


WINDHOEK OBSERVER
DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR

RFA appeal over reinstatement of dismissed employees delayed



OBSERVERCOASTAL

N$43 000 shortfall threatens Walvis Bay children's home



Building sector improves in the first half of 2026



www.observer.com.na PARAGON MEDIA THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026

# 'Farm 37 housing list not managed at party office' - Swapo

RENTHIA KAIMBI
*Staff Writer*

**The Swapo Party's Walvis Bay Rural district coordinator, Patrick Barthomeus, has denied allegations that the party is managing a municipal housing beneficiary list for the Farm 37 housing project from its district office, dismissing the claims as "malicious lies and propaganda" spread by an unidentified leader of an opposition party.**

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday at the district office in Walvis Bay, Barthomeus refuted a widely circulated video that falsely claims the list of housing beneficiaries for Farm 37 has been finalized and prepared at the Swapo Party district office.

The video, seen by the Windhoek Observer, claimed that residents from informal housing at Sea Point were given first preference and that the list is currently in the district coordinator's possession.

Barthomeus expressed concern over what he described as deliberate attempts to create confusion among the residents of Walvis Bay while seeking political relevance through misinformation.

He noted that such propaganda undermines public trust in established institutions and distracts from the critical work of delivering housing to those in need.

"The Swapo Party district offices are not government institutions. They have neither the mandate nor the authority to carry out the functions of government institutions," Bartholomeus emphasized.

"Swapo Party structures, including district offices, are not property developers or housing allocation

TO PAGE 2



Ephraim Shozi



Patrick Barthomeus

# Medical disputes put consent under the spotlight

PATIENCE MAKWELE
*Staff Writer*

**A medical specialist has called for greater emphasis on informed consent and open communication between doctors and patients, warning that many medical-legal disputes arise not necessarily from poor treatment but from misunderstandings, unmet expectations and breakdowns in communication.**

The issue comes amid growing attention on medical negligence claims in Namibia. Records indicate that the ministry of health and social services paid compensation in 45 medical negligence claims between 2019 and 2024 with the payouts amounting to almost N$14.7 million.

While the figures do not capture all complaints or disputes involving private healthcare providers, they highlight the financial and human consequences of cases that escalate into legal action.

Specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr David N. Emvula says informed consent remains one of the most important safeguards against medical litigation, yet it is often misunderstood as simply signing a form before treatment or surgery.

"Informed consent is far more than a signature on a form. It is an ongoing, honest and evidence-based conversation between a doctor and a patient," Emvula said.

He explained that healthcare practitioners have both a legal and ethical obligation to ensure patients

TO PAGE 3

## Still Learning, Still Leading

There is a quiet myth in many workplaces that leadership is something people eventually "arrive at". Once promoted, experienced, or respected enough, the thinking goes, the learning phase is over. But the strongest leaders know the opposite is true. If you are still leading, you should still be learning. Leadership does not stand still because the environment around it does not stand still. Teams change, industries shift, technology evolves, and workplace expectations keep moving. A leader who relies only on past experience may remain confident for a while, but confidence without continued growth can quickly become limitation. What worked yesterday may not be enough for today.

Page 20


WINDHOEK OBSERVER
DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR
HEROES
DIALOGUE
COMING IN AUGUST 2026

NATIONAL

# RFA appeal over reinstatement of dismissed employees delayed

**SOSTENUS WILHERM**

*Staff Writer*

**The High Court has postponed judgment in the Road Fund Administration's (RFA) appeal against an arbitration award that ordered the reinstatement of two dismissed employees and awarded them more than N$1.47 million in compensation.**

Justice Michael Mtambo on Wednesday postponed the matter to 11 September 2026, stating that the judgment was not ready.

The appeal was argued between the Road Fund Administration and former employees Winfred Kabunga and Naomi Mathews, with Immanuel Heita, who acted as the labour arbitrator, cited as the third respondent.

The RFA is seeking to overturn an arbitration award issued by the Office of the Labour Commissioner earlier this year after the arbitrator found that the dismissal of the two employees was substantively unfair.

The dispute stems from the dismissal of Kabunga and Mathews on 31 August 2021 following disciplinary proceedings in which they were accused of dishonesty, misrepresentation and gross negligence.

The allegations centred on the issuing of Confirmations of Payment (COPs) for client accounts, particularly those of extreme customs clearing, despite outstanding balances.

However, Labour Commissioner arbitrator Immanuel Heita found that the RFA had failed to prove the misconduct allegations.




**RFA awaits judgment in employee reinstatement appeal.** - *Photo: Contributed*

In his arbitration award issued on 26 January 2026, Heita concluded that the evidence did not support findings of dishonesty, misrepresentation or gross negligence against either employee.

The arbitrator found that issuing COPs while client accounts were in arrears was not an isolated or unauthorised practice but formed part of an established operational arrangement introduced by a former manager.

Evidence presented during the arbitration showed that employees had historically issued the confirmations under that arrangement, undermining the employer's allegation that the practice amounted to misconduct.

Heita also found that duplicate receipt entries, which formed part of the disciplinary charges, resulted from a systemic information technology problem rather than negligence by the employees.

On that basis, the arbitrator concluded that the dismissals were substantively unfair.

He ordered the Road Fund Administration to reinstate both employees to their previous positions, or comparable positions, with effect from 15 February 2026.

In addition, the arbitrator awarded compensation equivalent to 17 months' remuneration to each employee.

Kabunga was awarded N$937,550.51, while Mathews was awarded N$542,233.19, bringing the total compensation to about N$1.48 million.

The award further directed that all payments be made on or before 28 February 2026.

Unhappy with the outcome, the RFA approached the High Court to challenge the arbitration award.

During Wednesday's proceedings, Advocate Akweenda appeared for the RFA, while Advocate Gaeb represented Kabunga and Mathews.

Rather than delivering a decision, Justice Mtambo postponed the matter to 11 September, indicating that the court required more time to finalise its judgment.

The forthcoming judgment is expected to determine whether the arbitration award stands or whether the dismissals and compensation orders will be set aside.

# 'Farm 37 housing list not managed at party office' - Swapo

**FROM PAGE 1**

authorities, nor do they compete with government institutions."

He further reminded those spreading the misinformation that Namibia is governed by a Swapo-led government, a fact he suggested they appear to have conveniently forgotten.

Barthomeus stressed that the Swapo Party respects and trusts government institutions, including municipalities, to carry out their responsibilities independently and without interference from the governing party.

The district coordinator stated that the district office deals exclusively with Swapo Party administrative matters "nothing more and nothing less" and does not administer municipal housing matters.

He reiterated that there is no reason why a municipal housing beneficiaries' list would be managed through a Swapo Party district office, as such functions fall squarely within the mandate of local government authorities.

Barthomeus clarified that he is not an employee of the Walvis Bay municipality and has no mandate to administer or manage housing matters.

He explained that his role is to lead the district office, which has successfully deployed councillors to serve both the municipality and the constituency.

> "We are simply custodians of this government initiated housing project. And as politicians, we must be able to distinguish between projects initiated by the council and central government, before making baseless allegations.
> **-Ephraim Shozi**

Those elected representatives, he said, together with the management of the Walvis Bay municipality, understand their respective responsibilities and are fully capable of executing their mandates, he added.

The Farm 37 housing project, located approximately seven kilometers east of Walvis Bay, has been a priority development initiative aimed at addressing the town's severe housing backlog.

The project originated during the planning stages in 2015, with actual development commencing in 2019/2020. It was championed by the late former governor Kleopas Mutjavikua, whose contribution to the project has been widely acknowledged.

"It would be inappropriate to speak about Farm 37 without acknowledging his significant contribution," Barthomeus stated. "His legacy will continue to live on through the ongoing development of Farm 37 and many other initiatives."

The first 50 erven were allocated to beneficiaries two years ago, with residents paying approximately N$75 million to the Walvis Bay municipality for land servicing and construction of 200 low-cost housing units at Farm 37.

The investment highlights the government's commitment to addressing the housing needs of Walvis Bay residents, particularly those living in informal settlements.

The Walvis Bay municipality has profiled over 43 000 residents living in backyard shacks, with Farm 37 identified as the answer for the landless residents.

The scale of the housing challenge in the coastal town has made projects like Farm 37 critical to improving living conditions and restoring dignity to thousands of families.

Meanwhile, the chairperson of the Walvis Bay municipality's management committee, Ephraim Shozi, has dismissed the allegations as immaterial, clarifying that the beneficiary list dates back to 1992 and remains a government-funded housing initiative intended for residents who registered for housing between 1992 and 1996.

"Even in my current capacity as chairman, I'm not privy to the full list because it comes from way before my time. He must provide us with proof of his allegations," said Shozi.

He further explained that the council merely plays a custodial role in the Farm 37 housing project, which is being spearheaded by the National Housing Enterprise (NHE).

Shozi noted that beneficiaries who have made contributions are being consulted for verification purposes, following a directive from the line ministry and the NHE.

"We are simply custodians of this government initiated housing project. And as politicians, we must be able to distinguish between projects initiated by the council and central government, before making baseless allegations," he stressed.

Barthomeus further issued a direct challenge to anyone with credible evidence supporting the allegations, specifically calling on individuals who claim to have seen the alleged beneficiary list at the Swapo Party district office, or who claim to have registered through the district coordinator or any Swapo-affiliated official.

He invited such individuals to present their evidence publicly.

"If anyone has credible evidence supporting these allegations, we invite them to present it publicly," he stated.

The Swapo Party further called upon the residents of Walvis Bay to remain vigilant and exercise caution when confronted with unverified information, particularly on social media platforms.

Barthomeus encouraged members of the public to verify facts through credible and official sources before accepting or sharing information.

"As a community, we must not allow ourselves to become victims of propaganda, misinformation, or deliberate attempts to create confusion and undermine public trust in our institutions," he cautioned.

Barthomeus reaffirmed the ruling party's commitment to transparency, accountability, and supporting the lawful processes through which government institutions serve all residents of Walvis Bay fairly and without discrimination.

"The Swapo Party remains committed to transparency, accountability, and supporting the lawful processes through which government institutions serve all residents of Walvis Bay fairly and without discrimination," he added.

# Government settles N$900 000 engineer dispute

**SOSTENUS WILHERM**
*Staff Writer*

**The Government of Namibia has agreed to settle a long-running payment dispute with consulting engineer Farhad Nadimi, trading as Bona Consulting Engineers, over unpaid professional fees related to the construction of the Katima Magistrate's Court.**

The settlement agreement, filed in the High Court of Namibia on Tuesday, will see the government pay Nadimi a revised amount of N$767,457.92, inclusive of VAT, together with interest calculated at 20 percent per annum from 28 February 2022 until the date of final payment.

The settlement ended a legal battle in which Nadimi initially claimed N$900,776.15 from the government, alleging that he had completed professional engineering services for the project but was not paid despite repeated attempts to recover the outstanding amount.

The matter involved the minister of works and transport, the minister of justice, the executive directors from both ministries, and the government.

According to the settlement agreement, the parties reached an amicable resolution following negotiations held on 7 May 2026, agreeing that the matter would be settled fully and finally without proceeding further with litigation.

The agreement further states that any additional substantiated amounts found to be owing will also be paid, although such amounts will not attract interest.




**Government settles Katima Mulilo court payment dispute**

Nadimi's claim originated from a consultancy agreement concluded in September 2011 for the construction of the Katima Magistrate's Court.

Bona Consulting Engineers was appointed to provide specialised engineering services, including designing and supervising electrical installations, data communication systems, security access control systems, courtroom recording facilities, witness protection communication systems, plumbing works, air-conditioning systems, fire detection systems and standby generator installations.

The engineer argued that he fulfilled his contractual obligations and delivered the required services for the project.

However, he alleged that the government failed to compensate him for the work completed, despite invoices being submitted on several occasions.

Court documents indicate that invoices were submitted on 30 August 2020, 28 February 2022 and 20 May 2022, but payment was allegedly still not made.

Nadimi claimed that the outstanding amount was calculated according to the value of professional services rendered in terms of the Engineering Profession Act, its regulations, and applicable government tariffs.

He further stated that the work performed was acknowledged by government officials, with one official, Mr Ileka, reportedly confirming during a site visit that the work had been completed.

Although a certificate of practical completion was not issued because approximately 95 percent of the work under the agreement had been completed, Nadimi maintained that he only claimed payment for services already provided.

The engineer initially sought an order compelling the government to pay the full outstanding amount of N$900,776.15, together with interest and legal costs.

In his alternative claim, Nadimi argued that the government had been unjustly enriched because it benefited from the engineering services provided while failing to make payment.

The settlement agreement now ends the dispute, with both parties agreeing that it represents a full and final settlement of all claims related to the matter.

The agreement was signed in Windhoek on 12 May 2026 and later endorsed by senior officials from the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Justice before being filed with the High Court.

The settlement will now be made an order of court, resulting in the removal of the matter from the court roll.

The resolution comes after more than a decade since the original consultancy agreement was signed, highlighting the lengthy disputes that can arise over payments linked to government construction projects.

# Medical disputes put consent under the spotlight

**FROM PAGE 1**

understand their diagnosis, the proposed treatment or procedure, its expected benefits, potential risks and complications, limitations, and available alternatives, including the option of declining treatment.

According to Emvula, only after receiving and understanding this information can a patient make a meaningful decision about their care.

His comments come amid continued concerns around medical accountability and patients' experiences within Namibia's healthcare system.

For some patients, the issue goes beyond consent and extends to whether they receive the correct treatment and whether they have enough information to question decisions made by healthcare providers.

Catherine Nsala Nyambe recalled an experience involving her grandmother, who she said was given medication at a rural health facility that was not intended for her blood pressure condition.

"My grandmother was once given medicine by a nurse back in the days and it was very heartbreaking because she thought it was medicine for BP (blood pressure)," Nyambe said.

She said her grandmother's condition worsened after taking the medication for about two weeks, prompting her to examine the medicine herself.

"I realised that it was not the right medicine," she said.

Nyambe said the family approached the clinic, where officials apologised and explained that the medication was only meant to temporarily assist with reducing her grandmother's blood pressure because the correct medicine was unavailable at the time.

She said the family did not pursue legal action but believes more conversations are needed about accountability within the health sector, particularly regarding elderly patients who may not always be able to question prescriptions.

"We have read a lot of cases about patients taking health facilities or healthcare institutions to court because of such issues. I think it is high time we, as a country, looked into this," she said.

However, Nyambe also pointed to broader challenges within the public health system, including medicine shortages, saying accountability should not only focus on individual healthcare workers.

"On the other hand, as much as we blame such cases of negligence on health practitioners, we should also look at the government. What are they doing? We see reports almost every day of shortages, certain medications being out of stock and whatnot," she said.

Legal practitioner Malcom Kayobo Sitwala said medical disputes must be assessed on the facts of each individual case, as not every poor outcome or patient complaint amounts to negligence.

He said informed consent is an important part of the relationship between healthcare providers and patients because it ensures patients understand the nature of the treatment, possible risks and available options before making decisions about their care.

"Patients have the right to receive information about their healthcare but legal claims require more than dissatisfaction with an outcome. There must be evidence that a healthcare provider failed to meet the required standard of care and that this caused harm," Sitwala said.

Adding that open communication can help prevent disputes from escalating, particularly where patients feel they were not adequately informed about a procedure, medication or treatment plan.

Meanwhile, Emvula cautioned that not every negative medical outcome amounts to negligence.

"Medicine is not an exact science and complications can occur even when care is appropriate and consent is properly obtained," he said.



**David Emvula**

He explained that proving medical negligence requires establishing that a healthcare provider owed a duty of care, breached that duty, that the breach directly caused harm, and that the patient suffered measurable damage.

"A poor medical outcome alone is not proof of wrongdoing," he said.

Emvula encouraged patients to take an active role in their healthcare by asking questions, seeking clarity on diagnoses and treatment plans, verifying that healthcare providers are registered with relevant regulatory bodies, and obtaining second opinions where necessary.

He said healthcare should be viewed as a partnership between patients and practitioners, with trust built through transparent communication and shared decision-making.

"Clear communication, ethical practice, informed decision-making and shared responsibility remain the strongest safeguards against medical-legal disputes. In healthcare, as in life, prevention is better than cure," he said.

NATIONAL



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah officially handed the national flag to Team Namibia ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland
*-Photo: Namibian Presidency*

# NNN backs Team Namibia, vows nationwide sports investment

**PATIENCE MAKWELE**
*Staff Writer*

**President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on Wednesday pledged to accelerate government investment in sports infrastructure across all 14 regions as she officially handed the national flag to Team Namibia ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, describing sport as a key pillar of national development rather than simply competition.**

During her keynote address at State House, Nandi-Ndaitwah said the Eighth Administration has elevated sport to one of government's top development priorities, with 28 sites already identified for the construction and upgrading of sports facilities countrywide.

"We continue to invest in the improvement of sports infrastructure across all sports codes in the 14 regions of the country. With 28 sites already identified, the government is facilitating the construction and upgrading of basic sport facilities in all 14 regions," she said.

She said sport has become a strategic tool for youth empowerment, job creation, healthier communities and national unity.

"Sports does not only keep people fit but it also creates opportunities for young people, promotes healthy lifestyles, strengthens social cohesion, instils discipline, promotes harmony amongst people from different cultures and showcases our national identity on the international stage," the President said.

Namibia will compete at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August with a team of 24 athletes and 18 officials representing athletics, para-athletics, boxing, bowls, swimming and gymnastics.

The Head of State urged the athletes to see themselves as ambassadors carrying the country's image beyond the sporting arena.

"The Commonwealth Games represent more than a sporting event," she said.

"As representatives of the land of the brave, your participation serves not only as athletes but also as ambassadors, upholding our values and showcasing our unity in diversity."

She challenged the team to compete with integrity, humility and discipline while inspiring the next generation of Namibian athletes.

"As your number one cheerleader, I will be supporting and following your journey throughout the competition," she said.

Namibia National Olympic Committee president Ndeulipula Hamutumwa welcomed the government's increased commitment to sport, saying the decision to prioritise the sector sends an important message to athletes.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Namibia for having prioritised sport. Your support enables our athletes to pursue excellence and proudly represent our country on the international stage," he said.

He reminded athletes that success should not be measured by medals alone.

"Success is measured not only by medals but by the character you display, the respect you show your fellow competitors and the pride with which you wear our national colours."

Chief de Mission Joseph Amakali said Team Namibia had undergone months of preparation and would travel determined to compete with honour while upholding the country's reputation.

"Our focus extends beyond athletic performance. We have emphasised discipline, professionalism, unity and respect for the rules and values of the Games. We expect every member of Team Namibia to conduct themselves with integrity and serve as exemplary ambassadors of the Republic of Namibia," he said.

Deputy executive director of the Ministry of International Relations and Trade Charles Mubita described the games as an important platform for sports diplomacy saying athletes would also strengthen Namibia's international relationships.

"You are not going to Scotland simply to compete. You are going there to showcase your talent and your determination as people from the land of the brave," he said.

"This is sports diplomacy. You are representing the country at a sporting level. Therefore, you do not only have to bring back medals but also strengthen the bonds of friendship with those you compete against."

Namibia National Olympic Committee chief executive officer Anri Parker said athletes would leave for Glasgow carrying more than the national flag.

"Today marks more than the receipt of a flag. It marks the trust that the nation has placed in you," Parker said.

She urged Team Namibia to "wear our colours with pride, compete with courage and remember that every performance is an opportunity to inspire the next generation of Namibians."

The President officially handed over the Namibian flag to Team Namibia before the delegation departs for Glasgow, where the country will make its ninth appearance at the Commonwealth Games.






**NSA said marginalized communities continue to face significant challenges in education, employment, housing and access to basic services despite making up an important part of the country's cultural diversity.**

# Census highlights gaps facing marginalized communities

**ALLEXER NAMUNDJEMBO**
*Staff Writer*

**The marginalized communities continue to face significant challenges in education, employment, housing and access to basic services despite making up an important part of the country's cultural diversity, according to a new report released by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) on Wednesday.**

The report, presented by statistician-general and NSA chief executive officer Alex Shimuafeni, provides the first comprehensive statistical profile of the San, Ovatue/Ovatwa and Ovatjimba communities based on data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

According to the report, the three marginalized communities comprise 75 569 people, representing 2.5% of Namibia's total population.

The San account for 94.2% of the marginalized population, followed by the Ovatue/Ovatwa at 4.9% and the Ovatjimba at 0.9%. More than two-thirds of the population lives in rural areas, with the largest concentrations found in the Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Kunene regions.

Presenting the findings, Shimuafeni said the report provides critical information needed to address inequalities affecting marginalized communities.

"The report presents a descriptive statistical profile of the San, Ovatue/Ovatwa and Ovatjimba population groups," he said.

He added that the findings provide information on key demographic, social and economic characteristics, including population size, education, economic activity and housing conditions, and are "intended to support evidence-based planning, policy formulation, research and monitoring."

The census found that nearly 76% of the marginalized population is younger than 35 years, highlighting the need for sustained investment in education, healthcare and employment opportunities.

However, access to civil registration remains a major concern. The report found that 38.1% of children aged between birth and four years do not have birth certificates.

"This implies four in 10 marginalized children have no legal identity," the report states.

Kavango West recorded the highest proportion of children without birth certificates at 60.7%, followed by Omusati at 50.6% and Ohangwena at 49%.

While about 80.2% of marginalized people have national identity documents, coverage remains lowest in Kavango West and Omusati.

Education indicators also reveal significant disparities. Only 11.4% of children aged between birth and five years attend Early Childhood Development programmes compared to the national average of 21.4%.

The report notes that this represents "a gap of 10 percentage points" between marginalized communities and the national population.

Adult literacy among people aged 15 years and above stands at 54.8%, well below the national literacy rate of 87.3%.

"The adult literacy rate among the marginalized communities was 54.8%... the overall population rate was 87.3%, which is about a 32.5% point difference," the report states.

Although school enrolment remains relatively high during the primary school years, attendance declines sharply after the age of 16. Girls recorded slightly higher enrolment rates than boys, while only 1.6% of adults had completed tertiary education.

Economic participation also remains low. Of the 43 833 people of working age, only 16 284 were economically active.

Among those in the labour force, 9 673 were employed while 6 611 were unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 40.6%, above the national average of 36.9%.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing remain the largest source of employment, accounting for 41.9% of employed persons, while elementary occupations account for the largest occupational group.

Housing conditions remain a concern, with 46.4% of households headed by marginalized persons living in informal dwellings.

Only 26.5% own the homes they occupy, while 68.4% have no toilet facilities. Although 88.4% of households have access to safe drinking water, only 32.4% use electricity for lighting.

Government social protection programmes continue to play a crucial role, with the State Maintenance Grant emerging as the most commonly received social grant, followed by the Old Age Pension and Disability Grant.

Shimuafeni said the report provides "critical evidence to support inclusive planning and policymaking, improved service delivery, and monitoring of development outcomes."

He also noted that the 2023 Population and Housing Census was Namibia's first fully digital census and the first to include a question on ethnicity, allowing for a more detailed understanding of the country's marginalized communities and the challenges they continue to face.

Leonard Hamunyela, a marginalized communities advocate, said the findings confirm what many families have experienced for decades and should serve as a wake-up call for policymakers.

Speaking to the Windhoek Observer on Wednesday, Hamunyela said the census provides clear evidence that marginalized communities continue to lag behind in access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities and basic public services despite years of government interventions.

"The figures show that too many of our children still do not have birth certificates, too few are accessing early childhood education, and many households continue to live without adequate sanitation and decent housing," he said.

"These are not just statistics; they represent real people whose opportunities are limited from a very young age. We hope these findings will translate into practical action and not remain only in a report."

Hamunyela urged government, development partners and civil society to use the census findings to accelerate targeted programmes in the most affected regions.

He said greater investment in schools, mobile civil registration services, skills development, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods would help close the gap between marginalized communities and the rest of the population.

"The census has given us the evidence. The next step is ensuring that no community is left behind in Namibia's development," he said.

NAMIBIA TRAINING AUTHORITY

Expression of Interest |EOI|

***noun***
*A call to potential providers to register to supply goods and/ or services.*

The Namibia Training Authority (NTA) hereby invites eligible Service Providers to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for participation in the prequalification process for the following opportunity:

**G/EOI/NTA-01/2026 - Purchasing of a Specialised Commercial Hospitality and Tourism Lodging Establishment at Coastal Towns in Erongo Region.**

Interested eligible bidders may download the EOI documents from the NTA website at www.nta.com.na under the procurement tab, or on the e-government portal.

**Closing Date: 29 July 2026, 11H00 AM**

EOI documents must be deposited in the Bid Box at NTA Village, 10 Rand Street, Khomasdal, Windhoek.

**Late and electronic bids will not be considered.**

**For more information, send your queries via email to: procurement@nta.com.na.**

www.nta.com.na

NATIONAL

# CoW denies halting informal trade in Dorado Park



The City of Windhoek has denied allegations that the office of the chief executive officer instructed officials to stop issuing new informal trading permits,

**ALLEXER NAMUNDJEMBO**
*Staff Writer*

**The City of Windhoek has denied allegations that the office of the chief executive officer instructed officials to stop issuing new informal trading permits, maintaining that applications continue to be processed in accordance with existing regulations.**

The clarification follows concerns raised by Councillor Maitjituavi Kavetu, who on 6 July wrote to chief executive officer Moses Matyayi requesting information on enforcement measures affecting informal traders in Dorado Park.

In his memorandum, Kavetu said he had received numerous complaints from residents and traders alleging that City Police officers had prevented informal traders from operating after the City allegedly refused to issue trading letters to new applicants.

He further said officials in the economic development department had indicated that the decision stemmed from a directive issued by the CEO's office.

The councillor also questioned why stricter enforcement measures were being implemented while the City's revised Informal Trading Policy has yet to be finalised and approved by Council.

Invoking Clause 5(2) of the Code of Conduct for Members of Local Authority Councils, Kavetu requested a detailed report from the administration on whether such a directive existed and the legal basis for the alleged suspension of trading letters.

He further questioned whether Council had approved the decision, the number of traders affected, whether consultations or socio-economic impact assessments had been conducted, the status of the policy review, and what interim measures were being taken to protect traders' livelihoods.

Responding to questions from the Windhoek Observer on Wednesday, the City's spokesperson Lydia Amutenya said the allegations that the CEO's Office instructed officials to stop issuing new permits were incorrect.

"The City can confirm that no directive, whether written or verbal, has been issued by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer instructing the Department of Economic Development and Community Services to stop issuing new informal trading permits or trading letters," Amutenya said.

She said the CEO's office had instead reaffirmed that the Informal Trading Regulations, with applicable Council resolutions, remain fully operational and must continue to be implemented.

According to Amutenya, applications for trading opportunities are still being considered in accordance with the existing regulations, Council resolutions and the availability of approved trading sites.

Addressing concerns over enforcement while the revised Informal Trading Policy remains under review, Amutenya said the policy review does not suspend the City's current legal obligations.

She said the Informal Trading Regulations, the Local Authorities Act, and existing Council resolutions remain legally binding until any revised framework is approved and promulgated.

"The City is therefore obligated to continue implementing and enforcing the current regulatory framework to ensure public health and safety, maintain environmental standards, prevent obstruction of public spaces and promote orderly informal trading within approved locations," she said.

On the impact of enforcement on traders, Amutenya said the municipality remains committed to balancing regulatory compliance with the socio-economic realities faced by informal traders.

She said the City continues to make approved trading opportunities available through existing markets and designated trading sites while identifying additional locations in line with Council policies and the Market Development Masterplan.

Amutenya added that applications continue to be processed, engagement with trader associations and affected communities is ongoing, and traders are being guided on compliance requirements.

She said enforcement efforts are also being coordinated to ensure they are carried out lawfully, fairly and proportionately while recognising the informal economy's contribution to livelihoods and local economic development.

Kavetu, in his memorandum, argued that while the City has a legitimate responsibility to regulate informal trading, administrative decisions affecting vulnerable residents should be transparent, legally sound and procedurally fair, with appropriate transitional measures where necessary.

He requested the information to enable Council to exercise its oversight role and respond to concerns raised by affected residents.






# US launches fresh strikes on Iran as Trump warns Tehran it 'better behave'

**The US said it had launched a fresh wave of strikes against Iran on Wednesday as President Donald Trump warned Tehran it "better behave".**

The US military said "Iranian military capabilities used to threaten vessels" moving through the Strait of Hormuz had been targeted. Air defences also sounded in the capital Tehran, according to state media.

Iran meanwhile said it had struck US military targets in the region, including in Bahrain and Kuwait, as a fifth day of renewed hostilities strained their preliminary deal to end the war.

Iran's top negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, told state media Tehran had "no reason" to abide by the deal if it did not benefit from it.

Trump had threatened late on Tuesday to attack bridges and power plants should Iran not return to talks next week.

Asked by reporters late on Wednesday whether he would give a deadline before doing so, he responded: "I don't like giving deadlines, but they pretty much know, they know the story... they better behave."

He later told delegates at a defence summit that Iran was "not happy right now".

"They want to settle so badly. They don't like what we're doing," he said. "We'll find out whether we want to settle with them or if we just finish it off."

Ghalibaf, however, said Iran's national security depended on Tehran maintaining "Iranian arrangements" in the strait.

He added that negotiation - along with war - was part of Iran's strategy of resistance as it engaged an "existential" conflict with the US.

A previous threat by Trump in April to bomb Iran's civilian infrastructure drew condemnation at the time from UN human rights chief Volker Türk, who said it would be a war crime.

Despite the renewed fighting, Trump welcomed what he saw as a potential olive branch from Tehran in freeing an American detainee that the US president said had been "wrongfully detained" in December 2024.

"She is now safely outside of Iran, and in good condition," Trump wrote on Wednesday evening on his Truth Social social media platform. "The United States of America appreciates this gesture of Goodwill by Iran!"

The woman, Dena Karari, was on her way back to the US, according to her attorney, Jared Genser, in a post on X.

The latest US strikes marked the second wave its military said it had carried out during daylight hours on Wednesday. It said it had "further degraded Iran's ability to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz" earlier in the day, and that it had also fired on a ship attempting to violate its renewed blockade of Iran's ports.

A 90-minute wave targeted Iran's coastal defences and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Greater Tunb Island, US Central Command (Centcom) added.

At 21:00 ET (01:00 GMT) on Wednesday, Centcom said the second wave of US attacks had been completed.

Its statement said the US had hit Iranian "command centers, air defense sites, missile and drone capabilities, and coastal surveillance facilities", including in Bandar Abbas, an Iranian city on the Strait of Hormuz.

In addition to the air defences sounding in Tehran, state media reported that in Ahvaz, near the head of the Gulf, a hospital was evacuated due to nearby missile strikes.

In response to the US strikes, Iran said it had targeted US army communication systems and storage facilities in Jordan using drones, state media reported. Jordanian state media reported that its military had intercepted eight drones and that the attack led to no injuries or material damage.

Centcom also said it had redirected two commercial vessels since reimposing its blockade on Iranian ports on Tuesday evening, which stops vessels from transiting to and from Iranian ports and coastal areas.

The blockade had previously been lifted as part of a deal that was struck by the two countries last month - known as a memorandum of understanding - that aimed to end the months-long conflict. **-BBC**

WINDHOEK OBSERVER
DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR

WhatsApp Channel

NAMIBIA'S STORIES.
YOUR PHONE.
EVERY DAY.

Follow the Windhoek Observer whatsapp Channel for credible journalism when it matters most

Breaking News | Sharp Analysis | Business Updates | Politics | and the Stories Shaping Namibia




SCAN TO FOLLOW
Windhoek Observer on WhatsApp Channel.

FOLLOW TODAY

NamPower
Powering the Nation and beyond

30 POWERFUL YEARS
with love NAMPOWER

# For 30 years, we have worked tirelessly to reshape the electricity landscape of an ever-changing Namibia. Our journey includes:

**1996**

Establishment of Namibia Power Corporation as successor to the South West Africa Water and Electricity Corporation (SWAWEK)

Development of 400kV interconnector between Namibia and South Africa

**1998**

Strengthening of the northern region transmission network from 66kV to 132kV, and subsequent inauguration of Omatando Substation and adjacent 132kV feeders to Ruacana, Okatope, Efundja and Ondjiva

**1999**

Harib 220kV Substation commissioned

**2001**

New National Control building constructed

Auas SVC and 400kV Auas-Kokerboom line established

**2002**

Kokerboom-Obib 400kV line; Obib Substation and Skorpion 66/11kV Substation

**2003**

Kuiseb 220/66kV GIS Substation and 220kV line from Van Eck to Kuiseb

**2010**

350kV HVDC Zambezi Link Interconnector commissoned

**2012**

Addition of 92MW 4th unit turbine generator at Ruacana Power Station

**2016**

Ruacana Power Station Units 1 - 3 turbine refurbishment and upgrading to 85MW maximum output

**2018**

Hippo Substation commissioned

**2019**

Launch of NamPower's new fibre optics offering - Grid Online

**2022**

20MW Omburu Solar PV Plant commissioned

ISO 9001 certification for Anixas Power Station; a first for a Namibian company

**2023**

400kV Kunene-Omatando transmission line and 400kV Kunene and Omatando Substations commissioned: first 400kV Breaker and Half Substations

**2024**

400kV Auas-Gerus transmission line commissioned

54MW Anixas II power station commissioned

**2025**

Sekelduin Substation commissioned; the first fully digital Substation in Africa

**2026**

Close to a billion Namibian dollars invested in CSI through the NamPower Foundation, Rural Electrification Programme and vocational and academic bursaries

www.nampower.com.na

OBSERVERCOASTAL
A SUPPLEMENT OF WINDHOEK OBSERVER

Namibian rescue teams appeal to NNN for closure in teen drowning case



Omaruru mayor blames bureaucracy for stalled development projects



Erongo Regional Council urges fire caution as wildfires grip Daures and Karibib





# N$43 000 shortfall threatens Walvis Bay children's home

**RENTHIA KAIMBI**
*Staff Writer*

**Twenty of Namibia's most vulnerable children are being raised, educated and healed at Jonah Home in Walvis Bay, yet financial unsustainability and the increasing inability to meet the children's demands have placed orderly routines and the caregivers' quiet dedication under strain.**

The home currently faces a monthly funding shortfall exceeding N$43,000, a deficit that threatens its ability to provide even the most basic necessities.

The registered children's home has been operating under the National Welfare Act since 2011 and fields calls almost daily from state social workers seeking placement for children who have nowhere else to go.

Director Siphokazi Kangowa told the *Windhoek Observer* referrals do not come only from Erongo Region but from Oshikoto, Kavango, Karas and other distant parts of the country.

This, she said, indicates that the state's own child protection infrastructure is overstretched. Yet Jonah Home, with a capacity of just twenty beds, has become a de facto national repository for cases of abandonment, abuse and neglect.

Each child who arrives brings with them a complex web of needs that extend far beyond food and shelter. Many lack birth certificates, rendering them legally invisible and ineligible for state grants or school enrollment until costly and time-consuming legal processes are completed. Others, she stated, require intensive medical care, psychological support, or both.

Infrastructure at the facility is also deteriorating. Security upgrades, plumbing repairs, replacement of worn bedding, and the expansion of safe recreational spaces remain unfunded.

The home's financial records show that without immediate intervention, it will be forced to reduce services or turn away children, a prospect Kangowa described as "unthinkable."

While the home has secured support from a number of corporate partners, including Salt Waters, OK Grocer, Corridor Logistics, Welwitschia Hospital, Namport, Namdock and others, these contributions, though generous, are often once-off and tied to specific items rather than general operating costs.

She said Jose Luis Bastos, a local businessman, provides sustained support for utilities, fuel and staff salaries, effectively underwriting the home's most critical recurring expenses.

> "Mr Bastos is 90% the reason why we are still operating. Without him, we might as well close doors.

The reliance on a single major donor raises concerns about long-term viability.

"Mr Bastos is 90% the reason why we are still operating. Without him, we might as well close doors," she said.

Kangowa is adamant that child welfare cannot remain the burden of one small organisation. "It is a responsibility we all share as a nation," she states, a pointed reminder that Namibia's constitution and its international obligations mandate state protection for children in distress.

Yet the home receives no consistent government subsidy, placing it in the precarious position of delivering a public service without public funding.

The home operates a monthly N$100 donation drive to encourage grassroots participation, accepting contributions via bank wallet at 081 816 1910 or through Healing Ministries, Bank Windhoek (Walvis Bay), account 8003442886, branch code 481-872.

But Kangowa emphasises that these individual gifts, while appreciated, cannot compensate for the structural funding gap that places the home's future - and the children's futures - at risk.

As Namibia faces rising rates of poverty, substance abuse and family disintegration, the demand for places like Jonah Home will only increase.

The question, Kangowa suggests, is whether the nation will wait until another child is abandoned, another infant goes without formula, another toddler arrives malnourished and tubercular, before it decides that these children are, in fact, everyone's responsibility.

"It is a responsibility we all share as a nation," she said.



**Jonah Home director, Siphokazi Kangowa and one-year-old 'Sweet Potato,' who was raised at the children's home since he was only two days old.** *-Photo: Contributed*

# Namibian rescue teams appeal to NNN for closure in teen drowning case

## *...as recovery operation is hampered by legal hurdles*

**RENTHIA KAIMBI**
*Staff Writer*

**The Namibian Marshall Rangers Emergency Rescue Services have issued a heartfelt appeal to President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, seeking intervention to conclude a search and recovery operation for a 15-year-old boy who tragically drowned in the Atlantic Ocean in Swakopmund on July 2, 2026.**

The teenager, Erwin Bezuidenhoudt, went under the water at a man-made marine structure within the district, and despite extensive efforts, his body has not yet been recovered.

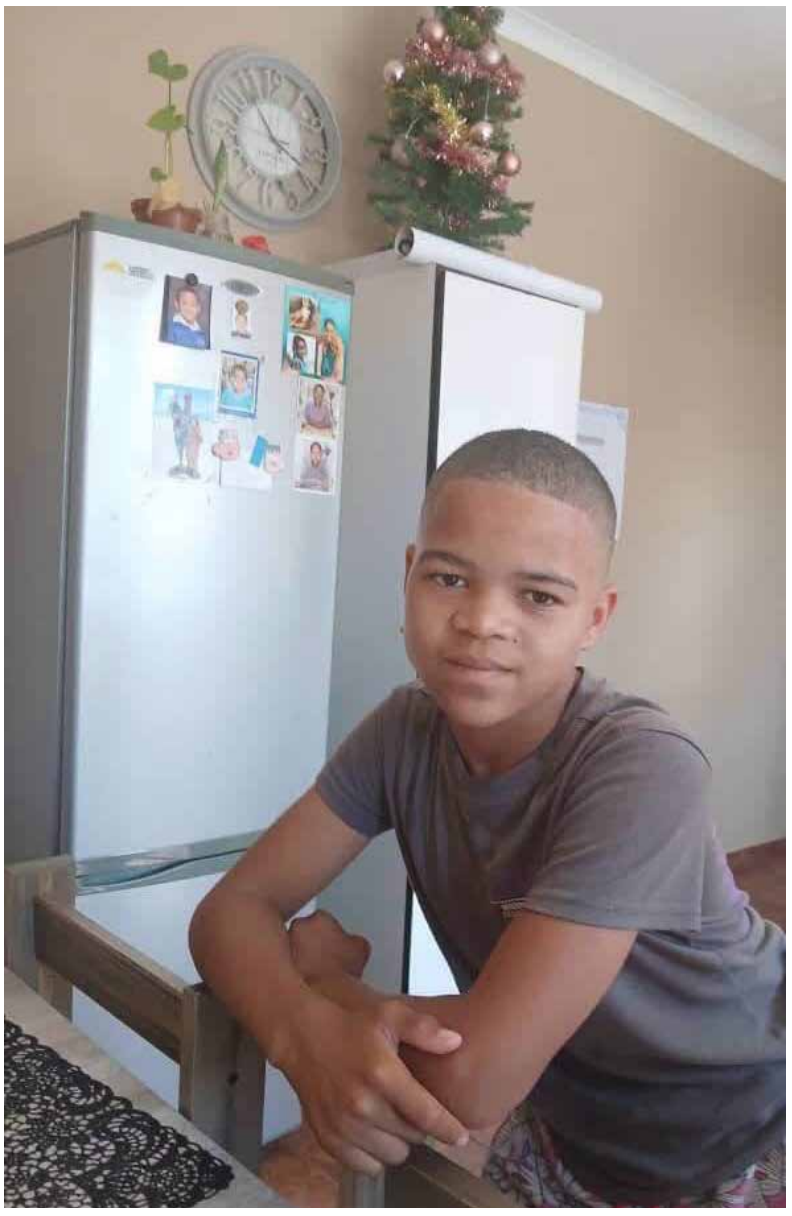
The Namibian Police have since declared the scene a crime scene, and the search has been hampered by legal and technical obstacles involving private entities.

According to a detailed appeal authored by Sean Naudé, the sea rescue division of the Namibian Marshall Rangers received the initial call and coordinated the emergency response.

Despite the deployment of services, the rescue teams were unable to save the boy. "Our team proceeded to do a search of the area as well to dive under water without success," the report states.

The search effort has been a multi-agency collaboration. Voluntary assistance was provided by a private commercial engineering and diving closed corporation, which conducted several dives, but was forced to suspend operations due to obstructions.

The Namibian Defense Force Navy and the Municipality of Swakopmund also joined the effort, deploying an inspection camera guided by Navy divers. However, the document notes they "faced the same obstacles and had to abort their attempts to access the area."



**Erwin Bezuidenhoudt's body is yet to be recovered after he was presumed to have drowned in Swakopmund on 2 July.**

The report highlights that all other options, including land, sea, and air searches, have been exhausted.

The operation is now at a critical impasse, as the recovery team is "being restricted by technicalities and legalities with the private entities to continue to conduct our search operation."

The only remaining option, Naudé stated, would be to remove the obstruction using heavy duty machinery, which various stakeholders from the private sector have offered to assist with.

The appeal further highlighted the immense emotional toll on the family and the nation. "Due to the sensitivity of this matter as well the urgency to attempt to get closure to this case," the report states, a thorough search is required to conclude operations and get clarity on the potential position of the boy's body.

The document asserted that the government holds the "authoritative position to allow us to conclude this search regardless of outcome," and that there is an "obligation to the family and nation to bring closure to this tragedy."

"In conclusion we once again plead for relief in this matter for the family, his loved ones and the entire Nation and as parents to allow us the freedom and authority to bring closure to a lengthy and traumatic tragedy," the report reads.

Martin Muyenga, founder of Monarch Lifeguard and Emergency Services, also expressed deep anguish over the ongoing search for Bezuidenhoudt.

"It is heartbreaking to keep giving the same answer," Muyenga said, adding that his thoughts and prayers remain with the grieving family, who deserve closure.

Muyenga confirmed that both Monarch Lifeguard and Naudé have volunteered their time and limited resources from the outset.

"We are not leading this operation, nor are we obligated to do so. We simply chose to stand up and help because every life matters," he stated.

However, he warned that volunteer resources are reaching their limits, and called on the nation to contribute financially and support specialised underwater search operations with advanced technology.

He urged Namibians to move beyond sympathy and take action. "Sympathy alone will not bring this child home. This is a moment for action, unity, and compassion," he said.

Muyenga appealed to fishermen, beachgoers, and boat operators to remain vigilant and report anything unusual along the coastline.

He stressed that tragedy does not discriminate, and called on citizens to set aside divisions and come together as one nation.

"Today it is another family's child, tomorrow it could be someone we know and love," he remarked.

Muyenga pleaded for prayers and practical support, expressing hope that the boy would soon be found and returned to his family with dignity.

# Omaruru mayor blames bureaucracy for stalled development projects

**RENTHIA KAIMBI**
*Staff Writer*

**Omaruru mayor, Eberth Gariseb, has issued a warning that excessive bureaucracy and political interference are crippling Namibia's development pipeline, leaving communities waiting years for projects that could transform local economies.**

In a media statement released this week, Gariseb delivered ta wcriticism of the administrative paralysis that continues to stall key initiatives, pointing specifically to the proposed Omaruru Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Centre as a prime example of good intentions lost in red tape.

Gariseb argued that while Namibia boasts enormous potential for growth, the reality on the ground is one of frustration and lost opportunities.

The TVET centre, which holds the promise of equipping young people with practical skills, creating sustainable employment, and stimulating local economic activity, has been met with broad support but has failed to materialize due to prolonged administrative processes.

"Such initiatives have the potential to equip young people with practical skills," Gariseb stated, emphasizing the urgency of moving from planning to execution in a nation grappling with high youth unemployment.

The yayor's statement delved deeper into the systemic rot, expressing growing concern that development has become dangerously politicized.

He drew a clear line between the roles of elected leaders and technocrats, asserting that while politicians are responsible for policy and strategic direction, civil servants are duty-bound to implement those policies professionally and impartially.

"When technocrats become involved in political interests or create unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles, service delivery suffers and communities are deprived of opportunities for growth," the statement read, highlighting a breakdown in the governance chain that is actively undermining public trust.

As a primary solution to this inertia, Gariseb called for a robust and effective decentralization of government functions.

He pointed to the current centralized model as a fundamental bottleneck, where regional offices are forced to wait endlessly for approvals from head offices in Windhoek, often resulting in delays that render projects obsolete or more expensive.

Gariseb advocated for the establishment of more government ministries, agencies, and parastatal offices in the regions, arguing that this physical and administrative relocation is crucial for accelerating development.

Decentralization, according to Gariseb, goes beyond merely moving

TO NEXT PAGE



**Omaruru mayor Eberth Gariseb**

# Erongo Regional Council urges fire caution as wildfires grip Daures and Karibib

**RENTHIA KAIMBI**
*Staff Writer*



**The Erongo Regional Council has issued an appeal for responsible fire management as active wildfires continue to threaten parts of the Daures and Karibib Constituencies.**

The council expressed concern over the situation, warning of the devastating impact uncontrolled blazes can have on the region's communities and economy.

In a press statement released on Monday, the council highlighted the significant threat wildfires pose to lives, livestock, wildlife, grazing land, infrastructure, and the natural environment.

The spate of recent incidents serves as a reminder of the destruction that can result from uncontrolled fires.

Chief regional officer Mupenzeni Ntelamo discouraged the deliberate or arbitrary setting of fires, particularly in fire-prone areas during the current dry and windy conditions.

"Residents are urged to refrain from burning vegetation, refuse or any other materials without the necessary precautions and authorization where applicable," read the statement.

The Council has called on all community members to remain vigilant and take proactive measures. Residents are encouraged to "maintain firebreaks, report fire outbreaks immediately to the relevant authorities, and cooperate with emergency response teams and local leadership involved in firefighting efforts."

This plea highlights the shared responsibility required to combat the escalating fire risk.

The Erongo Regional Council further acknowledged the tireless efforts of all emergency personnel involved in firefighting operations.

A special commendation was extended to the Namibian Airforce, alongside farmers, volunteers, traditional leaders, and other stakeholders who have participated in efforts to contain the wildfire and limit its devastating impact.

The cooperation between these diverse groups, the council said, has been crucial in managing the crisis in the Daures and Karibib areas.

"Fire prevention remains a shared responsibility," the council stated. "We therefore call upon all residents, community leaders, farmers and other stakeholders to work collectively in preventing the outbreak and spread of wildfires."

Ntelamo emphasized that collective effort is the key to safeguarding the region. "Through vigilance, responsible conduct and prompt reporting of fire incidents, communities can help safeguard lives, livelihoods, property and the environment," he said.

# Omaruru mayor blames bureaucracy for stalled development projects

**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

offices. It is about empowering regions to drive their own development by granting them the necessary authority, funding, and skilled personnel to address local challenges efficiently.

He argued that the presence of government institutions on the ground would not only improve service delivery but also stimulate local economies by creating employment, attracting investment, and significantly reducing the travel costs and burdens on residents who currently have to travel to the capital for essential services.

This redistribution of power, he insisted, must occur while maintaining strict national standards and accountability.

"Our people deserve a government that is responsive, accountable, and committed to delivering results," Gariseb declared.

He is calling for a reduction in bureaucratic bottlenecks, effective decentralization, the strengthening of regional institutions, and greater accountability across all levels of government.

Development, Gariseb concluded, must



ADVERT

July 2026 | 2nd Edition

# WINDHOEK OBSERVER

# NAMIBIA'S BEST BRANDS 2026

Special Supplement

SCAN TO READ

OBSERVER OPINION

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

THURSDAY
16 JULY
2026

# Editorial

## Informal markets cannot become an excuse for informality in governance

**The debate over informal trade in Dorado Park, and the wider question of informal markets across Namibia, requires a level of honesty that is often missing from public discourse.**

On the one hand, informal trading is an essential part of the Namibian economy. Thousands of people depend on selling food, clothing, household goods and other products to survive. For many, informal trading is not a lifestyle choice but a response to unemployment, poverty and the absence of sufficient formal economic opportunities.

On the other hand, the existence of poverty cannot mean the suspension of public health, environmental standards, urban planning or basic order.

Namibia must be able to hold both truths at the same time.

The concern about the deteriorating appearance of some informal trading areas across the country is therefore not necessarily an attack on informal traders. It is a legitimate question about whether local authorities and national government have failed both traders and the public by allowing informal trading spaces to develop without sufficient planning, infrastructure, regulation and enforcement.

The number one rule of any area where food is prepared or sold should be hygiene. Yet, in many informal trading areas, hygiene appears to have become an afterthought. There are markets where traders operate without adequate access to clean water, proper waste disposal, toilets, drainage or reliable systems for dealing with food waste. Makeshift structures are erected without any apparent uniformity or consideration for safety, sanitation or the surrounding environment.

The result is often a contradiction. People who are trying to earn an honest living are placed in environments that may expose them and their customers to unacceptable health risks.

This is not simply an aesthetic issue.

An informal market does not have to look like a shopping mall. It does not need expensive buildings, polished floors or elaborate architecture. But it must be clean, safe and properly managed. A market can be informal without being filthy. It can be affordable without being chaotic. It can be modest without becoming an eyesore.

The failure to make this distinction has created an unfortunate situation in which the public debate often becomes polarised. Those who raise concerns about the condition of some informal markets are accused of being anti-poor. Those who defend informal traders sometimes appear to suggest that any attempt to impose standards is an attack on livelihoods.

Both positions are wrong.

The poor deserve dignity. And dignity includes access to clean, safe and properly managed places in which to earn a living.

A food vendor should not be expected to sell meals next to overflowing rubbish bins, stagnant water or open sewage. Nor should a customer be expected to choose between supporting a small trader and protecting their own health.

The responsibility for this situation cannot be placed entirely on traders.

Local authorities have a duty to plan and manage urban spaces. If a municipality allows hundreds of traders to operate in an area, it must provide the basic infrastructure necessary for that activity. It cannot simply issue permits, collect fees or tolerate informal trade and then complain when the environment becomes unmanageable.

Equally, traders have responsibilities. A trading permit should not be regarded as a permanent exemption from the law. Vendors must comply with hygiene regulations, dispose of waste responsibly, maintain their structures and respect the public environment.

There must also be consequences for non-compliance.

The absence of enforcement is ultimately unfair to those traders who do follow the rules. A vendor who invests time and money in maintaining a clean stall should not be placed at a competitive disadvantage against someone who dumps waste indiscriminately or operates in unsafe conditions.

> “A country that takes its informal economy seriously must also take the conditions under which informal traders work seriously. There is no dignity in allowing people to trade in unhealthy conditions. There is no empowerment in permitting a market to deteriorate until the only solution appears to be eviction.

The same principle applies to the structures themselves. Informal does not mean anything goes.

There is a need for a national conversation about the design and management of informal markets. Namibia should not be forced to choose between informal trading and orderly cities. Other countries have demonstrated that informal markets can be vibrant, attractive and economically productive while still retaining their informal character.

The solution may include standardised, low-cost stalls; designated trading areas; access to water and sanitation; regular waste collection; proper drainage; food safety inspections; and transparent, affordable licensing systems.

Authorities should also consider involving traders in the design of these spaces. A market designed without the input of those who work there is unlikely to succeed. Trader associations should have a voice, but they must also accept collective responsibility for the cleanliness and reputation of their markets.

The response to the current situation must therefore not be arbitrary crackdowns or sudden bans.

If authorities believe a market is unsafe or unsanitary, they must explain why, provide reasonable notice, engage affected traders and offer practical alternatives where possible. Enforcement must be lawful, consistent and applied fairly.

But consultation cannot become an excuse for permanent inaction.

Namibia’s informal economy is too important to be left to neglect. Informal traders deserve better than makeshift spaces without water, sanitation and protection. Consumers deserve better than markets where hygiene is uncertain. Cities deserve better than unmanaged trading areas that gradually deteriorate into public health and environmental problems.

The central question is not whether informal trading should exist. It must exist.

The question is whether Namibia is prepared to govern it properly.

The answer should be yes.

A country that takes its informal economy seriously must also take the conditions under which informal traders work seriously. There is no dignity in allowing people to trade in unhealthy conditions. There is no empowerment in permitting a market to deteriorate until the only solution appears to be eviction.

The time has come for a more mature approach: protect livelihoods, but enforce standards. Support informal traders, but demand responsibility. Provide infrastructure, but insist on cleanliness.

Informal trade may be informal. Governance cannot be.




# How every journey should end at home

**MORNA IKOSA**

**In the first six months of 2026, thirty-seven (37) lives were tragically lost on Namibia’s roads, a shocking toll for a nation of three (3) million people. These individuals were not just statistics; they were a mother returning home from a night shift and a father crossing the B1 road after a long day of work.**

Between 1 January and 21 June 2026, 489 pedestrian-related crashes were recorded nationally, resulting in 203 injuries, with Windhoek leading. This presents a 29% increase in pedestrian fatalities compared to 2025, according to the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund.

Here is the uncomfortable truth. The distribution of pedestrian deaths in Windhoek is anything but random. The Khomas Region consistently records Namibia’s highest pedestrian fatalities, according to the MVA Fund reports.

The Roads Authority has also identified the B1 road, which runs near Katutura Hospital, Shandumbala, and Prosperita, as a hotspot for pedestrian accidents.

Consequently, the patterns of pedestrian fatalities in Windhoek closely align with the spatial planning strategy established during the apartheid era. This reality is not a coincidence; rather, it emanates from the racially discriminatory planning of the apartheid era, also known as environmental racism.

Robert Bullard, often referred to as the father of the environmental justice movement, introduced and popularised the concept of “transportation racism” in his influential 2004 book titled “Highway Robbery: Transportation Racism and New Routes to Equity.”

In this work, Bullard argues that transportation infrastructure, particularly highways, has frequently been constructed in ways that reinforce racial inequality and restrict the economic and social mobility of black communities. He highlights how these highways were often deliberately routed through black neighbourhoods, thereby maintaining racial and spatial segregation, while creating mobility barriers for individuals who do not drive or lack access to transportation options.

Bullard’s book provides a comprehensive overview of Katutura, which is deliberately situated away from the city centre, separated by industrial buffer zones and extensive roads designed for cars only. These roads still exist today, and residents of Katutura continue to navigate them on foot, often during the night and early morning hours, where adequate lighting and pedestrian crossings are lacking.



Moreover, the International Road Assessment Programme conducted a review across nine African countries and revealed concerning statistics: 74% of roads lack pavements, and 55% of these roads received a one-star rating for pedestrian safety, indicating the lowest level of safety. Furthermore, only 19 out of 54 African nations have implemented a walking and cycling policy, as reported in the “UN-Habitat Walk 21 report” in 2022. This underscores the urgent need for improved infrastructure and policy initiatives to foster safer environments for pedestrians.

A 2025 study, titled “Pedestrian Safety and Sustainable Urban Planning”, by Seferoğlu and Allahverdiyev, examines 22 urban design studies and highlights a crucial finding that improving pedestrian safety is not simply an engineering challenge with a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, it requires a comprehensive approach that includes pavement expansion, the creation of engineered safe crossings, the establishment of pedestrian-only zones, the integration of green spaces, cyclist lanes, and tailored traffic-calming measures appropriate to different road types.

The City of Windhoek’s (CoW) Strategic Plan 2022–2027 declares its vision as “to be a Sustainable and Caring City by 2027 and its mission is to “enhance the quality of life for all our people”. To achieve its vision, CoW launched a cycling education programme, completed a 58-kilometre non-motorised transport feasibility study, and piloted 40 solar-powered e-bikes. These are commendable steps, but 37 people died crossing roads that have no safe crossing points, where Windhoek’s poorest residents live.

Thus, sustainability without pedestrian safety is just a slogan, not a strategy. Rwanda’s Kigali proves it can be done differently. By embedding walkability into its Kigali Master Plan 2050, the city built the car-free “Imbuga City Walk” in its city centre, introduced dedicated bike lanes and refuge islands city-wide in its most underserved areas. Windhoek has wider streets, avenues, better topography, and a smaller population compared to Kigali. What Windhoek lacks is the implementation of its well-crafted policies and strategies.

The deadline for the 2027 sustainable city initiative is just 18 months away, and it is crucial for CoW and the Minister of Works and Transport to take immediate action rather than postponing until the next budget cycle.

Firstly, the construction of four essential pedestrian bridges at Katutura Hospital, Shandumbala, Prosperita, and NATIS should be prioritised. These bridges are vital infrastructure that significantly impact the safety and accessibility for communities that have historically faced neglect.

Additionally, it’s important to replace the existing speed humps with properly engineered crossings along the B1 road. Implementing features such as raised tables, median refuge islands, and floodlit surfaces tailored to the specific road types is necessary for enhancing pedestrian safety and traffic flow.

Moreover, creating a car-free pedestrian plaza within the city centre, inspired by Kigali’s Imbuga City Walk, would demonstrate CoW’s commitment to designing spaces that prioritise the needs of people, fostering a more liveable urban environment. Increasing parking fees to discourage vehicles in the city centre is not the solution.

Beyond that, CoW should undertake a Walkability Equity Audit, focusing primarily on Katutura, city centre and other highly populated areas in Windhoek. Moreover, it is essential for CoW to formally adopt an Environmental Justice Infrastructure Policy” that prioritises pedestrian funding for historically neglected areas.

Additionally, the feasibility study for the 58 km non-motorised transport should be translated into tangible cycling lanes and extended hours for public transport.

Finally, it is crucial to reform Namibia’s spatial development framework to ensure that all new roads constructed in Windhoek and any other towns and cities in Namibia include essential infrastructure such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, crossings, and lighting as standard requirements, rather than features that may be eliminated to reduce costs.

***Morna Ikosa, a columnist with a Master’s degree in Sustainable Development. She is passionate about bringing sustainable solutions to corporations and her beloved country. (The views expressed in this article are her own, not her employer).***



*The views expressed in these articles are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect Windhoek Observer’s editorial stance.*

OPINION

# Beyond gut feelings: Rethinking how capital finds entrepreneurs

**ASTERIA PIROLA**



**We talk a great deal about the funding gap facing African entrepreneurs, and rightly so. But less attention goes to a quieter problem sitting underneath it: even when capital exists, it often doesn't find the entrepreneurs best placed to use it well and those who could use it well often don't find the right investors. This is not always a story of a human bias in the capital allocation sphere of things. It is more often a story of mismatch. An example, an investor who thrives on fast, high-risk bets funding an entrepreneur who builds cautiously and methodically. Let us extend this example, to highlight another dynamic: a patient, relationship-driven investor who might perhaps never cross paths with an entrepreneur who needs exactly that kind of financial backer. Both sides lose, and so does the economy around them.**

This is where a growing field, psychometrics applied to capital allocation is starting to offer something genuinely useful. Psychometrics is simply the science of measuring psychological traits in a structured, reliable way. It has existed for decades in hiring, in education, in clinical settings. What is new is applying it bilaterally not just profiling the founder, but profiling the investor too, and then measuring the compatibility between the two profiles, the way relationship-matching tools measure compatibility between people.

I am currently piloting a study in Namibia that, should we do it properly, this would mean that a closer examination in instances whereby an entrepreneur possesses a certain degree of risk, in their business fundamentals can be identified well on the onset prior to any capital allocation or funding. A dynamic which I too often experienced whilst advising startup founders in Namibia. The conversation here means understanding what motivates a founder to keep building through hard years, and whether an investor's expectations match that motivation. It means examining how each side builds and repairs trust when things go wrong because things always go wrong at some point in a growing business. And critically, for a context like ours, it means accounting for how resource scarcity has shaped the way someone thinks and decides. A founder who has built a business through load-shedding, currency volatility, and thin local capital markets has developed a different, not worse, different — risk calculus than one who hasn't. Most investment tools built elsewhere in the world were never designed to see that difference, let alone value it.

Why does this matter for bias? If one thinks about it, a great deal of what we call "gut feel" in investment decisions is, on close inspection, pattern-matching against familiarity. Investors, like everyone else, tend to trust people who remind them of themselves, or of founders who have succeeded before. That is a human tendency, not a moral failing but it quietly narrows who gets funded, especially in ecosystems where the pool of visible, well-networked founders is small. A structured, evidence-based compatibility measure doesn't remove human judgment from the process. It gives that judgment something more solid to stand on, rather than familiarity and instinct alone. It makes the "why" behind a yes or a no explainable, rather than a feeling nobody can quite articulate.

There is also a distinctly regional dimension worth naming. An entrepreneur building an agro-processing venture in the Oshikoto Region is not operating under the same constraints as one building a Tech start-up in Windhoek's CBD, or a tourism-linked business in the south of Namibia. Access to markets, transport costs, seasonal cash flow: these differ sharply by region. Any serious attempt to reduce bias in capital allocation has to be able to see and respect these differences, rather than judging every founder in the country against a single national template shaped mostly by what is visible in the capital.

Despite this, no instrument, however well designed, replaces due diligence, mentorship, or the hard work of building an entrepreneurial track record. But as Namibia works to deepen its entrepreneurial ecosystem and as institutions from government to private equity search for better ways to deploy scarce investment funds prudently, tools that make the founder-investor relationship more legible, more evidence-based, and less dependent on who happens to know whom, deserve serious attention.

I am of the opinion, that the next frontier in closing Namibia or let alone, Africa's funding gap may not only be more capital. It may be better matching of the capital we already have which is grounded in real understanding of who founders are, how they think, and the context they are building in.

***Dr Asteria Pirola is the Founder and CEO of Net-0 Network (www.netzeron.com), a Windhoek and Milan-based venture working at the intersection of applied psychology, neuroscience and entrepreneurial finance in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her team is reachable via info@netzeron.com***

# Is nuclear power a priority and a development strategy without building the foundations first?

**PAUL T. SHIPALE**
*(with inputs by Folito Nghitongovali Diawara Gaspar)*



**A new chapter in Namibia and China relations**

**The recent state visit to China has undoubtedly opened a new chapter in Namibia's relationship with one of the world's leading economic powers.**

Beyond the anticipated bilateral agreements, investment commitments, financing arrangements, and technology partnerships, one announcement has attracted particular attention: the government's intention to develop a national nuclear energy policy, supported by legislation, to harness Namibia's vast uranium resources for domestic electricity generation.

The announcement has been presented as a bold step towards energy security and industrial transformation. It deserves serious public debate.

The real question is not whether nuclear energy is good or bad. The real question is whether it is the right priority for Namibia at this stage of its development.

**Nuclear power is the result of development, not its beginning**

Far too often, developing countries mistake symbols of modernity for the foundations of development. Nuclear power stations are among the most sophisticated engineering projects in the world, but they are not what makes a nation developed.

They are the result of decades of institutional maturity, scientific investment, industrial growth, and disciplined governance.

A nuclear power station is not the beginning of development but it is often one of its outcomes.

Before discussing reactors, Namibia must first ask what kind of economy it intends to power.

**What is the purpose of a nuclear power station?**

The primary purpose of nuclear energy is not prestige. It is to provide reliable, continuous electricity capable of supporting heavy industry, advanced manufacturing, mineral processing, large scale transport systems, digital infrastructure, and sustained economic expansion.

Electricity is only valuable when it powers productive economic activity.

If the country's economy remains dominated by the export of raw materials, with limited manufacturing and value addition, then we should take into consideration who will consume the enormous amount of electricity that a nuclear power station is designed to produce?

Energy policy should follow economic strategy, not replace it.

**Can Namibia afford to prioritise nuclear energy today?**

Namibia undoubtedly needs long term energy security. However, energy planning cannot be separated from the broader realities facing the nation.

Can we realistically prioritise one of the world's most expensive energy technologies while many communities continue to struggle with inadequate healthcare, overcrowded schools, youth unemployment, housing shortages, water insecurity, sanitation challenges, weak public transport, and limited industrial capacity?

These are not arguments against nuclear energy. They are arguments for sequencing national priorities wisely.

A nation cannot build sustainable technological ambition while many of its basic developmental foundations remain fragile.

**Development begins with strong institutions**

No country becomes industrialised simply by signing memoranda of understanding or announcing ambitious projects.

Industrialisation requires skilled engineers, scientists, technicians, research institutions, vocational education, efficient public administration, reliable infrastructure, competitive industries, transparent procurement systems, and institutions capable of implementing complex national projects.

Without these foundations, even the most ambitious agreements risk becoming expensive political announcements rather than engines of transformation.

**The hidden costs and risks of nuclear energy**

A nuclear programme demands extraordinary institutional capacity.

It requires an independent nuclear regulator, highly trained nuclear engineers and safety specialists, sophisticated emergency response systems, cybersecurity, environmental monitoring, strict international safeguards, transparent governance, and a permanent strategy for managing radioactive waste that will remain hazardous for generations.

The financial risks are equally significant. Around the world, nuclear power plants have frequently exceeded their original budgets and construction schedules, placing enormous pressure on public finances.

For developing economies, these financial burdens can limit investment in other sectors that directly improve citizens' quality of life.

While modern nuclear technology is considerably safer than earlier generations, accidents, however rare, can have consequences that extend across generations.

Safety must therefore be measured not only by engineering standards but also by the strength of the institutions responsible for enforcing them.

**Namibia already has a strategic energy advantage**

Namibia is already endowed with exceptional natural advantages. It possesses some of the world's highest solar irradiation, significant wind potential, abundant uranium resources, and vast open land suitable for renewable energy development.

These resources position the country to become one of Africa's leading producers of renewable energy while supporting green hydrogen, regional electricity exports, and domestic industrialisation.

The question is not whether Namibia should eventually develop nuclear energy. The question is whether renewable energy, industrial expansion, and human capital development should first create the economic conditions that justify such an investment.

**The Chinese lesson goes beyond technology**

China did not become a technological superpower by beginning with nuclear reactors. It first invested heavily in education, infrastructure, manufacturing, scientific research, industrial capacity, and state institutions.

Only after building these foundations did it expand into increasingly sophisticated technologies.

This may be the most valuable lesson Namibia should take home from Beijing. The greatest achievement of the visit should not be the agreements signed, but the understanding that transformation requires discipline, continuity, institutional excellence, and long term national planning.

**The real investment Namibia must make**

If Namibia genuinely intends to pursue nuclear energy, the conversation must extend far beyond the construction of a power station.

It must include a national strategy to educate thousands of engineers, physicists, technicians, regulators, and scientists.

It must strengthen universities, modernise technical colleges, invest in research institutions, improve governance, expand industrial capacity, and create an economy capable of converting abundant electricity into sustainable prosperity.

Otherwise, the country risks constructing an impressive technological monument without building the economy required to sustain it.

**The true measure of success**

The success of this state visit will not be measured by the number of agreements signed in Beijing or the ambition of official announcements.

It will be measured by what exists ten or twenty years from now, stronger institutions, diversified industries, reliable public services, quality education, productive employment, modern infrastructure, technological capability, and a higher standard of living for ordinary Namibians.

Nuclear energy may one day become an important pillar of Namibia's development. But no reactor can substitute for capable institutions, sound governance, industrial capacity, or human capital.

The most important investment Namibia can make today is not in nuclear technology itself, but in the people, institutions, and productive economy that will one day make such technology both necessary and sustainable.

Development is not built by chasing symbols of progress. It is built by laying strong foundations and having the discipline to build upon them, one generation at a time.

***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.***

OBSERVERMONEY
A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

THURSDAY
16 JULY
2026

## Market Highlights

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

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

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

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Major Pairs | | |
|---|---|---|
| N$ / $ | 16.3524 | 15 Jul 2026 |
| N$ / £ | 21.922 | 15 Jul 2026 |
| N$ / € | 18.7046 | 15 Jul 2026 |
| N$ / AOA | 0.0175 | 15 Jul 2026 |

**Repo**
6.75
**Prime**
10.25



# Building sector improves in the first half of 2026

**CHAMWE KAIRA**
*Staff Writer*

**Namibia's building sector closed the first half of 2026 on an improving note, with June delivering broad-based gains in both approval volumes and values.**

Against a backdrop of elevated borrowing costs following the Bank of Namibia's 25 basis point rate hike to 6.75% in June, persistent household affordability constraints, and subdued commercial activity, the residential and additions segments continue to lead the recovery.

"The sector's underlying momentum remains divergent: plan volumes are running above prior-year levels, while cumulative approval values in Windhoek are materially below the distorted 2025 base that included a single N$1 billion project in March," said Almandro Jansen of Simonis Storm.

In Windhoek, 197 building plans were approved in June, a 42.8% month-on-month recovery from 138 in May and the highest monthly approval count since March 2026. On a year-on-year basis, approvals rose 24.7% from 158 in June 2025.

The value of approved plans surged to N$197.8 million, up 47.7% month-on-month from N$133.9 million in May and 50.7% year-on-year from N$131.3 million in June 2025.

"The implied average value per approved project rose to approximately N$1 million, suggesting a shift toward higher-value residential developments. June's recovery more than reversed May's weakness, with volume and value both returning to levels consistent with the broader first-half trend," said Jansen.

On a year-to-date basis through June, Windhoek has recorded 1001 approved building plans, 7.3% ahead of the 933 approvals over the same period in 2025.



In Windhoek, 197 building plans were approved in June, a 42.8% month-on-month recovery. - Photo: Contributed

Total year-to-date approval values stand at N$791.8 million, below the N$1.73 billion recorded in the first half of 2025 though the 2025 figure was heavily distorted by a single large-scale project in March worth over N$1 billion.

Completions in Windhoek improved in June, rising to 25 projects from 21 in May, a 19% month-on-month gain. The value of completed works rose to N$54.6 million from N$37 million a 47.6% increase and nearly doubled year-on-year from N$27.7 million in June 2025.

Swakopmund recorded solid activity in June, with 78 building plans approved flat year-on-year but a 17.9% month-on-month decline from 95 in May.

Approval values moderated to N$70.3 million from N$132.2 million in May, though they remain 45.2% above June 2025 levels.

Completions rebounded sharply to 61 projects from 50 in May, with completion values surging to N$52.3 million from N$23.0 million a 127% monthly increase.

On a year-to-date basis, Swakopmund has approved 453 plans valued at N$458 million, versus 365 plans worth N$359.6 million in the same period of 2025 gains of 24.1% and 27.2% respectively, significantly outpacing Windhoek on both measures.

Jansen said year-to-date, Swakopmund is materially outpacing Windhoek in volume growth (+24.1% vs +7.3%) and value growth (+27.2%), reflecting the structural divergence between coastal demand underpinned by lifestyle migration, foreign buyer interest, and tourism-linked investment and Windhoek's more incremental recovery.

RFA
Road Fund Administration
Funding roads, steering growth.

INVITATION FOR BID

The Road Fund Administration (RFA), in line with the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015) as amended, hereby invites suitable and competent Namibian service providers to submit their best bids for the provision of services listed below:

PROVISION OF RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS
PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NO.: SC/RP/RFA – 05/2026

Bid documents are available on the E-GP Portal and the RFA website or on request via email: **procurement@rfanam.com.na**

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked with the applicable Procurement Reference Number and description, addressed to the Procurement Management Unit (PMU), Road Fund Administration, 21 Sir Seretse Khama Street, Windhoek. Delivery must be made into the bid box on the ground floor.



**Closing date and time:** 27 July 2026, 11:00 a.m.
**Levy:** No levy

**Enquiries: PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT**
**Tel:** +264(61) 433 3007 / 3049 / 3082 / 3074
**Email:** procurement@rfanam.com.na

Visit our website for more information
**www.rfanam.com.na**

OBSERVERMONEY

# Namibia continues to expand international markets for grapes

**CHAMWE KAIRA**
*Staff Writer*

**Namibia has signed a phytosanitary protocol with China that clears the way for the export of fresh table grapes to the Chinese market, marking a new step in agricultural trade between the two countries.**

The protocol was signed between Namibia's ministry of agriculture, fisheries, water and land reform and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

The move comes as Namibia has continued to expand grape exports markets. Table grapes accounted for N$561.3 million in horticultural export earnings, making them by far Namibia's largest horticultural export product during the first quarter of 2026, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), statistics.




**Namibia has continued to expand the export of grapes with the latest export market being China.** - *Photo: Contributed*

Namibia exported grapes worth more than N$1.2 billion during the fourth quarter of 2025, according to figures by the NSA. Key markets included the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany.

According to the ministry, the agreement with China establishes the phytosanitary requirements governing exports of fresh Namibian table grapes to China and is aimed at ensuring compliance with Chinese laws, regulations and food safety standards.

Under the protocol, all fresh table grapes exported from Namibia must be free of quarantine pests identified as a concern by Chinese authorities and must not contain soil contamination.

The agreement sets out requirements covering orchard management, registration of orchards, packing houses and cold-treatment facilities, integrated pest management, packaging, traceability, and pre-export and entry inspections.

The agriculture ministry will be responsible for registering production and packing facilities and overseeing quality management systems, while China's customs authorities will conduct compliance inspections on imported consignments.

The protocol also requires mandatory registration and approval of all relevant facilities, regular pest monitoring, compliance with international phytosanitary standards and prescribed labelling requirements for export shipments.

The agreement takes effect immediately following its signing and will remain valid for three years. It provides for automatic renewal unless terminated and may be amended by mutual agreement between the two parties.

The ministry said the protocol is expected to strengthen bilateral agricultural trade and expand market opportunities for Namibia's table grape industry while reinforcing cooperation between Namibia and China on phytosanitary compliance.



CATALYST
INVESTMENT MANAGERS
Email: info@catalyst.com.na | Tel: +264833308080



| TOP Gainers NSX Local | | |
|---|---|---|
| Share code | Close | 1MoM% |
| SBN Holdings Ltd | 13.50 | 2.04% |
| Mobile Telecommunications Limited | 9.41 | 0.86% |
| Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd | 12.40 | 0.81% |
| Capricorn Group Limited (prev Capricorn Investment Group Ltd) | 28.26 | 0.71% |
| Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd | 5.55 | 0.54% |

| TOP Losers NSX Local | | |
|---|---|---|
| Share code | Close | 1MoM% |
| Oryx Properties Limited | 13.62 | -0.15% |
| Nictus Holdings - Nam | 3.4 | 0.00% |

| TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall | | |
|---|---|---|
| Share code | Close | 1W% |
| PSG Financial Services Ltd (Prev. PSG Konsult Limited) | 33.78 | 4.84% |
| Oceana Group Limited | 71.70 | 4.15% |
| Investec Limited | 131.73 | 1.45% |
| Momentum Metropolitan Holdings | 39.84 | 0.76% |
| Capricorn Group Limited | 28.26 | 0.39% |

| TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall | | |
|---|---|---|
| Share code | Close | 1W% |
| Vukile Property Fund Limited | 24.02 | -3.07% |
| Shoprite Holdings | 282.8 | -2.92% |
| Old Mutual Ltd | 13.11 | -2.46% |
| Paladin Energy Limited | 109.58 | -2.20% |

| Currencies | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Close | 1D% | %MoM | %YTD |
| USD/ZAR | 16.33 | 0.74% | -0.62% | -1.03% |
| EUR/ZAR | 18.669271 | 0.84% | -1.64% | -3.76% |
| GBP/ZAR | 21.86832 | 0.95% | -0.30% | -1.52% |
| USD/EUR | 0.87469935 | -0.04% | 1.01% | 2.88% |

| Commodities | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Close | 1D% | %MoM | %YTD |
| Brent Crude Oil (ICE $/bbl) | 78.02 | 5.20% | -17.22% | 28.22% |
| Gold NYMEX Near Term ($/ozt) | 4070.9 | -1.79% | -6.11% | -5.89% |
| Platinum NYMEX Near Term ($/ozt) | 1576.40 | -4.53% | -9.89% | -22.52% |
| Copper Cash Official LME ($/mt) | 13090.00 | -1.65% | -4.18% | 4.69% |
| Uranium Near Term (NYM $/lbs) | 85.30 | -0.18% | 0.06% | 4.53% |

| Money Market Rates | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 MONTH | 6 MONTH | 9 MONTH | 12 MONTH |
| Average Bank NCDs | 6.87 | 7.05 | 7.23 | 7.32 |
| Treasury Bill Rates | 7.18 | 7.41 | 7.50 | 7.53 |

| JSE INDICES | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Share code | Close | 1D% | %MoM | %YTD |
| JSE ALSI | 109,488.65 | 1.05% | -2.5% | -6.46% |
| All Share Industrials | 139,396.98 | -0.26% | 1.0% | -5.29% |
| Mid Cap | 103,396.06 | 0.55% | -2.9% | -9.39% |
| Small Cap | 108,126.45 | 0.84% | 0.3% | -0.68% |
| Industrial 25 | 129,906.87 | -0.34% | 0.9% | -5.91% |
| Financial 15 | 25,767.85 | 0.59% | 2.0% | 2.99% |
| Resource 10 | 104,246.21 | 3.39% | -11.2% | -18.46% |
| Top 40 | 101,317.16 | 1.13% | -2.8% | -7.21% |

| World Market | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Share Code | Close | 1D% | %1M | %YTD |
| FTSE100 | 10,489.04 | -1.66% | 1.12% | -6.46% |
| S&P500 | 7,534.10 | -0.28% | 1.04% | -5.29% |
| DAX | 25,118.27 | -2.23% | 1.14% | -9.39% |
| ASX | 8,762.50 | -0.21% | 1.86% | -0.68% |
| NASDAQ | 26,114.49 | 0.20% | -0.23% | -5.91% |
| NSX Overall | 2,270.41 | 1.63% | -3.09% | 6.58% |
| NSX Local | 844.60 | 0.02% | 1.43% | 10.96% |

***This data is provided by FACTSET and YFinance as at 09/07/2026***

# Agriculture remains largest employer among marginalised communities

**CHAMWE KAIRA**
*Staff Writer*

**Agriculture, forestry and fishing remained the largest source of employment for Namibia's marginalised communities in 2023, employing 41.9% of the workforce, according to data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census.**

The census shows that of the 9 673 employed people from marginalised communities, 4 057 worked in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

The industry is heavily dominated by men, with 54.3% of employed males working in the sector compared with 18.1% of employed females.

The second-largest employer was household activities as employers and undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities for own use, accounting for 15.1% of employment.

This sector was largely dominated by women, with 30.2% of employed females working in household-related activities compared with 7.3% of employed males.

Administrative and support service activities accounted for 9% of employment, followed by manufacturing at 6.6% and wholesale and retail trade, including the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, at 5.2%.

The census also found that women were more strongly represented than men in several service industries. Accommodation and food service activities employed 7.4% of women compared with 1.5% of men, while education accounted for 5.3% of female employment against 1.6% for males.

Women also recorded higher participation in human health and social work activities (3.2% versus 0.9%), public administration and defence (4.2% versus 2.6%), and other service activities (5.1% versus 2.2%).

Men, meanwhile, had higher representation in construction, where 3.9% of employed males worked compared with 0.4% of females.

Male participation was also higher in transportation and storage (1.4% versus 0.3%), mining and quarrying (1.3% versus 0.5%), and manufacturing (7.6% versus 4.7%).

Employment in industries such as electricity, gas and air conditioning supply, water and waste management, information and communication, financial services, real estate, professional and technical activities, arts and recreation, and extraterritorial organisations accounted for relatively small shares of employment among marginalised communities.

"This report highlights key findings from an initial analysis of the 2023 census data, concentrating on the Marginalized Communities at urban, rural, and regional levels. The results are essential for guiding the Government, development partners, civil society organizations, and the public on aspects such as the community's population size, distribution, and demographic composition among other factors," said Alex Shimuafeni, statistician general and chief executive officer.



The 2023 census showed that of the 9 673 employed people from marginalised communities, 4 057 worked in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. - *Photo: namibia.un.org*

WANT TO ADVERTISE?

CONTACT US

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

GIPF
Government Institutions Pension Fund
To guard, and to grow.

INVITATION TO BID

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) is a statutory pension fund that was created by the Namibian Government to provide retirement, death and ancillary benefits to civil servants as well as employees of some state institutions established by Acts of parliament. GIPF is a defined benefit fund that provides guaranteed pension benefits to its members. The benefits are defined in terms of the Rules of the Fund.

GIPF hereby invites qualified, competent and registered companies to submit bids for the under-mentioned:

| Bid Number | Bid Description | Non-refundable Document Fee | Enquiries | Closing Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RE-ADVERTISEMENT: CS/RFP/GIPF-02/2026 | Survey analysis service provider required for the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) for the 2026 to 2029 financial period | N/A | Julia Shipanga<br>E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na<br>T: +264 81 950 7740 | 21 July 2026 at 12:00 p.m. |
| NCS/RFP/GIPF-01/2026 | Development of a stakeholder engagement framework and tracking and reporting dashboard tool | N/A | Julia Shipanga<br>E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na<br>T: +264 81 950 7740 | 22 July 2026 at 12:00 p.m. |

**Details of Bid Submission:**
Sealed bids citing the bid number and detailing the services to be rendered should be posted or hand delivered to:

The Chairperson: GIPF Procurement Committee
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PENSION FUND
**GIPF House, Ground Floor, Reception**
Corner of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda and Goethe Street
P.O. Box 23500
Windhoek, Namibia

Proposals received after the deadlines will not be considered.

www.gipf.com.na

OBSERVERMONEY

# Botswana VP Gaolathe visits Walvis Bay port

**CHAMWE KAIRA**
*Staff Writer*

**Botswana's Vice President, Ndaba Gaolathe, is scheduled to visit the Botswana Container Terminal at the Port of Walvis Bay this week as Botswana and Namibia deepen cooperation aimed at improving regional trade, logistics and transport infrastructure, the Botswana ministry of transport and infrastructure announced.**

The Botswana Container Terminal, managed in partnership with the Namibia Ports Authority (Namport), serves as a key gateway for Botswana's imports and exports through the Port of Walvis Bay, providing the landlocked country with direct access to international markets via the Atlantic Ocean.

The visit is expected to focus on ongoing port expansion projects and infrastructure developments designed to strengthen Botswana's trade connectivity.

It also highlights the importance of the Trans Kalahari Corridor strategy, which includes road transport and the proposed Trans Kalahari Railway linking Botswana to the Namibian coast.

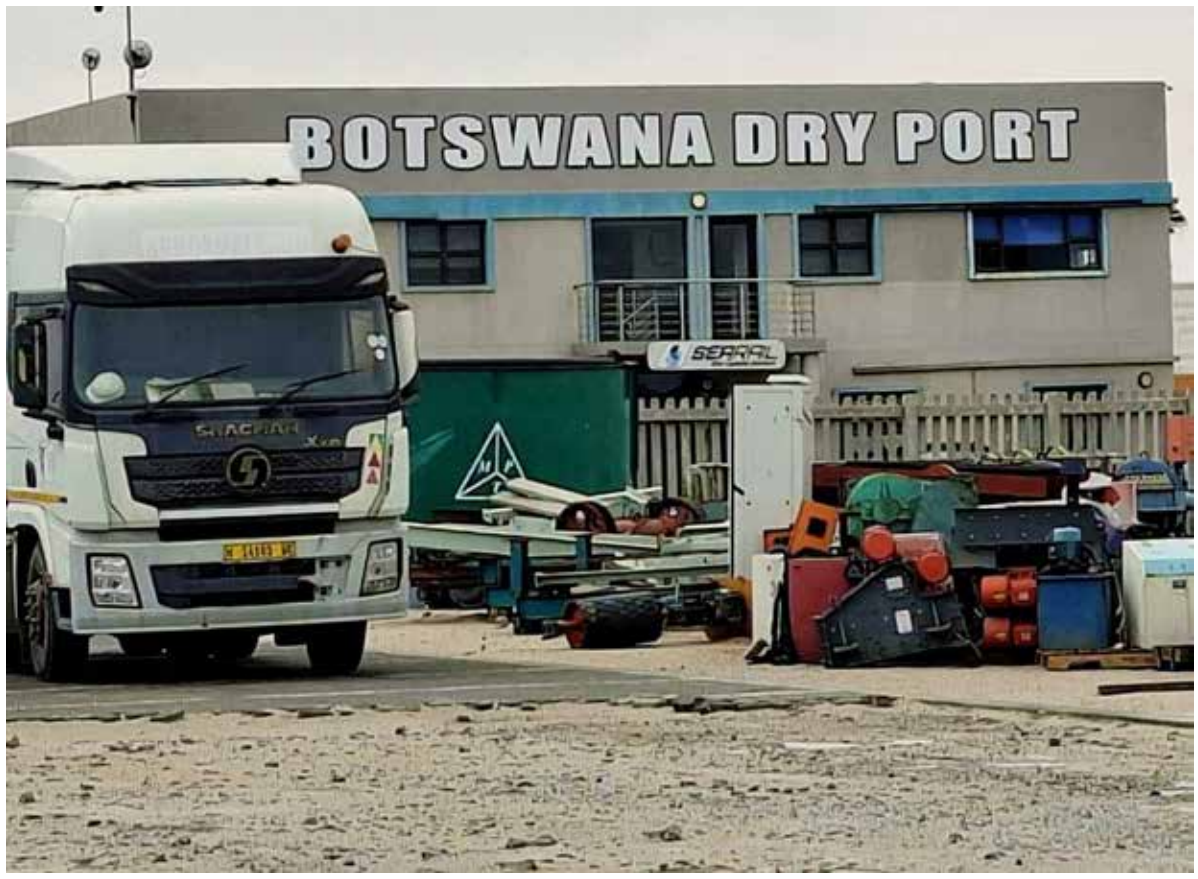
According to the Botswana government, the visit reflects its commitment to strengthening regional partnerships, improving logistics efficiency and ensuring infrastructure investments support economic growth, job creation and trade competitiveness.

Officials from both governments and Namport are expected to review current operations at the port and discuss opportunities to expand cargo handling capacity along the Namibia-Botswana trade route.

The visit follows a series of engagements in Walvis Bay involving Botswana's state-owned logistics company, Sea Rail Botswana, and its newly appointed board.



Ndaba Gaolathe




**The Botswana Container Terminal, managed in partnership with the Namibia Ports Authority (Namport), serves as a key gateway for Botswana's imports and exports.** - *Photo: Botswana Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure*

During a high-level meeting this week, Sea Rail Botswana managing director Derrick Mokgatla outlined the company's strategic vision to transform the entity into a leading provider of integrated logistics services for Botswana and the wider region.

The strategy aims to expand Sea Rail Botswana's role beyond traditional dry port operations by developing a sustainable logistics network supported by strategic partnerships.

The company plans to seek the introduction of dry port legislation to establish a clear regulatory framework while targeting annual revenue growth of 25%.

The strategy also includes expanding along the logistics value chain through third-party partnerships, strengthening collaboration with Namport, increasing container movements between the two countries' dry ports by road, operationalising a Gaborone office to attract new business, supporting development of the Trans Kalahari Corridor, and investing in additional equipment to improve operational capacity.

Sea Rail Botswana said the strategy aligns with Botswana's Economic Transformation Programme and Vision 2036 by integrating port, corridor and inland logistics services to improve trade facilitation, diversify exports and create employment opportunities.

Earlier on Tuesday, the newly constituted Sea Rail Botswana Board held its induction meeting in Walvis Bay, where members were briefed on the company's mandate and toured port facilities.

The board, which provides strategic oversight of Botswana's freight and logistics operations, also engaged with stakeholders on infrastructure development, logistics efficiency and trade facilitation along the Trans Kalahari Corridor.

Board members later visited Namport's North Port development area, where they received updates on one of the region's largest planned infrastructure projects.

Namport officials said the North Port development has been designated as the starting point for the proposed Trans Kalahari Railway, which is expected to provide a direct rail connection between Walvis Bay and Botswana.

The railway is intended to increase port and rail capacity, reduce transit times and support growing trade volumes between Botswana, Namibia and the wider Southern African region.

Officials also confirmed plans by the Dangote Group to establish a large petroleum tank farm, with land already reserved for the project, further positioning Walvis Bay as a regional logistics and energy hub.

# NamRA reminds taxpayers to retain records for five years

*Staff Writer*

**The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) has reminded taxpayers, traders, tax professionals and the public of their legal obligation to retain business records and supporting documents for at least five years in line with Namibia's tax legislation.**

NamRA said the requirement is provided for under the Income Tax Act, 1981 (Act No. 24 of 1981), the Value-Added Tax Act, 2000 (Act No. 10 of 2000), and the Customs and Excise Act, 1998 (Act No. 20 of 1998).

The agency said taxpayers and traders are generally required to keep relevant books, records and supporting documents for a period of five years, as prescribed by the applicable legislation.

NamRA further clarified that it will not request documents that fall outside the statutory retention period. However, exceptions apply where recently submitted income tax returns, VAT returns or customs and excise declarations require supporting documentation, irrespective of the period to which they relate.

The agency added that documents may also be requested beyond the five-year retention period if the request is linked to a criminal investigation that is anticipated or already underway.

NamRA said the approach is consistent with Namibia's tax laws and reflects its commitment to administering revenue legislation fairly, transparently and in accordance with the law.

Meanwhile, the government has tabled amendments to the Income Tax Act aimed at establishing an independent tax court, a move expected to strengthen fairness, transparency and public confidence in Namibia's tax administration system.

Finance minister, Erica Shafudah has introduced the proposed amendments seeking to create a dedicated court to hear income tax and value-added tax appeals while also clarifying the separate roles of the minister and the commissioner in administering tax laws.




**The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) says taxpayers, traders, tax professionals must retain business records for at least five years in line with Namibia's tax legislation.**

The move follows a 2021 High Court ruling which declared provisions governing the former special tax court unconstitutional.

The court found that the minister's powers to both administer tax legislation and appoint members of the special tax court compromised the constitutional principle of a fair trial.

The new tax court will form part of the High Court structure as provided for under the Constitution and will function as an independent judicial institution tasked with delivering objective and impartial decisions free from external influence.

The court will serve as a guardian of transparency and fairness while helping to reinforce public trust in the country's tax system.

The bill also reaffirms the hierarchy between the tax tribunal and the proposed tax court. The minister said tax disputes will first be heard by the tribunal, with dissatisfied taxpayers retaining the right to appeal to the tax court.




Namibian-listed equities recorded modest gains in the latest trading session

# Namibian equities gain as overall index rises 0.53%

*Staff Writer*

**Namibian-listed equities recorded modest gains in the latest trading session, with the Overall Index increasing by 12.14 points, or 0.53%, to close at 2,305.40 points compared to the previous day's 2,293.26 points on Tuesday, 14 June during trading on the Namibia Securities Exchange**

The Overall Index has gained 7.66% since December 2025, when it stood at 2,141.33 points. The index reached a 2026 high of 2,428.98 points and a low of 2,070.30 points during the year. The index recorded an actual dividend yield of 3.56.

The Local Index remained largely unchanged, edging up by 0.15 points, or 0.02%, to 846.64 points from 846.49 points previously.

The Local Index has increased by 4.81% since December 2025 and reached its 2026 high of 846.64 points. Its dividend yield stood at 9.56.

The strongest sector performance came from Basic Materials, which advanced by 12.61 points, or 1.59%, to 805.18 points. The sector has gained 12.54% since December 2025, although its actual dividend yield remained low at 0.58.

The Real Estate sector also recorded gains, rising by 17.43 points, or 0.65%, to 2,691.33 points. The sector has declined marginally by 0.35% since December 2025, with an actual dividend yield of 5.92.

Financials were among the weaker performers, declining by 0.88 points, or 0.12%, to 750.11 points. Despite the daily decline, the sector has gained 5.11% since December 2025 and recorded a dividend yield of 5.57.

Consumer Discretionary shares fell by 10.81 points, or 0.41%, to 2,651.03 points, while Consumer Staples declined by 4.08 points, or 0.29%, to 1,391.73 points.

The Telecommunications sector was unchanged at 306.11 points, with a dividend yield of 9.96, while the Utilities sector also remained flat at 1,084.09 points.

Meanwhile, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) All Share Index (ALSH J203) gained 569.49 points, or 0.52%, to close at 110,572.86 points from 110,003.37 points previously.

The JSE All Share Index has declined by 4.54% since December 2025, when it stood at 115,832 points. During 2026, the index reached a high of 128,455.68 points and a low of 108,349.44 points.

# Nictus appoints Henrico du Plessis as CEO

*Staff Writer*

**Nictus Holdings Limited has appointed Henrico du Plessis as its chief executive officer with effect from 1 July 2026 as part of the company's long-term succession planning process.**

The Namibia Stock Exchange-listed company said the appointment follows a structured leadership development and executive succession programme undertaken by the board of directors and its Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

According to Nictus, the appointment is aimed at ensuring orderly leadership succession and long-term management continuity across the group.

Du Plessis has extensive experience within the Nictus Group and currently serves as managing director of NHL Tyre and Tire (Pty) Ltd and Khomas Car Rental and Leasing (Pty) Ltd.

He is also a member of the Group Management Committee, where he has been involved in the operational and strategic management of the business.

He is a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and has completed the Executive Development Programme at Stellenbosch Business School.

The board said it believes Du Plessis' experience, leadership capabilities and knowledge of the business position him to support the continued implementation of the group's strategy and long-term objectives.

Nictus advised shareholders that the appointment does not result in any changes to the composition of the board of directors.



Henrico du Plessis

The group managing director will remain in office and continue in that role, while no changes to the responsibilities of any director are being announced at this stage.

The company said the announcement was made voluntarily through the Namibia Securities Exchange News Service (NENS) in the interests of transparency, orderly disclosure and good corporate governance.

The board congratulated Du Plessis on his appointment and expressed confidence in his continued contribution to the growth and development of the group.

# Willie Storm's feedback on visit to Namibia

**In a recent radio interview, Willie Storm, a regenerative farmer of South Africa, reflected on June, when he visited farms across Namibia, evaluating veld condition and grazing management.**

Much of his approach is based on direct field observation. His impressions, offered region by region, touch on several issues that are current for Namibian livestock producers including Veld condition after good rains, bush encroachment, the sustainability of charcoal as a debushing income stream and the difficulty of managing rest-based grazing where predators and migratory game are present.

Storm reported that the Kalahari veld he visited in the southeast was in excellent condition, showing the perennial grass tufts and Bushman grass he associates with healthy climax veld.

He noted good rainfall across the region and a generally positive picture. He also pointed to localised concerns, including patches of three-thorn (driedoring) between the dune streets that warrant attention, and areas dominated by pioneer or annual grasses where, in his view, producers may need to shift their management approach to gain more stable, perennial-dominated climax veld.

Bush encroachment, he said, was not a serious problem in the parts of the southeast he saw.

In the north, Storm described a more difficult picture. Bush encroachment there involves several woody species, and he cautioned that poorly executed clearing can worsen the problem rather than solve it, with cleared single-stem plants regrowing as many thinner stems.

He took note that predators, such as leopard and hyena, caused stock losses over extended periods on some farms, and that large numbers of migratory game complicate rest-based grazing, because the animals move to the best-rested camps. Several producers, he said, had told him they were unsure how to manage this.

Storm also highlighted examples of strong regenerative practice in the north, including a producer who has run a debushing programme since the late 1980s and maintains veld, animal condition and carrying capacity that Storm rated highly.

He stressed that such results depend on continuous maintenance and aftercare, because bush encroachment returns aggressively where follow-up is neglected.

A recurring concern Storm raised was the long-term sustainability of charcoal production as a debushing tool. He acknowledged that charcoal generates steady income and can, as it did on his own operation, subsidise a debushing programme for several years.

He questioned, however, what happens once the usable bush is worked out, noting that thinner regrowth may not yield charcoal of sufficient quality and that he did not see a clear plan for the period after the charcoal income ends. In his view, this is an issue that industry bodies should examine.

He pointed to biochar as one emerging alternative. Storm described a producer who converts thinner woody regrowth into biochar, mixes it with manure and applies it to her own veld, reportedly with good results.

He added that he could not gauge how widely the practice could be scaled or how many producers could take it up.

Storm reserved some of his strongest praise for the dry southwest, which he described as the most challenging environment he visited but also the best-adapted management he saw.

He relayed that one farmer's rainfall records, kept since 1913, show an average of roughly 177 mm a year, on land close to the Namib.

Despite farming on the desert's edge, Storm said, these producers had matched their stock type and long rest periods to their conditions, and their animals were in excellent condition.

Across the regions, several themes stand out from Storm's account:

The strong influence of rainfall on veld condition, the need to manage bush encroachment through careful, sustained follow-up rather than one-off clearing, open questions about the long-term economics of charcoal-based debushing, growing interest in biochar as an alternative use for woody material, and the value of matching stocking and grazing management to local conditions.

**- NAU News**



**Willie Storm, a regenerative farmer of South Africa visited farms across Namibia, evaluating veld condition and grazing management.**



# Corporate-speak: A touchy subject for the modern workplace

**Physical touch at work sits in such an awkward space.**

A congratulatory pat on the back, a greeting kiss, a reassuring hand on the shoulder or a hug can be human, kind and well-intentioned.

But it can also be presumptuous, poorly judged or clearly inappropriate.

In the modern workplace, touch has become a touchy subject.

That is because it is never just about the gesture itself.

It depends on who is involved, the relationship between them and the setting.

It is also influenced by power dynamics and the personal boundaries each person brings with them.

The same gesture can feel very different depending on whether it comes from a close colleague, a new team member, a manager or someone with influence over another person's career.

What one person sees as friendly, familiar or reassuring can be experienced by someone else as awkward, intrusive or completely inappropriate.

The workplace has changed, and mostly for good reason.

We are more aware of personal boundaries and more alert to power imbalances.

We are also more willing to call out inappropriate behavior that might once have been brushed aside.

While some might roll their eyes and claim the world has gone soft, the truth is more sensible than that.

Workplaces have not become allergic to human warmth.

They have become more aware that warmth does not always require physical contact.

A kind word, a thoughtful check-in or simply giving someone space can sometimes say more than a hand on the shoulder ever could.

It is about recognizing that a gesture intended as supportive can still feel unsettling to someone else.

It is about understanding that a moment of friendliness can feel forced when the other person feels unable to refuse.

And it is about accepting that your comfort with touch does not automatically give you permission to make it someone else's problem.

Most physical contact at work sits in a grey area.

It is not always dramatic, predatory or obviously wrong.

Often, it is small and casual.

A manager places a hand on an employee's lower back while guiding them through a crowded room.

A team member squeezes someone's arm during a conversation.

A senior staff member gives shoulder rubs in the name of stress relief.

A popular team member hugs everyone at the Christmas party and assumes any hesitation is just shyness.

A boss leans in too close and touches someone's elbow while making a point.

Individually, some of these moments might seem minor.

But for the person on the receiving end, they can feel anything but minor.

It goes without saying that some forms of physical touch are automatically off limits.

A hand on the thigh, a grab around the waist and a slap on the backside cannot be explained away as old-school charm or friendliness.

Nor can any contact with intimate parts of the body.

Physical moves of this nature are not clumsy social gestures.

They are boundaries being crossed.

It's not that every workplace needs to become cold, clinical or stripped of human connection.

People still need encouragement, care, empathy and moments of genuine human connection at work.

In the end, it's all about judgment.

Physical touch at work is not just about the person reaching out to a colleague.

It is also about the person on the receiving end, the setting and the power imbalance–and whether there is genuine comfort on both sides.

When in doubt, it is better to pause, read the room and choose a form of support that does not rely on touch.

The safest rule is also likely to be the simplest. Never assume that your overwhelming comfort with workplace touch is shared by everyone else.

Warmth at work does not need physical contact to prove itself.

Respect sometimes means offering support while keeping your hands to yourself. **-Forbes Africa**

## Capacity Building with Diamond Training Institute

# Still Learning, Still Leading

**There is a quiet myth in many workplaces that leadership is something people eventually "arrive at".**

Once promoted, experienced, or respected enough, the thinking goes, the learning phase is over. But the strongest leaders know the opposite is true. If you are still leading, you should still be learning.

Leadership does not stand still because the environment around it does not stand still. Teams change, industries shift, technology evolves, and workplace expectations keep moving. A leader who relies only on past experience may remain confident for a while, but confidence without continued growth can quickly become limitation. What worked yesterday may not be enough for today.

This is why good leadership is never finished. The best leaders are not simply those with authority or experience. They are the ones willing to keep questioning, adapting, and developing. They understand that leadership is not a fixed identity. It is a practice that must be renewed.

Still learning does not mean weakness. In fact, it is one of the strongest signals of maturity. Leaders who continue learning tend to listen better, lead with more self-awareness, and respond more thoughtfully under pressure. They are less threatened by new ideas because they do not believe they already know everything. That mindset creates stronger teams, because people are more likely to trust leaders who are open, reflective, and willing to grow.

This matters even more in today's workplace. Modern leadership requires far more than technical competence. It demands communication, emotional intelligence, adaptability, cultural awareness, and the ability to lead people through uncertainty. These are not skills that stay sharp automatically. They must be developed over time, especially as pressure increases and responsibilities grow.

There is also a powerful message in leaders who keep learning: they make development normal for everyone else. When managers invest in their own growth, employees are more likely to see learning as part of professional life rather than a remedial activity. In this way, leadership development does not only strengthen the individual. It strengthens the culture around them.

The real risk lies in leaders who stop learning too soon. They may continue leading from habit, position, or confidence, but without fresh reflection, their leadership can become rigid. Teams feel it. Communication narrows. Innovation slows. Trust weakens quietly.

Strong leadership is not about knowing it all. It is about staying teachable while carrying responsibility. The people who lead best are often those who have not lost the discipline of learning.

If you are still leading, you should still be learning — because the moment leadership stops growing, it slowly stops leading.



PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Diamond Training Institute

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

**Services :**

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

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

CONTACT US TODAY

Powered by: bioss Southern Africa

+26481 126 1628 info@diamondtraining.com.na www.diamondtraining.com.na

OBSERVER LIFESTYLE
A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication
WEDNESDAY
15 JULY
2026



The Rastafarian community says the ban on smoking cannabis infringes on their rights to religious freedom

# Rastafarians in Kenya fail in bid to get cannabis legalised for religious purposes

**Kenya's High Court has dismissed a bid by a Rastafarian group seeking to legalise the use of cannabis for religious purposes.**

The Rastafarian community had argued that the ban on smoking cannabis infringed on their rights to freedom of religion and belief guaranteed under the constitution.

In a landmark judgement, Justice Bahati Mwamuye said the community had failed to prove drug laws violated their constitutional rights, but acknowledged the need for a broader national debate on cannabis.

There has been a continued push to legalise cannabis in Kenya, with advocates arguing that its regulated cultivation and trade could create jobs, boost tax revenue and support industrial and medicinal uses.

Under Kenya's Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, possession of cannabis remains a criminal offence.

A person convicted of possessing cannabis solely for personal use is liable to up to five years' imprisonment or a fine of up to $800 (£600).

Cultivating cannabis carries a penalty of a fine of $1,900 or three times the market value of the plants, whichever is greater, and/or up to 20 years in jail.

More severe penalties apply to trafficking and other drug-related offences.

In their petition, the Rastafari Society of Kenya had argued that cannabis was a sacred sacrament in their faith and sought permission for followers to grow, possess and use it privately during worship without fear of arrest.

It maintained it was not asking for the wholesale legalisation of cannabis, but a limited exemption for religious purposes in private homes and designated places of worship.

In their submission, the Rastafarians argued that smoking cannabis was part of their religious doctrine which must be respected and upheld.

But the state opposed their plea, arguing that creating a religious exemption would undermine the enforcement of Kenya's anti-drug laws and could create loopholes for illegal cannabis trafficking.

Justice Mwamuye also found that the evidence presented on the centrality of cannabis to the Rastafari faith was inconsistent and insufficient to establish that its use was an essential element of the religion.

He upheld the constitutionality of the drug laws prohibiting the cultivation, possession and use of cannabis, dealing a major blow to the Rastafarians' six-year legal battle.

The judge noted that any exemption permitting the use of cannabis for religious purposes would require a sound constitutional and legal foundation.

"We ought to have frank conversations on cannabis and which directions we should take," Justice Mwamuye said.

"This is not a question for the Rastafarian community only. It is a national question that cuts across the entire spectrum of our society," he added.

The community's lawyer Danstan Omari said they would appeal against the court ruling.

"Kenya cannot be the only country that is harassing the Rastafarian people. We are determined to reverse that [court's ruling] and bring back the dignity and respect of the Rastafarians in Kenya," he said.

The judgment comes seven years after another High Court ruling recognised Rastafarianism as a protected religion in Kenya, finding that a school's decision to expel a student over her dreadlocks violated her constitutional rights.

The number of Rastafarians in Kenya is unknown, but the movement is thought to be growing, especially among young people.

Their tradition of wearing dreadlocks also resonates with Kenya's anti-colonial history as many of the Mau Mau fighters who resisted British rule in the 1950s wore their hair long and matted as a symbol of defiance.**-BBC**



A lawyer for the Rastafari Society of Kenya says the group will appeal against the court ruling

CLASSIFIEDS

# VACANCIES

## BROTHER MANUFACTURING CC

**1. Blinder Make**r

Requirement:
1.Work in the Blinds Industry or relavent Industry for 5 year at least
2.Know how to assemble and manufacturer Blinds according to specifications and guidelines.
3.Guided installion of products alongside team members
Cost estimates for initial Product
4.know how to use Aluminium Cut Machine
5.Driver License required

**2. Branch Manager work in Oshikango**

Has basic Knowledge of Fabric Industrial
Has qualification of management or commerce
At least 5 years experience
Has driver license
English and Mandarin Speaking

**Closing date** is 31 July 2026
Please send CV to serena-w@live.cn

## CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT (WHICH MAY INCLUDE A WIND AND SOLAR FARMS, AND GREEN HYDROGEN ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITIES ON MINING LICENSE ML 45 NEAR LÜDERITZ, NAMIBIA**

### 1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

**Geo Hydro Energy Group (**the Proponent), an international joint venture between **Eon Hydro Namibia (Pty) Ltd** and **Pure Energy International and Hartley FZE** intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate for its proposed development of a green hydrogen project at Lüderitz, Karas

The system configuration brings together four primary process units process supported by a coordinated network of renewable power generation, storage, and utilities i.e. Seawater desalination, PEM electrolysis, nitrogen extraction, and ammonia synthesis via the Haber-Bosch.

### 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **10 August 2026.**

### 3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Please register and direct all comments, queries to:
Mr. Lawrence Tjatindi, Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Email: eap.trigen@gmail.com

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc
...a leap towards better environmental compliance.
Enviro Leap Consulting cc | P. O. Box 25874, Windhoek | +264 81 486 9948 | eap.trigen@gmail.com

**REZONING AND CONSENT ON ERF 1323, KLEIN WINDHOEK**

Please take notice that **Paradise Urban Environment Solutions cc** has been appointed by Mr Ivan Kelvin Thembikozi, the registered owner of Erf 1323, Klein Windhoek to apply to the City of Windhoek and to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (Urban and Regional Planning Board) for the following:

1. **REZONING OF ERF 1323, KLEIN WINDHOEK FROM "RESIDENTIAL" WITH A DENSITY OF 1:900 TO "OFFICE" WITH A BULK OF 0.4**
2. **CONSENT IN TERMS OF SECTION 23(1) OF THE WINDHOEK ZONING SCHEME FOR FREE RESIDENTIAL BULK OF 0.2 ON ERF 1323, KLEIN WINDHOEK**
3. **CONSENT IN TERMS OF SECTION 11(1) OF THE WINDHOEK ZONING SCHEME FOR ERF 1323, KLEIN WINDHOEK TO BE USED FOR OFFICE PURPOSES WHILE THE REZONING IS IN PROGRESS**

Erf 1323 is located in the neighbourhood of Klein Windhoek, at No. 29 John Ludwig Street, and the property measures 1034sqm in extent. According to the Windhoek Zoning Scheme, Erf 1323, Klein Windhoek is currently zoned for "Residential" purposes with a density of 1:900, and it is located within the Klein Windhoek Official High Density and Office Policy Area 2017, specifically in the Office zone with a Bulk of 0.4. The property currently accommodates a 3 bedroom house, as well as a 2 bedroom flat.

The purpose of this application is to obtain approval for the rezoning of the property from "Residential" to "Office", together with the necessary consents to establish and operate an administrative office while retaining one long-term residential rental unit on the erf in accordance with the Windhoek Zoning Scheme.

Please take note that –
The subject application, locality maps and the supporting documents lie open for inspection during normal office hours at the City of Windhoek and Paradise Urban Environment Solutions Office, No 200 Long Island Street; Windhoek.

Further take note that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning and consent as set out above may lodge such objection together with their grounds thereof, with the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek and the applicant (Paradise Urban Environment Solutions) in writing on or before **Monday, 10 August 2026.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUERIES, KINDLY CONTACT:

**Applicant:**
**Paradise Urban Environment Solutions cc**
**085 800 4613**
**paradise.urbanenv@gmail.com**
**No. 200 Long Island Street**
**Windhoek**

**Local Authority:**
**The Chief Executive Officer**
**City of Windhoek**
**PO Box 59, Windhoek**
**Email to: Ruth.Kwenani@windhoekcc.org.na**
**Or call: 061 290 3428**

## NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) and a Public Consultation Process (PCP) are being conducted foa proposed **Sand and Gravel Mining** project on the location as indicated.

Upon completion of ESA and PCP, a formal application for an **Environmental Clearance Certificate** (ECC) will be made to the Office of Environmental Commissioner (OEC) within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Location** | Remaining Extent of Portion A of Farm Karibib No.54, sitiated within the jurisdiction of Karibib Municipality, Karibib District, Registration Division H, Erongo Region.<br>GPS Coodinates: -21.934583 S 15.821908 E |
| **Promoter** | Kunene Building Supplies CC |
| **How to Participate** | Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register, request the Background Information Document (BID), and submit written comments or objections. |
| **Closing Date** | The period for public consultation is between 10 July 2026 to 31 July 2026 |
| **EIA Consultant:** | Ekwao Consulting<br>Fax: 088 645 026<br>Cell: 081 418 3125<br>Email: ekwao@iway.na |

OBSERVERSPORTS

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

THURSDAY
16 JULY
2026

www.observer.com.na

PARAGON MEDIA



# ‘Passive’ and ‘crumbled’ - did Tuchel’s defensive tactics cost England?

**England were on the cusp of reaching their first men’s World Cup final since 1966.**

They were 1-0 up against reigning world champions Argentina when the clock inside Atlanta Stadium ticked to 84 minutes - and then it all went horribly wrong.

Enzo Fernandez equalised with a thumping strike in the 85th minute before Lautaro Martinez headed a 92nd-minute winner - both goals coming from assists by Lionel Messi.

Just like that, England’s World Cup dreams lay in ruins.

They had worked so hard to take the lead through Anthony Gordon in the 55th minute - and then sat back and paid the price.

The decision by England boss Thomas Tuchel to go defensive backfired spectacularly.

Instead it is Argentina who go through to Sunday’s showpiece against Spain at New York New Jersey Stadium (20:00 BST kick-off).

But should England have gone for the kill when they went 1-0 up?

They did not - and had just 12% of possession from going ahead to conceding the second goal.

Tuchel only sent on forwards Marcus Rashford and Ivan Toney deep into stoppage time, while defenders Ezri Konsa, Dan Burn and Nico O’Reilly were introduced after the Three Lions took the lead.

“We have crumbled,” former England captain Wayne Rooney told BBC Sport.

“It started from the manager and the decisions he made. It was too passive. “Against this team, the world champions, you will not get away with it. This has been the biggest test and we have failed it.”

So why did England sit back when in control against Argentina? And are Tuchel’s second-half tactics to blame for England’s failure to make the final?

‘Coaching catastrophe’ - Sutton

England have showed character at this World Cup, coming from behind to defeat both DR Congo at the last-32 stage and Norway in the quarter-finals.

“The difference is hanging on against Norway or Mexico [in the last 16], they have not got the quality this Argentina team have got in terms of the ability on the ball and the ability they have to punish you,” former England captain Alan Shearer told BBC Sport.

“Tuchel played his cards very, very early and it has backfired.”

England looked to have taken full control of the semi-final against their old foes when Gordon put them ahead 10 minutes into the second half.

England’s fans celebrated wildly - but then the Three Lions opted to sit back and defend.

“The fact that England got themselves in front and then basically handed Argentina the initiative... that was a coaching catastrophe from Thomas Tuchel,” Chris Sutton, a Premier League winner with Blackburn in 1994-95, told BBC Radio 5 Live.

“You can’t expect to defend for 30 minutes against the quality Argentina had.

“It’s all on the coach where I am concerned. He made the changes. He was negative, so the question which I’m going to ask is ‘how can you trust Thomas Tuchel to take this team forward?’”

England have come undone against Argentina in the past.

Who can forget Diego Maradona’s infamous ‘Hand of God’ goal at the 1986 World Cup or the 1998 World Cup defeat that burns so deep.

England, however, have no-one but themselves to blame for Wednesday’s loss.

“Norway and Mexico panicked against England,” former England goalkeeper Joe Hart told BBC Sport.

“I didn’t see one bit of panic from that Argentina side. I saw belief, I saw the realising they could free up the great man Lionel Messi in the pocket, and they were running all over England.

“Gareth Southgate took a lot of criticism for the big moments with England, when they had the lead in big games and shut up shop. I don’t see that anything has changed in that big moment out there.”

So what were the changes that frustrated England fans so much?

Leading 1-0, many expected Tuchel to go for another goal - but instead the German made three defensive changes.

He brought Konsa on for Gordon in the 72nd minute - switching to a back five - before bringing on further defensive reinforcements 10 minutes later in Burn and O’Reilly.

Tuchel sent on forwards Rashford and Toney in added time, but it proved too little too late.

“I felt the changes we made at 1-0, that if Argentina scored we wouldn’t make extra time,” added Rooney.

Former England defender Micah Richards told BBC Sport: “When England scored that first goal they should have gone for the second.

“Yes, you respect their quality, but dropping deep allowed Argentina to get into their flow.”

Former England goalkeeper Paul Robinson, speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live, said Tuchel went too deep too soon.

“I think he has got that wrong,” added Robinson, who won 41 caps for England between 2003 and 2007.

“He has got a lot of decisions right, but I think trying to defend a lead against this team was a wrong choice.”

‘When we went 1-0 up we tried to hold on’

Even Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez admitted there was a change in momentum after the opening goal as England sat back and looked to defend.

“Sometimes when you are winning, you have to go forward,” added Martinez.

“You can’t change the gameplan. I think they did it and they sent on extra defenders.”

Tuchel, of course, has improved on England’s showing at the 2022 World Cup, when they reached the quarter-finals before bowing out to France.

But this England team is sprinkled with exceptional individual talent like Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham.

England captain Kane, who will be approaching his 36th birthday at the next World Cup, suggested his side could have done more. -**BBC**

## GOSSIP

Manchester United and Liverpool have made contact over a move for Wolves’ Brazil midfielder Joao Gomes, 25, after a switch to Atletico Madrid fell through. (Globo - in Portuguese), external

Chelsea have opened talks with the representatives of Bologna’s English winger Jonathan Rowe, 23, with Argentina wide man Alejandro Garnacho, 22, set to leave the club. (Il Resto del Carlino - in Italian), external

MLS side Sporting Kansas City are aiming to make an ambitious swoop to sign Egypt forward Mohamed Salah, 34, on a free transfer following his departure from Liverpool. (Athletic), external

A host of English clubs including Coventry City and West Ham are tracking Bodo/Glimt midfielder Patrick Berg, 28, following his performances for Norway at the World Cup. (Teamtalk), external

Everton want to sign Newcastle United’s English winger Jacob Murphy, 31, who has one year left on his contract at St James’ Park. (Talksport), external

Real Madrid have scheduled a meeting with Vinicius Jr to try to finalise a contract renewal, amid reports they were considering selling the Brazil forward, 25. (AS - in Spanish), external

Paris St-Germain have sounded out Spain and Barcelona forward Ferran Torres, 26, in case winger Bradley Barcola leaves the club this summer. (L’Equipe - in French), external

Barcelona have finalised an agreement with Borussia Dortmund to sign their Germany forward Karim Adeyemi, 24. (Marca - in Spanish), external

The agent of Roma attacking midfielder Matias Soule is speaking to Sunderland and Fulham about a potential move for the 23-year-old Argentine. (Corriere dello Sport - in Italian), external

Former Hull City loanee Oscar Zambrano is set to return to the club from Slovenian side Maribor. The 22-year-old Ecuador midfielder’s previous spell in 2024 was cut short by a drugs ban. (Hull Daily Mail), external

Nottingham Forest have made contact with Fiorentina over a move for Brazilian right-back Dodo, 27. (Firenze Viola - in Italian), external