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# BR/EF

News Worth Knowing



**Starlink edges closer to Namibian market  
as CRAN publishes licence application**

TUESDAY 02 DECEMBER 2025

## MAIN STORY

## Starlink edges closer to Namibian market as CRAN publishes licence application

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has formally published Starlink's telecommunications and spectrum licence applications, marking a significant step towards the global satellite internet provider's potential entry into the Namibian market.

The applications, submitted by Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd in June 2024, were released for public comment in Government Gazette No. 8795 on 28 November 2025.

According to CRAN's Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations, Mufaro Nesongano, the publication triggers the mandatory public consultation period. Stakeholders and members of the public have 14 days — from 28 November to 12 December 2025 — to submit written comments on the application. He said this process is essential for transparency and ensures that all voices are heard before a final decision is made.

"This publication marks a critical step in the licensing process, enabling stakeholders and the public to review the application details and submit feedback," he said.

Nesongano explained that Starlink has applied for a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence, which would allow the company to provide low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite broadband services nationwide. The accompanying spectrum licence application seeks access



### Crucial Dates

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

The applications, submitted by Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd in June 2024, were released for public comment in Government Gazette No. 8795 on 28 November 2025.

to frequencies in the 10.7–14.7 GHz range to support fixed-satellite services for both business and residential users.

He added that CRAN has already received the outcome of the required ownership exemption from the Minister of ICT. The full assessment will now consider several criteria set out in section 39 of the Communications Act, including ownership structure, technical and financial capability, confidentiality and neutrality of services, and matters relating to national defence, public security and fair competition.

Once the public comment period concludes, CRAN will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the applications

and communicate the next steps.

“We clarify that the outcome of the ownership application has been received from the Minister of ICT and, in terms of the law, the full licence applications must now be assessed against all applicable criteria, including ownership,” Nesongano said.

The Paratus Group entered into an agreement in 2023 to become the distributor for Starlink’s high-speed services across the African continent. According to the telecommunications company, the agreement will allow Paratus to offer Starlink services to its customers in African countries as operating licences are granted to Starlink in those jurisdictions.

# The Business Banking Masterclass

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## Hangala Foods breaks into maize meal market with new N\$35m milling plant

**H**angala Foods has opened a N\$35 million milling plant at Ombanje Farm near Otavi, introducing its Otavi Golden Maize brand into the Namibian staple foods market.

According to the company, the Ombanje Milling Plant was completed over 18 months and includes modern grain-receiving systems, a laboratory, storage silos, a product house, a weighbridge and on-site offices.

Hangala Foods said the facility has a milling capacity of 50 tonnes per day and is supported by two 500-tonne silos to ensure consistent supply throughout the year.

The company reported that the project has created 38 permanent jobs in the Otavi area, with around 120 people employed during construction.

Otavi Golden Maize according to the company, is produced in three variants, Super Maize Meal, Special Sifted and Unsifted, and is marketed by Hangala Foods as a fully

Namibian product rooted in local farming and processing.

“Otavi Golden Maize represents more than nourishment; it symbolises Namibia’s latent potential. With foresight, innovation and determination, we can feed our people, strengthen our economy, and build a more resilient nation from the soil upward,” Hangala CEO Leake Hangala said.

Hangala Foods noted that the introduction of Otavi Golden Maize adds a new locally anchored brand to the market, originating from primary production at Ombanje Farm and extending through to milling at the new plant.

The company said its integrated “farm-to-mill” model will help stabilise supply, improve quality control and retain more value within rural communities.

Namibia’s staple foods market is currently dominated by Namib Mills and Bokomo Namibia.





# Modestus Amutse appointed new Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has appointed Modestus Amutse as Namibia’s new Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, effective 2 December 2025.

According to the Presidency, Amutse brings extensive public service experience, having previously served as Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of a National Assembly Standing Committee. The Presidency said he has also held leadership roles at regional level, further strengthening the portfolio he now assumes.

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

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

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
Proposed development and operation of a power line, and electrification of Farm Nevada No.15, Unit D.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**  
Farm Nevada No. 15, Unit D, Otjozongwa District, Otjozongwa Region. The farm is located north of Otjozongwa, approximately 10km from Otjozongwa, approximately 8 km from the Police roadblock, turn left at Nevada sign board, the farm will be on your right. Item from the turn off.

**PROFONENT:** Mr. Wilson Mavulu

I&APs are invited to register with the consultant and give their comments and concerns in writing. Please take note of the following:

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Date:** Thursday, 18 December 2025  
**Venue:** Farm Nevada No.15, Unit D, Otjozongwa District, Otjozongwa Region  
**Time:** 14h00

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:  
**Mr Nghyolova, Fredrick**  
Tel: +244 (0) 81 147 2029  
Email: [junior200818@gmail.com](mailto:junior200818@gmail.com)

**PROPOSED ELECTRIFICATION OF FARM NEVEDA NO 15 UNIT D, OTJOZONGWA**

**LEGEND**

- Project Area
- Roads
- Water Features
- Other Features
- Scale: 1:4000

**Scale:** 1:4000

Amutse replaces Frans Kapofi, who was appointed in October as interim head of the ministry.

The President said the appointment comes at a critical time, following the recent Regional and Local Authority Elections in which Namibians reaffirmed their trust in the SWAPO Party. She emphasised that the 8th Administration remains focused on quality service delivery, accountability and the effective implementation of national priorities, including the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, its Implementation Plan and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

“The President wished Amutse success as he assumes his new responsibilities and leads the ministry at a time when Namibia

is advancing industrialisation, strengthening the mining sector and accelerating progress in the energy sector to support sustainable development and shared prosperity across all 14 regions,” Presidency said.

Amutse replaces Frans Kapofi, who was appointed in October as interim head of the ministry.

The Presidency said Kapofi’s temporary appointment followed President Nandi-Ndaitwah’s brief assumption of the portfolio to ensure stability after the dismissal of Natangwe Ithete as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy.



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## Starlink in Namibia: Innovation, regulation, and the path forward

By Edwin Swartz

The discussion surrounding Starlink's potential entry into Namibia has become increasingly significant for the country's digital future.

With the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) emphasizing licensing and local ownership requirements, while the experts in the business community highlights the transformative potential of satellite internet, Namibia finds itself at an important decision point.

Starlink offers clear benefits. High-speed, low-latency satellite connectivity could greatly improve access to reliable internet across rural and underserved regions. This could unlock new possibilities in education, remote healthcare, digital entrepreneurship, and remote working areas where connectivity challenges still limit growth.

Introducing additional competition could also encourage innovation and drive improved service quality across the telecom sector.

However, these opportunities must be weighed against important regulatory and economic considerations. Namibia's telecommunications framework requires operators to have at least 51% local ownership, a policy designed to protect national interests and promote local participation in the sector.

Granting an exemption to a foreign-owned company raises questions about market fairness, data sovereignty, and long-term oversight.



“

**Introducing additional competition could also encourage innovation and drive improved service quality across the telecom sector.**

Local internet service providers including both large operators and smaller ISPs may face increased pressure, potentially affecting domestic investment in infrastructure.



Get ready for another episode of the **SanlamAllianz Brief Sessions**. Lined up is another hot topic in the country - “**Namibia's Oil and Gas Sector: Current Status and Future Outlook**”.

Don't miss out on this insightful discussion.

**Date:** 04 December 2025  
**Time:** 09:00 for 09:30 to 11:00



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These concerns are not obstacles, but essential factors that help ensure Namibia's digital landscape develops in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Balancing innovation with responsible regulation will be key.

A potential path forward could be the introduction of a conditional license for Starlink. Such a license would allow the company to operate while ensuring clear obligations around pricing, coverage, data governance, and consumer protection.

It could also encourage collaboration with local businesses to support skills development, employment, and infrastructure growth.

Periodic regulatory reviews would help ensure the arrangement continues to benefit both consumers and the wider economy.

Namibia has a genuine opportunity to expand digital access and position itself more competitively in the global digital economy. By embracing new technology while maintaining strong regulatory safeguards, the country can bridge connectivity gaps without compromising national interests.

Starlink's potential entry into Namibia is not simply about a new service it's an invitation to reimagine how the country approaches connectivity, innovation, and digital inclusion.

As this discussion continues, a balanced, forward-looking approach will be essential. Constructive dialogue among regulators, industry players, and the public can help shape a solution that supports both technological progress and long-term national priorities.

***\*Edwin Swartz is an ICT specialist with hands-on experience in systems architecture, operational support, and digital infrastructure projects. His work blends technical problem-solving with strategic insight, contributing to improvements in connectivity, service reliability, and organizational efficiency.***

## RFP Application – Provision of Security Services Ref: NARFX10939

FNB Namibia Ltd invites qualified and experienced service providers to submit tenders for the provision of security services across our various locations.

The successful bidder will be responsible for providing comprehensive security services, which will include:

- On-site security personnel
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- Access control to FNB properties or rented spaces
- Emergency response coordination
- Maintaining a visible presence to deter potential criminals
- Reporting and documenting of incidents

Please send an email to [procurement@fnbnamibia.com.na](mailto:procurement@fnbnamibia.com.na) to obtain information on the tender process.

**Submission:** Completed RFP document with required additional documents **must** be submitted via the FNB portal.

No hand delivered applications will be accepted.

**Enquiries:** Any enquiries relating to this tender should be directed via email to [procurement@fnbnamibia.com.na](mailto:procurement@fnbnamibia.com.na) on or before 7 November 2025.

**Disclaimer:** FNB Namibia Limited shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this tender and furthermore reserves the right to not give any reasons for acceptance or rejection of any offer, and no correspondence will be entered into in this regard.

**Closing date:** Friday, 14 November 2025 at 12pm







## Namibia emerges as one of Africa's top pacesetters in digital payments shift

Namibia has been identified as one of Africa's most forward-leaning digital economies in the latest RMB Continent at a Crossroads White Paper, which places the country at the forefront of the continent's transition towards interoperable, real-time digital payments.

According to the report, Namibia is the only African nation to formally adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at a government-to-government level, a development that positions it as a continental trailblazer in digital public infrastructure.

The agreement between the Bank of Namibia and India's National Payments Coordinator enables instant, low-cost, real-time digital payments — a move the report describes as a critical step towards Africa's digital integration.

It aligns closely with the African Continental Free Trade Area's new Digital Trade Protocol, which seeks to harmonise cross-border data

flows, strengthen cybersecurity and support the foundations for continent-wide digital commerce.

"The Bank of Namibia has signed an agreement with the National Payments Coordinator of India to integrate their Universal Payments Interface (UPI) for real-time digital payments, the only African country that has done this at government level," the report states.

RMB's analysis stresses that Africa's ability to leapfrog traditional development barriers will depend heavily on digital public infrastructure, particularly systems for identity, payments and data exchange.

Namibia's adoption of UPI is highlighted as a practical example of how African countries can rapidly modernise their financial ecosystems, reduce transaction costs and create new opportunities for small businesses, consumers and emerging digital entrepreneurs.

## Banking liquidity drops sharply as Eurobond redemption hits cash balances

Liquidity in the banking sector fell sharply in October as commercial banks' cash balances declined by N\$2.13 billion to an average of N\$5.18 billion.

IJG Securities said this represented a 29.2% month-on-month decrease from September. The firm noted that October's drop was partly linked to the Eurobond redemption on 29 October 2025.

This followed a deterioration in September, when liquidity fell by N\$806.7 million from an average of N\$8.12 billion in August to N\$7.31 billion, driven mainly by cross-border payments.

"The overall liquidity position of commercial banks deteriorated further in October, declining by N\$2.13 billion to an average of N\$5.18 billion. This illustrates a 29.2% m/m decline from September. According to BoN, the decrease in the overall cash balances was partly attributable to the redemption of the Eurobond on 29 October 2025," IJG said.

Meanwhile, international foreign reserves fell further in October to N\$48.57 billion — an 11.2% m/m drop from the



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The overall liquidity position of commercial banks deteriorated further in October, declining by N\$2.13 billion to an average of N\$5.18 billion.

N\$54.67 billion recorded at the end of September.

According to the Bank of Namibia, the fall in reserves was mainly due to the Eurobond repayment, in addition to net rand outflows by commercial banks, government foreign payments and the appreciation of the Namibia dollar against the US dollar.

“This level of reserves translated to an estimated import cover of 3.2 months, or 3.5 months excluding oil and gas exploration and appraisal-related imports,” IJG said.

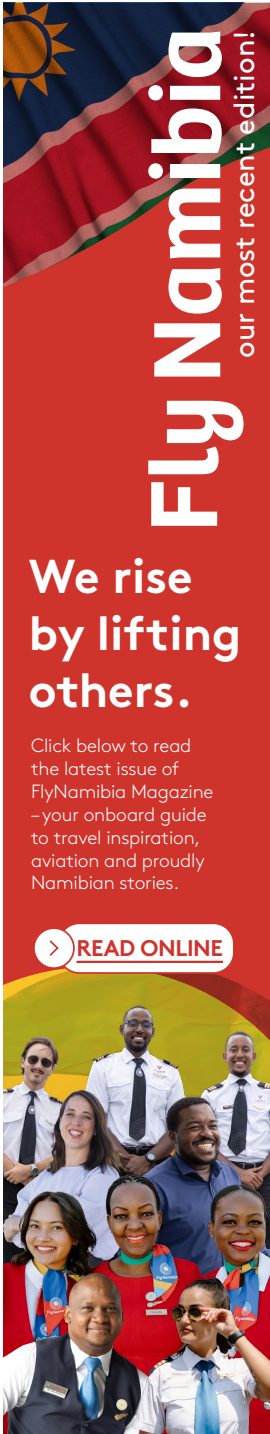
Simonis Storm Economist Almandro Jansen said the latest developments highlight a short-term but expected divergence between domestic and external liquidity conditions.

“While internal banking-sector cash balances tightened, the drawdown in reserves was anticipated and aligned with Namibia’s debt-management strategy. The Bank of Namibia confirmed that adequate

buffers had been secured ahead of time to ensure the stability of the currency peg and preserve orderly market functioning during the redemption event,” he said.

Jansen added that although the tighter liquidity environment may temporarily constrain credit availability — given commercial banks’ involvement in financing and facilitating the Eurobond repayment — the impact is expected to be manageable and short-lived.

“Incoming SACU receipts, ongoing mineral-export earnings and fiscal inflows are likely to replenish system liquidity heading into early 2026. In the medium term, the successful Eurobond redemption significantly improves Namibia’s sovereign risk profile by eliminating a major refinancing overhang, thereby supporting more stable and sustainable long-term credit and monetary conditions,” he said.



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## Stay alert for online and phone scams this festive season

By John Ekongo

The festive season is a time of joy, generosity, and connection. Families reunite, friends exchange gifts, and communities come together to celebrate. But while we prepare for festivities, cybercriminals are also getting ready, waiting to exploit the excitement and distractions of the season.

Every year, thousands fall victim to online fraud, phone scams, and social engineering tactics. This year, let's make vigilance a part of our celebrations.

### Why Scams Rise During the Holidays

The holidays see an increase in online shopping, digital payments, and charitable donations. Scammers are aware of this and use sophisticated tricks to lure unsuspecting individuals.

Fake websites imitate legitimate retailers, phishing emails promise unbelievable discounts, and fraudulent calls claim urgent account issues. Social engineering—the act of manipulating people into revealing sensitive information—remains one of their most effective tools.

### The Human Factor



**Introducing additional competition could also encourage innovation and drive improved service quality across the telecom sector.**

Technology can protect us to some degree, but human behaviour in most instances is the weakest link. Scammers target trust, urgency, and emotion. A friendly voice on the phone asking for your banking details, an email warning of account suspension, or a link promising a festive giveaway—these are designed to make you act before you think.

### Types of Scams.

Business email compromise (BEC) scams exploit the fact that so many of us rely on email to conduct business—both personal and professional—and it's one of the most financially damaging online crimes.

Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information, like your credit card details or any unique

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identifiable code linked to you via an institution and uses it to commit theft or fraud.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, or malware, that prevents you from accessing your computer files, systems, or networks and demands you pay a ransom for their return.

Spoofing and phishing are schemes aimed at tricking you into providing sensitive information to scammers.

### Common Red Flags

- Unsolicited calls or messages requesting personal or banking details.
- Emails or links with minor spelling errors or unfamiliar domains.
- \* Offers that seem too good to be true or urgent payment requests.

• Requests for OTPs or passwords—legitimate companies will never ask for these.

### How to Stay Safe

- Verify before trusting: Confirm the source of any request, especially if it involves money or personal data.
- Shop wisely: Use reputable websites and avoid clicking on suspicious links.
- Enable two-factor authentication: Add an extra layer of security to your accounts.
- Keep your devices

updated: Regular updates fix vulnerabilities scammers might exploit.

- Educate your family: Share these tips with loved ones, particularly the elderly and young people, who are often targeted.

What do you do when you are scammed?

- Immediately inform your service provider.
- Report on the matter to the Police -

### The Cost of Complacency

Falling victim to a scam can mean more than just financial loss—it can lead to identity theft, emotional distress, and months of recovery. Prevention is always better than cure. A few moments of caution can save you from months of regret.

### Our Commitment to Your Safety

At MTC, we believe security is a shared responsibility. We are dedicated to protecting our customers and empowering them with knowledge. Please note that MTC will only call you from 081 888 2000. Visit [www.mtc.com.na](http://www.mtc.com.na) for handy tips, scam alerts, and resources to keep you safe this festive season. If you suspect fraud or need help, contact our 24/7 Customer Care immediately at 12000 or 13000.

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## CRAN approves revised tariff structures for telecom operators



The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has approved a wide range of new voice, data and broadband tariffs submitted by several licensed operators, according to Government Gazette No. 8795, published on 28 November 2025.

The approvals introduce revised prices, upgraded packages and new product offerings across the telecommunications sector.

“The public may submit in writing to the Authority written comments within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice in the Gazette,” the notice read.

Among the key changes, Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) received approval for its updated Giga Data Bundles, offering between 1.5GB and 50GB at prices ranging from N\$25 to N\$699. The bundles are valid for 30 days, include rollover when repurchased, and are available to both prepaid and postpaid customers. CRAN also approved amendments to MTC’s postpaid voice plans, which introduce updated data allocations, voice minutes and promotional benefits across six contract categories.

Paratus Namibia secured approval for its Yursat Adapt satellite packages, offering download speeds of 10–20 Mbps and fair usage thresholds of up to 350GB. Monthly

prices range from N\$1,550 to N\$3,350, with standard VSAT terms, installation fees and fair usage policies applied.

Blue Telecommunications received the regulator’s approval for new AirFibre Rural and Urban packages, offering speeds of 10–50 Mbps at monthly charges starting from N\$770. The approval also covers FFX fibre plans with symmetric speeds of up to 50 Mbps.

IT Guru Solutions’ upgraded GigaNet fibre products were also published, introducing uncapped lines ranging from 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps. The company said existing clients will be migrated to higher speeds at no additional cost, while new customers will benefit from promotional discounts during November and December.

Lastly, Telecom Namibia received approval for a broad rebalancing of its Speedlink, line rental, installation and call tariffs. Changes include revised installation fees, adjusted fixed-line rentals for residential and business users, new national call rates — including a reduction in charges from TN Fixed to mobile networks to 90 cents per minute — as well as updated international call charges and revised broadband pricing across Speedlink Unified and Speedlink Lite packages.