

TAX COURT

Govt to establish
dedicated
Tax Court

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STRATEGY

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AI

Artificial
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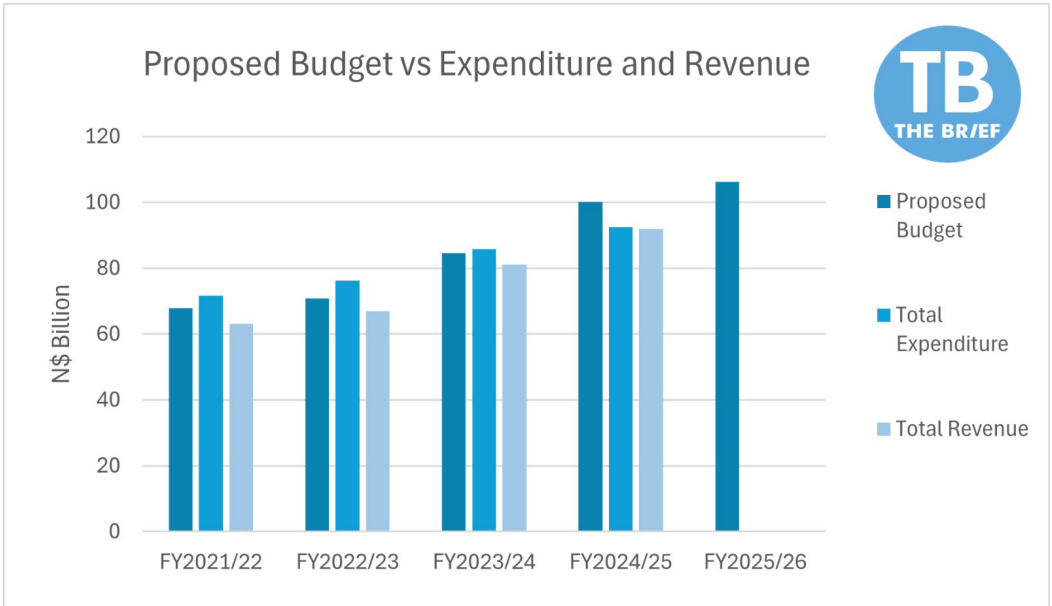
News Worth Knowing



**What you need to know about Shafudah's
N\$106.3 billion national budget**

THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2025

MAIN STORY



What you need to know about Shafudah's N\$106.3 billion national budget

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah on Thursday tabled a N\$106.3 billion national budget for the 2025/26 financial year, marking a 4.9% increase from the previous year's revised estimates.

The proposed budget includes N\$79.8 billion in operational expenditure, N\$12.8 billion in development spending, and N\$13.7 billion in interest payments.

"In this context, I am tabling before this August house, a budget of N\$106.3 billion for FY2025/26. The operational budget is estimated at N\$79.8 billion, growing

by 2.3% over the FY2024/25 mid-term estimates," she said.

Development expenditure received a

Crucial Dates

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

significant boost to address infrastructure gaps.

“To continue addressing infrastructure bottlenecks that weigh against our growth potential, the development budget has increased by 22.6% to N\$12.8 billion from the revised estimates for FY2024/25,” Shafudah said.

She added that of the development budget, N\$3.2 billion will be funded through external loans and grants.

As a ratio of GDP, the development budget is equivalent to 4.6%, an improvement from 4.2% in the prior year.

Furthermore, the government aims to achieve a positive primary budget balance of 0.3% of GDP during FY2025/26, with the budget deficit projected at N\$12.8 billion in nominal terms, equivalent to 4.6% of GDP.

“In the interest of pursuing fiscal sustainability and debt stabilisation, we aim to maintain a primary surplus and consequently the budget deficit at an average of 4.0% of GDP over the MTEF,” she said.

Key Allocations

The largest shares of the budget are allocated to education, health, infrastructure, and economic development.

“The FY2025/26 Budget prioritised allocations to promote economic development, protect social spending while promoting domestic food production. In this context, the budget allocations

are aimed primarily to sustain ongoing operations, while addressing pertinent emerging issues,” Shafudah said.

A combined N\$24.8 billion has been earmarked for Education, Innovation, Arts and Culture, with a total of N\$76.1 billion allocated over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Other key allocations in the social sector include N\$473.6 million for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, and N\$1.5 billion over the MTEF.

The Vote of Sport, Youth and National Service has been allocated N\$1.3 billion in FY2025/26. This includes N\$200 million for the construction of Category 2 stadiums, another N\$200 million for basic sports infrastructure, and N\$50 million for sports leagues.

“The allocation also considered support for various youth programmes for skills development and capacity building,” Shafudah said.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has been allocated N\$12.3 billion for the upcoming financial year, with N\$37.5 billion planned over the MTEF. This includes N\$780 million for the development of health infrastructure.

“The end goal is to reduce congestion at State Hospitals and improve the quality of services broadly. Accordingly, consideration has also been made for additional personnel in the health sector



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as well as pharmaceuticals and clinical supplies,” she said.

Infrastructure and Economic Development

The Ministry of Works and Transport receives N\$2.7 billion for 2025/26 and N\$6.9 billion over the MTEF.

“In addition to accelerating railway upgrades, the allocation will support the completion of ongoing road projects, including rural feeder roads to schools and clinics. Over the MTEF, it will also benefit from external loans to upgrade the Kranzberg–Otjiwarongo railway section and other key roads,” Shafudah said.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform receives N\$2.6 billion, including funding for the Green Scheme Programme and Phase II of the Neckartal Dam Irrigation Project.

Additionally, the Vote of Water and Marine Resources is allocated N\$956.5 million, with N\$3.2 billion set aside for the sector over the MTEF.

The Ministry of International Relations and Trade is allocated N\$1.2 billion in FY2025/26 and a total of N\$3.8 billion over the MTEF.

The Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Industry is set at N\$939.5 million in FY2025/26 and N\$2.8 billion over the MTEF. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism is allocated N\$797.6 million, while the Information and Communication Technology Ministry receives N\$898.5 million for the year.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance itself has been allocated N\$14.6 billion, including N\$7.2 billion earmarked for social grants.

“A total of N\$100.0 million has been budgeted for the Meat Corporation of Namibia (MeatCo). Meanwhile, N\$320 million has been provided for TransNamib in line with the ongoing exercise to improve efficiencies and stem infrastructure and

operational challenges,” Shafudah said.

A further N\$350 million is reserved in the Contingency Fund to ensure readiness for emergencies and unforeseen expenditures.

Governance and Security

In the governance and security sector, the Anti-Corruption Commission is allocated N\$116.5 million, with a total of N\$407.1 million over the MTEF.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety, and Security receives N\$7.9 billion for the fiscal year, including N\$80.3 million to roll out biometric systems.

“The vote will utilise N\$23.9 billion over the MTEF,” Shafudah said.

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs receives N\$7.5 billion in 2025/26, with a projected N\$23.2 billion over the MTEF.

The judiciary and legal sectors have also received significant allocations, with the Judiciary Vote receiving N\$601 million and Justice N\$494.1 million.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is allocated N\$2.7 billion and N\$8.5 billion over the MTEF.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) receives N\$438 million to support preparations for the Regional Council and Local Authority Elections.

“This is to ensure smooth and timely voter’s registration as well as to undertake the regional council and local authority elections towards the end of the year,” Shafudah said.

Moreover, the Office of the Prime Minister has been allocated N\$636.0 million in FY2025/26 and N\$1.9 billion over the MTEF.

The National Assembly receives N\$398.2 million and N\$1.2 billion over the MTEF, while the Office of the President is allocated N\$1.5 billion and N\$4.6 billion over the MTEF.



Govt to establish dedicated Tax Court

The government is in the final stages of establishing a dedicated Tax Court, with the necessary legislation expected to be tabled during the 2025/26 financial year, Finance and Social Grants Management Minister Erica Shafudah has announced.

“The establishment of a dedicated Tax Court is at an advanced stage, and we expect to table the requisite legislation during the course of the FY2025/26. The draft bill, in this regard, is under review by the Legal Drafters,” Shafudah said while presenting the

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The establishment of a dedicated Tax Court is at an advanced stage, and we expect to table the requisite legislation during the course of the FY2025/26.

national budget in the National Assembly on Thursday.

The initiative is part of broader government efforts to streamline tax-related dispute resolution and enhance efficiency in handling

tax litigation matters.

The announcement comes as the government also moves to create a Public Procurement Court, a proposal initially put forward by former Finance Minister Iipumbu Shiimi as part of the Public Procurement Amendment Bill of 2025.

“The public procurement court will provide a specialised forum for resolving disputes, ensuring that matters are adjudicated by judges with dedicated expertise in public procurement law,” Shiimi then said.

The bill aims to address shortcomings in the Public Procurement Act of 2015, which have been identified since its implementation. It proposes granting the court powers to hear appeals from the review panel, conduct reviews, and adjudicate non-compliance cases, including disputes over the interpretation of procurement laws.

The establishment of both specialized courts is expected to enhance legal clarity and efficiency in Namibia's tax and procurement sectors, ensuring a fair and transparent adjudication process.

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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.

Namibia now has US\$463 million in its Sinking Fund for Eurobond repayment

Namibia has accumulated US\$463 million in its Sinking Fund, edging closer to its US\$500 million target in preparation for the repayment of its US\$750 million Eurobond maturing on October 29, 2025, Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah has confirmed.

“We have succeeded to accumulate US\$463 million in the Sinking Fund over the past financial years,” Shafudah said during the tabling of the FY2025/26 national budget on Thursday.

She further announced that the government plans to inject an additional N\$3 billion (US\$162 million) into the fund during the current fiscal year.

“Going forward, we aim to further add another N\$3.0 billion (US\$162 million) to the Sinking Fund during the course of FY2025/26 before the maturity of the bond,” she said.

Shafudah also disclosed that the remaining balance of N\$2.3 billion (US\$125 million) will be raised through domestic borrowing.

“Effectively, this will leave a balance of N\$2.3 billion (US\$125 million) which will be refinanced through the domestic market,” she said.

In February, the Bank of Namibia (BoN) reported that Namibia was close to reaching its N\$9.5 billion (US\$500 million) Sinking Fund target, with only N\$1.5 billion (US\$80



million) still required.

Analysts note that settling a significant portion of the Eurobond will reduce Namibia’s debt-to-GDP ratio to approximately 56%, below the international benchmark of 60%.

The move is also expected to lower interest payments and mitigate the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on the country’s total debt and debt-servicing costs.



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MOOKS & ADORA In the Morning



Strategy is everything unique! Embrace the vision of the pastor's child

By **Onesmus Keudaneko Joseph**

The story of any place or country is shaped by its people. On 21 March 2025, Namibia will once again demonstrate its identity as the Land of the Brave by making history with the inauguration of its first female president.

For the first time, leadership at the presidential level will bear the imprint of feminist governance. This milestone positions our country as a rule-maker in the global leadership arena, marking a significant shift in governance dynamics. I tell you now, even the so-called developed nations and the know-it-all, can draw valuable lessons from this historic moment. Surely, one can only understand something better through experience, and Namibia is about to contribute to this area both in practice and in literature.

As you read this piece, you will agree with me that Onamutai is will be one of the most village to be written about as it is the



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For the first time, leadership at the presidential level will bear the imprint of feminist governance.

birthplace of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, “our President” in just a matter of hours. For those of us who are descendants of Onamutai and the broader Oshilongo Shamengela community, this moment is a profound source of pride. Her rise to the highest office in the land is inspiring evidence of the boundless potential that exists even within the smallest communities. It serves as a reminder to young people that leadership is not sanctioned by origin but by vision, determination, and purpose. It fuels the drive to try again and again, just as the sun rises each day. "Fye ova Namutai

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otwapandula." Namibia is entering a new era; one characterised by the novelty of feminist leadership and faith.

Her Excellency, as the daughter of the late Pastor Petrus Shindabi Mashaalale Nandi, founder of Onamutai Anglican Church and Ohadiwa Village, carries a faith-based foundation that undeniably adds an intriguing dimension to her vision. One can deduce this from her frequent statement that her administration will be founded on the principle of "In God We Trust." This emphasis on Christian values could shape governance by embedding integrity, inclusivity, and compassion into national leadership. Hence with this profound faith-based leadership on governance, all I can say is let us support the pastor's child.

As a strategist and foresight practitioner, one of the most interesting aspects of Her Excellency's vision is her commitment to transform and invigorate the creative industry; an aspiration that stands as a defining pillar of a mother who cares. Strategy, at its core, is about identifying and delivering what people need but cannot access elsewhere, doing so in a unique and impactful way. It is about making strategic choices that transform lives and livelihoods.

Much like farming, leadership is about selecting the best seeds to plant in the right season to ensure a bountiful harvest. Her ability to recognise the potential of the creative industry is unmatched. While many African economies remain centered on mining, agriculture, and manufacturing industries which are undoubtedly vital, Namibia is charting a bold new path by harnessing the creative sector as an economic driver. This is a game-changer, an intentional and well-calculated strategic move.

The creative industry is the backbone of every thriving nation and the oil of the 21st century. It embodies human ingenuity, drives commercial opportunities, and enables individuals to generate wealth from their

artistic and intellectual works. Countries like Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya have successfully leveraged their creative economies, created millions of jobs and boosted GDP. In contrast, Namibia's creative sector has long been underestimated, lacking professionalization, institutional support, and the necessary legal frameworks to enable it to flourish.

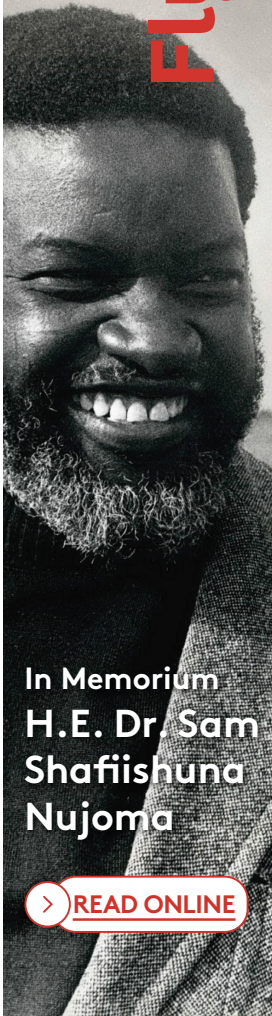
Accelerating investment in the creative industries has the potential to transform Namibia into the most impactful economic sector, particularly at a time when job creation is an urgent priority. The creative sector remains a largely untapped asset, with immense potential to generate employment for thousands of young people and drive cultural and digital exports. It can elevate Namibian talent to the global stage while diversifying the economy beyond traditional industries.

If executed effectively many of us will become content creators. This strategy will empower artists, musicians, filmmakers, designers, and content creators; enabling them to commercialise their craft, build generational wealth which will tremendously redefine our economy.

As a nation, we are not merely witnessing the future unfolding; we are shaping it. Strategy is everything, but true strategy is always unique; Creative Industries that is! We are proud to be part of this movement and to stand among the trendsetters in Africa. We take immense pride in Her Excellency's vision. Wishing her well on this journey, and as she has rightfully said, In God We Trust.

****Onesmus Keudaneke Joseph is Business Strategy Practitioner with a strong focus on strategic foresight and futures literacy. He is currently the Manager for Intellectual Property Enforcement and Frameworks at BIPA. He writes in his personal capacity.***

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Govt allocates N\$13.7 billion for debt servicing

The Namibian government has set aside N\$13.7 billion for debt servicing in the 2025/26 fiscal year, representing 14.8% of national revenue and 4.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Finance Minister Erichah Shafudah raised concerns over the growing debt burden, emphasizing that the country is spending more on debt servicing than on economic development.

"We remain concerned that

we expend more resources on debt servicing than we plough back into the economy to grow our economic potential through the development budget," Shafudah said while tabling the national budget.

She stressed the need for continued efforts to curb debt accumulation and contain rising servicing costs.

"We are, therefore, committed to maintaining public debt on a reduction path and ensuring that debt is raised in the most cost-

We remain concerned that we expend more resources on debt servicing than we plough back into the economy to grow our economic potential through the development budget.

effective manner," she added.

In addition to regular debt obligations, Namibia is set to make substantial principal repayments, including N\$2.3 billion in 2025/26 and N\$1.2 billion in 2026/27 towards settling the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Rapid Financial Instrument (RFI) loan.

"This is added to the periodic redemption of various domestic bonds. We are confident that the envisaged funding approach will stabilize the debt stock over the medium term," Shafudah said.

The government has also accumulated US\$463 million in its Sinking Fund, approaching its US\$500 million target, in preparation for the repayment of the US\$750 million Eurobond due on October 29, 2025.

Namibia's total public debt is projected to decline from 66.0% of GDP in 2024/25 to 62.0% in 2025/26. As of February 2025, the country's total debt stock stood at N\$165.9 billion, or 66% of GDP.

Shafudah highlighted that after settling key foreign currency obligations, more than 80% of Namibia's debt stock will be denominated in local currency, reducing exposure to exchange rate risks.

"We believe domesticating our debt portfolio will strengthen the domestic capital markets while providing an avenue for deploying domestic capital in the

domestic economy," she said.

Despite some improvements, the finance minister warned that maintaining fiscal discipline remains crucial.

"From a sustainability perspective, growth in nominal public debt has stabilized, although as a ratio of GDP, the metrics have deteriorated due to lower nominal GDP outcomes. Going forward, it remains crucial for the fiscal framework to continue maintaining a primary budget

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Namibia's economy to grow by 4.5% in 2025 – Finance Minister

Namibia's economy is expected to grow by 4.5% in 2025 and 4.7% in 2026, driven by strong performance in the mining sector, Minister of Finance Erich Shafudah announced.

"Going forward, we project GDP growth to pick up to 4.5% in 2025 and 4.7% in 2026. The strong growth is anchored on activities in the mining sector as uranium and gold prices, as well as exploration activities, remain broadly favorable," Shafudah said on Thursday.

She added that the agriculture sector will benefit from normalizing rainfall, while tax relief measures and an eased monetary policy will boost consumer confidence in wholesale and retail trade.

"In addition, sentiments remain positive across many other sectors of the economy such as tourism, transport and storage, financial services, and electricity generation," she said.

Shafudah acknowledged that economic growth slowed to 3.7% in 2024 from 4.4% in 2023 due to weak global demand for diamonds and drought-related challenges in agriculture.

"The moderation in growth was largely on account of muted global demand for key commodity exports such as diamonds, coupled with drought conditions, which



depressed agricultural production," she said.

She noted that high inflation and interest rates in early 2024 affected consumer spending, despite strong mineral exploration later in the year.

"Furthermore, the high inflation and interest rates during the first half of the year weighed negatively against consumer spending power. As a result, the growth momentum waned despite the strong drive in mineral exploration activities during the latter half of the year," she said.

Shafudah warned that the struggling diamond sector remains a risk and



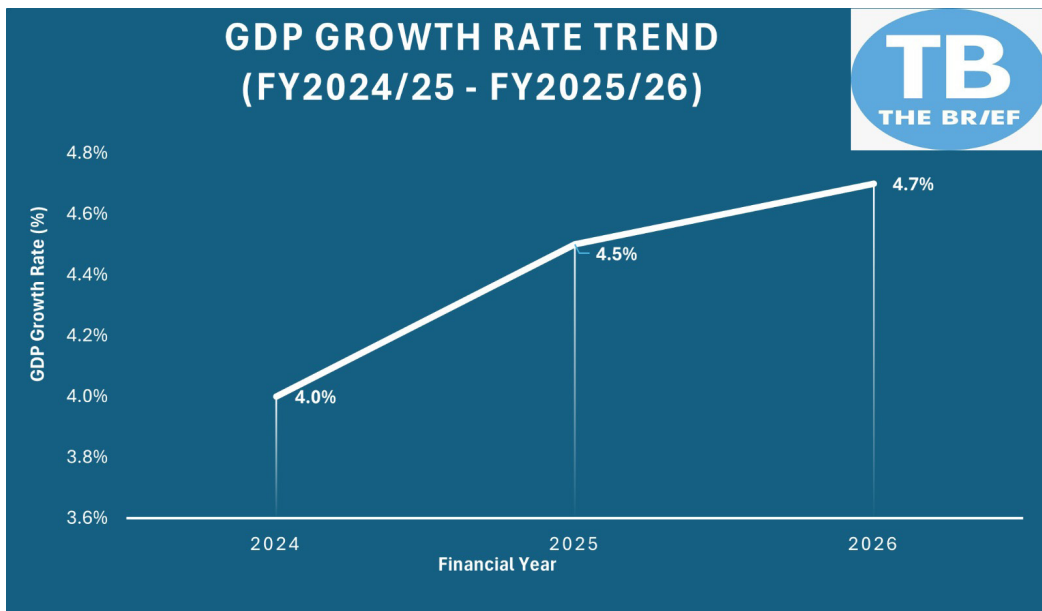
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emphasized economic diversification.

“Thus, measures to further diversify the economy will go a long way to lessen the impact of external shocks on economic outcomes,” she said.

She also highlighted the increasing impact of climate change on the economy.

“Adverse climatic shocks have become more frequent and intense in recent years, highlighting the importance and urgency of adopting climate change adaptation measures to increase resilience against climate shocks,” she said.

Inflation dropped to 4.2% in 2024 from 5.9% in 2023, with early 2025 data showing further declines.

“In line with the abating inflationary pressures, monetary policy has eased, thereby bringing much-needed relief for corporate and household balance sheets alike. Nevertheless, credit extension remains broadly subdued despite elevated liquidity,” she said.

She cautioned that external price shocks and exchange rate fluctuations remain risks.

“The inflation outlook and the subsequent monetary policy path, going forward, remain highly subject to external price shocks and exchange rate developments,” she said.

Shafudah said job creation efforts must be strengthened to address unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

“While we welcome the strengthening economic activities, we remain acutely aware of the pervasive and entrenched national challenges such as high unemployment, poverty, and income inequalities,” she said.

She called for reforms to improve the business climate and regulatory frameworks.

“In line with the new administration’s commitment to solving social challenges, we need to redouble our efforts in fostering conditions to promote job growth through accelerating improvements in the business climate, as well as tax and regulatory frameworks,” she said.

Shafudah emphasized that economic growth must be sustained while addressing structural weaknesses and external risks.

Artificial general intelligence: The next frontier in AI

By Stantin Siebritz

Artificial Intelligence (AGI) represents a cornerstone in the quest to build machines that can think and learn like humans, capable of handling a diverse range of tasks and adapting to new situations.

This article explores the concept of AGI, the motivations driving major tech companies to achieve it, the complexities highlighted by recent models like ChatGPT-4.5, and the distinction between AGI and sentient AI.

Defining Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

AGI refers to AI systems endowed with human-like cognitive abilities, enabling them to understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide array of tasks, much like a human would. Unlike narrower AI models optimized for specific functions, AGI systems strive for versatility, adapting to unexpected challenges independently.

The Drive Toward AGI by Major Tech Companies

Leading tech companies such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta are heavily investing in AGI research due to its transformative potential. AGI promises breakthroughs in healthcare, education, finance, and beyond. A machine operating with human-level intelligence could diagnose diseases more accurately, automate scientific research, and revolutionize learning by tailoring educational content to individual needs. For African nations like Namibia, these advances could foster economic growth and improve



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AGI refers to AI systems endowed with human-like cognitive abilities, enabling them to understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide array of tasks, much like a human would.

public services.

ChatGPT-4.5 and the Complexities of Achieving AGI

The release of ChatGPT-4.5 has reignited debates about the path to AGI. This updated model shows improved contextual understanding and a more empathetic tone, yet it underscores the challenges of replicating human-like cognition. While GPT-4.5 represents a step forward, it remains an incremental refinement rather than a revolutionary leap toward full AGI. Human intelligence is marked by nuance, self-awareness, and the ability to handle novel problems, qualities that are difficult to replicate in machines.

Beyond AGI: The Concept of Sentient AI

Researchers speculate about the emergence of sentient AI, machines that possess consciousness, subjective experiences, and self-awareness. While AGI aims at human-level intelligence, sentient AI would cross

a more profound threshold, experiencing reality as living beings do. Despite its allure, sentient AI remains highly speculative, given our limited understanding of human consciousness.

Distinguishing Sentient AI from AGI

The main difference between AGI and sentient AI lies in awareness. AGI refers to machines that can solve problems, adapt, and learn in a general manner, much like humans intellectually, without necessarily feeling anything. Sentient AI, on the other hand, would involve machines that not only solve problems and learn but also experience emotions and sensations.

Cinematic Analogy: “The Matrix”

“The Matrix” offers a compelling analogy for AGI. In the film, humans live in a simulated world controlled by machines possessing intelligence that adapts and responds to human behavior. These machines demonstrate AGI by overseeing entire networks and adjusting to complex situations. The film also explores whether these AI systems are sentient, prompting us to question where genuine consciousness begins.

Conclusion

The journey toward Artificial General Intelligence is both promising and challenging. Each new release, like ChatGPT-4.5, sparks excitement but also highlights the complexity of replicating human cognition. As we progress toward AGI, we face ethical and societal concerns, especially when differentiating AGI from sentient AI. While some


thought leaders predict AGI is imminent, others remain skeptical, suggesting that truly human-like AI may still be years away.

For African AI enthusiasts, developers, and entrepreneurs, advancements toward AGI offer fresh possibilities to solve complex local challenges. Just as Neo discovered his purpose within a grander Matrix, emerging AI in Africa can find a purpose that uplifts communities, fosters innovation, and shapes a brighter future.

**Stantin Siebritz is the Managing Director of New Creation Solutions, and a Namibian Artificial Intelligence Specialist*

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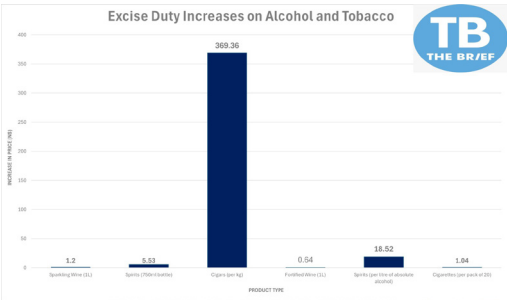
Alcohol and tobacco products prices rise after sin tax increase

Finance and Social Grants Management Minister Erica Shafudah has announced a 6.75% increase in sin taxes on excisable commodities, effective March 12, 2025, in line with the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) agreement.

While presenting the 2025/26 budget in the National Assembly on Thursday, Shafudah said the adjustments will see the cost of a litre of sparkling wine rise by N\$1.20, while a 750ml bottle of spirits will increase by N\$5.53. Fortified wine will go up by 64 cents per litre, and spirits will see a hike of N\$18.52 per litre.

Additionally, the duty on cigars will increase by N\$369.36 per kilogram, and a pack of 20 cigarettes will cost N\$1.04 more.

The tax adjustments are part of the



government's strategy to generate revenue while discouraging the consumption of harmful substances.

The increase aligns with Namibia's commitment to SACU's excise tax framework, which seeks to harmonize levies on alcohol and tobacco products across member states.



CPBN raises alarm over high bid disqualifications and legal battles

The Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) has expressed concern over the growing number of bid disqualifications and legal disputes that continue to hinder service delivery.

CPBN Board Chairperson Mary Shiimi revealed that more than half of bidders in procurement processes are disqualified due to preventable errors.

"I am concerned when more than 50% of participating bidders in a bidding process are disqualified for reasons that could easily have been prevented," Shiimi said.

She attributed the high disqualification rate to technical errors and non-compliance,

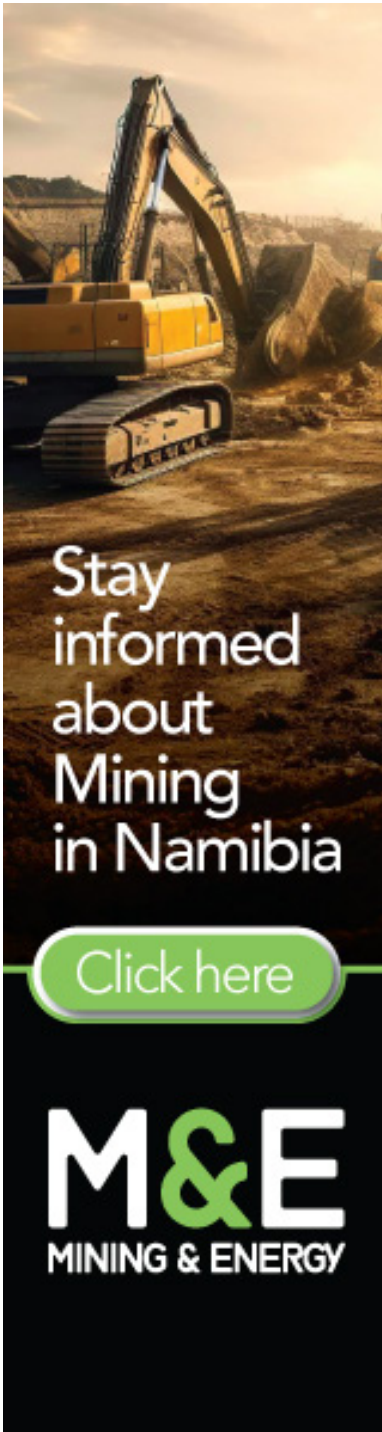
which prevent many bids from reaching the financial evaluation stage.

"We should be concerned with the investments we make and the value we get," she added.

Shiimi also highlighted the negative impact of prolonged court proceedings on public service delivery.

"I am concerned when bids are stuck in courts and services do not reach the public that so much needs it," she said.

The concerns were raised during the launch of CPBN's Public and Bidders' Education Campaign, themed 'Enhancing Responsiveness in the Bidding Process.'



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CPBN Board Chairperson Mary Shiimi revealed that more than half of bidders in procurement processes are disqualified due to preventable errors.

The initiative aims to promote transparency, reduce bid disqualifications, and address dissatisfaction among bidders and clients regarding procurement outcomes.

“There has been a significant level of unhappiness from bidders and our clients emanating from increasing unfavorable outcomes from the procurement process,” Shiimi said.

She emphasized that the campaign seeks to clarify procurement requirements to help bidders avoid unnecessary disqualifications.

“Our intent is to see more responsive bids in all stages of the evaluation process. For this is one method of achieving value for money,” she said.

CPBN Manager of Monitoring & Evaluation Toini Hamata reaffirmed the board’s commitment to the principles of public procurement, including integrity, accountability, transparency, competitive supply, efficiency, fair dealing, and responsiveness.

“To our bidders and SMEs, this campaign is for you. As the chairperson highlighted, its success hinges on your active participation. We are committed to simplifying the bidding process, ensuring you can compete confidently and effectively,” Hamata said.



Amupanda to appeal red line ruling in Supreme Court

Lawmaker Job Amupanda has vowed to take his legal battle against Namibia's veterinary cordon fence, commonly known as the Red Line, to the Supreme Court after the High Court dismissed his application on Thursday.

"It's simple, there was no trial. We are headed to the Supreme Court," Amupanda said following the ruling.

Judge Shafimana Ueitele, delivering the High Court's decision, found that Amupanda had failed to present sufficient evidence to prove that government restrictions on the movement of animal products between zones were irrational and arbitrary.

"The defendants are absolved from the instance. The question of costs is turned over pending the outcome of an appeal against the decision of the court in the rule application. The matter is regarded as finalized," Ueitele ruled.

Amupanda took the matter to court after his meat was confiscated by an Agriculture Ministry official in 2021, an act he claimed violated his rights. However, Ueitele maintained that the official had acted within the law and that the search of Amupanda's vehicle was authorized by health regulations.

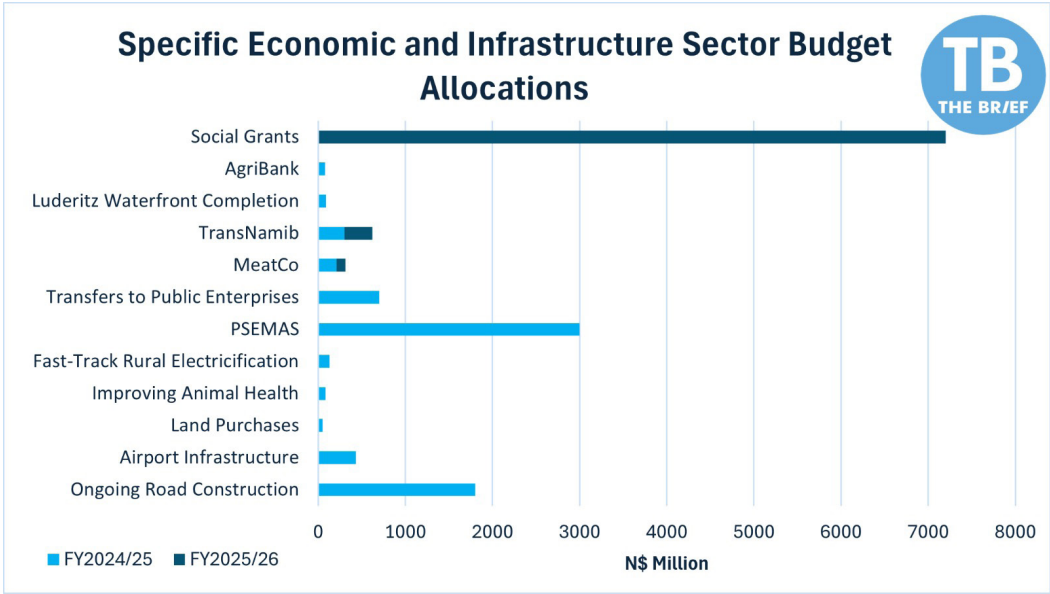
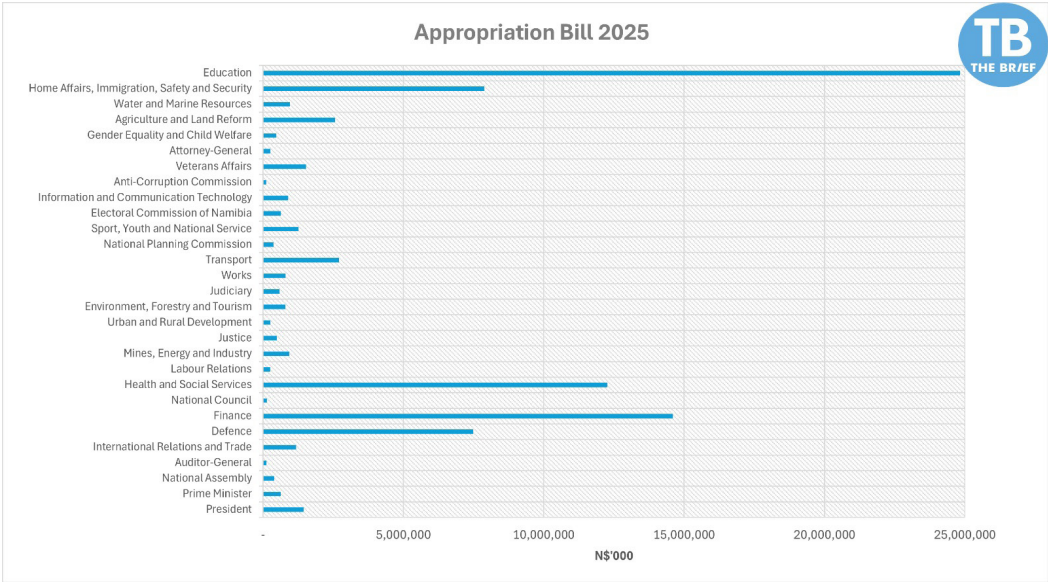
"Mr. Amupanda has furthermore dismally

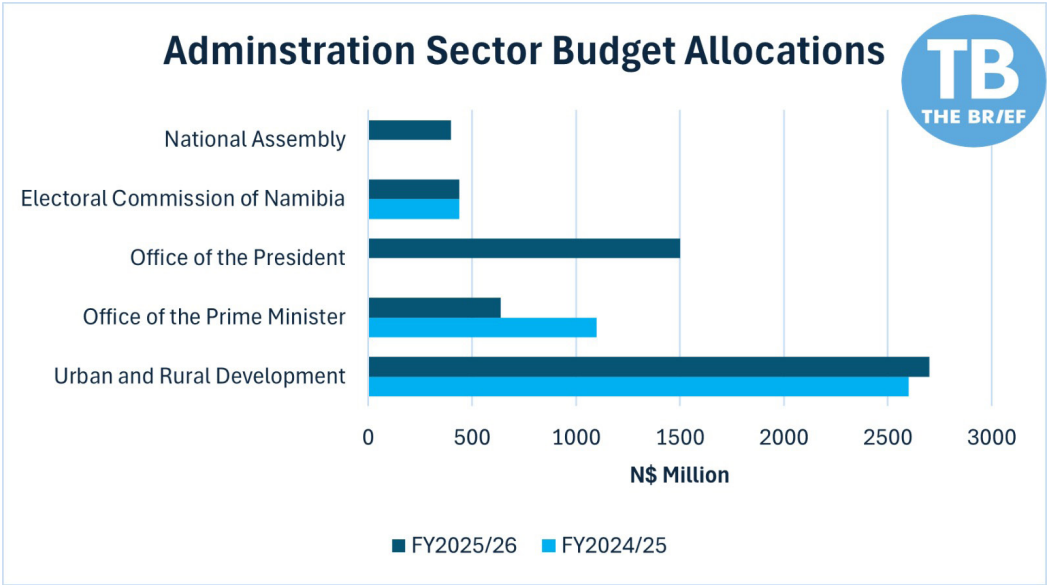
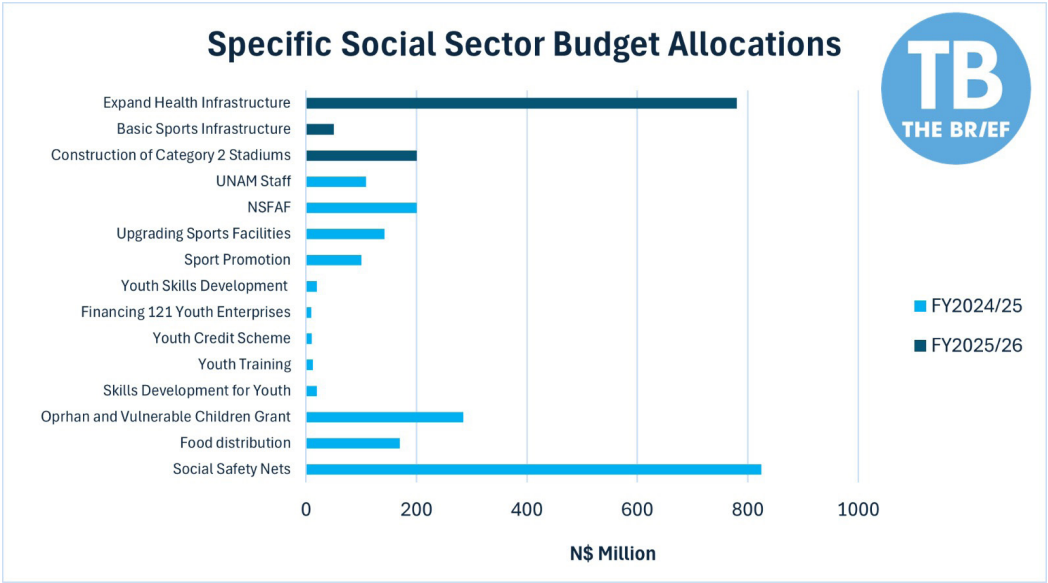
failed to place any factual basis on which this court must restrain the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform or any of its officials from confiscating Mr. Amupanda's red meat or any other Namibian meat meant for private consumption," Ueitele said.

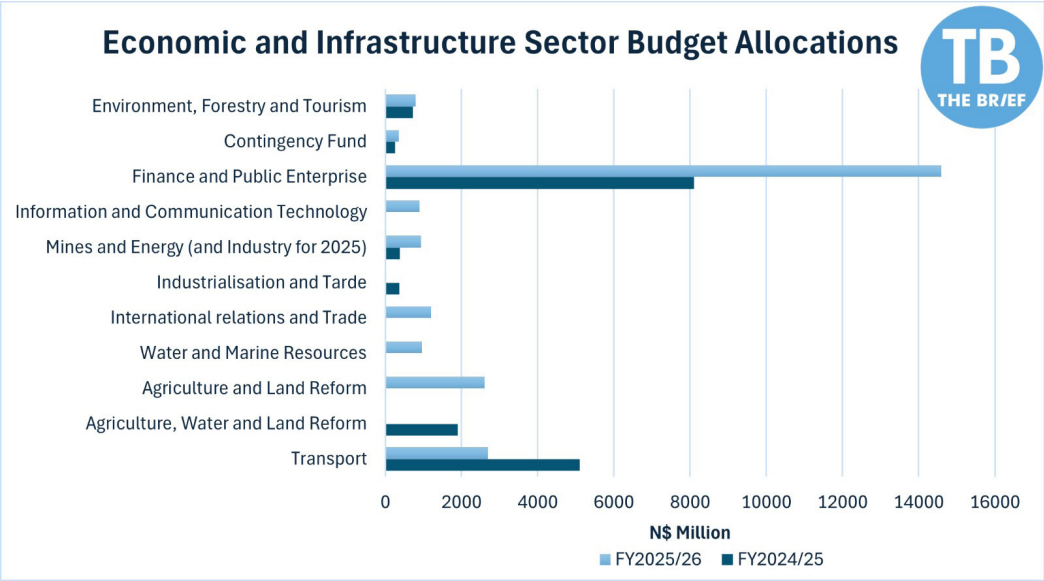
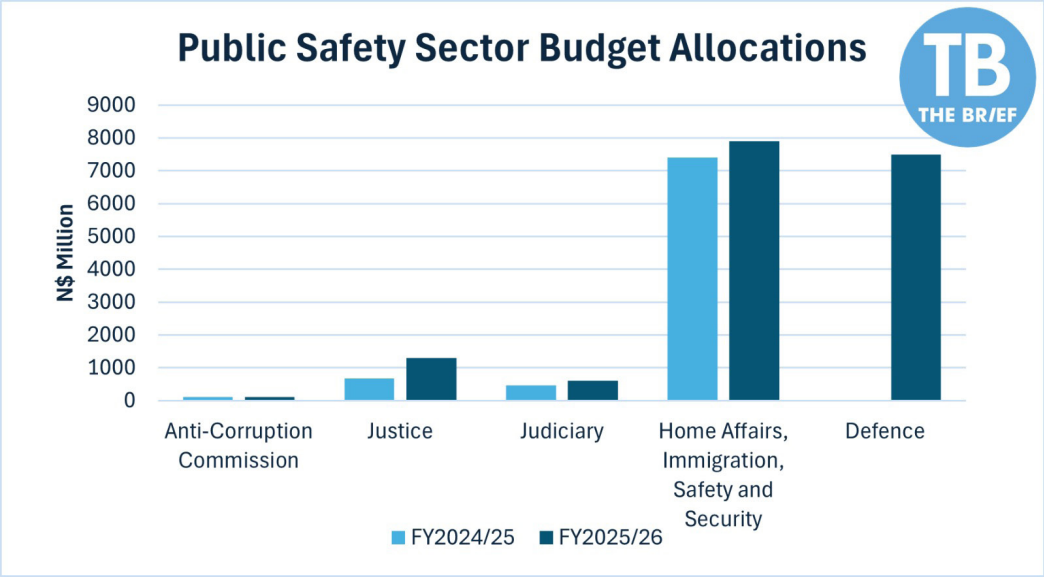
He further noted that Amupanda had failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish that the implementation of the veterinary cordon fence violated Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution. The ruling comes shortly after the National Assembly approved a report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration recommending the removal of the Red Line. The report, submitted by Lisha Empowerment and Development Organization in 2022, has directed the Agriculture Ministry and other relevant authorities to amend existing policies within three months to allow farmers in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs) access to the livestock market south of the veterinary cordon fence.

"The veterinary cordon fence should only be used to control the outbreak of diseases and not to prohibit citizens from moving their animals outside the veterinary cordon fence or any other prohibited products," parliamentarian Natangwe Ithete said.

2025/26 National Budget Sector Allocations









Enriching Generations

FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

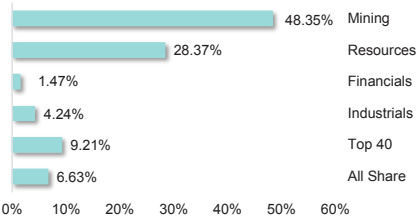
Commodities

Spot Gold	3056.19
Platinum	980.62
Palladium	981.06
Silver	30.95
Uranium	64.45
Brent Crude	73.94
Iron Ore	95.78
Copper	9909.92
Natural Gas	3.83
Lithium	9.85

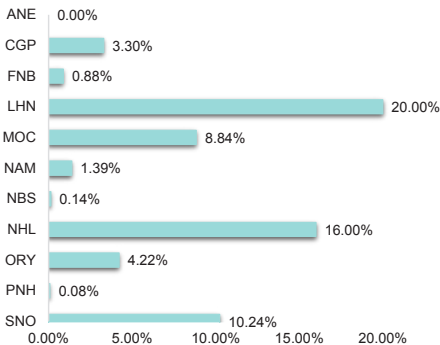
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.2952
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	23.6750
USD/CNY	7.2675
EUR/USD	1.0785
GBP/USD	1.2940
USD/RUB	83.9906
CPI	3.60%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

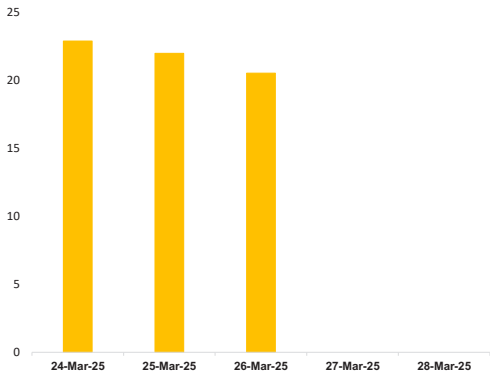
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

