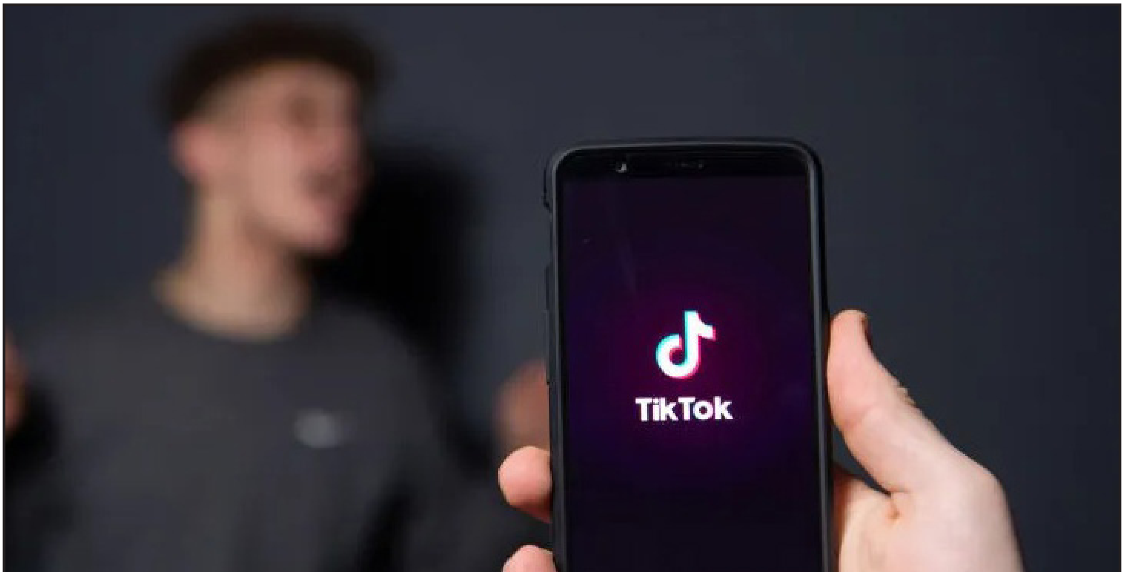
EUROBOND REPAYMENT
Absa details R750m role in Namibia's Eurobond repayment
p. 04

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
What can I do now to take the pressure off January's back-to-school costs?
p. 13

CUSTOMS CONTROLS
NamRA tightens customs controls with compulsory trader identification from April 2026
p. 17

THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing



Streaming and social media drive Namibia's data revenue to N$928m in Q3

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2025

MAIN STORY

Streaming and social media drive Namibia's data revenue to N$928m in Q3

Data services remained the main revenue driver in Namibia's information and communications technology sector during the third quarter of 2025, according to the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

CRAN's Quarterly Statistics Bulletin for July to September 2025 shows that total data revenue increased from N$876 million in the second quarter to N$928 million in the third quarter, reflecting growing consumer reliance on streaming, social media and cloud-based services.

Voice revenue declined slightly from N$702 million to N$695 million, while SMS revenue fell marginally from N$149 million to N$147 million during the same period.

Overall ICT revenue rose by 1 percent to N$1.6 billion, while operating expenses declined slightly to N$1.3 billion, improving the sector's revenue-to-cost ratio, CRAN said.

Investment in telecommunications increased to N$455 million in the third quarter, signalling stabilisation after a previous decline. CRAN attributed the rise mainly to fibre deployments and software upgrades by operators including MTC, Telecom Namibia and Paratus.

CRAN executive for communications and consumer relations Mufaro Nesongano said the total number of active SIM cards

THE BRIEF
Marketing - 081 676 4441 / thebriefnam@gmail.com
Editorial - 081 461 2969 / newsdesk@thebrief.com.na
P. O. Box 5422, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek, Namibia

increased by 3 percent, marking a shift from the stability recorded in the second quarter.

"This growth was largely driven by a 3 percent rise in prepaid subscriptions, while postpaid subscriptions grew by only 1 percent. Mobile broadband usage rose by 6 percent, and dongle and router-based broadband subscriptions increased by 30 percent, although from a relatively small base, indicating renewed interest in fixed mobile wireless alternatives," Nesongano said.

CRAN reported that the proportion of SIM cards used for internet access increased from 61 percent to 63 percent, highlighting the continued shift towards data-driven communication.

Fixed-line subscriptions declined by 2 percent, affecting both business and residential users. Fixed broadband subscriptions increased by 2 percent, supported by a 12 percent rise in fibre-to-the-premises connections.

VoIP subscriptions grew by 8 percent, while satellite and VSAT subscriptions dropped by 39 percent following a previous surge. ADSL connections declined by 2 percent, CRAN said.

Mobile voice traffic increased by 8 percent overall, with MTC recording a 9 percent increase and TN Mobile 1 percent.

"SMS traffic increased marginally by 1 percent, showing early signs of stabilisation. Mobile data usage grew significantly, driven largely by increased consumption on the Paratus network following the launch of its LTE network and associated PAGE 6 packages in August 2025," Nesongano said.

CRAN reported that cyber threat events declined by 53 percent during the quarter, although overall exposure and vulnerabilities remained largely unchanged. The regulator said the decline may reflect changes in monitoring and detection rather than a reduction in underlying risk.

Pay television subscriptions increased by 2 percent, with DStv subscriptions rising by 4 percent due to strong sports content, while GOtv subscriptions declined by 3 percent, likely reflecting competition from streaming platforms. Advertising revenue grew by 7 percent.

The postal sector remained stable, with postbox occupancy unchanged at 48 percent and private bag utilisation at 35 percent. "The rural post office network also remained unchanged, with 83 percent of post offices located in rural areas, continuing to provide universal access to essential communication and parcel services in underserved communities," Nesongano said.

Absa details R750m role in Namibia's Eurobond repayment

Absa Bank Namibia has revealed that it committed R 750 million to a R 1.5 billion financing facility arranged for the Government of the Republic of Namibia to support Eurobond repayment obligations.

Absa Bank Namibia Chief Representative Officer Vivian Groenewald said the facility was part of a broader financing arrangement that enabled government to meet its external debt commitments while strengthening domestic fiscal resilience.

"This milestone financing marked one of the first commercial local bank debt solutions of its kind, laying the foundation for deeper innovation and the continued development of Namibia's domestic loan markets," Groenewald said.

He said the transaction supported government's broader fiscal and budgetary priorities and helped reduce exposure to hard currency risk.

By raising the facility in rand, which is pegged to the Namibia dollar, Groenewald said government enhanced sovereign risk management, strengthened fiscal stability and increased participation in local currency financing.

"Beyond the financing itself, this partnership demonstrated how well structured, locally anchored solutions can drive financial independence and resilience across African markets. It set a precedent for future innovation and contributed to sustainable economic growth on the continent," he said.

Groenewald added that the partnership reflected Absa's commitment to purpose led collaboration aimed at deepening domestic capital markets and reinforcing financial resilience.

The disclosure follows Namibia's successful redemption in October of its US$750 million Eurobond, issued in 2015 at a coupon rate of 5.25 percent, which marked the largest single debt maturity in the country's history.

According to the Ministry of Finance, a sinking fund had accumulated US$444 million towards the repayment. To close the remaining US$306 million funding gap, government invited proposals from local commercial banks.

Standard Bank Namibia provided N$3 billion, FNB Namibia contributed N$1.5 billion, while Bank Windhoek, in partnership with Absa, contributed a further N$1.5 billion towards the redemption.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah said at the time that the settlement reaffirmed Namibia's fiscal credibility and the strength of the domestic financial system.

CRAN receives majority submissions backing Starlink's entry into Namibia

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has received 1,180 written public submissions on Starlink's telecommunications and spectrum licence applications, with the majority supporting the satellite internet provider's proposed entry into the Namibian market.

CRAN Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations Mufaro Nesongano said that, as at Friday, 12 December 2025, 1,164 submissions supported the application, while 16 opposed it. He said both supportive and opposing submissions included substantive issues that Starlink will be required to address as part of the evaluation process.

"The feedback reflects a broad range of views and illustrates the public's active engagement and diverse perspectives regarding the potential implications of Starlink's entry into Namibia's telecommunications sector," Nesongano said. He said CRAN is consolidating all comments received and will share the compiled feedback with Starlink once the process is complete, after which the company will have 14 days to respond to the public concerns and viewpoints.

"Once completed, the Authority will share the consolidated comments with Starlink, providing the company with an opportunity to respond directly within a period of 14 days after receiving the comments," Nesongano said.

CRAN expects to announce its decision on the licence application by the end of the first quarter of 2026.

"CRAN aims to announce its decision regarding the licence application by the end of the first quarter of 2026, ensuring a thorough review and public engagement throughout the process," he said.

The update follows CRAN's formal publication of Starlink's telecommunications and spectrum licence applications, submitted by Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd in June 2024. The applications were gazetted in Government Gazette No. 8795 on 28 November 2025, triggering the mandatory public consultation period.

Starlink has applied for a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence, which would allow it to provide low-earth orbit satellite broadband services nationwide. The accompanying spectrum licence application seeks access to frequencies in the 10.7–14.7 GHz range to support fixed-satellite services for both business and residential users.

CRAN has already received the outcome of the required ownership exemption from the Minister of Information and Communication Technology and will now assess the full licence applications against the criteria set out in section 39 of the Communications Act, including ownership structure, technical and financial capability, service neutrality and confidentiality, and considerations relating to national defence, public security and fair competition.

Paratus Group entered into an agreement in 2023 to act as distributor for Starlink's high-speed satellite services across Africa. The agreement will allow Paratus to offer Starlink services in African markets as operating licences are granted in individual jurisdictions.

SpaceX Vice President and Head of Starlink Global Subsidiaries Lauren Dreyer has said the company has established a local presence and is ready to meet all regulatory requirements in Namibia.

What does the dollar has to do with my mahangu? A Namibian grandmother's paradox of currency pegging

By Trophy Shapange

In Windhoek, every boardroom wall has probably heard the debate on currency pegging more than once.

Inside those polished rooms, the conversations are often critical, technical, and filled with concerns about sovereignty, macroeconomic discipline, or monetary flexibility.

But today, as I sit under the tree here at my village of Ondeikela, I want to explore this same arrangement from the open walled boardroom of my childhood, the shade of this tree. Will my view mirror the scepticism of the capital, or will it be shaped differently by the realities of rural life?

As I sit here quietly, watching children pass by on their way to and from the nearby cuca shops, some carrying bread, cooking oil, a can of fish, or a packet of salt, all sent on errands by their grandmothers, a question begins to form.

How does this currency arrangement affect the grandmothers of my village? And if I had to explain it to my own mother, who spends her days surrounded by her grandchildren and laughing as a mischievous chick runs off with a piece of bread from the smallest one who thought hiding it behind her back would win her an extra slice, what exactly would I say?

The more I think about it from the quietness of this tree, the more I realise that the answers lie not in economic theory, but in the lived experiences of these grandmothers.

After a carefully considered view, I believe

“Inside those polished rooms, the conversations are often critical, technical, and filled with concerns about sovereignty, macroeconomic discipline, or monetary flexibility.

if I was to sit under a marula tree in any northern village and tell a grandmother that Namibia's currency is pegged to the South African Rand, she would probably adjust her headscarf, laugh softly, and say, “My child, I only know mahangu, pension, and the price of cooking oil.

What does this peg have to do with me?” Yet without her knowing it, currency stability quietly determines how far her pension stretches, how much she pays for sugar, and whether the clinic nearby has medicine when she needs it.

It influences everything she experiences at the village level, even though she has never used the words “exchange rate” in her life. This is the great Namibian paradox: the people who understand the least about monetary policy are often the ones most shaped by it.

The first and most direct connection is her pension. As a rural grandmother, her monthly government grant is not just income; it is survival. It feeds grandchildren, buys paraffin, pays for grinding mahangu, and covers transport to the clinic.

That pension only has meaning if it buys tomorrow what it buys today. In countries where currencies collapse, the elderly suffer the worst. Their pension evaporates in real terms, and their dignity is stripped away one price increase at a time.

Namibia's peg shields her from this trauma by ensuring that the Namibia Dollar does not lose value unpredictably. It keeps inflation in check and protects her from the chaos that hits many African households when their currencies swing wildly.

She may never discuss monetary policy, but she can tell when cooking oil has suddenly doubled in price, and she knows something is wrong. Currency stability prevents that nightmare.

Her daily basket of food is the second place where the peg quietly safeguards her life. Whether it is sugar, bread, rice, salt, or the occasional tin fish, almost everything she buys has an imported component. Without a stable currency, prices in rural

shops would jump unpredictably, and hunger would deepen. The peg ensures that these fluctuations remain moderate, shielding the most vulnerable from the brutal impact of global price swings.

When inflation is stable, her shopping list becomes manageable. When the currency collapses, even the simplest ingredients become luxuries. For a grandmother who measures money by how many meals it can produce, currency stability is not an academic concept, it is the difference between enough and not enough.

The peg also affects her health without her ever realising it. Most medical supplies are imported: blood pressure pills, syringes, gloves, antibiotics, and basic clinic tools.

When a currency is unstable, the cost of these items skyrockets, clinic shelves empty, and rural grandmother suffer. But when the currency remains steady, government and private suppliers can buy medicines predictably and affordably.

So, every time the grandmothers find their clinic stocked with her hypertension medication, she is benefiting from the stability she does not know exists. Currency stability, in this sense, is a healthcare policy disguised as monetary policy.

Transport is another quiet casualty of currency weakness. Rural life depends on mobility: taxis to town, bakkies to the clinic, tractors for ploughing, and buses for long trips. Fuel prices react immediately to exchange rate movements.

If the Namibia Dollar collapses, diesel and petrol climb so sharply that a simple trip to town becomes a financial burden. A grandmother who once paid N$20 to reach the clinic may suddenly need N$40. Her world shrinks with every fuel increase.

The peg protects her from this, smoothing out the violent movements that could isolate her entirely from basic services.

Electricity and communication are yet another link. Solar panels, batteries, generators, and airtime all depend heavily on imported technology. When the currency is unstable, utility providers raise tariffs, and airtime never lasts long enough.

For the village grandmother, who may not understand global telecom supply chains, the effect is still deeply felt: her electricity becomes unpredictable, her communication with children becomes expensive, radio batteries become expensive and her access to information narrows. The peg quietly keeps these pressures manageable.

Perhaps the most invisible benefit comes from stability in the economy at large.

When the currency is stable, businesses feel confident, investments flow, and jobs remain secure. Her children, who work in towns, cities, farms, mines, and shops, rely on this stability for their livelihoods.

If the currency collapses and companies begin to panic, retrenchment follows, and suddenly her pension must carry the whole family again. She becomes the default provider for unemployed grandchildren. Currency pegging protects her children's jobs, and by extension, protects her from becoming the family's last financial safety net.

To her, interest rates may sound like "those things people in suits talk about". But when the currency is stable, interest rates remain predictable. That means her children's home loans, car payments, and small business loans do not spiral out of control.

If they lose their stability, she suffers too, because the burden of family crises always falls hardest on the eldest mother in the home. Stability in money is stability in family life.

What makes all of this remarkable is that this grandmother will likely never speak of exchange rates, the rand peg, inflation targeting, repo rates, or foreign reserves. Yet every one of these policies determines how easily she moves, how well she eats, whether she gets medicine, whether her pension feeds their household, and whether her children keep their jobs. She feels the results without knowing the cause.

That is the paradox of the macroeconomic policy.

For her, currency pegging is not a technical tool. It is a silent protector. It is the reason she can still buy her monthly staples without fear that the price will double tomorrow. It is the reason her pension remains meaningful.

It is why the clinic shelves are not empty, why the taxi to town has not tripled in cost, and why her children's wages still have value. Even though she may never understand the mechanics of pegging, her life would be dramatically different without it.

In the end, currency stability is not an urban or academic concern. It is a village concern.

It touches the life of the grandmother sitting under her marula tree more directly than anyone else. She may not know the jargon, but she lives the consequences.

Pegging is not for economists, it is for her. It protects her dignity, her health, her food security, her movement, her family, and her survival. And she deserves that stability, even if she will never call it by its name.

Trophy Shapange is the Managing Director of Lebela Fund Managers. The views expressed in this article are his own and not those of his employer.

Namibia's MICE visa generates over N$1.5m in first months

Namibia's Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) visa has generated more than N$1.5 million since its introduction in June, with 978 visas issued to international delegates attending conferences, meetings and business events across various sectors.

Speaking at the soft launch of the Namibia Convention Bureau (NCB), NCB manager Esther Ndilula said 22 events have been supported or co-hosted since June, spanning sectors including energy, mining, food systems, digital industries, communications technology, global business, and the creative and cultural industries.

She said the events have directly benefited a wide range of local service providers, including accommodation, transport, catering, branding, security, audiovisual services and event production.

The MICE visa applies primarily to delegates from non visa exempt countries, as well as speakers, moderators, media practitioners and other professionals attending events in an official capacity.

"By co hosted, this refers to events delivered in collaboration with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), with facilitation support provided through the bureau. These events span a range of sectors, including energy, food systems, digital and global business, metals and mining, related industries, communications and technology, as well as the cultural and creative industries," Ndilula said.

She further explained that the NCB, which is housed under the NIPDB, is a destination

> The MICE visa applies primarily to delegates from non visa exempt countries, as well as speakers, moderators, media practitioners and other professionals attending events in an official capacity.

marketing and coordination body that plays a central role in attracting and supporting business events.

Unlike convention centres, which are physical venues, the bureau markets Namibia as a destination, coordinates stakeholders, facilitates bidding for international events and collects data on economic impact.

Business tourism, commonly referred to as the MICE industry, is globally recognised as a high value tourism segment due to its strong links to trade, investment and knowledge exchange. Ndilula noted that international case studies such as Rwanda and South Africa demonstrate how targeted investment in the sector can deliver sustained economic returns.

She also said the MICE visa is a key incentive when bidding for international events, as simplified visa access is a major consideration for global event organisers.

Plans are underway to strengthen data collection through post event reporting, enabling real time tracking of economic impact and increased use of local service providers.

"The Convention Bureau has also secured membership with the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), a key global platform that provides access to international association meetings and bidding opportunities," Ndilula said.

Namibia Securities Exchange wins regional innovation award

The Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX) has been named Most Innovative Securities Exchange, Southern Africa 2025 at the Global Banking and Finance Awards® 2025, hosted by Global Banking and Finance Review.

The international awards programme recognises excellence, innovation and leadership across the global financial services industry, including banking, capital markets, investment services, environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, and financial innovation.

According to the organisers, the awards highlight institutions that demonstrate strong performance, forward-looking strategies and meaningful contributions to the development of financial markets.

The NSX said the recognition reflects its continued focus on innovation, market development and the strengthening of Namibia's financial market infrastructure, particularly initiatives aimed at improving market accessibility, efficiency and resilience.

NSX Chief Executive Officer Tiaan Bazuin said the judging process placed particular emphasis on recent market modernisation initiatives.

"In the review process, it was clear that the modernisation of the bond market through the launch of a dedicated trading system for best-price matching, as well as the introduction of the Central Securities Depository, were viewed as key milestones for a modern, well-regulated market," Bazuin said. The exchange said these developments form part of its broader strategy to enhance transparency, improve settlement efficiency and support the long-term growth of Namibia's capital markets.

The NSX also expressed appreciation to Global Banking and Finance Review for the recognition, and to its stakeholders, market participants and staff for their continued support and contribution to the exchange's development.

What can I do now to take the pressure off January's back-to-school costs?

By Elzita Beukes

December is in full swing, and you're already doing the mental maths: new uniform, gifts, groceries, petrol to visit family, and somehow still have enough money left for January.

You know what's coming. The stationery list is already sitting in your school WhatsApp group. By the second week of January, every shop will be packed with parents panic-buying the same things, and half of what you need will be out of stock.

Uniform prices will be higher. Your daughter will need new school shoes because the previous pair is too tight. And your salary? Still three weeks away.

Here's the thing: you can't avoid January. But you can take some of the eina out of it. Not with a perfect budget or by skipping Christmas, but by making a few smart moves now, while you still have breathing room.

1. Cover the non-negotiables first

Buy uniforms and shoes now

Stock is good, prices haven't increased yet, and kids can try things on without fighting the January crowds. If your child has grown (and they always do), size up. That blazer might be a bit big in January, but it'll fit by March – and you won't be buying another one in six months.

2. Deal with December realistically

> "Stock is good, prices haven't increased yet, and kids can try things on without fighting the January crowds.

December is expensive. You want to spoil your kids, see family, and maybe take a few days off. But if you go all in, January becomes a nightmare.

Your December salary has to last longer

If you're paid mid-month in December (like many Namibians are), remember: that's not a bonus, it's just your regular salary arriving early. Spend it all in December and you're staring down a six-week gap until the end of January, with nothing left. Once January hits, school fees, groceries and transport costs start again, and the money needs to be there.

Make Christmas work with what you have

For your kids: Let school supplies double up as gifts – shoes, stationery, a lunch bag, or a backpack they'll love. Wrap them up and make them special. This shows them that gifts don't always have to be toys or treats, and that getting what they need is also something to appreciate.

For everyone else: Thoughtful gifts go further than you think. Baked goods, a photo album, or time – a night of babysitting for tired parents – all mean more than overspending.

Set a limit, and stick to it

Sit down this week and decide what you can actually afford for gifts and celebrations. If it's N$2,000 instead of N$5,000, that's fine. Write it down, stick to it, and stop comparing what you have available to what others are spending.

Have the conversation early

Not a lecture, just honesty: "We're keeping gifts smaller this year so we're not stressed in January." Most people get it (kids included). If extended family is involved, set expectations now so no one's caught off guard on Christmas Day.

3. Don't wait for the January scramble

Shop sales now

Festive season sales aren't just for TVs and phones. School shoes, stationery, lunchboxes … they're all on sale, too. Spread the cost by buying a few things each week during December, instead of doing one massive shop in January, when everything is full price again.

Stick to what really matters

Skip the extras that don't add value, like fancy pencil cases, character backpacks, or new lunchboxes. Instead, focus your budget on the essentials your kids actually need, like uniforms, shoes, and textbooks.

The reality check

January's always going to be expensive – that's just the reality of back-to-school season. Set a realistic budget, buy now while stock and money are available, and protect your January salary.

Elzita Beukes, Senior Manager: Public Relations and Communication at Standard Bank Namibia, says: "Planning ahead is the best gift you can give yourself. December is a time for family and celebration, but it's also the perfect opportunity to make small, intentional choices that ease the financial pressure in January. Start early, use rewards where you can, and remember – it's not about skipping joy, it's about spreading it wisely."

CoW approves building plans worth N$124m in November

The City of Windhoek approved 153 building plans valued at N$123.9 million in November, representing 33 fewer approvals than in October.

According to IJG Securities, the total value of approvals declined by N$362.6 million month on month, reflecting a 74.5% m/m and 25.5% year-on-year (y/y) decrease.

"The majority of this monthly decline is due to the approval of a N$300.0 million commercial property in October. Year to date, N$2.17 billion worth of building plans have been approved, which is 12.5% higher than the corresponding period in 2024," IJG said.

A total of 70 buildings were completed during the month, with a combined value of N$35.9 million. This represents 38 more completions than in October.

> A total of 70 buildings were completed during the month, with a combined value of N$35.9 million. This represents 38 more completions than in October.

IJG noted that while the increase in the number of completions was notable, the value rose by only N$1.7 million month on month. "Year to date, 392 buildings have been completed, valued at N$357.7 million, reflecting a 49.3% year-on-year decline from N$706.0 million at the same point last year," the firm said.

In November, 122 additions to existing properties were approved, with a combined value of N$50.7 million. This reflects a decline of 15.9% month on month and 8.3% year on year in the number of additions, while the value fell by 1.1% month on month and 4.0% year on year.

"The year-to-date total stands at 1,448 approved additions valued at N$605.1 million, a decline of 22.4% year on year in value terms compared with the same period last year. A total of 57 additions worth N$13.7 million were completed during the month," IJG said.

On a year-to-date basis, 259 additions have been completed, with a combined value of N$87.5 million. This represents a decline of 59.3% year on year in number terms and 48.2% year on year in value terms.

On a 12-month cumulative basis, 269 building plans have been completed, with a total value of approximately N$91.4 million, which is 48.7% lower in value terms than approvals recorded at the end of November 2024.

In the residential segment, 24 new residential units were approved in November, six fewer than the 30 units approved in October. The total value of residential building plan approvals amounted to N$52.3 million, reflecting an increase of N$10.3 million compared with October.

However, on an annual basis, the value of residential approvals declined by 10.5% year on year. Year to date, residential unit approvals are down 6.3% year on year in number terms and 1.2% year on year in value terms.

Over a 12-month cumulative period, the number of approved residential units fell by 2.4% year on year to 328 units, while the total value increased by 25.0% year on year to N$860.7 million.

"In terms of completions, 11 residential units were completed in November with a total value of N$20.8 million," IJG said.

NamRA tightens customs controls with compulsory trader identification from April 2026

NamRA will make the use of a Trader Identification Number (TIN) compulsory for all importers from 1 April 2026, requiring the identifier to be used in every customs-related transaction conducted through ASYCUDAWorld.

The Namibia Revenue Agency said the requirement will apply to importers, exporters, clearing and forwarding agents, bonded warehouse operators, shipping lines, transporters and the wider trading community.

NAMRA's Chief of Strategic Communications and Support Engagements, Yarukeekuro Ndorokaze, said the TIN is a unique and permanent identifier issued to individuals and businesses involved in cross-border trade, allowing for accurate recording and monitoring of customs activities in ASYCUDAWorld.

He said the introduction of a secure trader identification system aligns Namibia with World Customs Organization guidelines, the Revised Kyoto Convention and international trade facilitation standards, strengthening the country's competitiveness in regional and global markets.

Ndorokaze said the use of a unique TIN for every trader will enhance NAMRA's ability to monitor compliance, assess risk and detect irregularities, helping to safeguard Namibia against customs fraud, smuggling and under-declaration.

From 1 April 2026, he said all customs declarations must include a valid TIN for the importer, exporter, declarant and any other relevant party. Traders will also be required to ensure their TINs are correctly linked to their ASYCUDAWorld profiles before initiating transactions.

He said new or unregistered traders must apply for a TIN with NAMRA before engaging in import or export activities, while clearing agents will be required to ensure that client TIN lists are updated and accurately reflected in ASYCUDAWorld.

Ndorokaze warned that declarations submitted without a valid TIN will be rejected automatically and goods will not be processed or released until the requirement is met.

He said NAMRA will roll out stakeholder outreach programmes, training sessions and official communication to support a smooth transition ahead of the implementation date.

Beware of rilide malware: A growing threat to online banking security

By Colanè Esterhuizen-Andreas

> "Verify email senders, hover over links before clicking, and avoid opening unknown attachments.

Standard Bank Namibia is warning clients and the public about the rising threat of Rilide malware, a sophisticated cyberattack targeting online banking users.

This malicious software is designed to steal sensitive information and bypass security measures, posing a serious risk to financial safety.

What is Rilide Malware?

Rilide is a dangerous strain of malware that operates as a malicious browser extension. Once installed, it can intercept login credentials and manipulate authentication processes.

One of its most alarming features is the ability to display fraudulent multi-factor authentication (MFA) prompts, such as One-Time Password (OTP) windows, during legitimate login attempts. These prompts appear authentic but capture codes for cybercriminals instead of sending them to the bank.

Beyond OTP theft, Rilide can hijack browser sessions and authentication flows, allowing attackers to maintain access even after passwords are changed. This makes it particularly effective at bypassing the protections MFA is meant to provide.

How Does Malware Spread?

Malware infections often begin when users interact with phishing emails, click on malicious links, download infected attachments, or install unverified browser extensions. Understanding these tactics is key to prevention.

Expert Warning

"Cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated, and Rilide is a prime example of how attackers exploit trust in everyday tools like browser extensions," says Andreas Colane Esterhuizen, Manager: Fraud Risk at Standard Bank Namibia. "We urge clients to remain vigilant, verify the authenticity of all online interactions, and report any suspicious activity immediately. Your awareness is the first line of defense."

Protect Yourself Against Rilide

Standard Bank Namibia recommends the following best practices:

Stay alert: Verify email senders, hover over links before clicking, and avoid opening unknown attachments.

Install safely: Only download browser extensions from official app stores and confirm the developer's authenticity.

Report suspicious activity immediately to your bank or IT security team.

Your Security Is Our Priority

Cybercrime is evolving, and threats like Rilide highlight the importance of vigilance. By practicing safe online behavior and using strong security measures, clients can significantly reduce their risk of falling victim.

**** Colanè Esterhuizen-Andreas is a Manager: Forensic Services at Standard Bank.***