

## JOINS

Ingah Ekanjo joins Old Mutual Namibia as Retail Mass Managing Director

p. 08



## TASK FORCES

President appoints six more members to national task forces

p. 11



## DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

NPC reports 48% execution of N\$11.8bn development budget

p. 13



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**Govt targets N\$300m growth in fisheries sector contribution to N\$10.7bn by 2030**

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## MAIN STORY



## Govt targets N\$300m growth in fisheries sector contribution to N\$10.7bn by 2030

**T**he government aims to raise the fisheries sector's contribution to the national economy by N\$300 million, from N\$10.4 billion to N\$10.7 billion by 2030, under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Inge Zaamwani has said.

Zaamwani said the sector's contribution

to gross domestic product is projected to increase from N\$10.4 billion to N\$10.7 billion by the end of the decade.

She said achieving the target will depend on rebuilding fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield, intensifying efforts against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, expanding value addition in fish products and increasing employment across

the sector.

“The achievement of these ambitious targets requires us to collectively develop action plans to achieve these targets. You are therefore key partners in this development process,” Zaamwani said while addressing fishing rightsholders during an industry engagement in Lüderitz.

“The way you manage your operations will be central in achieving NDP6 goals and ensure meaningful contribution to GDP, value addition, the creation of quality jobs, tax compliance and strategic investment,” she said.

To strengthen accountability, Zaamwani said the ministry plans to introduce a Fisheries Scorecard in 2026. The scorecard will assess fishing rightsholders not only on catch levels and regulatory compliance, but also on job creation, local procurement and corporate governance.

She said the measure is intended to distinguish companies that make a genuine developmental contribution from those that merely hold fishing rights.

The minister also warned of corporate governance failures in parts of the industry, citing cases where marginalised communities are used to secure fishing rights without receiving fair access to dividends or financial information.

“These practices are unethical and will no longer be tolerated,” she said, adding that the scorecard would be used to expose and address such abuses.

On enforcement, Zaamwani said government is strengthening by-catch controls and surveillance, while working towards ratifying the World Trade Organization Fishing Protocol to enhance regional and international cooperation against IUU fishing.

She noted that pilchard stocks are showing early signs of recovery, prompting the approval of a precautionary total allowable catch for the 2025 season. The decision, she said, is intended to test the recovery of the stock under strict scientific monitoring rather than signal a return to unrestricted fishing.

Zaamwani urged industry players to diversify export markets, invest in aquaculture and agriculture, and expand value-adding activities to ease pressure on wild fish stocks while supporting food security and job creation.

“The protection of non-target species and the broader ecosystem is integral to the health of the stocks we depend on,” she said. “At the same time, we need to put in place effective surveillance measures to eradicate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing from our seas.”

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# MTC Launches Campaign to Promote FIXED WIRELESS INTERNET 5G Brings It Home

**Access to fast, reliable internet is now essential for education, work, and participation in the economy. However, despite ongoing efforts, many Namibians still live in areas with limited or no stable connectivity.**

While MTC continues to expand its LTE, AirFibre, and Fibre networks across the country, in some regions, terrain and infrastructure constraints make it difficult, and in some cases, unlikely that fibre will ever be deployed.

MTC is introducing 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) to bridge this digital gap. This technology delivers broadband internet using 5G technology to reach customers. This helps MTC to reach customers and deliver high-speed internet where fixed infrastructure is not feasible.

To drive awareness and adoption, MTC has launched the "5G Brings It Home" campaign aimed at explaining how 5G FWA works and how it can bring more Namibians into the digital economy.

"With 5G FWA, we are bringing high-speed internet to places that fibre may never reach due to terrain or infrastructure barriers so that more Namibians can connect, learn, and grow," said Marvin Wermann, Fixed Product Executive at MTC.

Unlike mobile data, which moves with your device, 5G FWA delivers a fixed, stable connection to a registered location. A plug-and-play router or antenna installed at the premises receives a signal from the nearest 5G tower, which then connects multiple devices within your home or business.

This solution complements existing technologies. AirFibre extends the fibre's reach by using microwave links, and FTTx provides underground fibre directly to premises in dense urban zones. 5G FWA reaches locations where traditional infrastructure faces delays, complexity, or physical limitations.

"Our goal is to ensure that no community is left behind," said Managing Director Dr L. Erastus. "By extending our reach with 5G FWA, we're creating more equitable access across Namibia."

MTC is also introducing two products as part of the campaign:

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The services come with a plug-and-play router or professional antenna installation, as well as flexible contract terms.

"We've seen how a dropped connection can interrupt a lesson or delay a payment," said Marvin Wermann, Fixed Product Executive at MTC. "This offering is built to solve those problems practically and reliably."

MTC has already launched 5G commercially in Windhoek, Ongwediva, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, with a broader national rollout planned in the coming months. The company is also upgrading its 4G and LTE sites under the Buffalo Project, which focuses on improving rural coverage by raising tower heights, relocating sites and enhancing network capacity. These upgrades form part of MTC's long-term plan to deliver reliable connectivity nationwide.

"Connectivity should no longer depend on where you live," said Andreas Gustav, General Manager, Product Solutions. "It should support ambition to learn, grow, or create."

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## Namibia's non-bank financial sector assets climb 5.3% to N\$528.2bn in Q3

Namibia's non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) sector recorded asset growth of 5.3% during the third quarter of the year, with total assets rising to N\$528.2 billion, according to the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (Namfisa). Namfisa said the increase represented a 5.3% rise quarter on quarter

and a 14.8% improvement compared to the same period last year.

"This growth was underpinned by favourable financial market developments, with pension funds, long-term insurers and collective investment schemes collectively accounting for more than 91% of the sector's total assets," the regulator said.

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The figures were published in Namfisa’s Quarterly Statistical Bulletin for the third quarter of 2025, which provides an overview of trends, performance and regulatory developments in the NBFi sector for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2025.

According to the bulletin, the sector comprised 1,142 active entities and 15,406 registered intermediaries at the end of the reporting period, underscoring its scale and importance within Namibia’s financial system.

Regulatory compliance across the sector showed mixed results. Namfisa reported that 59.7% of entities, or 682 institutions, were classified as Stage 1, indicating full compliance with regulatory requirements. However, 4.1%, representing 47 entities, were classified as Stage 5, meaning they were non-compliant.

Of the non-compliant entities, 83% were concentrated in the microlending industry.

“The primary drivers of non-compliance among Stage 4 and Stage 5 microlenders included failure to submit regulatory returns, non-payment of levies, and persistent disregard for compliance obligations, such as failure to respond to inspection findings or implement required remedial actions,” the report said.

During the third quarter of 2025, a total of 98 consumer complaints were registered. This marked a 6.7% decline from the previous quarter but a 22.5% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

Namfisa said 82.7% of complaints were resolved, with

95.1% of these concluded within the prescribed 40-day service-level agreement timeframe. As a result, consumers were awarded a total of N\$157,105 in compensation.

The short-term insurance sector accounted for 41.4% of all complaints received during the quarter.

“The NBFi sector continues to demonstrate resilience, supported by solid investment performance, sustained demand across industries and ongoing regulatory oversight,” Namfisa said. “These factors underpin a favourable short- to medium-term outlook for the sector.”

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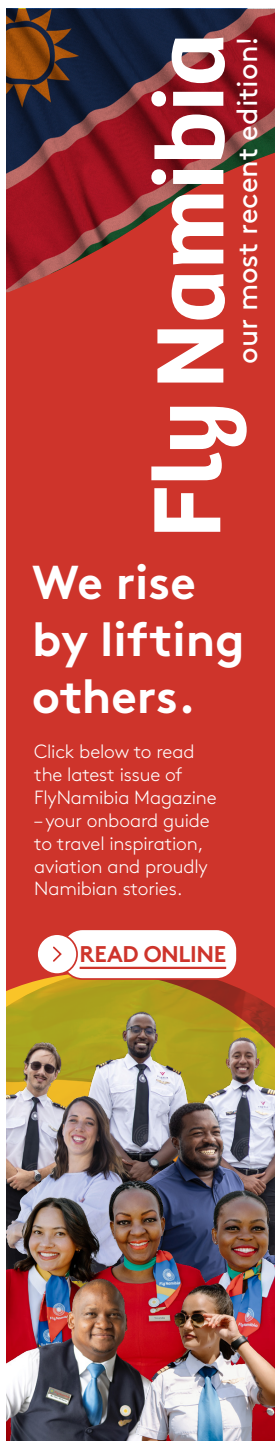


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## Ingah Ekandjo joins Old Mutual Namibia as Retail Mass Managing Director

**O**ld Mutual Namibia has appointed Ingah Ekandjo as Managing Director of its Retail Mass Business, effective 2 January 2026.

Ekandjo brings more than 19 years of experience in the financial services sector, spanning insurance and banking, including 16 years at executive level. She holds an undergraduate degree, a Master's degree in Business Leadership, and has completed several leadership

development programmes locally and internationally.

Her career includes senior leadership roles across retail mass, emerging and affluent market segments, where she has led turnaround initiatives, driven earnings growth and introduced new approaches to distribution and market expansion. Her experience covers insurance distribution, channel leadership, business development, regulatory compliance and operational oversight.

Before joining Old Mutual Namibia, Ekanjo served as Executive Officer for Momentum Metropolitan Retail Distribution Namibia, where she oversaw both the Momentum and Metropolitan brands. During her tenure, the business implemented a distribution transformation, expanded its market footprint and improved adviser performance across mass, emerging and affluent segments.

She previously held the role of General Manager for Group Services, with responsibility for Human Capital Namibia and Africa, Marketing, Information Technology and Systems Support. In that position, she focused on operational performance and aligning people and technology strategies with broader growth objectives.

Commenting on her appointment, Ekanjo said she was looking forward to joining the group. “I am honoured to join

Old Mutual Namibia and look forward to working with our talented team to deliver innovative solutions and meaningful value to our customers. My passion for driving growth and empowering people aligns closely with Old Mutual’s purpose and values,” she said.

Old Mutual Namibia Group Chief Executive Officer Tassius Chigariro said Ekanjo’s appointment would strengthen the group’s leadership team. “Ingah’s strategic vision, deep industry expertise and commitment to excellence make her well suited to lead our Retail Mass business. We are confident that her leadership will further reinforce our position as a trusted partner for Namibians,” he said.

Old Mutual Namibia said it expects Ekanjo’s leadership to support the group’s continued focus on expanding access to financial services and delivering long-term value to its customers.






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## Meatco misses 70,000 slaughter target

**T**he Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) has missed its 70,000-head slaughter target for the period ending January 2026 after improved rainfall and disease pressures reduced cattle deliveries.

Meatco said better rainfall encouraged producers to retain stock and prioritise restocking for the 2026 season, while deliveries were further constrained by Lumpy Skin Disease, which persisted from late 2024 into mid-2025.

Interim Chief Executive Officer Albertus Aochamub said slaughter volumes fell to about 35,000 cattle from south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence and 6,863 cattle from the Northern Communal Area.

“These volumes place the business under considerable pressure, as they are insufficient to sustain a competitive and profitable operating environment,” Aochamub said.

Despite the lower throughput, Meatco said it continued to act as a price stabiliser for the red-meat industry.

In April 2025, producer prices stood at

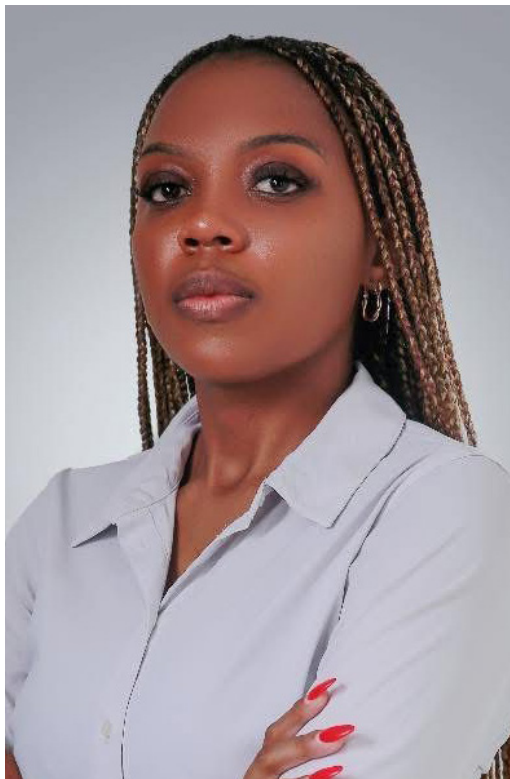
N\$67.00 per kilogram for A2–4 and AB2–4 grades and N\$60.00 per kilogram for C5–6 grades. Prices have since increased to N\$72.00 per kilogram for AB2–4 grades and N\$66.00 per kilogram for C1–C2–4 grades, while Northern Communal Area producers are paid N\$27.00 per kilogram for A3 and A4 grades.

The company has budgeted for a throughput of 63,000 cattle in the 2026/27 financial year, including 50,000 from south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence and 13,000 from the Northern Communal Area. Meatco said these volumes are required to cover operating costs, fund capital expenditure and return the business to profitability.

Meatco said its focus remains on rebuilding producer trust, securing high-value export markets, improving efficiency across its abattoirs and providing reliable services.

“As we all appreciate, cattle numbers and carcass weights remain the cornerstone of a viable red-meat industry,” Aochamub said.





## President appoints six more members to national task forces

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has appointed six additional members to the Presidential Task Forces, expanding the teams established to address economic recovery constraints, health system pressures, and Namibia's land and housing backlog.

The latest appointments build on the initial 51 members named earlier for the three national task forces. The Presidency said the additions are intended to strengthen the task forces' capacity to drive focused interventions, improve coordination and accelerate implementation across key

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national priorities in line with government's development agenda.

Under the Economic Recovery Task Force, Emilia Uupindi Mutenda and Tudiminapo Shindume have been appointed to reinforce strategic and technical capacity aimed at supporting economic recovery.

For the Health Task Force, President Nandi-Ndaitwah appointed Dr Mirjam Matheus and Norman Nanuseb to bolster policy oversight and improve service delivery within the health sector.

In the Land and Housing Task Force, Natasha Mbai and Pomwene Esther Shakela

have been appointed to strengthen delivery on land and housing development and enhance coordination between institutions.

The President said the task forces will play a central role in shaping policies that strengthen health systems, support economic resilience and guide the delivery of land and housing programmes.

She added that the work of the task forces will have long-term implications for the country and future generations, and must be driven by unity, shared responsibility and a commitment to creating opportunities for all Namibians.





# NPC reports 48% execution of N\$11.8bn development budget

The National Planning Commission (NPC) says execution of the national development budget reached 48% by the end of November 2025, following a series of reviews aimed at strengthening alignment between capital projects and national priorities under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

The development budget for the current financial year totals N\$11.8 billion, of which N\$9.6 billion is funded from government-generated revenue and N\$2.2 billion from development assistance. The NPC, which is responsible for formulating the development budget, said the Development Budget Book for the current Medium-Term

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Expenditure Framework was successfully compiled, setting out planned government-funded capital projects across various sectors.

The commission said it participated in the mid-term budget review held jointly with the Ministry of Finance in September 2025, which focused on implementation progress and challenges affecting project delivery.

Between 27 October and 7 November 2025, the NPC conducted a comprehensive assessment of all capital projects through consultations with offices, ministries and agencies.

The exercise reviewed implementation progress and evaluated the alignment of projects with NDP6 priorities.

According to the NPC, lessons drawn from the assessment are expected to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of

future development budgets.

In October, Finance Minister Ericah B. Shafudah increased the FY2025/26 operational budget by N\$826 million to N\$80.6 billion, while the development budget was reduced from N\$9.6 billion to N\$8.8 billion.

Shafudah said the 9.38% reduction followed the mid-year budget review in September 2025, during which additional expenditure requests amounting to N\$11.1 billion were submitted, including N\$8.2 billion for operational spending and N\$2.9 billion for development projects.

She said the requests were assessed against strict criteria for unforeseen and unavoidable costs, with funding reallocated within and across votes after some offices, ministries and agencies showed risks of under- or overspending.

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## Old Mutual appoints Carmen Forster as Designate Managing Director for Corporate Segment

Old Mutual Namibia has appointed Carmen Forster as Designate Managing director of its Corporate Segment, effective 1 January 2026, with her formal appointment as Managing director set to take effect on 1 April 2026.

Forster will succeed Patricia Olivier, who is scheduled to retire in May 2026 following what the company described as a long and distinguished career with Old Mutual.

Old Mutual Namibia Group chief executive officer Tassius Chigariro said the appointment reflects the group's focus on leadership continuity and long-term growth within its corporate business.

"We are confident that Carmen's strategic vision, industry expertise and passion for excellence will ensure continued growth and innovation for our Corporate Segment business," Chigariro said.

Forster has more than 25 years' experience in the financial services sector, having held senior actuarial, investment and operational leadership roles across Namibia and South Africa. Old Mutual said she has been involved in building actuarial teams, developing new products and leading business transformation initiatives.

She holds an honours degree in economic science from the University of the Witwatersrand, with majors in actuarial science and economic science, and is a fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries in the United Kingdom as well as the Actuarial Society of South Africa. She is also a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder.

Beyond her executive roles, Forster has served as president of the Society of Actuaries of Namibia and as vice-chairperson of the Namibia Insurance



Association.

Commenting on her appointment, Forster said she was honoured to take on the role and looked forward to building on the foundation established by Olivier.

"I am honoured to be entrusted with this leadership role and excited to build on the strong foundation laid by Patricia Olivier. I look forward to working with our team and clients to drive innovation, growth and positive impact," Forster said.

Old Mutual paid tribute to Olivier, crediting her leadership with strengthening the Corporate Segment's position and reputation in the market. The company said her retirement would mark the end of a significant chapter for the business as it transitions to new leadership in 2026.

# Free tertiary education in Namibia: Jobless graduates and Vision 2023

By Jivan G M Gariseb

When Namibia's first female president, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, announced that tertiary and vocational education will be free starting in 2026, the nation erupted with hope, pride, and curiosity.

This is a breakthrough for students and families who struggle with registration fees and acquiring student loans.

It also signals the government of the day wants to empower the youth and help uplift the country's human capital.

But excitement comes with a lot of questions such as "What about thousands of graduates who already acquired qualifications but no jobs? What about unemployed citizens who are not students?"

Most interestingly, whether Vision 2030, which is rapidly approaching, is achievable, with all these questions, lingering in my mind.

Will the new policy of subsidized education realistically contribute to those national goals, especially when unemployment keeps rising?

As the promise of free education moves closer to reality, it is crucially imperative to dive deeper into its impact on the bigger picture of Namibia's socio-economic landscape.

Free tertiary and vocational education mark a turning point in Namibia's history. For decades access to higher education has been unequal, largely dependent on household income. Starting in 2026, the barrier will be lifted. Meaning no undergraduate will stay at home because tertiary and vocational



“

**The Founding President Sam S. Nujoma introduced**

**“Vision 2030,” a national blueprint aiming to make Namibia a developed state by the year 2030.**

education will be free.

The president's decision acknowledges that education is not a privilege but a national investment, an attempt to give opportunities to everyone, regardless of socio-economic background.

However, as transformative as this policy is “education alone does not equal employment”.

Across the country, the stories of young graduates who hope to secure jobs are what I hear on daily basis. Many ends up in informal sectors, selling goods on street, doing odd jobs, and unfortunately turning to crime, which has also significantly also increased in the past couple of years.

There are numerous factors that fuel this crisis such as a stagnant economy still recovering from past shocks; slow job creation in the private sector; insufficient support for youth entrepreneurship or even just skills mismatching between what students' studies and what the country needs.

In the end, free education will give future



students hope, but unemployed graduates remain in oblivion as they struggle to find direction in an economy that can't benefit them.

Namibia's unemployment rate, especially youth unemployment, is one of Namibia's biggest challenges. It threatens not only economic growth but also social stability. A country cannot realize its development dreams when its young people are frustrated, indolent and losing hope in the systems.

The Founding President Sam S. Nujoma introduced "Vision 2030," a national blueprint aiming to make Namibia a developed state by the year 2030.

But with only a few years left, and as calculated 4 years remaining, many Namibians are now questioning whether these goals are still realistic, especially with unemployment remaining high and increasing every year, and the economic growth is inconsistent and erratic.

So, does making education free help Namibia move closer to Vision 2030? Yes indeed, but only to a limited extent. Without an employment pathway and economic expansion, free education alone will not achieve the dream envisioned by Nujoma.

To ensure that free education contributes to Vision 2030 and does not worsen unemployment, government and private sector must work together to align education with industry's needs, universities and vocational centres must offer programmes that match emerging markets for instance such as green hydrogen renewable energy or artificial intelligence.

Secondly Namibia must expand industrialization in order to process and add value to Namibia's raw materials, which will significantly create thousands of jobs.

The president's announcement of free tertiary and vocational education in 2026 is historic, inspiring, and potentially transformative. It opens doors that were once closed and gives young Namibians a fairer chance at success but education without possibility of employment is an "unfinished promise".

For Vision 2030 to become more than just a dream, Namibia must pair free education with aggressive job creation strategies and, industrial growth as well as youth empowerment. Only then will the nation truly honour the vision set by our late president, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, and secure a vigorous future for the next generation as well.

*\*Jivan G M Gariseb is a Public Relations Officer for the UNAM Political Science Society and a Political Science Student*

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