

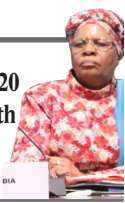
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Namibian banks lose over N\$65m to fraud in 10 months



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MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025

MAIN STORY



Namibian banks lose over N\$65m to fraud in 10 months

Namibian banks have lost over N\$65 million between January and October 2025 to fraud, the Bank of Namibia has revealed, marking a significant rise from over N\$54 million recorded in 2024.

The central bank warned that escalating digital crime is exposing consumers and financial institutions to growing risks across the country's rapidly expanding financial technology ecosystem.

Deputy Governor Leonie Dunn said

fraud losses have risen sharply in recent years due to both conventional scams and sophisticated cybercrime methods.

Crucial Dates

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

“Digital fraud is on an upward trajectory in Namibia.

In the banking sector alone, fraud losses have increased sharply since 2020, rising from approximately N\$8.7 million to over N\$54 million in 2024. Between January and October 2025, these losses exceeded the N\$65 million mark.

Informal-sector participants, including small traders and gig workers who increasingly depend on digital tools, remain particularly exposed to these evolving risks,” she said.

Dunn noted that the most worrying trend is the rise of social engineering schemes that manipulate victims into divulging financial information, alongside persistent risks such as point-of-sale skimming, fake EFTs and card-not-present fraud.

She stressed that digital financial growth must not leave consumers vulnerable and said banks have enhanced fraud detection, tightened security and increased customer education campaigns.

She added that the Bank of Namibia has strengthened regulatory measures by introducing BID-30 and PSD-12 regulations, and has launched the ConsumerConnect complaints platform in partnership with NAMFISA and CRAN to help victims seek recourse.

Acting Executive Director at the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Linda Aipinge-Nakale said public awareness is essential in combating fraud.

“Even the strongest laws and systems cannot fully protect people who are unaware of the threats around them,” she said.

Aipinge-Nakale explained that the ministry, together with SALT Essential IT, offers weekly cybersecurity awareness

sessions to help citizens recognise scams, secure devices and protect personal information.

“This is not just outreach, it is empowerment. When people know better, they defend better,” she said, warning that rising fraud cases are eroding public trust, confidence and dignity.

Bankers Association of Namibia CEO Dantagos Jimmy said fraud is causing real harm to everyday Namibians.

“These are not theoretical risks; they affect ordinary Namibians every day, including pensioners, students, entrepreneurs, civil servants, farmers and public institutions. Fraudsters adapt quickly. Technology evolves rapidly,” she said.

Jimmy said increased use of mobile money, online banking and card payments has widened exposure to phishing attacks, identity theft, insider breaches, cross-border cybercrime and AI-generated deception.

She said emerging technologies are also part of the solution. “AI, data analytics, biometrics and behavioural monitoring provide new tools to detect and prevent fraud,” she added.

Jimmy stressed that tackling fraud requires shared responsibility.

“Combatting fraud is not the responsibility of banks alone. It requires regulators who set strong frameworks and clear expectations, law enforcement agencies that respond rapidly and decisively, technology partners who innovate responsibly, consumers who stay informed and vigilant, banks that uphold strong controls, transparent communication and ethical conduct, and industry bodies such as BAN that coordinate efforts and foster mutual trust. If any link in this chain is weak, the entire system is vulnerable,” she said.



Namibia producing too many graduates in low-demand fields - report

Namibia is producing too many graduates in fields with limited absorption capacity while critical industries such as manufacturing, engineering, agriculture and emerging technologies face severe shortages, the Namibia Investment Promotion and

Development Board (NIPDB) has said.

The findings are contained in the new Namibia State of Skills Demand and Supply Report, which highlights a widening mismatch between the country's education output and the needs of its economy.

The report shows that Namibia continues

see money differently

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to oversupply graduates in business management, public administration, education and health and social services ,sectors that already dominate public employment and do not generate large-scale private-sector jobs.

“Our top five economic sectors and the top five skills we are providing as a country do not match. Globally, the question is always: how is your education system feeding your high-performing sectors? In Namibia, the answer is clear, it is not,” said NIPDB Executive for Talent, Innovation and Productivity, Julia Muetudhana.

She said Namibia’s outdated occupational classifications aggravate the problem, noting that the current framework was last updated in 2004.

As a result, new occupations, especially in engineering, technology, green energy and specialised sciences, are not formally recognised.

“If a country does not have an occupation listed, especially in the technical and engineering fields, you cannot practise because it does not exist on paper. That is one of the key impediments we are facing,” she said.

The NIPDB report also warns that graduate unemployment is rising amid overall youth joblessness of 44.4%.

Only 53.9% of Namibian youth completed secondary

school in 2023, limiting future intake for tertiary studies in science, engineering and technical fields needed for industrial growth.

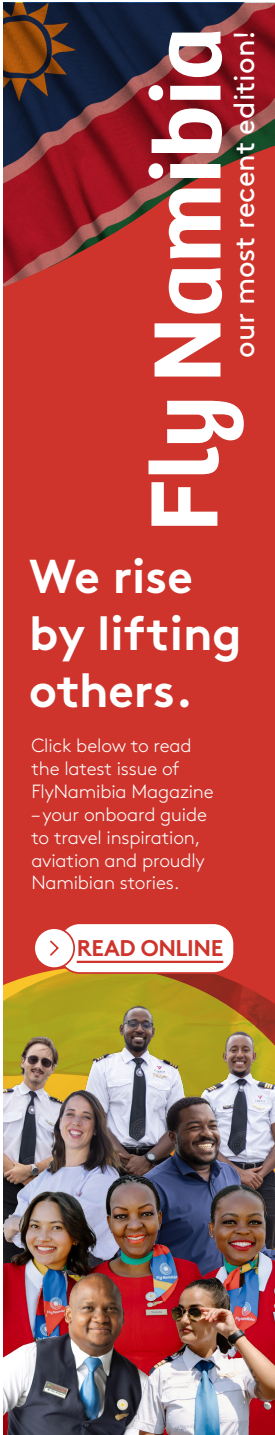
The board said its conclusions were based on evidence gathered over six months, drawing from Namibia Statistics Agency data, the Labour Force Survey, National Training Authority records, employer vacancy reports and international benchmarks.

An analysis of more than 970 advertised vacancies confirmed persistent shortages in agriculture, transport and logistics, finance, science and technical professions.

The report calls for urgent reforms, including alignment of academic curricula with labour market needs, the development of a national critical-skills list and improved forecasting to guide both local training and recruitment of foreign specialists.

It further recommends stronger collaboration between government, industry and higher education institutions.

“Government, education institutions, industry and the public need to come together and understand the skills demand and supply. We are not talking to one another and that is why these mismatches persist,” Muetudhana said.



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Namibia needs more entrepreneurial thinkers in finance

By Fimanekeni Mbodo

Namibia's financial system is modern, stable, and well-regulated. Our banks are highly profitable, our pension funds are the largest per capita in Africa, and our capital markets function reasonably well. On paper, this should place us ahead of many other economies.

Yet the structure of that financial system tells a different story. For the last decade, lending has been directed mainly to households rather than businesses, showing how comfortable our institutions have become financing consumption instead of production.

At the same time, large portions of bank liquidity and pension fund assets continue flowing into government securities to fund deficits, rather than supporting corporate growth.

The consequences are clear. A country that has lost more than 30,000 employers in five years and faces a broad unemployment rate of 55 percent cannot afford to starve its businesses of capital. If we want industries to grow and jobs to be created, Namibia needs more entrepreneurial thinkers in finance. People who can evaluate ideas, structure deals, assess risk beyond collateral, and design products that help real businesses grow.

A Credit System Built for Consumption

A quick look at private sector credit extension tells the story clearly. As of September 2025, individuals account for 58 percent of all private sector credit, while corporates make up the remaining 42



Mortgage loans dominate the landscape, accounting for 49 percent of private sector credit by

September 2025.

percent. This is the same ratio seen a decade earlier in September 2015, showing how little our financial system has evolved in directing capital towards productive, job-creating activities.

The type of credit extended to the private sector makes the picture even clearer.

Mortgage loans dominate the landscape, accounting for 49 percent of private sector credit by September 2025. Overdrafts and instalment credit make up 11 percent and 13 percent respectively, while Other Loans and Advances account for 27 percent.

While there is nothing wrong with helping Namibians achieve property ownership, the overwhelming dominance of mortgage lending exposes a lack of diversification and innovation in our banking sector. This dependency concentrates risk in one asset class and diverts capital away from the productive sectors that urgently need it to expand, employ and compete regionally.

Risk Aversion in a High-Unemployment Country

Namibia has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. A country with this level of unemployment simply cannot afford a risk-averse financial system

that limits capital to only those who already have assets. Yet this is exactly how our system is structured.

SMEs in Namibia contribute significantly to employment yet receive only a fraction of available credit. Namibia’s informal sector employs 58% of the country’s workforce and receives next to nothing in credit. Most SMEs cannot meet collateral requirements because they lack property titles and tangible assets. Their biggest assets are their ideas, business models, and current and future cash flows. Our financial system has never been designed to evaluate these.

Non-performing loan ratios in Namibia are consistently low, and bank profitability remains extremely strong. Liquidity ratios consistently show a healthy buffer above the statutory requirement, indicating that banks have capital they could deploy into more innovative or growth-oriented lending. The problem is not a lack of capacity; it is a lack of entrepreneurial thinking and decision-making.

What Entrepreneurial Thinking in Finance Looks Like

Entrepreneurial thinking in finance does not mean reckless lending. It means building the ability to assess non-traditional risks, creating lending teams that understand sectors like agriculture, technology, manufacturing and

tourism, and partnering with entrepreneurs through capital and flexible structures.

It also means product innovation. Namibia needs revenue-based financing, venture debt and sector-focused funds that support growth industries. These tools exist elsewhere because financiers in those countries made deliberate choices to pursue growth, develop new capabilities and support the sectors that drive national development.

Namibia’s challenge is not a lack of ideas or capital, but a lack of financial imagination.

Our economy needs decision makers who think like builders and unlock capital for businesses, not only households. This shift requires leadership from CEOs, boards, regulators and development finance institutions who must prioritise innovation and enterprise. Given our stagnant credit growth and rising pressures, the message is simple: if you do not have the appetite for calculated risk, you should not be in finance.

****Fimanekeni Mbodo is an Entrepreneur and Independent Financial Analyst. He has a strong background in Finance and Business, with a BCom in Financial Accounting from the University of Cape Town and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from the University of Namibia.***

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Govt approves second funding round for 66 youth projects worth N\$37.7m

The Ministry of Finance has approved a second round of youth-led business projects under the National Youth Development Fund, allocating N\$37,753,532 to 66 beneficiaries across all regions, aimed at boosting employment and entrepreneurship

among young Namibians.

Ministry Spokesperson Wilson Shokoto said the funding, processed in partnership with Development Finance Institutions, is expected to stimulate innovation and job creation in key growth sectors.



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“The funding will support the creation of 404 jobs in sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, horticulture, sustainable tourism, waste management, agro-processing, green transport and value-added services,” he said.

Loan amounts range between N\$88,000 and N\$1 million, with assessments carried out by Agribank and the Environmental Investment Fund.

Otjozondjupa received the largest total allocation nationwide, with six youth-led projects approved at a combined value of N\$4,723,859.53, expected to create 33 jobs, Shokoto confirmed.

Other regions also secured funding. In the Zambezi Region, six projects were funded with N\$3,444,082.35, generating 33 jobs. Kavango East received N\$3,122,852.95 for four projects, the highest job contribution nationwide with 43 jobs created.

Four projects in Omaheke, valued at N\$3,650,000.00, are expected to create 22 jobs, while Kavango West received N\$2,196,500.00 for five projects, generating 20 jobs.

In the north-west, Kunene received three projects totalling N\$2,098,383.36 and creating 17 jobs. Both Ohangwena and //Kharas secured three projects each, receiving N\$1,288,111.09 and N\$1,220,000.00 respectively, with each region contributing 14 jobs.

Erongo obtained three projects worth N\$888,435.92, expected to create 18 jobs, while Hardap’s four projects valued at N\$1,608,371.00 will generate 14 jobs. In Oshana, three projects worth N\$2,319,619.00 will also support 14 jobs.

Two regions received only one approved project: Khomas, funded at N\$200,000.00 and expected to create one job, and Oshikoto, funded at N\$500,000.00 and expected to create six jobs.

Shokoto said a new application round has already opened to ensure continuity of the programme.

“Applications will continue to be submitted through the Governors’ offices. The Ministry will keep announcing successful applicants from more than eleven thousand submissions received during the pilot phase,” he said.



Standard Bank launches online calculator for vehicle finance

Standard Bank Namibia has launched an online Vehicle and Asset Finance (VAF) calculator to help customers estimate monthly car repayments before applying for a loan.

The bank said the tool allows users to input details such as vehicle price, deposit and loan term to receive an instant repayment estimate. The calculator, according to the bank, is available on its website and aims to make it easier for customers to assess affordability from home.

Cicelia Hagen-Cloete, Head of Vehicle and Asset Finance, said the new calculator is intended to support informed financial decisions.

“Summer is all about freedom—and that includes financial freedom. Our new calculator empowers customers to make informed decisions with ease, whether they’re planning a family road trip or upgrading to their dream car,” she said.

She added that the initiative forms part of the bank’s commitment to digital services, saying it reflects efforts to “drive digital innovation and enhance customer experience.”

Namibia has recorded rising use of online banking platforms, with customers increasingly seeking self-service tools for financial planning. Standard Bank said the calculator aligns with this shift, offering a mobile-responsive option for budgeting and loan planning.

The bank said the tool complements its 2025 Summer Special, which includes benefits such as up to 35% residual value on new vehicles, prime lending rates, a three-month payment holiday and insurance



options including car hire and deposit protection.

“Driving into summer has never been easier,” Hagen-Cloete said. “With this tool and our seasonal offers, customers can plan smarter and enjoy the journey ahead.”

Who makes a great acquisition entrepreneur - And why it's not for everyone

By Chuka Okafor

My previous article, *Why We Need More Acquisition Entrepreneurs, Not Just Start-ups*, started a conversation that went further than expected.

It challenged the traditional start-up story and reframed entrepreneurship as something broader. The reaction that followed showed a real appetite for this way of thinking.

This next piece begins that journey, focusing on the mindset, discipline, and credibility required to become truly bankable in the Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (“ETA”) space.

ETA is not an easier path: it's a different discipline

Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition is indeed a strategic alternative to starting from zero. On the surface, it appears cleaner: you step into a running business, inherit customers, and focus on strengthening what exists (assuming you can find a target business, structure and raise the capital).

Like the principles of investing, it is deceptively simple but far from easy. ETA demands a serious level of discipline, maturity, and operational judgement that most people underestimate.

It is not about building hype. It is not about rapid trial-and-error, and it is certainly not about riding momentum. ETA rewards patience, responsibility, and the ability to lead through transition. Many admire the model. Few are willing to carry the weight that comes with it.

The core ingredients of bankable ETA



“

Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition is indeed a strategic alternative to starting from zero.

individual or team

A great acquisition entrepreneur must bring together three essential capabilities. They can exist within a single person or across a well-aligned team.

What matters is that they are present somewhere in the deal. Investors and sellers will notice immediately if they are not.

The Dealmaker: Understands value, structure, incentives, and risk. They know how to negotiate constructively, bridge perspectives, and build transactions that are fair and durable.

The Operator: Understands people, processes, customers, and execution. They can step into an existing operation, listen before acting, and improve performance without disrupting stability.

The Steward: Understands governance, transparency, and trust. They manage capital responsibly, report consistently, and create institutional confidence.

These capabilities define bankability. Capital does not follow simply the salesperson or charisma (as if selling an ordinary product); it follows completeness. Whether these ingredients live in one person or across a small team is less important than the team's self-awareness and the honesty with which

they present themselves.

The importance of self-awareness

Like any other form of entrepreneurship, ETA will expose you... One of the greatest risks in ETA is overestimating what you bring to the table. Sellers and investors can sense misalignment almost immediately.

A seller handing over their life’s work is evaluating your maturity as much as your skill. They can tell whether you recognise your gaps, whether you respect their legacy, and whether you are genuinely equipped to lead.

Investors are no different. They are underwriting your judgement. They want to see that you know where you are strong, where you will need support, and how you intend to balance those realities. The target business might present a great acquisition opportunity - but what will it be in your hands?

Self-awareness is not about humility for its own sake. It is about genuine credibility. It signals discipline and honesty. It tells the other side that you understand the seriousness of taking over a real business

with real people and real consequences. ETA unforgivingly exposes those who lack this trait. It elevates those who have it.

Deal structure as a reflection of character


How you structure a deal reveals your philosophy. A disciplined, transparent, and well-aligned structure builds trust. An aggressive or poorly thought-out structure undermines confidence long before the acquisition closes.

A bankable operator or team understands that:

- alignment is more important than leverage;
- sustainability is more important than optics; and
- ‘fairness’ is more important than squeezing the last cent (I say ‘fairness’ because this ‘f’ word can be a subjective concept)


Investors interpret structure as a proxy for your future behaviour. Sellers see it as a proxy for how you will treat their people once they are gone. Structure tells the truth long before your track record does.

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3 Years	2022	10%	72 months	20% RV	
4 Years	2021	10%	72 months		
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Numbers matter. But in ETA, people determine success. Transitions are emotional. Staff worry about change. Clients wonder about stability. The seller evaluates whether you can preserve culture while delivering on any other promises that you have made.

A bankable acquisition entrepreneur or team manages this with care. They listen more than they speak. They reassure without overpromising. They respect history before reshaping it. They understand that leadership transitions cannot be rushed. This is where emotional intelligence matters more than technical excellence. ETA is not simply commercial; it is relational.

Why this path is not for everyone

Many are attracted to ETA because it appears stable and structured. But the reality is that ETA tests every part of you from your judgement, your patience, your empathy, your resilience, and your integrity.

It is not suited for those who seek rapid recognition or creative freedom without constraint. It is not for those who are uncomfortable with accountability or constant scrutiny. It is not a place for unchecked ego.

ETA is for those who want to build quietly and responsibly, those who value compounding over speed and for those who treat stewardship as seriously as ownership.

These are not soft traits. They are hard requirements.

When capable ETA operators step in, businesses gain a second life

A crucial part of understanding who makes a great acquisition entrepreneur is recognising the impact the right person or team can have on a business that is nearing a natural transition. Across Africa, many founder-led businesses are reaching a point where age, succession challenges, or fatigue make continued leadership difficult. Without a credible successor, these businesses often decline quietly.

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Performance slips. Key staff leave. Customers lose confidence. In many cases, the businesses eventually close, taking jobs, skills, and community value with them.

This is where capable ETA operators make a profound difference. When the right people step in, they bring renewed discipline, better systems, modern thinking, and a fresh sense of purpose. They stabilise what works and intelligently strengthen what does not. They bring governance to places where decisions were once made on instinct. They create clarity, direction, and new energy.

Under the right hands, a business that looked like it was fading often becomes more

competitive, more professional, and more resilient than it was before.

This is why the quality of the acquisition entrepreneur matters. ETA is not simply a model for ownership transfer. It is a mechanism for economic preservation, job protection, and long-term institutional continuity

Looking Ahead

Africa needs more acquisition entrepreneurs, not as a trend but as a response to the generational succession gap playing out across the continent. We need people / teams who are genuinely bankable and dedicated funds / pools of capital to back them when they show up (hint-hint, nudge-nudge).

The first article introduced the idea of Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (ETA). This one looks at the kind of person who can carry it. What comes next will follow the feedback, guided by the questions people are asking most.

****Chuka Okafor is the Executive Chairperson of Value Growth Capital and Infrastructure Partners. His work sits at the intersection of alternative investing, M&A, financial markets development, and entrepreneurship and institutionalisation, connecting capital and capability across Africa's real economy.***

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The House spent the year explaining its procedures instead of producing laws. A country under strain got a press release where leadership should have been.

Parliament tried to cover its tracks this past week. It issued a calm, tidy description of how legislation is supposed to move through the House. Readings, stages, committees, the full choreography. It sounded reassuring, almost confident. But institutions only reach for process when they have run out of results. The country closes the year with two budget bills and nothing more. Everything else was left to sit, drift or quietly expire.

The governing party's reduced majority has turned the chamber into a place where internal behaviour matters more than the opposition's vote count. A narrow margin can still be effective, but not when ministers are away, backbenchers carry unresolved grievances, and caucus trust sinks so low that MPs are instructed

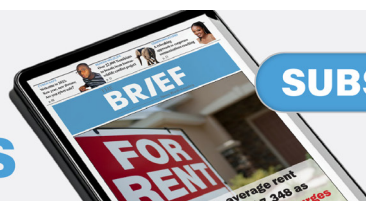
to photograph their ballots during committee elections.

The opposition, meanwhile, has not provided the balance that a legislature with tight numbers requires. It insists its conduct reflects vigilance. The evidence suggests something different. Oversight has mutated into performance — long speeches that go nowhere, clashes over tone, and an endless cycle of procedural irritation. Time that should have strengthened bills was spent generating friction. If the majority drifted, the opposition helped pull it further off course.

The Executive set the pace, and the pace never settled. The presidency opened the year with promises of speed and direction. Key bills were late, unclear, or missing entirely. A chamber with tight margins needs groundwork: preparation, persuasion and consistent attendance. None of those were reliably present. The legislative agenda stalled before it ever gained momentum.

Outside the chamber, the national picture grew heavier. Employers closed. Jobs contracted. Households faced a tightening squeeze. If ever there was a year that demanded clarity, it was this one. Instead, Namibia watched a legislature that defended its routines while retreating from its responsibilities.

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The press release issued last week missed the point entirely. It leaned heavily on process, as if the public had misunderstood the nature of the problem. The public has not misunderstood anything.

Parliament did not fail because the process is complex. It failed because its members treated the process as a shield. The country needed laws. It received explanations.

Responsibility does not rest with one faction. The majority lacks cohesion. The opposition lacks discipline. The Executive lacks direction. Together they produced a year defined not by conflict or crisis, but by something worse: absence.

Overall Comment (Performance Review):

Parliament delivered minimal output, showed weak cohesion and allowed

internal disputes to obstruct its core responsibilities. Attendance faltered. Planning suffered.

Commitment wavered. The employee has potential but did not demonstrate it during the review period.

Recommendation: Immediate corrective action. Continued appointment not advised without visible improvement.

** Briefly is a weekly column that is opinionated and analytical. It sifts through the noise to make sense of the numbers, trends and headlines shaping business and the economy with insight, wit and just enough scepticism to keep things interesting. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT OUR OWN, we simply relay them as part of the conversation.*



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Namibia's film industry boosts tourism as global productions increase

Namibia is emerging as a major international filming destination and the growth of this industry is becoming an important driver of tourism, Simonis Storm Economist Almandro Jansen said.

He said Namibia's landscapes offer "an unparalleled range" of cinematic environments including the red dunes of Sossusvlei, the Skeleton Coast, the Namib Desert plains and the mountains of Damaraland.

These natural settings require little artificial enhancement, he noted, making them attractive to filmmakers seeking dramatic visuals without heavy CGI costs.

"Over the past two decades, several high-

profile international productions have showcased Namibia on global screens. Blockbusters such as *Mad Max: Fury Road*, filmed extensively around Swakopmund, and the more recent *Dune* franchise have highlighted the country's desert landscapes to millions of viewers worldwide," he said.

Jansen said these productions have become closely tied to Namibia's visual identity, embedding its dunes, coastal landscapes and desert plains into popular culture.

Earlier films including *10,000 BC*, *Flight of the Phoenix*, *A Far Off Place*, *Starship Troopers 3* and parts of *The Mummy* also strengthened Namibia's reputation as a versatile filming location.

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via email



Automotive brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Land Rover, Porsche and Audi frequently choose Namibia for global advertising campaigns, thanks to the “premium visual value” of its landscapes, he added.

Nature productions from BBC Earth, National Geographic and Netflix regularly film in Etosha, Damaraland and the Skeleton Coast, which Jansen said gives Namibia sustained international visibility.

According to the Swakopmund Municipality, there has been a noticeable rise in filming applications from South African studios, with kykNET lifestyle, travel, food and reality shows increasingly using Namibia’s coast as a base. Jansen said these productions employ hotels, restaurants, tour operators, equipment rentals and local support staff, while showcasing local culture and scenery to Southern African audiences.

He said the wider economic impact is film-induced tourism, where visitors travel because they recognise the scenery from films.

“Tourism operators in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Sesriem and along the Skeleton Coast increasingly report visitors who recognise scenery from Dune or Mad Max, with rising demand for dune drives, photography tours and filming-location excursions,” he said.

Jansen said Namibia can develop film tourism into a strategic industry under competitive incentives and stronger support for local skills through the Namibia Film Commission.

“Medium-sized infrastructure investments, such as sound stages, storage facilities and post-production hubs, would position Namibia to handle more complex shoots while supporting local employment,” he said.

The film sector expansion coincides with government plans to develop Namibia’s first Film and Creative City. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah launched the Expressions of Interest process in September at the 80th United Nations General Assembly during the Experience Namibia in New York event.

According to the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), the facility will include world-class studios, casting agencies and hospitality services, and will be developed as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) aimed at positioning Namibia as a leading creative hub in Africa.



Nandi-Ndaitwah pushes G20 for support to countries with sound debt management

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called on G20 leaders to strengthen global debt treatment mechanisms and offer concessional financing to countries demonstrating responsible debt management.

Speaking at the G20 Leaders' Summit on inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Johannesburg, South Africa, she said Namibia has shown fiscal discipline through strategic refinancing, including the redemption of its US\$750 million Eurobond.

"The redemption of our US\$750 million Eurobond demonstrates fiscal discipline and responsible debt management, safeguarding resources for essential social and economic programmes in education, health and infrastructure," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said Namibia reduced

interest costs, extended debt maturities and repaid high-cost loans through Eurobond refinancing, but warned that debt servicing still places pressure on development budgets.

"We need global solutions to ensure sustainability. Namibia urges the G20 leaders to strengthen debt treatment frameworks and provide concessional financing to countries that demonstrate commitment to sound debt management," she said.

She told leaders that careful planning, transparent governance and innovative financing allow nations to balance debt sustainability with inclusive development.

"Unchecked wealth inequality threatens sustainable development and social cohesion. As we strive towards reduced inequalities, within and among countries,

fair taxation, financial inclusion and social protection are essential tools,” she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah highlighted that social protection coverage in Namibia has increased, with old-age grants reaching 98% of eligible citizens and child grants rising from 60% to 66% of vulnerable children.

“These measures ensure that vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth and

rural populations, are supported in the path to prosperity. Inclusive growth must empower all citizens to share equitably in the benefits of development,” she said.

She added that Namibia is pursuing economic diversification and value addition to ensure natural resources generate broader benefits.

“For example, Namibia has implemented the Zero Hunger Road Map since 2016. This multisectoral initiative strengthened food

security, promoted rural development and continues to inform national strategies, reflecting our commitment to leaving no one behind,” she said.

On Africa’s development priorities, she said regional integration, infrastructure development and fair access to global markets are essential to sustainable progress.

“We emphasise the importance of strengthening the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and fostering intra-African trade. To leave no one behind, countries must mobilise adequate resources for development,” she said.

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ELIGIBLE CRITERIA

- ✓ Namibian Citizenship.
- ✓ Minimum average pass rate of 60%.
- ✓ Willingness to enter a twenty-four (24) month employment contract.
- ✓ Must not be serving contractual obligations with other institutions.
- ✓ Not employed for more than six months.

Understanding this week's regional and local authority elections and why they matter for every Namibian

By Nambili Mhata

As Namibians prepare to go to the polls this week, it is important for the public to have a clear understanding of the nature, purpose and significance of the Regional Council and Local Authority elections.

These elections, though often overshadowed by national or presidential contests, are the backbone of decentralised governance in Namibia and shape the day-to-day lived experience of communities across the country.

The elections taking place this Wednesday consist of two distinct processes. First, voters will elect Regional Councillors who represent constituencies at the level of regional government.

Namibia is currently divided into 121 constituencies, and each constituency elects a single councillor through the first-past-the-post voting system. The candidate with the most votes wins.

These councillors collectively form the Regional Council of each of the 14 regions, and they are responsible for regional development planning, oversight of constituency-level service delivery, coordination with government ministries and the administration of constituency development funds.

Regional Councils also elect three of their members to sit in the National Council, Namibia's upper house of Parliament, meaning the outcome of regional elections has direct implications for national lawmaking.



Your vote in these elections matters profoundly.

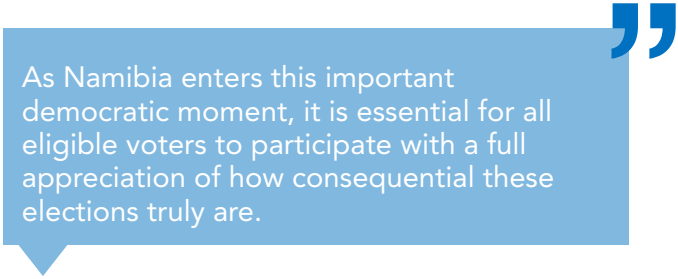
Alongside these elections, voters will also participate in Local Authority elections, which determine the composition of municipal, town and village councils across the country.

Unlike Regional Council elections, Local Authority elections operate through a party-list proportional representation system. Citizens vote for political parties, not individual candidates. Seats are then allocated to parties based on the proportion of votes they receive.

The size of each council varies: municipalities generally have between seven and fifteen councillors, towns between seven and ten, and villages typically have five. Once constituted, these councils elect their own leadership, including mayors, deputy mayors and management committee members.

Combined, these elections determine the composition of the governance structures responsible for the delivery of essential services and the development trajectory of towns, cities, villages and regions.

Local authorities handle water supply, electricity distribution, sanitation, waste management, and allocation, building plan approvals, business licensing, local roads, community infrastructure and, in some municipalities, public transport systems.



As Namibia enters this important democratic moment, it is essential for all eligible voters to participate with a full appreciation of how consequential these elections truly are.

These are the services the public interacts with every day, making the performance of local leadership central to community well-being.

Regional Councils also play a pivotal role in shaping rural development, agricultural support and infrastructure initiatives. Their work determines whether rural communities experience meaningful progress or prolonged stagnation.

Because councillors are directly accessible to residents, these structures constitute the most immediate and responsive layer of political representation in the country.

In recognition of the importance of these elections, the President has declared the polling day a public holiday to facilitate maximum voter participation. This is a vital opportunity for citizens to choose leaders who will directly influence the quality of service delivery and development in their communities.

Whether one resides in Oniipa, Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Katima Mulilo, Rundu or Lüderitz, the decisions made this week will impact core aspects of daily life: the condition of local roads, the efficiency of land delivery, the management

of informal settlements, the reliability of water and electricity, the speed at which building plans are approved, and the overall effectiveness of service delivery.

These elections determine the strength of decentralised governance and the future of community development.

As Namibia enters this important democratic moment, it is essential for all eligible voters to participate with a full appreciation of how consequential these elections truly are.

Regional and Local Authority elections are not merely administrative exercises; they shape the future of communities, determine the trajectory of development and ensure that governance remains responsive and accountable at the level closest to the people.

Your vote in these elections matters profoundly. It is a direct investment into the kind of community you want to live in and the kind of future you want for your region and your country.

**** Nambili Mhata is a Legal Practitioner of the High Court and Supreme Court of Namibia***