

SWAKOPMUND

Strong demand pushes
Swakopmund building
approvals to surge 119%

p. 04



RETIREMENT

Why preserving
your retirement
money matters

p. 06



MTC, TELECOM

MTC, Telecom awarded N\$42m
to expand connectivity
in remote areas

p. 08



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News Worth Knowing



**Northern Namibia reports highest fraud
cases, with digital scams rife in Windhoek**

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025

MAIN STORY



Northern Namibia reports highest fraud cases, with digital scams rife in Windhoek

FirstRand Namibia says the northern regions have reported the highest incidence of fraud cases in the country, with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) being the most affected. The bank attributes this trend to cash-intensive business activity in border areas.

Head of Fraud Risk Management at FirstRand Namibia, Ramesh Ramdeen, said northern towns trading heavily with Angola, Zambia and Botswana are

especially vulnerable due to the heavy use of cash.

“Different regions have different case

Crucial Dates

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

typologies. The northern region is primarily cash-based due to its cash-intensive environment and proximity to Angola, Zambia and Botswana, whereas in central areas like Windhoek, fraud is mostly digital because of the young population and business concentration,” Ramdeen said.

He added that Windhoek and other central areas experience a higher prevalence of cyber-enabled fraud due to a more digitally active, business-oriented population.

Fraud Analyst at FirstRand Namibia, Vincent Tjikune, said SMEs are especially vulnerable because administrative and financial roles are often handled by a single person, making them easy targets.

“Within the commercial space, there are many small and medium enterprises where one administrator is also the accountant. These individuals are most prone to influence from outside and are targeted because they are known in the community. Fraud is not high-tech; it often involves phone calls or everyday conversations,” Tjikune said.

The bank said these interventions, reinforced during International Fraud Awareness Week, aim to build resilience among SMEs and reduce fraud exposure across both northern and central Namibia.

As part of the awareness campaign, FNB and RMB Namibia hosted a high-level fraud and cybersecurity engagement, bringing together senior decision-makers and risk professionals to address growing financial threats.

Delivering the keynote address, FirstRand Namibia CEO Conrad Dempsey warned that fraud now presents a systemic risk to the financial sector.

“Fraud and cybercrime are no longer occasional disruptions; they are persistent, sophisticated threats that strike at the very foundation of trust on which our businesses and financial systems depend,” Dempsey said.

He added that transparency and collaboration are crucial because fraud “thrives in silence, in isolation and in misinformation.”

Experts at the event highlighted emerging forms of financial crime targeting businesses and individuals, including phishing and fake calls, deepfake and AI impersonation, device linking for unauthorised transactions, card fraud using stolen details and business email compromise (BEC). They stressed the importance of vigilance, strong internal controls and ongoing education to protect consumers and organisations.

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SME FINANCE



Strong demand pushes Swakopmund building approvals to surge 119%

Swakopmund's property market has recorded higher building activity despite a decline in the overall value of approved projects, with approvals totalling N\$734 million year to date compared to N\$2.6 billion in 2024.

Analysts say the trend reflects sustained investor confidence in the town.

According to Almandro Jansen, Economist at Simonis Storm, the coastal town has recorded a significant increase in building plan approvals, signalling positive investor sentiment.

Jansen said Swakopmund processed an average of 78 building approvals per month between January and October 2025,

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Proposed mineral exploration and prospecting activities on EPL 10875

PROJECT LOCATION:
Karas district, Kunene Region
PROPOSITOR: Cancun Gold (Pty) Ltd

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

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: Saturday 29 November 2025
Venue: Karanjab Community Hall
Time: 11h00 am

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project. In writing to:
Mr Nqholozi, Fredrick
Tel: +244 (0) 81 147 2029 / 244 81 209 5996
Email: juniorb200581@gmail.com



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Proposed mineral exploration and prospecting activities on EPL 10874

PROJECT LOCATION:
Karas district, Kunene Region
PROPOSITOR: Cancun Gold (Pty) Ltd

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

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Why preserving your retirement money matters — And what to do when you change jobs

By Selby Sibeya

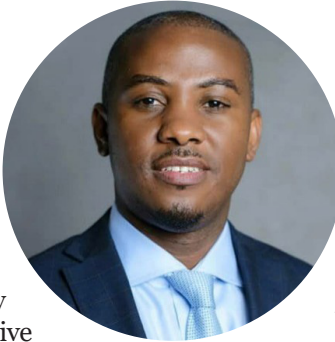
If there is one financial decision that quietly makes or breaks a retirement journey, it is what you do with your pension when you leave a job.

Cashing out feels tempting, while preserving the money feels boring. I mean, you are alive now, why not enjoy your money right? Well, as tempting as that thought is, you need to consider various factors, like living longer, before you chop your money.

Life expectancy in Namibia has risen to roughly 67 years. That means many workers who retire around 60 years, will need an income for a decade or more and even longer for those who retire earlier or enjoy good health.

The longer you live, the more damaging it is to keep taking from your retirement package. The Bank of Namibia's

Inflation Forecast report expects consumer inflation to hover around 3.6% for 2025 and 4% for 2026. If your savings leave the retirement system and sit in low-yield



Keeping funds invested inside the retirement system is one of the simplest ways to keep your money growing, so you can smile at your Retirement date (i.e. 60 years).

accounts, inflation will erode their real value.

It is even worse when you spend your savings on consumption, but it is better if you spend it on your retirement home.

Keeping funds invested inside the retirement system is one of the simplest ways to keep your money growing, so you can smile at your Retirement date (i.e. 60 years). Namfisa in its consumer education programme also advises that one needs

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposed mineral exploration and prospecting activities on EPL 10848

PROJECT LOCATION: Omururu district, Erongo Region

PROPOSITOR: Cancon Gold (Pty) Ltd

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

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Friday, 28 November 2025
Venue: Omururu Community Hall,
Time: 14h00 pm

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:

Mr Nghiyolwa, Fredrick
Tel: +244 (0) 81 147 2029 / +244 81 209 5996
Email: junior200811@gmail.com

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposed mineral exploration and prospecting activities on EPL 10248

PROJECT LOCATION: Karibib district, Erongo Region

PROPOSITOR: Cancon Gold (Pty) Ltd

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

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Friday, 28 November 2025
Venue: Karibib Community Hall,
Time: 11h00 am

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:

Mr Nghiyolwa, Fredrick
Tel: +244 (0) 81 147 2029 / +244 81 209 5996
Email: junior200811@gmail.com

junior balano

Namfisa in its consumer education programme also advises that one needs 70% and 80% of one's current pensionable salary to maintain the same lifestyle during retirement.

70% and 80% of one's current pensionable salary to maintain the same lifestyle during retirement. The state grant of N\$1,600.00 might help, but it is not designed to replace a salary. It is an important safety net, but you will not survive on it. Thus, choosing a preservation Fund like Kuleni Preservation Fund, can help you save on your retirement and allow your capital to grow through a combination of investment options.

Tax rules reward patience and penalise cashing out early. Early withdrawals are taxed on the full amount, whereas saving until retirement lets pension fund members take up to one-third tax-free and use the rest to buy an annuity for monthly income.

In other words: keep it in the Fund, pay less tax, and secure an income for later in your older days. At Kuleni Preservation Fund, your transfer is tax-free when you transfer into the Fund.

Furthermore, KPF allows for a full withdrawals or partial withdrawals within 3 years subject to tax. After three years, withdrawals are no longer allowed.

Preserving is straightforward. You have three main options when you either resign, dismissed or are being retrenched.

You can transfer your savings to your new employer's fund, leave the money in your old fund (if the rules allow), or move it to an approved preservation fund such as KPF. These are standard, regulated routes that keep your money invested towards retirement rather than withdrawing and pay in your current account.

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MTC, Telecom awarded N\$42m to expand connectivity in remote areas

Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) and Telecom Namibia have won Phase 2 of the Universal Service Fund (USF) rollout, receiving a combined N\$42,123,377 to expand mobile broadband and voice coverage in underserved regions.

CRAN Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations, Mufaro Nesongano, said the funding will support new infrastructure development in Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Zambezi and //Karas.

“The successful bidders are Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC), awarded subsidies for eight sites totalling N\$32,326,727.00, and Telecom Namibia Limited (TN), awarded subsidies for three sites totalling N\$9,796,650.00,” he said.

He said Phase 2 will fund the





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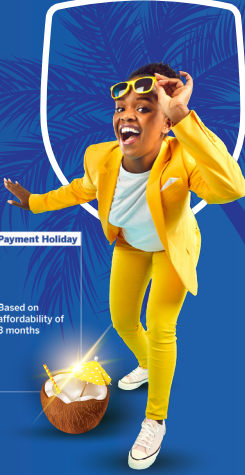
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3 Years	2022	10%	72 months	20% RV	
4 Years	2021	10%	72 months		
5 Years	2020	10%	60 months		
6 Years	2019	10%	54 months		
7 Years	2018	15%	48 months	No RV	
8 Years	2017	15%	42 months		
9 Years	2016	20%	36 months		
10 Years	2015	20%	24 months		

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construction of new Radio Access Network (RAN) sites and that all health and educational facilities covered by the programme will receive connectivity at no cost.

“All educational and health facilities covered by these RAN sites will be connected and receive free services for a period of seven years,” he said.

CRAN said the initiative aims to enhance nationwide connectivity, bridge the digital divide and support socio-economic development in remote areas. The regulator on Wednesday launched Phase 1 of the USF Tower initiative in Epinga, Ohangwena.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Proposed development and operation of a truck port, fuel retail facility and shopping complex

PROJECT LOCATION:
Aminuis Constituency, Oshanaheke Region

PROPOSED: Manganese Development and Investment cc

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

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:

Mr Ngikholo, Fredrick
Tel: +244 (0) 81 147 2029 / +244 81 209 5994
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LOCALITY MAP

Legend:
- Project area
- Road
- River
- Other land use

Scale: 1:50,000

North arrow



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Standard Bank trains NAMPOL officers to tackle digital fraud

Standard Bank Namibia has provided specialised training to the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) to improve the investigation of digital fraud, as part of its activities for International Fraud Awareness Week 2025.

The bank said the training is aimed at strengthening Namibia's ability to respond to cyber-enabled crime, which has increased alongside the growth of online banking, mobile payments and e-commerce.

According to Standard Bank, its fraud and compliance experts trained officers on how to investigate phishing, identity theft, account takeovers and card fraud. The training included practical guidance on tracing digital footprints, analysing transaction data and preserving electronic

evidence for prosecution.

Head of Compliance at Standard Bank Namibia, Roxzaan Witbooi, said cooperation with law enforcement is essential in combating financial crime.

"By working hand-in-hand with NAMPOL, we're strengthening Namibia's frontline defence against digital crime and ensuring that investigators are empowered with the knowledge and tools to act swiftly and effectively," she said.

Standard Bank said the training also addressed collaboration frameworks between banks and police to improve response times and investigation outcomes.

The bank stated it remains committed to protecting consumers and supporting a fraud-resilient financial system in Namibia.

Namibia's Investor Visa Reform

- A must read for Investors

By Ian Coffee

Namibia is preparing to overhaul its immigration and economic frameworks in a bid to attract long-term investment and stimulate sustainable growth.

At the recent Namibia Public–Private Forum in Windhoek, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah announced a series of reforms that signal a decisive pivot towards investor friendly policies.

Central to these reforms is the introduction of five-year visas for serious investors, a move that could redefine Namibia's position in the regional and global investment landscape.

The announcement marks a significant departure from the country's historically cautious approach to immigration and business facilitation. I have witnessed firsthand the friction that foreign investors encounter when navigating our visa and permit systems.

The President's directive to the Ministry of Home Affairs to simplify visa application processes is not only timely but essential. Bureaucratic inertia has long been a barrier to entry, deterring capital inflows and stalling high impact projects.

The proposed five-year investor visa is a strategic instrument. It signals stability, commitment, and a recognition that serious investors require predictability. Short-term permits, often capped at one or two years, have historically undermined investor confidence.

They create uncertainty, complicate long-



The proposed five-year investor visa is a strategic instrument.

term planning, and discourage the establishment of permanent operations. By extending the validity period, Namibia is offering a tangible incentive for investors to embed themselves in the local economy.

But the visa reform is only one piece of a broader economic transformation. The President's call to enhance infrastructure at Hosea Kutako International Airport, including the addition of counters to reduce congestion, reflects an understanding that first impressions matter. For investors arriving in Namibia, the airport is the first point of contact.

Efficiency, professionalism, and ease of entry are not luxuries, they are prerequisites for a country aspiring to be a competitive investment destination.

Equally significant is the push to enact the long-delayed Migration Bill before the end of the financial year.

This legislation has been in limbo for too long. Its passage would provide the legal scaffolding necessary to support the new visa regime and clarify the rights and obligations of foreign nationals. Without it, the risk of policy inconsistency and administrative confusion remains high.

Tax reform is another cornerstone of the

The mining sector, with its strategic mineral endowment, remains a pillar of Namibia's economy.

President's agenda. By aligning Namibia's tax-to-GDP ratio with global benchmarks and promoting progressive taxation, the government aims to balance competitiveness with equity.

This is a delicate balancing act. Excessive taxation can stifle investment, while insufficient revenue undermines public services. The success of this initiative will depend on execution, transparency, and stakeholder engagement.

The directive to finalise the Special Incentives Policy for Manufacturing within two months is ambitious but necessary.

Manufacturing has long been touted as a vehicle for value addition and job creation.

Yet, without targeted incentives, the sector has struggled to gain traction. A well designed policy could catalyse industrial growth, reduce reliance on raw exports, and position Namibia as a regional manufacturing hub.

The President's critique of the business registration process is also warranted. The current system is cumbersome, opaque, and slow. Entrusting the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) with reform responsibilities is logical, but success will depend on execution.



The upcoming One-Stop Business Hub, set to open in November 2025, could be a game changer, if it delivers on its promise of integration and accessibility.

In agriculture, the emphasis on plant health capacity and the Transformation of the Agri-food Sector (STAS) plan reflects a growing awareness of food security and export potential. However, timelines are tight. December 2025 is less than two months away. Implementation will require coordination, funding, and technical expertise.

The mining sector, with its strategic mineral endowment, remains a pillar of Namibia's economy. But the President's warning is clear: without local capacity-building, the sector risks becoming an enclave economy, dominated by foreign expertise. The challenge is not just to extract value, but to retain it, through skills development, technology transfer, and inclusive employment.

The establishment of task forces on Economic Recovery, Health, and Housing is a pragmatic step. These cross-sectoral teams must move beyond rhetoric and deliver actionable recommendations. Their January 2026 reporting deadline is an opportunity to demonstrate that Namibia's reform agenda is more than aspirational.

Underlying all these

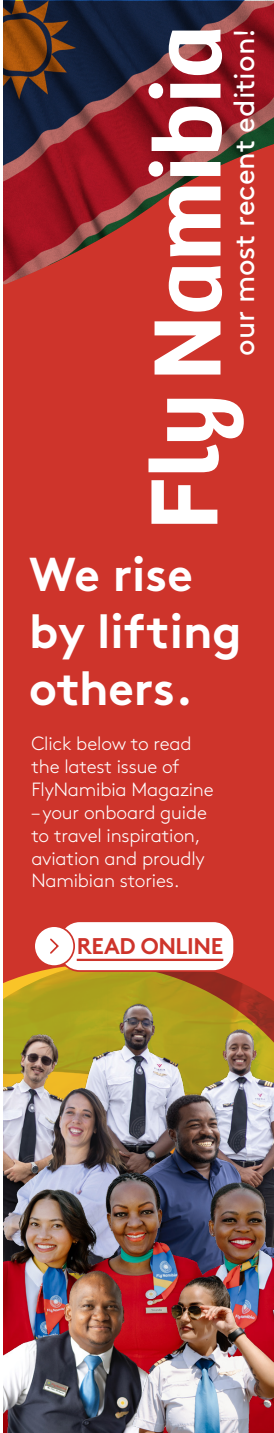
initiatives is a philosophy of inclusive development. The President's framing of healthcare, housing, land, and sanitation as rights, not privileges, is a reminder that economic growth must be socially grounded. Investment without inclusion breeds inequality. Inclusion without investment breeds stagnation. The balance is non-negotiable.

Namibia's creative, tourism, and cultural sectors were also acknowledged for their potential to generate employment and foster national pride. These sectors are often overlooked in economic planning, yet they offer unique opportunities for branding, soft power, and community engagement.

The Forum concluded with a call for unity, consistency, and delivery. These are not slogans. They are operational imperatives. As a legal practitioner and immigration strategist, I see the potential, and the pitfalls. The reforms announced are bold, but their success hinges on execution, institutional capacity, and political will.

Is Namibia ready to match vision with discipline? The answer will determine whether these reforms become transformative or merely symbolic.

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



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Construction begins on N\$10m Usakos SME Park

Construction has begun on the N\$10 million Usakos SME Park, a project led by QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine in partnership with the Usakos Town Council.

The initiative is expected to boost entrepreneurship, job creation and long-term local economic activity in the Erongo Region.

Managing Director of QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine, George Botshiwe, said the project follows months of structured engagement with the Usakos Town Council, community consultations and alignment with the town's five-

year strategic plan.

Botshiwe said the SME Park supports Navachab's focus areas, which include infrastructure development, entrepreneurship, education, training and local safety initiatives. He added that the development is expected to improve business visibility, attract investment and position Usakos as an active stopover for transport, trade and travellers.

"Our focus areas are clear and today's groundbreaking speaks directly to entrepreneurship and job creation. A functional Small and Medium Enterprise Park will serve as a catalyst for

Our focus areas are clear and today's groundbreaking speaks directly to entrepreneurship and job creation.

economic activity in Usakos. It will bring structure, visibility and dignity to local businesses,” Botshiwe said.

Navachab also confirmed that it is restoring the Usakos fire truck at a cost of just over N\$1 million. Parts are expected to arrive on 15 December, with completion targeted before the festive period.

In addition, the mine is preparing support for local schools in 2026 through fencing, hall renovations and a planned science laboratory project in partnership with Andrada Mining.

Speaking at the event, Minister of International Relations and Trade, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, said the SME Park represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen competitiveness and integrate Usakos into wider regional and global markets.

“The establishment of the Usakos SME Park is far more than a construction project; it is an intentional economic intervention designed to unlock value chains and catalyse small business development,” she said.

She added that the park is expected to stimulate manufacturing, logistics, retail and business services while creating a platform for SMEs to participate in cross-border commerce and compete within SADC, the African Continental Free Trade Area and beyond.

Ashipala-Musavyi said the ministry will continue to ensure that such infrastructure supports national strategies on value addition, sustainability and job creation.

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