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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Ford recalls 657 vehicles in Namibia

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MAIN STORY

Ford recalls 657 vehicles in Namibia



The Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa (FMCSA) has launched a recall of more than 21,000 vehicles across the region, including 657 units in Namibia, citing safety risks affecting several models.

The recall covers Ford Rangers and Ford Everests manufactured between 2021 and 2025, with particular focus on vehicles fitted with 3.0L V6 engines produced from June 2022 to March 2025.

FMCSA said the issue stems from a defect in the left-side camshaft sprocket, which could fracture without warning and lead to an engine stall, increasing the risk of an accident.

Novel Ford Namibia's service manager,

Roelph Smith, downplayed the impact on local owners. "There are different recall campaigns so for us in Namibia it is just software updates, inspection of certain parts and six of the V6 diesel engines where we will get to inspect the low plugs and the camshaft," he told The Brief.

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
* 15 October 2025
* 3 December 2025

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The largest number of affected vehicles – 20,693 units – are in South Africa, with Namibia the second most affected market, followed by Botswana and Eswatini.

Smith added that Namibian customers should not be alarmed.

“No, it is not a major issue. The customers will get a communique from us, and they just have to book and we will do the inspections,” he said.

FMCSA also confirmed that some vehicles have infotainment issues, including screens freezing, going black or rebooting unexpectedly.

These faults could cause the rear-view camera to freeze or go blank, particularly when reversing.

Of the 657 recalled vehicles in Namibia, 579 are Ford Rangers, 76 are Ford Everests, and one is a Ford Transit Custom.

All repairs will be carried out free of charge, with customers to be contacted by mail to arrange service appointments.

Ford said the repair programme is being developed and is expected to be available in the third quarter of 2025.

The largest number of affected vehicles – 20,693 units – are in South Africa, with Namibia the second most affected market, followed by Botswana and Eswatini.



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Namibian beef exports fall 50% in H1, wiping out up to N\$800 Million

Namibia's beef exports dropped by about 50% in the first half of 2025, cutting farm-gate revenue by between N\$600 million and N\$800 million, Simonis Storm Head of Investments Max Rix said.

Rix attributed the slump to herd rebuilding after the 2024 drought and veterinary restrictions.

“A halving of beef exports in H1 represents a direct farm-gate revenue loss of roughly N\$600–800 million. Once downstream effects are considered, abattoirs operating below capacity, transport companies underutilised, auxiliary services idled, the drag on national GDP growth in 2025 is between 0.5 and 1 percentage point,” he said.

Exports fell 51.4% year-on-year in the first quarter to 1.43 million kilograms and 49.7% in the second quarter to 4.04 million kilograms, down from more than 8 million kilograms previously.

Rix said farmers are holding back cattle to rebuild herds, reducing marketed numbers by almost 60%. Live exports to South African feedlots dropped by three-quarters, while export abattoirs processed

a third fewer animals.

“This paradox is striking: Namibia had green pastures and full dams, but empty abattoirs and halved export flows. The bottleneck was caused by farmers rebuilding herds while veterinary restrictions slowed movement, leaving exporters unable to meet demand,” he said.

Rix warned that the slowdown could cut GDP growth by 0.5 to 1 percentage point in 2025. He said Namibia must reduce dependence on live exports to South Africa and focus on markets in Asia and the Middle East.

“Without reform, Namibia will continue repeating the cycle of drought-driven liquidation, wet-season retention, export collapse, and abattoir distress. Policy needs to recalibrate incentives, modernise veterinary logistics, and secure new markets,” he said.



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NAMCOR appoints fourth interim Managing Director in two years

The National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) has appointed Maureen Hinda as its fourth Interim Managing Director in less than two years, effective 25 August 2025.

Hinda succeeds Victoria Sibeya, who was appointed in March and served from 1 April 2025.

Before Sibeya, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Ebson Unguta, was seconded to NAMCOR in January 2024 on an initial six-month contract that was later extended to a year, ending in March 2025.

Unguta took over from Shiwana Ndeunyema, who served as interim managing director for nine months following the suspension of NAMCOR's then managing director, Immanuel Mulunga, in 2023.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Natangwe Ithete, confirmed the latest appointment and expressed confidence in Hinda's leadership.

"On behalf of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, I would like to congratulate

the Board of Directors, Management and entire team at the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) for the appointment of the Interim Managing Director, Ms. Maureen Hinda, effective 25 August 2025," he said.

Ithete said Hinda's experience, knowledge and determination would be key in guiding NAMCOR through its current challenges while advancing efficiency, innovation and national impact.

Who is Maureen Hinda?

Hinda, who has served in the National Assembly since 2015, was appointed Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation that same year.

Following a cabinet reshuffle in February 2018, she moved to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration and Safety and Security, where she served until March 2021.

On 21 April 2021, she was appointed Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, a position she held until earlier this year.

Leadership through empowerment

By Junias Erasmus

In a world where competition often overshadows collaboration, it is easy to believe that success is a solitary climb. Yet history and experience show us a profound truth: when you rise others, you rise higher. The more you uplift, the further you go.

Genuine growth, whether personal, professional, or organizational, is never built in isolation but through a collective journey of empowerment.

True leadership and progress demand that we recognize the value of those around us. Uplifting others does not diminish our light; it magnifies it.

When we extend a helping hand, share knowledge, or create opportunities, we establish networks of trust and loyalty that eventually become the very foundation of our own advancement.

Those who empower others rarely walk alone on the road to success, they are supported, remembered, and carried forward by those they once helped.




“

True leadership and progress demand that we recognize the value of those around us. Uplifting others does not diminish our light; it magnifies it.

From a professional perspective, organizations thrive when leaders invest in the development of their teams.

A leader who mentors, educates, and encourages responsibility not only shapes competent individuals but also builds an institution capable of sustaining long-term success.

Employees who feel empowered become innovators, problem-solvers, and ambassadors of the organization’s values. In turn, this creates a culture of excellence

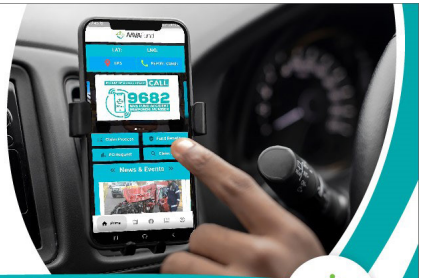


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that propels everyone, including the leader, further ahead.

On a personal level, uplifting others is a powerful act of character. It teaches humility, compassion, and resilience.

By inspiring those around us, we strengthen our own sense of purpose. Consider the teacher who goes beyond the textbook to ignite curiosity in learners, the manager who nurtures talent instead of stifling it, or the friend who motivates another to pursue a dream.

In each instance, the one who uplifts becomes greater through the ripple effects of their contribution.

Society flourishes when communities practice this principle. Nations are built not by a handful of individuals chasing self-interest, but by people who understand that collective progress is sustainable progress.

When we rise together, we create environments where innovation, fairness, and opportunity are shared. The measure of our success should not be how far ahead we are from others, but how many people we have carried along the way.

To rise others is to invest in humanity itself. It means seeing potential where others see obstacles, offering encouragement when despair looms, and building bridges where gaps exist. It is not charity; it is strategy.

Those who uplift expand their influence, earn enduring respect, and achieve milestones far beyond their personal capacity.

Success is not a ladder climbed alone. It is a staircase wide enough for many to ascend together.

The more we uplift, the stronger we become; the further we go, the greater our impact. If we commit to raising others, we will discover that our own rise is not only higher, but far more meaningful.

****Junias Erasmus works in the Financial Sector. He is a Management Scientist and Operational Researcher, a Strategic Scholar & a Motivational Speaker. This article is written in his personal capacity. For inquiries, contact him at Junias99@gmail.com***



Standard Bank and NIFA select 40 MSMEs from 696 applicants for Blue Growth pilot

Standard Bank Namibia, in partnership with the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), has launched a four-month pilot initiative to support 40 Namibian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through mentorship and masterclasses under the Blue Growth Series.

The 40 businesses were selected from a pool of 696 applicants.

Speaking at the launch, Rodney Coetzee, Head of Enterprise Direct at Standard Bank Namibia, said the programme was designed to strengthen the country's small business sector.

"MSMEs are the engine of Namibia's economy. Through this programme, we are enabling entrepreneurs to shift from survivalist operations into sustainable, growth-driven businesses. Supporting their development is a direct investment in the future of our nation," he said.

Coetzee added that the initiative aligns with Namibia's Vision 2030 and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6),

focusing on job creation, financial inclusion and long-term economic growth.

The programme also places emphasis on inclusivity, with at least 50% female participation and strong representation from youth and informal businesses.

Arinze Okafor, CEO and Founder of NIFA, said the selected enterprises reflect Namibia's diverse economy, ranging from early-stage and informal ventures to growth-stage and established SMEs.

"NIFA exists to unlock knowledge and equip Namibian entrepreneurs with practical tools. The diversity of participants – women, youth, and informal businesses – reflects the energy and potential of our entrepreneurial ecosystem. This pilot is about building resilience, ownership, and bankability for long-term success," Okafor said.

The informal businesses include those in hair and beauty, retail, technology repairs, food and beverage, agriculture, crafts and educational technology, while formal and growth-stage businesses span technology,

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Speaking at the launch, Rodney Coetzee, Head of Enterprise Direct at Standard Bank Namibia, said the programme was designed to strengthen the country's small business sector.

services, manufacturing, construction, retail, media, catering and agriculture.

The Blue Growth Series aims to tackle barriers faced by local entrepreneurs, such as limited access to finance and business management skills.

According to Standard Bank and NIFA, the programme is designed to build a pipeline of "bankable, market and investment-ready MSMEs" and strengthen financial inclusion by helping entrepreneurs engage confidently with financial institutions.

Participants will complete more than 40 hours of structured training over two monthly sessions, covering areas such as financial governance, bookkeeping, business modelling, value

scaling, entrepreneurial mindset, networking, cost management, revenue optimisation, AI and marketing fundamentals, compliance, access to financing, investment readiness, growth strategy and innovation.

Each entrepreneur, according to Standard Bank and NIFA, has undergone a psychometric assessment to create a tailored development plan.

The programme also includes Bloomberg Finance Lab and Harvard ManageMentor certifications to improve the competitiveness of participants. Although the pilot is limited to 40 MSMEs, Standard Bank and NIFA said there are plans to expand the initiative in future phases.

GIPF: A vehicle for economic and social transformation

Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) Chief Executive Officer, Martin Inkumbi says the Fund is not only Namibia's largest pension fund but also an effective catalyst for social and economic transformation thanks to its significant investments spanning multiple industries across the country's 14 regions.

“With a firm commitment to responsible investment, the Fund plays a crucial role in addressing the nation's pressing challenges, including poverty eradication, energy provision, infrastructure development, health, education and skills training, tourism, and job creation,” Inkumbi said.

He added: “Our investment strategy is premised on the realisation that financial returns and economic impact are not mutually exclusive. Impactful investments can equally generate good financial returns for our stakeholders. We strive to generate positive social and environmental outcomes alongside strong financial returns. As we often say, only good business is good for development.”

By channelling capital into key economic sectors, Inkumbi noted, GIPF supports national development objectives, fostering an ecosystem of opportunity and progress.

“Our investments are directed towards high-potential areas with the goal of stimulating sustainable and inclusive economic growth.”

With a strategic focus on alternative investments, Inkumbi said GIPF aims to promote private sector participation,



enhance employability through skills development, and catalyse entrepreneurial opportunities across

diverse sectors of the Namibian economy.

“Notably, 5% of the Fund’s N\$168 billion in assets under management is earmarked for developmental investments. Working with our Investment Managers, we have allocated significant resources to sustainable development investments that deliver tangible positive economic, social and environmental impacts,” he said.

Inkumbi explained that most of these investments have been instrumental in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to food production, renewable energy, healthcare, housing, education, and skills development.

“Over the past 11 years, GIPF’s cumulative investment within the real economy of Namibia has exceeded N\$6.5 billion, spanning property, private equity, debt, and infrastructure,” he said. “Specifically, these investments have enriched Namibia’s socio-economic landscape through:

- **Empowering Emerging Entrepreneurs and SMEs:** GIPF’s investments have supported the growth of emerging entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), fostering innovation and enterprise.

- **Advancing Infrastructure in Renewable Energy:** Through funding for renewable energy projects, GIPF contributes to the sustainable transformation of Namibia’s energy sector, laying the groundwork for a greener future. Our investments of N\$978.5 million in renewable energy projects to date have powered the National Power Grid, businesses and hundreds of homes with clean energy. In total, we have contributed 118.75 Megawatts to Namibia’s energy generation capacity.

- **Facilitating Healthcare Facilities:** GIPF’s investment in healthcare infrastructure demonstrates its

commitment to improving access to quality healthcare services across the country.

- **Supporting Job Creation and Economic Diversification:** Investments in manufacturing, transport, tourism, logistics, and agriculture help create jobs, promote import substitution, and diversify an economy heavily reliant on the mining sector, particularly diamond and uranium mining.

- **Enabling Management Buyouts and Enterprise Growth:** As a leader in Namibia’s private equity market, GIPF provides equity funding that supports the growth of established enterprises, facilitating management buyouts and sustained positive cash flows.

- **Catalysing Affordable Housing and Land Projects:** By investing in affordable housing and land servicing, GIPF addresses critical housing needs, providing access to quality living spaces for Namibians who might otherwise be unable to access traditional financing. We have invested N\$541 million in land servicing and construction of houses resulting in 5,884 plots and 7,840 affordable homes being delivered since April 2016.”

He noted that a total N\$3.3 billion of assets under management as at 31 March 2024 have been committed to date in logistics infrastructure, health and healthcare services, housing, SMEs, education and skills development, agriculture, and information and communication technology.

“Looking ahead, the GIPF has observed the growing challenge of youth unemployment, backlog in infrastructure and housing, and will continue focusing its development budget to opportunities that will help alleviate these challenges,” Inkumbi said.

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561 Namibian households connected to power in N\$21m project

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, working with the Central North Regional Electricity Distributor (CENORED), has connected 561 households across four regions at a cost of N\$21 million under a joint electrification programme.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Ombili electrification project in Otjiwarongo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Natangwe Ithete, said the project was made possible through a combined investment of N\$12 million from the ministry and more than N\$9 million from CENORED.

“The result has been powerful. With N\$12 million from the Ministry and over N\$9 million from CENORED, we connected 561 households across four regions to date,” he said.

Ithete said the programme is part of Namibia’s commitment to the African Mission 300 Energy Compact, which aims to electrify 300 million households by 2040. For Namibia, the target is 200,000 new connections by 2030 and 400,000 by 2040. He added that the initiative is supported by a Service Level Agreement signed between the ministry and Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs), which pools resources, shares responsibilities and sets clear targets.

The minister also highlighted government’s new off-grid electrification programme, which complements the Solar Revolving Fund and allows households in remote areas to access loans for solar systems.

“These solar systems are quality products designed to provide modern electricity to



our communities living far from the grid, as such we must take ownership and pride in them,” he said.

Ithete noted that the new connections were already improving livelihoods. He said the availability of electricity was helping traders expand their businesses beyond dry goods, enabling young mechanics to work after hours and allowing tailors to finish sewing orders at night.

At household level, he added, families were saving money by avoiding travel for electricity-based services, and street lighting was improving safety and security. “Criminals could no longer take advantage of darkness,” he said.



Namibia puts innovation and blue economy at centre of growth plans

Namibia is placing innovation, agriculture and the blue economy at the core of its development strategy, Prime Minister Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare told delegates at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9).

Ngurare said the country's priorities are guided by the recently launched Sixth National Development Plan, which aims to boost food security, job creation and sustainable growth.

"We live in a world that is rapidly changing. Technological advancement is reshaping our future in ways we never imagined. This chord of technology is good and brings the world and Africa together in what was called in the early 1990s as global village which, in the context of Africa, can also be called a modernised global African village," Ngurare said.

He highlighted agriculture and the blue economy as strategic sectors for economic transformation. Fisheries, aquaculture,

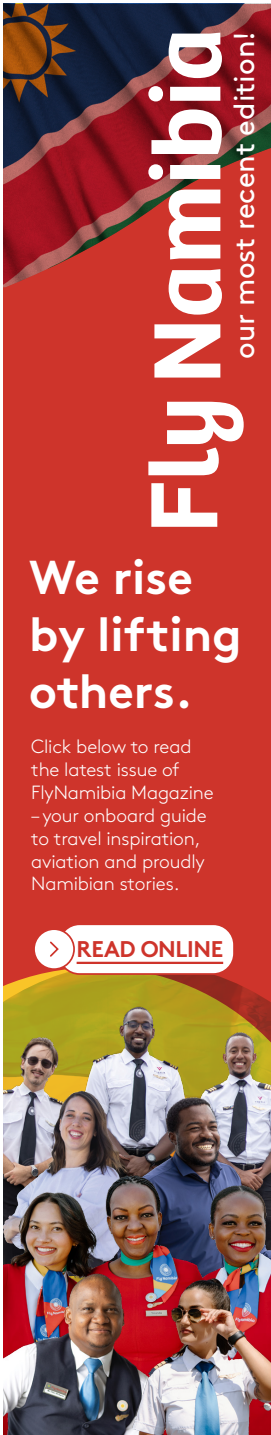
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“We live in a world that is rapidly changing. Technological advancement is reshaping our future in ways we never imagined.”

transport, tourism and logistics have been identified as key drivers under the national plan, alongside efforts to expand access to innovation and smart technologies.

“In Africa, we say it takes a village to raise a child. Therefore, to achieve meaningful economic diversification, we must create a sustainable industrial ecosystem that involves collaboration between the government, private sector, including SMEs, with a special focus on those owned by women and the youth,” he said.

Ngurare said the government is also working to integrate the informal sector into the mainstream economy and improve cross-border connectivity through ports and transport networks, measures he described as essential to strengthen regional trade and broaden participation in economic growth.

“We can sustainably use

and share ocean resources to grow our economy, improve our livelihoods and create jobs for our people without disrupting the health of our ocean ecosystems. We can fast-track economic growth and produce energy and food, while conserving marine and freshwater environments and promoting water tourism,” he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that partnerships would be critical to Namibia’s ambitions, particularly with Japan.

“Let us foster people-to-people partnerships, equipping our youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in an ever-changing global economy. We must leverage technology to drive innovation and create new opportunities for our youth. Once the youth of Africa develop genuine faith in their future, half the battle is won,” he said.

PETROFUND expands training drive with 2026 scholarships after 432 trained

The Petroleum Training and Education Fund (PETROFUND) says it has trained 432 Namibians to date as it moves to strengthen the country's skills base in the oil and gas sector.

Shoki Kandjimi, CPRP, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Officer at PETROFUND, said the fund will this year take in a new cohort as part of its scholarship programme, which is designed to prepare Namibians for opportunities arising from multiple oil and gas discoveries in the Orange Basin and ongoing exploration activity.

"The scholarships will equip Namibians with critical expertise ahead of the final investment decisions by petroleum exploration licence holders who made discoveries in recent years," Kandjimi said.

He added that the initiative is aligned with the National Development Plan Six, which places human capital development, research and innovation at the centre of economic transformation.

"For the 2026 academic year, PETROFUND will prioritise undergraduate studies in the Bachelor of Science in Geosciences and in engineering disciplines such as civil, marine, chemical, electrical, power, industrial and mechanical engineering at universities in the SADC region," Kandjimi said.

He noted that the fund has also made provision for Namibians to study towards a Diploma in Instrumentation Engineering Technology specialising in oil and gas at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Canada.

The fully funded scholarships will cover a range of postgraduate programmes at both local and international universities, including master's degrees in petroleum geosciences,



exploration geophysics, reservoir evaluation and management, aerospace engineering, drilling engineering and oil and gas law.

According to Kandjimi, eligible undergraduate applicants must be Namibian citizens with excellent passes in mathematics, sciences and English at Grade 12 or Advanced Subsidiary level, with a minimum of 30 points in five subjects. Postgraduate applicants must hold a relevant honours degree with a minimum average of 60%. Beneficiaries are required to work in Namibia after completing their studies.

Kandjimi said PETROFUND has also taken steps to accommodate applicants in rural areas with limited internet access by allowing them to collect and submit forms at constituency or regional council offices.

"PETROFUND urges all eligible Namibians interested in pursuing a career in the oil and gas industry to apply before the deadline," Kandjimi said. "Our flagship scholarship programme continues to play a vital role in preparing Namibia's workforce to ensure that the oil and gas industry becomes a catalyst for economic growth, energy security and environmental stewardship."

François van Schalkwyk appointed President for Hunter & Co's EMEA operations

François van Schalkwyk, former Executive Director: Investment at the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), has been appointed President for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) at investment platform Hunter&Co.

Hunter&Co said Van Schalkwyk will lead its expansion in the region with a focus on critical mineral supply chains.

“His deep expertise in, and ongoing commitment to, Africa underscores our firm’s dedication to the Continent, while also opening opportunities for clients and partners across Europe and the Middle East,” the company said.

“We welcome François to the team and are privileged to work alongside such an exceptional professional whose mission and values align closely with ours. Together, we aim not only to deliver outstanding outcomes for clients but also to drive meaningful economic and social development in countries and communities across Africa.”

Hunter&Co describes itself as an investment platform focused on activating green energy transition supply chains in Africa and Latin America, specialising in connecting Australian exploration and mining expertise, American capital and African projects through strategic advisory, project development and capital mobilisation services.



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