

APPOINTMENT

Kapofi appointed Acting Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy

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BREAKFAST

Standard Bank to host inaugural governance, risk and compliance breakfast

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AWARD

NIPDB wins global innovation award for green hydrogen investment drive

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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



China eyes 20,000 tonnes of Namibian beef monthly

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2025

MAIN STORY

China eyes 20,000 tonnes of Namibian beef monthly

China has expressed interest in importing up to 20,000 tonnes of beef from Namibia every month, more than double the country's current annual exports to the European Union, which stand at about 8,000 tonnes.

Executive Director in the Ministry of International Relations and Trade, Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robiati, revealed this during a recent discussion, saying Namibia's limited production capacity remains a major obstacle to meeting such demand.

"One of the constraints our businesses face is productive capacity and their ability to supply these markets. For example, China wanted to source 20,000 tonnes of beef per month, while we only export about 8,000 tonnes annually to the EU," Nghipondoka-Robiati said.

She told a recent event that the example highlights the need to strengthen Namibia's production and supply capacity to fully benefit from its access to international markets.

Namibia currently enjoys trade arrangements with several partners, including the European Union and India, while negotiations with China and Japan are ongoing. Nghipondoka-Robiati noted that improving production and competitiveness is essential for Namibia to



Crucial Dates

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

One of the constraints our businesses face is productive capacity and their ability to supply these markets.

seize such opportunities.

Namibia became the first African country to export beef to China in 2019, and shipments have since grown steadily. In 2023, beef exports to China reached about N\$60 million (approximately US\$3.7 million), a 19.8% increase from 2022.

However, according to recent data, Namibia’s overall beef exports have fallen sharply in 2025, with volumes halving in the first half of the year compared to 2024. The decline has been attributed to economic pressures and challenges within the livestock sector.

EAN Public Discussion

The Jobless Growth Puzzle: Can Namibia Unlock Inclusive Prosperity?



Dr. Michael Humavindu
(Keynote Speaker)
Executive Director, MOF



Mr. Jealous Chirove
(Key Presenter)
Senior Employment Specialist: ILO



Ms. Rauna Mukumangeni
(Panellist)
Director, PPP, MOF



Prof. Denis Yuni
(Panellist)
Associate Professor: Economics, UNAM

Wednesday
29 October 2025
Time: 18:00 - 20:00
Venue: Protea Hotel Fürstenhof

MC & Moderator:
Ms. Grace Mohamed

Livestreaming:
Economic Association of Namibia
& The Brief Facebook Pages

economic association of namibia







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THE BRIEF



The President asked, Rössing Uranium delivered

In April this year, the President of Namibia, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, visited the Rössing Uranium Mine, emphasizing that Namibia must not only extract its natural resources but also add value through beneficiation. She further highlighted that corporates should take responsibility in supporting society and stressed that the development of nuclear energy is crucial for Namibia's future energy security.

Inspired by her remarks, Rössing Uranium's majority shareholder, China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC), along with its parent company, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC)—one of the world's leading enterprises in nuclear energy—took a bold step in response to this national call and launched the "Generation-Z International Exchange Program."

This seven-day educational exchange program provided an opportunity for 12 outstanding Namibian learners from various regions to travel to China between 20-28 September. The goal was to deepen their understanding of nuclear energy as a clean energy source, while also fostering cross-cultural exchange and friendship.

During the excursion, the learners visited several key nuclear energy sites:

- Beijing Research Institute of Uranium Geology (BRIGU): Science and Technology Museum and the Analysis and Testing Center
- China Science and Technology Museum (CSTM): Nuclear Energy Exhibition
- CNNC Tongfang Uranium Industry: Qianjiaidian Uranium Mine
- Zhangzhou Energy Science Popularisation and Culture Museum (EPCM): Nuclear Power Plant and In-Situ Leaching Plant



Cultural experiences included visits to:

- Olympic Park: Bird's Nest and Water Cube
- Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City
- Daxing International Airport: Art installations
- Kulangsu Island in Xiamen: Historical ferry tour
- The Great Wall of China: South gate route to the highest beacon tower

In addition to the educational and cultural tours, the learners explored various Chinese cuisines, learned to use chopsticks, and stayed at some of China's top hotels. For many, it was their first experience flying on a plane or traveling by high-speed train.

Welcoming the learners back to Namibia, Mr. Jingtao (Frank) Chang, President of CNUC Namibia Mining Limited, remarked: "We are deeply aware that the future of nuclear energy lies in young people and international cooperation. Namibia possesses abundant uranium resources, and China has advanced nuclear technology. Cooperation between China and Namibia will surely inject new vitality into clean energy development and yield even greater results."

The Generation-Z Exchange Program was fully sponsored by CNNC, with a direct investment of over 1.2 million Namibian dollars.



Nambogo Thokozile Inekela Shivute, 14 years
Groote Schuur High School

"I would say the visit to the Geological Museum of China and the playground were the highlight of my trip. Getting to see that beautiful display of rocks was amazing. The playground was good because we got to play and interact with each other and feel like children again. I am grateful for this life-changing trip."

Erechia Faith Czezeloda Subes, 15 years
Westside High School

"I cannot put this experience into words. The Nuclear Power Plant visit was the most exciting part for me. I made new friends and learned that Chinese people are kind, smart and unpredictable. Everyone wanted to touch my hair."

Beritza Ria Fuls, 15 years
Pro-Ed Private School

"The Bird's Nest Olympic stadium lit up at night and experiencing that modern technology was beautiful. Gaining some insight into how uranium is mined was extremely interesting. We also got to see ancient Chinese architecture. The Great Wall of China was my highlight."

Jeremia Mia Nekongo, 14 years
Oshakati Private School

"I enjoyed being with new people and experiencing a whole different culture. Thank you to everyone who made the experience possible. Anything is possible if you set your mind to it."

Benjamin Shiimi Jacobus, 13 years
Oshakati Private School

"The exhibits at the Zengzhou New Energy Science Museum were fun and interactive. One of the highlights was The Great Wall of China. The walk was long but worth because it was incredible to see one of the great wonders of the world. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will cherish the knowledge, memories and friendships from this trip for the rest of my life."

Dean Dawiano Jossoph, 14 years
St Theresa JSS

"What stood out for me was the high-speed train and the visit to the CNUC Uranium Mine. They showed us how uranium is mined. I grew close with the other children on the group, especially while climbing the Great Wall of China."

Kuhepha Ngahema, 14 years
Riquelle JS School

"I enjoyed exchanging gifts with the Chinese students and learning about the different rocks at the Beijing Institute of Uranium Museum."

Ondjazemua Uaroua, 16 years
Kamanjab Combined School

"The visit to the China Science and Technology Museum, especially the fourth floor of the museum as it focuses and demonstrates how technological power can shape the future. I also enjoyed learning more about nuclear power plants."

Etuholo Pwathithindi, 15 years
St Paul's College

"I was awe-struck by the beauty in Beijing. At the Beijing Research Institute of Uranium Geology, they showed us the tools that were used to mine the first uranium ore in China. We also learned how nuclear waste is safely stored. I loved the fact that they did not just tell us about everything, but we got to participate and experience some of the processes. The memories and friendships from this trip will remain with me forever."

Maria Uyemba Kanyanga, 14 years
Bunya Combined School

"The Olympic stadium and water cube were the highlight of my trip. The building changes colors when it gets dark and that was nice. I am grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I never could have imagined."

Hella Nuukongo Kaalola, 14 years
Otananga Secondary School

"The high-speed train felt comfortable and relaxed. We learned about the hydrometallurgical plant and nuclear power plant. Thanks to the organisers for this opportunity. I hope you can do this again as Namibians can gain a lot from this experience."

Izen Mwandingi, 14 years
Otukoko Secondary School

"This trip was full of firsts for me. It was my first time flying and riding on a high-speed train. We visited the China Science and Technology Museum, the forbidden city and Great Wall. This trip gave me knowledge, friendships and memories that I will carry for the rest of my life."



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Kapofi appointed Acting Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy

President Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has appointed Defence and Veterans Affairs Minister Frans Kapofi to temporarily oversee the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy. The Presidency said the appointment



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was made in line with Article 32(3) (i)(dd) of the Namibian Constitution, which empowers the Head of State to assign or reassign ministerial functions as necessary to ensure the effective operation of government.

According to the Presidency, the move follows recent leadership changes within the ministry and aims to ensure continuity in service delivery.

“The appointment of Hon. Kapofi ensures continued leadership and coordination

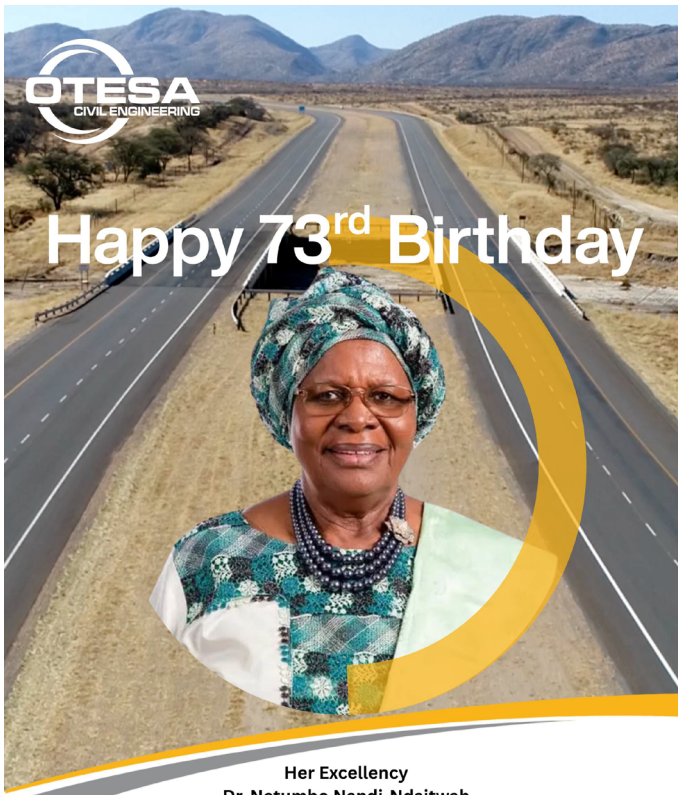
within a ministry that remains central to Namibia’s industrialisation, mining, and energy transformation agenda,” the Presidency said.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirmed her commitment to maintaining discipline, urgency, and accountability in government operations, consistent with the principles of the Eighth Administration and the priorities outlined under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

“The President extends her best wishes to Hon. Kapofi as he undertakes this critical role and expresses full confidence in his ability to steer the ministry with diligence and integrity,” the statement added.

The development comes after President Nandi-Ndaitwah briefly took charge of the ministry herself to ensure stability following the dismissal of Natangwe Ithete as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy. Ithete will, however, remain a Member of Parliament.

The Presidency described the appointment as a measure to maintain “stability, continuity, and constitutional governance” while the process of identifying a permanent replacement continues.



Her Excellency
Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

The Board, Management, and Staff of OTESA Civil Engineering join the nation in celebrating the 73rd birthday of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, a visionary leader whose dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to Namibia’s development continue to inspire us all.

Beyond products: Why financial institutions need to invest in financial literacy

By Shali Nanghala

Drawing from the Namibia Financial Sector Transformation Strategy, financial access, literacy and protection is one of the strategic pillars.

As such, more Financial Institutions (Banks, Insurance providers, Investment Firms, Micro-lenders etc.) need to embrace investing in financial literacy focused initiatives, i.e sponsored campaigns, to help retail investors become more knowledgeable on financial matters and help them make sound financial decisions.

I acknowledge the need for product based and tactical marketing. However, it shouldn't always be pushing of products. Beyond products, clients also need education on understanding investment risks and opportunities, how to better plan and use their savings and how to optimize their insurance.

Truly walking the journey with your clients isn't only in honoring the insurance claims or delivering on investment returns, the value add should include prioritizing clients' financial education.

The days where Financial institutions preyed on clients' lack of knowledge to make sales are fast sailing. As such, one should appreciate the ever evolving relationship between media influence and investment behavior and leverage on rise of social media, to reach a greater



The days where Financial institutions preyed on clients' lack of knowledge to make sales are fast sailing.

base to educate..

Institutions who get this right would be positioning and gearing themselves to for the future, as they appeal more to consumer sentiments.

The Gen X and early Millennial still subscribed to products (policies/ investments) with little to no knowledge and without understanding what they're actually buying.

However, observing trends, when Millennials and Gen Z don't understand policies, they hesitate to buy. This hesitation does not only disadvantage Financial Institutions but also leaves families exposed to sudden financial shocks.

It is therefore imperative for Financial Institutions to invest in Financial Literacy initiatives, to empower individuals in achieving financial well-being, making informed decisions, and navigate the complex financial landscape.

****Shali Nanghala is a financial literacy advocate***



Nictus begins construction of six new stores in Walvis Bay

Nictus Holdings has begun construction on six new retail stores in Walvis Bay as part of a major expansion across two key sites in the coastal city.

The development, which brings together several of the company's flagship brands, includes new Tiger Wheel & Tyre and Nictus outlets at the corner of Theo Ben Gurirab Avenue and Circumferential Road.

A second retail centre at the corner of Dr Nangolo Mbumba Road and 12th Avenue will house TrenTyre, Awas Motors, Glasfit, and Build It.

"This project reflects our confidence in the potential of Walvis Bay and the Erongo

region at large. We remain committed to continue to meaningfully contribute to Namibia's economic growth," said Wilmar Fourie, Managing Director of the Property Segment at Nictus Holdings.

The project according to Nictus is expected to boost consumer convenience, support local suppliers, and create jobs in the Erongo region.

The move according to the Namibia Securities Exchange listed company, underscores its continued investment in infrastructure and community development, and growing confidence in Walvis Bay's role as a key port city.

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The power of ethical leadership

By Fenni Nghikevali

Leadership divorced from ethical principles cannot endure.

Across the African continent, the call for ethical leadership is louder than ever. The future of our nations will be determined by the ethical integrity of those entrusted to lead them.

Integrity. Fairness. Accountability. Transparency. Responsibility. Respect. These are words we often find inscribed in policies, speeches, strategic plans, yet too seldom in practice. They decorate our walls, websites and documents, but their true power lies in being lived, not listed.

Leaders are consistently being tested by how consistently they can uphold principles when the world stops watching. Ethical leadership is not a ceremonial ideal. It is the single most important currency of trust in organisations and societies.

We have seen the power of ethical leadership across the continent, leaders who choose integrity over influence and principle over politics. When John Magufuli took office in Tanzania, for example, his insistence on fiscal discipline and transparency reignited citizens' belief that leadership could serve the people first. Whether or not one agreed with all his policies, his ethical stance reshaped



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We have seen the power of ethical leadership across the continent, leaders who choose integrity over influence and principle over politics.

public expectations of accountability. It proved that one leader's moral courage can recalibrate an entire nation's sense of what is possible.

Why Ethics Still Matters

Many argue that integrity is a luxury in competitive environments. History has repeatedly shown that unethical leadership may produce short-term results, yet it always collapses under the weight of its own contradictions.

Ethical leadership is about ensuring that one's decisions, actions, and motives are consistent with one's values. It is about being the same person in private as in public. Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Responsibility and Respect. These are not management buzzwords. The true mark



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of leadership today is moral clarity, the ability to stand firm when the world is uncertain.

The test of leadership is also called the “crisis of conscience”, in other words, not how one behaves when the rules are clear, but how one decides when the rules are silent. Therefore, to lead ethically is to lead courageously. It often means standing alone, challenging comfort, and risking popularity.

The African Imperative

Corruption, patronage, and moral compromise have cost Africa more than money — they have cost trust. Rebuilding this trust requires a new generation of leaders who view ethics not as a compliance checkbox, but as a compass for transformation.

Africa’s greatest untapped resource is not its oil, diamonds, or green hydrogen, it is ethical leadership. When leaders act from conscience, institutions are strengthened, citizens are empowered, and progress becomes sustainable.

The Cost of Being Principled

In boardrooms, the ethical leader asks the uncomfortable question no one else wants to ask. In institutions, they resist pressure to bend the truth. In communities, they insist that integrity should not depend on who is watching.

Ethical leadership is not always rewarded, but every time a leader chooses transparency over deception, truth over expediency, or fairness over

favoritism, they strengthen the moral fabric of their organization. The immediate reward may be resistance, but the long-term reward is credibility — and credibility cannot be bought or borrowed.

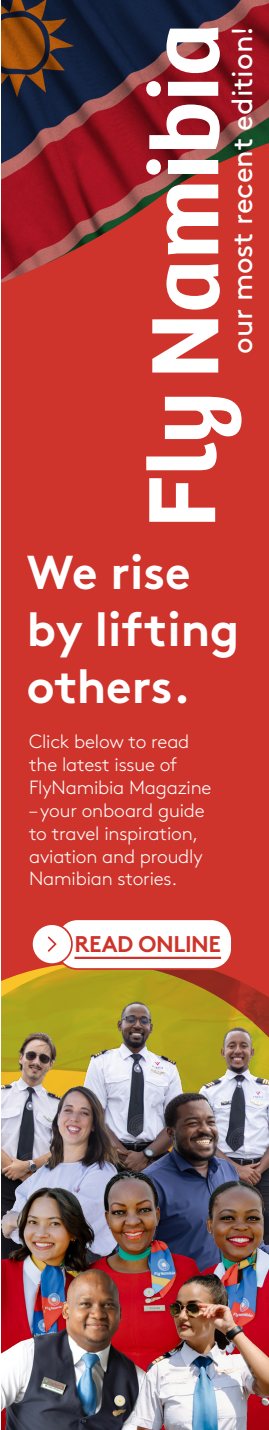
When leaders embody ethics, they remind us that leadership is not about the spotlight, but about stewardship.

We cannot expect integrity from institutions if we do not demand it from individuals. We cannot demand ethical governments if we tolerate unethical behavior in our own circles.

Ethical leadership begins where excuses end!

****Fenni Nghikevali is a Leadership Advocate who has been recognised as an Honoree in Leadership Excellence by the African Achievers Award, in recognition of transformational impact and leadership. She is a Chartered Accountant, Governance Enthusiast, Business Consulting Owner, Strategic Ambassador, Public Speaker and Executive Mentor to emerging leaders.***

This article is written in her personal capacity and is not representative of any institution. For inquiries, contact her at fnghikevali@gmail.com.



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Govt spends N\$24.6m on new vehicles for public office bearers

The Ministry of Works and Transport has confirmed the procurement of 20 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado vehicles valued at N\$24.65 million for Public Office Bearers (POBs) under the government's

vehicle replacement policy.

Delivering a ministerial response in Parliament, Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi said the procurement process was guided by an

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established policy framework aimed at ensuring fiscal discipline and transparency.

He explained that general government vehicles remain in service for five years or 120,000 kilometres, after which they are publicly auctioned with Treasury approval.

“I note for the record that this represents approximately N\$1,232,515 per vehicle — a figure that warrants contextualisation against the vehicle specifications, which I shall address in my response to the following question,” Nekundi said.

The minister added that Gobabis Toyota won the tender following a transparent process conducted in line with the Public Procurement Act, after bids from M&Z Motors, Indongo Toyota, and Performance Development Centre were evaluated.

Nekundi defended the choice of the Land Cruiser Prado, citing its durability, safety, regional service coverage, and lower lifecycle maintenance costs as key

considerations.

He also noted that the government’s new single-vehicle policy, which replaced the previous dual allocation system, has resulted in significant savings through reduced insurance, licensing, and maintenance costs.

“Vehicle procurement demands rigorous assessment extending well beyond simple purchase price considerations,” he said.

Nekundi further clarified that vehicle purchases for public office bearers fall under the Public Office Bearers Commission, which determines their conditions of service.

Under the current policy, each office bearer contributes 1.5% of the vehicle’s value monthly and may purchase the car at the end of their term at a 20% annual depreciation rate, less N\$100 per 1,000 kilometres driven.



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Why business meetings could be Namibia's next big tourist attraction

By Elise Hashikutuwa

When people think of Namibia, they picture wide open landscapes, wildlife, and peaceful natural beauty. Yet, the next chapter of Namibia's tourism growth may not come from the desert, but from the meeting room.

Across the world, the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector is changing the way countries build their tourism economies. MICE tourism is not just about meetings or formal gatherings. It is about creating spaces where business, learning, and culture come together to support growth and cooperation.

A Growing Tourism Sector

Unlike leisure visitors, MICE travellers are professionals who attend events and often spend much more during their stay. In Africa, the MICE industry was worth about USD 10.5 billion in 2022 and is expected to reach USD 65.6 billion by 2032, growing at around 17 percent every year.

In Namibia, progress has already begun. The country hosted 36 international conferences in 2022, which generated an estimated N\$43 billion for the economy. This shows that business events are becoming an important part of Namibia's tourism story.

Namibia's Strengths

Namibia has many advantages that make it a good destination for meetings and events. The country is peaceful, politically



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Namibia has many advantages that make it a good destination for meetings and events.

stable, and safe. It has clean cities, reliable infrastructure, and a unique natural environment that combines professionalism with relaxation.

Dr Linda Pereira, a respected global expert in the MICE field, recently said:

“MICE is no longer just a concept; the meetings industry is an industry on its own. One international event alone can generate up to 237 jobs, highlighting the transformative power of this sector for destinations like Namibia.”

Her words reflect how much potential MICE tourism holds for job creation, professional development, and new investment opportunities.

Economic Benefits

Every conference or event creates opportunities for local businesses. Hotels, restaurants, car rentals, event planners, transport providers, and tour operators all benefit. MICE tourism also encourages knowledge sharing and long-term partnerships, as many delegates return later as investors or collaborators in other sectors

such as energy, education, and agriculture.

What Namibia Can Do

To make the most of this opportunity, Namibia should focus on several key areas:

- Better facilities: Develop and expand conference centers, improve transport and internet connectivity.
- Skills training: Strengthen event management and hospitality skills to meet international standards.
- Promotion: Market Namibia as a welcoming and efficient place to hold international events.
- Sustainability: Encourage green and inclusive practices that reflect Namibia’s commitment to conservation and responsible tourism.

Namibia currently hosts medium-sized events of up to around 1,500 delegates. With investment and coordination, the country can soon attract much larger international gatherings.

Looking Ahead

Africa’s young population, growing economies, and digital innovation make it an exciting region for MICE tourism. Namibia’s challenge now is to make itself more visible as a capable and professional destination for meetings and business events. Strong partnerships between government, the private sector, and international networks will

be key to achieving this.

Conclusion

Namibia’s future in tourism will not only be about wildlife and landscapes but also about ideas, connections, and innovation. MICE tourism is more than business travel, it is a platform for growth, opportunity, and national development.

With the right focus and investment, Namibia can become a destination where business and inspiration meet, a place where every event adds value to the country’s economy and reputation.

** Elise Hashikutuwa is the Deputy Director of Tourism Development at Namibia’s Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). With extensive experience in tourism planning and sector growth, she focuses on promoting Namibia as a competitive and sustainable destination. Elise is passionate about empowering young people to participate in tourism innovation and has been actively involved in national initiatives aimed at transforming the industry post-COVID-19. She holds an MBA in Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship from Maastricht University.*

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When trust becomes costly: The hidden toll of banking fraud

By Josefina Oskar

Hilma was 61 years old, retired, and proud of the small nest she had built after decades of hard work. Every month, she sat at her kitchen table, carefully balancing her budget: medical bills, home renovations, and a little something for her grandchildren.

One morning, the phone rang. The caller addressed her by name, spoke politely, and said they were calling from her bank. They knew she had just received her pension payout, information that made the call sound completely legitimate. The voice on the line warned her that someone was trying to hack into her account and that urgent action was needed to secure her funds.

He guided her through a series of “verification steps,” asking for her ID number, card PIN, and a one-time password sent to her phone. Within minutes of hanging up, her account was emptied.

Her funds for medication and emergencies had vanished. The caller’s tone had been calm, reassuring, even professional. Like many others, she believed she was doing the right thing to protect her money.

This isn’t rare, it’s increasingly common. Across Namibia and around the world, ordinary people fall victim to sophisticated scams that prey on trust, fear, and urgency.

Fraud losses have increased sharply since 2020, rising from approximately N\$8.7 million to over N\$54 million in 2024. In just the first eight months of 2025, losses have already exceeded N\$60 million. This rise indicates that fraudsters are continually identifying new vulnerabilities as financial activity migrates into digital spaces.

And the tactics keep evolving. Beyond fake texts and emails, deepfake videos have entered the scene, realistic, AI-generated videos that mimic the voices and faces of public figures, including central bank governors in Namibia and several countries.



These videos are used to promote fraudulent investments or convince viewers to “act fast.” Fraudsters are also deploying voice cloning, fake mobile apps, and phishing links disguised as customer support chats to exploit unsuspecting victims.

Some even create counterfeit versions of legitimate banking websites, complete with security logos and customer helplines that appear authentic.

The danger isn’t just technological, it’s psychological. Scammers understand that panic overrides reason. They use language that sounds urgent: “Your account will be blocked,” “Funds at risk,” or “Confirm to protect your money.” In that split second, many people respond instinctively instead of cautiously.

A key factor enabling this wave of fraud is the widespread gap in digital and financial literacy, and it cuts across all segments of society. Fraudsters no longer target only pensioners or first-time digital users. They reach the educated and uneducated alike: professionals, public figures, students, and even those working within the financial sector. The truth is, anyone with a phone or an email address can become a target. Many victims are not negligent; they’re simply unprepared for how convincing and psychologically manipulative digital deception has become.

Recognising this, the Bank of Namibia, in partnership with the broader financial sector,

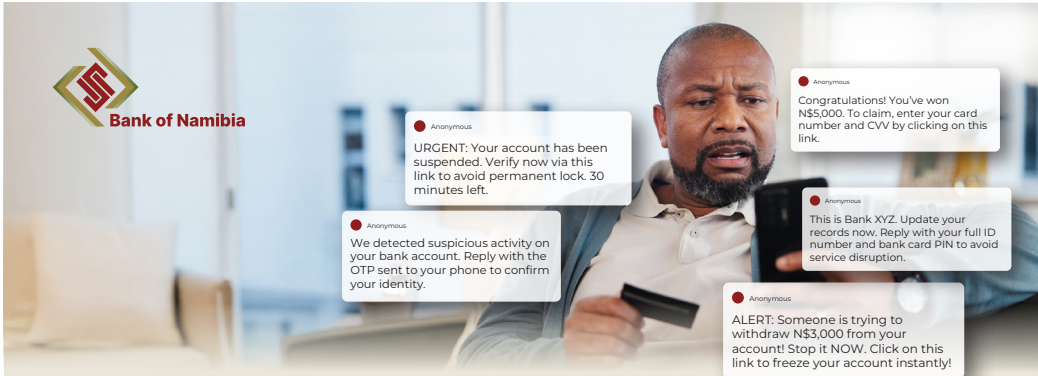
has intensified efforts to protect the public. These include translated radio messages, a month-long nationwide fraud awareness campaign, and stakeholder education through targeted regional stakeholder engagements throughout the country and parliamentary stakeholder engagements. Commercial banks and key industries are also playing a pivotal role, integrating fraud-prevention tips into customer communication, branch education drives, and social media outreach. In addition, the Bank is actively partnering with the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) to reinforce public education as an ongoing national activity, ensuring that fraud awareness is sustained beyond one-off campaigns. But the responsibility cannot rest with institutions alone. As a nation, we must foster a culture of alertness and shared accountability. Families should discuss scams openly, teaching older relatives and

young users alike how to identify suspicious messages. Community radio, schools, and civil organisations can help amplify awareness in local languages. Employers can train staff on digital safety. And when fraud happens, citizens must report it swiftly, not only to recover losses but to help protect others.

Technology will continue to advance, and so will deception. But awareness is our best defence. If each of us pauses before clicking, questions before trusting, and shares knowledge freely, Namibia can turn this challenge into a moment of national digital maturity.

In the end, digital transformation should not make us more vulnerable; it should make us more vigilant, more informed, and more united in protecting what we've worked so hard to build.

Report fraud and illegal financial schemes to illegalschemes@bon.com.na



Bank of Namibia

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MTC expands regional footprint with three new mobile homes

Mobile Telecommunications Ltd (MTC) has expanded its retail footprint by opening three new Mobile Homes, one in Divundu, the first for the town, and additional outlets in Rundu and Katima Mulilo, bringing the total number of Mobile Homes launched in 2025 to five.

The new shops are expected to open to the public in the first week of November.

MTC Chief Commercial Officer Octavius Kahiya said the expansion is part of the company's strategy to improve accessibility and bring essential services closer to customers in the regions.

"Strategic to business, the decision to open these new Mobile Homes is to allow more citizens to have easy access to crucial MTC services," Kahiya said. "The populace of Divundu no longer have to travel to Rundu in search of our services. They now have their first-ever presence of an MTC retail shop."

He said Rundu and Katima Mulilo previously had only one MTC outlet each,

which could no longer meet rising demand.

"Due to the population increase in these towns over the years, there has been a growing need for additional retail shops to sufficiently serve and cater to the high demand of the people. The queues at our shop in Rundu and Katima Mulilo were always long. However, the opening of the second shop in each of the two towns will bring relief, convenience, and satisfaction to our customers," he said.

The new Mobile Homes will provide a full range of MTC services, including bill payments, device purchases, SIM replacements, airtime sales, and digital financial services.

Kahiya said the rollout reflects MTC's continued investment in customer accessibility. "Opening five Mobile Homes in a space of four months is a sheer statement of our commitment to taking the service closer to the people. Customer service is the essence of our business operations. We are always thinking of ways to better and make the lives of our people easy," he said.

The choke point of governance

When coordination fails, silence becomes our most dangerous form of corruption.

By Dr Penny Tuna Magdalena Uukunde

Corruption erodes nations from the outside; inefficiency eats them from within. Both betray public trust.

When systems fail to act, when urgency is lost between desks, and when coordination becomes a maze, the damage is measured not in scandals but in citizens quietly paying for what never gets done.

Every public office is part of a relay. The law gives mandates, the Executive Director ensures execution, and agencies translate those mandates into visible services.

Between the minister and the executive director sits the most delicate joint in government the point where law-making meets operations.

When that joint stiffens, a ministry stops moving. A minister can legislate and advocate, but only an executive director can operationalise; if either side treats the other as ornamental, effectiveness collapses.

When one hand refuses to pass the baton out of pride, silence, or fear of accountability, the whole relay collapses.

Namibia's trade and investment ecosystem is proof of this. Dozens of agencies sit under a single roof: a standards body, a competition authority, a business registrar, an industrial agency, and a trade forum.

Each exists because the economy requires coordination, yet when that coordination stops, the policy machine seizes.



“

Between the minister and the executive director sits the most delicate joint in government the point

Gatekeeping does not always look like corruption. Sometimes it looks like unanswered emails, unsigned memos, or meetings that never happen.

It is what happens when an official entrusted with authority treats urgency as optional. The result is paralysis: consumer-protection laws waiting decades, trade forums without leadership, and projects halted because one signature never came.

The cost is real unsafe goods remain on shelves, export opportunities are missed, and citizens begin to lose faith in the state's ability to deliver. Inefficiency is not an inconvenience; it is a form of economic sabotage.

Namibia's public-administration framework already defines effectiveness. An executive director is required to implement Cabinet and ministerial decisions, to coordinate agencies and boards, to account for finances and performance, and to ensure service delivery to citizens and businesses.

When these duties stall without

justification, the system has grounds for intervention through performance reviews, administrative audits, or probation.

That is not punishment; it is maintenance. In the same way that budgets are audited, performance should be audited too.

A living example sits in the long-delayed Consumer Protection Bill. The policy work was done and the intent was clear, yet operational follow through in drafting, consultation, submission, and enforcement preparation stalled inside the system.

That delay is not a lack of vision; it is a breakdown in execution, the precise responsibility of the administrative engine.

Every month of silence leaves citizens exposed to unsafe goods and unfair markets.

This is the pattern ministers across government quietly face. They set direction while their operational arms lag. When the two do not speak, neither leads.

The current Strategic Plan for International Relations and Trade (2025 to 2030) speaks of stakeholder-centricity, economic cooperation, and effective governance, yet on the ground, institutions such as trade forums and related agencies suffer leadership vacuums, delayed appointments, and overlapping mandates.

These are not isolated mistakes; they are coordination failures. When agencies cannot meet because no one convenes them, when reports are filed but never read, and when inter-departmental communication depends on personalities rather than systems, national plans become documents instead of living instruments. This is how a vision dies politely inside bureaucracy.

Those who work within the system often carry the greatest frustration. Many civil servants want to deliver but are trapped under gatekeepers who block, delay, or ignore. They cannot escalate without breaking hierarchy, and they cannot act without permission.

The result is institutional silence that punishes initiative. No minister can deliver a vision if the operational line treats urgency as opinion, and no executive director can claim efficiency while isolating

2025 NAMIBIA FINANCIAL INCLUSION SURVEY



The Namibia Statistics Agency is conducting the **2025 Namibia Financial Inclusion Survey** to understand how people access and use financial services. From banks and savings groups to mobile money

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their own minister from the truth of what is happening beneath them.

Reform begins by naming the pattern rather than the person. When coordination fails, the remedy must be structural.

Escalation lines should be clear when directives stall, and responses must be time-bound in every piece of correspondence.

Performance should be tracked through dashboards that measure actions rather than attendance, while independent panels periodically review bottlenecks and publish findings. If the state can audit spending, it can also audit stagnation.

An annual Effectiveness Review could measure each ministry and agency on delivery, responsiveness, and coordination.

Such a report would not expose individuals but would evaluate systems by identifying what was planned, what was achieved, what stalled, and why. Citizens, parliamentarians, and partners could trace progress in real time.

Inefficiency would no longer hide behind hierarchy, and the same transparency that

deters corruption would deter inertia.

Accountability is not hostility; it is national value addition. For the ministry, it builds credibility. For the agency, it restores function.

For the economy, it creates predictability. For the citizen, it rebuilds trust. Every report tabled, every dashboard published, and every coordination meeting held on time adds measurable economic worth, because efficiency compounds exactly the way interest does.

If corruption is treason because it steals public wealth, then inefficiency is betrayal because it steals public time.

Time is the only resource a nation cannot replace. No citizen should fear bureaucracy more than poverty. No capable public servant should be silenced by process. No ministry should treat coordination as a favour. Effectiveness is not political; it is patriotic.

*** Dr Penny Tuna Magdalena Uukunde is a Regional Development Economist.**



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Standard Bank to host inaugural governance, risk and compliance breakfast

Standard Bank Namibia will host its first-ever Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) Breakfast Connect on 31 October 2025, bringing together industry leaders, risk professionals and community stakeholders under the theme “Building Resilience: One Brick at a Time.”

The event aims to promote dialogue on institutional resilience while raising funds for the bank’s flagship Buy-a-Brick initiative, which supports low-income families in securing safe, permanent housing.

According to Paulina Iiyambo, Senior Manager: IT Audit at Standard Bank Namibia, the initiative is grounded in the bank’s belief that governance, risk and compliance are not just technical functions but strategic enablers of sustainable growth.

“To be truly effective, these disciplines must operate in concert, not in isolation,” said Iiyambo.

“This platform allows us to reflect on what building resilience in our institutions looks like, unpack our collective responsibilities, and strengthen the networks that enable collaboration.”

The theme “Building Resilience: One Brick at a Time” aligns with Standard Bank Namibia’s broader risk culture and community investment strategy and reflects

its purpose-driven ethos: Namibia is our home, we drive her growth.

“Resilience is embedded in our risk culture. We invest in strong governance systems, ethical leadership, and forward-looking risk management practices. But resilience must also be reflected in how we show up for our communities,” Iiyambo said.

She noted that in today’s volatile economic and social climate, resilience has become a strategic imperative and that risk management must evolve from reactive control to proactive enablement.

“Our 110-year legacy, dating back to our first branch in Lüderitz in 1915, is a living example of that,” she said.

“We’ve remained steadfast through cycles of transformation because of our clarity of purpose and deliberate investment in building a resilient institution.”

The breakfast will feature a distinguished line-up of speakers, including Bryan Kandjiriomuini, Head of GRC at NAMFISA, and Laina Likius, ESG and Sustainability Specialist at the Capricorn Group.

Discussions will explore how institutions and communities can co-create a secure, inclusive and sustainable future, with insights into emerging areas such as ESG, AI and cybersecurity.

Iiyambo also drew parallels between institutional frameworks and community resilience.

“Resilience is never accidental, it’s designed. Just

as we build frameworks to protect and enable businesses, we must build social frameworks that empower and uplift people,” she said.

“Through Buy-a-Brick, we extend these principles into the heart of Namibian communities.”

Proceeds from the breakfast will go directly towards building homes for low-income families, reinforcing Standard Bank Namibia’s commitment to nation-building.

“We invite our partners and the public to join us, not just in funding bricks, but in laying the foundation for a more resilient Namibia,” Iiyambo concluded.

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NIPDB wins global innovation award for green hydrogen investment drive

Namibia's green hydrogen investment efforts have earned international acclaim after the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) was named the winner in the Innovative Investment Promotion Campaign category at the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) Investment Excellence Awards 2025.

According to Catherine Shipushu, NIPDB's Senior Manager for Marketing, Branding and Communications, the award recognises the organisation's strategic and creative promotion of green hydrogen as an emerging investment sector in Namibia.

The category celebrates effective, targeted campaigns that attract investment through strong coordination, meaningful investor engagement and impactful promotional material.

"The NIPDB was recognised for its exemplary work in promoting green hydrogen as an emerging sector for investment in Namibia. The award acknowledges our strategic and targeted approach to attracting investment, which includes the development of promotional materials, identification of potential investors, facilitation of investor visits and effective investor engagement," said Shipushu.

She added that the NIPDB was honoured to accept the award on behalf of Namibia and expressed gratitude to all stakeholders across the public and private sectors, describing the achievement as a reflection of collective national effort and collaboration.

This recognition follows previous international accolades. In 2023, the Board won the Best FDI Project Award for the Kelp Blue Project at the Annual Investment



Meeting (AIM) and was named Runner-up in the 2024 World Trade Promotion Organization Awards for its inclusive and sustainable trade initiatives.

The latest accolade was announced during the WAIPA World Investment Conference, held recently in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The awards honour excellence in investment promotion, facilitation and advocacy across all stages of the investment lifecycle.

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