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# THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## Namibia still keen to relaunch national airline

MONDAY 25 AUGUST 2025

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## MAIN STORY



# Namibia still keen to relaunch national airline

**G**overnment is still keen to revive a national airline as part of its wider plans to strengthen Namibia's transport network.

Speaking at the opening of the 24th Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said that while Namibia's road network is well developed, other transport sectors lag behind, reaffirming the government's commitment to bring back a national carrier.

"Significant achievements have been made in the area of road transport infrastructure as we are connected with tyre roads to all our neighbours. However, a lot has to be done on the rail network and air services sectors. All efforts will be done in the improvement of our rail and the reintroduction of a national airline," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also warned that weak transport links remain a key obstacle to trade and could limit the country's ability to benefit

fully from the African Continental Free Trade Area. This follows SWAPO's 2024 election manifesto, which calls for the revival of "the national airline under very well thought-out strategies to avoid pitfalls of the past." In February, the Namibian cabinet endorsed the incorporation of the SWAPO manifesto into government policies.

Air Namibia was liquidated in 2021, leaving the country without a national airline. The closure of the national airline marked the end of an institution that absorbed around N\$11 billion in government bailouts over two decades. FlyNamibia is currently the country's sole domestic and regional airline.

## Crucial Dates

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

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# BIPA to deregister 1,000 companies every month

**T**he Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) will begin removing 1,000 companies from its register

each month as part of a major compliance campaign to erase more than 137,000 non-compliant entities.

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The first deregistrations will take place on 29 August, in what BIPA says is a long-overdue clean-up of its books.

Of the 229,000 entities ever registered, only 84,000 remain compliant with the legal requirement to declare their beneficial ownership.

BIPA’s Manager of Client Management Services, Romancia Shoonga, said the exercise would be carried out in stages.

“The deregistration will be carried out in phases, with 1,000 companies removed at every instance,” she told The Brief.

She warned that deregistration has serious consequences.

“Once deregistered, a company no longer exists in the eyes of the law. All its accounts, contracts, and registrations are automatically nullified,” she said.

Shoonga explained that struck-off companies cannot trade, open bank accounts, hold property, or enter into valid agreements. “Its business life ends immediately,” she added.

The names of deregistered companies will be listed on BIPA’s website, and penalties may still apply to directors and members. Shoonga noted that many failures to comply were due to ignorance, the death of directors, or the mistaken belief that dormant companies had no obligations.

For those wishing to

return to the register, BIPA has provided a pathway, but Shoonga stressed it will not be simple.

“Restoration is possible, but only with full compliance to the Companies and Close Corporations Act,” she said.

Companies seeking reinstatement must settle all outstanding returns, pay annual duties and submit the required beneficial ownership declarations before applying.

“This is a strict process,” Shoonga said.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Electricity Control Board (ECB) hereby invites qualified, competent and registered individuals, companies and / or joint ventures to submit their Bids for the following projects:

Bid no:	CS/RFP/ECB-2025/26-01–BOARD EVALUATION-OCEO
Bid description:	<i>Request for Proposal (RFP) to Conduct Board Evaluation</i>
Closing date and time:	01 September 2025 at 12:00
Bid no:	CS/RFP/ECB-2025/26-03–SH SURVEY-OCEO
Bid description:	<i>Request for Proposal to conduct an External Stakeholders' Perception and Satisfaction Survey</i>
Closing date and time:	22 September 2025 at 12:00
Overall objective:	The ECB wishes to procure the services of consultants who will assist the ECB in the implementation of the projects.
Cost per set of documents:	Free
Bid documents availability:	The documents for this bid or Request for Proposals (RFP) can be requested on email at <a href="mailto:procure@ecb.org.na">procure@ecb.org.na</a> .
Details on bid submission:	Kindly submit your bid in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the “BID NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION” as stated above, addressed to the ECB Procurement Officer. The bid must first be registered at reception and deposited in the Tender Box at <b>ECB Office No. 35 Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Street, Windhoek, Namibia</b> . The name of the bidder must be indicated on the cover of each envelope.

All requests for information of any kind relating to this RFP should be channeled in writing to:

Mrs. Ester Hamukwaya [procure@ecb.org.na](mailto:procure@ecb.org.na) +264-61 374 334




## Namibia taps domestic market for N\$2bn ahead of US\$750m Eurobond redemption

The Bank of Namibia will raise N\$2 billion through a domestic bond auction on Wednesday, 27 August 2025, comprising N\$1.5 billion in nominal fixed-rate bonds and N\$500 million in

inflation-linked instruments.

The auction is part of a new N\$2 billion domestic borrowing plan introduced after delays in external funding, and comes as the government prepares to redeem its

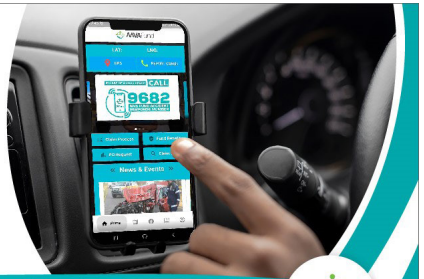



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US\$750 million Eurobond when it matures on 29 October 2025.

Simonis Storm Securities Junior Equity Analyst, Kara van den Heever said the issuance follows an announcement that an additional N\$2 billion would be sourced locally due to delays in external funding.

“Currently, overall banking industry liquidity stands at N\$7.4 billion, with the Namibian position at N\$1.67 billion,” van den Heever said.

She noted that the previous government bond auction had attracted strong demand, with bids totalling nearly N\$1.7 billion compared to an initial offer of N\$487 million.

“In the IRS segment, a total of N\$1.38 billion was tendered against an allocation of N\$407 million,” van den Heever said.

According to van den Heever, interest was strongest in the middle of the curve.

“The GC35 bond received N\$240 million

in bids, of which only N\$40 million was allocated. The GC28 bond saw its highest accepted yield fall by 51 basis points to 8.29%, while GC32 declined by 47 basis points to 9.38%. Longer-dated bonds such as GC48 and GC50 also registered yield compressions of 44 basis points,” she said.

She added that inflation-linked bonds recorded healthy participation.

“Inflation-linked bonds continued to attract interest, particularly in the medium to long-term maturities. The newly issued GI41 emerged as the most sought-after instrument, achieving a bid-to-cover ratio of six times, while GI36 followed closely at 4.64 times,” she said.

Namibia remains on track to redeem its US\$750 million Eurobond in October, with the government’s sinking fund now standing at more than US\$500 million, well above the halfway mark required for repayment according to Bank of Namibia.



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## PowerCom plans to expand to 341 towers across Namibia

**P**owerCom has announced plans to grow its tower network to 341 nationwide by September, with 33 more towers planned for the next financial year.

Chief executive Beatus Amadhila said the company has made significant investments to improve coverage.

“Each tower shortens the distance between a learner and their schoolwork, between a patient and their doctor, between an entrepreneur and their market. Each tower reduces inequality and expands opportunity,” he said.

Amadhila added that mobile penetration is high but service quality is uneven.

“These gaps deny underserved communities equal opportunity to connectivity resulting in exclusion from participating fully in the modern digital, social and economic sphere,” he said.

The announcement was made at the inauguration of the Oikokola tower in Omusati. Minister of Information and

Communication Technology Emma Theofelus said the project supports national targets.

“These are not simply figures on paper. They are targets backed by deliberate action, and they are achievable through projects such as the ones we are launching today,” she said.

Telecom Namibia chief executive Stanley Shanapinda highlighted the immediate benefits. “Today, we are closing that gap. The new Oikokola tower will strengthen mobile coverage for voice and data services in this area, turning previous dead zones into hubs of connectivity,” he said.

Shanapinda said the aim is universal access. “We cannot be satisfied until every Namibian – no matter where they live – has the means to connect with the rest of the country and the world,” he said.

Shanapinda described the Oikokola site as “a beacon of progress and inclusion” that aligns with the government’s digital strategy.



## Understanding financial inclusion: its importance and impact on development, economic growth

As Namibia gears up to host the four-day Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) Global Policy Forum beginning September 2 in Swakopmund, it's important to recognise the role that financial inclusion plays in promoting economic growth and development.

Financial inclusion refers to the accessibility and availability of financial services for all, particularly individuals from underserved or marginalised communities. This includes a range of services such as banking, loans, savings, and financial literacy programmes.

Financial inclusion is vital for driving economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for Namibians. Improved access to financial services can also be transformative, allowing local businesses to thrive and contribute significantly to the economy.

While financial inclusion in Namibia increased from 65% to 78% of the adult population during the previous Namibia Financial Sector Strategy (2011–2021), there remains an urgent need to enhance the quality and utilisation of these services.

Minister of Finance Ericah Shafudah noted that despite the progress made over the last decade, many Namibians, especially in rural areas and among informal sector workers, still lack access to formal financial services. She said despite the relative stability of Namibia's financial system, ongoing structural challenges hinder its capacity to support the country's development goals.

Limited access to finance affects particularly rural populations, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs),



as well as women and youth. Substantial gaps remain in the availability of affordable and accessible products that cater to these diverse needs. Low levels of financial literacy exacerbate these challenges, hindering consumers' ability to make informed financial decisions.

The underutilisation of digital finance solutions represents a missed opportunity to address emerging global challenges. In response, FNB Namibia has launched

several initiatives aimed at improving financial literacy and accessibility. The bank considers financial inclusion a fundamental guiding principle in its efforts to empower communities and foster economic growth.

“For us, financial inclusion is not a catchphrase or a passing trend, but a guiding principle that shapes the decisions we make,” FNB Namibia communications manager Kirsty Watermeyer said.

The bank is dedicated to making a tangible difference through various initiatives. These include the eWallet, which enables anyone in Namibia to send and receive funds quickly and securely without requiring a traditional bank account; CashPlus, where trained community agents provide essential banking services in remote areas; and the zero-rated FNB App, which offers free mobile data access, allowing customers to manage their finances without incurring additional costs.

“Our 2025 annual pricing structure reflects this ethos: we have removed all swiping fees and reduced CashPlus service fees, making it even more affordable for everyone to access banking services across Namibia,” Watermeyer further said.

FNB Namibia is also an official partner of the Basecamp Business Incubator Hub, a social enterprise contributing to building a thriving Namibian startup ecosystem where innovative ideas can flourish and grow into sustainable businesses.

Basecamp co-founder & director Jesaya Hano-Oshike said their mission is to empower entrepreneurs and small businesses to build sustainable enterprises that contribute to Namibia’s economic development.

“Financial inclusion is at the heart of this mission. Many of the entrepreneurs we support are young, women-led, or operating in underserved communities where access to finance is often the

biggest barrier to growth. Through our incubation programmes, we not only provide training and mentorship but also help entrepreneurs become investment-ready by improving their financial literacy, governance structures, and ability to access capital. This approach ensures that more entrepreneurs can participate in the formal financial system and grow their businesses in a sustainable way,” Hano-Oshike said.

Their partnership with FNB and other stakeholders has allowed them to develop structured programmes that support entrepreneurs in becoming funding-ready.

“This partnership is a strong example of how the private sector can work hand-in-hand with incubators to advance government efforts on financial inclusion. It demonstrates that with the right structures and support entrepreneurs can transition from being excluded from formal finance to becoming active contributors to the economy.”

The recently launched Namibia Financial Sector Strategy (NFSTS) 2025–2035 envisions a financial sector that serves as a cornerstone of national prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability. The strategy recognises that an inclusive and innovative financial sector is not just supportive of economic development, but is a fundamental driver of transformation that can unlock opportunities for all Namibians.

The NFSTS 2025–2035 sets ambitious targets for measuring progress toward its objectives. These include achieving a financial inclusion rate of 95% by 2035, significantly expanding access through innovative approaches, establishing a financial literacy target of 85%, aiming for a 70% success rate in MSME financing, and focusing on the development of capital markets and the expansion of digital access in rural areas.



# MTC launches 5G network in Namibia

MTC has launched 5G services in Namibia, becoming the first operator to roll out the technology in the country. The announcement was made on 24 August 2025 at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair. The service is now available in Ongwediva, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Windhoek, with wider coverage planned in the coming months. MTC Chief Technical and Information Officer Monica Nehemia said the launch marked a major step in the country’s digital growth. “We are proud to make 5G available to the market. MTC remains committed to leading Namibia’s digital transformation through the

provision of a reliable and latest network technology that facilitates access to information, critical services, and communication, thereby bridging the digital divide,” she said. Nehemia added that 5G would support innovation in areas such as IoT, cybersecurity, cloud computing and digital payments. “The connectivity power, and seamlessness that comes with 5G is exactly what we need in propelling the digitisation of enterprise solutions ... thereby enhancing business operations, efficiency, and fostering innovation and scalability,” she said. MTC first trialled 5G technology in February 2024.

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# Heroes Day from sacrifice to financial freedom

By Denille Roostee

**H**eroes Day is a powerful reminder that our freedom was not given; it was earned.

It was built on the extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and unity of men and women who believed in a brighter future for Namibia.

Their dream was not only for independence, but for dignity, opportunity, and hope for generations to come. We honour their legacy with deep gratitude and renewed inspiration.

Today, the baton of freedom is in our hands. The question we must ask ourselves is: how do we honour their legacy?

For our generation, true independence must also mean financial freedom, the power to secure our families, educate our children, and live with bold confidence for tomorrow. We have the opportunity and the responsibility to build on the foundation laid by our heroes.

Heroes are not only those whose names are etched in history. Heroes are also mothers who save so their children can go further than they ever did. The young graduate who chooses to invest, believing in a future he cannot yet see.

The family that protects their home and loved ones, ensuring tomorrow is more secure than today. These everyday choices are acts of courage. You are the new face of heroism. We thank you for every step you take to uplift your families and communities.

As our Founding Father, Sam Nujoma, once said on Heroes Day, "A people united... will always emerge victorious." If we unite as Namibians to take ownership of our financial journeys, we will write a new chapter of



“

**Their dream was not only for independence, but for dignity, opportunity, and hope for generations to come.**

freedom, one that empowers not only ourselves but the generations that follow. Together, our unity will transform gratitude into action and inspiration into a lasting legacy.

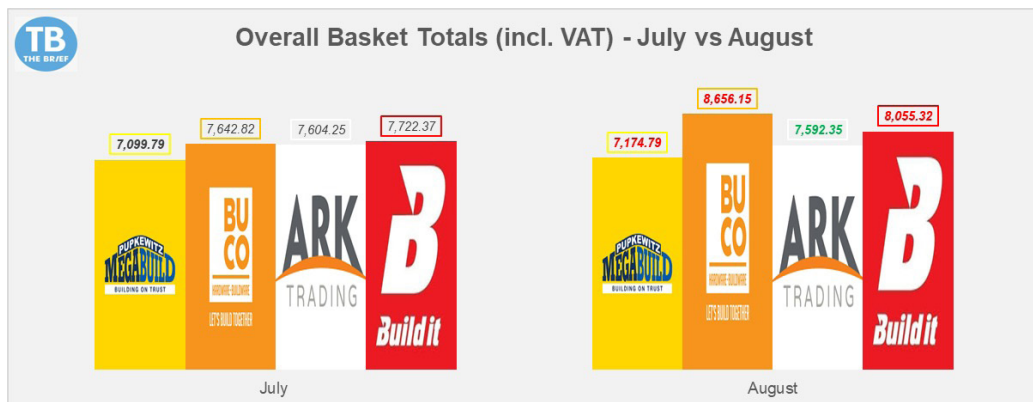
Heroes' Day is not only a call to remember, but also a call to rise. Let us honour sacrifice with action, transform unity into progress, and turn dreams into realities through discipline, planning, and resilience. Today, we move forward together, thankful for the past, inspired for the future.

At Momentum Metropolitan, we believe that freedom is a journey. Together, We Can continue what our heroes began by enabling more Namibians to achieve financial freedom and enabling their journey to success.

As we commemorate this important day, Momentum Metropolitan thanks every Namibian for their courage, resilience, and unity. We wish the nation a wonderful and meaningful Heroes Day.

***\*Denille Roostee is the Marketing Executive of Momentum Metropolitan Namibia and is passionate about inspiring Namibians to embrace financial freedom as the next chapter of independence.***





## August 2025 Price Watch: MegaBuild offers lowest prices

Our August 2025 building materials survey compared prices across four major retailers; Pupkewitz MegaBuild, Buco, Ark Trading, and Build It. The findings highlight not only which supplier offers the most affordable basket, but also where price stability and volatility are most evident.

Pupkewitz MegaBuild once again appeared as the lowest-cost option, with a total basket price of N\$7,174.79, maintaining a steady trend with minimal change from July. At the other end of the scale, Buco was the priciest option, with the same basket coming in at N\$8,656.15.

The takeaway? Choosing carefully could save you up to N\$1,481.36, a difference that matters whether you are managing a large project or simply tackling home improvements.

### Overall Basket Totals

- **Pupkewitz MegaBuild:** N\$7,174.79 (↑ 1.1% m/m)
- **Buco:** N\$8,656.15 (↑ 13.3% m/m)
- **Ark Trading:** N\$7,592.35 (↓ 0.2% m/m)
- **Build It:** N\$8,055.32 (↑ 4.3% m/m)

As compared to July 2025 Pupkewitz MegaBuild stayed the cheapest basket overall, while Buco saw the largest month-to-month jump.

### Highlights & Movers

- **Cement (32.5 & 42.5 Ohorongo):** Prices across all outlets remained mostly stable.
- **Paint (20L):** Build It leads as the most expensive at N\$1,111.67, compared to MegaBuild's N\$919.00.
- **Ceiling Board:** Buco jumped from N\$181.24 to N\$313.73 (↑ 73%).

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- **Locksets:** Build It saw a huge spike to N\$295.95, while others stayed under N\$120.

- **Aluminium Sliding Doors:** Highest at BUCO (N\$3,298.99), lowest at MegaBuild (N\$2,628.99).

### Best Value Finds (August 2025)

- **Cement:** MegaBuild & Build It at ~N\$102 (best value).

- **Bricks:** Ark Trading remained the cheapest at N\$2.53 per unit.

- **Paint:** MegaBuild keeps prices lowest at N\$919.00 for 20L.

### Trend Watch

- **Biggest Riser:** Ceiling Boards at BUCO (+73%).

- **Steadiest Basket:** Ark Trading (minimal price movement).

- **Cheapest Overall:** MegaBuild, despite small increases.

- **Price Pressure Point:** Finishing products (paint, doors, locksets) showing upward pressure.

The big story this month is the significant price inflation seen at both BUCO and Build

It. BUCO's basket jumped by nearly N\$1,000 from July, driven by increases in almost every category, especially Copper Tubing and Aluminium Windows.

This suggests that builders who rely on these suppliers are feeling the pinch of rising costs across the board. For contractors, the relative stability in cement and bricks is a relief, but the creeping rise in steel costs may impact large-scale projects.

### Your Smart-Shopping Strategy for August

**1. Anchor your shopping at Pupkewitz:** For price stability and the best overall value, make them your first stop, especially for big-ticket items.

**2. Source your roofing from Ark Trading:** If IBR sheeting is on your list, making a separate trip to Ark Trading will save you money.

**3. Always double-check the small stuff:** Before heading to the checkout, review the prices on smaller items like locksets and lintols, especially at stores showing high price volatility this month.

### Survey background

The Brief conducts a monthly price survey tracking 17 commonly purchased hardware items at Ark Trading, BUCO, Build It, and Pupkewitz Megabuild. Prices include VAT and reflect trends in supply, demand, and retailer strategy.

### Disclaimer

This survey is for information purposes only. Prices may vary due to supplier changes, stock issues, or timing. Contact retailers directly for the latest information.



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## Iithete pushes Namibian producers to tap AfCFTA markets

Deputy Prime Minister Natangwe Iithete has called on Namibian businesses to use the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to expand exports, naming beef, leather shoes and community crafts as key products.

"In a few days, the Intra-Africa Trade Fair will take place in Algeria and Namibia will participate. The 2025 Intra-Africa Trade Fair place a special focus on leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). I am using this opportunity to call upon our traders and innovators to use Namibia's position as the gateway to Africa and connect with continental market," he said at the opening of the 24th Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair.

"The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) breaks down barriers, opens borders, and creates one of the largest markets in the world. This means that our leather shoes, our beef and beef products or the crafts from our conservancies can find buyers from across our

borders," Iithete said.

"Let us therefore continue to add value to our raw materials, use trade fairs to launch such products and seize the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) opportunity to expand exports, attract investment, and position our country as a competitive player in Africa's new era of trade," he added.

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah urged ministries to work with the private sector to strengthen Namibia's trade links. "I have directed the Minister of International Relations and Trade, and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy to undertake stakeholder engagements with the business community across the 14 regions. I urge all business people to participate in these regional engagements," she said.

"Similarly, I implore Namibian business community to leverage the Intra-African Trade Fair scheduled to take place in Algeria as announced by the Deputy Prime Minister," Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

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# The Market Lens

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