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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

'They are afraid of me' - Andreas

...as Swapo members petition Grootfontein coordinator over election dispute

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

A group of Swapo Party members from three branches in Grootfontein has petitioned district coordinator James Shipunda, accusing him of allegedly interfering with internal party elections and demanding that he reverse decisions purportedly seeking to annul the results.

In a petition dated 28 October 2026, members from the Cassinga, Rakutuka and Okahenge branches accused Shipunda of acting outside the authority of the party's collective structures in relation to elections they claim were declared free and fair by duly appointed election committees. The petition, addressed to Shipunda in his capacity as Grootfontein district coordinator, gave him until 15:00 on 29 October to withdraw any unilateral decisions or directives seeking to set aside the disputed results, restore the declared outcomes and refrain from

At a glance...

- Swapo members petition Grootfontein coordinator over disputed election results.
- Shipunda cites allegedly suspicious membership cards and calls for further investigation.
- Andreas denies involvement, saying: "People are just afraid of me."

further interference.

The petitioners warned that failure to comply would result in the matter being escalated through the appropriate party structures.

The dispute involves members from Cassinga Branch, including the Dr Libertine Amandhila and Hendrick Witbooi sections, Rakutuka Branch's Vatileni Section, and Okahenge Branch's Mungunda Section.

They allege that Shipunda, together



Josef Andreas



James Shipunda

Immanuel puts 2 700 employment contracts on priority list

Justice and labour relations minister Fillemon Wise Immanuel says resolving the employment contract issues of 2 700 employees is among his priorities, citing the matter as an example of the difficult decisions leaders must make when balancing competing responsibilities.

He was referring to employees currently placed at RANI Traders CC through Employees Placement Services Namibia CC (EPSN) as previously reported by the *Windhoek Observer*. Immanuel made the remarks on Thursday while officially opening the ministry of justice

Nekundi calls for disability access in public infrastructure

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Works and transport minister Veikko Nekundi has called for disability accessibility to be incorporated into public infrastructure planning, budgets, procurement and construction.

He warned that buildings designed without considering different needs

At a glance...

- Nekundi calls for disability access to be built into public infrastructure.
- Proposed accessibility standard covers buildings, transport, services and digital platforms
- Officials stress implementation, resources and monitoring to make accessibility a reality.

can deny people access to essential services. Nekundi, whose remarks were delivered by Jaffet Nelongo, deputy executive director in the ministry of works and transport, said infrastructure development must consider the people who will use it, including persons with disabilities. "A technically impressive design is meaningless if it fails the end users," he said.

He said accessibility must go beyond

providing entrances, extending to how people access information, transport and public services.

"National development remains incomplete if our infrastructure cannot be used safely and with dignity by all citizens," Nekundi said. He used the example of a child who uses a wheelchair, saying that if a classroom is not designed to accommodate the child, access to

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Immanuel puts 2 700 employment contracts on priority list

Staff Writer

Justice and labour relations minister Fillemon Wise Immanuel says resolving the employment contract issues of 2 700 employees is among his priorities, citing the matter as an example of the difficult decisions leaders must make when balancing competing responsibilities.

He was referring to employees currently placed at RANI Traders CC through Employees Placement Services Namibia CC (EPSN) as previously reported by the *Windhoek Observer*.

Immanuel made the remarks on Thursday while officially opening the ministry of justice and labour relations' four-day senior management retreat at Gobabis in the Omaheke Region.

He revealed that he recently declined a request from the international relations office to accompany President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah to Moscow, Russia, arguing that his responsibilities at the ministry required his attention.

"I have 2 700 employees currently without employment contracts whose issues must be resolved. My priority lies here," he said.

The retreat, held under the theme "Stronger Together", runs from 28 to 31 October and brings together senior officials from the departments of Justice and Labour Relations to discuss institutional coordination, leadership and improved service delivery.

In his speech on leadership and strategic realignment, Immanuel challenged senior managers to rethink their leadership roles, arguing that technical expertise alone is insufficient in an increasingly complex working environment.

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True leaders are those who transform uncertainty into opportunity. In a world defined by complexity, leaders do not seek the path of least resistance or the moment of convenience; rather, they find excitement in the very challenges that others might avoid.

"True leaders are those who transform uncertainty into opportunity. In a world defined by complexity, leaders do not seek the path of least resistance or the moment of convenience; rather, they find excitement in the very challenges that others might avoid," he said.

He said modern leadership increasingly depends on influence, vision and the ability to inspire teams towards shared objectives.

According to Immanuel, leaders must create an environment where their presence brings clarity, direction and a shared understanding of institutional goals.

"Today, leadership is defined by social capital. It is measured by your level of influence," he said, adding that technical knowledge alone was no longer enough to meet the demands of the modern workplace.

He said the retreat was intended to help senior managers establish meaningful connections between people, technology, processes and institutional systems to improve organisational performance.

"The purpose of this meeting is to redefine our roles. We are here to contextualise our thinking and create a meaningful interface between our thoughts, our people, our technology,

our processes, and our systems," Immanuel said.

He also called for stronger institutional systems that ensure decisions are predictable, consistent and guided by established principles rather than the personality of individual leaders.

"We must build a system that can be trusted inherently, rather than relying solely on the personality of a leader," he said.

Immanuel further stressed the importance of making difficult decisions about priorities and managing staff responsibilities according to operational requirements.

Using annual leave as an example, he said managers should consider the timing of leave requests against the ministry's critical activities, including strategic programmes and management retreats.

While acknowledging employees' entitlement to leave, he said managers must exercise objective judgement to ensure that essential work continues.

"The timing is at the discretion of the employer based on operational requirements," he said.

The retreat will also address estate administration processes at the Master of the High Court, proposed legislative and policy reforms, and systems interoperability between the departments of Justice and Labour



Fillemon Wise Immanuel

Relations.

Other discussions will focus on leadership and organisational performance, professionalism and accountability in the public service, progress in developing laws and policies, and implementation of the ministry's 2026/2027 Annual Plan. Team-building activities have also been included in the programme to strengthen trust, communication, collaboration and collective problem-solving among senior managers.

Immanuel urged officials to challenge

one another constructively, identify institutional weaknesses and work towards solutions that improve the ministry's effectiveness.

"Let us do the work. Let us critique one another, challenge different sections, and ask the questions that will take us from Point A to Point B," he said.

He said the wfor the ministry, reinforcing a shared commitment to accountability, stronger leadership and improved service delivery to Namibians.

'They are afraid of me' - Andreas

FROM PAGE 1

with businessman Josef Andreas, unilaterally decided to annul the outcomes of completed internal elections because the results did not favour their preferred faction.

The allegations have not been independently verified, and the petition does not include a response from Shipunda or Andreas.

However, when contacted for comment yesterday, Shipunda declined to comment on the petition.

"I'm not busy working. I work up to five o'clock. I'm busy with something else now. Call me tomorrow neh," he said.

However, in a formal response to the petitioners yesterday, Shipunda has denied allegations that the Cassinga, Kahenge and Rakutuka branches were nullified, following a petition accusing him and Josef Andreas of interfering with branch election results.

He said the disputes stemmed from complaints about membership cards allegedly bearing forged signatures of the party's Secretary General Sophia Shaningwa and suspiciously similar serial numbers.

He said the district office had identified 13 questionable cards in the Cassinga branch and 10 in Rakutuka, while

similar concerns had been raised in Kahenge.

He maintained that the disputed matters required further investigation and consideration by the relevant party structures.

Shipunda said the Cassinga branch's results would be considered by the newly elected District Executive, while a report on the membership-card allegations would be submitted to the Political Bureau.

He challenged anyone claiming that the branches had been nullified to provide evidence.

The petitioners argue that the elections were conducted by duly appointed election committees and that their declarations should stand unless challenged through the procedures prescribed by the party's rules.

They cited Rule 26 of the Swapo Party Rules and Procedures, which states that the election committee is the exclusive authority responsible for directing, supervising and controlling party elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

The petitioners further relied on Rule 79, which provides for an election petition to be brought by a party member who lawfully voted in an election or by an aggrieved candidate.

According to the petition, no election petitions were lodged by members or candidates from the affected sections and branches.

They contend that Shipunda cannot independently initiate or determine an election dispute in the absence of the prescribed process.

The petition also invoked Rule 77, which, according to the signatories, assigns the Regional Executive Committee authority to hear petitions arising from branch elections, while the District Executive Committee is responsible for petitions arising from section elections.

The members argue that neither Shipunda acting alone nor Shipunda and Andreas jointly have the authority to hear, decide or annul the election outcomes.

They accuse the two of assuming the roles of complainant, prosecutor and judge, arguing that this undermines procedural fairness and the party's internal democratic processes.

Andreas denied any involvement in the matters raised in the petition, adding that there is no truth in the allegations.

"I have nothing to do with this. People are just afraid of me," he told the *Windhoek Observer*.

The petitioners maintain that the

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The petitioners argue that the elections were conducted by duly appointed election committees and that their declarations should stand unless challenged through the procedures prescribed by the party's rules.

party's rules and constitution must take precedence over individual interests and factional considerations.

They demanded that Shipunda formally withdraw any decisions or directives purporting to annul the elections, uphold the results as declared by the election committees and stop any further interference outside the collective authority of the District Executive Committee.

The group warned that it would take all necessary steps to defend the integrity of internal party democracy if its demands were not met.

The petition was copied to members of the Grootfontein District Executive Committee, the regional coordinator Immanuel 'Imms' Namaseb and Hofni Iipinge, chairperson of leaders assigned to the region.

The document includes lists of

signatories said to represent the affected branches and sections.

Last week, the *Windhoek Observer* reported on an internal leadership dispute over the legitimacy of Grootfontein's mandate renewal process in the Otjozondjupa region.

Namaseb rejected directives from Iipinge.

Iipinge argued that a Political Bureau-appointed task force had already renewed section mandates in April 2025, while Namaseb described that process as illegal and unconstitutional.

The dispute also centred on Shipunda's tenure, which Shaningwa, confirmed had expired in August 2026.

Shaningwa subsequently directed Shipunda to convene the overdue Grootfontein District Conference by 31 October 2026.



‘Tsumeb must benefit beyond mining’ - Kathindi

SOSTENUS WILHERM
Staff Writer

Oshikoto governor Sacky Kathindi says Tsumeb’s mining wealth must translate into jobs, skills development and business opportunities for local people. He warned that economic growth should not be measured by production figures and investment announcements alone. Kathindi made the remarks on Thursday while officially opening the 2026 Tsumeb Copper Festival, where he challenged mining companies, businesses and government institutions to ensure local communities benefit meaningfully from economic activities in the town. “Mining and industry remain important pillars of Tsumeb’s economic identity. However, the benefits of these sectors must extend beyond production figures and investment announcements,” Kathindi said. He called for greater local participation in mining and industrial supply chains through skills development, supplier opportunities, technology transfer and support for businesses capable of providing goods and services to the sector. The governor said Tsumeb’s mining heritage, strategic location and established business community provided a strong foundation for economic development, but the town needed to do more to attract investment and ensure its benefits reached residents. His remarks come as the town hosts the festival under the theme “Copper Sparks, Tsumeb Shines”, bringing together government, mining companies, entrepreneurs,



Sacky Kathindi

farmers and other stakeholders to explore investment opportunities and strengthen business partnerships. Kathindi urged investors and business leaders to use the festival to develop practical projects that could stimulate economic activity and create employment. “Let us move beyond exchanging business cards to developing bankable proposals, concluding practical agreements and implementing projects that benefit our town and region,” he said. He also challenged large companies, public institutions and established

businesses to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through local procurement, mentorship, skills transfer and enterprise development. According to Kathindi, local entrepreneurs need access to markets, finance, information, technology and professional networks to grow into sustainable businesses capable of competing in wider markets. “Let this festival open doors for our small and medium enterprises and strengthen their contribution to regional economic development,” he said. He said stronger participation by



Mining and industry remain important pillars of Tsumeb’s economic identity. However, the benefits of these sectors must extend beyond production figures and investment announcements.

local businesses in supply chains could help ensure that more economic opportunities remain within the region instead of benefiting only established companies. The governor further identified tourism and agriculture as sectors that could help diversify Tsumeb’s economy and reduce dependence on mining. He said Tsumeb’s history, culture, mining heritage and hospitality facilities offered opportunities to develop tourism, while the inclusion of Farmers Day in the festival programme highlighted agriculture’s role in food security and economic diversification. Kathindi called for stronger links between farmers, financial institutions, suppliers, retailers and investors to improve productivity and expand market access. “Through these partnerships, we can improve productivity, expand market access and ensure that our farmers retain greater value from their products,” he said. He added that agriculture should be viewed not only as a means of production but also as a business sector offering opportunities in processing, distribution, logistics and technology. The governor said these efforts should contribute to Namibia’s broader development agenda, including the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and Vision 2030, which seek

to promote a productive, inclusive and diversified economy. He stressed that economic development required cooperation between government, the private sector, financial institutions and communities. “The government must create an enabling environment, businesses must invest and innovate, financial institutions must support viable enterprises, and communities must participate actively in shaping their economic future,” Kathindi said. He challenged stakeholders attending the festival to identify practical opportunities to contribute to the development of Tsumeb and the wider Oshikoto Region. Kathindi also acknowledged the contribution of Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter, the festival’s principal sponsor, and other corporate partners, calling for continued cooperation between industry and local communities. He said the festival’s success should ultimately be reflected in the investments secured, businesses supported and jobs created through partnerships established during the event. “May the partnerships formed here become investments. May those investments create jobs. May those jobs improve livelihoods,” Kathindi said.

Nekundi calls for disability access in public infrastructure

FROM PAGE 1

education is denied. Nekundi said the requirements of the proposed accessibility standard should be incorporated into budgets, procurement documents, construction supervision and building regulations. He added that improving existing infrastructure could require a phased approach and resources, while stressing the importance of listening to persons with disabilities and ensuring the standard reflects Namibia’s realities. Angelique Philander, chief executive officer of the National Disability Council of Namibia (NDCN), said inaccessible environments continue to affect the independence and participation of persons with disabilities. She delivered a statement on behalf of the council’s board chairperson, describing how qualified people with disabilities can struggle to access workplaces and how others face barriers when seeking information or services from public institutions. “These experiences demonstrate that inaccessible environments affect independence, participation, and the ability of persons with disabilities to contribute meaningfully to society,” the statement said.

Philander said access needs differ among people with visual, hearing, physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as between rural and urban communities. “The principle of nothing about us, without us, remains particularly relevant to this process,” she said. She said the council would continue contributing to the process and monitoring the implementation of disability-related policies and programmes. Meanwhile, Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) executive for standards and commercial services, Paloma Ellitson, said work on the draft accessibility standard began in 2023, with consultations involving architects and a technical committee. According to Ellitson, a national technical workshop was held in Otjiwarongo in 2024, after which feedback was incorporated into the draft. She said the current workshop was intended to gather final input before the standard proceeds to the publication process. The proposed standard covers accessibility in the built environment, infrastructure, transport and mobility, information and communication, assistive products, services and operations.

She said the review would help identify gaps, conflicting requirements and other issues that needed attention before the document proceeds to public inquiry. NSI chief executive officer Dr Eino Mvula said feedback from earlier consultations had helped shape the draft, adding that the institution would provide technical coordination and capacity building to support its publication and implementation. He said the standard’s value would depend on whether it translated into practical changes in public spaces and services. “The real test lies in ensuring that these rules do not simply gather dust on shelves, but they come alive in every town council, in every construction site, and in every public office across our country,” Mvula said. He said accessibility should be treated as a right rather than a favour. “Accessibility is not a favour. It’s a fundamental human right.” Deputy minister in the Office of the Vice-President Moses //Khumub, who officially opened the workshop on behalf of Vice President Lucia Witbooi, said the proposed standard should be technically sound, practical and relevant to Namibia. He said accessibility should be considered in transport, information



Veikko Nekundi

and communication technology, and public services, including digital platforms. //Khumub said incorporating accessibility during the design stage could reduce the costs of making changes later. He added that effective implementation would require clear institutional responsibilities,

resources, technical capacity, monitoring and training. He said the standard’s success would ultimately depend on whether its requirements were put into practice. “While validating the standards is an important milestone, their ultimate value will depend on effective implementation.”

Katima Waterfront revival talks reach advanced stage

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Katima Mulilo Town Council (KMTC)’s engagements with the central government on revitalising the Zambezi Waterfront and Tourism Park have reached an advanced stage, mayor Kabende Kabende told the *Windhoek Observer* on Thursday. Kabende said the council wanted to unlock the town’s tourism potential and make it more attractive to tourists and investors, while ensuring local businesses and residents benefit from the sector. “We are engaging with the central government on revitalising the Zambezi Waterfront and Tourism Park, and these engagements are at an advanced stage,” he said. The renewed push to revive the facility follows a meeting between Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare and environment, forestry and tourism minister Indileni Daniel on 20 October, during which the project’s prolonged inactivity and public expenditure were raised. More than N\$200 million has been spent on the waterfront, which has remained inactive for 17 years. Daniel said the ministry had dispatched a technical team to the Zambezi Region to assess the facility’s condition and determine what would be required to bring it into operation. The assessment is expected to identify outstanding work and inform the government’s next steps. No additional funding requirement or operational timeline had been announced in the reported update. The development forms part of the town’s efforts to attract investment in hotels, restaurants, lodges and conference facilities, as it seeks to encourage visitors to explore Katima Mulilo beyond the annual Zambezi Bream Festival and Cultural Expo. Joseph Minyoy, from the council’s department of economic development, called for more tourism facilities during an information sharing session with the ministry of information, communications and technology at the Rundu Annual Trade Fair, where the council was promoting Katima Mulilo as a destination for tourism and investment. “We need more restaurants, we need more lodges, we need more hotels. We need a convention centre like this, like where we are,” Minyoy said. He said the council was encouraging businesses and government institutions to establish branches in Katima Mulilo, adding that business registration and fitness applications were available to those seeking to establish businesses. Kabende said the council was committed to creating an environment that encourages private investment in tourism-related businesses. “One of our priorities is to facilitate access to appropriately planned and serviced land for investors, in line with the Council’s planning framework and applicable procedures,” he said. The mayor has also encouraged visitors to explore Katima Mulilo throughout the year and support local accommodation providers, restaurants, craft markets and transport services. He said tourism could create opportunities for young people in arts, culinary activities, fishing, agriculture and event management. However, Kabende said tourism development must go hand in hand with addressing residents’ needs,



The long-awaited revival of the Zambezi Waterfront Tourism Park in Katima Mulilo remains under discussion as the town council engages central government on plans to restore the facility.

including the shortage of serviced land, housing, sanitation, roads and other essential services. “The Council continues to prioritise land servicing, housing opportunities and infrastructure improvements,” he said. The town has a housing backlog	exceeding 6 000 units, while more than 2 000 applicants were reported to be on the waiting list in May 2026. Kabende had proposed servicing 200 residential plots annually over five years to address the shortage. On sanitation, the mayor said construction of the town’s wastewater	treatment plant was expected to commence soon. “This is an important development for our town, particularly as we work to improve sanitation and create capacity for future housing and land delivery,” he said. Kabende said the council’s vision was	to grow Katima Mulilo in a way that creates economic opportunities while improving residents’ quality of life. “We believe tourism investment can contribute meaningfully to that vision, provided that development remains inclusive and benefits our community,” he said.
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Congratulatory Message to
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On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Paragon Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Hangala Group of Companies on its remarkable and transformative achievement in strengthening Namibia’s food security and advancing the nation’s self-reliance through the production and supply of locally produced food.

This accomplishment marks a significant milestone in our nation’s economic development. It represents a bold step towards greater Namibian participation in strategic sectors of the economy and contributes meaningfully to our country’s pursuit of economic self-reliance, sustainable growth, and long-term prosperity.

Indeed, this achievement gives practical expression to the vision consistently championed by our revolutionary Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma, who called upon all Namibians to wage the economic struggle necessary to complete our nation’s journey towards genuine economic independence, prosperity, and self-determination.

As proud Namibians, we have a collective responsibility to celebrate, support, and encourage pioneering initiatives such as this milestone achieved by Hangala Foods. Such endeavors advance national development, strengthen food security for our people, promote local production, and enhance our country’s strategic capabilities. The Paragon Investment Holdings (Pty) salutes the leadership, management, staff, and stakeholders of the Hangala Group of Companies for this outstanding achievement. We wish the Group continued success as it expands its contribution to Namibia’s economic transformation, food security, and national prosperity.

Congratulations to Hangala Foods on this remarkable achievement, well done!.



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Arab-led parties including the Joint List headed by Yousef Jabareen (C) won a record 19 seats and could play a kingmaker role

Israeli opposition accuses Netanyahu of trying to ‘delegitimise’ election

The main Israeli opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot and Arab-led party leaders have denounced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for alleging foreign interference following the election which saw his coalition lose its majority. Netanyahu’s Likud accused Israel’s Arab-led parties of “stealing” the election. Home security agency Shin Bet is investigating whether they received illegal funding from Qatar and Turkey. Qatar’s foreign ministry denied the “ridiculous and dangerous” allegations and accused Israeli politicians of conducting a disinformation campaign against Doha.

Final results confirmed that neither Netanyahu’s bloc nor the Jewish opposition had won a majority in parliament. The two Arab party lists - The Joint List and the Ra’am - defied expectations to win a record 19 seats in the 120-seat Knesset following a surge in turnout among Arab voters. That positions them as potential kingmakers, with Netanyahu’s bloc winning 53 seats and his rival Gadi Eisenkot’s bloc securing 48. On Thursday Likud alleged that voters had been “bribed” to vote for Arab parties, after the head of the Central Elections Committee (CEC) asked the Shin Bet security service to investigate “serious suspicions” of foreign interference.

Both Arab parties strongly rejected the claim, with the Arab-majority Joint List alliance saying it was baseless. The row is being seen by Netanyahu’s critics as an attempt to delegitimise the Arab parties, thereby making it politically impossible for Eisenkot to join forces with them - which is currently his bloc’s only route to power.

EPA Yousef Jabareen and others celebrateEPA Israeli media reported that the CEC had been presented with a claim that Qatar had provided funding aimed at increasing voter turnout in Arab communities. Qatar’s Foreign Ministry “categorically” denied the claims. Netanyahu and his Likud Party framed the allegations as a “political earthquake” and an “an attack on democracy”, aimed at removing their right-wing government. But the Shin Bet later clarified that their investigation did not implicate an entire community who had voted legally, while acting CEC Director General Dean Livne said there was “no basis for allegations of systematic violations of election

integrity.” Eisenkot, who was briefed on the investigation, said “it is too early to determine what happened, or if anything happened at all,” and accused Netanyahu of running “an orchestrated and organized campaign to delegitimize the election results”. Balad chairman Sami Abu Shehadeh, who is part of the Joint List, dismissed the allegation, saying: “The losing side is constructing a racist blood libel and calling on the security agencies to use force in order to overturn the election results.” Netanyahu’s attacks on Arab voters and parties have been ongoing for days. He spent much of election day posting on social media that high Arab turnout is an “emergency” and a “matter of life or death” for the Israeli right. He also shared AI-generated images of Arab voters at polling stations, in an attempt to encourage right-wingers to get out and vote. Arab Israelis, many of whom refer to themselves as Palestinian citizens of Israel, make up about one fifth of the country. For years, many

boycotted Israeli elections, saying voting would legitimise a system that they say treats them as second-class citizens. But their turnout on Tuesday was inspired by a desire to oust the most right-wing governing coalition in Israel’s history, led by Netanyahu. The final results offer only three plausible options for a government to be formed: a national unity government involving Netanyahu and Eisenkot, a right-wing coalition involving Netanyahu and defectors from Eisenkot’s bloc, or an Eisenkot-led government supported by the Arab parties. Eisenkot and every member of his bloc bar one has previously refused to enter government with Arab parties, but speculation has swirled in recent days that an agreement could yet be reached. **A snap poll conducted by Hebrew University** showed that the most popular option for voters from every party in the opposition bloc was for Eisenkot to form a minority government with Ra’am, and supported from outside by the Joint List. **-BBC**

Annual General Meeting

Reminder

This notice serves as a reminder for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the shareholders of Capricorn Group Limited.

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2026
Time: 16h30
Location : Online and in-person, on the 6th floor of Capricorn Group Building, Kasino Street, Windhoek



Shareholders or their proxies, attending in-person or online would be required to vote via the Lumi Platform. Please register on Lumi at least an hour before the start of the meeting. For more information visit <https://ow.ly/xUic50ZPwlw>

H von Ludwiger
Company Secretary

Capricorn Group

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US sanctions Rwanda’s defence ministry over DR Congo conflict

The United States has imposed sanctions on Rwanda’s defence ministry over its alleged support for the M23 rebel group in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, increasing pressure on Kigali to withdraw its troops and halt support for the rebels. “Rwanda must halt its support for M23 and withdraw its troops from eastern DRC,” US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said.

The sanctions come months after

Rwanda and DR Congo signed a US-brokered peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict. Fighting has continued in eastern DR Congo since early 2025, when M23 seized the cities of Goma and Bukavu. Rwanda denies backing M23. The US Treasury says Rwanda’s defence ministry directed thousands of troops to fight alongside M23 in eastern DR Congo, providing weapons, equipment, logistics and training. The M23 has seized mineral-rich areas, including gold-mining sites

in South Kivu and Rubaya, a major coltan-producing area in North Kivu. Washington says minerals from rebel-held territory enter Rwanda’s supply chains, alleging that Rwanda exports more minerals than it produces. The sanctions are intended to reinforce the Washington Accords, signed by the Congolese and Rwandan presidents in December 2025 under US mediation. The deal aimed to end the conflict and expand regional trade and investment, but fighting has continued. On 24 October, ahead of the sanctions

announcement, DR Congo President Félix Tshisekedi urged the international community to increase pressure on Rwanda. “We must firmly demand that the international community impose concrete sanctions against Rwanda and exert increased pressure, so that we may finally secure a lasting peace in our country,” he said. In a statement to Reuters, DR Congo foreign ministry welcomed the sanctions and urged Rwanda to honour its commitments under the Washington

Accords, respect the UN Charter and withdraw its troops from Congolese territory. “The Washington Accords contain clear commitments regarding Rwanda’s security, specifically the neutralization of the DR Congo-sponsored FDLR genocidal militia, which are wholly unmet, and with no accountability,” Rwandan government spokesperson Yolande Makolo told the BBC. The FDLR is a militia linked to perpetrators of Rwanda’s 1994 genocide. Kigali considers it a security threat and cites its presence in eastern DR Congo to justify its military posture. “Rwanda remains ready to fully implement the Washington Accords, concurrently with the willingness of the DRC to fulfill those commitments, and with the mediator holding all parties accountable,” she said. The US also sanctioned Zigama Credit and Savings Society, a popular bank and financial institution serving Rwanda’s security services. Washington alleges it facilitated tens of millions of dollars in transactions for M23 and its political wing, the Congo River Alliance, helped pay for military equipment for Rwandan forces from China and enabled gold to be transported from rebel-controlled areas to Kigali. The sanctions freeze the designated entities’ assets under US jurisdiction and generally prohibit US individuals and businesses from conducting transactions with them, unless authorised or exempt. Violations can result in penalties for US and foreign parties. The measures follow earlier US sanctions against Rwanda’s army and four senior military commanders in March 2026. -BBC



NOTIFICATION AND CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 11 TELECOMMUNICATION BASE TRANSCIVER STATION (BTS) TOWERS ON SELECTED SITES IN THE //KHARAS, HARDAP, ERONGO, KUNENE AND OMUSATI REGIONS, NAMIBIA

D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the proposed development of eleven (11) base transceiver station (BTS) towers.

PowerCom (Pty) Ltd, herein referred to as the proponent, has identified different areas that need improved communication alternatives in Namibia due to growth in population and economic activities. To achieve the objective of improved telecommunication connectivity, PowerCom has been appointed by Telecom Namibia, its sister company, to establish telecommunication towers across the identified locations. In this respect, PowerCom has identified sites to construct and operate eleven (11) telecommunication base transceiver station towers.

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

The proposed projects for which the Environmental Clearance Certificates will be applied for, and the public meetings to be held, are as follows:

<p>1. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Noordoewer, //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Noordoewer, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 28°43'2.57"S 17°37'20.48"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 26 October 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:00 am</p>	<p>2. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Ariamsvlei, //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Ariamsvlei, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 28°07'03.4"S 19°49'55.6"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 27 October 2026</p> <p>Time: 10:00 am</p>	<p>3. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Karasburg, //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Karasburg, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 28°00'24.0"S 18°44'48.0"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 28 October 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:00 am</p>	<p>4. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Neckertal Dam, //Kharas Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Neckertal Dam, Berseba Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 26°37'51.65"S 17°43'16.3"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 29 October 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:30 am</p>
<p>5. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Aranos, Hardap Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Sonora, Aranos, Mariental Rural Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 24°07'54.4"S 19°06'17.2"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 30 October 2026</p> <p>Time: 10:30 am</p>	<p>6. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Omamas, Hardap Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Omamas, Rehoboth Rural Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 24°02'57.3"S 17°23'37.9"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 02 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 10:30 am</p>	<p>7. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Rehoboth, Hardap Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Block H, Rehoboth, Rehoboth Urban East Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 23°18'59.14"S 17°05'54.1"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 03 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:00 am</p>	<p>8. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Walvis Bay Ext 6, Walvis Bay Urban Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°57'49.74"S 14°30'17.4"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 05 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:30 am</p>
<p>9. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Usakos, Erongo Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Usakos 2nd Site, Karibib Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 22°00'00.3"S 15°35'10.0"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 06 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 10:00 am</p>	<p>10. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Khorixas, Kunene Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Khorixas Ext 11, Khorixas Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 20°22'57.3"S 14°57'39.6"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 10 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 09:00 am</p>	<p>11. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Eenkhalashe, Omusati Region.</p> <p>Site/Location: Eenkhalashe, Onesi Constituency, Namibia</p> <p>Coordinates: 17°29'24.0"S 14°34'48.0"E</p> <p>Venue: Onsite</p> <p>Date: 12 November 2026</p> <p>Time: 10:00 am</p>	

Submit your comments online



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Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) Registration and submission of comments: To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with the consultant (contact details below) as an I&AP before end of business on **26 November 2026**. A Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled for the project and is available upon request from the consultant.

All registered I&APs will be informed throughout the assessment process and provided with further opportunities to review and submit comments. Comments can also be submitted via the online form provided. Please scan the QR code or use the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr9PvFexg7rUGAGfrzgGb9nuMvk41u0HbFGTfEVRYkAfxK6w/viewform>

Contact Details: D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants | Attention: Ms. Kristian NN Shwayu
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Okorusu Fluorspar Mine (Pty) Ltd invites suitably qualified, experienced and motivated candidates to apply for the following positions:

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 - Relevant culinary qualification.
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APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates should submit a detailed curriculum vitae (CV), certified copies of relevant qualifications and all supporting documents to okorusu.hr@gmail.com. Applicants must clearly indicate the position applied for in the subject line of their email.

Closing Date: 13 November 2026
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

‘A bigger TAC does not create more fish’ - JJD

In this interview, Wet Landed Small Pelagic Association (WLSPA) chairperson Johnny Johnson Doëseb (JJD) calls for science-led management of Namibia’s horse mackerel fishery, cautioning against increasing total allowable catches (TACs) without clear evidence of sustainable stock recovery.

He discusses concerns over low juvenile abundance, actual catches falling well below allocated quotas, the economic importance of the wet-landed sector, quota allocations, bycatch management and international market access.

Doëseb also highlights the need for stronger collaboration between government, scientists, economists and industry to balance marine conservation with local employment, processing and economic value addition.

Q: Chairperson, recent survey results showed an increase in horse mackerel biomass. Does this mean Namibia should increase the TAC?

JJD: Not necessarily. The increase in survey biomass is encouraging, but biomass estimates alone cannot determine sustainable harvest levels.

A survey provides a snapshot of the stock at a point in time. TAC decisions must also consider recruitment trends, stock structure, catch rates, age composition, fishing performance and broader scientific assessment outcomes.

The danger is confusing an encouraging signal with a recovered resource.

Q: What was the most important outcome from the recent Ministry-industry engagement?

JJD: The return of meaningful engagement. Under the minister and current ministry leadership, we are once again seeing the constructive cooperation between government, scientists, economists and industry that historically served Namibia very well. The discussions were transparent and professional. Most importantly, all parties shared the common goal of rebuilding and protecting the resource.

Q: You have expressed concern about juvenile abundance. Why?

JJD: This is one of the most important issues discussed. While overall biomass estimates showed improvement, the assessment also indicated relatively low juvenile abundance.

Low juvenile abundance may point towards weak recruitment into the stock. In simple terms, fewer young fish entering the population today could translate into fewer adults available to support the fishery tomorrow.

Nobody has a definitive answer yet regarding the underlying causes, which is precisely why caution is required.

A healthy fishery depends not only on fish present today but also on future generations of fish entering the stock.

Q: What message does WLSPA want policymakers to take from the scientific discussions?

JJD: Let science lead. The TAC has already been reduced from 330 000 tonnes in 2022 to 197 000 tonnes in 2026, a reduction of more than 40%.

Those reductions were intended to support stock recovery. Before increasing harvest pressure, we need clear scientific evidence that recovery is sustainable and that recruitment is healthy.

If the scientific assessment ultimately supports a TAC closer to 160 000 tonnes to achieve long-term biological targets, that option should not be dismissed.

Q: So, what is WLSPA ultimately calling for?

JJD: Responsible, science-based management. Namibia’s fisheries reputation has been built on difficult but responsible decisions. We should continue along that path.

The objective is not the largest possible TAC. The objective is the healthiest possible horse mackerel stock for future generations.

Why higher TAC’s are not producing higher catches

Q: There are calls for a higher TAC. Why is WLSPA urging caution?

JJD: Because one critical fact is often overlooked. For approximately the last six years, industry has not harvested anywhere near the allocated horse mackerel TAC despite having substantially greater catching capacity available.

In fact, the fleet’s estimated catching capacity is

roughly 300% higher than the catches being landed.

Q: What does that tell us?

JJD: It tells us that quota availability is not the primary constraint.

If fish abundance was not a concern, vessels would already be catching closer to the allocated TAC.

A bigger TAC on paper does not automatically create more fish in the ocean. The real limiting factors are stock availability, fish distribution, operational realities and economic viability.

Q: Why is this distinction important?

JJD: Because many people incorrectly assume that TAC equals catch.

There are three very different numbers:

1. Survey biomass.
2. The approved TAC.
3. The actual fish landed.

These numbers serve completely different purposes.

Management decisions should be based on all three, not on TAC alone.

Q: Does the industry’s inability to catch the TAC support a more conservative approach?

JJD: Absolutely.

If catches are already significantly below allocated quotas, increasing the TAC may create little practical benefit while increasing biological risk.

We must first understand why catches remain below available quotas before assuming that a higher TAC is required.

The fish are telling us something. We should listen.

Q: What should policymakers focus on?

JJD: Actual fish caught, recruitment trends, stock recovery and scientific advice.

The discussion should move beyond quota numbers and focus on the long-term health of the resource.

“Protecting Namibia’s Wet-Landed Horse Mackerel Industry”

Q: Why is WLSPA emphasizing the importance of the wet-landed horse mackerel sector?

JJD: Because the wet-landed sector is fundamentally different.

Wet-landed horse mackerel is landed fresh in Namibia and processed locally. This supports factories, transport businesses, packaging suppliers and significant direct and indirect employment.

Every tonne landed contributes towards local value addition rather than simply harvesting a raw resource.

Q: WLSPA has expressed concern about quota conversions to freezer operations. Why?

JJD: We remain concerned that the continued conversion of Wet Landed Horse Mackerel quotas to freezer vessel operations may undermine government objectives regarding employment creation, local processing and economic value addition.

The wet sector contributes substantially to onshore economic activity and should remain an important consideration in future allocation decisions.

This is not about opposing freezer operations. It is about maintaining a balanced fishery that maximizes benefits for Namibia.

Q: Why are dedicated operational areas important for the wet sector?

JJD: Because the wet fishery operates differently from freezer fleets.

Wet operators use refrigerated seawater (RSW) vessels specifically configured for this fishery.

Suitable concentrations of horse mackerel required for wet operations are generally found within the 200-metre depth zone. Outside these areas, operations often become commercially unviable.

Q: Does the wet sector have sustainability advantages?

JJD: Yes. RSW vessels are designed to target suitable horse mackerel sizes while minimizing unwanted catches and bycatch.

The wet sector therefore plays an important role in responsible resource utilization while contributing significantly to local employment.



Q: What is WLSPA asking policymakers to consider?

JJD: We are asking decision-makers to recognize the strategic value of the wet fishery. Employment, local processing, food security and value addition should remain central considerations alongside biological management objectives.

Bycatch, MSC Certification and the Future of Sustainable Fisheries

Q: Why has WLSPA raised concerns about bycatch levels?

JJD: Because bycatch is increasingly important to fisheries sustainability and international market requirements.

We share concerns regarding bycatch levels within parts of the horse mackerel fishery, particularly where other commercially important species may be affected.

Responsible resource management requires us to continually improve selectivity and reduce unnecessary impacts on other species.

Q: How could bycatch affect Namibia commercially?

JJD: Global seafood markets increasingly demand proof of sustainable fishing practices. Certification programmes such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) are becoming more important each year.

Poor bycatch performance could potentially create challenges for certification programmes and market access opportunities in the future.

For that reason, bycatch management is not only an environmental issue but also an economic issue.

Q: How does the wet sector fit into this discussion?

JJD: The wet-landed sector generally operates

highly selective fishing methods using dedicated RSW trawlers.

This contributes towards reducing unwanted catches while supporting local processing and employment.

We believe these characteristics should be recognized when future management measures are considered.

Q: What role should scientists and economists play going forward?

JJD: Both are essential.

One of the most positive outcomes of the recent engagement was seeing scientists and economists sharing information openly with industry and transparently.

Scientific evidence tells us what is happening to the resource.

Economic analysis helps us understand the implications for employment, investment and value addition.

Good decisions require both.

Q: What is your final message regarding the future of the fishery?

JJD: Namibia has one of the most respected fisheries management systems in the world.

The path forward is clear:

- Continue collaboration between industry, scientists and government.
- Protect recruitment and future stock growth.
- Monitor and reduce bycatch where possible.
- Support sectors that create employment and value addition.
- Base TAC decisions on science, not sentiment.

If we do that, Namibia will protect both its marine resources and the livelihoods that depend on them.

“Sustainability is not achieved by harvesting more fish today. Sustainability is achieved by ensuring there are enough fish, jobs and opportunities for tomorrow.”

Editorial

Russia must bring more than friendship

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's presence in Moscow this week is an important reminder of the enduring political relationship between Namibia and Russia.

The two countries share a history forged during Namibia's liberation struggle, when the Soviet Union provided political, diplomatic and material support to the liberation movement.

That history matters. It should neither be forgotten nor diminished.

But history alone cannot build an economy. As the President participates in the Russia-Africa Summit, Namibia should use the occasion to ask a practical question: how can a longstanding political friendship be converted into a stronger economic partnership that delivers tangible benefits to Namibians?

The latest figures from the Institute for Public Policy Research's Namibia Quarterly Economic Review provide a sobering starting point.

Namibia exported goods worth only N\$65.3 million to Russia in 2025, down from N\$100.1 million in 2024. Russia accounted for a mere 0.07 percent of Namibia's total goods exports, ranking just 33rd among the country's export destinations.

That is remarkably small for a country with which Namibia enjoys such longstanding political ties.

More revealing is the narrow composition of Namibia's exports. Crustaceans accounted for N\$44.1 million, while fruit and nuts contributed N\$18.4 million. Together, those two categories represented almost 96 percent of Namibia's exports to Russia.

On the other side of the equation, Namibia imported N\$791.8 million worth of goods from Russia in 2025, up from N\$480 million in 2024.

Wheat accounted for N\$575.1 million and fertilisers for N\$196.7 million, representing more than 97 percent of imports from Russia.

There is nothing inherently wrong with this imbalance. Countries trade according to their respective needs and competitive advantages. For Namibia, access to wheat and fertiliser is important, particularly in the context of food security and agricultural production.

But the figures expose a wider weakness. For all the political warmth between Windhoek and Moscow, the economic relationship remains shallow and highly concentrated.

That should not be viewed as a failure of diplomacy. Rather, it should be viewed as an opportunity.

Namibia is entering a period in which it needs substantial capital, markets, technology and expertise. The country is seeking to develop its oil and gas resources, expand green hydrogen, grow its mining industry, strengthen agriculture, improve infrastructure and diversify tourism.

Russia, like every other major economic power, should be asked what it can contribute to these ambitions.

The answer cannot simply be political solidarity.

Nor should Namibia approach Russia through the prism of the increasingly polarised geopolitical competition between Moscow and the West. Namibia has no reason to choose between Russia, the United States, Europe, China, India or other international partners.

Our foreign policy should be guided by one overriding consideration: what serves Namibia's national interest?

That means welcoming Russian investment where it meets Namibia's laws, environmental standards and development objectives, while applying exactly the same standards to investors from everywhere else.

The proposed Rosatom uranium project near Leonardville demonstrates why this principle matters.

Russian investment in uranium could potentially bring capital, employment, infrastructure, skills and revenue. Those are legitimate benefits that Namibia should examine seriously.

But the concerns surrounding the Stampriet Aquifer must also be taken seriously.

Namibia is one of the driest countries in the world. Water security is therefore not a peripheral environmental concern. It is a national strategic issue. Any development that could affect an important underground water resource must be subjected to rigorous scientific assessment and transparent

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Namibia should engage Moscow confidently, independently and without apology. It should welcome Russian capital where it creates genuine value, protect its resources where necessary, and demand partnerships that advance national development.

regulatory processes.

Political friendship cannot substitute for environmental safeguards.

Nor should environmental concerns automatically become an argument against Russian investment. The correct approach is evidence, transparency and adherence to Namibia's laws.

There may also be opportunities in tourism.

Russian tourist arrivals increased from 3,501 in 2024 to 8,727 in 2025. While still a relatively small market, the growth suggests potential. Namibia's extraordinary landscapes, wildlife and tourism infrastructure could appeal to a much larger Russian market if connectivity, marketing and travel arrangements are properly developed.

But again, the challenge is turning potential into business.

Te same applies to agriculture, education, science, technology and trade. Namibia should be identifying specific sectors in which Russian capabilities and capital can complement Namibian opportunities.

This is where the President's visit becomes important.

Summits often produce declarations, communiqués and expressions of friendship. Those are useful, but they should not be the end of the process.

Namibia needs concrete agreements, investment commitments, market access and partnerships that can be measured.

The country has had decades of political solidarity with Russia. What it needs now is a new generation of economic solidarity.

That does not mean abandoning the principles that have historically guided Namibia's foreign policy. It means adapting them to the economic realities of an independent Namibia.

The Soviet Union supported Namibia when the country was fighting for political freedom. Today, Namibia's challenge is different. It is fighting poverty, unemployment, inequality and economic dependence. It needs investment and productive capacity. It needs markets for Namibian goods. It needs technology and skills. It needs an economy capable of creating opportunities for its young people.

Russia can be part of that story.

But it cannot be assumed that political friendship automatically produces economic benefit.

The IPPR figures make that abundantly clear.

The task before President Nandi-Ndaitwah is therefore not to prove that Namibia is a friend of Russia. That friendship is already well established.

The task is to determine what that friendship can produce.

Namibia should engage Moscow confidently, independently and without apology. It should welcome Russian capital where it creates genuine value, protect its resources where necessary, and demand partnerships that advance national development.

Namibia does not need more symbolism from its international friendships. It needs results.

If Russia wants a deeper economic relationship with Namibia, Moscow should be prepared to demonstrate what it can bring to the table.

And Namibia should be equally clear about what it expects in return.



Has the Petroleum Bill really been passed with good intentions?

The National Assembly (NA) approved the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Amendment Bill's second reading when it passed with 50 votes of the Swapo Party of Namibia, including one vote of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

Members of the opposition parties within the NA walked out of the august house and thus did not vote for the Bill and can claim unaccountability for it. But what did the members of the NA actually and in essence vote for, and/or not?

Those who voted in favour of the Bill cannot and should not deny complicity in the continued exploitation of Namibia – her natural resources, in this case oil – even if such complicity may be by default.

Equally, those who walked out walked away from complicity in the continued exploitation of the envisaged Namibian oil – again, even by default as it may be. Complicity by default because those who voted in favour did not do so as a matter of ideological conviction. As intrinsically the Bill does not speak to the exploitation of Namibia's oil in the best interest of the Namibian people. The best interest of the Namibian people means that the Bill does not speak to how the Namibian people shall equitably benefit from this resource.

For equitability is one thing, pivotal as it may be, that the Bill does not and cannot provide for.

As it has not been designed and intended to provide for equitability. As equitability is not anything capitalism readily renders itself to.

For the regime that the resource has been explored under, and shall henceforth with its discovery and exploitation, is the same regime of capitalism under which many other natural resources of the country were explored and eventually extracted and exploited during colonialism.

When those with presumably most shares amassed exploitative and plundering dividends. Disproportionately so, the rule at play is the continued maximisation of profits.

Which has got nothing to do with the ownership of the oil resource by the people, ultimately, and/or in the interim, let alone by the State, on behalf of the people, thereby guaranteeing the elimination of the maximisation of profits, and thus the continued exploitation of the oil resource by big corporates, the so-called investors, and the dis-appropriation and alienation of the people from what is essentially their resource.

Thus, whether both the ruling Swapo



Yours Truly
Ideologically
with
Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro

Party and the opposition parties have voted and/or not voted for the Bill is inconsequential.

As the intent of and with the Bill was, is, and has not been not to prevent the exploitation of this resource, oil. Just as much as the country's other resources have not been explored, extracted, and exploited in the best interest of the people.

Thus reducing the people to mere beggars in their own country despite her (theirs, in fact) said natural resources, and riches in terms of her minerals and what you have, have not been explored, extracted, and exploited in their best interest, but that exclusively of foreign corporations and their foreign so-called investors.

Thus, ideologically, the hullabaloo surrounding the passing of the Bill, and who have voted and/or not voted for it, is as immaterial and inconsequential.

As the Bill itself does not at all address the relations of production within the country. Instead of just shifting the furniture within and surrounding the grand scheme of capitalist exploitation. Therefore, between the Swapo Party and the opposition political parties within the NA, as far as this Bill is concerned, neither can claim any moral high ground.

Moral high ground for what if the intent has not been about cushioning the envisaged oil in Namibia against the continued exploitation by foreign corporations and investors?

But on the contrary, as it seems, allowing and aiding and abetting the exploration, extraction, and exploitation to the same extent and scale as has been already happening with other natural resources.

By the same and/or similar foreign

multinational corporations as during colonialism, joined by others after independence.

Thus, Yours Truly Ideologically cannot but be extremely perturbed by a video podcast on Facebook recently confusing and likening the Bill to communism.

Unless of course communism means to the podcaster anything else other than a political and economic ideology “where the major means of production are owned and controlled by the public rather than private individuals.”

The intent of the Bill is simply to shift exploitative regulatory control, as far as exploration and production is concerned, from the minister of industries, mines and energy to the President.

How this, which is not about ownership and/or structural realignment, let alone about ownership regulation and control, can be confused for and with ownership and/or shareholding by the people, defies logic, let alone any ideological understanding.

Looks like the podcaster is driven more by his superficial MAGA-inspired and driven ideology, if not fascism.

The Namibian President, in whom the exploration and production of the envisaged Namibian (or is it foreign) oil shall now be concentrated, is by no means known for her socialist beliefs, let alone inclinations and/or sympathy or empathy.

How her control of oil exploration and production can be confused for communism is beyond comprehension.

What we see here at play is the concentration of the management of the production of such a vital resource in one individual.

As much as the President is constitutionally mandated with the protection and preservation of the country's natural resources, the way in which the Bill seems to have been bulldozed into approval in the NA does not at all inspire confidence in the genuine intentions of the Swapo Party in entrusting – that is, if entrusting is for that matter the correct word in this regard – with overseeing production. That is, it is all about oversight.

Concentrating such powers in the President, not to mention the way in which this has been done, not allowing for a matter of its nature, and especially its magnitude, to be robustly debated in the NA, but hurried through it, smells of worse things to come, now and in the future when the oil starts to flow. As the saying goes, Roman roads were not built with good intentions.

Has the Petroleum Amendment Bill really passed the second reading with good intentions?

OBSERVERMONEY

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

BoN rate
hike adds
N\$4 000 a
year to bond
costs



Project to
secure 386m
litres of water
for Swakop
River Basin



Dam levels
fall to 77.8%
as water
reserves
decline



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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

DEEP YELLOW DELAYS TUMAS INVESTMENT DECISION



Old Mutual SEED: Seasons boosts prize money to N\$650 000

Following the strong interest in Old Mutual (OM) SEED: Seasons and the quality and diversity of applications received so far, the Old Mutual Foundation has expanded the 2026 prize structure to recognise more entrepreneurs across Namibia. Instead of awarding only three overall winners, OM SEED: Seasons will now award a first-, second- and third-place winner in each of its five categories.



paragon
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Deep Yellow delays Tumas investment decision

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Australian-listed uranium developer Deep Yellow Limited has delayed its planned final investment decision (FID) on Namibia’s Tumas uranium project, saying current equity market conditions do not support proceeding with the decision in the fourth quarter of 2026.

The company said it remains committed to developing the project but will continue approved work while pursuing financing arrangements needed to move into full construction. Managing director and chief executive Greg Field said the decision to defer the investment decision reflected the company’s approach to investment timing and funding.

He said the company would continue approved work at Tumas while pursuing the financing arrangements required to proceed with full construction.

“We have determined that current equity market conditions do not support a FID for Tumas in Q4 2026, which was a target set by us,” Field said.

He added that engineering progress and the start of civil and concrete works were strengthening construction readiness and progressively reducing execution risks. In its activities report for the quarter ended 30 September 2026, Deep Yellow said detailed engineering for Tumas had reached 85% completion, while development of the project’s 3D model was approximately 88% complete.

Civil and concrete construction works also commenced during the quarter after the company awarded two major contracts to Namibian contractors. The contractors have mobilised to the site, with the works expected to establish multiple construction fronts, improve scheduling flexibility and reduce execution risks ahead of a final investment decision.

Deep Yellow said more than 85% of major process plant equipment had been tendered, while contracts for long-lead equipment packages were being executed or conditionally awarded, subject to the company issuing notices to proceed. The C28 road intersection serving the project had reached 90% completion by the end of the quarter. The company is also advancing infrastructure required to supply

water and electricity to the project. Detailed design work continued on the 220-kilovolt grid connection, while negotiations on the development agreement with NamPower remained ongoing.

Discussions with NamWater, Erongo RED and the roads authority also continued on the design of water supply infrastructure. A tender for the supply of water pipeline pipes had been concluded and was under evaluation. Deep Yellow expects to award the supply contract before the end of 2026 and issue a tender for pipeline installation in the first quarter of 2027.

The company is working with Nedbank Limited, its mandated lead arranger, to advance debt financing for Tumas. Discussions are progressing towards

the necessary credit approvals, with financial close subject to customary conditions, including the completion of definitive financing documentation. Deep Yellow is also updating the project’s execution and mining schedules, capital and operating cost estimates, and financial model. It said a comprehensive project update would be released once the work is complete. Tumas is located approximately 80 kilometres from Swakopmund and the Port of Walvis Bay. Deep Yellow describes it as one of the largest fully permitted greenfield uranium projects globally.

Beyond Tumas, Deep Yellow continued exploration across its Namibian portfolio during the quarter, focusing on identifying additional uranium mineralisation to support future resource growth.





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TOP Gainers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd	6.51	10.15%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	10.00	3.84%
Namibia Asset Management Limited	0.72	1.41%
SBN Holdings Ltd	14.94	0.95%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	60.02	0.87%
TOP Losers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Namibia Breweries	32.01	-5.85%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.34	-0.32%
Oryx Properties Limited	13.61	-0.15%
Alpha Namibia Industries Renewable Power Limited	8.79	-0.11%
TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Africa Bitcoin Corp Ltd NM	4.00	60.00%
Paladin Energy Limited	92.23	9.75%
Anglo-American plc	857.60	6.74%
Standard Bank Group	308.30	5.21%
Investec Limited	135.25	5.15%
TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Oryx Properties Limited	13.61	-0.22%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.34	-0.08%

Currencies				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
USD/ZAR	16.62	0.01%	1.47%	0.35%
EUR/ZAR	18.552908	0.07%	-0.82%	-4.93%
GBP/ZAR	22.226759	-0.03%	1.71%	-0.82%
USD/EUR	0.89581656	-0.25%	1.93%	5.31%

Commodities				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
Brent Crude Oil (ICE \$/bbl)	115.32	1.26%	9.54%	89.52%
Gold NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	4036	-0.56%	-2.40%	-6.70%
Platinum NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	1547.90	0.84%	-10.07%	-23.92%
Copper Cash Official LME (\$/mt)	14675.50	0.35%	0.90%	17.37%
Uranium Near Term (NYM \$/lbs)	91.30	1.28%	1.67%	11.89%
Money Market Rates				
	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	9 MONTH	12 MONTH
Average Bank NCDs	6.90	7.20	7.38	7.51
Treasury Bill Rates	7.55	7.81	7.97	7.98
JSE INDICES				
Share code	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
JSE ALSI	110,038.70	0.25%	0.6%	-5.24%
All Share Industrials	129,769.77	0.00%	1.4%	-12.05%
Mid Cap	108,775.34	0.40%	4.4%	-4.54%
Small Cap	109,985.94	-0.13%	2.7%	2.01%
Industrial 25	120,216.52	-0.03%	1.1%	-13.20%
Financial 15	26,079.07	0.89%	2.5%	3.92%
Resource 10	114,002.44	-0.01%	-2.4%	-7.80%
Top 40	101,875.93	0.30%	0.2%	-5.94%
World Market				
Share Code	Close	1D%	%1M	%YTD
FTSE100	10,694.50	0.07%	0.09%	-5.24%
S&P500	7,716.50	0.28%	0.78%	-12.05%
DAX	26,085.36	0.44%	1.30%	-4.54%
ASX	8,891.80	-0.03%	1.93%	2.01%
NASDAQ	26,194.34	0.27%	-1.01%	-13.20%
NSX Overall	2,371.52	1.04%	0.48%	13.86%
NSX Local	904.08	0.00%	1.43%	24.39%

BoN rate hike adds N\$4 000 a year to bond costs

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Bank of Namibia’s decision to raise the repo rate to 7.00% will increase annual repayments on a typical N\$1 million home loan by about N\$4 000 since the current interest rate hiking cycle began, adding pressure on households already facing higher fuel and electricity costs.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 basis points on 28 October 2026, marking the second increase in the current cycle after the June hike to 6.75%.

The latest increase pushes the commercial banks’ prime lending rate to 10.50%, raising monthly repayments on a N\$1 million bond over 20 years by about N\$168.

The cumulative monthly increase since the start of the cycle is approximately N\$334.

The central bank’s decision is aimed at protecting the Namibia dollar’s one-to-one peg with the South African rand, supporting foreign reserves and containing the broader inflationary effects of rising fuel prices.

The rate increase also narrows the interest rate differential with South Africa, restoring the traditional 25-basis-point gap between the Bank of Namibia’s repo rate and the South African Reserve Bank’s policy rate. Before the latest decision, the gap had widened to 50 basis points.

Maintaining the interest rate differential helps limit incentives for capital outflows and supports the stability of the currency peg.

Fuel prices remain a key inflation risk, with higher transport and production costs potentially feeding through to



The latest increase pushes the commercial banks’ prime lending rate to 10.50%, raising monthly repayments on a N\$1 million bond over 20 years by about N\$168.

other goods and services. Namibia recorded a merchandise trade deficit of N\$33.5 billion between January and August, according to the figures provided. The rate hike comes as households contend with a N\$1.50 per litre petrol price increase earlier in October and a 3.7% NamPower electricity tariff increase.

The agricultural sector is also facing mounting pressure from higher borrowing costs and input prices, drought risks and the threat of foot-and-mouth disease, which could further constrain production and trade. The Bank of Namibia expects the economy to grow by 2.1% in 2026, although rising costs and tighter

financial conditions could weigh on household spending and business activity. According to Simonis Storm Research, monetary policy remains only mildly restrictive, with analysts expecting the central bank to hold rates at its final MPC meeting of the year on 8 December. However, the research firm expects

headline inflation to rise towards 6.2% around the turn of the year, potentially prompting another 25-basis-point increase to a repo rate of 7.25% in early 2027. Prime lending rates could consequently remain between 10.50% and 10.75% for much of 2027, with potential interest rate cuts only emerging towards the end of the year.

Project to secure 386m litres of water for Swakop River Basin

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Namibia Breweries Limited, WWF Namibia and the Global Water Challenge have signed a N\$13 million, five-year agreement to strengthen water security in the Swakop River Basin, a critical water source for communities, farms and industry across central Namibia.

This will secure around 386 million litres of annual water benefits by 2030, equal to more than 150 Olympic-sized swimming pools from 153 hectares of land restored or under improved management.

The Swakop Basin Collective Action Project is also known as the NBL Water Balancing Project.

The five-year initiative brings together government, civil society and the private sector to address shared water challenges and strengthen water security and climate resilience in the Swakop River Basin.

Drawing on the City of Windhoek’s recognised expertise in water management and reclamation, the partnership will support efforts to strengthen water security and improve the sustainable management of the

Swakop River Basin. The initiative builds on NBL’s ongoing commitment to responsible water stewardship. In 2025, the company improved its water efficiency to 3.56 litres of water for every litre of product produced and is working towards reducing this to 2.4 litres by 2030 under its Brew a Better Namibia 2030 strategy. Waldemar von Lieres, managing director, Namibia Breweries Limited, said: “Our ambition is to lead by example in water stewardship, inside our brewery and beyond. Since 2015, we have invested more than N\$35 million in reducing our own water footprint and have increased our water efficiency by 30% since 2024. Our N\$13 million commitment over five years to the Water Balancing Project extends that investment into the shared basin on which we all depend. Working with our partners, we aim to strengthen water security for communities, businesses and ecosystems, helping build a water-resilient future for Namibia.” NBL is part of Heineken company, and water stewardship is a core part of Heineken’s Brew a Better World strategy, which aims to balance the water used in its products in water-



Waldemar von Lieres, NBL MD, Tertu Iileka (project manager at GWC) and Dr Juliane Zeidler, country director of WWF Namibia

stressed areas. This project supports NBL’s water balancing ambitions and demonstrates the value of collective action in addressing shared water challenges. The Swakop River Basin is a critical water source for communities, agriculture, industry and towns across central Namibia. Teofilus Nghitila, executive director, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, said: “The

Government of Namibia remains committed to strengthening water security and climate resilience through sustainable water resource management.” By 2030, the project is expected to deliver approximately 386 million litres of annual water benefits through interventions in the upper Swakop catchment. These include managed aquifer recharge and other nature-based

solutions to improve groundwater recharge and water quality, the removal of invasive alien plants from riverbeds, and strengthened water governance through the development of a Sub-Basin Water Allocation and Abstraction Plan. The project will also restore or improve the management of 153 hectares of land. The annual water benefit is equivalent to more than 150 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Dam levels fall to 77.8% as water reserves decline

Staff Writer

The country’s dams held 1 210.9 million cubic metres of water as at 26 October 2026, representing 77.8% of their combined full supply capacity, down from 78.3% a week earlier.

According to NamWater’s weekly dam bulletin, total water storage declined by 8.56 million cubic metres during the week from 19 to 26 October, leaving the country’s dams with 1 210.9 million cubic metres compared with 1 219.5 million cubic metres the previous week.

The bulletin shows that the southern dam system remained the best supplied, holding 1 111.5 million cubic metres, equivalent to 86.4% of its combined capacity.

However, the region recorded the largest weekly decline, losing 6.10 million cubic metres.

Neckartal Dam, Namibia’s largest reservoir by capacity, held 853.1 million cubic metres, or 99.5% of its full supply capacity. Its storage declined by 2.18 million cubic metres during the week.

Naute Dam stood at 98.8% of capacity, with 82.5 million cubic metres, while Hardap Dam held 157.2 million cubic metres, equivalent to 53.3% of capacity. Hardap’s water storage fell by 2.85 million cubic metres during the reporting period.

Dreihuk Dam was at 6.7% of capacity, holding 1.04 million cubic metres, while Bondels Dam was reported empty.

The central area’s dams held 64.25 million cubic metres, or 41.6% of their combined capacity, down from 65.27 million cubic metres a week earlier. Swakoppoort Dam stood at 65.1% of capacity, holding 41.32 million cubic metres, while Von Bach Dam held 22.92 million cubic metres, or 48.2% of capacity.



Neckartal Dam, Namibia’s largest reservoir by capacity, held 853.1 million cubic metres, or 99.5% of its full supply capacity

Their storage levels declined by 393 000 cubic metres and 627 000 cubic metres, respectively.

In the Windhoek system, Goreangab Dam held 3.70 million cubic metres, equivalent to 102.1% of its listed full supply capacity, while Friedenau Dam stood at 43.8%, with 2.95 million cubic metres.

The bulletin recorded a combined 6.64

million cubic metres for the two dams, or 64.2% of their combined capacity.

The Gobabis system held 2.81 million cubic metres, or 14.6% of capacity, down from 2.92 million cubic metres a week earlier.

Otjivero Main Dam stood at 17.4% of capacity, holding 1.71 million cubic metres, while Otjivero Silt Dam was at 0.9%, with 71 000 cubic metres.

Daan Viljoen Dam held 207 000 cubic metres, or 48.3% of capacity.

Tilda Viljoen Dam increased to 66.8% of capacity, with 817 000 cubic metres, from 65.4% a week earlier. NamWater reported that water transfers from Otjivero Dam to Tilda Viljoen took place during the week.

In the north, Olushandja Dam held 25.75 million cubic metres, equivalent

to 56.4% of capacity, down from 59.2% a week earlier. Omaruru Delta and Omatjienne dams were both reported empty.

NamWater’s bulletin also recorded combined water storage for the current season at 1 269.6 million cubic metres, compared with the current reported storage of 1 210.9 million cubic metres.

Old Mutual SEED: Seasons boosts prize money to N\$650 000

Staff Writer

Following the strong interest in Old Mutual (OM) SEED: Seasons and the quality and diversity of applications received so far, the Old Mutual Foundation has expanded the 2026 prize structure to recognise more entrepreneurs across Namibia.

Instead of awarding only three overall winners, OM SEED: Seasons will now award a first-, second- and third-place winner in each of its five categories.

This means that 15 entrepreneurs will receive financial support through the 2026 programme.

Each category will award: 1st Place: N\$60 000, 2nd Place: N\$40 000 and 3rd Place: N\$30 000.

This brings the total prize allocation to N\$130 000 per category and N\$650 000 across all five categories.

The five OM SEED: Seasons categories are SEED Level Up, SEED Green, SEED Play, SEED Made and SEED Manufacturing.



Mignon du Preez

Together, they recognise entrepreneurs working across youth entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, sport and fitness, the creative industries, and manufacturing.

“The response to OM SEED: Seasons has shown us the breadth of entrepreneurial talent and potential across Namibia. The applications and business concepts

received inspired us to broaden the prize structure and recognise winners in every category. By doing so, we can support more entrepreneurs and celebrate the different ways in which Namibians are building businesses, creating opportunities and contributing to their communities,” said Mignon du Preez, Old Mutual Namibia group marketing, public affairs and sustainability executive.

Entrepreneurs across all 14 regions are reminded that applications close on 30 October 2026. Application forms are available at selected Old Mutual branches across Namibia.

Applicants can also access the form by scanning the QR code shared on Old Mutual Namibia’s social media platforms.

OM SEED, which stands for Old Mutual Sustainable Economic Empowerment Drive, was established by the Old Mutual Foundation to equip entrepreneurs and grassroots businesses with knowledge, skills, mentorship and resources to help build sustainable enterprises.

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The Blue Growth Series has expanded from 40 participating enterprises in 2025 to almost 80 in 2026.

Standard Bank Blue Growth series graduates 68 entrepreneurs

Staff Writer

Sixty-eight Namibian entrepreneurs have graduated from the 2026 Blue Growth Series, a business development programme delivered through a partnership between Standard Bank Namibia and the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), further strengthening the country’s pipeline of growth-ready small and medium enterprises. Now in its second year, the Blue Growth Series has expanded from 40 participating enterprises in 2025 to almost 80 in 2026, bringing the total

number of businesses supported to nearly 120 over the past two years. The programme is designed to help entrepreneurs move beyond survival and towards sustainable growth by combining business development, market access opportunities and pathways to finance. At a time when SMEs continue to play a critical role in job creation, innovation and economic diversification, the programme focuses on equipping entrepreneurs with the practical tools needed to strengthen business performance, improve investment readiness and unlock new market opportunities. Implemented by NIFA, with

Future Media as media partner, the Blue Growth Series goes beyond conventional business training. Participants receive access to subsidised management accounts, business advisory support, assistance in preparing business profiles and funding applications, and opportunities to participate in relevant SME market-access events. A significant feature of the programme is its deliberate focus on connecting entrepreneurs with both markets and capital. Through these interventions, participating businesses are better positioned to secure opportunities for growth while building the systems

and financial records required to access funding. Hellen Amupolo, executive officer of business and commercial banking at Standard Bank Namibia said the programme reflects the bank’s belief that entrepreneurship is one of the most effective pathways to inclusive economic growth. NIFA chief executive officer and founder, Arinze Okafor, said the programme’s success lies in its practical approach to enterprise development. “Our objective is to help entrepreneurs build businesses that are resilient, competitive and investment-ready. The Blue Growth

Series provides participants with practical business skills and direct exposure to potential funders and markets, ensuring that learning translates into real opportunities for growth.” The 2026 cohort brought together entrepreneurs from eight regions across Namibia, with women comprising 54% of participants and youth under the age of 35 accounting for 53%. Early programme outcomes indicate tangible business impact. Among surveyed participants, 42 reported increased business income, 16 opened Standard Bank business accounts and five successfully accessed financing.

Namibia scores higher in infrastructure-driven Africa ICT metrics

Staff Writer

Namibia is making great strides in terms of telecommunications infrastructure investment, according to Paratus Namibia. The company says while the country may lag behind some of its Southern African Development Community peers such as South Africa and Mauritius, Namibia scores significantly higher than the African average in infrastructure-driven metrics with the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) ICT Development Index placing Namibia above larger economies like Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. Paratus Namibia recently installed another 600 kilometers of fiber, bringing its total fiber network to over 5 000 kilometers. One of the company’s most significant infrastructure projects has been the rollout of the Paratus mobile network, representing an investment of N\$600 million over the past 24 months. Managing director of Paratus Namibia, Andrew Hall, says: “The 595 kilometers of fiber we added in the past year is a good indication of the scale at which we are building. That said, a strong and resilient network is about much more than



The International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) ICT Development Index has placed Namibia above larger economies like Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria.

fiber alone. It means having different technologies, alternative routes and sufficient capacity so that customers are not dependent on a single point of connection.” This resilience extends beyond

Namibia. Paratus has access to both the Equiano and WACS submarine cable systems on Africa’s west coast and is the landing partner for Equiano in Namibia. Its own Trans-Kalahari fiber

route connects Windhoek to Johannesburg, providing another route out of the country and onward access to east coast submarine cable systems, including SEACOM. Within Namibia, redundancy is built

into the network wherever possible. Paratus uses two backhaul providers to connect its points of presence, predominantly using its own infrastructure as the primary route and an independent provider as the secondary route. Hall says this level of network diversity is increasingly important as businesses, households and services become more dependent on reliable connectivity. “Businesses cannot afford to lose access to the systems and applications they depend on every day. The same is increasingly true for households and communities. Our job is to ensure the infrastructure behind any connection is strong enough, diverse enough and has the capacity to keep pace with demand.” The next phase of the Paratus Namibia infrastructure programme includes further expansion of the national mobile network, a significant capacity upgrade to its point-to-multipoint fixed wireless network, continued fiber expansion and the Data Hall 2 expansion project. Paratus plans to invest millions of Namibian Dollars over the next few years to continue expanding its footprint, increasing capacity and building greater resilience across the network.

El Niño threatens to deepen southern Africa’s poverty crisis

WANDILE SIHLOBO

October is a special month in global agricultural and food organisations. On the 16th many celebrated World Food Day, which marks the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. It also gives countries a chance to reflect on their food security conditions and outline plans to strengthen resilience and contribute to efforts to reduce poverty in countries that remain highly impoverished. But this year’s World Food Day celebrations were different. Unlike in previous years, when some countries reported declining poverty levels, the outlook for 2027 is worrying, particularly in southern Africa. Many countries in the region face rising costs because of ongoing geopolitical conflicts, which have not only increased energy costs but also complicated supply chains. Compounding the challenge in 2027 is the likely El Niño drought, which could push poverty up across most of southern Africa. Already, the Food and Agriculture Organization suggests the region may face challenging conditions that could be worse than the 2015-16 drought. In late June 2026, commenting on southern Africa’s recent droughts of

2015-16 and the expected 2026-27 drought, the Food and Agriculture Organization stated that “the most recent El Niño cycle brought the region’s worst drought in more than a century, leaving 61 million people in need of assistance, straining livestock, water systems and pasturelands, and pushing more than 8 million people into food insecurity.” “The forecast points to a greater than 50% probability of agricultural drought across large parts of Namibia and Botswana, extending into Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and parts of Mozambique and Madagascar.” Under such prospects, fears are rising that the southern Africa region would face this challenge at a time when global humanitarian aid is also less available. Recent wars in the Black Sea and Middle East mean resources that would ordinarily be channeled to natural causes of poverty, such as the expected drought, are now constrained by competing needs in war zones. Moreover, the US Administration’s decision to abandon US Aid Programme budget, which relied heavily on US Aid funding, will have fewer resources to assist. Therefore, if the expected drought devastates agricultural production,



the southern Africa region may face a much tougher period than in the recent past in terms of food supplies. Right now, the region is already at a point where farmers have started planting crops for the 2026-27 season, although some know the coming months may bring challenges. This also means governments have a limited window to assist with the current season. Countries that can import need to ensure they have access to food supplies and that the private sector has a clearer pathway to import.

This means that where there are limitations on grain imports, such as bans on non-genetically-modified grains, such bans may need to be suspended for a period during the time of food needs. Moreover, ensuring feed supplies for livestock is another important consideration. Where fiscal space allows, household assistance may be necessary in the coming months, depending on whether the season turns out in the worrying way we fear. In countries with agricultural supplies in the region, it may be tempting to impose an export ban to protect domestic supplies. But such policy actions typically further exacerbate the challenge. They reduce incentives for agribusinesses and farmers to expand production in favourable seasons and cause price shocks that worsen conditions for importing countries. What matters is transparent, timely information sharing so market participants can make timely decisions, and prices that adjust quickly to reflect each country’s realities in the region. Closer to home, South Africa remains in a more fortunate position than much of southern Africa. The 2025-26 season was a period of abundance in grains and oilseed, ensuring ample supplies to cushion the country going

into the next year. For example, the maize harvest is at a record 17.5 million tonnes, against the annual consumption of 12.0 million tonnes. Stocks were also ample at the start of the year, which further improved supplies. Moreover, South African agribusinesses are better placed to import when supply glitches occur. The country’s dam water supplies are over 80% full, which also suggests that fruit and vegetables typically produced under irrigation may be spared, to an extent, from the challenge we may witness in other countries in the region. In essence, southern Africa is likely to see a rise in poverty in 2027 because of the El Niño drought. While South Africa is as exposed to the drought challenge as the rest of the region, the impact may be much milder here. Still, the country may have to shoulder the region’s challenges, and export produce to its neighbours to stabilise regional food needs. **Wandile Sihlobo is the Presidential Envoy on Agriculture and Land. He is also the chief economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa and a senior research fellow in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University.*



An estimated contribution of the unobserved economy, including informal, illicit and illegal activities, also increased to 8.7% of GDP from 7.3% previously. - Photo: AdobeStock

SA economy 5.3% bigger than thought after GDP rebasing

NTANDO THUKWANA

South Africa’s closely watched debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is expected to decline after a regular recalculation showed the economy was 5.3% larger in 2025 than previously estimated. GDP at current prices stood at R8 trillion (\$457 billion) last year, compared to R7.6 trillion previously reported, after the base year for calculating the figure was shifted to 2022, data published by Statistics South Africa in the capital Pretoria on Thursday showed. The exercise is generally conducted every five years. “Based on the revised GDP estimates, the gross debt ratio for the current fiscal year could fall from 78.2% to an estimated 74.5% of GDP,” said Johann Els, chief economist for PSG Financial Services said. “The consolidated budget deficit could fall from 3.9% to an estimated 3.7% of GDP.”

National Treasury did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how the revision would affect its estimates of South Africa’s fiscal metrics. Moody’s Ratings and other agencies have flagged improvements in the country’s debt position as a factor they will watch when considering further upgrades to the country’s credit rating, which has been on an upward trajectory but remains below investment grade. “Critically, the upward revision to South Africa’s GDP will positively impact South Africa’s various fiscal ratio including the government debt to GDP, fiscal deficit to GDP, tax revenue as a percentage of GDP,” Kevin Lings, chief economist at Stanlib Asset Management, wrote in a note. “This is a meaningful improvement within the South African context, which should boost investor sentiment, as well as any sovereign credit rating assessment.” The statistics agency recalculated the value of GDP based on production

patterns in 2022, with some sectors being assigned larger weights to better reflect the structure of the economy. Though the expansion was broad-based across sectors, mining grew the most after the changes, lifting its contribution to the economy by 12.5%. The statistics agency said this was primarily due to the inclusion and better coverage of illegal mining, which has proliferated in South Africa as the price of gold has soared. The second-largest sector weighting expansion was in finance, real estate and business services, which increased by 9.1%. The contribution of the unobserved economy, which includes some parts of the informal economy and includes illicit and illegal activities, increased to 8.7%, from 7.3% previously. “Notable additions of informal activities include street hawkers, shebeens and informal recycling, and illegal or illicit activities such as narcotics and prostitution,” the statistics agency said. **-moneyweb**



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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

Shortcut 3 takes aim at bigger screens

...as Optimistic Media Group premieres its latest

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Optimistic Media Group is setting its sights beyond Windhoek as it prepares to premiere *Shortcut Part 3*, with plans to take the film to four other towns and eventually rural communities across Namibia.

The film will premiere at *Ster-Kinekor, Maerua Mall*, on 7 November before opening at both Maerua Mall and Grove Mall on 13 November for an initial two-week cinema run.

In an interview with *Young Observer*, producer Gustav Nuuyoma said the company has confirmed plans for additional screenings in Swakopmund, Lüderitz, Rundu and Ongwediva, with dates to be announced in due course. According to Nuuyoma, the company also intends to work with local businesses, community organisations and other stakeholders to bring the film to rural communities without conventional cinema facilities.

“I strongly believe that Namibian films should not be limited to audiences living in major towns. Our stories belong to all Namibians, regardless of where they live,” Nuuyoma said. The expansion plans come as the government pursues a broader push to increase local film and television production.

The National Content Creators Plan has a N\$17.5 million allocation intended to support local productions and generate an estimated 470 direct employment opportunities.

The programme forms part of a wider N\$50 million allocation towards creative industries.

However, industry stakeholders have raised concerns about whether funding individual productions alone will be enough to establish sustainable film businesses, pointing to the need for distribution networks, skills development and stronger commercial structures. For *Shortcut Part 3*, audience turnout will be an immediate test of its cinematic performance.

Nuuyoma said the initial two-week run could be extended depending on demand, with ticket sales playing a key role in determining how long the film remains on screen.

“Strong cinema attendance not only helps sustain a film’s theatrical run but also demonstrates that there is a viable commercial market for Namibian cinema,” he said.

Premier tickets cost N\$150 each and are being sold in advance and include a free complimentary popcorn plus a drink of any choice. Screening starts at 18:00 and no tickets will be sold at the entrance.

Nuuyoma said producing a third instalment was a milestone for the company, which wants to build original Namibian stories into film properties that can grow beyond a single production.

He described the premiere as a celebration of the cast and crew, as well as audiences who have followed the story from the beginning.

The company is also looking beyond Namibia. Nuuyoma said Optimistic Media Group plans to present *Shortcut Part 3*, alongside its other productions, at CANEX WKND



Short-Cut Part 3 premieres on 07 November 2026

2026 in Lagos, Nigeria, from 5 to 8 November.

The company hopes to connect with international distributors, sales agents and potential strategic partners through the event, with the longer-term ambition of establishing sustainable distribution opportunities for Namibian productions.

Shortcut Part 3 follows Spikiri, played by Kondja Lungameni, and Buzzman, played by Stefanus Fillemon, two former friends whose relationship has deteriorated into bitter rivalry.

In the first film, the pair escape from prison but eventually turn against

each other. In the second instalment, they escape again while being transported to Swakopmund Prison in a correctional vehicle.

The third film picks up from those events, with the two pursuing N\$250 000 in stolen cash hidden in Windhoek.

Their plans are complicated by Linda Shikongo, an undercover state agent played by Paulina Shivute, who is determined to bring them to justice. Although the story continues from the earlier films, Nuuyoma said new viewers would still be able to follow the plot without having watched the

previous instalments.

Beyond the action and humour, he said the story explores how financial pressure can test relationships and push people towards desperate decisions.

Nuuyoma pointed to unemployment, rising living costs and limited economic opportunities as pressures affecting many people, saying the stolen cash represents a chance for the characters to change their circumstances.

“In the film, N\$250 000 represents more than stolen money. For the characters, it represents

an opportunity to change their circumstances, escape their problems or gain control over their lives,” he said.

He hopes the storyline will prompt audiences to consider how far people might go for money, when ambition becomes greed and whether financial freedom is worth sacrificing friendship and loyalty.

For Optimistic Media Group, the immediate focus is attracting audiences to the cinema, while the planned regional screenings and international engagement could help the film reach viewers well beyond its

Qualifications without jobs: Ndaitwah calls for youth opportunities

PATIENCE MAKWELE

Staff Writer

Young Namibians struggling to find work are being urged to explore opportunities beyond formal employment, as First Gentleman Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah calls for stronger partnerships to help young people turn their skills and ideas into economic opportunities.

Speaking at the Russia-Africa Youth Forum at MGIMO University in Moscow on Wednesday, Ndaitwah acknowledged the difficulties facing young people who have qualifications but cannot find work, business ideas but lack capital, and talent without access to networks.

“Too many of our young people have qualifications but no job, ideas but no capital, talent but no network,” he said.

His remarks reflected the challenges faced by graduates entering a labour market where a qualification does not necessarily translate into employment.

The Namibia Statistics Agency’s 2023 Labour Force Report puts unemployment among people aged 15 to 34 at 44.4%, compared with 36.9% nationally. Among young women, the rate was 48.2%.

Speaking to this publication earlier this year, Jastina Ndahafa Ugwanga, a Namibian graduate who spent four years looking for a job, the search eventually led her to cross-border trading between Namibia and Angola.

After repeatedly applying for jobs without success, Ugwanga decided to explore a business opportunity by sourcing clothes, hair accessories and other goods from Angola for resale in Namibia.

“After making my second sales which gave me a profit of N\$15 000.00 I decided then, if a job was not going to find me, I was going to create a job for myself,” she said.

Ugwanga has since expanded her business and now takes other aspiring traders to Angola, teaching them how to source products and build their own businesses.

Her experience illustrates one of the alternatives available to young people who struggle to secure formal employment, although starting a business also requires resources, knowledge and a willingness to take risks.

Ndaitwah called for greater cooperation between Russia and African countries to help young people access opportunities in entrepreneurship, technology, logistics, new media and diplomacy. He said trade between the two regions should not be limited to

large companies, arguing that young entrepreneurs should also be able to move goods, services and ideas across borders.

“Trade between our continents should not belong only to large companies. Young entrepreneurs can carry goods, services and ideas in both directions,” he said.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Ndaitwah called for stronger links between universities in Russia and Africa, including joint research projects addressing challenges in water, energy, health and agriculture. He also urged African countries to develop their own technological capacity, particularly in artificial intelligence.

“Africa must not only consume new tools like artificial intelligence. Our young people must design and build them,” he said.

For young people entering specialised industries, access to relevant training and practical experience is another part of preparing for available opportunities.

Kevin Kevanhu, a solar technician in training at the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre (WVTC), had earlier told the Young Observer that Namibia’s renewable energy sector could open opportunities for young people beyond conventional engineering roles.

“For young people, this sector creates an entirely new value chain. Opportunities range from renewable energy installation and hydrogen production to engineering, logistics, catering and safety management,” he said.

Kevanhu said young people needed to prepare through skills development and exposure to industry, while training institutions should strengthen their links with companies operating in emerging energy sectors.

“TVET institutions are the backbone of Namibia’s energy transition because industries require technicians and artisans who understand real systems, equipment and operational procedures,” he said. Ndaitwah said Namibia’s youthful population made it important to ensure that young people could learn, work, create and participate in development.

According to the 2023 census, more than 71% of the population is under the age of 35.

He said the Russia-Africa Youth Forum offered young people an opportunity to build relationships and explore areas of cooperation, adding that the challenge was to turn the relationship between the two regions into prosperity, knowledge and lasting peace.



First Gentleman Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah

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AI literacy emerges as a youth employment issue

PATIENCE MAKWELE

Staff Writer

Young Namibians entering the job market may increasingly need to demonstrate that they can use artificial intelligence (AI), with education deputy minister Dino Ballotti highlighting digital competence as an important skill for the next generation of workers. Speaking at the UNESCO-KFIT cross-country workshop in Windhoek on Monday, Ballotti said young people currently in classrooms would enter an economy shaped by digital tools, including artificial intelligence. “For these learners, digital competence, I would say, is fast becoming mandatory,” he said. Ballotti shared that when he hired his assistant, one of the first questions he asked was whether she was AI competent. He also referred to the term “prompt engineer”, describing it as a way of making effective use of digital technologies. The issue extends beyond the classroom, as young people must also find ways to apply digital skills in practical settings. Anicia Peters, chief executive of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), has previously emphasised the importance of young Namibians gaining practical experience with AI and applying their skills to local development challenges. Young technology entrepreneur Gotlieb Mupandela has also demonstrated how AI-assisted coding tools can be used to develop software and solutions to local problems. Their experiences point to the importance of moving beyond familiarity with AI tools towards understanding how the technology can be applied in real-world situations. Ballotti said teachers remain central to preparing learners for this changing environment. “But none of this reaches a learner except through a teacher,” he said. He argued that a teacher who is confident in using one effective digital tool could do more for learners than one given several tools without adequate training. UNESCO Representative to Namibia Eunice Smith also stressed that the success of digital education depends on how effectively technology improves teaching and learning, while United Nations Resident Coordinator Hopolang Phororo highlighted the importance of digital connectivity and education in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The deputy minister also challenged education officials to look beyond the number of teachers attending training workshops and the number of smart boards purchased, asking whether the tools were being used and what impact they had on learning outcomes. He warned that differences in access to electricity and reliable internet between urban and rural schools could widen existing inequalities. Within the same country, he said, one school may have reliable electricity and internet connectivity while another, a few hours away, has neither.



Dino Ballotti

Ballotti made the remarks during the opening of the UNESCO-KFIT project’s cross-country workshop, which brought together education representatives from Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda

to discuss the use of information and communication technology in education. The current phase of the project ends in 2027, leaving participating countries to consider how its results

will be sustained beyond the period of project support. Ballotti said the focus should be on what technology changes for teachers and learners, rather than simply counting equipment supplied

or activities conducted. By the end of the current phase, he said, participating countries should be able to demonstrate what had changed for the teachers and learners who used the technology.

13 pieces of the best career advice

Advice for entering the workforce
“Opportunities don’t happen, you create them.” – Chris Grosser

1. Create a vision statement
What do you want to do? What will your career look like, and what impact will it make? Once you understand your career aspirations, you’ll be in a better position to choose work you love. Use your vision statement as inspiration to create a vision board.

2. Find out what your career will look like
No career path is without challenges. Jane Fonda said, “If the career you have chosen has some unexpected inconvenience, console yourself by reflecting that no career is without them.” You can learn more about what your career path will really look like by working with a mentor or coach. Apply for internships, attend networking events, or go to working interviews to learn if you’ll be satisfied with the job’s day-to-day.

3. Learn as much as you can
Cultivating a beginners’ mindset is a critical part of career growth. Take advantage of on-the-job training to learn as much as you can. Ask questions and get to know people across the organization. Try job shadowing someone to learn what their role is like. You can also try reading some career books to help absorb expert advice.

4. Don’t be afraid to say no
I firmly believe that opportunities can come from anywhere — but if your gut says no, listen. Don’t feel pressured to take a job that feels out of alignment with what you want for yourself. Sometimes, it’s better to gracefully decline a job offer than to get blown off course. Advice for advancing in your career
“In chaos, there is opportunity. Most major career accelerations happen when someone steps into a mess and makes a difference.” — Kristi Hedges, Leadership Coach

5. Work with a coach
Every leader (or leader-in-the-making) needs a coach. After all, research shows that leaders aren’t born — they’re made. Working with a coach makes it easier to identify your strengths and spot areas of development. It helps you develop introspection — a foundational skill for personal growth. Think about how career coaching might be able to help you in your professional journey.

6. Plan ahead
If you’ve had any experience at all in the working world, you’ve probably started to identify what you want — and what work doesn’t align with your personal values. Make use of this information to shape your career. Take it into account when you’re doing your career planning (which should happen at least once a year).

7. Stay on your edge
Once you feel like you’re developing mastery of your role, take a look at the bigger picture. Talk to others and read what people have to say about the future of your industry. Identifying where you can stay on your edge by upskilling or taking chances can make all the difference in your career.

8. Avoid burnout
Contrary to the age-old advice, your early working years aren’t the time to “grind it out.” Business influencer and freelancer Megan Williams says: “I have yet to see anybody do a good job of slowing the inertia of a grind habit they established in their youth.” Building the practice of work-life balance — and protecting it — early helps to insulate against burnout later in your career. career-advice-person-working-alone
Advice for the job you dislike
“It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it’s the pebble in your shoe.” — Muhammad Ali

9. Reflect
It’s easy to get wrapped up in the emotions of the job you dislike. But hating a job can actually tell you a lot about what you want out of

your career. Instead of focusing on what you don’t like, write out what a day in the life of your dream job looks like. What kind of work are you doing, and who are you doing it with? Is there anything you do like about your current role, and how can you shift to doing more of what you love to do?

10. Bust a (lateral) move
If you’re starting to feel stuck, it might be time to explore a lateral move in your company. While it doesn’t have quite the excitement of getting promoted, it’s an opportunity to learn new skills and shake up the routine. You may find that the change makes you fall in love with what you do again.

11. Speak up
Sometimes, it’s not what you’re doing that’s the issue. A toxic leader or workplace could be ruining the experience for you (and likely, for a number of your co-workers). If that’s the case, share that with your coach, manager, or — if appropriate — with HR. Psychological safety is inextricable from job satisfaction. Advice for changing jobs
“The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle.” – Steve Jobs

12. Be nice when you quit
You may dream of telling everyone what you really think on your way out the door, but leaving on a good note might be a smarter move. Express gratitude for the opportunities, and stay in touch with your colleagues on LinkedIn. You may bump into them later, want to call on them for a reference, or even just be able to visit the same coffee shop without whispers.

13. Make up a new job
Don’t see your dream position? Create a new role for yourself. There are many benefits to continuing to grow within the same company, even if you’re working with a new team. Your new role might prove to be a strategic advantage for the business as well. It’s definitely worth exploring the opportunities in your own backyard before you decide to quit. -BetterUp.com

Capacity Building



Competence before compliance

I have always found it interesting how quickly the words “it is policy” can end a conversation.
An employee questions a procedure, a customer requests an explanation, or a colleague suggests a different approach, and the response is simply that the rules must be followed. While policies are necessary for organisational order and accountability, I sometimes wonder whether we have become better at teaching employees to follow instructions than helping them understand why those instructions exist. There is an important difference between knowing what a policy requires and understanding what it is intended to achieve. Compliance ensures that employees operate within established rules, standards and procedures. Competence, however, enables them to understand the reasoning behind those requirements, recognise their implications and apply them appropriately in different situations. An employee may know that procurement procedures require competitive quotations, but do they understand how this protects organisational resources and promotes fairness? A supervisor may follow performance management procedures, but do they appreciate their role in employee development rather than simply completing assessment forms? These distinctions may appear small, yet they influence organisational behaviour. When employees understand only the procedural requirements of their responsibilities, compliance can become a mechanical exercise. Forms are completed, approvals are obtained and reports are submitted, sometimes without meaningful consideration of the outcomes those processes are intended to support. I believe this is where organisations risk developing a culture of procedural obedience rather than professional judgement.

For Namibian institutions, particularly those operating within highly regulated environments, compliance remains essential. However, the challenge is to ensure that employees do not confuse following procedures with achieving organisational effectiveness. This requires reconsidering how policies are introduced and communicated. Rather than simply distributing documents and expecting employees to familiarise themselves with their contents, organisations should create opportunities to discuss the purpose, practical application and consequences of their policies. Training should therefore go beyond explaining what employees must do. It should develop their ability to understand why particular requirements matter, identify risks and make informed decisions within their authority. Equally important is creating an environment where employees can question inefficient processes without being perceived as challenging management. Understanding a policy should encourage responsible judgement, not blind acceptance. Of course, competence does not give employees permission to disregard established rules. Rather, it strengthens their ability to comply meaningfully while recognising when procedures require clarification or improvement. Ultimately, organisations should aspire to develop employees who are not only capable of following instructions, but sufficiently knowledgeable to understand their responsibilities and the consequences of their decisions. Compliance may protect an organisation from doing things incorrectly, but competence enables it to understand how to do the right things effectively. Perhaps the real measure of organisational maturity is not how faithfully employees follow procedures, but how deeply they understand the principles those procedures were designed to protect.



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“Windhoek is full, go home!”

The capital is buckling under the weight of urbanisation, yet Namibia continues to concentrate opportunity, services and economic activity in one city.

If government wants to ease the pressure on Windhoek, it must stop treating decentralisation as a slogan and start making it work.

There is something deeply troubling about the City of Windhoek having to explain to Parliament that it cannot keep pace with the influx of people into the capital. It is not merely a municipal problem. It is an indictment of how Namibia has organised its development since independence.

When the capital’s Chief Executive Officer, Moses Matyayi, reportedly told a parliamentary hearing that approximately 12,000 people arrive in Windhoek and remain there every year, he was describing a challenge that extends far beyond the city’s administrative boundaries. It is a national development failure, and central government cannot continue to look the other way.

Perhaps the time has come for Namibia to put up an imaginary sign at the entrance to the capital: Windhoek is full, go home.

Of course, nobody should literally be told to go home. Every Namibian has the constitutional right to move freely and reside anywhere in the country. Windhoek belongs to all Namibians, not merely those fortunate enough to have been born here or to have secured a foothold in its economy. But the uncomfortable question remains: why must so many Namibians leave their hometowns, villages and regions to pursue opportunities that should, in a properly functioning national economy, exist closer to where they live?

Why should a young person from Kavango, Ohangwena, Kunene or the Zambezi feel compelled to migrate to Windhoek to find employment, access certain public services, start a business or secure a future? Why should the capital continue absorbing the consequences of economic activity that government policy should be distributing more equitably across the country?

Urbanisation is not inherently a problem. Cities grow because people seek opportunity. The problem arises when one city becomes the overwhelming destination for people whose home regions offer too few viable alternatives.

Decentralisation must mean more than transferring administrative responsibilities.

For years, Namibia has spoken about decentralisation, regional development and bringing government closer to the people. Yet the persistent concentration of opportunities in Windhoek suggests that the country has not done enough to translate those ambitions into meaningful economic change. Moving offices to regional centres is not sufficient. Decentralisation



requires the deliberate relocation of economic activity, investment, skilled employment, public institutions and essential services.

It means making Oshakati, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo, Eenhana, Keetmanshoop and other regional centres places where people

can build prosperous lives without feeling that they must eventually migrate to the capital.

It means locating appropriate government agencies outside Windhoek, strengthening regional hospitals and educational institutions, improving roads and digital connectivity, and ensuring that

businesses can operate competitively beyond the Khomas Region.

It also means empowering regional and local authorities with the funding, technical expertise and decision-making authority required to deliver results.

Central government cannot demand that people remain in their regions

while concentrating the very opportunities that attract them to Windhoek.

The City of Windhoek cannot be expected to solve a national problem with municipal resources.

Every additional resident creates demand for housing, water, sanitation, roads, public transport, waste management and other services. When population growth consistently outpaces infrastructure investment, informal settlements expand, service delivery comes under pressure and the struggle for affordable accommodation intensifies.

These pressures affect existing residents and newcomers alike.

They also expose the limitations of a development model that allows the capital to absorb population growth without adequately coordinating housing, infrastructure and employment planning.

Parliament should therefore treat Matyayi’s warning as a call for coordinated national action, not simply another municipal funding appeal.

Central government must work with the City of Windhoek to establish a realistic urban growth strategy, supported by infrastructure investment and clear responsibilities. It must also develop a properly funded decentralisation programme with measurable targets, timelines and accountability.

Which institutions can be relocated? Which regional towns can support new industries? What incentives will encourage businesses to invest outside the capital? How much public investment will be directed towards those centres, and how will progress be measured?

These are questions requiring answers, not another round of consultations followed by another policy document.

Namibia cannot reverse urbanisation by discouraging people from moving. It can, however, reduce the desperation that drives migration by creating credible alternatives elsewhere.

The irony is that decentralisation would not only relieve pressure on Windhoek. It could unlock neglected regional economies, create employment closer to communities, strengthen local markets and make national development more inclusive. The capital will always attract people. That is normal. What is neither inevitable nor acceptable is a situation in which geography increasingly determines access to opportunity. Windhoek is not full of Namibians. It is full of the consequences of a national development strategy that has yet to distribute opportunity widely enough.

If government wants fewer people arriving in the capital out of economic necessity, it must give them compelling reasons to stay where they are.

Until then, the sign may remain imaginary, but the frustration behind it is real.

What happened to Windhoek’s parks?

Why does the City of Windhoek still have a Parks Department if it cannot maintain the only park left in the capital?

And while we are asking uncomfortable questions, why are the Tintenpalast Gardens still closed to the public after more than a decade, ostensibly because of vaguely stated “security concerns”?

The Windhoek Observer in an earlier article wrote at length about that. These are not merely questions about grass, gardens and flower beds. They are questions about what kind of city Windhoek wants to be, how public money is being used and whether public spaces are still regarded as essential municipal services. Zoo Park was once more than a patch of greenery in the centre of Windhoek. It was a gathering place. Its amphitheatre hosted shows and television launches. Families used the park. Young people gathered there. Residents had somewhere to sit, walk, relax and participate in public life. Today, even the city’s chief executive officer, Moses Matyayi, has acknowledged that the municipality cannot guarantee safety in certain parts of the park. That should be a profound embarrassment for the capital. Appearing before a parliamentary standing committee, Matyayi warned that the municipality could not guarantee safety based on its assessment and that members of the public could potentially be injured, exposing the municipality to legal claims.

If a public park has deteriorated to the point where its own municipality warns residents about their safety, the question must surely be asked: where has the municipal parks management system failed? More importantly, how long is the public expected to wait? The municipality says it is pursuing landscaping and irrigation improvements and has advertised a tender to prequalify service providers for horticultural landscaping, greenery enhancement and irrigation upgrades over six months. That is welcome. But it is also difficult to ignore the fact that Windhoek has been discussing the rehabilitation of Zoo Park for years. MP Vaino Angula reportedly questioned why the park’s amphitheatre has remained unused for more than 15 years. Fifteen years is not a temporary setback. It is a generation. A child who watched the amphitheatre fall into disuse 15 years ago is now old enough to have children of their own. What happened?

And where is the accountability for allowing a public asset to deteriorate for so long? There have been plans before. In November 2023, the City decided to enter into a memorandum of agreement with Innovate Group to coordinate private-sector financial or technical support for the renovation of Zoo Park. The proposed arrangement reportedly included a maintenance component intended to reduce municipal maintenance and security costs over a decade. Yet the public still does not appear to know whether that agreement was implemented, how much money was raised, what work was undertaken or why the park remains in its current condition. Those are reasonable questions.



They become even more reasonable when historical figures show that the park generated less than N\$15 000 in revenue in 2023, while security cost about N\$12 000 a month and horticultural maintenance approximately N\$25 700 a month. Clearly, Zoo Park is unlikely to become a commercial gold mine simply by planting more flowers. But perhaps that misses the point. Public parks are not supposed to exist solely because they make money. They exist because cities need public spaces. A functioning capital requires places where people can walk, exercise, meet, hold events, take their children and simply breathe. And that brings us back to the Parks Department. What exactly is its mandate? How many parks are being maintained?

What is the annual budget? What are its performance indicators? How often are facilities inspected? Who is responsible when a public recreational facility becomes unusable? The City has also advertised an expression of interest for feasibility studies into parks and recreational business opportunities across Windhoek. Again, this is potentially useful. But residents should not have to wait for another study to answer questions that should already be part of basic municipal management. And then there is Tintenpalast. For more than a decade, the gardens surrounding one of Namibia’s most important national buildings have effectively been unavailable as a public recreational space. The explanation has generally centred

on security. But security concerns cannot become a permanent justification for closing public space without a transparent explanation of what those concerns are, whether they remain valid and whether alternatives have been considered. Could controlled access work? Could opening hours be introduced? Could additional security measures be implemented? Could parts of the gardens be made accessible while protecting the National Assembly and government offices? Namibians deserve answers. The issue is bigger than Zoo Park or Tintenpalast Gardens. It is about a capital city that appears increasingly short of attractive, safe and accessible public spaces. Windhoek cannot aspire to be a

modern African capital while allowing its recreational spaces to decay and its potentially valuable public gardens to remain inaccessible indefinitely. The City of Windhoek needs to explain what went wrong at Zoo Park, what happened to previous rehabilitation initiatives, what the current plan will cost and when residents can realistically expect to see results. And the government needs to explain why the Tintenpalast Gardens remain closed and what would have to happen for the public to reclaim access to this important national space. The public should not have to ask whether Windhoek still has a Parks Department. It should be able to see the evidence of its work.



Gold strategy offers Namibia a stronger financial shield

Namibia's decision to build its gold reserves is a welcome step towards strengthening the country's financial resilience, diversifying its international reserves and making better strategic use of its mineral wealth.

The Bank of Namibia has already purchased 425kg of gold from local mining companies under its gold accumulation programme, bringing it closer to its target of 600kg. The initiative, launched last year, represents a practical recognition that economic security depends not only on how much a country earns, but also on how wisely it protects and manages its wealth.

Deputy governor Nicholas Mukasa said a significant portion of the recent increase in international reserves came from gold purchases, highlighting the growing contribution of the programme to the country's financial position.

Namibia's international reserves increased from N\$58 billion at the end of July to N\$59.3 billion at the end of September.

The Bank of Namibia estimates that these reserves provide 3.6 months of import cover and remain adequate to support the currency peg and meet international financial obligations.

These figures matter in a world where geopolitical tensions, volatile commodity prices and uncertain financial markets can quickly place pressure on smaller economies. Gold offers an additional layer of protection. Unlike foreign currency assets, which can be affected by monetary policy decisions and



movements in exchange rates, gold provides a different source of value within a reserve portfolio. Its price can fluctuate considerably, but it has historically served as a recognised store of value during periods of financial and geopolitical uncertainty. Mukasa explained that gold

complements the central bank's traditional reserve assets because the different holdings do not necessarily move in the same direction. That diversification is the essence of prudent reserve management: avoiding excessive dependence on one asset class or source of financial security.

Namibia is not alone in recognising this opportunity. South Africa, with its long-established gold mining industry, maintains gold among its official reserve assets alongside foreign currency holdings. Ghana has also pursued a domestic gold purchasing strategy through its

central bank, seeking to strengthen reserves while increasing the contribution of locally produced gold to national financial security. Ghana's experience is particularly relevant to Namibia. Both countries possess valuable mineral resources and must consider how commodities extracted from their soil can contribute more directly to economic stability.

Domestic gold purchasing programmes can help central banks diversify their assets while creating a more direct connection between local mining production and national reserves.

Other countries demonstrate the enduring strategic importance of gold. China has periodically increased its official gold holdings as part of a broader effort to diversify reserves.

Poland has also expanded its gold holdings, reflecting the importance some central banks attach to assets that can provide a measure of protection against external shocks. These examples do not mean that gold is a guaranteed investment or that Namibia should imitate another country's reserve strategy wholesale. Gold prices can fall, and excessive concentration in any single asset would introduce new risks. The lesson is that a carefully managed combination of assets can improve resilience.

Namibia's programme therefore deserves recognition, provided it remains guided by transparent purchasing arrangements, sound valuation practices and a clear assessment of the costs and benefits to the country.

Why ‘stunning’ assisted-dying novel Switzzy caused a Booker Prize controversy

“She ditched her family, ditched her dad, ditched most of her old friends, split Harry from William,” wrote one commentator in 2020.

“Get on a plane and go see the poor man before it’s too late,” she was told on social media about her father. All of that might need to be viewed in a different and more sympathetic light. By 2019, Meghan had received disturbing allegations about Thomas Markle, in a letter from her father’s first wife, Roslyn Loveless. She says it is why she kept her distance and also why she didn’t bring her children to him, including when she moved to the United States with her family.

That letter was shared with Meghan by the police, at a time when she was classified as a working royal. It’s not clear who else knew about the letter, including Palace officials, but it must have been a sensitive matter for her. And according to the Sussexes’ spokesman, Meghan believed an investigation into the allegations was going ahead, presumably at a time when she was on official trips and having to put on a brave face.

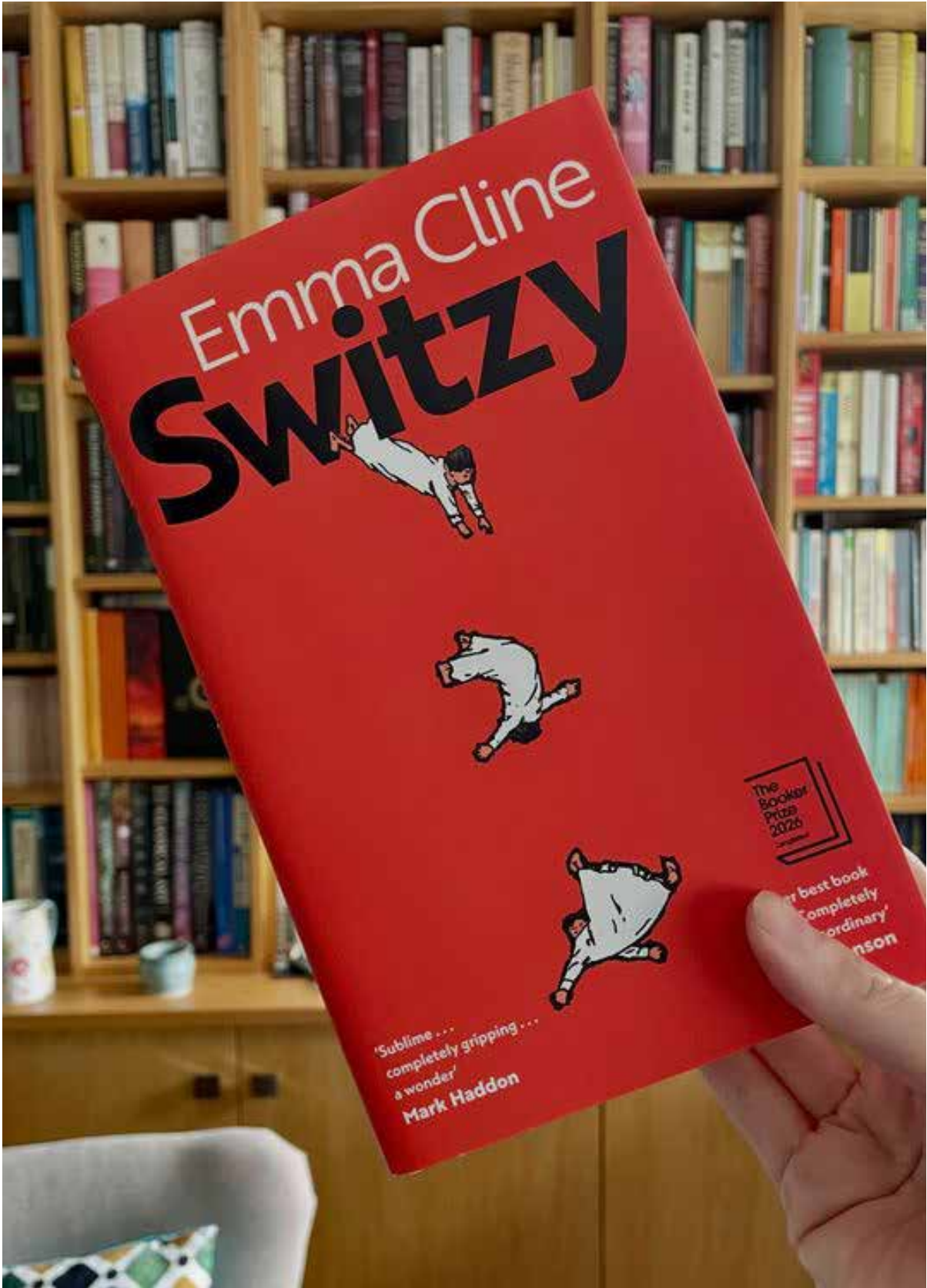
In recent years, the country has also encouraged the use of compressed natural gas to power vehicles, with natural gas plants and filling stations set up mostly in the largest city, Dar es Salaam. Some Tanzanians have been converting their vehicles to a dual-fuel system - with the locally available natural gas allowing for cheaper prices than petrol. Tanzania made its first natural gas discovery in 1974 on the Songo Songo Island in the south-east Lindi region, followed by a second discovery at Mnazi Bay in neighbouring region of Mtwara in 1982.

The commercialisation of these discoveries began in 2004. This propelled further gas exploration both onshore and offshore, with the largest single discovery of 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 2016.

Asked about the novel missing the shortlist, Booker Prize judge Patricia Lockwood said the panel had to ignore “hype cycles”. So is Switzzy simply the latest literary fad, or was the outrage over its omission justified?

What’s it about?

The novel follows the final days of David Hastings, a retired business executive with Alzheimer’s. As it begins, he is travelling to Zurich by private jet – lent to him as a parting gift from a business associate – to end his life at an assisted dying facility, rather than face “a forced march through the next brutal decade”. David is accompanied by his assistant Cody, who doles out medication and organises the itinerary for his final days. This includes a stop-off in London to have dinner with his daughter Rebecca. David has been an absent father to her, though he does not tell her just how unavailable he is about to become. To convincingly portray the deteriorating consciousness of a man with dementia – while still keeping the reader invested – is some ask, and Cline pulls it off impressively. Cline’s close third-person narrative style puts us in David’s head – a confusing place to be – where: “his brain shook information like dice in a little leather cup and then let the dice loose in a jumble on the green felt”. He keeps a small leather notebook in his pocket to remind him of things he should know: what city he is in, the name of



his grandson, how many days before he dies. The timing of the trip is important. He has already been through a rigorous assessment by the clinic and on arrival in Zurich a woman, who he dubs Ghoul, meets him in a cafe to judge if he is still lucid enough to consent. As David explains: “you had to be crazy to do this but not so crazy”. As he edges closer to his end, fragments of David’s past come back to him. It is not big events he remembers, but little things: listening to The Sound of Music soundtrack with his parents, the cowboy wallpaper in his childhood bedroom, the fabric of the first suit he ever had made for himself. Meanwhile his work, which he had done “so frantically” and which provided “the assurance that he, too, was real, that his life was something to believe in”, barely registers. He is also haunted by an act of teenage cruelty involving an old boarding-school roommate, and adamant about visiting him – he conveniently lives near Zurich –

before he goes. Cline has said she was interested in how you navigate your days when you know they are your last. “How can anyone take in the enormity of that?” she told the New Yorker. “We have a lot of systems to keep our eventual end out of our awareness – and thank God, because the awareness

would be paralysing. But David has to look into that void, if only in brief flares.” A unique reading experience While Switzzy’s themes may be heavy, its prose is not. To convincingly portray the deteriorating consciousness of a man with dementia – while still keeping the reader invested in his journey – is some ask, and

Cline pulls it off impressively. Her fragmented narrative mirrors David’s unravelling mind, jumping from past to present, from mundane observations to philosophical musings. Half-remembered songs and phrases sit alongside lucid moments of reflection. If the reader feels disorientated, it’s because Cline wants us to. We only see what David sees, or what he imagines he does. Stuck with his perspective, we also experience the growing isolation he feels as the world slowly drifts out of reach. Assisted dying is a divisive and emotive issue – the UK recently narrowly rejected proposals to legalise it – but Cline steers clear of taking any moral stance in the book. David has made his own decision long before the novel begins. It is up to us to decide what we think of it. Whatever you think of it, it’s difficult to deny that Switzzy is anything less than a daring, unique reading experience. The book is often funny too. At one point David looks out the car window to see a sign, “ausfahrt”, for an off-road ramp in Switzerland. “Assfart. Thanks a lot – assfart, very good,” thinks David, taking it as some sort of message that this world is no longer for him.

The divided reaction

Critics have largely praised Switzzy, with The Sunday Times calling it “a stunning achievement”, The Guardian describing it as “profoundly moving” and The Atlantic “gut-twisting”. Not everyone has been bowled over. A viral Substack post by Devon Halliday titled “Literary Fiction Has Lost The Plot” pulls apart the book’s “slow, vague, broody opening” line by line.

More like this:

- The literary novel causing a Hollywood scandal
 - Why tradwife satire Yesteryear is dividing readers
 - Four things Jane Austen adaptations get wrong
- A review in the Los Angeles Review of Books admires Cline’s prose and ambition but wonders how much people will connect with David. “Cline sets a challenge for herself of convincing readers they should expend time and energy on a story about an unpleasant one-percenter’s final days,” writes Nick Roberts. -BBC

NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

Project Name: Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment of exploration activities for dimension stones, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL 10747, Karibib District, Erongo Region.

Project Location: The EPL 10747 is situated approximately 36 Km south of Karibib in Erongo Region.

Project Description: The proposed project includes establishment of exploration activities for dimension stones, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL 10747, Karibib District, Erongo Region.

Proponent: Mr. Esser Pawa Naukoshu

In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007 and EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) are hereby invited to register, request for Background Information Document (BID) and submit inputs on the email provided below, on or before 06 November 2026. A public participation meeting will be conducted as follows:

Place: Karibib Community Hall, Erongo Region

Date: 24 October 2026

Time: 10h00 am

For any inquiries please contact:

Consultant: Omapiji Tagrya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS TRADING CC

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environam Consultants Trading cc (ECT) hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAME: Proposed 1 Tonne Per Day Cathode Copper Production Project on Portion 59 (A Portion of Portion 8) of the Consolidated Farm Okahandja Townlands No. 277, Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

PROJECT LOCATION: Portion 59 (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Consolidated Farm Okahandja Townlands No. 277, Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project will comprise the following processes:

- Crushing, Agitation Leaching, Filtration, Extraction-Stripping, and Electrowinning.

PROPOSITOR: Hafa Peak Investments CC

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing, kindly contact:

Email: colin@environam.com

Mobile: +264 81 458 4297/+264 81 240 5365 on or before **23 October 2026**.

A public consultation meeting will be held on site at **Portion 59** (a Portion of Portion 8) of the Consolidated Farm Okahandja Townlands No. 277, Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region on **Friday, 16 October 2026** at **10:00-11:00**.

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
MINERAL EXPLORATION ON EPL 9020

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012).

Location: The license area is located about 60 km west of Khorixas. The proponent intends to explore for Copper, Gold, Silver and Lithium. Exploration methods may include geological mapping, geophysical surveys, sampling and drilling.

Proponent: New Wind Investment (Pty) Ltd

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before **15/11/2026**. Contact details for registration and further information:

Impala Environmental Consulting

Mr. S. Andjamba
Email: public@impalac.com, **Tel:** 0856630598



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 1000 MW SOLAR PLANT IN BETHANIE, KARAS REGION.

OUTRUN CONSULTANTS CC HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 1000 MW SOLAR PLANT.

The exact location of the project site is highlighted in the Background and Invitation to participate Document (BID). An EIA is being commissioned as required under the Environmental Management Act, 7 of 2007 and Regulations of 2012. Interested and Affected Parties are invited to register and attend meetings as detailed below.

PROPONENT(S): ENGHONO POWER COMPANY (PTY) LTD

PROJECT ACTIVITIES: DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 1000 MW SOLAR PLANT.

CONTACT DETAILS: Josiah – 0812 683 578,

E-Mail: outrungreeninfo@gmail.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROPOSED SMALL-SCALE COPPER, SILVER AND ZINC MINING ACTIVITIES ON MINING CLAIMS MC76695, MC76696, MC76697, MC76699, MC76700, MC76701, MC76702 AND MC76703, KHOWARIB–WARMQUELLE AREA, KUNENE REGION, NAMIBIA

Notice is hereby given to the public and all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that **Yaokang Investment CC** has appointed **Augite Environmental Consultants CC** as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake an Environmental Scoping Assessment (ESA) and prepare an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed small-scale copper, silver and zinc mining activities.

The environmental assessment is being conducted in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007), and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2012, in support of an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVITATION TO COMMENT

All Interested and Affected Parties, including local communities, Traditional Authorities, conservancies, landowners, farmers, businesses, government institutions and other stakeholders, are hereby invited to register and submit comments, concerns or recommendations regarding the proposed project.

Stakeholders are encouraged to raise matters relating to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, including water resources, biodiversity, land use, livestock and grazing, employment opportunities, community health and safety, and rehabilitation.

A public consultation meeting may be arranged and announced separately should further stakeholder engagement or enquiries be required.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Interested and Affected Parties wishing to register, obtain further project information or submit comments should contact:

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Augite Environmental Consultants CC

Contact Person: Dr Ismael Kanguechi

Email: kkanguechi0@gmail.com

Telephone: +264 81 706 9027

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION AND COMMENTS: 24 OCTOBER 2026

All comments received will be recorded and considered during the environmental assessment process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONCERNS ARE ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED.



REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10 (1) of the Regulations relating to the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), that **Afrishine Investment CC**, intend to submit an application to the Otjiwarongo Municipality and the Urban and Regional Planning Board **in terms of section 105(1)(a)(f) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)** on behalf of the registered owners for the:

- **The rezoning of Erf 454 (A Portion of Erf No. 906), Otjiwarongo from Residential 1 with a density 1:700 to Residential 2 with a density of 1:100,**
- **Deletion of conditions relating to land and**
- **Consent to construct and operate a guesthouse whilst rezoning is in process**

Erf 454 is situated within the Otjiwarongo Proper Township, specifically within the Central Business District area along Ramblers Street. The property is currently zoned Residential Zone 1 with a density of 1:700 m² and measures approximately 1,229 m² in extent.

The surrounding area is characterised by a diverse mix of land uses, including Residential Zone 1 and 2, Local Authority, Institutional, as well as private and public open spaces. The varied nature of these surrounding land uses contributes to the established mixed-use character of the area and provides an appropriate context for the proposed development.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of Notice Board of the Otjiwarongo Municipality Main office. The consultation with neighboring erf owners duly has been put in motion too.

The full application, locality plans and rezoning plans lie for inspection during the normal working hours at the Otjiwarongo Town Planning Division.

Do take note too that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Chief Executive Officer, Otjiwarongo Municipality, Private Bag 2209, Otjiwarongo and/or the applicant in writing within **14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/ objections is thus 6th November 2026.**

Applicant:
Afrishine Investment CC
P O Box 793
Swakopmund
Mobile: +264 81 3236024/ +264 81 285 7500
E-mail: afrishineinvestment75@gmail.com

REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10 (1) of the Regulations relating to the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), that **Afrishine Investment CC**, intend to submit an application to the Keetmanshoop Municipality and the Urban and Regional Planning Board **in terms of section 105(1)(a)(f) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)** on behalf of the registered owners for the:

- **Rezoning of Erf 339 Keetmanshoop from Residential I with a density of 1:600m² to Residential III with a density of 1:100m²,**
- **Deletion of Conditions Relating to Land, and**
- **Consent to Operate the Accommodation establishment whilst the rezoning is in process**

Erf 339 is located in Keetmanshoop’s CBD are and is situated along a 22m wide Street. The property measures 1 600m² in extent and with an existing main dwelling and out dwellings. It is proposed that **Erf 339, Keetmanshoop** be rezoned from “residential I” with a density of 1:600 to “residential III” to allow the owner of the property to fully develop residential units on the property with the possibility to operate a self-catering establishment on some of the rooms. The current zoning restricts the utilization of either one of the proposed developments mentioned above.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of Notice Board of the Keetmanshoop Municipality. The consultation with neighboring erf owners duly has been put in motion too.

The full application, locality plans and rezoning plans lie for inspection during the normal working hours at the Keetmanshoop Town Planning Division.

Do take note too that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Keetmanshoop Municipality, **Private Bag 2125, Keetmanshoop** and/or the applicant in writing within **14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/ objections is thus 6th November 2026.**

Applicant:
Afrishine Investment CC
P O Box 793
Swakopmund
Mobile: +264 81 3236024/ +264 81 285 7500
E-mail: afrishineinvestment75@gmail.com

REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10 (1) of the Regulations relating to the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), that **Afrishine Investment CC**, intend to submit an application to the Gobabis Municipality and the Urban and Regional Planning Board **in terms of section 105(1)(a) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)** on behalf of the registered owners for the:

- **Rezoning of Erf 1039, Gobabis Extension 7 from “Residential” with a density of 1: Erf to “General residential 2” with a density of 1:100 and**
- **Consent to commence with the proposed development whilst rezoning is still in process.**

Erf 1039 is located in Kameelboom Street in Extension 7 along a 25m wide street. The property is currently zoned Residential with a density of 1 per Erf and measures 1 174m² in extent. The immediate surrounding erven to the site are characterized by single residential and business zoned erven, which makes the surrounding area dominantly residential in character.

It is proposed that **Erf 1309, Gobabis Extension 7** be rezoned from “residential” with a density of 1: ERF to “residential 2” to allow the owner of the property to develop 7 residential units on the property. The current zoning restricts the proposed development.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of Notice Board of the Gobabis Municipality. The consultation with neighboring erf owners duly has been put in motion too.

The full application, locality plans and rezoning plans lie for inspection during the normal working hours at the Gobabis Town Planning Division.

Do take note too that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Chief Executive Officer, Gobabis Municipality, **P O Box 22, Gobabis** and/or the applicant in writing within **14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/ objections is thus 6th November 2026.**

Applicant:
Afrishine Investment CC
P O Box 793
Swakopmund
Mobile: +264 81 3236024/ +264 81 285 7500
E-mail: afrishineinvestment75@gmail.com

REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10 (1) of the Regulations relating to the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), that **Afrishine Investment CC**, intend to submit an application to the Keetmanshoop Municipality and the Urban and Regional Planning Board **in terms of section 105(1)(a) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)** on behalf of the registered owners for the:

- **Rezoning of Erf 2517, Tseiblaagte Extension 5 from Residential I with a density of 1:300m² to Hospitality and**
- **Consent to construct and operate the accommodation establishment whilst the rezoning is in process**

Erf 2517 is located in the Tseiblaagte within Extension 5 along 10-meter-wide Street. The property is currently zoned Residential Zone I with a density of 1:300m² and measures 460m² in extent. The immediate surrounding erven to the site are characterized by residential zoned erven. It is proposed that **Erf 2517, Tseiblaagte Extension 5** be rezoned to “hospitality” to allow the owner of the property to fully develop residential units to allow the owner of the property to fully operate a self-catering establishment. Upon approval, the development will be registered with the Namibia Tourism Board. The current zoning restricts the utilization of the entire erf for the proposed establishment.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of Notice Board of the Keetmanshoop Municipality. The consultation with neighbouring erf owners duly has been put in motion too.

The full application, locality plans and rezoning plans lie for inspection during the normal working hours at the Keetmanshoop Town Planning Division.

Do take note too that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Keetmanshoop Municipality, **Private Bag 2125, Keetmanshoop** and/or the applicant in writing within **14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/ objections is thus 6th November 2026.**

Applicant:
Afrishine Investment CC
P O Box 793
Swakopmund
Mobile: +264 81 3236024/ +264 81 285 7500
E-mail: afrishineinvestment75@gmail.com

REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10 (1) of the Regulations relating to the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act No. 5 of 2018), that **Afrishine Investment CC**, intend to submit an application to the Keetmanshoop Municipality and the Urban and Regional Planning Board **in terms of section 105(1)(a) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018)** on behalf of the registered owner of Erf 339, Keetmanshoop for the:

- **The rezoning of Erf 1500 (A Portion of erf 1450) Keetmanshoop from Residential I with a density of 1:750 to Residential III with a density of 1:100 and**
- **Consent to construct whilst rezoning is in process**

Erf 1500 is located in the Keetmanshoop Proper Township also known as Noordhoek along a 22m wide street. The property is currently zoned Residential Zone I with a density of 1:750m² and measures 1 304m² in extent. The immediate surrounding erven to the site are characterized by residential zoned properties. It is proposed that **Erf 1500, Keetmanshoop** be rezoned to “residential III” to allow the owner of the property to fully develop residential units on the property.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of Notice Board of the Keetmanshoop Municipality. The consultation with neighbouring erf owners duly has been put in motion too.

The full application, locality plans and rezoning plans lie for inspection during the normal working hours at the Keetmanshoop Town Planning Division.

Do take note too that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Keetmanshoop Municipality, **Private Bag 2125, Keetmanshoop** and/or the applicant in writing within **14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/ objections is thus 6th November 2026.**

Applicant:
Afrishine Investment CC
P O Box 793
Swakopmund
Mobile: +264 81 3236024/ +264 81 285 7500
E-mail: afrishineinvestment75@gmail.com



Dakar was originally due to host the Youth Olympics in 2022 but it was postponed to this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic

All you need to know about the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics

EMMANUEL AKINDUBUWA
BBC SPORT AFRICA

On Saturday, 31 October the Olympic rings will be raised for an event hosted on African soil for the first time as Senegal stages the Youth Olympic Games. The cities of Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly will host 15 days of competition running until 13 November. About 2,700 athletes are set to compete across 25 sports, with 153 medal events. There will also be 10 engagement sports held without medals awarded. What are the Youth Olympics? Organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the event is an elite multi-sport competition for athletes predominantly aged from 15 to 17. The aim is not only to inspire young people, but also to promote Olympic values and encourage them to see sport as a vehicle for peace and solidarity. First held in Singapore in 2010, the Youth

Olympics contain several elements of the senior Games but add newer sports, mixed-gender events and cultural activities. Nanjing, China, staged the second edition in 2014 and Argentina's capital Buenos Aires was the venue four years later. Dakar was due to host in 2022 before the Covid-19 pandemic forced its postponement. Since its inception, several participants have gone on to top the podium at the Olympic Games. South African swimmer Chad le Clos and British taekwondo athlete Jade Jones featured at the inaugural edition in Singapore and two years later became Olympic champions at London 2012. American sprinter Noah Lyles claimed 200m gold in Nanjing 12 years ago before winning 100m gold at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Why is it big news for Africa? Having the Youth Olympics in Senegal is "monumental" for the continent, according to IOC official Christophe

Dubi. "Africa has hosted many international competitions but this is the first time we have anything labelled with the Olympic rings," he told BBC Sport Africa. Thierno Cisse, deputy chief operating officer of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), says the whole country feels the weight of the moment. "We know we are going to be ambassadors for Africa," he said. "It's really important for us to proudly represent the whole continent and show that Africa has high standards." There is another link to the top of the Olympic movement. Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry, who last year became the first woman and first African to be elected president of the IOC, previously chaired the coordination commission for Dakar 2026.

Youth unemployment remains a pressing issue across much of Africa, the world's youngest continent, including in Senegal.

While some residents remain sceptical, organisers hope these Games can provide both immediate and longer-term benefits through employment, tourism, volunteer programmes and skills development. More than 400 young Africans have already received training in event operations, logistics, technology, accreditation and venue management. "The impact will be much wider," Dubi claimed. "It starts with sports and this is where it will permeate across the continent."

What sports will feature

at the Youth Olympics? Baseball5, a simplified version of the traditional game, is one of three sports making its debut at the Youth Olympics alongside skateboarding and martial art Wushu Taolu. Nineteen of the 25 competition sports, including athletics, swimming and more youth-focused events like breaking and skateboarding, are ones which were held at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Beach handball, beach wrestling, futsal and rowing coastal beach sprints are also included alongside Baseball5 and Wushu Taolu, which are both making their debut at the Youth Olympics. Baseball5, an urban, simplified version of traditional baseball requiring no equipment, will kick off competition at Dakar 2026 on Friday, 30 October. Wushu Taolu is a modern Chinese martial art practiced competitively via choreographed sequences and sparring, while the coastal rowing takes place on the sea, unlike traditional Olympic rowing. Golf, karate and surfing are among the 10 engagement sports staged to encourage participation among locals. Climbing, hockey, modern pentathlon, paddlesport (canoe slalom and canoe sprint), shooting, tennis and weightlifting round out the events intended to deliver gender equality across the Youth Olympics for the first time. Africa prepares for historic Olympic moment at Dakar 2026
Published 23 July

Where will it happen? Rather than constructing an expensive collection of new venues, organisers have focused on renovating and repurposing existing facilities that can continue serving local communities after the Games. Dakar hosts athletics, rugby sevens and futsal at the historic Iba Mar Diop complex, while swimming, 3x3 basketball, breaking, skateboarding and Baseball5 will take place at the waterfront Tour de l'Oeuf complex. -BBC

GOSSIP

England winger Jadon Sancho has turned down an offer from La Liga side Getafe, but has an offer from Saudi Arabia. The 26-year-old has been a free agent since leaving Manchester United in the summer. (Marca – in Spanish), external

France forward Desire Doue, 21, is in contract talks with Paris St-Germain as the Ligue 1 side look to secure his long-term future in the face of interest from Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City. (Teamtalk), external

Everton are considering a move for 28-year-old Manchester United and England forward Marcus Rashford. (Football Insider), external

Liverpool are in contact with Monaco and Senegal midfielder Lamine Camara, 22, who nearly joined Chelsea over the summer. (Sun), external

Chelsea remain keen admirers of Everton's 24-year-old English defender Jarrad Branthwaite, but face competition from Manchester United. (Football Insider), external

Everton are monitoring Real Sociedad and Iceland striker Orri Oskarsson, 22, as they look to strengthen their attacking options. (Teamtalk), external

Chelsea are weighing up a move for Spain and Barcelona midfielder Fermin Lopez, with Paris St-Germain also interested in the 23-year-old. (CaughtOffside), external

Leeds United will attempt to sign Porto's Nigerian left-back Zaidu Sanusi, 29, in January. (Football Insider), external

Arsenal, Manchester United, and Chelsea are among the clubs eyeing Como midfielder Nico Paz, although the Serie A side have no intention of selling the 22-year-old Argentina international. (Teamtalk) Liverpool, Barcelona and Real Madrid are among the top European clubs keen on Stuttgart's 20-year-old German centre-back Finn Jeltsch. (Sport - in Spanish), external

Chelsea are fully focused on signing Alex Scott from Bournemouth after his move fell through in the summer, with the 23-year-old England midfielder also on Liverpool's shortlist. (Florian Plettenberg), external

Chelsea, Manchester City, Arsenal, Tottenham and Newcastle have all scouted Club Brugge's Germany youth international Nicolo Tresoldi. (Teamtalk), external

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