

ACCESS
MPs push Bank of
Namibia to enable PayPal
and Apple Pay access
p. 07



GIPF
GIPF
at a
glance
p. 11



FUND
MP urges use of
Sovereign Wealth
Fund for debt relief
p. 17



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Bank of Namibia completes banking fees impact study

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MAIN STORY



Bank of Namibia completes banking fees impact study

A study conducted by the Bank of Namibia (BoN) into the fees and charges currently imposed by banks across the country has been completed.

The assessment, carried out amid widespread public concern over the high cost of banking services, will now be submitted to the Ministry of Finance to support the

Crucial Dates

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

finalisation of new regulations.

BoN Governor Johannes !Gawaxab announced the completion of the impact assessment during his appearance before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning on Tuesday, 24 June.

He explained that the study is intended to inform regulations under Section 107 of the Banking Institutions Act of 2023, which aims to curb excessive banking fees.

“He further reported that BoN has concluded the impact assessment on fees and charges and this assessment will soon be shared with the Ministry of Finance to finalise the regulations on the same in line with Section 107 of the Banking Institutions Act of 2023, aimed at curbing the high cost of banking services,” Parliament said.

Members of the Committee praised the Bank for fulfilling its mandate effectively but highlighted several key areas that require ongoing attention.

These include managing inflation, ensuring the new gold investment strategy does not jeopardise foreign exchange reserves, and strengthening the Bank’s internal capacity to respond to an increasingly complex economic environment.

The Committee also urged BoN to improve its ability to conduct stress testing and

crisis simulations and to ensure operational expenses remain within reasonable limits.

“The members emphasised, among others, that BoN should strengthen its capacity in key central banking functions to better manage the economy, which is increasingly becoming complex. Continue to contribute to financial stability by developing more capacity in stress testing and crisis simulation,” the Committee said.

The study itself examined transparency and disclosure practices alongside the broader supply and demand dynamics within Namibia’s banking sector. It follows a similar review conducted by the Ministry of Finance in 2010, which first exposed the excessive fees associated with banking products and services.

This latest assessment also compared Namibia’s fee structures with those of other countries.

Furthermore, the report focused on consumer concerns related to fees and charges, particularly issues around transparency and disclosure, providing a comprehensive analysis of consumer needs and challenges.

The Bank of Namibia’s findings are expected to shape regulatory measures designed to reduce the cost burden on consumers and enhance fairness and transparency in the banking sector.





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Govt approves pension-backed home loan scheme for civil servants

The Government of Namibia has approved the launch of a Pension-Backed Home Loan (PBHL) scheme aimed at improving access to affordable housing for civil servants.

The scheme will enable

members of the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) to use part of their pension savings as collateral for home loans.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah announced the approval in Parliament ,




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noting that the scheme is the result of a joint effort by the Ministry of Finance, the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), and the Government Institutions Pension Fund, with support from the Office of the Prime Minister.

“I stand before this August House to brief Honourable Members that Government, through the Ministry of Finance and in collaboration with NAMFISA and the Government Institutions Pension Fund, has endorsed and is implementing the Pension-Backed Home Loan scheme. This process is underwritten by the Office of the Prime Minister,” she said.

The facility is available to eligible GIPF members in both proclaimed and unproclaimed areas, and may be used to purchase residential land or property, build or renovate homes, settle existing mortgages, or improve basic living conditions.

Shafudah explained that the scheme is made possible by amendments to the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956, which now permits pension funds to issue housing-related loans.

The interest rate will be set at the Bank of Namibia’s repo rate plus 2.5%, in a bid to maintain affordability.

“We recognise the right to shelter as a fundamental human right. The implementation of this scheme marks a step forward in tackling housing inequality and empowering public servants to own homes and live with dignity,” she said.

She added that final administrative arrangements with the Government Institutions Pension Fund and government payroll systems are under way, with further details regarding eligibility and the application process to be communicated to civil servants through their respective ministries and the GIPF.



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MPs push Bank of Namibia to enable PayPal and Apple Pay access

Members of Parliament have called on the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to step up efforts to bring global digital payment platforms such as PayPal, Apple Pay and Google Pay to the country, saying access to these services

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is crucial to enable young Namibians to earn income from international clients.

The call was made during a meeting between BoN Governor Johannes !Gawaxab and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning.

The engagement marked the Governor's first appearance before the new Standing Committee of the 8th Parliament, in line with Section 68 of the BoN Act of 2020, which requires an annual report to

Parliament on the state of the economy and the Bank's operations.

"Put in place platforms that will enable young people to receive payments from outside when they sell their creative content," the Committee said.

Governor !Gawaxab told MPs that there are no legal barriers preventing these platforms from operating in Namibia, and that their absence was largely due to commercial decisions taken by the service providers themselves.

"The central bank, however, indicated that they are working together with MICT to attract service providers of platforms such as PayPal, Google Pay, Apple Pay to set up in Namibia," the parliamentary Committee said.

!Gawaxab's comments follow similar assurances made earlier this year by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), which confirmed it is actively working to make digital payment services, including YouTube monetisation and PayPal, available to Namibians.

The push to enable access to international payment platforms is part of broader efforts to integrate local creatives and digital entrepreneurs into the global economy by removing key barriers that have restricted online earnings.

VACANCIES

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced Namibian citizen to fill the following position:

- **Consultant: MSME Ecosystem Sector Development (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Consultant: Market Access & Export promotion (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Consultant: Start up & Scale (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Senior Investment Analyst (ICT) (Paterson Grade C5)**

Interested candidates are invited to visit <https://nipdb.com/career/> for the requirements and guidelines of how to apply. All foreign qualifications must be evaluated by the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA).

The NIPDB is an equal opportunity employer and complies with the Affirmative Action Legislation. In line with the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No. 29 of 1998, suitably qualified persons with disabilities who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply. Please note that reference checks and competency assessment tests will be conducted, and qualifications will be verified.

Remuneration:

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ABOUT NIPDB

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSME activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.



SACU faces uncertainty as AGOA trade agreement nears expiry

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is confronting growing uncertainty as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a key trade agreement with the United States, is set to expire in September 2025.

SACU Ministers of Trade are preparing to continue negotiations with their US counterparts in hopes of securing an

extension.

Namibia's Minister of Finance and Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers, Ericah Shafudah, addressed the issue during the 52nd Meeting of the SACU Council.

She emphasised the importance of AGOA in providing member states with vital access to the US market, which has supported job



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creation, revenue generation, and economic growth across the region.

“Further to the US tariff issue, you may recall that on the trade front, the AGOA arrangement is coming to an end in September 2025. SACU has greatly benefited from this arrangement in terms of market access, job creation and revenue generation for the national fiscus, as you may recall from the presentation that tralac made during our May 2025 Meeting in the Republic of South Africa,” Shafudah said.

She noted that the meeting followed the Council’s May session in South Africa, which addressed the implications of the United States’ new tariff stance—changes that pose significant risks to SACU’s trade and revenue streams.

The Minister expressed concern that these trade and geopolitical challenges are occurring during a crucial period for SACU’s transformation.

Central to this transformation is the implementation of the SACU Strategic Plan 2022–2027, endorsed by the 8th Summit.

Member States have been urged to accelerate progress in areas including industrialisation and agro-processing, such as the production of fertilisers, agro-chemicals, and seeds, to strengthen the agricultural sector.

“During this Meeting we urged that the implementation of the SACU Strategic Plan should be accelerated to fast-track industrialisation and ensure that our economies create opportunities for our citizens as well as to maximise the opportunities emanating from the AfCFTA,” Shafudah added.

The Council also reviewed progress on the re-imagination of SACU, with the Commission—tasked with compiling national positions from Member States—meeting earlier in June to prepare recommendations for the upcoming 9th SACU Summit scheduled for 27 June 2025.

Among other items, the Council is expected to consider the Commission’s report on the SACU Work Programme, the Executive Secretary’s Report, trade and finance matters, and institutional arrangements.

Final documents, including the Council’s report and draft communiqué, will be submitted to the Summit for approval.

GIPF at a glance



The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has demonstrated impressive financial health for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024.

Total assets rose from N\$151 billion to approximately N\$168 billion, reflecting an 11% year-on-year growth.

Assets under management now constitutes 71.3% of Namibia's GDP compared to a global average of 54%. This increase highlights the Fund's resilience, particularly in a climate that has witnessed market volatility.

"During the period under review, the global and domestic economic landscape faced challenges due to ongoing geopolitical tensions, including the war in Ukraine and instability in the Middle East. Despite these difficulties, GIPF paid out N\$6.9 billion in claims, continuing a five-year upward trend in payouts, reaffirming the Fund's commitment to fulfilling its obligations to members, even in challenging economic conditions," said Leevi Tshoopara: Acting GM Investments at the GIPF.

Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability remains at the core of GIPF's operations. As a defined benefit fund (which pays guaranteed retirement income based on member salary and years of service), GIPF guarantees retirement benefits, ensuring financial security for its members regardless of market fluctuations.

"GIPF's sustainability is bolstered by the

Fund's ability to generate increasing net returns from investments, supplemented by contributions from its 99,722 members and 44 participating employers. This enables the Fund to continue to deliver income security for retirement, disability, and other auxiliary benefits while promoting ethical governance and financial transparency," he said.

Domestic Investments

Nearly half (48%) of GIPF's total assets are invested in Namibia, in compliance with the domestic asset requirement directives premised on creating value in the local economy. A notable achievement during the reporting period was the approval of a renewable energy Diaz Wind Farm project that would generate 44 Megawatts, supporting Namibia's transition to cleaner energy sources.

"This initiative reflects GIPF's dedication to sustainable investments that benefit the broader community. The Fund has now invested N\$1.4 billion in renewable energy projects to date contributing 163 Megawatts to Namibia's energy generation capacity with a further N\$2.7 billion committed to renewable energy projects," Tshoopara said.

Expanding Access and Service Delivery

GIPF has made significant strides in enhancing service delivery for its members across Namibia's 14 regions. The opening of new regional offices ensures that members,

particularly in remote areas, can access essential services more easily. Currently, GIPF operates 11 regional offices, strategically located in cities such as Windhoek, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, Outapi, Eenhana, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Otjiwarongo, Swakopmund, Gobabis, and Keetmanshoop, along with satellite offices in Grootfontein, Nkurenkuru, Opuwo, and Mariental.

“This nationwide presence reinforces the Fund’s commitment to a member-centric service, aiming to bring services closer to members with minimal turnaround time and maximum value. The Fund’s new strategy includes a comprehensive digital transformation, implemented in phases to ensure a smooth transition both internally and externally. A key initiative underway is the rollout of an integrated pension fund administration system, which will streamline operations, reduce costs, and enhance service efficiency, leading to faster response times for members,” he said.

Additionally, the Fund introduced a mobile verification technology, enabling members to confirm their identities (proof of life) through collaboration with various constituency council offices via handheld devices or through self-service on mobile devices.

“This innovation is especially beneficial for those in remote areas, where visiting the Fund’s offices can be time-consuming and costly,” Tshoopara said.

Key Achievements During the Period Under Review

GIPF continues to actively support national development priorities and programmes, channelling its investments and resources into key areas in the Namibian economy such as social infrastructure, and regional development.

In this regard, GIPF plays a crucial role in advancing the country’s economic growth, poverty reduction, social development, and regional balance, contributing to the overall

development and well-being of the Namibian people.

In the period under review, Fund assets grew to N\$168 billion, maintaining a strong funding level of 115.51%, during the period, based on the 18-month actuarial interim review which consequently improved to 119.69% as of 31 March 2024, positioning GIPF among the top-performing pension funds not just in Africa but globally.

The Fund committed over N\$3.3 billion to various sectors, including housing, agriculture, and renewable energy, with N\$438 million specifically invested in agribusinesses.

GIPF delivered over 7,840 affordable homes and serviced 5,884 plots, contributing to national housing objectives. The Fund is currently engaging stakeholders on its pension-backed home loan (PBHL) scheme, a key, short-term value initiative designed to enable members to access a portion of their pension benefits for property acquisition.

“This scheme aims to provide greater financial flexibility and promote homeownership opportunities. This not only addresses immediate housing needs but also contributes to the broader economic development of Namibia,” he said.

During the year, GIPF generated N\$18 billion in net investment income, with an overall investment return of 13.2%, surpassing the benchmark of 11.7%. The Fund’s assets include a diversified portfolio across various sectors, asset classes and geographical locations, ensuring risk management and maximising returns.

Addressing Challenges

Despite its successes, GIPF faced challenges, particularly the geographic distribution of its members and the increasing number of pensioners relative to active members. These factors place additional pressure on the Fund, necessitating ongoing investment in digital tools and service delivery innovations.



Northern Namibia leads tourism growth with 58% occupancy in May

The northern region recorded the strongest tourism performance in May, with occupancy rates rising to 58.36%.

The increase was supported by a cluster of public holidays that encouraged domestic travel, and the region's proximity to Etosha National Park and Damaraland, which remain key tourist attractions.

"The northern region posted the strongest improvement, with occupancy reaching 58.36%. This increase was likely driven by a series of public holidays during May that spurred domestic travel," said Simonis Storm Junior Economist Almandro Jansen.

Southern Namibia followed with a modest improvement, where occupancy grew from 53.65% in April to 55.73% in May.

Simonis Storm noted that the demand in the region was supported by popular natural sites such as Sossusvlei and increasing business travel to Lüderitz amid rising economic activity.

Meanwhile, performance in other regions showed signs of decline. The central region recorded the lowest occupancy rate at 37.52%, a significant drop from 44.41% the previous month.

This was likely due to a slowdown in corporate and event-driven travel.

Coastal occupancy also dipped to 54.43% from 60.79% in April, despite the region continuing to draw both leisure and business visitors.

"National occupancy rates declined marginally by 0.04 percentage points month-on-month, easing from 54.94% in April to 54.90% in May. On an annual basis, however, the sector experienced a more notable slowdown, with occupancy rates falling by 5.44 percentage points from 60.34% recorded in May 2024," said Jansen.

He also said that the start of the colder months and the 2025 tourism peak season has been slower than usual, but the industry expects momentum to pick up in the lead-up to August and September.

Despite the annual drop, occupancy levels remain above pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019.

Business travel made up 2.63%, mainly

along the coast, marking a one percentage point decrease from April. Conference-related travel stayed low at 0.56%.

"In terms of visitor composition, leisure travel remained the dominant segment, accounting for 96.80% of all guests in May," Jansen said.

Looking ahead, the industry expects a rise in business and conference travel, driven by growing foreign investor interest in Namibia's green hydrogen pilot programmes and mineral exploration projects.

"Key events, such as the Commonwealth Summit 2025 and the Youth in Oil & Gas Summit, are expected to bolster conference tourism," Jansen noted.

International visitors from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland made up the largest share at 31.19% of arrivals in May, though this declined from 40.29% in April.

Domestic travellers increased slightly, accounting for 19.67% of total occupancy.



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Letting go to lead better

By Mufaro Nesongano

Letting go is hard. Whether in life or leadership, most of us wrestle with it. We hold on to stories, memories, and familiar ways of doing things, especially when those things once brought us success or comfort. But there comes a time when we must recognise that what once helped us grow might now be holding us back.

As someone who has spent more than two decades in media, public relations and strategic communication, I have come to appreciate the power of storytelling not just outwardly, but inwardly too. A recent conversation with a friend made me reflect more deeply on the stories we tell ourselves. Two in particular stood out. They once inspired me, but over time, I realised they were quietly shaping how I saw myself and my path.

The Story That No Longer Served Me

For many years, I often shared how I dropped out of the University of Namibia in 2007, just a few subjects short of completing a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. I used to make light of it by comparing myself to Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg, just without the billions. It was a way to ease the discomfort of a decision that once weighed on me.

Thankfully, that was not the end of my journey. I found my calling in journalism and media, earned a Master's degree, and built a meaningful and fulfilling career. My time in radio, in particular, was one of the most



As someone who has spent more than two decades in media, public relations and strategic communication, I have come to appreciate the power of storytelling not just outwardly, but inwardly too.

rewarding seasons of my life. From student radio to national broadcasts, I saw the power of media to inform, connect and inspire. I had the privilege of engaging communities, shaping dialogue and giving voice to stories that mattered.

Yet despite all this, I kept repeating the dropout story. It had become a part of my public persona, as if I needed to justify my journey. But in truth, I had outgrown it. I realised that while that chapter played a role in shaping me, it no longer defined who I am. Holding on to it had become a subtle way of staying anchored to the past rather than stepping fully into the present.

When Old Success Becomes a Limitation

The second story is more symbolic. I have had a brown suit for 14 years. I first

wore it when I co-hosted the inaugural Namibia Annual Music Awards with Uejaa Kazondunge, a defining moment in my early career that I have always cherished.

That suit became my go-to for important events.

My tailor patched it up more times than I can remember. Even as my wardrobe evolved, I kept going back to it. It was not the best-fitting or the most modern, but it reminded me of a proud and significant moment.

But earlier this year, I looked at the suit differently. It no longer fit. It had served its purpose. And in that moment, I saw something deeper. Just like individuals, organisations often hold on to strategies, systems or habits that once worked.

We patch them up, modify them slightly, and continue using them not because they are still effective, but because they are familiar. But familiarity can become a limitation if it no longer aligns with the future we are trying to create.

The Leadership Lesson in Letting Go

Letting go is not about forgetting. It is about evolving. It is about knowing when something has fulfilled its role and choosing to make space for something better.

Leadership today requires adaptability. What worked five or ten years ago may no longer meet today's needs. Growth calls for self-awareness and courage. It asks us to reflect honestly, act decisively and lead by example.

Letting go creates space for innovation, inclusion and transformation. It is not a rejection of the past. It is an intentional move toward relevance and impact.

Practical Steps to Let Go and Lead Better

Pause and Reflect

Identify the stories, practices or

assumptions you keep repeating. Ask whether they are still serving you or your team.

Test Their Relevance

Just because something worked in the past does not mean it still does. Assess its effectiveness against current goals and challenges.

Give Yourself Permission to Evolve

Growth requires shedding what no longer fits. This is not disloyalty to your journey. It is a commitment to progress.

Model It for Others

Your willingness to let go encourages others to do the same. It creates trust and momentum in your team or organisation.

Celebrate What Was Then Move On

Honour the suit, the story, the strategy. Acknowledge its role in your journey. Then release it, gratefully and gracefully.

Final Thought

Sometimes the most courageous thing we can do is take off the old suit and try something new. True leadership lies not in holding on, but in knowing when to let go. And often, that release is what makes room for the growth we have been waiting for.

****Mufaro Nesongano holds a Master's in Journalism and Media Technology from NUST and is certified in Executive and Management Coaching as well as Digital Transformation Strategy. With more than 20 years of experience in media, communications and public relations, he is passionate about leadership, storytelling and enabling organisations to evolve with purpose. The views expressed are his own.***

MP urges use of Sovereign Wealth Fund for debt relief

Namibian MP Inna Hengari has called for urgent reforms to the country's financial system, including using the US\$24.3 million Welwitschia Sovereign Wealth Fund to support debt relief for low-income households and civil servants.

Speaking in Parliament, Hengari described a structural debt crisis affecting many Namibians and criticised the current financial system.

"A banking sector that grows while households crumble is not resilient," she said.

Hengari proposed redirecting part of the Welwitschia Fund, which earned a 10.4% return and holds US\$24.263 million, to create a targeted debt relief programme for civil servants, especially those losing large portions of their income to loan repayments.

She highlighted that nearly half of Namibia's workforce faces unsustainable debt, with some workers losing up to 60% of their salaries to loan repayments.

"This is not financial inclusion; this is financial entrapment. Teachers and nurses are left with less than half their income," Hengari said.

She also called for capping interest rates through changes to the Banking Institutions Act and stronger regulation of informal lenders and digital loan apps charging over 50% interest.

Hengari warned that Namibia's fixed exchange rate with the South African rand limits monetary flexibility, resulting in lending rates between 10% and 40% despite a lower repo rate.

She called for a parliamentary inquiry into how the currency peg affects policy and borrowing costs.

Other proposals include expanding financial literacy into a national campaign and using the upcoming Instant Payment Solution platform to provide digital financial education.

Hengari urged the Welwitschia Fund to set up a social investment portfolio supporting youth enterprises, green cooperatives, and small businesses.

"Regulation without reach is rhetoric. Enforcement without equity is oppression. We must reimagine the system if we want true inclusion," she said.

The motion has been sent to the parliamentary standing committee for further review.





Capricorn Foundation invests N\$1.17m in RuralRevive Initiative

The Capricorn Foundation has committed an additional N\$1.17 million to the RuralRevive Initiative in Maltahöhe, backing efforts to promote local economic development through horticulture and waste management.

This latest contribution pushes the Foundation's total investment in the project to over N\$2.1 million, reinforcing

its partnership with the Wolwedans Foundation and aligning with its wider focus on economic advancement and community upliftment.

The RuralRevive Initiative forms part of the Wolwedans Foundation's Vision 2030 – The AridEden Project – which aims to create a circular economy and generate sustainable employment and

entrepreneurial opportunities in and around Maltahöhe.

The project focuses on five pillars: Commerce, Community, Conservation, Culture, and Consciousness.

The Capricorn Foundation was the first corporate donor to support the initiative, having initially pledged N\$1 million in its 2023/24 financial year.

“The Capricorn Foundation is proud to deepen our support for RuralRevive. This initiative is a shining example of how collaboration can drive sustainable change. By investing in horticulture and waste management, we are helping to build a resilient, inclusive economy in Namibia’s desert regions, one that empowers communities and protects the environment,” Capricorn Foundation Executive Officer Marlize Horn said.

Under the horticulture work package, the initiative will strengthen local food systems via the RuralRevive Campus and a new Trading Hub.

These facilities will provide training to farmers, help with food production and preservation, and link growers to markets.

The Trading Hub will also host open markets every two weeks, and a new training facility will be built on a nearby farm to encourage sustainable agricultural practices.

The waste management component aims to improve waste collection and recycling systems through the establishment of a recycling centre in Maltahöhe and a depot in Mariental.

Partnering with Rent-A-Drum, the project will provide community incentives for collecting recyclables, offer vocational training, and run awareness campaigns.

“The Capricorn Foundation’s investment helps us grow our impact and turn our vision of building a more inclusive and equitable desert-based economy into reality. Together, we create opportunities for self-reliance, dignity, and long-term sustainability. We are excited that Capricorn paves the way, hopefully encouraging more Namibian corporates to join the RuralRevive initiative,” Stephan Brückner, Chairman of the Wolwedans Foundation said, welcoming the continued support from Capricorn.

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Inside Immigration: Namibia's quiet invitation – A deeper kind of investment

By Ian Coffee

In a world of transactional immigration, Namibia offers something deeper, a true stake in its future. Through its Permanent Residency by Investment program, the country isn't selling shortcuts, it's inviting committed investors to build lasting roots. This isn't a golden visa. It's a deliberate path for those ready to contribute economically and socially to one of Africa's most stable and ecologically rich nations.

What does it take? Why do those who take the leap never look back?

This article explores the real requirements, challenges, and rewards of investing in Namibia, not just financially, but personally. Because here, immigration isn't just about residency. It's about belonging and being All-In.

Inside Immigration: Namibia's Quiet Invitation - A Deeper Kind of Investment

In a world where borders are tightening and immigration is increasingly transactional, Namibia is quietly charting its own course, offering not just access, but a genuine stake in its future. Through its Permanent Residency by Investment program, this Southern African nation invites serious investors to become part of something more enduring than a visa: a long-term partnership grounded in commitment, contribution, and community.

This isn't a Golden Visa. It's not a shortcut or a loophole. Namibia's program is intentionally designed to attract those who



“

This article explores the real requirements, challenges, and rewards of investing in Namibia, not just financially, but personally.

are “all in”, meaning individuals that are prepared to embed themselves economically and socially, and who recognize the value of becoming part of one of Africa's most politically stable and ecologically rich nations.

The program is administered by the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety, and Security - the very gatekeepers of Namibia's national integrity. Together, they offer a structured path that rewards both patience and purpose.

What It Takes

To qualify, applicants must make a substantial and tangible investment in Namibia. While there is no official minimum amount, the expectations are clear: the investment must involve fully developed property and/or an operating business. Speculative plots and vacant land are not eligible. And for those eyeing agricultural opportunities, be advised, foreign ownership of farmland remains a significant legal and

logistical challenge. This is Namibia's way of signalling seriousness.

The goal isn't just foreign capital; it's real, value-creating presence. Applicants must also prove a sustainable monthly income of at least N\$50,000, derived from reliable sources such as pensions, dividends, or established investments. Practically, this must be reflected in a CA certificate, bank statements or other legally compliant documents of this nature. See the full list of document and application form requirements.

The emphasis is on financial independence, ensuring that new residents enhance, rather than burden public systems. But it's not just about the money.

Namibia looks for applicants willing to invest their skills, time, and leadership. Those who can create jobs, mentor local talent, and weave themselves into the country's economic and social fabric are the ones most likely to thrive and be welcomed.

A Namibian bank account is required, and a meaningful portion of the applicant's funds must be transferred into it. This step is more than procedural as it signals financial intent and physical presence.

The Long View

Once the investment is made, it must be successfully managed for a minimum of five years before a permanent residence application can be submitted. The program is built on stability,

not speed.

Even once the application reaches the Ministry, the review process can take six to twelve months, involving thorough background checks, financial reviews, and compliance audits. It's slow and is deliberate to protect both the applicant and the country of Namibia.

It's also important to understand that permanent residence is not citizenship, and it can be revoked under certain conditions. This makes professional legal and migration guidance essential, especially for investors unfamiliar with the nuances of Namibian law.

A Place to Belong

Namibia's message is not subtle, but it is sincere: if you're willing to invest in into Namibia, truly invest. This isn't a transaction; it's a relationship. One built on trust, transparency, and mutual benefit. And for those who've taken that leap, one thing becomes clear: they rarely look back.

Yes, the process is demanding. Yes, it takes time, energy, and care. But what waits on the other side isn't just a permit. It's a place to belong, in a country that still believes in the power of shared futures.

You have most likely heard all the stories of how difficult the process was, but have you heard a story of someone regretting it? I have not!

***Ian Coffee is a Namibia Immigration Expert at IBN Immigration Solutions**

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Windhoek to train 300 gardeners as part of new urban food strategy

The City of Windhoek has announced plans to train up to 300 backyard gardeners by 2026 and introduce a formal Urban Food Systems Strategy

aimed at addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable urban agriculture.

The initiative, led by the Mayor's Office, was unveiled during the Eighth Windhoek


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Like many cities, Windhoek faces challenges such as food insecurity, rising prices, and limited access to nutritious fresh produce.

Mayoral Business Forum. Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja said the strategy will be completed by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, with training set to begin in July 2025.

The programme will teach residents essential skills such as composting, soil health management, efficient irrigation techniques, raised bed gardening, and crop planning.

“Like many cities, Windhoek faces challenges such as food insecurity, rising prices, and limited access to nutritious fresh produce. But within these challenges lies a major opportunity: household food self-sufficiency through backyard gardening. Many of our residents have underutilised spaces that can become productive garden plots,” Larandja said.

The campaign, titled Windhoek Grows and launched as part of the Mayoral Legacy Project, will recognise urban farmers quarterly.

The City also plans to allocate land for gardens and establish a cross-sector task force by November 2025 to drive support for the initiative.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Namibia will provide technical training and ongoing assistance.

“This legacy project will increase public awareness, provide practical and theoretical skills, and promote sustainable gardening

practices through training, outreach, and demonstration gardens. But this initiative is not limited to just a few. Everyone is welcome to join us in building a sustainable and liveable Windhoek,” the Mayor added.

The programme also aims to connect urban growers directly to markets, offering space to 20 farmers at City-supported market days.

Furthermore, the Council intends to lobby for amendments to the Local Authorities Act to formally recognise urban agriculture and improve access to land, water, and agricultural inputs.

City Chief Executive Officer Moses Matyayi said the strategy aligns with Windhoek’s broader urban planning goals and the urgent need for climate adaptation.

He warned that the growth of informal settlements and extreme weather events will place additional strain on food systems.

“Urbanisation presents complex challenges. But it also demands smarter planning and sharper questions. We must integrate traditional and modern approaches to meet the city’s growing demands. This theme reflects the urgency of reimagining agriculture in an urban context,” Matyayi said.

He added that the City’s climate action plan, adopted in 2023, will be updated to support food system resilience and promote long-term sustainability across Windhoek.



Namibia targets stronger enforcement to protect Pilchard stock

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) is exploring a range of enhanced compliance mechanisms to curb the deliberate targeting of pilchard under the guise of bycatch. These include

revising the existing moratorium and bycatch limits, adjusting the landed value of species to reduce financial incentives, enhancing monitoring and surveillance systems, introducing stricter penalties for non-compliance, and conducting targeted

“The success of our recovery efforts depends on collective responsibility and compliance, we will continue to monitor, enforce, and adapt our measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of pilchard stocks in our waters.”

stock assessments to accurately determine pilchard biomass.

Delivering a ministerial statement in the National Assembly, MAFLR Minister Inge Zaamwani reaffirmed that no legal targeted pilchard fishing is currently permitted due to a moratorium imposed in 2018. This decision followed three consecutive years of zero biomass, indicating critically low stock levels. The moratorium remains essential to allow pilchard populations to recover to sustainable levels.

“It is reasonable to state that current enforcement measures and associated penalties are proving insufficient to deter illegal fishing of pilchard. The Ministry is, therefore, actively exploring a range of measures to enhance compliance within our fisheries subsector,” she said.

She further explained that recent surveys estimate the pilchard stock at 850,000 metric tonnes, a positive trend, but still below the sustainable biomass target of one million metric tonnes. Pilchards, being short-lived and sensitive to environmental factors, require careful management to prevent setbacks in recovery efforts.

The Ministry acknowledged public concern over increasing pilchard bycatch and noted that while vessels are directed to relocate when high pilchard bycatch is observed, some operators may be deliberately targeting the species. These actions pose a serious threat to recovery efforts.

“The observable increase in pilchard landings offers reasonable grounds to suggest that this bycatch may not always be unintentional, but rather a deliberate act. This directly impacts the recovery efforts for this crucial species, and we have expressly communicated this to the Fishing Industry,” she said.

Minister Zaamwani called on all stakeholders in the fishing industry to support these initiatives, emphasising that the Ministry remains fully committed to sustainable fisheries management and the protection of Namibia’s marine ecosystem.

“The success of our recovery efforts depends on collective responsibility and compliance, we will continue to monitor, enforce, and adapt our measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of pilchard stocks in our waters.”



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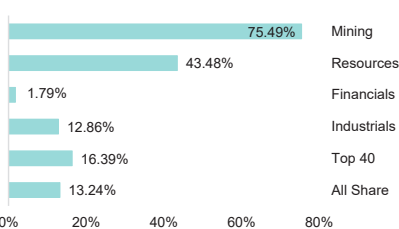
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Platinum	1324.17
Palladium	1054.57
Silver	32.17
Uranium	77.50
Brent Crude	67.96
Iron Ore	88.28
Copper	9730.10
Natural Gas	3.50
Lithium	7.85

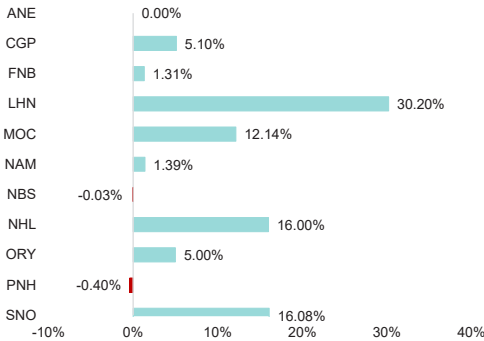
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GBP/ZAR	24.2081
USD/CNY	7.1765
EUR/USD	1.1620
GBP/USD	1.3622
USD/RUB	78.2940
CPI	3.50%
Repo Rate	6.75%
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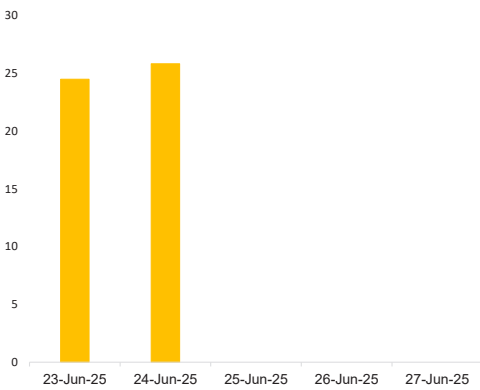
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



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