletes through the Tjipekapora Herunga Athletics Academy, where she hopes to inspire the next generation to dream beyond their circumstances.

"Many young people think opportunities only exist for those who grow up in cities or come from privileged backgrounds," Herunga shared.

"I want them to understand that where you come from does not determine where you can go. Your background should never limit your ambitions."

Growing up in a rural community, Herunga said she had limited access to resources and facilities compared to many athletes competing internationally.

Despite those challenges, her passion for sport pushed her to keep pursuing her dreams.

She started participating in athletics during her school years, competing in several track events before eventually specialising in the 400 metres.

That decision would later transform her life.

Herunga went on to represent Namibia at major international competitions, including the 2012 Olympic Games in London, while also winning medals at continental championships.

Along the way, she broke Namibia's national 400-metre record, a mark that still stands today.



Former Olympic athlete Tjipekapora Herunga. - Photo: contributed

However, she believed the biggest lesson from her sporting career is not the medals or records.

"The greatest lesson I learned is that success requires discipline, consistency and patience," she said.

"Many young people want immediate results, but meaningful

achievements take time. You have to trust the process even when progress seems slow."

Following her athletics career, Herunga furthered her education in Jamaica, where she studied Sport Science while training alongside some of the world's top athletes.

She says education played a crucial role in helping her understand sport beyond competition.

"Sport can open many doors, but education gives you options for life beyond sport," she said.

"Young people should never choose one over the other. The two can work

together."

Herunga believes many talented young Namibians fail to reach their potential because they underestimate the importance of balancing their dreams with education.

She regularly encourages young athletes at her academy to prioritise both academic and sporting excellence.

Youth development advocate Ndeshiko Hamunyela said Herunga's story offers an important lesson for young people across the country.

"Many young Namibians are growing up in communities where unemployment, poverty and limited opportunities can make it difficult to remain hopeful," he said.

"When they see someone who came from a similar environment and achieved success on a global stage, it reminds them that their current circumstances do not have to define their future."

Hamunyela said role models who openly share both their successes and struggles play an important role in helping young people develop confidence and resilience. Educational psychologist Anna Shaningwa believes stories such as Herunga's are particularly important at a time when many young people are struggling with self-doubt and uncertainty about their future.

"One of the biggest challenges facing young people today is the belief that success belongs to other people," she said.

"They see successful individuals but often fail to see the years of sacrifice, hard work and perseverance behind those achievements."

According to Shaningwa, exposure to positive examples helps young people understand that setbacks are part of growth rather than signs of failure.

For Herunga, giving back to young people has become just as rewarding as competing.

Through her athletics academy, she hopes to create opportunities for young athletes who may otherwise never receive the support needed to develop their talents.

"It is not only about producing athletes," she said.

"It is about helping young people build confidence, discipline and belief in themselves. Those are skills that will help them throughout their lives."

Her message to Namibia's youth remains simple.

"Never allow anyone to tell you that your dreams are too big because of where you come from," she said.

"If a girl from Ehungiro village could compete at the Olympic Games, then young people across Namibia can achieve their goals too. Believe in yourself, work hard and never stop learning."

As young Namibians continue searching for inspiration in an increasingly competitive world, Herunga hopes her story will remind them that success is not determined by where they start, but by how determined they are to reach the finish line.

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Countries need higher education to rebuild after conflict – study finds foreign aid isn't going where it's needed

Higher education institutions are frequent casualties in violent conflicts. In Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan, to mention only a few recent examples, university campuses have been bombed. Academics, staff and students have been killed, injured or displaced. Teaching, learning and research have been undermined or come to a halt. Higher education plays a critical role in knowledge production, research, education and skills development in any society. In conflict-affected countries, the sector is also expected to support broader societal recovery, development and peacebuilding in the post-conflict period. In the aftermath of violent conflicts, higher education systems require support to recover and rebuild. But that has not been a priority for foreign donors and development organisations. Over the past decade, scholars and policy documents have highlighted that conflict settings have been neglected in providing foreign aid to higher education. As researchers we're involved in a project supported by the Education Above All Foundation from Qatar. The project studies educational systems, processes and initiatives in fragile and conflict settings around the globe. It aims to provide scientific evidence for improved decision-making by governments, educational institutions and organisations. In a recent paper, published in the journal Globalisation, Societies and Education as part of a special issue on universities in times of conflict, we analyse aid flows to higher education in conflict-affected countries during the 2013-2022 period. Our analysis shows that most aid to higher education never reaches countries and institutions in need, but is spent on international scholarships to study in donor countries. It's also skewed towards certain recipient countries. These aid patterns don't help countries and higher education institutions to rebuild after conflict. The evidence of neglect In our research, we relied on the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) aid flows data. We explored where the aid to higher education went, and what types of aid were provided by donors. Our focus was on 23 countries that were either in the midst of violent conflict or in a fragile post-conflict phase during 2013-2022. Our findings indicate that most donors prefer to give international scholarship aid. They neglect local higher education in conflict settings. Overall, scholarship aid made up more than 80% of aid to higher education provided to the countries in our sample. From 2013 to 2022, scholarship aid saw strong growth, while the aid to local systems and institutions stagnated. The main problem with scholarship aid is that it does not reach recipient countries. It is spent in donor countries on individual recipients' tuition, living expenses and other costs. This type of aid supports only a small number of recipients, and is often used by donors as a soft power tool. Our research further highlights that a few countries have received most of the aid, while other countries with similar needs have been neglected. Despite what donors say about the importance of supporting the countries with greatest needs, our analysis shows that this does not happen with higher education in conflict settings. Many countries in need of assistance have been neglected by donors over the past decade. Decisions about the recipients of either type of aid to higher education are often political. The provision of funding does not necessarily align with the recipients' needs but largely follows donors' strategic interests and priorities. Rethinking higher education aid Conflict analysis scholars Sansom Milton and Sultan Barakat wrote in 2016 that the neglect of higher education represents a "major missed opportunity to invest in critical national capacities that are capable of catalysing an effective reconstruction and recovery process" in the aftermath of violent

conflict. This neglect should not come as a surprise. In most developed countries, which are some of the top aid donors, higher education has been organised around neoliberal principles. This had led to underfunding and neglect of the sector by governments. Their provision of aid to higher education in conflict settings is based on the same principles, with the same results. Our findings present a bleak picture of neglect of higher education in countries affected by violent conflict. The indications for the future are even bleaker due to ongoing aid cuts by many donor countries. Importantly, our research also provides a starting point for critical engagement with donors and organisations working on education in conflict settings. More critical research, advocacy, activism, engagement and practical work is needed to challenge and reverse the neglect. Rethinking and reforming foreign aid practices requires moving beyond donors' strategic interests and dismantling the neoliberal agenda which has shaped much of the thinking about aid, higher education and development in general for decades. This, however, will be a challenge as the politicisation of foreign aid is unlikely to go away in the foreseeable future. Still, changes are possible. For example: Donors can redirect some scholarship funds to education systems, institutions and locally driven initiatives in conflict settings. Donors can shift some international scholarship aid to domestic scholarships. This would make funding available for more students and would support local institutions. Supporting and rebuilding higher education after violent conflict is crucial to enable systems and institutions to conduct research, develop relevant knowledge, provide quality education and contribute to societal recovery and peacebuilding. - The Conversation

Capacity Building



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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. 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.



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Khaby Lamé

Khaby Lamé is the world's most followed TikToker: The story of a Senegalese-born star who sold his identity

His name is Khabane Lamé, but he is known worldwide as Khaby Lamé. Born in Dakar, Senegal, he is the most followed content creator on TikTok.

He became famous for video clips in which he reacts to absurd “life hack” videos with a blank, slightly annoyed face, showing the hack wasn’t needed.

At the time of writing he has over 160 million followers: a world record achieved without uttering a single word. In January he sold his brand rights for nearly US\$1 billion.

But there’s another dimension to his story that the western media rarely mention: Khaby Lamé is a practising Muslim and a hafiz, a Muslim devotee who has memorised the entire Quran. This after being sent to a Quranic school near Dakar at the age of 14.

For me, as a researcher of digital identity, his online career also raises questions about turning personal data into digital assets.

From the suburbs of Turin to the top of the global stage Khaby Lamé’s story reads like a

modern-day myth. Not because it’s hard to believe, but because it mirrors the core narratives of digital modernity. It starts with hardship, goes through a period of creative isolation and ends with global recognition.

This is what the French thinker Roland Barthes called “mythical speech”, a story that seems natural and simple, but is actually shaped by deeper forces and structures.

In 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Khaby Lamé lost his job as a factory worker. He was stuck at home and locked down in social housing in the suburbs of Turin, Italy, where his parents had moved when he was a baby.

Out of this hardship he made a simple decision: he started filming short videos. Just 17 months later, he reached more than 100 million followers on TikTok. He was the first content creator based in Europe to reach that milestone.

His story reflects the promise often promoted by TikTok that the platform can lift anyone up. All you need, it suggests, is a mobile phone, and talent will quickly be rewarded

with global fame. This should be celebrated. But the myth of instant success also needs a closer look. Behind every viral rise lie smart decisions, hard work, and the powerful, and often unpredictable, role of the platform’s algorithm.

Comic tradition

What sets Khaby Lamé apart from almost all the creators before him is the semiotic system (of signs and symbols) he invented – or rather reactivated. He brought back an old comic tradition.

Many compare him to British comedy actor Charlie Chaplin. Others see echoes of US comedian Buster Keaton. Both were masters of Hollywood’s silent slapstick comedy. Khaby Lamé revives the codes of 1930s Hollywood silent comedy cinema: mime, meaningful glances, no dialogue, and burlesque sketches (short theatrical scenes) that convey messages. But the Chaplin connection ends there, as the two men inhabit their bodies in radically different ways.

Chaplin’s films carry emotional

weight, driven by social and political themes. His character, the tramp, is a poor wanderer pushing back against an unfair industrial world. Khaby Lamé’s style is closer to Keaton’s. He says nothing. He simply shows how unnecessary and complicated these internet quick fixes are. His absolute impassivity in the face of the absurd is what Keaton perfected with his famous “great stone face”.

Yet Khaby Lamé’s digital double is not simply an image. It can act in his name. It can speak with his voice. It can repeat his familiar gestures. This is no longer simple representation. It is a form of transferring his way of expressing himself onto a digital system.

The same open hands, the same expressive gaze, the same voice that once recited the suras of the Quran in a school in Dakar are now the attributes of a commercial transaction valued at nearly a billion dollars.

There is an ethical question in handing over his active identity to financial markets.


An ethical question

For many young Africans, especially in Senegal, Khaby Lamé embodies the possibility that digital spaces are territories where Africans can succeed, where the hierarchies inherited from colonial history can, at least symbolically, be overturned. But the deal raises a difficult question: what does it mean to sell your digital self in a world where Black and African bodies have been used and profited from for centuries without consent and fair compensation?

Is this a win or a new form of exploitation? Can the financial benefits balance the transfer of his identity?

More African creators are building global audiences every year. That means these questions will become harder to ignore. Who owns a creator’s digital twin once it’s sold? Who set the rules for its use? Khaby Lamé is not just a social media success story. He is a revelation of the future and, perhaps unwittingly, a pioneer.

-BBC


NOTICE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

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

THE PROPONENT: Namibia Water Corporation Ltd.

PROJECT LOCATION: Northeast of Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This notice herewith serves to notify all Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, in accordance with the Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 and its Regulations of 2012.

Proponent: Mr. Unanisa Hei

Project Description: The establishment of mining activities of base metals and rare metals, industrial minerals, and semi-precious stones on Mining Claims; 76157-76164, Grunau, Karasburg Constituency, //Kharas Region.

Project Location: The Mining Claims; 76157-76164 are situated at Farm Nissen No.357, Grunau, Karasburg Constituency, //Kharas Region.

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are invited to request for the Background Information Document and detailed information on the proposed project in order to provide their inputs and comments. The Public Participation Meeting date will be communicated to all I&APs.

Contact:
Environmental Consultant: 3P Sustainability Consultant
Email: threepsustainability@gmail.com


3P Sustainability Consultants

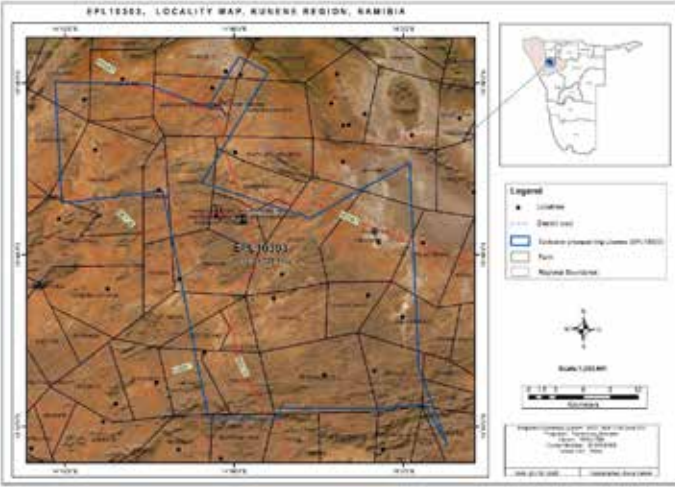
NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

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

Proponent: Carrilo Investment (Pty) Ltd

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

Project Location: Kamanjab, Kunene Region.




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

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633
✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com



NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

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

Proponent: Carrilo Investment (Pty) Ltd

Project Description:

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

Project Location:

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

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

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633
✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com



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SCAN TO VIEW OUR MENU



Three red cards shown in opening game of World Cup

Three red cards - are referees getting tough at this World Cup?

In 2017, Pierluigi Collina was appointed as Fifa's new head of referees and it heralded a very different era.

Collina often takes about how decisions should serve as justice - for both teams.

Players should stay on the field unless they have done something which truly deserves a red card.

For instance, under his stewardship the law around denying a goalscoring opportunity (Dogso) when a penalty has been awarded have been hugely relaxed. It is now very difficult to get a red card.

So it should be no surprise that the 2018 and 2022 World Cups saw just the four red cards after he took over.

Refereeing at the start of a tournament often seem to sets the tone. Should we be drawing any conclusions from this match?

In his pre-tournament briefing, the Italian was focused on timewasting and general player behaviour.

There was no talk of a hard stands which should result in a huge spike in red cards.

Sometimes red cards are simply justified. Well, most of them anyway.

Sithole's dismissal for fouling Brian Gutierrez was a simple decision for referee Wilton Sampaio.

The Mexico attacking midfielder

was through on goal. Sithole may not have meant to bring him down, but he did. There was no doubt the South African had denied his opponent a clear goalscoring opportunity.

The second dismissal was much more controversial, given to Zwane on a video assistant referee review for violent conduct.

Zwane tussled with Roberto Alvarado, with the Mexican going to ground holding his head.

It looked like a coming together off the ball, but the referee was sent to the pitchside screen by the video assistant referee (VAR), Colombia's Nicolas Gallo.

As Sampaio was shown the replays at the monitor it was difficult to make out what had happened. Was there really a hand to the head? And if so, was it accidental or did he swing the arm?

When assessing violent conduct, the VARs are told to look for a clenched fist as a sign of aggression.

This does not have to be present, but it is an indicator.

Zwane appeared to connect with an open hand to the side of Alvarado's head, not with a closed hand.

It looks exceptionally harsh, and not the kind of clear and obvious decision VAR as introduced for.

Or maybe this is exactly the kind of

thing Collina had told his referees and VARs to look out for, falling into the category of poor player behaviour.

Collina has brought in red cards for players who cover their mouths in confrontations, and those who leave the field in protest at a decision. He also wants goals disallowed for blocking on set-pieces.

Perhaps the actions of Zwane fall into this sort of category, a way for Collina to try to reduce the dark arts within the game.

Let's not panic about the referees just yet

The third red card, again for Dogso, seemed controversial initially.

Khuliso Mudau broke towards the area and looked to skip past Montes, but the South African was stopped in his tracks by a rash tackle.

Mudau was in a slightly wide position so a yellow card seemed the most likely outcome.

Sampaio produced the red. Surely the VAR would step in again?

On second viewing it seemed very likely that Mudau's next touch would be to control the ball inside the area.

There was no covering defender close.

Mudau would probably have had one touch, and then a shot. The VAR was not likely to get involved and tell the referee he had made a clear and

obvious error.

An incident from the Premier League last season is a good comparison. It came in Crystal Palace's 3-3 draw with Bournemouth in October.

Marcos Senesi brought down Ismaila Sarr, with the Palace striker moving into a similar position to Mudau. Referee Jarred Gillett produced the yellow card, but the VAR sent him to the screen to upgrade it to a red. Gillett rejected the review, but the Premier League's Key Match Incidents Panel voted that he was wrong. It should have been a red card.

Maybe it provides an indication that Sampaio was right. His decision was certainly supportable.

Collina is not the kind of administrator to launch some kind of crackdown on Dogso. He made his aims clear before the World Cup started.

It would be easy to say this World Cup is about to be blighted by referees throwing around red cards. There is a danger we fall into a trap, whereas this game may well prove just to be an outlier. A statistical anomaly across a 104-game tournament.

The two on-field red cards probably are, on balance, both correct decisions.

Let's not panic about the referees just yet. -BBC

GOSSIP

Manchester United are interested in Newcastle and England defender Lewis Hall, 21, who wants to leave the Magpies. (Sun), external

Fulham and United States left-back Antonee Robinson, 28, is also being viewed by Manchester United as a possible signing for next season. (Sky Sports), external

Barcelona will not match the financial packages being offered to Portugal midfielder Bernardo Silva, 31, by Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid, who are both keen on signing him when his contract expires at Manchester City at the end of June. (Marca - in Spanish), external

Real Madrid appear to be the favourites to sign Silva and are in advanced talks over personal terms. (Fabrizio Romano), external

Manchester City and Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol, 24, has emerged as Jose Mourinho's preferred target to strengthen Real Madrid's defence. (Teamtalk), external

Former Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim, 41, is attracting interest from AC Milan, who believe the Portuguese boss could provide fresh energy. (Fichajes - in Spanish), external

Barcelona are set to reject the chance to sign Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford, 28, for his £26m release fee, with the clause set to expire on Monday. (Daily Mirror), external

Manchester United may also move for Lens midfielder Mamadou Sangare, 23, having been priced out of a move for Nottingham Forest's England midfielder Elliot Anderson, 23. (Teamtalk), external

Borussia Dortmund and Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck, 26, is putting a potential move to Real Madrid to the back of his mind to focus on the World Cup. (Bild - in German), external

Trabzonspor are eager to secure the permanent transfer of Manchester United and Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana, 30, this summer. (Mirror), external

Manchester United are also looking to offload Turkey goalkeeper Altay Bayindir, 28, and Czech stopper Radek Vitek, 22, who was on loan at Bristol City last season. (Sky Sports), external