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"We will forget you, comrade, we will forget you."



Court stops auction of Bennie's Entertainment Park

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

The High Court has stopped the planned auction of businessman Benjamin Hauwanga's 100% ownership interest in Bennie's Entertainment Park and Lodge, which was scheduled for Saturday, following an urgent application challenging the legal process behind the sale.

In an order issued on Thursday, judge Michael Mtambo interdicted and restrained the deputy sheriff for Windhoek from proceeding with the judicial sale, ruling that the auction could not go ahead until compliance with Rule 106(4) of the High Court rules.

The auction had been scheduled for 28 November 2026 at 09:00, following enforcement proceedings initiated by Bank Windhoek.

Hauwanga approached the court alongside Bennie's Entertainment Park and Lodge, arguing that the sale of his entire ownership interest could result in him permanently losing control of the business before a separate legal dispute with the bank is resolved.

The court ordered that the judicial sale be stayed pending compliance with Rule 106(4).

The order further prohibits the deputy sheriff from conducting

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At a glance...

- **High Court halts auction of Hauwanga's 100% stake in Bennie's Entertainment Park.**
- **Bank Windhoek's debt recovery and suretyship claims challenged by Hauwanga.**
- **Auction suspended pending compliance with High Court procedural rules.**



Benjamin Hauwanga



Bennie's Entertainment Park and Lodge

One nurse for 40 patients at Oshakati hospital

DESMARIUS HANSEN
Staff Writer

Oshakati Intermediate Hospital is shouldering the burden of an entire district hospital, with nurses reportedly attending to as many as 30 to 40 patients each, while the long-awaited construction of Ondangwa District Hospital remains outstanding.

The absence of a district hospital in the Oshana Region has forced Oshakati Intermediate Hospital to handle both routine medical cases and serious referrals, placing mounting pressure on its healthcare workers, wards and services.

Raising the concern during parliamentary contributions on the 2026 Mid-Year Budget Review under Vote 13, National Council member Andreas Amundjindi said the situation was placing an unsustainable burden on the hospital.

He said patients who would ordinarily be treated at a district hospital were instead being referred to Oshakati Intermediate Hospital because there was no alternative facility serving that purpose in the region.

According to Amundjindi, the hospital is consequently handling routine cases, including uncomplicated deliveries, malaria cases and simple fractures, while simultaneously attending to emergencies such as severe malaria, pregnancy-related bleeding, road accidents, operations and specialist care.

He warned that the arrangement was compromising the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery, with medical staff struggling to cope with the patient load.

"One nurse looks after 30 to 40 patients instead of 10 while doctors work 24 hour shifts," he said.

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At a glance...

- **Oshakati nurses reportedly care for up to 40 patients each amid overcrowding and staff shortages.**
- **Delays in constructing Ondangwa District Hospital are adding pressure on Oshakati and Onandjokwe hospitals.**
- **Rural healthcare facilities face shortages despite unemployed qualified nurses and suspended recruitment..**

MTC commits N$135.6m to sponsorships and social investment

MTC has announced a N$135.6 million investment in sponsorships and corporate social investment (CSI) over the next three years, allocating N$45.2 million annually to sport, education, health, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability and community development.

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NATIONAL

SSC yet to resolve claimant's benefits

...as labour ministry refers sick-leave and injury-on-duty claims to commission

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

The ministry of labour has referred a long-running dispute between heart patient Simson Nakanyala and the Social Security Commission (SSC) to the commission's executive office, after confirming that his sick-leave and injury-on-duty benefits remain unresolved.

The development comes after the SSC confirmed that Nakanyala's disability benefit was paid in 2023, but maintained that his sick-leave claim had been "rejected because he was receiving a State disability grant."

Nakanyala disputes the handling of the outstanding claims, saying the N$12 000 he received was for disability and not sick leave.

He says the delays have affected his ability to return to work and provide for his family.

"Why are they dragging the matter like this, how many more people or cases are they dragging? I cannot lift heavy weights or operate heavy machinery anymore because of my condition and this has left me without a proper job to provide for myself and my family like I used to," he told the Windhoek Observer.

He has also called on the office of the Ombudsman to intervene.

In a letter dated 11 November 2026, chief inspector of occupational safety and health Johannes Shihepo confirmed that Nakanyala's "disability benefit had been paid, while his sick-leave benefit and compensation for injury on duty remained outstanding."

The letter followed a complaint submitted by Nakanyala on 3 November 2026.

Shihepo said the chief inspector of industries had visited the SSC on 5 October to follow up on the matter.

During the visit, a supervisor indicated that the complaint had been escalated to manager of national claims Edwig Theodor and Windhoek branch manager Ben Haingura.



The ministry subsequently referred the complaint to SSC executive officer Cecilia Makando, requesting a formal response on the status and anticipated resolution of the outstanding benefits.

However, the letter does not indicate that the ministry ordered the commission to make payment or that the matter has been resolved.

In a separate written response earlier this year, Haingura, with Makando copied, confirmed that Nakanyala's disability claim had been received and paid in 2023.

The commission said the "benefit was approved under section 31 of the Social Security Act and that the decision had never been reversed."

It attributed "delays in processing the claims to late submission and missing supporting documentation."

The SSC further stated that sick-leave and disability claims should be submitted within 30 days of the incident and are payable within 30 days of submission.

Regarding the sick-leave claim, the commission said it had been rejected because Nakanyala was receiving a State disability grant.

It said he had been given the right to appeal, but no appeal had been received.

The commission added that its rejection letter had been collected by Nakanyala at its Oshakati branch on 17 June 2025.

However, the SSC did not identify the specific grant, the period for which it was paid or the amounts involved. It also did not explain how the grant affected his eligibility for sick-leave benefits.

He also asked the commission to provide documentation showing which benefits it had paid.

A letter dated 5 February 2026 shows that Nakanyala subsequently wrote to Haingura and Makando, challenging the handling of his sick-leave benefit and requesting urgent attention.

However, the available correspondence does not establish when Nakanyala's letter was delivered, whether it was formally registered as an appeal or whether the commission considered it.

The distinction is important because the SSC's response maintained that no appeal had been received, while the claimant's letter shows that he had continued corresponding with the commission over the disputed benefit.

The matter has since reached the ministry, which has asked the SSC's executive office to account for the status of the outstanding claims.

Nakanyala says the unresolved matter has left him "unable to return to the kind of work he previously did."

He wants the commission to "explain why the sick-leave and injury-on-duty claims remain outstanding despite years of follow-ups."

The Windhoek Observer sent questions to Haingura on 31 August, 23 and 26 November 2026 seeking clarification on the status of the claims, the basis for rejecting the sick-leave benefit, the February correspondence and the ministry's referral.

The commission had not responded by the time of publication.

Court stops auction of Bennie's Entertainment Park

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or giving effect to the sale until the requirements of the rule have been met.

The dispute stems from Bank Windhoek's efforts to recover money through summary judgment proceedings, which Hauwanga is challenging in a separate case.

In his founding affidavit, Hauwanga disputed the bank's claim that Bennie's had stood surety for loans allegedly advanced to him and his wife, Mirjam Summah Hauwanga.

He argued that the company was not a party to the commercial loan agreement concluded on 11 June 2026 and had never undertaken to stand surety for the alleged debt.

Hauwanga further claimed that the bank had obtained summary judgment on 2 July 2026 without disclosing material information about the transactions underlying the loan agreement.

According to his affidavit, the bank had previously instituted proceedings in 2024 seeking more than N$170 million against several entities, but those proceedings were subsequently removed from the court roll on 6 June 2024.

> "Hauwanga approached the court alongside Bennie's Entertainment Park and Lodge, arguing that the sale of his entire ownership interest could result in him permanently losing control of the business before a separate legal dispute with the bank is resolved.

He alleged that the bank later entered into a commercial loan agreement with him and his wife for an amount exceeding N$140 million, despite the funds allegedly not having been advanced to them as cash.

Hauwanga claimed that the bank had instead transferred existing indebtedness dating back to 2023 into a loan account created in his name.

He further alleged that the bank debited an account in his name with N$148,940,579.99 on 31 May 2024, before the commercial loan agreement was concluded on 11 June 2026.

He argued that the bank's own statements showed that more than N$60 million had been deducted from the account of BH Spares and Accessories Equipment and Technologies CC between 2024 and 2025, with corresponding credits made to the loan account.

Hauwanga maintained that these transactions demonstrated that the bank had not advanced the alleged loan funds to him and his wife.

He also disputed the suretyship relied upon by the bank to obtain summary judgment against Bennie's, arguing that the company had not guaranteed his personal indebtedness.

The businessman further told the court that the bank had presented materially contradictory explanations regarding the purpose and movement of the alleged loan funds in different court proceedings.

The planned auction had previously been the subject of other urgent applications. Hauwanga said an earlier application seeking to stop a sale scheduled for 29 October 2026 was struck off for lack of urgency, while a subsequent attempt to stop the rescheduled auction on 18 November was unsuccessful.

He said the latter ruling was now the subject of an appeal before the Supreme Court.

However, he maintained that neither of the previous applications dealt with the attachment and sale of his 100% membership interest in Bennie's.

Hauwanga argued that allowing the auction to proceed would result in irreversible prejudice, as he could permanently lose his ownership interest even if his pending challenge against the bank's summary judgment eventually succeeds.

The Thursday order does not determine the merits of the underlying dispute between Hauwanga and Bank Windhoek, but prevents the sale from proceeding until the prescribed procedural requirements have been met.

The court made no order as to costs and removed the matter from the roll, regarding it as finalised.

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Zaamwani admits water crisis to haunt Namibia for years to come

DESMARIUS HANSEN
Staff Writer

Namibia is likely to experience recurring water shortages during every dry season for the next few years, as ageing infrastructure, inadequate pumping capacity and unreliable electricity continue to undermine water supply across the country.

Agriculture, fisheries, water and land reform minister Inge Zaamwani made the admission in the National Assembly on Thursday, warning that communities should brace for continued disruptions until major infrastructure upgrades are completed.

The warning comes as several regions experience water shortages, with households facing dry taps, rotational rationing and increasing reliance on water tankers.

Zaamwani said the situation was particularly concerning in the north-central regions, where demand rises sharply after seasonal water sources, including oshanas and earth dams, dry up around September.

The country's water supply is also being affected by repeated electricity interruptions. NamWater recorded 22 major power-related disruptions between April and September this year, 14 of which were unplanned.

The interruptions affect purification plants and pumping stations, with reservoirs sometimes taking weeks to recover after power failures.

The minister said the three main dams supplying Windhoek and surrounding areas were at a combined 39.4% capacity as of 16 November, compared with 63.9% during the same period last year.

Omatako Dam is completely empty. National dam storage stood at 76.4%, down from 79.7% a year ago, while the regional climate outlook points to an increased likelihood of below-normal rainfall between December and February.

> The situation was particularly concerning in the north-central regions, where demand rises sharply after seasonal water sources, including oshanas and earth dams, dry up around September.

The shortages are being felt across several regions, with infrastructure constraints and insufficient pumping capacity affecting both urban and rural communities.

In Omusati, 23 branch lines are affected, while villages around Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region have also experienced shortages, with dozens of rural branch lines without water.

In Oshikoto, more than 2 600 households are located along pipelines requiring booster pumps to improve water pressure.

The situation is also dire in Kunene, where the Opuwo purification plant produces 140 cubic metres of water per hour against an estimated demand of 250 cubic metres.

Kamanjab has introduced water rationing as borehole yields have dropped to approximately half their usual output.

In the Kavango regions, ageing infrastructure has left demand exceeding available supply, with parts of Rundu already experiencing rationing.

The government has introduced rotational rationing on stressed pipelines, deployed water tankers and is installing 95 boreholes countrywide.

It is also constructing 13 small-scale desalination plants while maintaining 24 existing facilities.

However, one proposed intervention remains without funding.

NamWater is considering installing standby generators at vulnerable treatment plants and pumping stations in the NORED supply area to limit disruptions caused by electricity failures.

The project is estimated to cost approximately N$50 million, but no funding has been secured.

Zaamwani also warned that some local authorities lose as much as 40% of the water supplied by NamWater through leaking pipes, further worsening shortages.

She urged local authorities to prioritise repairing leaks, introduce water-demand management measures and consider rationing where necessary.

Communities were also encouraged to report leakages and refrain from illegal water connections.



Zaamwani warned that water shortages could persist for years.

One nurse for 40 patients at Oshakati hospital

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Amundjindi said the pressure had left nurses exhausted, contributed to overcrowded wards and resulted in patients waiting for hours to receive medical attention.

He argued that the construction of Ondangwa District Hospital would benefit not only residents of Ondangwa and surrounding communities but also ease the burden on Oshakati and Onandjokwe hospitals.

"The land is available, visibility studies are done, but so far not even one brick has been laid," he said, referring to the progress of the proposed hospital.

He appealed to the minister of health and social services to accelerate the project, which he said had been planned for a considerable period without construction commencing.

"If the ministry accelerates the building of Ondangwa Hospital, we will not only help Ondangwa and surrounding, but we will save Oshakati and we will save Onandjokwe," he said.

His concerns come as parliament considers additional allocations and adjustments under the ministry of health and social services' budget.

Meanwhile, deputy minister of justice and labour Relations Inecia Brandt also raised concerns about healthcare delivery in rural communities, particularly in the Daures Constituency.

Supporting Vote 13, Brandt welcomed the additional N$41 million allocated to cater for 456 medical and dental interns, describing it as an investment in the country's future healthcare workforce.

However, she cautioned that strengthening the healthcare system required more than investing in interns, urging the government to ensure that rural communities also benefit from adequately staffed and equipped health facilities.

She highlighted shortages of nurses, limited access to doctors, a lack of social workers, inadequate life-support equipment and essential medicines, as well as insufficient ambulance services in Uis, Omatjete and Okombahe.

Brandt also called on the ministry to consider upgrading Uis Clinic to a health centre, citing the settlement's estimated population of 5 500 residents.

The concerns over staffing and service delivery come amid questions about the country's ability to absorb qualified healthcare professionals into a public health system struggling with personnel shortages.

In August, approximately 1 350 unemployed graduate nurses, represented by the Kenneth Human Rights Association, appealed to the health ministry to review its recruitment processes, arguing that qualified nurses remained without employment despite staffing shortages in public health facilities.



The absence of a district hospital in Oshana has left Oshakati Intermediate Hospitals carrying an additional healthcare burden. *-Photo: Contributed*

The concerns came against the backdrop of a recruitment drive during which the ministry confirmed that approximately 1 320 nurses had been employed by the end of September 2026.

However, in October, the ministry announced a suspension of new recruitment until April 2027, citing financial constraints after spending N$241 million of the N$259 million allocated for healthcare worker recruitment during the 2026/27 financial year.

Health minister Esperance Luvindao previously acknowledged that the recruitment drive would not fully address the country's staffing needs.

"We recognise that these recruitments will not meet all our needs, but we must start somewhere, and this is a good start," she said in December 2025.

The continued unemployment of qualified nurses, alongside reports of severe staffing pressures at public hospitals, raises questions about how available healthcare professionals can be deployed to facilities most in need of personnel.

NATIONAL



Picture for illustration purposes only

Namibia's N$49bn informal economy awaits govt action

ELVIS MBOYA
Staff Writer

The sector supports 58% of workers, but government must now turn policy commitments into measurable improvements.

Namibia's informal economy is valued at approximately N$49 billion in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. It contributes 26.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) and provides livelihoods for 58% of the national workforce.

Yet most people operating in the sector lack adequate social protection, access to finance and secure business premises.

The figures come from the Diagnostic of Informality in Namibia, launched in November 2025. The report puts the scale of the sector beyond dispute.

The question now is whether the government is doing enough to improve the conditions of those who depend on it.

Michael Humavindu, then executive director in the ministry of finance and chairperson of the National Working Group on Informality, described the sector as more than a collection of small trading activities.

"This sector is not a side economy; it is a pillar of our national life," Humavindu said at the launch.

He added that Namibia could not achieve shared prosperity while nearly half its workforce continued to move between survival and exclusion.

The diagnostic was jointly led by the Bank of Namibia, the ministry of industries, mines and energy and the ministry of justice and labour relations, with support from United Nations agencies.

An economy government cannot ignore

The report identifies agriculture, forestry and fishing, alongside food and accommodation services, among the sectors with particularly high levels of informal employment.

These activities sustain food production, rural livelihoods, tourism-related businesses and household incomes.

Women account for 53% of the informal workforce, according to the Bank of Namibia's summary of the findings.

But economic participation does not necessarily mean financial security.

The diagnostic puts social protection coverage among informal workers at just 0.69%.

Many operate without adequate pension arrangements, social security coverage or affordable business financing.

The sector also presents opportunities for established businesses.

Informal producers and traders could become suppliers, distributors and customers in organised agricultural, manufacturing, retail and tourism value chains.

That requires better access to finance, infrastructure and markets.

The President's warning against overregulation

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has previously called

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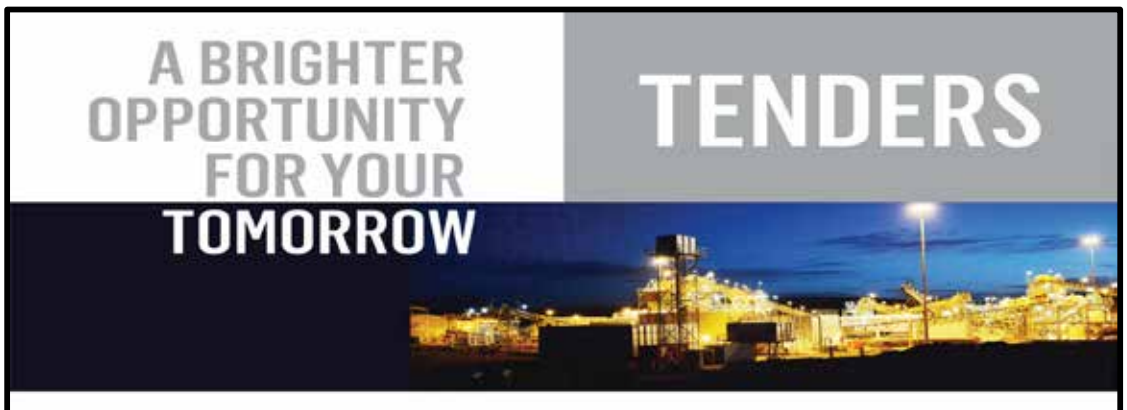

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO. E090-ND-2026

INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICAL PRACITIONER SERVICES

1. OVERVIEW

Namdeb operates a private hospital in Oranjemund that serves its employees, contractors and their dependents, as well as the broader community. Namdeb now invites reputable, suitably qualified and bona fide healthcare professionals to submit an expression of interest in providing occupational medical practitioner services.

2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The potential service provider must meet the following minimum requirements:

a) A registered Occupational Medical Practitioner with the Health Professions Council of Namibia & Ministry of Health and Social Sciences; and

b) Minimum 2 years practical experience as an Occupational Medical Practitioner;

3. EOI DOCUMENT

Interested parties may contact the following person to obtain a copy of the EOI requirements:

Ms. Elizabeth Markowitz
Tel : +264 (63) 238502
Email : Elizabeth.Markowitz@namdeb.com

4. CLOSING DATE

The closing time and date for the tender is **16h00** on **Monday, 30th November 2026**, and tenders must be delivered to the address as specified in the tender enquiry document.

www.namdeb.com

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We are currently seeking candidates for the following position:

- **Ground Handling Trainer**

Contract Type: 2-Year Fixed-Term Contract

Location: Hosea Kutako International Airport

Role Overview:
Develop and deliver ground handling training to equip staff with the skills required for safe, efficient and compliant airport operations.

Key Responsibilities:
- Deliver training in baggage, cargo and aircraft handling.
- Train and certify staff in the operation of ground support equipment.
- Develop and maintain training materials, SOPs, job descriptions, assessments and e-learning modules.
- Assess training effectiveness and staff competency, providing ongoing guidance and support.
- Ensure training complies with regulatory requirements, industry standards and company policies.

Key Requirements:
- Certified Airside Induction & AVOP Trainer, Assessor and Moderator.
- Accredited Passenger Boarding Bridge trainer for CMC, NKI AVIO, FMC/JBT, Jetway and Thyssen Krupp.
- At least 20 years' experience in ground handling training, including baggage handling, aircraft marshalling and ground support equipment operation.
- Proven experience developing and delivering training programmes, including e-learning courses.
- Strong knowledge of airport operations and ground handling procedures, with consulting experience in ramp operations and aircraft handling.
- Excellent communication, facilitation and document development skills.

Added Advantages:
- Accreditation or approval from internationally recognised organisations.
- Evidence of training or consulting experience at airports outside Namibia.

To apply, please submit a comprehensive CV and supporting documents to **www.paragonnamibia.com/careers.html**

Closing Date: 30 November 2026

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for the formalisation of informal businesses without creating additional regulatory barriers.
In September 2024, when she was Vice-President, Nandi-Ndaitwah told the third Annual MSME Forum that the sector should be formalised but not overregulated.
"Necessary frameworks to be put in place to formalise the sector, not to overregulate it, but to collect accurate and timely data that can be used by policy makers," she said.
Her remarks were delivered on her behalf by Mateus Kaholongo, then deputy executive director in the office of the Vice President.
The position provides an important benchmark for the current administration. Formalisation must not become another layer of licensing, taxation and compliance costs for businesses already struggling to survive.

The 2030 targets under scrutiny
The Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), covering 2025/26 to 2029/30, targets an increase in informal enterprises transitioning into the formal economy from 310 in 2024 to 950 by 2030.
It also seeks to increase the MSME sector's contribution to GDP from 16% to 19.4%.
These are measurable commitments. The government must account for progress.
How many enterprises have been formalised since the 2024 baseline?
What budget has been allocated?
Which institutions are responsible for delivering the targets?
Formalisation should mean more than issuing registration certificates or trading licences.
A registered trader without secure premises, electricity, water, sanitation, affordable credit or access to markets has not necessarily achieved meaningful business growth.
NDP6 recognises these barriers.
It proposes improved trading infrastructure, flexible credit facilities, lower collateral requirements, business development support and better market access.
Funding and implementation will determine whether these commitments deliver results.

NamRA wants compliance, but also growth
The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) also has a role in creating a more formal business environment.
Commissioner Sam Shivute has said the agency wants to support small businesses while ensuring compliance with tax and customs requirements.
Speaking at a December 2025 engagement with small online importers operating under the "Order with Me" model, Shivute said: "Today, you may be part of an SME. But every big business started somewhere. Our wish at NamRA is to see your businesses grow and scale up so that you can compete internationally and pay your fair share of tax."
The challenge is balancing revenue collection with the need to encourage entrepreneurship.
For informal operators, compliance costs, documentation requirements and access to guidance can determine whether formalisation becomes an opportunity or an additional burden.

From committees to measurable delivery
In August 2026, Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse inaugurated the 35-member National Steering Committee on the Informal Economy.
The committee is chaired by Diina Nashidengo, director of commerce in the ministry. David Iigonda of the ministry of justice and labour relations is deputy chairperson.
At the inauguration, Amutse identified access to finance, suitable business premises, markets and reliable infrastructure among the sector's major challenges.
The committee is expected to coordinate interventions and guide implementation of the policy roadmap covering 2026 to 2035.
But another coordination structure will not automatically improve traders' operating conditions.
The government must show how the committee will mobilise resources, coordinate local authorities and deliver against NDP6 targets. Regular public updates should disclose spending, progress and the number of enterprises benefiting.
The private sector also has a role. Banks and development finance institutions could develop working-capital facilities and flexible lending suited to businesses with irregular incomes and limited collateral.
Investors could find opportunities in agricultural aggregation, food processing, logistics, storage, distribution and digital payments.
The real test is implementation
United Nations Resident Coordinator Hopolang Phororo challenged the government and its partners to move beyond research and policy discussions at the diagnostic's launch.
"Let us commit not just to analysis, but to action. Let us build a Namibia where every job has value, every worker has rights, and no one is left behind," Phororo said.
Namibia has quantified the scale of its informal economy, established formalisation targets and created an institutional framework to coordinate interventions.
The government must now publish regular progress reports showing how many businesses have transitioned into the formal economy, how many remain operational, the financing extended to them and the jobs created.

By 2030, success should not simply be measured by registration certificates issued. It should be measured by how many businesses have become financially sustainable, created jobs and contributed to national growth.

PRIMARCH LABORATORIES

VACANCY

NOW OPENING
Primarch Laboratories Namibia

POSITION
Lab Manager, Geotechnical Department

LOCATION
Windhoek, Namibia

DEPARTMENT
Geotechnical

EMPLOYMENT
Full-time

REPORTS TO
Managing Director

CLOSING DATE
Monday, 30 November 2026

HOW TO APPLY
Submit a detailed CV, cover letter and qualifications to
hr@primarchlabs.com

Lab Manager: Geotechnical Department

Primarch Laboratories is an international testing laboratory serving engineers, contractors, mines and public-sector clients. As we open Primarch Laboratories Namibia, we are appointing a Lab Manager for its Geotechnical Department, to establish and lead the new laboratory in Windhoek, building a facility whose results can be relied upon from the first sample and guiding it towards ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

Scope of Geotechnical Testing

The laboratory's scope, which the Lab Manager will build and maintain, is summarised below.

Group	Tests and services
Classification and indicators	Grading and hydrometer analysis, Atterberg limits, linear shrinkage, moisture content, specific gravity
Compaction and bearing	MDD and OMC by Proctor and modified AASHTO, CBR, field density verification
Shear strength	Direct and large direct shear, vane shear, UCS, triaxial specimen preparation
Permeability and liners	Constant and falling head tests, sand and bentonite mixes, GCL and geomembrane support
Aggregates and rock	ACV and 10% FACT, flakiness index, abrasiveness, rock core preparation and logging
Field and site investigations	CPTu probing, vane shear, diamond core and sonic drilling, test pitting, piezometers

Methods: TMH 1, SANS 3001, ASTM and BS 1377, applied to road layer works, borrow pits, foundations, tailings and ash dams, and landfill containment.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be expected to:

- Set up and commission the laboratory, its equipment and its calibration regime.
- Manage daily operations and turnaround, and train and authorise technicians.
- Manage and coordinate teams at the home office and at field offices on site.
- Ensure testing conforms to the TMH 1, SANS 3001, ASTM and BS 1377 methods specified.
- Lead ISO/IEC 17025 implementation, internal audits and SADCAS accreditation.
- Review and sign out reports, and coordinate field and site investigations and sample custody.
- Act as client contact and enforce health, safety and environmental compliance.

Candidate Profile

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following:

- A degree in Civil or Geotechnical Engineering, or Materials Science; a Master's is an advantage.
- 5+ years in geotechnical or materials testing, including 2+ years managing teams.
- Sound knowledge of quality management systems and laboratory accreditation.
- Proficiency in SANS, ASTM, BS, TMH 1 and COLTO; CPTu or drilling exposure a plus.
- Strong leadership, communication and report-writing skills.
- ECN (Engineering Council of Namibia) registration is advantageous.
- Namibian citizenship or permanent residency preferred.

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UNIK Construction Engineering Namibia (Pty) Ltd

Unik Construction Engineering has grown from a small building contractor into a competitive large corporation with 20 years' steadfast development, Established in 1996 in Botswana, the company has established branches in Lesotho, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa in 2007, 2009 and 2013 respectively. Unik Construction Engineering Namibia (Pty) Ltd, registered in 2013, located at 26 Rensburger Street, Lafrenz, Windhoek, specializes in larger scale projects ranging from road and bridge construction, water and sewer services, residential, commercial, industrial buildings and infrastructure development.

1. Logistics Manager

Basic requirements :

- Develop and implement project logistics plans to ensure timely delivery of materials, equipment, and supplies.
- Coordinate transportation, customs clearance, warehousing, and distribution activities.
- Monitor inventory levels and ensure uninterrupted project operations.
- Manage relationships with suppliers, freight forwarders, and logistics service providers.
- Coordinate import and export documentation and regulatory compliance requirements.
- Optimize logistics processes to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.
- Monitor logistics performance and prepare management reports.
- Support project teams with logistics planning and resource allocation.
- Ensure compliance with company policies and local regulations.
- Manage and supervise logistics personnel and contractors.

Minimum Requirements:

· Bachelor's degree in Logistics Management, Supply Chain Management, International Trade, Business Administration, or a related field.
· Minimum 5 years of logistics and supply chain management experience.
· Experience supporting large-scale infrastructure or construction projects.
· Strong knowledge of transportation, warehousing, procurement, and customs procedures.
· Excellent organizational and coordination skills.
· Proficiency in English communication and reporting.
· Experience working in multinational environments is preferred.
· Strong problem-solving and planning abilities.

2. QS (Road/Water Supply/Railway)

Responsibilities:

- Previous working experience as a Quantity Surveyor for +5 years in road construction and/or water supply infrastructure projects would be an advantage
- Prepare and manage project cost estimates, BOQs, and tender documents
- Monitor project budgets and conduct cost control throughout the project lifecycle
- Evaluate subcontractor quotations and prepare comparison reports
- Prepare interim payment certificates and final accounts
- Conduct site measurements and valuation of completed works
- Assist in contract administration in accordance with FIDIC or other applicable contract forms
- Monitor variations, claims, and contractual disputes
- Coordinate with project managers, engineers, and finance teams regarding cost-related matters
- Ensure compliance with contractual, financial, and statutory requirements
- Provide cost analysis and financial forecasting reports to management

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Quantity Surveying, Civil Engineering, Construction Management, or related field
- Minimum of 5 years' experience as a QS, preferably in road construction and water supply infrastructure projects
- Strong knowledge of FIDIC contracts and construction cost control procedures
- Proficiency in cost management software and MS Office (Excel required)
- Good understanding of Namibian construction regulations and industry practices
- Strong analytical and negotiation skills
- Excellent communication and coordination abilities
- Fluency in English; Chinese language skills will be an advantage
- Namibian citizens or candidates holding valid Namibian work permits will be given preference

3. Equipment/Mechanical Manager

Responsibilities:

· Manage all construction equipment and machinery utilized on project sites.
· Develop equipment deployment, maintenance, and replacement plans.
· Monitor equipment utilization and operational efficiency.
· Coordinate preventive maintenance and repair activities.
· Ensure compliance with equipment safety and operational standards.
· Manage equipment procurement, mobilization, and demobilization.
· Control equipment operating costs and maintenance budgets.
· Maintain equipment records, inspections, and performance reports.
· Supervise equipment operators, mechanics, and maintenance personnel.
· Support project teams with equipment planning and technical guidance.

Minimum Requirements:

· Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Automation, Equipment Management, Engineering Management, or a related discipline.
· Minimum 8 years of experience in equipment or plant management.
· Experience managing heavy equipment used in road, bridge, railway, pipeline, or civil engineering projects.
· Strong knowledge of equipment maintenance, repair, and operational management.
· Experience managing equipment fleets and maintenance teams.
· Understanding of equipment safety regulations and industry standards.
· Strong leadership and organizational abilities.
· Proficiency in English communication and technical reporting.

4. Specialist Construction Technician

Responsibilities:

- Carry out and supervise technical road construction works, including earthworks, subgrade, sub-base, base course and asphalt or concrete surfacing.
- Interpret construction drawings and specifications, and ensure works are built accordingly.
- Set out and control road alignment, levels, gradients and drainage structures on site.
- Conduct quality control checks, including compaction, material and layer thickness testing.
- Coordinate with foremen, equipment operators and subcontractors to meet construction schedules.
- Monitor site progress and provide technical guidance to site teams.
- Ensure compliance with health, safety and environmental requirements.
- Maintain site records, test results, inspection reports and daily progress reports.
- Identify technical problems on site and recommend practical solutions.

Minimum Requirements:

- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Road Engineering, Highway Engineering, Construction Technology or a related discipline.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in road construction.
- Hands-on experience with road works such as earthworks, pavement layers, culverts and drainage.
- Ability to read and interpret engineering drawings and technical specifications.
- Knowledge of road construction quality standards and testing methods.
- Understanding of site safety regulations.
- Strong technical, problem-solving and teamwork skills.
- Proficiency in English communication and basic technical reporting.

5. Senior Construction Engineer

Responsibilities:

- Lead technical management of road and civil construction works on site.
- Review drawings and specifications, and prepare construction methods and work programmes.
- Supervise site engineers, technicians and foremen to ensure quality, safety and progress.
- Control construction quality, project schedule and cost.
- Coordinate with clients, supervising engineers and subcontractors.
- Prepare technical reports, as-built records and progress documentation.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Road and Bridge Engineering or a related discipline.
- Minimum 10 years of construction experience, including at least 3 years in a senior engineering role.
- Proven experience on road, bridge, culvert or large-scale civil projects.
- Experience working on overseas projects, preferably in Africa.
- Familiarity with Chinese construction standards (GB) and international standards.
- Ability to work with Chinese management and technical teams; proficiency in Mandarin and English is a strong advantage.
- Strong leadership, planning and problem-solving skills.

6. Project Manager

Responsibilities:

- Lead the overall management of road and civil construction projects from mobilization to completion.
- Plan and control project schedule, budget, quality, safety and resources.
- Coordinate with clients, supervising engineers, authorities and subcontractors.
- Manage site teams, including engineers, technicians, foremen and administrative staff.
- Monitor project progress and costs, and prepare regular management reports.
- Handle contract administration, variations and claims.
- Ensure compliance with health, safety, environmental and local labour requirements.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Engineering Management or a related discipline.
- Minimum 12 years of construction experience, including at least 5 years as a Project Manager or Deputy Project Manager.
- Proven experience managing road, bridge or large-scale infrastructure projects.
- Experience on overseas projects, preferably in Africa.
- Strong knowledge of contract management, cost control and construction standards (Chinese and international).
- Strong leadership and negotiation skills; proficiency in Mandarin and English is a strong advantage.
- Relevant professional qualification (e.g. PMP, Registered Constructor or equivalent) is an advantage.

7. Procurement Manager

Responsibilities:

- Lead procurement of construction materials, equipment, spare parts and services for project sites.
- Develop procurement plans in line with project schedules and budgets.
- Source, evaluate and manage local and international suppliers and subcontractors.
- Negotiate prices, terms and contracts to control costs and ensure timely delivery.
- Coordinate import, customs clearance and logistics of materials and equipment.
- Monitor inventory, delivery and supplier performance.
- Maintain procurement records, price databases and regular reports.
- Ensure compliance with company procurement policies and local regulations.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Supply Chain Management, Procurement, Engineering Management, Business Administration or a related discipline.
- Minimum 8 years of procurement experience, including at least 3 years in a managerial role.
- Experience in construction, road, bridge or infrastructure projects.
- Experience in overseas procurement, preferably in Africa; knowledge of the Namibian or Southern African supplier market is an advantage.
- Familiarity with import and export procedures, customs clearance and international logistics.
- Strong negotiation, cost control and supplier management skills.
- Proficiency in Mandarin and English is a strong advantage.

8. Contract Representative

Responsibilities:

- Manage and administer project contracts, including client contracts, subcontracts and supplier agreements.
- Review contract terms, specifications and conditions, and advise management on risks and obligations.
- Prepare and follow up on variations, claims, extension of time requests and payment applications.
- Act as the company's contact with clients and supervising engineers on contractual matters.
- Coordinate with site, procurement and finance teams to ensure compliance with contract requirements.
- Maintain contract records, correspondence and documentation.
- Monitor contract progress, deadlines and payment milestones, and report to management.
- Ensure compliance with local laws and regulations related to contracts and labour.

Responsibilities:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Engineering Management, Law, Business Administration or a related discipline.
- Minimum 6 years of experience in contract management, preferably in construction or infrastructure projects.
- Experience in preparing claims, variations and handling contract disputes.
- Familiarity with FIDIC or other international construction contract conditions.
- Experience on overseas projects, preferably in Africa; knowledge of Namibian contract practices is an advantage.
- Strong negotiation, communication and report-writing skills.
- Proficiency in Mandarin and English is a strong advantage.

We Offer:

- Competitive remuneration packages commensurate with experience.
- A professional working environment with opportunities for advancement.
- The chance to contribute to major infrastructure projects within Namibia and the Southern African region.

Applications:

Interested applicants should submit a detailed Curriculum Vitae, certified copies of relevant qualifications, and contactable references to:

Email:
Subject line: Application – [Position Title], Namibia
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Suitable candidates to submit cover letter, relevant qualifications, and certified documentation to **hr.na@unikconst.com** or hand deliver at 26 Rensburger Street, Lafrenz Industrial Area, Windhoek.

Unik Construction Engineering Namibia (Pty) Ltd is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, Act 29 of 1998.

- **Closing Date: Friday 30 December 2026.** If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks of your application date, kindly consider your application as unsuccessful.



Lenacapavir has received WHO's approval for HIV prevention

Hope for millions as cheaper HIV prevention jab reaches Africa

Uganda is set to receive its first supplies of a cheaper version of a ground-breaking injection to prevent HIV, raising hopes of expanding access to the drug across Africa, where the burden of the disease remains highest.

The first global shipment of the generic drug, known as lenacapavir, arrived in Zambia on Wednesday, with deliveries to Uganda expected in the coming days, the Global Fund has said.

The drug, administered as an injection twice a year, is nearly 100% effective at preventing HIV infection and is expected to cost just $40 (£30) per person annually.

Zimbabwe is due to receive supplies early next year, with several other countries expected to follow.

The arrival of the generic drug comes just a year after the original version, developed by US pharmaceutical giant Gilead Sciences, became available in sub-Saharan Africa.

The original version cost about about $28,000 annually in the US

Lenacapavir works by targeting the protective protein shell of HIV, disrupting the virus's ability to multiply and establish an infection in the body.

In a landmark clinical trial involving more than 5,000 adolescent girls and young women in Uganda and South Africa in 2024, none of those who received the injection contracted HIV.

Health experts say the injection offers a major advantage over existing HIV prevention pills, known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which must be taken every day and can carry social stigma.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the drug for HIV prevention in July 2025.

The Global Fund described the arrival of the drug in Africa as a "major breakthrough" in the fight against HIV, saying cheaper supplies would help reach millions more people at risk of infection.

"These deliveries mark an unprecedented acceleration and expansion in access to a highly effective, quality-assured generic HIV prevention medicine in low- and middle-income settings," the group said in a statement on Wednesday.

More than 189,000 people across 10 countries have already received their first injection of lenacapavir, according to the Global Fund.

The organisation expects 24 countries to have received supplies by the end of this year and, working with the US government, plans to reach at least three million people by the end of 2028.

It is eventually expected to be available in 120 low- and middle-income countries.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly two-thirds of people living with HIV globally, with adolescent girls and young women disproportionately affected.

South Africa has the world's largest HIV-positive population, with nearly eight million people living with the virus. It is among the countries expected to receive the cheaper injection.

Some 41 million people worldwide were living with HIV last year, while 570,000 died from HIV-related illnesses, according to the WHO.

The rollout comes amid concerns that sweeping cuts to US foreign aid under President Donald Trump's administration could undermine decades of progress in tackling HIV in Africa, where many countries rely heavily on international funding for prevention and treatment.

The UN aims to end Aids as a public health threat by 2030.-**BBC**



WESTAIR AVIATION

VACANCIES

Westair Aviation (Pty) Ltd has the following vacancies available and invite all suitably qualified candidates to apply before or on Friday, 27 November 2026.

Please use below links on our website to apply for vacancies:

Aviation Maintenance Planner
Position
URL: https://westairgroupofcompanies.breezy.hr/p/dbfbcd82b3d8

CIMA Training Manager
Position
URL: https://westairgroupofcompanies.breezy.hr/p/e7f7a1ee4062

Captain and First Officer H225
Position
URL: https://westairgroupofcompanies.breezy.hr/p/3c7adfd59cdd

Helicopter Engineer H225
Position
URL: https://westairgroupofcompanies.breezy.hr/p/08f2e75f4592

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The Westair Group of Companies is an equal opportunity employer.

OBSERVER OPINION

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

FRIDAY
27 NOVEMBER
2026

Editorial

Healthcare is not a public relations exercise

There is a danger that Namibia's public healthcare debate is becoming increasingly dominated by announcements, launches, commissioning ceremonies and carefully packaged success stories, while the fundamentals of healthcare delivery remain unresolved.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has recently publicised several initiatives, including the launch of a government-owned air ambulance, the inauguration of Mabushe Clinic, the renovation of Keetmanshoop's emergency unit and the installation of new diagnostic equipment in the south.

These interventions have value.

An air ambulance can save lives.

A new clinic can bring healthcare closer to rural communities. Better diagnostic equipment can improve treatment. Nobody disputes that.

But there is a more uncomfortable question: what happens to the patient who never gets to the air ambulance because the hospital nearest to them is understaffed, overcrowded or running short of essential medicines?

Consider Oshakati Intermediate Hospital, where parliament has heard that one nurse is attending to between 30 and 40 patients. Doctors reportedly work 24-hour shifts. Patients wait for hours, while the hospital shoulders responsibilities that should partly be carried by the long-promised Ondangwa District Hospital.

This is not a minor administrative inconvenience. It is a fundamental question of patient safety and the quality of care.

The contradiction becomes even more difficult to explain when approximately 1 350 unemployed graduate nurses have previously appealed for employment, while hospitals report debilitating staff shortages. The Ministry has recruited approximately 1 320 nurses, but has also suspended further recruitment until April 2027, citing financial constraints.

Meanwhile, rural communities continue to report shortages of nurses, doctors, essential medicines, ambulances and life-support equipment.

These are the realities that should dominate the national healthcare conversation.

An air ambulance makes for impressive photographs. A commissioning ceremony provides excellent publicity. A new clinic offers an opportunity for speeches and ribbon-cutting.

> An air ambulance makes for impressive photographs. A commissioning ceremony provides excellent publicity. A new clinic offers an opportunity for speeches and ribbon-cutting. But none of these can compensate for an exhausted nurse attending to 40 patients, an empty pharmacy or a patient waiting for treatment that should have been available immediately.

But none of these can compensate for an exhausted nurse attending to 40 patients, an empty pharmacy or a patient waiting for treatment that should have been available immediately.

The Ministry must guard against confusing the visibility of activity with the effectiveness of healthcare delivery.

Public health is not measured by the number of launches, announcements or media engagements. It is measured by whether a mother can safely deliver a child, whether a patient receives prescribed medication, whether an emergency is attended to promptly and whether a nurse has a manageable number of patients.

The public deserves a transparent account of medicine availability, staffing levels, recruitment plans, hospital waiting times and progress on outstanding infrastructure projects such as Ondangwa District Hospital.

These are not particularly glamorous subjects. They do not necessarily produce attractive photographs or memorable launch speeches.

But they are the foundations of a functioning health system.

Good English will not deliver quality healthcare. Impressive presentations will not put medicine on pharmacy shelves. Publicity will not reduce a nurse's workload.

A well-executed plan, properly funded, monitored and implemented will.

Namibia does not need a health ministry that merely communicates activity. It needs one that can demonstrate measurable improvements in the everyday experience of patients.

Healthcare is not a public relations exercise. It is a public responsibility.



Namibia's "partnerships" with foreign countries must be more than abstract!



Yours Truly Ideologically
with
Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro

A headline in a local daily recently, reading "France-Namibia partnership: a driver of economic growth, opportunities", could not but catch the eye and entice anyone to read the article, as headlines are meant to do. But more than that, it got me thinking and reflecting.

"France-Namibia partnership"? And "economic growth"? What on earth could this mean and entail? That was my immediate inquisitive and circumspective reaction before delving deeper into the article.

My vaguest early introduction to the French presence in Namibia dates back to my days as a news editor at the New Era newspaper, the very daily that carried the said headline, although it was then a weekly.

This was in the early years of Namibia's independence, when, together with fellow New Era managers, we had a luncheon with the French ambassador at his residence.

Namibia has no colonial history with France, unlike the predominantly French-speaking African countries, the so-called Francophone countries, that were formerly under French colonial rule.

Thus, for France, Namibia, as a country never previously colonised by her, was perhaps a first among many other firsts.

Only France knows why, at such an early stage, she decided to establish diplomatic relations with newly independent Namibia.

Subsequent to that luncheon, my other point of proximity to France in the early years of independence was the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC).

Simply as a watering hole, albeit not really my favourite, and an entertainment rendezvous, as it hosted live musical bands, among other activities.

To this day, it remains where it has always been, not far from Windhoek's former Central Business District (CBD), although it is not certain whether the area still maintains that status.

On Robert Mugabe Avenue, the FNCC remains an unmistakable French presence.

That, essentially, has been my footprint as far as French presence in Namibia is concerned.

Hence my wondering what this France-Namibia partnership is all about, particularly as the article suggests that it is driving economic growth and creating opportunities in Namibia and for Namibians.

But, lo and behold, the article by the French Ambassador to Namibia, Cécile Vigneau, offers some figures.

"Our economic relations are already substantial and continue to show particularly encouraging growth. In 2025, bilateral trade between France and Namibia reached €251 million, an increase of 11% compared with the previous year," the ambassador states.

Her article goes on to cite what are presented as economic and trade milestones of the France-Namibia partnership.

The article was hardly coincidental. This week, the French capital, Paris, hosted the eighth edition of Ambition Africa, organised by Business France and dedicated to strengthening economic relations between France and the African continent.

Thus, the article cannot but be viewed within this context. But there is more to it in this era of rapidly changing geopolitics, which is also affecting France and some, if not all, of her former colonies.

This is particularly relevant to the avowed partnership between Namibia and France, which the ambassador describes as growing, citing trade statistics in support of her assertion.

Statistics presumably do not lie. Be that as it may, each of us has our own way of reading, understanding and, above all, interpreting statistics. Statistics, after all, are just that: statistics.

No one, least of all Namibia, needs reminding of France's chequered colonial history.

That history has recently returned to haunt her, as evidenced by some Francophone African countries that have begun confronting their detestable colonial past with France.

This has prompted some to loosen the colonial umbilical cord that has bound them to their former coloniser.

The consequences have been far-reaching, with relations between France and these countries deteriorating in ways that raise questions about whether they can ever return to what they once were.

Burkina Faso is one such example, having severed diplomatic ties with France. And if Burkina Faso is not the first, nor likely to be the last, then other countries must surely be watching developments closely.

But should they merely be watching? Whatever happened to African solidarity and unity?

Burkina Faso's apparent point of no return in its relationship with its former coloniser, and its experience of what has been a profoundly negative and debilitating relationship, must surely resonate beyond the Francophone countries.

It should reverberate across the continent, including in Namibia, where relations with France and other foreign powers continue to be cultivated, perhaps even with the aspiration of becoming closer partners.

But for how long, and on what terms? Are such relationships genuinely rooted in equality, sovereignty and the advancement of African countries and their peoples?

More importantly, do they represent a truthful break from a past in which Africa was merely a convenient reservoir of precious minerals and other resources for foreign powers?

There can be no illusion that, to this day, Africa remains a source of precious minerals and other resources for various foreign powers.

With some Francophone countries seemingly awakening to what they consider the true and often Machiavellian nature of their relationships with France, it remains to be seen how far-reaching this awakening will be.

The flip side is that, as the winds of change and reawakening blow across Francophone Africa, France must do more than simply change its tactics, strategies and African targets.

It must confront the neo-colonial ideology underpinning its engagement with the continent.

Namibia could just as well be among the next targets of such recalibrated engagement.

Because there is no other way, one may argue, to understand or explain France's post-independence interest in Namibia, a country that was never a French colony.

The growing trade between France and Namibia notwithstanding, the French presence in Namibia remains rather abstract to Yours Truly Ideologically

And, needless to say, it is no less abstract to an ordinary Namibian in a remote village of our vast Land of the Brave.

This does not apply only to the France-Namibia "partnership", but also to the partnerships Namibia maintains with many other countries, including former colonising powers and those that never colonised us.

In short, ordinary Namibians, particularly those in rural areas, must begin to feel the substance of these partnerships in their everyday lives.

They must translate into tangible economic opportunities, improved livelihoods, employment, infrastructure and meaningful development.

Otherwise, what purpose do they serve beyond impressive trade figures and diplomatic declarations?

With hindsight, the recently concluded COP31 summit in Antalya, Türkiye, should also serve as a moment of reawakening for Africa.

The treatment of the African group, particularly when the Ghanaian minister delivering the group's closing remarks was interrupted by none other than the COP31 president, raises serious questions about the sincerity of multilateralism and the place of African voices within it.

So much for multilateralism!

Disaggregate this to the avowed bilateralism between Namibia and France, and their much-vaunted partnership, and one cannot but wonder whether we are still very much stuck in the colonial past, however much we may wish to view things differently.

Until these partnerships are grounded in genuine equality, respect for sovereignty and tangible benefits for ordinary Africans, the question of whether they represent a departure from colonialism will remain unavoidable.

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



MTC PUTS A HOME WORTH N$1 MILLION UP FOR GRABS THIS SUMMER

After giving away cars in 2024, cash prizes in 2025 and SUVs in the beginning of 2026, MTC is taking its annual summer campaign even further in 2026/2027.

Every summer, MTC finds new ways to reward its customers. This year MTC is raising the stakes once again with MTC Summer: ***Win a Home.***

Running from ***24 November 2026 to 22 February 2027,*** the campaign gives customers across Namibia the opportunity to win a home worth N$1 million, plus free Spectra Home internet package for 24 months.

That's not all. With 2,130 prizes worth over N$2 million up for grabs, customers have more chances than ever to win. Prizes include 2,000 daily instant airtime prizes, 67 smartphones, 12 furniture vouchers worth N$20,000 each, 30 grocery vouchers worth N$5,000 each, and 20 monthly cash prizes of N$10,000 each, ensuring winners are rewarded throughout the campaign.

Taking part is simple. Customers can recharge with N$50 or more or subscribe for just N$3.00 per day and answer daily trivia questions. Each correct answer earns points, with customers competing for a place at the top of the leaderboard.

Every morning at 9:00 AM, a special BONUS Question is released via USSD and on MTC's digital platforms, giving participants the chance to earn an additional 500 points.

With a home worth N$1 million for grabs, MTC is giving customers across the country something truly special to play for this summer.

Recharge or subscribe, play and win.

Campaign dates:
24 November 2026 – 22 February 2027

Dial *111*5#
or visit trivia.mymtc.mobi to register.

Ts & Cs apply.

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Recharge with N$50 or more or subscribe for N$3.00 per day, answer the daily trivia questions and stand a chance to win instant airtime, smartphones, MTC Maris cash, grocery and furniture vouchers, and a home worth N$1 million.

Daily



Airtime

Weekly



Samsung A08 | iPhone 17e 256GB | Huawei Nova 13i

Monthly



N$5,000
Grocery voucher



N$10,000
Cash



N$20,000
Furniture Voucher

**Grocery and cash prizes are paid via*

Grand prize



A house worth
N$1 million
+
free **SPECTRA** *home internet for 24 months*

Recharge or subscribe, play and win.

Promotion ends 22 February 2027

Dial *111*5#
or visit trivia.mymtc.mobi to register.

Ts & Cs apply.

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OBSERVER MONEY

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

GIPF's N$900m home loan scheme draws strong demand



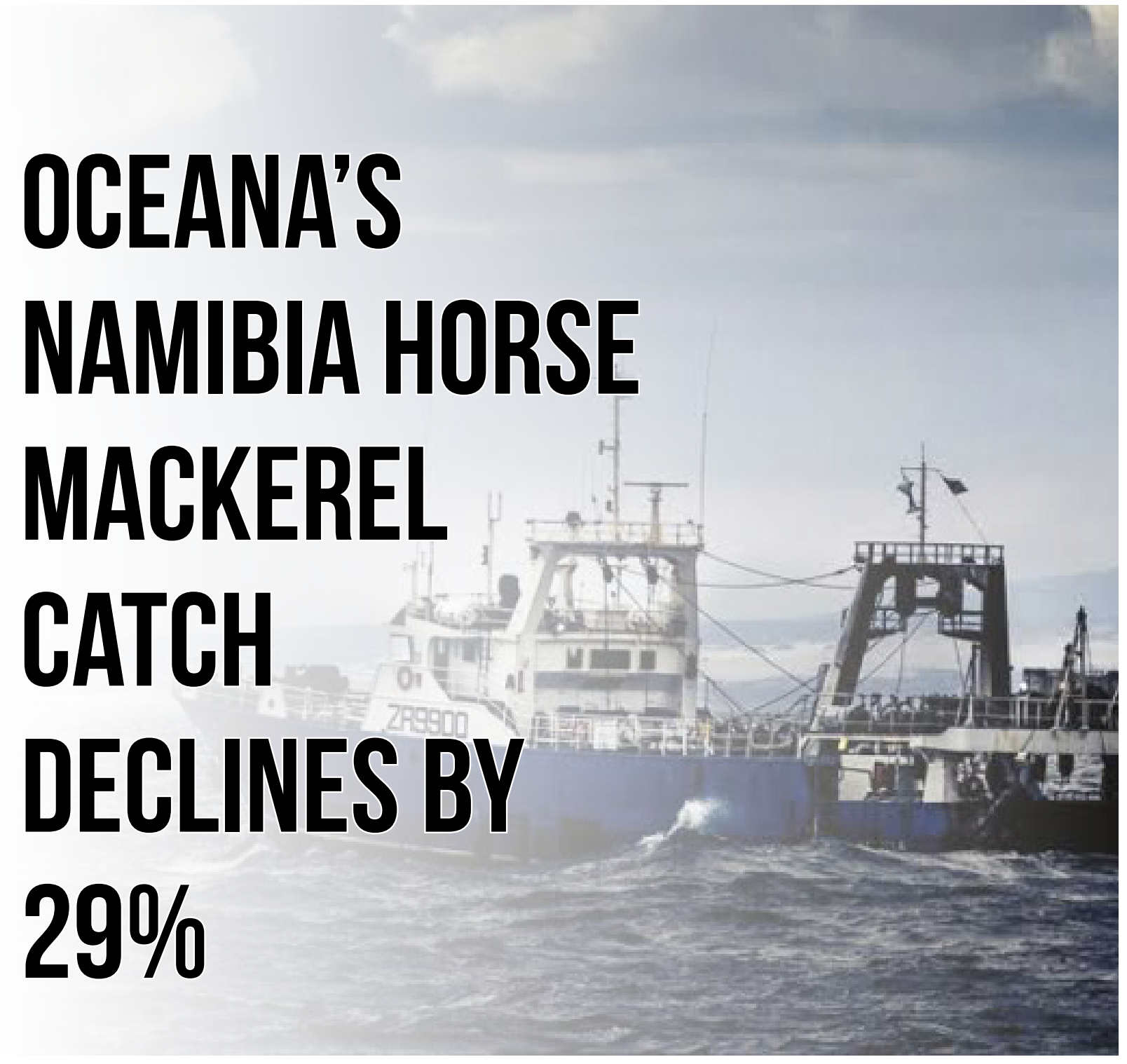
Bank Windhoek secures N$650 million on the JSE as investors bid over N$3.3 billion



Alexforbes expands technology projects in Namibia as profit rises 17%



OCEANA'S NAMIBIA HORSE MACKEREL CATCH DECLINES BY 29%





MTC commits N$135.6m to sponsorships and social investment

MTC has announced a N$135.6 million investment in sponsorships and corporate social investment (CSI) over the next three years, allocating N$45.2 million annually to sport, education, health, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability and community development. The annual allocation comprises N$30.38 million for sponsorships and N$14.82 million for CSI programmes.



paragon
investment holdings (pty) ltd

Oceana's Namibia horse mackerel catch declines by 29%

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer



Oceana said catch rates decreased marginally, while unit catch costs rose by 5% due to lower volumes and higher fuel costs on the unhedged portion.

Oceana Group reported in its audited group results for the year ended 30 September, that total horse mackerel catch and production in Namibia declined by 29%, mainly due to extended planned surveys of both vessels in the second half and late-year quota shortages which reduced fishing time.

Catch rates decreased marginally, while unit catch costs rose by 5% due to lower volumes and higher fuel costs on the unhedged portion.

Total horse mackerel sales volumes remained largely unchanged at 42 216 tons compared with 42 768 tons in 2025.

The company said strong demand for affordable protein, particularly smaller-sized fish, supported higher selling prices and was the main driver of profitability.

Average Rand selling prices realised increased by 18%, despite a 9% appreciation in the Rand against the US dollar.

In South Africa, horse mackerel catch and production from the Desert Diamond increased by 136%, supported by more days at sea and an improvement in catch rates.

Unit costs fell by 28%, as the benefit of the higher catch more than offset increased unhedged fuel costs and the impact of the vessel's first-half class renewal survey.

Following a change in strategy, the vessel is no longer classified as held for sale and has been withdrawn from the market.

The hake business delivered a solid result despite a 5% reduction in Total Allowable Catch (TAC), although earnings remained below the prior year's record level.

Production was largely unchanged, as an improvement in catch rates offset a reduction in fishing days.

Fishing time was reduced by the planned first-half dry-docking of the fleet's flagship vessel, Beatrice Marine, and an extended second half refit of Compass Challenger vessel, followed by a Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) survey trip.

Low opening inventory and continued constraints on global frozen pilchard supply are expected to restrict Lucky Star foods' sales volumes in 2027, requiring ongoing customer allocations.

The shortage is also anticipated to reduce local cannery utilisation and increase cost pressure.

The recent virus affecting the pilchard resource has subsided, but its full impact will only be clear once the DFFE November pelagic biomass survey is complete.

The results will inform the 2027 pilchard TAC and its potential implications.

Revenue decreased 4.2% to R9.6 billion (2025: R10 billion), as lower volumes in Lucky Star foods and Fishmeal and fish oil (Africa) more than offset revenue growth in Fishmeal and fish oil (USA) and Wild caught seafood.

Supply constraints were the main driver of the volume declines.

Shortages of frozen fish in the second half of the year limited Lucky Star foods' sales volumes, partly offset by growth in other food categories.

In fishmeal and fish oil (Africa), reduced fish availability constrained production and sales, despite stronger global prices.

Profit after tax increased 38.5% to R1,3 billion compared with R724 million in 2025, due to the stronger operating performance and lower net interest expense.

The group's headline earnings increased 50.5% to R1,19 billion (2025: R677 million) with headline earnings per share increasing by the same percentage to 850.3 cents compared to 564.8 cents in 2025.

The growth was primarily due to the increase in profit after tax and a lower share of earnings attributable to minority interests in subsidiaries affected by lower pelagic fish availability.

Alexforbes expands technology projects in Namibia as profit rises 17%

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer



Alexander Forbes Group Holdings, chief executive, Dawie de Villiers

Alexander Forbes Group Holdings has expanded its technology projects in Namibia as part of efforts to improve its competitiveness in the country, Botswana and South Africa, while reporting a 17% increase in operating profit for the six months ended September 2026.

The financial services group said it had secured several significant technology projects during the period, which are expected to strengthen its competitiveness across the three markets.

Chief executive Dawie de Villiers said the group's first-half performance was supported by revenue growth, improved operating leverage and progress in its strategic priorities, including strengthening its focus on clients and its connected value chain.

Operating income increased 10% to R2.57 billion, while normalised profit from operations rose 17% to R521 million from R446 million in the corresponding period last year.

Headline earnings per share from continuing operations increased 16% to 30.3 cents, while profit for the period rose 19% to R398 million.

The group's total assets increased 13% year-on-year to R784.5 billion, while active members under administration grew 12% to 1.38 million.

Alexforbes said growth in operating income was driven by higher average assets, positive investment markets, inflation-related increases in its retirement client base, sustained client retention and new business flows across investments and retail.

Operating expenses increased 9% to R2.07 billion, slower than income growth, resulting in improved operating leverage.

The group's cost-to-income ratio improved by 1.2 percentage points to 79.8%, reflecting efforts to improve efficiency.

Alexforbes reported a regulatory surplus of R919 million and a capital cover ratio of 1.9 times, above its target solvency ratio of 1.2 times.

Available cash stood at R533 million.

The board declared an interim dividend of 24 cents per share, unchanged from the previous year.

The group said its recurring revenue base, diversified business model, strong capital position and continued new-business momentum provided resilience amid an uncertain operating environment.

It remains focused on growing its core businesses, improving client service and retention, investing in technology and digital capabilities, and expanding opportunities in retirement and retail services.

The results cover the six months ended 30 September 2026.



Bank Windhoek secures N$650 million on the JSE as investors bid over N$3.3 billion

Staff Writer

Bank Windhoek has announced that it has successfully raised N$650 million through a three-year Senior Unsecured Note issuance on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), attracting more than N$3.3 billion in investor demand and marking a significant milestone in the bank's funding and capital markets strategy.

Oversubscribed note issuance, priced 0.66 percentage points tighter than the bank's previous bond listing, signals strong investor confidence in Bank Windhoek.

The auction was initially structured at ZAR500 million, with an upsize option of ZAR750 million. Demand exceeded N$3.3 billion within and below the indicated price guidance, allowing the bank to secure N$650 million.

The notes were priced at (South African Rand Overnight Index Average) ZARONIA + 1.20%, a 0.66 percentage point improvement on the bank's previous bond listing, reflecting strong market appetite and investor confidence in the bank's credit standing.

"This outcome is a strong vote of confidence in Bank Windhoek. Investors competed for this paper, and that allowed us to raise funding at a more competitive price than our previous issuance. It reflects the strength of our balance sheet, the quality of our governance and the trust that investors place in our long-term strategy," said Bank Windhoek's managing director, James Chapman.

The breadth and diversity of investor participation was particularly significant, underlining the strength of Bank Windhoek's funding relationships beyond Namibia and its ability to attract capital from a diversified investor base and access regional funding markets on competitive terms. "Diversifying our funding sources and optimising our cost of funding gives us a sustainable base from which to grow, and ultimately to deliver more value to our customers and stakeholders," Chapman added.

The issuance supports Bank Windhoek's broader funding strategy of diversifying funding sources, optimising funding costs and maintaining a sustainable funding base to support the bank's growth ambitions.

It further demonstrates investor confidence in the bank's financial resilience, sound governance and position within Namibia's financial services sector.



James Chapman



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TOP Gainers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	10.13	4.65%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	60.21	0.94%
Capricorn Group Limited (prev Capricorn Investment Group Ltd)	30.58	0.69%
SBN Holdings Ltd	15.02	0.67%
Nictus Holdings - Nam	3.40	0.00%

TOP Losers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Namibia Breweries	32	-5.94%
Namibia Asset Management Limited	0.71	-1.39%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.33	-0.16%
Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd	6.5	-0.15%

TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Stimulus Investments Limited - Pref	127.99	0.00%
Sector - Nonlife Insurance	0.00	0.00%
Oceana Group Limited	70.32	0.46%
Sector - Telecommunications Services	0.00	0.00%
Firstrand Limited	88.35	-8.87%

TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Nedbank Group Limited	271.75	-8.61%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	60.21	0.25%
Anglo-American plc	774.24	-8.02%
B2Gold Corporation	78.57	-6.79%

Currencies				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
USD/ZAR	17.300001	2.02%	4.80%	4.14%
EUR/ZAR	19.016476	1.78%	2.18%	-2.66%
GBP/ZAR	22.740852	1.58%	3.43%	1.79%
USD/EUR	0.9097375	0.22%	2.41%	7.03%

Commodities				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
Brent Crude Oil (ICE $/bbl)	91.95	-1.28%	-16.30%	51.11%
Gold NYMEX Near Term ($/ozt)	3736.8	-3.16%	-10.16%	-13.61%
Platinum NYMEX Near Term ($/ozt)	1360.10	-4.63%	-16.21%	-33.15%
Copper Cash Official LME ($/mt)	12750.00	-3.60%	-12.64%	1.97%
Uranium Near Term (NYM $/lbs)	90.00	0.06%	-0.06%	10.29%

Money Market Rates				
	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	9 MONTH	12 MONTH
Average Bank NCDs	6.96	7.28	7.43	7.58
Treasury Bill Rates	7.75	7.85	7.98	8.01

JSE INDICES				
Share code	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
JSE ALSI	106,233.67	-3.66%	-3.93%	-7.99%
All Share Industrials	131,996.00	-1.90%	2.30%	-9.84%
Mid Cap	103,208.76	-2.26%	-1.98%	-8.50%
Small Cap	106,357.01	-1.92%	-0.91%	-1.11%
Industrial 25	122,760.46	-1.89%	2.32%	-10.64%
Financial 15	24,752.83	-3.84%	-1.50%	0.19%
Resource 10	105,895.63	-6.05%	-13.16%	-14.93%
Top 40	98,428.70	-3.91%	-4.36%	-8.56%

World Market				
Share Code	Close	1D%	%1M	%YTD
FTSE100	10,551.17	-1.30%	-3.04%	-7.99%
S&P500	7,323.63	-0.23%	-4.38%	-9.84%
DAX	25,725.13	-1.19%	0.44%	-8.50%
ASX	8,730.40	-0.69%	0.17%	-1.11%
NASDAQ	24,429.89	0.42%	-6.54%	-10.64%
NSX Overall	2,213.90	0.94%	-7.84%	6.40%
NSX Local	912.68	0.05%	0.84%	25.52%

This data is provided by FACTSET and YFinance as at 19/11/2026



Senior executives of the GIPF briefed members of the Parliamentary Joint Committees on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning, and Public Accounts this week. - *Photo: GIPF*

GIPF's N$900m home loan scheme draws strong demand

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF)'s pension-backed home under the Pension-Backed Home Loans Scheme (PBHLS) is showing strong member demand.

The scheme is worth N$900 million.

The scheme is available to active members (members who are currently employed and contributing monthly towards their pension) to construct new houses or renovate existing homes, purchase land in both urban and rural areas or proclaimed or unproclaimed (areas falling outside the boundaries of lawfully proclaimed local authorities) areas.

The GIPF revealed this week that the Financial Institutions and Markets Act (FIMA) has introduced some restrictions in the application of the PBHLS, but the fund is engaging the Regulator (NAMFISA) on the possibility of limiting the restrictions.

This revelation came during the briefing by the GIPF to the Parliamentary Joint Committees on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning, and Public Accounts yesterday.

The briefing covered the fund's mandate and governance, financial position, investment process, portfolio and impact on the Namibian economy.

A strong funding position: As at 31 March 2026, the fund's total assets stood at N$210.1 billion, up 15% from N$183.0 billion a year earlier.

Net investment income rose 77% to N$29.6 billion.

The latest actuarial valuation puts the funding level at 130%, with a surplus of about N$47 billion over estimated liabilities. The Fund holds about 69.4% of all retirement-fund assets in Namibia.

GIPF serves 171 381 people including 113 167 active members and 57 881 pensioners and beneficiaries.

In the year ending 31 March 2026, it received N$5.6 billion in contributions and paid out N$7.3 billion in benefits.

Between 2015 and 2026, pension increments averaged 5.13% a year against average inflation of 4.56%.

The investment target is inflation plus 5%. External managers are selected through a structured process of tender, screening, due diligence and board appointment.

As at 31 March 2026, all regulatory investment limits were met. These include 47.74% of assets invested domestically against a 45% minimum, and 36.03% in foreign assets against a 40% maximum.

GIPF has N$7.8 billion in unlisted investments across Namibia's regions.

Its alternatives portfolio has funded renewable energy to the tune of N$2.7 billion, supporting 171 MW of capacity.

In its housing investment, 8 595 houses have been built and 5 019 plots serviced.

In the retail sector, the GIPF has funded 10 shopping centres. Other investors include Mashare Berries in Kavango East that has created more than 100 permanent jobs and attracted cross-border co-investment.

Other investments include student accommodation, Osona development, the Oshana and Walvis Bay Gymnasiums, and Ongwediva Medipark.

The GIPF said impairments were N$922.2 million (0.51% of the portfolio) in FY2025.

N$815.8 million of this relates to the Signal Structured Finance Fund, which is linked to a tax dispute between Mpilo and the South African Revenue Service that is still before the South African Tax Court.

The GIPF said impairments fell to N$105.2 million (0.05% of the portfolio) in FY2026, a decline of 89%. The fund said N$6.8 million of the FY2025 impairments has been reversed so far.

"GIPF's strength is measured by the security of our members' pensions and the discipline with which we invest their money. We welcome the opportunity to account to Parliament, and we remain committed to protecting member benefits while investing responsibly in Namibia's growth," said Martin Inkumbi, chief executive officer of the GIPF.



Namibia courts investors, but what do citizens gain?

Five-year business permits and investment reforms promise greater investor certainty, but local participation and job creation remain central to the debate.

ELVIS MBOYA
Staff Writer



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah addresses the two-day Namibia Public-Private Sector Forum in Windhoek, which concludes today .- *Photo: Namibian Presidency.*

Namibia is strengthening its investment framework through longer business permits, proposed investment legislation and trade reforms aimed at attracting foreign capital and accelerating private-sector growth.

The measures are intended to improve investor confidence, reduce administrative delays and make the country more competitive.

However, the incentives are also fuelling debate over how much of the resulting investment should benefit local businesses, workers and communities.

The issue is central to the two-day Namibia Public-Private Sector Forum in Windhoek, which concludes today under the theme From Commitment to Competitiveness: Accelerating Investment, PPPs and Job Creation.

Government targets investor confidence

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called on the government and business to move beyond policy discussions and focus on implementation.

"The NamPPF gives us a common table where we can identify constraints, agree on solutions, and hold ourselves accountable for implementation," she said.

The President has called for greater local value addition, technology transfer, skills development and participation by Namibian businesses in supply chains.

Her direct engagement with investors at State House is also part of the administration's efforts to attract capital and address obstacles affecting major projects.

One of the key changes is the five-year Employment Permit for Conducting Business, which was gazetted in July and took effect in September.

The permit allows qualifying investors to obtain authorisation for up to five years, compared with the standard two-year employment permit.

The Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill, tabled in Parliament on 4 November, is another major component of the reforms.

The proposed legislation seeks to strengthen investment facilitation while providing a framework for regulating investment and local participation in designated economic activities.

The International Trade Management Bill is also intended to strengthen Namibia's trade framework and support its participation in regional and international markets.

Minister of international relations and trade Selma Ashipala-Musavyi set out the government's position at the forum.

"A strong investment environment must be one where investors thrive while local enterprises are also able to grow alongside them," she said.

Her remarks reflect the government's stated ambition to attract foreign capital while expanding opportunities for domestic businesses.

Investment growth and the jobs gap

The scale of investment entering Namibia underlines the opportunity.

According to the International Labour Organization, Namibia attracted about N$140 billion in foreign direct investment between 2021 and 2025, compared with N$50.5 billion between 2009 and 2020.

The country's exports also increased from N$68 billion in 2020 to N$125 billion in 2025.

However, unemployment stood at 36.9%, youth unemployment at 44.1%, while 57.7% of the workforce was in informal employment, according to the ILO.

The figures highlight the challenge of translating investment growth into broad-based employment and productive domestic enterprises.

UN Resident Coordinator Hopolang Phororo said the priority was to convert investment potential into productive businesses and jobs.

"The real question is whether we can turn that potential into a growing number of productive enterprises, competitive industries, and quality jobs for Namibians," she said.

Namibia Employers' Federation Secretary-General Helene Ochs has also called for investment that supports "economic diversification, competitiveness and decent work".

"As social partners, we want to be part of shaping that future, not merely consulted after decisions have been made," she said.

Kandorozu questions foreign permits

The investment incentives and extended business permits have also attracted political criticism.

NUDO member of parliament Vetaruhe Kandorozu has publicly challenged the granting of work permits to foreign nationals, particularly where he believes Namibians can perform the jobs.

In parliament, he called for debate on how work permits and visas are issued to foreign workers.

He cited diamond polishing companies employing foreign nationals in managerial positions despite the availability of experienced Namibians.

He also questioned employment practices in the mining and transport industries, arguing that foreign workers were being recruited for positions that could be filled locally.

Kandorozu has separately called for public action against illegal immigrants and foreign workers, making the issue part of a wider political debate over immigration, employment and local opportunities.

His position raises a question for policymakers: how should Namibia attract investors and the skills they bring while ensuring that foreign recruitment does not displace qualified Namibian workers?

The concern is particularly relevant in capital-intensive sectors such as mining, energy, oil and gas, where investors require specialised skills and technology.

However, local businesses and workers also expect opportunities in construction, logistics, engineering, procurement, maintenance and professional services.

Regulatory certainty and local participation

The proposed investment framework faces scrutiny from other quarters as well.

The Economic Policy Research Association warned that an earlier draft of the Investment Promotion Bill could discourage foreign and domestic capital through excessive regulatory controls.

Senior advocate Raymond Heathcote also raised concerns about the constitutionality and investor protections in the earlier draft.

More recently, Investment Group analysts questioned whether the version now before Parliament provides sufficient protection for investors, including guarantees relating to expropriation, transfer of funds and national treatment.

The International Monetary Fund's 2026 Article IV assessment also identified regulatory delays as a constraint on private investment.

It found that the share of businesses identifying licensing and permits as an obstacle increased from 38% in 2014 to 56.1% in 2024.

The average share of senior management time spent dealing with government regulations nearly doubled, from 6.6% to 11.4%.

These findings underline the importance of predictable regulations for businesses considering long-term investment.

At the same time, local participation requirements need to reflect the capacity of domestic companies to supply major projects.

From incentives to measurable returns

The economic challenge is to ensure that investment incentives produce measurable returns for Namibia.

Major projects require substantial capital, technology and specialised skills that may not immediately be available locally.

They can also create opportunities for domestic companies through procurement, subcontracting, logistics, processing and other supporting services.

At the forum, President Nandi-Ndaitwah called on the private sector to identify permits that obstruct business and submit recommendations by the end of December.

The exercise is intended to help the government identify regulations that can be streamlined or removed.

A progress report presented at the forum also showed that only three of 17 economic recovery directives were on track, while 58% were stalled.

The report classified the overall economic recovery portfolio as red, pointing to implementation and coordination challenges across government.

For investors, the priority is predictable processes, protection of capital and sustainable returns.

For Namibia, the expected returns include skilled jobs, stronger local suppliers, technology transfer, domestic processing and a wider tax base.

The success of the reforms will ultimately depend on whether the capital attracted translates into productive enterprises, employment and more value retained in the domestic economy.



Sport accounts for a significant portion of MTC's sponsorship budget, which also supports creative industries, conferences, trade fairs and other initiatives. - *Photo: MTC*

MTC commits N$135.6m to sponsorships and social investment

Staff Writer

MTC has announced a N$135.6 million investment in sponsorships and corporate social investment (CSI) over the next three years, allocating N$45.2 million annually to sport, education, health, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability and community development.

The annual allocation comprises N$30.38 million for sponsorships and N$14.82 million for CSI programmes. Sport accounts for a significant portion of the sponsorship budget, which also supports creative industries, conferences, trade fairs and other initiatives.

MTC managing director Licky Erastus said the company's cumulative contribution to sponsorships and CSI had reached approximately N$420 million since its establishment.

He said the investment was intended to create opportunities, develop talent and support communities across Namibia.

Erastus said MTC's social investment was focused on long-term development rather than once-off financial contributions.

He also highlighted the importance of partnerships between government, the private sector, civil society and communities in advancing national development.

The company's CSI Mukopano initiative was identified as a platform for promoting collaboration among these stakeholders.

Of the N$30.38 million sponsorship allocation, N$3.88 million will go towards the MTC Namibia Netball Premier League, while N$3 million has been allocated to the MTC Nestor Sunshine Academy.

The MTC Salute Boxing initiative will receive N$2.16 million, while the MTC Content Creators Awards will receive N$1.6 million.

Other beneficiaries include the MTC Hopsol Youth Soccer League and Bloomberg Hub, each allocated N$1.5 million, as well as MTC Windhoek Fashion Week, which will receive N$1.5 million.

The Namibia Volleyball Federation has been allocated N$1.3 million, while N$1 million each will go to the Namibia Rugby Union and MTC Kilimanjaro Boxing Club.

The CSI allocation includes N$3 million for rural schools and N$2 million each for Hope Village, MTC4Life and the National Internship Project. The MVA STICU and theatres renovation project and DWN Land Delivery will each receive N$1 million.

Regional health and education projects and the Namibia CSI Mukopano have each been allocated N$700 000, while N$500 000 will support a tree-planting project by the ministry of environment, forestry and tourism.

Other CSI beneficiaries include MTC Care, Vision Restoration, the Bank Windhoek Cancer Project and the Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Speaking on behalf of beneficiaries, Hope Village representative Sophy Mouton thanked MTC for its continued support of communities and social development initiatives.

African financial professionals fear for resilience of the public sector

Staff Writer

Fewer than a third of public sector financial professionals surveyed across Africa consider public sector organisations in their location as resilient.

In a survey leading global accountancy body ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) found that 30% thought that public finances are weak, 37% thought that they could withstand shocks, while 22% were undecided.

Part of a global survey, the worldwide picture revealed significant regional variations. In the Middle East 74% assessed public sector bodies as strong.

That figure collapsed to only 36% of UK financial professionals sharing that view.

The survey was conducted at a time of a challenging backdrop for the economy including the public sector, with the conflict in the Middle East pushing up energy prices and government bond yields rising along with inflation and central bank interest rates.

Public sector accountants are also divided on the outlook for public sector finances. Over half of respondents (54%) describe themselves as optimistic about the financial sustainability of public sector organisations, while 18% describe themselves as pessimistic.



Jane Ohadike

Jane Ohadike, regional head of public affairs - Africa, ACCA, said: "Given the challenging risk landscape facing the public sector, the regional perspective on government finances is perhaps unsurprising."

The top three risks in the region identified in the survey are bribery, corruption and internal fraud risks (53%), public debt and the cost of borrowing (42%) and inflation and increased operating costs (41%).

Risks did vary across regions: in the Middle East 71% identified geopolitics as the greatest threat whereas in North America 47% identified AI and technical disruption and in south Asia 51% also cited corruption.

The report suggests that the fragile public sector is an opportunity for financial professionals.

Jane Ohadike said: "This vulnerability creates an opportunity for professional accountants across Africa working in the public sector across the region to lead in building financially strong organisations that are fit to face future challenges. There is significant work to do with 34%saying the public sector needs to produce reliable financial information."

ACCA is suggesting eight calls to action to enhance public sector finances.

#1 Adopt accruals basis reporting
#2 Create incentives for long-term planning
#3 Embrace AI and emerging technologies
#4 Improve public sector data quality
#5 Integrate climate risks into decision-making
#6 Strengthen sustainability reporting
#7 Invest in professionalisation
#8 Develop communication and soft skills

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Namibia's digital ambitions demand a new approach to fraud

AMORÉ NICHOLSON



For much of our banking history, security was something we could physically see. There was a vault, a security guard at the entrance and a person behind the counter who knew us by name.

We understood where our money was kept and who was responsible for protecting it. Today, we carry much of our financial lives in our pockets.

At FNB Namibia, more than 92% of our customers are digitally enabled and over 72% of financial transactions take place through digital channels.

The significance of these figures extends well beyond banking. In a country as geographically dispersed as Namibia, the ability to manage your finances without travelling to a branch has fundamentally changed access to financial services.

Digital banking has become part of everyday life and customers understandably expect it to be quick, convenient and available whenever they need it.

Criminals have been paying attention too. Some of the most concerning developments in financial crime involve criminals exploiting the very behaviours that make digital banking convenient.

We respond to messages, conduct business over the phone and approve transactions on our devices, often while attending to several other things.

A fraudster who calls someone claiming to be from their bank understands the power of that relationship. They know that an unexpected warning about money disappearing from an account can cause even a cautious person to act hurriedly.

The conversation is designed to create urgency and deprive the individual of the time they would ordinarily take to consider a financial decision.

Artificial intelligence (AI) adds another dimension to this problem. Technology capable of reproducing voices and generating convincing correspondence makes impersonation increasingly difficult to recognise.

Traditional advice about looking for spelling mistakes or poorly constructed messages is becoming less reliable.

According to INTERPOL's African Cyberthreat Assessment Report 2026, AI is enabling 55% of reported cybercrime across Africa.

Its 2026 Global Financial Fraud Threat Assessment describes the growing industrialisation of fraud and estimates that AI-assisted fraud is 4.5 times more profitable than conventional methods.

Consider the economics of that development. As technology reduces the cost and effort required to commit fraud, criminals can target considerably more people.

Even a relatively low success rate can make these operations financially rewarding. For countries such as Namibia, geographical distance and a relatively small population offer little protection against this form of crime.

Against this background, we need to consider what we are asking of the public when we expect people to distinguish genuine communication from increasingly sophisticated deception.

A customer should be able to participate in the digital economy without needing to become an expert in financial crime.

For banks, this has significant implications for the design of security. We must account for the fact that people can be distracted, frightened or persuaded into making decisions they would never ordinarily make.

At the same time, one of the more difficult decisions facing financial institutions is how much additional security to introduce into everyday banking.

Every extra step has a consequence for the customer; excessive security requirements can make relatively simple transactions unnecessarily difficult.

Consider a customer purchasing electricity late at night or a small business owner paying a supplier. Both have reasonable expectations about how quickly they should be able to complete those transactions.

Yet the growing consumer expectation that banking should be immediate and free of friction can also create opportunities for criminals.

The faster money moves, the less time there may be to identify suspicious activity and intervene. As consumers, we need to recognise that some degree of inconvenience in our banking experience can serve a legitimate and necessary purpose.

The wider challenge for Namibia is that financial crime rarely respects organizational boundaries.

A fraudulent interaction can begin on a telecommunications network, continue through a messaging platform and involve the movement of money between financial institutions.

Several organisations may encounter different parts of the same criminal activity, each with limited visibility of what is happening elsewhere. This fragmentation works in favour of criminals.

We should also reconsider what digital literacy means. Much of our effort has gone into teaching people how to use technology; increasingly, we need to help people understand how technology can be used to manipulate them.

Exercising sound judgement in an environment where voices, images and even identities can be artificially reproduced will become an important life skill.

Amoré Nicholson, is digital banking head, FNB Namibia Retail Banking

The National Pension Fund: Understanding Namibia's retirement future

ANDREAS SHAANIKA



Retirement security is becoming an important topic in Namibia. But behind all the policies and technical discussions is a simple question: how do we help Namibians retire with dignity and greater financial security?

After 35 or 40 years of working and providing for a family, you would hope to retire with some financial security. For many Namibians, that is unfortunately not the case.

While some employees belong to occupational pension funds through their employers, others do not have access to an occupational retirement arrangement.

This means that even among formally employed Namibians, there are people who may reach retirement age with limited retirement savings beyond the support available through the government's old-age grant and their personal savings.

This is where the proposed National Pension Fund (NPF) enters the conversation.

Is the National Pension Fund a new idea?

Interestingly, the NPF is not completely new. Its establishment is already provided for under the Social Security Act, 1994 (Act 34 of 1994), although the relevant provisions have never been brought into action.

Current discussions are focused on developing a practical framework for implementing such an arrangement, with the aim of extending retirement protection to more employed Namibians who are not currently members of occupational retirement funds.

As the proposal is currently envisaged, the NPF would be contributory, and its membership and benefits would be linked to employment.

Why does Namibia need it?

Consider an employed Namibian who does not belong to an occupational pension or provident fund through their employer.

Without access to a structured workplace retirement arrangement, that individual may reach retirement age with limited retirement savings and may have to rely on personal savings, the government's old-age grant or support from family.

The proposed NPF seeks to address this gap for eligible employed people by providing a more structured retirement savings arrangement.

The intention is to provide eligible employed people who are not covered by an occupational retirement arrangement with an additional structured means of preparing for retirement.

The focus is on improving retirement income security through regular contributions shared between employees and employers, in accordance with the framework ultimately approved.

How could it work?

One of the NPF models considered is an International Labour Organisation (ILO)-designed defined benefit arrangement.

The model includes a combined contribution rate of approximately 15.9% of salary, shared between employers and employees. This is only an estimate and not the final approved contribution rate.

Other proposed features include:

Normal retirement age of 60, with early retirement from 55, subject to reduced benefits.

A target replacement ratio of approximately 40% of net earnings after 30 years of contributions.

A minimum contribution period of 15 years for a standard monthly retirement pension, subject to final rules.

Provision for disability and survivor benefits, with eligibility envisaged after five years of contributing to the NPF, subject to the final rules and qualifying conditions.

For illustration, a 40% replacement ratio would mean that someone earning a monthly income of N$10 000 before retirement could receive an estimated monthly retirement income equivalent to N$4 000, based on the same earnings measure.

This is an illustration of the proposed model and should not be understood as a guaranteed benefit or final entitlement.

The proposed 15.9% contribution is separate from the existing 1.8% social security contribution and does not replace it.

What happens to existing pension funds?

This is one of the most important questions. Thousands of Namibians already belong to occupational pension and provident funds through their employers.

How these arrangements will interact with the proposed NPF requires careful consideration.

Will existing funds receive exemptions? Will employees contribute to both arrangements?

What will this mean for employers' payroll costs and employees' take-home pay?

The policy and implementation framework will need to clarify how the NPF will interact with existing occupational pension and provident funds.

The objective should be to extend retirement coverage to eligible employed people who are not currently covered, while providing clarity for employers and employees who already participate in occupational arrangements.

Building a sustainable system

The long-term sustainability of the NPF will depend on more than the collection of contributions.

It will require a sound funding model, effective governance and oversight, transparent administration, prudent investment management and clear accountability.

Reliable contribution collection and accurate member records will also be essential to ensure that contributions are received, allocated and reflected correctly.

These elements must be supported by clear communication so that employers and employees understand their respective responsibilities and the benefits and obligations under the final framework.

Although the proposed NPF is currently envisaged as a contributory arrangement for employed people, its development is a matter of national importance.

Government, employers, employees, organised labour and the retirement-fund industry all have a role to play in ensuring that the framework is practical, fair and sustainable.

Employers and employees should seek to understand the proposed requirements, contribution responsibilities and potential implications.

Policymakers and the relevant institutions should continue to communicate openly as the framework is developed and the details are finalised.

Careful consideration is needed before implementation.

The proposed arrangement should be assessed in terms of affordability, administrative readiness, its interaction with existing retirement funds and the extent to which it can deliver meaningful retirement protection to the employed people it is intended to cover.

Ultimately, the success of the NPF should be measured not simply by its establishment, but by whether it can operate effectively over the long term and provide meaningful, affordable and sustainable retirement protection to its eligible members.

For eligible employed Namibians, retirement security is built throughout working life.

A well-designed and sustainable NPF could form part of that journey by helping to strengthen retirement provision for those who are not currently covered by an occupational retirement arrangement.

Andreas Itula Shaanika is Head of Consulting, Corporate Segment at Old Mutual Namibia

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Victims urged to seek help as GBV campaign highlights gaps in survivor support



PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

One in eight women aged 18 to 24 in Namibia has experienced sexual violence before turning 18, but questions remain over whether survivors receive adequate support after disclosing abuse.

The finding from the 2019 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey was raised during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in Windhoek on Wednesday.

Elizabeth Vial, a control social worker at the One Economy Foundation, questioned why survivors who speak out do not always receive the help they need.

"The 2019 violence against children and youth survey reported that 12% of women aged 18 to 24 experienced sexual violence before they turned 18. Half of those told someone, and one-third of those received help," Vial said.

"So where is the gap between the different aspects of intersectionality? Between asking for help and actually receiving help? So like that you said, we have systems in place, and we have laws in place. Where are the challenges?"

Her questions came as survivor Florence Beukes shared how she kept her experiences hidden for years and did not seek assistance from social workers or attend counselling.

"We hid for all those years. I didn't go to social workers. I didn't go for sessions or counselling. I didn't even try to move forward," Beukes said.

She said survivors sometimes have to take the first step themselves rather than wait for others to pull them out of difficult situations.

"Sometimes, you have to stop trying to get people to drag you out of the gutter and pull you from behind the veil. Sometimes, you just have to take that first step yourself," she said.

Beukes also spoke about the difficulty of making her experiences public through a book.

"Do you think it was easy for me to put my life into a book? Now everybody knows," she said.

She called on frontline workers who handle gender-based violence cases to treat survivors with compassion.

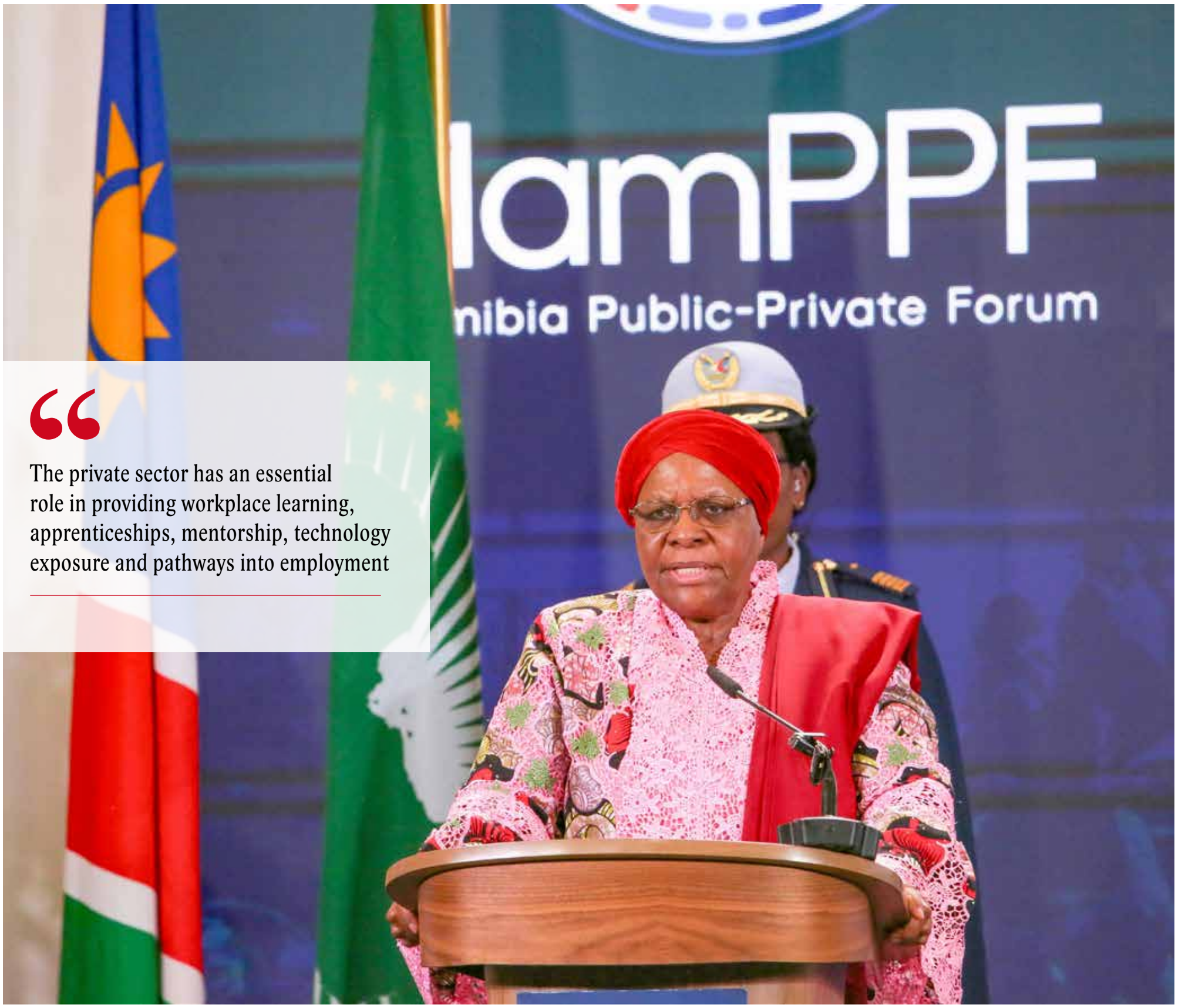
First Gentleman General Epaphras Ndaitwah said efforts to address gender-based violence should focus on the causes of the problem rather than only its effects.

"In most cases, we deal with the symptoms instead of root causes. You can deal with the symptoms, but as long as you don't kill the root causes, the problem will not go away," he said.

The campaign, held under the theme "Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity," calls for collective action to address gender-based violence against women and girls, both online and offline.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign runs from 25 November to 10 December.

It is supported by the ministry of gender equality, the office of the First Spouse, DEN Impact Foundation, UNFPA, Lifeline/Childline, the Salvation Army Namibia, the 4x4 Initiative and the AFM of Namibia National Men's Fellowship.



> The private sector has an essential role in providing workplace learning, apprenticeships, mentorship, technology exposure and pathways into employment

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

President challenges businesses to invest in young Namibians

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has challenged businesses to open more opportunities for young Namibians through apprenticeships, workplace training and mentorship, saying the country's education system must produce skills that match the needs of the economy.

Speaking at the Second Namibia Public-Private Forum (NAMPPF II) in Windhoek on Wednesday, she said employers could not leave the responsibility of preparing young people for employment to government and training institutions alone.

"We must also close the gap between skills development and the economy's needs," Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

She called on education and training institutions, employers and public agencies to work together to equip young people with technical, vocational, digital and entrepreneurial skills.

"The private sector has an essential role in providing workplace learning, apprenticeships, mentorship, technology exposure and pathways into employment," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also called for greater participation of Namibian businesses, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups, in the country's supply chains.

She said these businesses must be able to access finance and reach markets, allowing them to participate in economic activities that have traditionally been dominated by larger companies.

Minister of International Relations and Trade Selma Ashipala-Musavyi also called for greater participation of local enterprises in investment-driven economic growth, saying smaller businesses should be able to supply larger investors and benefit from the economic activity they generate.

"A stronger investment environment must be one in which large investors can thrive while local enterprises are also able to grow alongside them, supply them and benefit from the economic activity they generate," Ashipala-Musavyi said.

She said Namibia needed to move beyond being a supplier of raw materials and strengthen its participation in regional, continental and global value chains.

The minister identified the International Trade Management Bill and the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill as measures intended to strengthen the country's trade and investment environment and improve investor confidence.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also highlighted the launch of the Namibian Youth Trade Forum by the Ministry of International Relations and Trade the previous week.

The initiative aims to equip young people with knowledge of international trade rules, potentially expanding their understanding of opportunities beyond the domestic market.

She identified agriculture and agro-processing, fisheries, mining and mineral beneficiation, energy, manufacturing, tourism and the creative industries as sectors where Namibia must accelerate investment.

The president said the country should ensure that its natural resources generate greater value locally through skills development, technology transfer, local participation and competitive domestic supply chains.

The Second Namibia Public-Private Forum, held from 25 to 26 November, brought government and private-sector representatives together to assess progress on commitments made during the inaugural forum and identify measures to improve investment and job creation.



Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Church urged to confront youth unemployment

PATIENCE MAKWELE
Staff Writer

Speaker of the National Assembly Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has called on the Church to play an active role in addressing youth unemployment and other social challenges facing Namibian communities, saying government policies and legislation alone cannot resolve the problems.

Addressing the 13th graduation ceremony of St. Charles Lwanga Major Seminary in Klein Windhoek on Thursday, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said families across rural villages and urban townships continued to grapple with unemployment, substance abuse, gender-based violence and mental health struggles.

"Across our rural villages and urban townships, many families continue to grapple with youth unemployment, substance abuse, gender-based violence, mental health struggles and the lingering wounds of historical inequalities," she said.

She said that while parliament continued to debate laws, policies and national budgets aimed at addressing poverty, inequality and access to education, healthcare and employment, institutional interventions could not address every difficulty experienced by communities.

"Legislation and institutional frameworks alone cannot heal a wounded heart or restore a broken spirit," she said.

> In an age of instant judgment and polarization on digital platforms, Namibia needs thoughtful spiritual and community leaders who can listen with patience, weigh evidence carefully and build consensus across diverse communities

The Speaker said young priests and pastoral workers were often the first point of refuge for people experiencing distress, adding that the Church and State shared responsibility for supporting communities affected by these challenges.

"Both the Church and the State share a solemn responsibility to walk alongside our people in addressing these realities," she said.

She urged the graduating priests and pastoral leaders to support families affected by violence and addiction, advocate for peace and mutual respect in troubled homes, and champion the safety and dignity of women and children.

She also called on them to comfort grieving communities and remind young Namibians of their worth and potential.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said the graduates were entering ministry and public leadership at a time of rapid technological, cultural and social transformation, with digitalisation, artificial intelligence and globalised cultural influences presenting new challenges.

She said their training in Philosophy and Theology had equipped them to think critically, question assumptions, seek truth and engage in respectful dialogue.

"In an age of instant judgment and polarization on digital platforms, Namibia needs thoughtful spiritual and community leaders who can listen with patience, weigh evidence carefully and build consensus across diverse communities," she said.

She added that Theology grounded intellectual development in empathy, respect for human dignity, social justice and solidarity with vulnerable people.

The Speaker further urged the graduates to practise accountable leadership, saying young people were drawn not only to words from leaders but also to credibility, transparency and actions that reflected their convictions.

"True leadership, whether exercised in a parish, a classroom, a community centre or the chambers of Parliament is never about status, privilege or authority over others," she said.

"As your Seminary's mission reminds us, it is about shepherding: walking alongside the people, understanding their daily struggles, defending the voiceless and serving with humility and fairness."

She encouraged the graduates to remain connected to ordinary citizens, maintain their integrity and commit themselves to lifelong learning.

Seminary rector Reverend Father Dr Taiju Thaliath said the institution's responsibility extended beyond preparing candidates for academic qualifications or positions within the Church.

He said the seminary sought to produce people who were intellectually competent, spiritually grounded, emotionally mature and pastorally committed.

"Our vision is to form candidates for priesthood, who become agents of transformation in the Church and society, where people who truly live as the light of the world and salt of the earth," he said, referring to Matthew 5:13-14.

Thaliath said education and formation needed to go hand in hand, particularly in Namibia, where ethical leadership, social responsibility, justice and respect for human dignity were essential to building a peaceful and prosperous society.

He said the seminary sought to bring Philosophy and Theology into meaningful dialogue with Namibian society, its traditions and contemporary challenges.

"We want our students to understand the world in which they live, and to respond to its needs with faith, intelligence, and compassion," he said.

He challenged the graduates to use their qualifications to make a difference in the lives of others rather than treating their certificates as personal achievements.

"Do not allow your certificates to become decorations on your walls. Let them become instruments of transformation in the world," he said.

He added that the value of education should also be measured by the opportunities graduates created and the number of people they helped along the way.

"The measure of your education will ultimately not be how high you rise, but how many people you have helped rise with you," he said.

Thaliath congratulated the graduating class, describing the ceremony as the culmination of years of study, examinations, research, assignments and personal sacrifice.

He also acknowledged the contribution of lecturers, formators, administrative staff, parents and guardians in supporting the graduates throughout their studies.

The ceremony was held under the theme, "Young Priests, New Challenges: Preserving Faith and Hope in a Changing World."

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"We will forget you, comrade, we will forget you"

Imagine this scenario: A pioneering national leader, someone who dedicated decades of their life to the liberation, development and upliftment of this country, is spending their final years quietly, perhaps battling illness, ageing or simply coming to terms with a life that has moved from the centre of national affairs to the margins. The people who once sang their praises, sought their counsel and celebrated their contribution are nowhere to be seen. Then comes news that their health is deteriorating. Suddenly, telephone calls are made, visits are organised and public expressions of concern emerge. When death eventually comes, the entire nation gathers to sing, mourn and declare: "We remember you, comrade. We will never forget you."

It is a hypothetical scenario, perhaps, but one that raises an uncomfortable question about how we treat those who helped shape the country we call home.

Consider the legacy of a pioneering national leader whose service, philanthropy and unwavering commitment to education touched countless lives. Through personal sacrifice, determination and a profound belief in the transformative power of education, the comrade helped build schools, opened doors for disadvantaged children and championed communities whose needs were too often overlooked. The contribution was not simply about occupying positions of influence or participating in the making of history. It was about changing lives, creating opportunities and leaving something tangible for generations to come.

Such a legacy deserves more than a funeral, a national tribute or a few paragraphs in the history books. It deserves recognition, respect and, above all, appreciation while the person who made that contribution is still alive.

Yet, there is an increasingly familiar and deeply troubling narrative about how Namibia treats some of its national heroes, particularly in their final years.

We celebrate them when they are politically relevant, invoke their names when it suits our national narratives and sing their praises at commemorative events. We proudly remind ourselves of their sacrifices, their contribution to the liberation struggle and the role they played in building the country.

But what happens when they grow old, become frail or withdraw from public life?

Too often, they gradually disappear from our collective consciousness. Until, of course, news emerges that one of them is seriously ill or approaching the end of their life. Suddenly, the machinery of remembrance comes alive. Telephone calls are made, visits are organised, messages of concern are issued and prominent figures appear at hospital bedsides or private residences.

There is an almost frantic effort to demonstrate that the country has not forgotten someone whose contribution it once celebrated so enthusiastically.

And when death eventually comes, we gather.

We sing the revolutionary songs, deliver emotional speeches, recount the sacrifices and make solemn promises never to forget. We declare that the nation has lost a giant, a pioneer, a freedom fighter, a patriot or a distinguished servant of the people.

But where were we when that person was still alive and could have appreciated a visit, a conversation or a simple expression of gratitude?

The irony is captured in that haunting line: "We will forget you, comrade, we will forget you."

It is a painful refrain because it seems to describe something more than a song. It speaks to a national contradiction: our remarkable ability to remember people ceremonially while sometimes failing to remember them humanly.

Is this really the country we have become?

Let us be clear. This is not an argument that the state should spend additional public resources maintaining former political leaders, nor that people who have benefited from public office should automatically expect special treatment for the remainder of their lives. Public resources are limited, and there must be sensible boundaries between legitimate social responsibility and personal entitlement.

Neither should we romanticise the past or assume that everyone who participated in the liberation struggle or held public office is automatically deserving of unquestioning admiration.

But that is not the issue.

The issue is basic human decency.

A visit does not require a government budget. A telephone call does not require Cabinet approval. Asking an elderly comrade how they are doing, whether they are coping or whether there is anything with which one can assist is neither an expensive undertaking nor an extraordinary act of generosity.

It is simply being human.

Perhaps this is where we need to examine ourselves, particularly as a society that places such importance on solidarity, community and respect for our elders.

We have become very good at celebrating people publicly but, at times, disappointingly poor at caring for them privately. We are comfortable organising elaborate funerals, delivering glowing tributes and publishing lengthy accounts of people's contributions after they have died. Yet we sometimes struggle with the far simpler responsibility of maintaining a relationship with them while they are still here.

Our heroes are not monuments. They are human beings.

They grow old. They become vulnerable. They experience loneliness, illness and the ordinary difficulties that accompany ageing. They may no longer occupy influential positions, command attention or have access to the networks they once enjoyed. Some may have supportive families and communities around them, while others may find themselves increasingly isolated.

Their historical contribution does not make them immune to these realities.

There is also a particular responsibility on political parties, institutions and organisations that benefited from the dedication of these individuals. They should not remember their pioneers only when their names are needed for political speeches, anniversaries and commemorative events. There should be a deliberate culture of maintaining relationships across generations, particularly with those who laid the foundations upon which today's leadership stands.

This is not about creating another government programme or establishing an elaborate welfare arrangement for former leaders. It is about institutionalising something far more meaningful: a culture of care, appreciation and human connection.

Political leaders, former colleagues, public institutions and ordinary citizens can all play a part. We should know how our elderly pioneers are doing, visit them occasionally and make time to listen to their experiences. We should preserve their stories, seek their wisdom and ensure that younger generations understand the sacrifices and contributions that shaped the country.

Importantly, this responsibility should not begin when someone is terminally ill. It should be part of how we live and relate to one another.

There is something profoundly uncomfortable about a nation that can mobilise an entire political establishment to organise a dignified funeral but struggles to organise an occasional visit while the person is still alive.

Perhaps we should begin measuring our gratitude differently. Not by the number of speeches delivered at funerals, the length of obituaries published or the prominence given to photographs at memorial services, but by the attention, respect and kindness we extend to people while they can still receive and appreciate them.

Let us visit them. Let us call them. Let us listen to their stories, even if we have heard them a hundred times. Let us allow them to feel that their lives mattered, that their sacrifices were not in vain and that the country they helped build has not simply moved on without them.

We cannot keep telling future generations that we are a nation that honours its history while treating some of the people who made that history as though their relevance ended with their last public appearance.

A funeral is an occasion to mourn. It should not be the first occasion in years that we demonstrate our appreciation. The greatest tribute we can pay a comrade is not to sing louder when they are being lowered into the grave. It is to ensure that, while they are still among us, they never have to wonder whether their country remembers them.

"We will forget you, comrade, we will forget you."

Perhaps it is time we stopped singing those words as though they were inevitable and started living by a different promise:

We remember you, comrade. And we will show you that we remember while you are still here.



Are we prioritising our most vulnerable communities as we should?

The new Ju/'hoansi Eco-Village in Epukiro is a welcome demonstration of what can happen when compassion, private-sector investment and a commitment to human dignity come together. But it also raises a much bigger question: why should access to decent housing, electricity, clean water and basic services remain something that vulnerable communities receive through exceptional projects rather than guaranteed development priorities?

There is something profoundly encouraging about the story of 40 Ju/'hoansi San families who have moved into new homes at the N/a'an ku sê Ju/'hoansi Eco-Village in Epukiro, in the Omaheke Region.

For approximately 200 people, this is more than a housing development. It is an opportunity to live with greater dignity, security and access to some of the basic necessities that many Namibians take for granted.

The 40 two-bedroom homes, supported by a 253kWp off-grid solar plant, represent a meaningful intervention in the lives of a community that has historically found itself on the margins of Namibia's economic and social development.

The development, inaugurated by Vice President Lucia Witbooi in October, is a welcome reminder that targeted interventions can make a tangible difference when the needs of vulnerable communities are placed at the centre of development planning.

Yet, beyond celebrating this achievement, there is a more uncomfortable question we should be asking ourselves as a country: are we really prioritising our most vulnerable communities as we should?

The significance of this project lies not only in the houses constructed or the solar panels installed.

It lies in the recognition that poverty and marginalisation cannot be addressed through isolated interventions.

They require an understanding of how different aspects of people's lives are interconnected.

For years, the N/a'an ku sê Foundation's Lifeline Clinic has provided free healthcare in Epukiro.

Its executive director, Marlice van Vuuren, makes an observation that deserves particular attention.

After treating the same children for the same illnesses year after year, the foundation realised that it could not keep them healthy while their living conditions continued to make them sick.

That is perhaps the most important lesson in this entire story.

We often approach poverty through individual interventions. We build a clinic, provide food parcels, distribute blankets, organise medical outreach programmes or introduce social assistance schemes.

These interventions are necessary, but they can only achieve so much when the underlying conditions that perpetuate poverty remain unchanged.

You cannot sustainably improve the health of children if they continue to live in unhealthy environments.

You cannot meaningfully improve educational outcomes if children lack electricity to study after sunset.

You cannot speak convincingly about economic empowerment when communities have no reliable infrastructure, limited access to markets and few opportunities to develop sustainable livelihoods.

The Epukiro project appears to understand this relationship.

Beyond the houses, the development incorporates water recycling and treatment facilities, clean cooking infrastructure, a community garden and an enterprise centre.

The solar installation provides reliable electricity, including overnight, while its maintenance is guaranteed through SolarSaver's ownership and monitoring arrangement.

In other words, the intervention attempts to address the circumstances that have kept the community vulnerable rather than simply responding to the symptoms of poverty.

This is what meaningful development should look like.

But it also exposes a troubling question about our national priorities.

Namibia is not short of development plans, policy documents, political commitments or speeches about leaving no one behind.

Successive governments have acknowledged the need to address historical inequalities, improve rural livelihoods and ensure that marginalised communities participate meaningfully in the country's economic development.

Yet, the reality for many vulnerable communities remains difficult.

For some, access to clean water is still a daily struggle. Decent housing remains out of reach. Electricity is either unavailable or unreliable.

Healthcare facilities are often distant, while educational opportunities are constrained by the very circumstances in which children are expected to learn and develop.

The San communities, in particular, have historically experienced some of the most entrenched forms of poverty, exclusion and marginalisation in Namibia.

Their challenges cannot be understood simply through income statistics.

They involve land, livelihoods, access to education, cultural preservation, economic participation and the ability to exercise meaningful control over their own futures.

It is therefore encouraging to see a project that recognises the importance of dignity and community development.

But we should be careful not to celebrate exceptional interventions while overlooking the structural responsibilities that remain.

It is also important to recognise who made this particular development possible.

The N$25 million eco-village was funded by a group of donors led by the Verburg Fonds, while the N$5.5 million solar installation was contributed by SolarSaver, SIAAC and Enersol.

This is commendable. Private-sector participation, philanthropy and partnerships with civil society organisations have an important role to play in addressing development challenges.



The government cannot do everything alone, and there is considerable value in mobilising resources and expertise beyond the public sector.
However, there is a distinction between welcoming private-sector contributions and allowing the responsibility for addressing deep-rooted social inequalities to rest disproportionately on philanthropists and charitable organisations.
The state has a constitutional, moral and developmental responsibility to ensure that all Namibians enjoy access to basic services and opportunities.
Private organisations can complement that responsibility, innovate and demonstrate what is possible, but they cannot replace it.
Indeed, one of the questions this project should prompt the government to consider is whether similar models can be replicated in other communities facing comparable circumstances.
The technology exists. The expertise exists. Partnerships can be mobilised. Solar energy, in particular, offers considerable opportunities for remote settlements where extending conventional electricity infrastructure may be costly or impractical.
But replication requires more than enthusiasm. It requires proper planning, community consultation, sustainable financing, maintenance arrangements and, crucially, the participation of the people whose lives these developments are intended to improve.
The community must not simply be the recipient of development. It must be an active participant in shaping and sustaining it.
There is also a need to look beyond the physical infrastructure. Housing and electricity are important, but what happens next?
Will the enterprise centre create meaningful economic opportunities?
Will the community garden contribute to food security and potentially generate income?
Will children have better educational outcomes? Will access to healthcare improve? Will families become more economically independent?
These are the measures by which the success of the eco-village should ultimately be judged.
A house is a beginning, not the destination. Electricity is an enabler, not an economic strategy. Infrastructure must translate into better lives, greater opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.
We should also guard against the temptation to treat vulnerable communities as passive beneficiaries of generosity. The San are not simply communities that need to be rescued. They are Namibians with knowledge, culture, aspirations and the right to participate in determining their own future.
Their dignity must be at the centre of every intervention.
The Epukiro development deserves recognition because it demonstrates that a different approach is possible.
It shows what can happen when people look beyond conventional charity and confront the conditions that perpetuate poverty.
But perhaps its greatest contribution is that it forces us to examine the gap between our national promises and the lived realities of some of our most vulnerable citizens.
We cannot continue speaking about inclusive development while entire communities remain at the margins.
We cannot celebrate economic progress without asking who is benefiting from it.
And we cannot claim to be building a prosperous Namibia if the most vulnerable among us are still waiting for the basic conditions that allow people to live with dignity.
The real test of our national development agenda is not how well we serve those who already have access to opportunities, but how seriously we address the circumstances of those who have been left behind.
The 40 families in Epukiro now have homes, electricity and the beginnings of a different future. That is worth celebrating.
But they should not be the exception that makes us feel good about ourselves.
They should be a reminder of what is possible, an example of what is necessary and a challenge to those responsible for ensuring that development reaches every corner of our country.
Are we prioritising our most vulnerable communities as we should?
If the answer is yes, then projects such as this should not be isolated success stories made possible largely through private philanthropy.
They should become part of a deliberate, adequately resourced and measurable national commitment to ensuring that no Namibian community is condemned to the margins of development.
Leaving no one behind must mean more than a political slogan. It must be visible in the homes people live in, the water they drink, the electricity they access, the schools their children attend and the opportunities available to them.
Above all, it must be measured by whether those who have historically had the least are finally receiving the attention, investment and dignity they deserve.



OBSERVERFEATURE

Where is the voice of organized labour?

Namibia's trade unions were once at the forefront of the struggle for freedom. Thirty-six years into independence, their silence raises uncomfortable questions.



There was a time when organised labour in Namibia was among the most formidable forces in the country's political and social landscape.

Trade unions were not merely institutions negotiating wages and working conditions.

They were instruments of resistance, mobilisation and political consciousness, helping to challenge a system that denied the majority of Namibians their dignity and rights.

The December 1971 general strike remains one of the defining moments in this history.

Between 13 000 and 20 000 contract workers participated in an industrial action that shook the apartheid administration and exposed the brutality of the contract labour system.

Workers demonstrated that their collective power could bring an economy to a standstill.

The National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), established in 1970, became closely aligned with SWAPO and its liberation struggle.

This relationship was historically understandable. The struggle for workers' rights was inseparable from the struggle for national liberation.

Indeed, some of Namibia's strongest and most influential unions emerged under the NUNW umbrella.

The Mineworkers Union of Namibia (MUN), the Namibia Food and Allied Workers Union (NAFAU) and other affiliates enjoyed considerable grassroots support.

Their strength was rooted in their ability to organise workers and confront employers.

But independence fundamentally changed the relationship between political power and organised labour.

The movement that unions had helped bring to power became the government they were supposed to hold accountable.

This created an uncomfortable contradiction: how does a union remain an independent defender of workers when its political loyalties lie with the governing party?

Over time, that contradiction became increasingly difficult to ignore.

Labour researcher Herbert Jauch was already warning about this problem in 2006.

In a public lecture reported by The Namibian, he argued that the historical relationship between SWAPO and the NUNW contained the seeds of both its creation and its destruction.

He raised concerns about union leaders accepting political appointments and paid positions on company boards, sometimes at the expense of their responsibility to ordinary workers.

Leaders who had once been powerful advocates for reform were increasingly disappearing into political and corporate structures.

This was not simply a question of individual ambition. It pointed to a deeper institutional problem: the gradual erosion of accountability and the independence of organised labour.

The consequences were visible in subsequent internal divisions, leadership disputes and declining influence.

The emergence of alternative federations, including the Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA) and the Namibia National Labour Organisation (NANLO), also reflected a fragmented labour landscape.

Yet it would be unfair to declare organised labour entirely dead.

Unions outside the NUNW have continued to represent workers, while individual affiliates have periodically demonstrated their ability to mobilise.

The 2006 Ramatex strike, in which workers defied opposition from political and union leadership and successfully pursued their demands, demonstrated that the appetite for collective action had not disappeared.

But isolated victories cannot disguise the broader question of influence.

Namibia faces persistent unemployment, pressure on household incomes, disputes over working conditions and concerns about the distribution of national wealth.

Workers need strong institutions capable of challenging employers, questioning government policy and defending their interests regardless of who occupies the State House.

A trade union cannot become an extension of a political party without compromising its primary responsibility.

Political affiliation is not inherently wrong. The problem arises when political loyalty becomes more important than the interests of members.

The liberation struggle required solidarity between political movements and workers.

The democratic era requires something equally important: independence of thought, institutional accountability and the courage to disagree.

Namibia's organised labour movement does not need to abandon its history or its political relationships.

It needs to rediscover its purpose.

The question is no longer whether unions helped liberate Namibia. Their contribution is well documented.

The question is whether they can still liberate workers from exploitation, insecurity and economic exclusion.

And, perhaps more urgently, when workers look for someone to speak on their behalf, where is the voice of organised labour?

How does AI affect how we learn? A cognitive psychologist explains why you learn when the work is hard

When OpenAI released "study mode" in July 2025, the company touted ChatGPT's educational benefits.

"When ChatGPT is prompted to teach or tutor, it can significantly improve academic performance," the company's vice president of education told reporters at the product's launch. But any dedicated teacher would be right to wonder: Is this just marketing, or does scholarly research really support such claims?

While generative AI tools are moving into classrooms at lightning speed, robust research on the question at hand hasn't moved nearly as fast. Some early studies have shown benefits for certain groups such as computer programming students and English language learners.

And there have been a number of other optimistic studies on AI in education, such as one published in the journal Nature in May 2025 suggesting that chatbots may aid learning and higher-order thinking. But scholars in the field have pointed to significant methodological weaknesses in many of these research papers.

Other studies have painted a grimmer picture, suggesting that AI may impair performance or cognitive abilities such as critical thinking skills. One paper showed that the more a student used ChatGPT while learning, the worse they did later on similar tasks when ChatGPT wasn't available.

In other words, early research is only beginning to scratch the surface of how this technology will truly affect learning and cognition in the long run. Where else can we look for clues? As a cognitive psychologist who has studied how college students are using AI, I have found that my field offers valuable guidance for identifying when AI can be a brain booster and when it risks becoming a brain drain.

Skill comes from effort

Cognitive psychologists have argued that our thoughts and decisions are the result of two processing modes, commonly denoted as System 1 and System 2.

The former is a system of pattern matching, intuition and habit. It is fast and automatic, requiring little conscious attention or cognitive effort. Many of our routine daily activities – getting dressed, making coffee and riding a bike to work or school – fall into this category.

System 2, on the other hand, is generally slow and deliberate, requiring more conscious attention and sometimes painful cognitive effort, but often yields more robust outputs.

We need both of these systems, but gaining knowledge and mastering new skills depend heavily on System 2. Struggle, friction and mental effort are crucial to the cognitive work of learning, remembering and strengthening connections in the brain. Every time a confident cyclist gets on a bike, they rely on the hard-won pattern recognition in their System 1 that they previously built up through many hours of effortful System 2 work spent learning to ride. You don't get mastery and you can't chunk information efficiently for higher-level processing without first putting in the cognitive effort and strain.

I tell my students the brain is a lot like a muscle: It takes genuine hard work to see gains. Without challenging that muscle, it won't grow bigger.

What if a machine does the work for you?

Now imagine a robot that accompanies you to the gym and lifts the weights for you, no strain needed on your part. Before long, your own muscles will have atrophied and you'll become reliant on the robot at home even for simple tasks like moving a heavy box.

AI, used poorly – to complete a quiz or write an essay, say – lets students bypass the very thing they need to develop knowledge and skills. It takes away the mental workout.

Using technology to effectively offload cognitive workouts can have a detrimental effect on learning and memory and can cause people to misread their own understanding or abilities, leading to what psychologists call metacognitive errors. Research has shown that habitually offloading car navigation to GPS may impair spatial memory and that using an external source like Google to answer questions makes people overconfident in their own personal knowledge and memory.

Learning and mastery come from effort, whether that's done with a powerful chatbot or AI tutor or not, but educators and students need to resist outsourcing that work.

Francesco Carta fotografo via Getty Images

Are there similar risks when students hand off cognitive tasks to AI? One study found that students researching a topic using ChatGPT instead of a traditional web search had lower cognitive load during the task – they didn't have to think as hard – and produced worse reasoning about the topic they had researched. Surface-level use of AI may mean less cognitive burden in the moment, but this is akin to letting a robot do your gym workout for you. It ultimately leads to poorer thinking skills.

In another study, students using AI to revise their essays scored higher than those revising without AI, often by simply copying and pasting sentences from ChatGPT. But these students showed no more actual knowledge gain or knowledge transfer than their peers who worked without it.

The AI group also engaged in fewer rigorous System 2 thinking processes.

The authors warn that such "metacognitive laziness" may prompt short-term performance improvements but also lead to the stagnation of long-term skills.

Offloading can be useful once foundations are in place. But those foundations can't be formed unless your brain does the initial work necessary to encode, connect and understand the issues you're trying to master.- **The Conversation**

Capacity Building with Diamond Training Institute

Bankability is a learned capability

I have often found it interesting how entrepreneurs speak about funding as though it is the final missing ingredient in their business success. The business idea is promising, the market appears attractive, and the ambition to grow is certainly there. All that remains, they believe, is for a financial institution to provide the necessary capital. Yet, when the opportunity to apply for funding arises, some discover that their businesses are not sufficiently prepared to meet the requirements.

This raises an important question: Is access to finance always the problem, or have we underestimated the capabilities required to become financially ready?

Bankability is generally associated with an enterprise's ability to qualify for financing. However, I believe it should be understood more broadly as an organisational capability developed through financial discipline, sound management .practices and consistent business performance.

A business does not become bankable simply because it has a promising idea or an enthusiastic owner. Financial institutions need evidence that the enterprise can manage resources responsibly, generate sustainable revenue and meet its financial obligations.

Consider an entrepreneur whose business generates reasonable income but maintains incomplete financial records. Another may have several customers but cannot distinguish between business revenue and personal expenditure. A third may possess considerable industry experience yet struggle to prepare realistic cash flow projections.

These are not necessarily failures of entrepreneurship. They are gaps in business management capability.

For Namibia, where small and medium enterprises are expected to contribute meaningfully to employment creation and economic development, strengthening these capabilities deserves greater attention.

Entrepreneurship development must therefore extend beyond teaching individuals how to start businesses. It should equip them with the competencies to manage, sustain and grow those enterprises. Financial literacy, record-keeping, budgeting, pricing, compliance and strategic planning should not be treated as administrative obligations completed only when applying for funding. They are essential management practices that determine the financial health of an enterprise. This is why structured mentoring and continuous business development support are particularly valuable. Entrepreneurs often require opportunities to apply what they learn, receive feedback and progressively strengthen their operational systems.Of course, improving business capability does not automatically eliminate financing barriers. Collateral requirements, lending conditions and limited access to suitable financial products remain genuine challenges for many entrepreneurs.

However, these structural difficulties should not discourage investment in business readiness.

Perhaps we should reconsider how we measure the success of entrepreneurship development programmes. Instead of concentrating primarily on the number of entrepreneurs trained, we should examine how many businesses have improved their financial records, strengthened their management systems and become better positioned for investment.

Bankability should not begin when an entrepreneur completes a loan application. It should develop through the everyday decisions that make a business financially credible. Ultimately, funding can help a business grow, but it is the capability to manage that funding responsibly that determines whether growth can be sustained.



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Stevie Wonder's 'Songs in the Key of Life' – which spread an audacious message of love – turns 50 as the Motown legend goes on tour

Stevie Wonder aimed to answer a lofty question in his 18th studio album, "Songs in the Key of Life": Can we solve the world's problems with love?

Released on Sept. 28, 1976, Wonder's long-anticipated, 21-track double album dazzled listeners and influenced generations of artists. The album bridged the socially conscious R&B, funk, jazz and rock of the early 1970s with 1980s pop music.

As a cultural historian, I view Wonder's record not just as a touchstone in the history of U.S. popular culture, but as a reflection of the artist's Detroit upbringing.

Wonder is celebrating the 50th anniversary of "Songs in the Key of Life" by touring over a dozen cities in Europe and the U.S.. He will perform the entire album.

Early days as a young artist

Wonder was born Stevland Judkins in Saginaw, Michigan, on May 13, 1950, to Lula Mae Hardaway and Calvin Judkins. The elder Judkins mostly found himself unemployed, hustling in the early 1950s and forcing Hardaway into sex work.

Born prematurely, Wonder developed retinopathy after receiving too much air while incubated. This left him blind. According to "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," a biography of Wonder published in 2010, Wonder's mother divorced Judkins after she and her family moved to Detroit in 1954, when Wonder was 4 years old. Left to raise six kids, Hardaway found steady work at a fish market.

From an early age, Wonder attracted attention from his mother, siblings and friends for his musical gifts. He learned to play the piano, harmonica and drums by the time he was 10. And like many aspiring Black musicians, Wonder began his life of performance by singing in a church choir, at the New Corinthian Church on the West Side of the city.

"After the first service of the day, he'd hang around and come in between services and ask to play the piano ... that boy could play!" recalled Kim Weston, a Motown singer.

Motown Records Founder and CEO, Berry Gordy, Jr. signed Wonder in 1961 when the artist was 11.

Young man plays harmonica

At an early age, Stevie Wonder was recognized for his virtuosic musical talents. Bettmann/Getty Images

At the time, Gordy compared Wonder to Ray Charles. The young prodigy recorded 13 albums and 35 singles in the decade that followed.

Wonder's musical evolution

Wonder eventually wanted to produce his own music without Motown's direction.

Wonder's childhood contract with Motown expired when he turned 21. This led to turbulent negotiations for a new record deal with Motown, as Wonder fought for more creative control.

Meanwhile, Wonder expanded his sound as the negotiations stalled. He experimented more with rock. He studied funk performers like Sly Stone.

After signing a new contract with Motown, Wonder embarked on one of the most exceptional periods of album recording in the history of popular music. In collaboration with music producers Malcolm Cecil and Bob Margouleff, he released four classic albums — "Music of My Mind" and "Talking Book" in 1972, "Innervisions" in 1973 and "Fulfillingness' First Finale" in 1974.

Then tragedy struck.

During his tour for "Innervisions" in August 1973, Wonder got into a car accident that left him in a coma for four days. Five months after regaining consciousness, he started performing with his band Wonderlove again.

Wonder then signed a seven-year, seven-album, US$13 million contract in 1975 and began writing "Songs in the Key of Life".

A glorious vision

"Songs in the Key of Life" dropped in a tenuous moment not just for Motown Records, but for Detroit and the United States.

Detroit struggled economically during the 1970s, as businesses and residents continued to move out. The unemployment rate in Detroit hovered near 14% in 1975 after layoffs from the auto industry and economic crisis shook the city.

"Songs in the Key of Life" features a bevy of collaborators, from the Wonderlove band to keyboardist Greg Phillinganes, organist Ronnie Foster, harpist Dorothy Ashby and American jazz musician Herbie Hancock to the West Angeles Church of God Choir, Hare Krishna singers and members of Wonder's family.

The synthesis of musical genres, English, Spanish and Zulu languages, and themes like love, heartbreak, regret, spirituality and religion make Wonder's album difficult to categorize.

Wonder reminisces about his time as a "nappy-headed boy" growing up in Detroit on the cheerful and nostalgic "I Wish." He sings about the high jinks that he and his "hoodlum friends" got into – sneaking outside, smoking cigarettes and getting into trouble at school.

Wonder grew up in Detroit's Brewster-Douglass projects, living at 2701 Hastings, although he later lived in homes on the

The song "Black Man" is a history lesson about the contributions of Black, brown, Asian and Native Americans over the country's 200-year history – figures like abolitionist Harriet Tubman and World War I veteran Sing Kee.

In "Ngiculela – Es Una Historia – I Am Singing," Wonder sings in Zulu, Spanish and English, which speaks to the beauty of multiculturalism.

However, I consider love the most prominent theme of "Songs in the Key of Life."

On the grand yet slow-burning opening track "Love's in Need of Love Today," Wonder sings about the need for people to nurture love**.-bbc**

"The concept I had in mind was that for love to be effective, it has to be fed. Love by itself is hollow," Wonder told The Wall Street Journal in 2015.

While Wonder reflects on romance and heartbreak in songs like "Knocks Me Off of My Feet" and "Ordinary Pain," he captures the joy of new life and fatherhood on "Isn't She Lovely," a song celebrating the birth of his daughter Aisha Morris in 1975.

On "As," Wonder asks whether we can describe the meaning of love through words alone. The 7-minute song shares a hopeful spiritual, cosmic and utopian message. Lyrics like "until the day the Earth start's turnin' right to left" and "until the day that eight times eight is four" show how love can be illogical but enduring.

In a preacher's tone, Wonder sings about his devotion to love, through pain and struggle and the passage of time on the last verse of "As."**-The Conversation**

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA) FOR SAND AND AGGREGATE QUARRYING PROJECTS IN OHANGWENA REGION.

As per the Environmental Management Act (EMA), No. 7 of 2007, and its 2012 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, the public is hereby notified that applications for Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs) for new sand and aggregate burrow pits (projects) listed below will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF).

Environmental Consultant: Malta Environmental Consulting Solutions cc (MECS)

1. **The Proponent:** Greenside Trading Enterprises cc
   Project Location: Epale village, Eenhana constituency in Ohangwena Region
2. **The Proponent:** Oukwanyama Traditional Authority (OTA)
   Project location: Ohaihana village, Eenhana constituency in Ohangwena Region

Members of the public are invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit written comments before 30 November 2026 to the following email address and contact number: MECS at maltaenvirosol@gmail.com Tel: +264 81 834 0737

NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (I&APs) THAT AN APPLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER IN TERMS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (NO. 7 OF 2007) AND ITS REGULATIONS (GN NO. 29 OF 2012) FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ACTIVITY.

Activity Name
The Proposed Design, Construction and Operation of a Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Plant in Omaruru, Erongo Region, Namibia

Proponent
Vishnu Trading House CC

Project Location
Omaruru Industrial Area *(-21.425549, 15.939149)*

Project Description
The Proponent intends to establish and operate a lead-acid battery recycling plant in the Omaruru Industrial Area, Erongo Region, Namibia. The facility will receive spent lead-acid batteries and recover reusable materials, principally lead and polypropylene plastic, while managing the associated electrolyte and process residues. The proposed activity falls under Activity 9 (Hazardous Substance Treatment, Handling and Storage) of GN No. 29 of 2012 of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007). An Environmental Clearance Certificate must therefore be obtained from the Environmental Commissioner in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism before the activity commences.

Environmental Assessment Practitioner:
Namib Consulting Services CC.

Public Meeting:
Date: 03 December 2026**,** Time: 10:30 am **,** Venue: Omaruru Municipality Hall

Comment Submission Period:
Open until 8 December 2026

Registration as I&APs:
To obtain the Background Information Documents (BID), register and submit comments or obtain further information, please contact: 081 – 499 4488, **Email**: namibconsulting10@gmail.com

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 mining activities for dimension stone on mining claims; 75626, 75628, 76187, 76188 & 76189, situated approximately 8Km, South of Karibib, Erongo Region.

Project Location: (a) The mining claim; 75626 is situated approximately 8Km, South of Karibib, Erongo Region. **(b)** The mining claims; 75628, 76187, 76188 & 76189 are situated approximately 8Km, South of Karibib, Erongo Region.

Project Description: The proposed project includes establishment of mining activities for dimension stone on mining claims; 75626, 75628, 76187, 76188 & 76189, situated approximately 8Km, South of Karibib, Erongo Region.

Proponents: (a) Mr Andreas Nghikeno Kalimbo & (b) Mr. Hailonga Niiro Hilifavali Alivina



All Interested and Affected Parties (I &APs) are hereby invited to register and request for Background Information Document (BID) and submit inputs on the email provided below, on or before 18th December 2026. A public participation meeting will be conducted as follows;

Place: Community Hall, Karibib, Erongo Region
Date: 12th December 2026
Time: 10h00 am
For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com

Windhoek, Namibia

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30 November 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION FOR COMMENTS: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED DUNE SAND MINING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF BLOUWES TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY, //KHARAS REGION

The public is notified that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed project is a listed activity in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an EIA Study (EIA Scoping Report & Environmental Management Plan).

The Proponent: FIC Trading Enterprise CC

Appointed Environmental Consultant: Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (*Serja HGE Consultants*)

Project Description and Location: The Proponent intends to extract and collect dune sand for supply to the construction industry and other industries in the area, region, and immediate vicinity. The proposed site is about 6km southeast of the Tses Village and falls within communal land under the jurisdiction of the Blouwes Traditional Authority and in the !Khob !Naub Conservancy. The approximate site GPS coordinates are: -25.910474, 18.169687.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement and Participation: The public is therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit comments, concerns (**in writing**), or receive further information on the EIA Study (such as the Background Information Document (BID)). The deadline for registration and submission of comments, issues, and/or concerns is **Thursday, 31 December 2026.**

The Community Consultation Meeting will be held in Blouwes Settlement as follows:

Date & Time: Thursday, 3 December 2026 **@ 09:30 am; Venue:** Blouwes TA Gathering Place, Blouwes Settlement.

Contact Person: Ms. Fredrika Shagama; **Mobile No**.: +264 (0) 81 749 9223 (in writing only)

Email: eias.public@serjaconsultants.com

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 mineral exploration activities for base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals and precious metals at EPL 10303, Kamanjab, Kunene Region.

Project Location: EPL 10303, Kamanjab, Kunene Region, Namibia

Project Description: The proposed project entails mineral exploration activities for base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals and precious metals at EPL 10303, Kamanjab, Kunene Region. The EIA process will assess potential environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with the project and recommend mitigation measures.

Proponent: Carrilo Investment Pty (Ltd)



All Interested and Affected Parties (I &APs) are hereby invited to register, request for Background Information Document (BID) and submit their inputs on or before 18 December 2026. A public consultation meeting is scheduled to take place on the 04th December 2026 at Kamanjab Community Hall, Kamanjab, Kunene Region.

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TENTED-CAMP FACILITY AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURES AT HOTTENTOTS BAY, WITHIN THE NORTHERN SAND AND SEA CONCESSION IN THE TSAU //KHAEB NATIONAL PARK, ||KARAS REGION

1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

Living on the Edge cc (LoTE, the Proponent), is the holder of the ***Northern Sand and Sea Concession Holder***, which covers the entire Northern Dunes TDA, located Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park north of Lüderitz and is bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north and east by the Namib Naukluft National Park.

In order to be able to undertake activities relating to the tourism concession rights granted to it, LoTE intends to develop a non-permanent shelter facilities (Hottentots Bay Campsite). The camp site construction will be implemented in phases of which the first phase will be: installation of ablution facilities, equipment storage and solar power room, and kitchen with a pantry.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **18 December 2026.**

3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc

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 mining activities for base and rare metals, precious metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and semi-precious stones on mining claims; 76979 & 76980 situated approximately 30 Km, West of Uis, Erongo Region.

Project Location: The mining claims; 76979 & 76980 are situated approximately 30 Km, West of Uis in Erongo Region.

Project Description: The proposed project includes establishment of mining activities for base and rare metals, precious metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and semi-precious stones on mining claims; 76979 & 76980 situated approximately 30 Km, West of Uis, in Erongo Region.

Proponent: Mr. Sixtus Hashipara Hausiku

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 and request for Background Information Document (BID) and submit inputs on the email provided below, on or before 04th December 2026. A public participation meeting will be conducted as follows;

Place: Community Hall, Uis, Erongo Region

Date: 28 November 2026

Time: 10h00 am

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com

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 mineral exploration activities for dimension stone, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL: 11049, Khomas Region.

Project Location: EPL: 11049, Windhoek District, Khomas Region, Namibia

Project Description: The proposed project entails mineral exploration activities for dimension stone, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL: 11049, Khomas Region. The EIA process will assess potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and recommend mitigation measures.

Proponent: Paragon Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd



All Interested and Affected Parties (I &APs) are hereby invited to register and request for a Background Information Document (BID) and submit inputs on or before Friday 04th December 2026. A public participation meeting will be convened, and all interested (I &APs) will be notified and informed well in advance on the venue and time. Interest and affected parties (I&APs) are kindly requested to contact the number and email address provided below and register.

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

REZONING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR REMAINDER ERF 922, KUISEBMOND PROPER – WALVIS BAY

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 107 of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018), the Walvis Bay Zoning Scheme and Regulations, and the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and its EIA Regulations of 2012, that **Plan Africa Consulting CC – Town and Regional Planners & Enviroffıcient Consultants CC**, on behalf of the registered owner, intends to apply to the Municipality of Walvis Bay and subsequently the Urban and Regional Planning Board for:

- **Rezoning** of Remainder Erf 922, Kuisebmond Proper, from **"single residential" (density 1:300m²)** to **"general business"** with a bulk of **1.0**;
- **Consent** to continue operating the existing Coastal accommodation business while the rezoning is in process; and
- An **Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)** for the proposed general business zoning.

Remainder Erf 922 is situated along **David Hambuda Avenue (20th Avenue), Kuisebmond Proper, Walvis Bay**, measures approximately **399m²**, and is currently **zoned "single residential"**. The property currently accommodates a **Coastal accommodation business and lounge**. The proposed rezoning aims to **regularise the existing land use** in accordance with the Walvis Bay Zoning Scheme and Regulations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The background information, plans and particulars are available for inspection during normal office hours at the **Walvis Bay Municipality – Town Planning Division** and **Plan Africa Consulting CC, No. 8 Delius Street, Windhoek West**.

Electronic copies may be requested from:

Plan Africa Consulting CC
Email: emiliaashitenda1@gmail.com
Tel: 081 493 9107 / 061 212 096

The EIA background information document may be obtained from:

Enviroffıcient Consultants CC
Email: enviroffıcient@gmail.com
Tel: 081 307 7370

Any person wishing to object to or comment on the proposed development may submit written objections or comments, including the grounds/motivation thereof, to the applicant or Walvis Bay Municipality **within 14 days** from the last publication of this notice. The Final date for objections is: **Friday, 18 December 2026.**

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Chief Executive Officer
Municipality of Walvis Bay
Private Bag 5017, Walvis Bay
Email: townplanning@walvisbaycc.org.na
Tel: 064 201 3257

CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MINERAL PROSPECTING ON EPLs 11790 AND 12024, KUNENE REGION

1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

Mr. Rairirira M. Mbetjiha (the Proponent), intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate for their proposed prospecting activities in respect to **Base and Rare Metals, Industrial Minerals, Precious Metals and Semi-Precious Stones** on a combined area approximate area of **19913.34 Ha** in the Kunene Region. The key component of the proposed activity entails geological mapping and survey and manual sample collection for laboratory analysis. Access to the sampling or survey sites will be by existing tracks and on foot where vehicle access is limited.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites all Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **18 December 2026.**

3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc

CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES

AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEARARANCE FOR MINING CLAIM 69356 TO INCLUDE DIMENSION STONE, KUNENE REGION

1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

Mr. Hosea Kazepurua (the Proponent), intends to amend their Environmental Clearance Certificate for Small-scale mining activities on **Mining Claims 69356** to include the mining of Dimension Stone Commodity.

The current activity footprint remains un-altered, while the mining site and scale operations also remaining the same. The key component of the proposed activity entails the quarrying of marble in blocks, loading and transportation to the harbour for export. Access to the quarry site shall be by the existing tracks and on foot where vehicle access is limited.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites all Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **18 December 2026.**

3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc

AUGITE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY CC

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND APPLICATION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC)

Proponent: Otjongaru Women in Mining and Exploration CC

Environmental Assessment Practitioner: Augite Environmental Consultants CC

Notice is hereby given to the public and all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that Augite Environmental Consultants CC has been appointed by Otjongaru Women in Mining and Exploration CC to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and facilitate an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) for proposed mineral exploration activities within EPL 11187.

The environmental assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007), and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012).

PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed exploration area is situated within the Karibib Magisterial District, Erongo Region, Namibia, covering approximately **19,914.437 hectares**. The project area is located in the vicinity of the Rüimte, Emeritus and Kraaipoort localities.

NATURE OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

The proposed exploration programme will target Dimension Stone, Base and Rare Metals, Industrial

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

Members of the public, landowners, neighbouring communities, relevant authorities and other Interested and Affected Parties are hereby invited to register and submit comments, concerns or recommendations regarding the proposed exploration activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ENQUIRIES:

All Interested and Affected Parties are requested to register and submit their written comments within **14 days from the date of publication of this notice**, using the contact details below.

Environmental Assessment Practitioner:

Augite Environmental Consultants CC

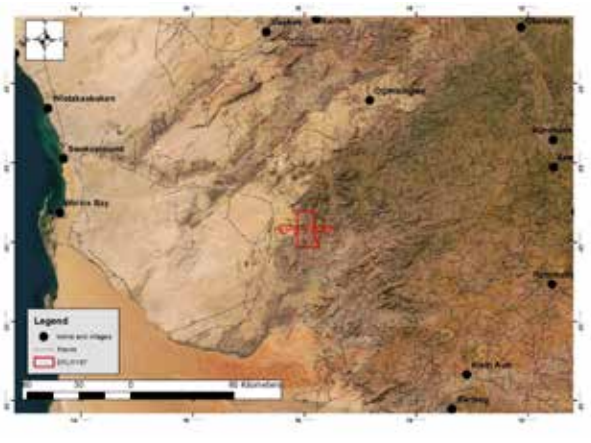
Attention: Dr. Ismael Kangueehi

Email: k**kangueehi0@gmail.com**

Cell: +26481 7069027

Closing date for comments: 25/11/2026

All comments received will be considered during the environmental assessment process and incorporated into the relevant environmental assessment documentation for submission to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for consideration.



NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

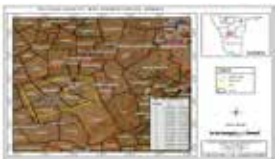
Notice is hereby placed to inform all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I & APs) that an application for Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism, in line with the provisions of Environmental Management Act 7 of 2007 and its Regulations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

Project Name: Environmental Impact Assessment for the establishment of mineral exploration activities for dimension stone, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL: 11048, Khomas Region.

Project Location: EPL: 11048, Windhoek District, Khomas Region, Namibia

Project Description: The proposed project entails mineral exploration activities for dimension stone, base and rare metals, industrial minerals, precious metals and nuclear fuel minerals on EPL: 11048, Khomas Region. The EIA process will assess potential environmental and socio-economic impacts and recommend mitigation measures.

Proponent: Paragon Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd



All Interested and Affected Parties (I &APs) are hereby invited to register and request for a Background Information Document (BID) and submit inputs on or before Friday 04th December 2026. A public participation meeting will be convened, and all interested (I &APs) will be notified and informed well in advance on the venue and time. Interest and affected parties (I&APs) are kindly requested to contact the number and email address provided below and register.

For any inquiries please contact;

Consultant: Omapipi Tageya Archaeological and Heritage Consultants cc

☎: +264 81 6680633

✉: otahconsultants@gmail.com

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ON EPL 10063

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 130 km northwest of Opuwo. The proponent intends to explore for Uranium. Exploration methods may include geological mapping, geophysical surveys, sampling and drilling.

Proponent: Lepidolite Investments CC

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before **15/12/2026.** Contact details for registration and further information:

Impala Environmental Consulting

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

IMPALA ENVIRONMENTAL

CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR PV PLANT ON A 25 HA LAND NEAR MARIENTAL AND ASSOCIATED LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE, HARDAP REGION

1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

Harambee Agr-Produce (Pty) Ltd (the Proponent), intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate proposed The Proposed Establishment and Operation of **5 MW PV Solar Park (25 Ha)** 10 km Northwest of Mariental, Hardap Region. The key component of the proposed activity entails the fencing off, land preparation, construction of the proposed plant, and operations thereof i.e. energy generation and transmission for their domestic utilization.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites all Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input.

3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **18 December 2026.**

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

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc
...a leap towards better environmental compliance.
Enviro Leap Consulting cc | P. O. Box 25874, Windhoek | +264 81 232 6843 | eap.trigen@gmail.com

MIN JIAN ENTREPRISES CC

We are looking for a mechanic who can maintain/ repair the sport shoes sole full-automat-ic foam EVA-injection molding machine which is operated by a Chinese system.

The mechanic should also be proficient in how to prepare raw materials, mix colors ad change molds, with at least five years working experience. Please email your CV to:

joylyn813@gmail.com.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Closing date: 30 November 2026

NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environclim Consulting Services cc 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 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAMES:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the construction and operation of filling station (truck fuelling station) and associates facilities at ERF 7141, Extension 17, Ongwediva, Oshana Region.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed filling station (trucks fuelling station) and associated facilities is situated at ERF 7141, Extension 17, Ongwediva, Oshana Region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project involves conducting an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the construction and operation of filling station (truck fuelling station) and associates facilities at ERF 7141, Extension 17, Ongwediva, Oshana Region.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:

Proponent: Kalapuse General Dealer cc

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environclim Consulting Services cc

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing via: Email; environclim@gmail.com on or before Monday 28th December 2026.

A public participation meeting will be held as follows:
Place: Kalapuse General Dealer cc, Ongwediva
Date: 19th December 2026
Time: 10h00.
Contact: +264 815955643
Email: environclim@gmail.com

EnvironClim Consulting Services

CALL FOR REGISTARTION AS INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN RESPECT TO BASE AND RARE METALS, DIMENSION STONE, INDUSTRIAL MINERAL AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE ON MINING CLAIMS 71941 - 71944, KUNENE REGION

1. PROJECT SITE AND DESCRIPTION

Mr. Wilhelm Nekwaya (the Proponent), intends to apply to obtain an Environmental Clearance Certificate for their proposed prospecting activities in respect to **Base and Rare Metals, Precious Metals, Semi-precious Stone and Precious Stones** on an approximate area of **70.63 Ha** in the Kunene Region. The key component of the proposed activity entails geological mapping and survey and manual sample collection for laboratory analysis, and small-scale mining operation. Access to the sampling or survey sites will be by existing tracks and on foot where vehicle access is limited.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Enviro-Leap Consulting invites all Interested and Affected Party (I & AP) to register and receive Environmental Assessment (BID, Scoping and EMP) documents relating to the proposed project for their comments and input. Interested and Affected Parties are herewith request to register by writing to us at the address below no later than **19 December 2026.**

3. COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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

ENVIROLEAP CONSULTING cc
Enviro Leap Consulting cc

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Lammens - the Man Utd goalkeeper under scrutiny like never before

SIMON STONE

After a first season at Manchester United that drew little but praise, goalkeeper Senne Lammens is under the microscope like never before.

A bad mistake that gifted Sporting their second goal on Wednesday, having earlier conceded a clumsy penalty, followed several other errors so far this season.

The 24-year-old Belgium international also made an error at the World Cup in the summer, spilling a shot that led to Spain's winning goal in the 88th minute of their quarter-final.

"I don't know [at what point Manchester United drop him]," legendary Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel told CBS Sports on Wednesday.

"Mauricio Pochettino has come in and brought his own staff. That means he's got a new goalkeeping coach and maybe that is something that can change it for him.

"[At the World Cup] he came on against Spain and made a bit of a mistake. Mikel Merino scored and they got knocked out. I feel he's lost a little bit of confidence from that mistake and hasn't really recovered.

"As a goalkeeper, when you're not on your best form, you need your defenders in front of you to help you out. The sad truth is that they haven't been able to do that and that makes it so much worse. I like him a lot but today was not a great day for him."

Penalty hero to villain in 75 seconds

Director of football Jason Wilcox and United's data team overruled Ruben Amorim when they opted to sign Lammens from Royal Antwerp for £18.1m in September 2025.

Amorim wanted Argentina World Cup winner Emiliano Martinez, who was left waiting for a deadline day call that never came to seal a move from Aston Villa.

United felt Lammens had the attributes to become one of the world's best goalkeepers. At 24, he is still young. Schmeichel was 27 when he joined United in 1991. Edwin van der Sar was 34 when he left Fulham in 2005. Both had hundreds of senior appearances behind them. Lammens has just over 100, more than half of them with Royal Antwerp. Although he made the odd error last season, Lammens did nothing to suggest Wilcox and co had got it wrong.

After releasing Turkey international Altay Bayindir, who replaced Andre Onana as first choice at the start of last season and is back on loan in Turkey with Trabzonspor, they signed 36-year-old Wales international Karl Darlow as back-up this term.

Darlow finished last season as first choice at Leeds. But he only started 30 league games in three seasons with the Elland Road outfit. Also on the bench in Lisbon was Tom Heaton. The 40-year-old has not played in a senior game since February 2023.

Mistakes earlier in the season – former United midfielder Paul Scholes claimed in September '"the jury is still out" on whether Lammens is truly top class – have brought increased analysis.

His positioning for Dominik Szoboszlai's opening goal for Liverpool on Sunday was questioned externally, even if United focused their attentions on Bradley Barcola shoving into the wall.

On Wednesday, it all went wrong. Just 75 seconds after getting down to make an excellent save from Luis Suarez's first penalty, Lammens recklessly charged out and upended Maxi Araujo, even though Noussair Mazraoui seemed to be in a position to deal with it. Then, after two Bruno Fernandes goals at the start of the second period had turned the Champions League tie in the visitors' favour, Lammens reached to collect a high ball and inexplicably dropped it in front of Suarez, who applied the overhead kick finish.Understandably, there was sympathy in the dressing room.

"This team is a family," said striker Joshua Zirkzee. "There's no-one who will suffer by themselves.

"Senne is a great goalkeeper and mistakes happen. In this moment, we just give him space. I'm not sure if he wants to hear anything at all. But Senne's a great kid. He's got a good head on him. -bbcWe didn't draw because of him, and we all know that next game he is going to be at the top of his game."-BBC

PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN 30 of 2012) that an **Environmental Scoping Assessment** (ESA) and **Public Consultation Process** (PCP) are being undertaken for the proposed activity listed below.

Further, an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Office of the Environmental Commissioner (OEC) within the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) upon completion of the assessment process.

- **Project Activity:** Construction and Operation of a Fuel Service Station and related amenities.
- **Project Location:** Erf 2495, along B8 Highway (Trans-Caprivi Highway), Rundu, Kavango East Region
- **Proponent:** Bachmus Oil & Fuel Supplies (Pty) Ltd

INVITATION TO REGISTER AND COMMENT:
Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register for the ESA process to receive further information and submit written comments, concerns, or objections regarding the proposed project. A **Background Information Document** (BID) is available upon request following registration.

CONSULTATION PERIOD:
- **Submission window:** 14 August 2026 – 11 September 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT CONTACT DETAILS:
- Cell: +264 (0)81 418 3125
- Email: ekwao@iway.na
- Box 25021, WINDHOEK

Ekwao Consulting

GOSSIP

Manchester City and Norway forward Erling Haaland, 26, is considering an exit in the summer, with Barcelona among his preferred destinations. (El Nacional - in Spanish), external

Liverpool are prepared to explore a deal for Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala, 23, if the German international can prove his fitness by the end of the season. (Football Insider), external

Manchester United are eyeing a move for Sporting defender Maxi Araujo, 26, and the Uruguay international is said to be keen to join the club in January. (Sport Witness), external

Atletico Madrid are confident of keeping Argentina striker Julian Alvarez, 26, amid interest from Paris St-Germain and Arsenal. (Teamtalk), external

Chelsea are considering re-signing former German international centre-back Antonio Rudiger, 33, from Real Madrid in January. (Football Insider), external

Leeds, Brentford and Crystal Palace are all tracking Leicester City's 18-year-old English attacker Bismark Owusu. (Teamtalk)external

Roma are keen to sign 26-year-old Englishman Callum Hudson-Odoi on loan from Nottingham Forest in January. (Football Insider), external

Como and Napoli are among the clubs interested in signing Manchester United forward Joshua Zirkzee in January, with both clubs awaiting clarity on the 25-year-old Dutchman's place within Mauricio Pochettino's plans. (Sky Sports), external

Newcastle United and England left-back Lewis Hall, 22, will not be sold in the January transfer window. (iPaper), external

Manchester United and Barcelona have stepped up their interest in Borussia Dortmund winger Mathis Albert, 17, who made his United States debut under United boss Mauricio Pochettino. (Teamtalk, external)