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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

TransNamib board approves six-month hydrogen-diesel locomotive trial



WEDNESDAY 01 APRIL 2026

MAIN STORY

TransNamib board approves six-month hydrogen-diesel locomotive trial



TransNamib's board has approved a six-month trial of a dual-fuel locomotive powered by hydrogen and diesel, as the rail operator tests lower-emission alternatives to its diesel fleet.

The pilot, to be conducted in partnership with CMB.TECH, will run for around 50 return trips along the Walvis Bay–Windhoek corridor, a key route for Namibia's freight movement.

Chief Executive Officer Desmond van Jaarsveld said the trial will determine whether hydrogen technology can operate effectively under local conditions.

The locomotive will be assessed on fuel consumption, reliability, operational efficiency, maintenance requirements and

overall cost-effectiveness, with a decision on potential expansion to follow after the trial period.

During the test phase, TransNamib will also evaluate safety procedures, staff training and

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
 - * 22 April 2026
 - * 17 June 2026
 - * 12 August 2026
 - * 21 October 2026
 - * 02 December 2026
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek**

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The company’s fleet remains largely diesel-based, but a successful trial could pave the way for a gradual shift to dual-fuel technology.

operational readiness related to hydrogen storage, handling and refuelling. CMB.TECH will manage the hydrogen infrastructure and technical systems, while TransNamib focuses on operations and regulatory compliance.

The company’s fleet remains largely diesel-based, but a successful trial could pave the way for a gradual shift to dual-fuel technology.

Van Jaarsveld said the long-term viability of hydrogen-powered rail will depend on

fuel costs, availability and performance in Namibia’s operating environment.

The trial forms part of TransNamib’s broader efforts to modernise its fleet and improve efficiency, while aligning with Namibia’s ambitions to develop a green hydrogen economy.

As the national rail operator, TransNamib plays a central role in freight logistics, with the Walvis Bay–Windhoek corridor serving as a vital trade route.



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DBN disburses N\$1bn for Windhoek District Hospital and three regional facilities

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has disbursed N\$1 billion for the construction of new hospitals, with the bulk of the funding directed towards the Windhoek District Hospital.

The remaining funds will



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support hospital projects in Nkurenkuru, Otjiwarongo and Ondangwa.

The investment comes as Namibia's public health system faces increasing pressure, particularly in the Khomas Region, where demand for hospital beds exceeds available capacity.

The planned Windhoek District Hospital, a 500-bed facility, is expected to ease overcrowding at existing hospitals and improve access to healthcare services.

The project forms part of government's broader infrastructure programme under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), where healthcare has been identified as a priority.

DBN Chief Executive Officer Titus Ndove said the funding reflects coordinated efforts to address gaps in the health system.

"This investment demonstrates the power of coordinated financing by the Ministry of Finance in addressing national priorities while ensuring a holistic approach to healthcare delivery that will have a lasting impact on our communities," he said. The new hospitals in Nkurenkuru, Otjiwarongo and Ondangwa are expected to improve access to healthcare in those regions and reduce the need for patients to travel long distances.

The projects are also expected to create jobs and support local businesses through construction and procurement.

The programme is being implemented under government's "ROADMAP" initiative, led by the Ministry of Health and Social Services in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission.

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Social grants bill hits N\$7.27bn as nearly one million Namibians rely on state support

Government spent N\$7.27 billion on social grants in the 2025/26 financial year, supporting 954,388 beneficiaries and underscoring the scale of reliance on state assistance across Namibia.

The payout, which achieved a 99% execution rate, highlights social protection as one of the largest and most consistent components of public spending.

Finance Minister Erica Shafudah said the scale of disbursement reflects the central role of grants in sustaining households.

“Social grants remained a major expenditure driver, with N\$7.27 billion disbursed to support various categories of beneficiaries,” she said.

Old age grants dominated spending, accounting for N\$4.14 billion paid to 224,589 beneficiaries. Vulnerable grants followed at N\$1.05 billion for 240,620 recipients.

Disability support totalled N\$1.41 billion, covering both adults and minors, while maintenance grants reached N\$390.9



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Social grants remained a major expenditure driver, with N\$7.27 billion disbursed to support various categories of beneficiaries.

million for 94,591 beneficiaries.

Additional allocations included N\$192.1 million under the Consolidated Basic Income Grant, N\$25.6 million for foster

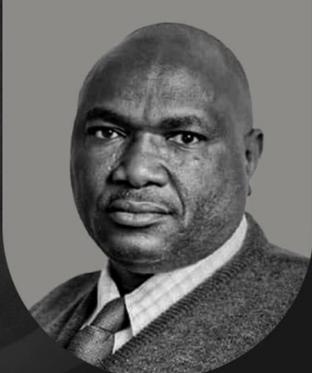
care, and N\$51.6 million for funeral support.

The figures point to the growing weight of social transfers in the economy, with close to a million Namibians dependent on direct state support for basic needs.

Shafudah said administration of the system is shared between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to ensure effective delivery.

“The administration of social grants payments remains a shared responsibility to ensure effective delivery across the social protection system,” she said.

The scale of spending reflects both the reach of Namibia’s social safety net and the underlying economic pressures facing households, as government continues to balance welfare support with fiscal sustainability.




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**04
JUNE
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Greed at the pump: When supply is weaponised



Fuel did not run out on 31 March. It was held back.

The pattern is too convenient to ignore. Service stations dry one day, prices rise the next, and supply suddenly returns. This is not a breakdown in logistics. It is a calculated decision to squeeze a little more out of a captive market.

Call it what it is: profiteering.

Artificial shortages do not just disrupt, they provoke panic. The moment motorists see “no fuel”, behaviour changes instantly. People rush to fill up, queues stretch for kilometres and supply chains come under unnecessary strain. A controlled market is thrown into chaos, not by external shocks, but by deliberate action.

Fuel is not an ordinary commodity. It is the backbone of economic activity. When access is manipulated, even briefly, the consequences are immediate. Transport is disrupted, businesses scramble and households absorb the pressure.

The Minister’s directive on 31 March makes the position clear. The deliberate withholding of fuel in anticipation of higher prices must stop, and those found to have created artificial shortages face punitive action. The warning is justified. What is at stake is not just pricing, but

trust in the system.

Because this is ultimately about trust.

Fuel retailers operate in a protected, regulated environment. Margins are structured. Supply chains are supported. In return, the expectation is simple: keep fuel flowing. When operators exploit that position for short-term gain, they are not outsmarting the system. They are undermining it.

And the damage lingers. Consumers remember empty pumps. Businesses remember the uncertainty. Confidence in the market weakens.

There is no grey area here. Either the shortages were unavoidable, or they were engineered. If it is the latter, then this is not sharp business practice. It is market abuse.

The response must match the conduct. Investigations cannot end in warnings. If supply was withheld deliberately, penalties must follow and be seen to follow. Anything less invites repeat behaviour.

Because once greed is allowed to dictate when fuel is available, the market ceases to function fairly. It becomes a tool for extraction.

And that is a far greater risk than any price increase.

** 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.*



N\$3.19bn for PSEMAS as government moves to rein in rising healthcare costs

Government has allocated N\$3.189 billion to the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme

(PSEMAS) in the 2026 Appropriation Bill, accounting for 25% of the Ministry of Finance’s total budget, as pressure

A promotional advertisement for Nedbank. The background is a vibrant green field with a white line. The text "GO FURTHER ON AND OFF THE FIELD" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says "Nedbank Namibian Newspaper Cup 2026. 3-6 April Keetmanshoop ||Kharas Region". At the bottom left, it says "see money differently" and "Nedbank Namibia Ltd Reg No 73/04561. Licensed financial institution and credit provider. T&Cs apply."

A promotional advertisement for Nedbank. The background is a dark green color. At the top right is the Nedbank logo, a stylized white 'N' inside a square. Below the logo, the text "Get in the game." is written in a light green font. Underneath, in white text, it says "Open a qualifying account and stand a chance to win a VIP Nedbank Cup experience in South Africa." Below this is a white button that says "Apply now" and a phone number "+264 81 959 2222" next to the website "nedbank.com.na". Below the phone number, it says "Competition runs until 25 April 2026". At the bottom, the hashtag "#GetMoneyFit" is written in white. In the bottom right corner, the word "NEDBANK" is written in white capital letters.

mounts on the cost of public healthcare.

Finance Minister Erica Shafudah said the allocation reflects the Scheme’s central role in government spending and its importance in supporting public servants.

“PSEMAS remains central to safeguarding the welfare of public servants and contributes to the stability and sustainability of the domestic healthcare financing system,” she said.

The allocation comes after PSEMAS expenditure reached N\$4.21 billion in the 2025/26 financial year, overshooting its budget by N\$659.3 million due to higher-than-expected claims.

Government is now moving to tighten controls and contain rising costs through a series of structural reforms.

An amount of N\$7 million has been set aside for coding structure services aimed at standardising claims processing and improving service provider identification. A further N\$2.25 million will fund actuarial and technical advisory services to strengthen cost modelling, risk assessment and long-term sustainability.

In addition, N\$2.5 million has been allocated

for the development of an integrated Member and Claims Management System, while N\$1.5 million will go towards a Claims Verification Dashboard designed to strengthen pre-payment controls, reduce fraud and improve clinical and financial oversight.

Shafudah said government has stepped up efforts to address inefficiencies within the scheme, including the establishment of a multi-stakeholder governance committee in March 2026.

“Government has continued to implement targeted reforms to strengthen governance, efficiency and financial sustainability of the scheme through stakeholder engagement and new oversight structures,” she said.

PSEMAS currently covers 309,158 beneficiaries, including 145,823 principal members and 163,335 dependants, making it one of the largest healthcare schemes in the country.

The reforms, set to take effect in the 2026/27 financial year, signal a shift towards stricter cost control and improved accountability as government moves to stabilise one of its fastest-growing expenditure items.

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What the Bank of Namibia's 2025 Report actually means if you are a worker, an investor, or just trying to survive

By Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela

The Bank of Namibia released its 2025 Annual Report on Tuesday. It covers GDP growth, inflation, credit markets, the banking sector, the twin deficits, commodity prices, and the outlook for an economy moving through one of the most significant structural transitions in its post-independence history.

Most people will not read it. Those who do will likely stop at the headline figures, note that growth slowed to 1.7% and inflation fell to 3.5%, and move on.

This article is for everyone else. It is for those who want to understand not just the numbers, but what they mean for the salary in their bank account, the investment they are building, or the monthly budget that never stretches far enough.

The report tells three different stories, depending on where you stand.

If you are a worker, the most important number is not GDP. It is the gap between prices and wages. Namibia's economy grew by 1.7% in 2025, down from 3.8% in 2024, driven by contractions in livestock farming, which fell 21.7%, and diamond mining, which also declined. When growth slows, hiring becomes cautious and incomes stagnate.

But costs do not slow. Food inflation held at 5.2% in 2025, driven by higher meat prices, reduced fish catches and global supply pressures. From 1 April 2026, petrol prices rose by N\$2.50 per



Namibia's twin deficits remain large, with a budget deficit of 6.6% of GDP and a current account deficit of 13.1%.

litre and diesel by N\$4.00, adding further strain. Petrol prices have already more than doubled since 2016.

The median formal sector wage sits at about N\$4,000 per month. The minimum wage translates to roughly N\$3,510. Against this, cumulative inflation of about 47% since 2016 means that N\$100 then costs around N\$147 today. To maintain purchasing power, a N\$4,000 salary in 2016 would need to be about N\$5,880 today. Most workers are not earning that.

This gap shows up in the data. Household credit grew by just 2.7% in 2025. Mortgage credit rose by only 0.2%. Overdraft borrowing fell by 10.7%, while real private consumption declined by 0.3% after rising 13.6% in 2024. Households are pulling back because their budgets no longer balance.

For investors, the report is both a warning and a guide. Uranium export earnings surged 94.3% to N\$28.2 billion, while gold rose 38.1% to N\$20.2 billion. In contrast, diamond exports fell 20.5% to N\$10.1 billion. These are structural

shifts, not short-term cycles.

The banking sector remains stable, with a liquid assets ratio of 21.4% against a 10.0% requirement. The prime lending rate closed at 10.00% after a 50 basis point cut in the repo rate to 6.50%. Corporate credit grew 6.8%, but household borrowing weakened.

Namibia's twin deficits remain large, with a budget deficit of 6.6% of GDP and a current account deficit of 13.1%. However, the current account deficit is largely driven by investment into oil and gas, not consumption. If production materialises, both deficits could narrow over time.

For those simply trying to survive, the report confirms reality. Prices are higher. Food remains expensive. Fuel costs are rising. Incomes have not kept pace. The system is stable, but that stability does not ease daily pressure.

The message is clear. The economy is changing, but slowly. Costs are rising, but consistently. Waiting for conditions to

improve is not a strategy.

The numbers are not abstract. They describe a reality already in motion.

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***Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela is a Namibian investment researcher and financial markets commentator with a strong focus on capital markets, investment literacy, and data driven financial education.**

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Agribank appoints Robert Eiman as CEO

The Agricultural Bank of Namibia (Agribank) has appointed Robert Eiman as Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1 July 2026.

He replaces Dr Raphael Karuaihe, who retired on 31 March 2026. Chief Financial Officer Abel Akayombokwa will serve as Acting CEO until 30 June.

Eiman joins from Nampost Financial Brokers (POSTFIN), where he was CEO. He has previously held senior roles at the Development Bank of Namibia and First National Bank of Namibia.

He brings experience across microfinance, commercial and corporate banking,

and development finance, including deal structuring, strategy execution and credit risk management. He holds an MBA from Maastricht University School of Business and Economics.

The Board said his appointment comes as Agribank embarks on an organisational transformation to address climate change pressures, low agricultural productivity and fragmented value chains, while maintaining financial sustainability.

Eiman said he will build on the work of his predecessors and focus on long-term growth in the agricultural sector.

Another fuel shock? Why April 2026 fuel adjustment feels uncomfortably familiar

By Halleluya Ndimulunde

Namibia's latest fuel price adjustment has quickly become a topic of conversation across the country. From 01 April 2026, petrol will increase by N\$2.50 per litre, while diesel rises by N\$4.00. While fuel price changes are not unusual, the size of this increase stands out and will have broader economic implications.

For many, the impact is immediate. Taxi operators, logistics companies, and businesses that rely on transport will feel the pressure almost overnight. But beyond the pump, a more important question begins to emerge: is this simply another price adjustment, or the start of a familiar pattern?

As a net importer of fuel, Namibia is largely influenced by global oil markets. This means that events far beyond its borders often shape what consumers pay locally. When supply routes are disrupted or geopolitical tensions rise in key oil-producing regions, global oil prices respond and Namibia follows.

We saw this clearly in 2022, when the Russia-Ukraine conflict pushed oil prices above US\$100 per barrel and triggered a series of fuel price increases. Today, renewed tensions in oil-producing regions are once again creating uncertainty in global markets. While the location may differ, the underlying mechanism remains the same.

What makes the April 2026 adjustment notable is how it compares to that period. Diesel prices are rising by 20.4%, the largest monthly increase recorded in the past four years, even exceeding the peak adjustments



What makes the April 2026 adjustment notable is how it compares to that period.

seen in 2022. However, at the same time, petrol and diesel prices are still not at their historical highs, suggesting that part of the increase is currently being absorbed through temporary levy reductions.

Although fuel price increases are felt immediately, their wider effects on the economy tend to unfold more gradually.

A look back at 2022 provides useful context. Fuel prices began rising sharply around March and April, yet inflation remained relatively contained at first. Headline inflation stood at 5.6% in April, before increasing to 7.3% by August. The initial shock was absorbed at the pump, but over time it filtered through transport costs, food prices, and eventually the overall cost of living.

This pattern highlights an important point: fuel shocks rarely remain isolated. They tend to spread through the economy in stages.

At the start of 2026, Namibia was experiencing relatively low inflation, with headline inflation at 2.4% in February. Fuel prices had also been easing earlier in the year. The April increase therefore marks a clear shift in direction. While inflation data has not yet responded, past trends suggest that this

At the start of 2026, Namibia was experiencing relatively low inflation, with headline inflation at 2.4% in February.

may simply be a matter of timing.

Namibia is entering a high-pressure cycle that feels all too familiar. The early months of 2026 have set a pattern we have seen in every major global oil shock: first, the fuel price adjusts; then, the broader cost of living

follows.

While the immediate impact is felt by anyone turning an ignition key as of 1 April 2026, the true economic weight will build gradually as these costs filter through the supply chain. This is not an isolated event, but a well-established link between global conflict

and domestic inflation. With inflation starting from a low base, the shock may feel more pronounced, particularly as transport costs, such as taxi fares, which have not been officially adjusted for some time come under pressure. Ongoing discussions suggest that any eventual increase would further lift transport inflation.

This is also not just a fuel story. Oil and gas feed into a wide range of inputs, from fertiliser to plastics, meaning the effects will extend beyond transport into food, manufacturing, and retail.

Whether this remains a once-off adjustment or the start of a broader shift depends on global markets, but if history is our guide, the real pressure is only just beginning.

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MICT tables N\$682m budget to drive digital rollout and cybersecurity push

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) has tabled a N\$682 million budget for the 2026/2027 financial year, with a focus on expanding connectivity, strengthening

cybersecurity and advancing Namibia's digital transformation agenda.

Presenting the budget in the National Assembly on Tuesday, ICT Minister Emma Theofelus said the allocation will support

A promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF' news outlet. It features a central QR code with the text 'SCAN HERE' to its left. Above the QR code is a 'Finance' icon (a bar chart with an upward arrow and 'N\$'), and below it is a 'Business' icon (a magnifying glass over a bar chart). To the right of the QR code is the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL' with a WhatsApp icon below it. The top right corner has the logo 'THE BRIEF News Worth Knowing'. The bottom left corner contains social media handles: '@thebrieflive' for Facebook, '@thebrieflive' for LinkedIn, '@TheBriefLive' for Twitter, and '@thebrieflive' for Instagram. A small Adobe PDF icon indicates a daily PDF version is sent via email. The background is light blue with faint icons of various professions and tools.

the implementation of the National Digital Strategy (2025–2029) alongside the Ministry’s operational requirements.

“As we move onto the business of the day, I wish to inform this august House that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology received a total appropriation of Six Hundred and Eighty-Two Million Namibian Dollars (N\$682,000,000.00) for the 2026/2027 financial year,” she said.

A key priority is expanding digital infrastructure, with N\$78 million allocated to roll out mobile network towers in underserved and rural areas. The initiative will target schools and clinics and includes the provision of free public Wi-Fi at these institutions.

Cybersecurity has been allocated N\$17.4 million under Programme 1: ICT Development. The funding will support the Namibia Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (Nam-CSIRT), the establishment of a 24-hour Security Operations Centre, national cyber drills and the development of

a digital forensics laboratory. The Ministry is also finalising the Cybercrime and Data Protection Bills.

“Together, these initiatives aim to strengthen Namibia’s ability to protect critical infrastructure and information systems. Additionally, the Ministry will continue to implement the National Cybersecurity Strategy and Awareness Raising Plan to promote safer online behaviour and instil a culture of cyber hygiene among citizens,” Theofelus said.

Government communication and public information services will receive N\$31.3 million to strengthen awareness campaigns on cybersecurity, responsible social media use, gender-based violence and national identity. The Ministry also plans to expand access to information through local language publications and digital platforms.

The largest portion of the budget, N\$452.1 million, has been allocated to Programme 3: Multimedia Services. This includes N\$335.3 million for the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), N\$22.5 million for the Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA) and N\$22.5 million for the New Era Publication Corporation (NEPC). A further N\$8 million has been set aside for the Namibia Film Commission to support skills development and growth in the local film industry.

The remaining N\$172 million has been allocated to Programme 4: Coordination and Support Services, including N\$16 million for the construction and completion of regional offices aimed at improving service delivery across all 14 regions.

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Global turbulence demands smarter tools for Namibian businesses

By Erastus Tshatumbu

Namibia enters April facing a fuel price increase that is not domestic in origin, nor part of routine market adjustments. It is the direct consequence of a global shock.

In March, the Iran conflict shut down traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel that moves roughly one-fifth of the world's oil. When that artery closed, global supply tightened almost instantly.

Brent crude jumped from about US\$65 to around US\$100 per barrel in a matter of weeks, a 54% surge that pushed energy-importing economies into defensive mode. Namibia is one of them.

As a result, the latest price adjustment has lifted petrol by N\$2.50 per litre and diesel by N\$4.00 per litre nationwide - costs that flow straight into the veins of transport, agriculture, tourism, distribution and everyday mobility.

The economic implications are immediate and unavoidable. Rising global oil prices compress real incomes, increase production costs and push inflationary pressure deeper into the economy.

For businesses, this translates into thinner margins, tighter liquidity and rising friction in operational planning. For households, it erodes disposable income at a time when many were only beginning to regain financial stability.

The broader message is clear: even when



Brent crude jumped from about US\$65 to around US\$100 per barrel in a matter of weeks, a 54% surge that pushed energy-importing economies into defensive mode.

domestic fundamentals strengthen, global geopolitical risk can override local progress in a single week.

For businesses that rely on mobility to generate revenue - from long-haul logistics companies to farmers running diesel-powered machinery, to tourism operators transporting visitors - fuel is not just an expense, it is an operational lifeline. When its price spikes suddenly, the pressure is not only in the amount paid per litre but in the timing.

Companies must absorb higher costs today while revenue from those activities will only come later. This mismatch between outflows and inflows weakens working capital at the exact moment when liquidity must be protected, not depleted.

This is why financial architecture matters.

Fuel price increases of this scale are not just financial discomfort - they are stress tests of national and business resilience.

Rising costs cannot always be prevented, but their impact can be absorbed more intelligently. At Standard Bank Namibia, we designed the BlueFuel Postpaid Account specifically for these moments of volatility.

It gives businesses the ability to purchase fuel and fleet-related services on account and settle their payments at the end of the billing cycle rather than immediately at the pump. This creates space. It aligns costs with revenue.

It allows businesses to continue operating without choking their cash reserves during a global pricing shock.

At the same time, when every litre becomes more expensive, oversight becomes even more critical. BlueFuel gives companies real-time visibility of fuel consumption, authenticates both vehicle and driver at the point of refuelling, allows managers to set and adjust consumption limits and enables instantaneous blocking of vehicles when needed.

These systems reduce waste, guard against misuse and ensure that each transaction holds operational purpose. In a high-cost environment, this level of control is not optional; it is economic risk management.

Namibia cannot influence geopolitical events in the Gulf, the reopening of the

Strait of Hormuz or the volatility of Brent crude. But we can influence how resilient our businesses remain when the world shifts unexpectedly.

Economic stability increasingly depends on the ability of enterprises to withstand global shocks through smarter liquidity management, disciplined fuel oversight and continuity of operations.

Fuel price increases of this scale are not just financial discomfort - they are stress tests of national and business resilience. And they reaffirm a simple truth: those who equip themselves with the right financial tools will navigate volatility more effectively than those who rely on hope alone.

Namibian businesses must continue moving, delivering and contributing to economic momentum despite global turbulence.

With solutions like the BlueFuel Postpaid Account, they can do so with greater confidence, stronger liquidity positions and a clearer line of sight over every kilometre they put on the road. In an unpredictable world, resilience is no longer theoretical. It is a competitive advantage.

**** Erastus Tshatumbu is the Head: Business Solutions at Standard Bank Namibia***



Govt vows action against service stations accused of withholding supply ahead of price hike

Government is investigating service stations and fuel wholesalers accused of withholding supply ahead of the latest fuel price increase, following reports that several outlets stopped selling fuel on Tuesday, 31 March.

The shortages were recorded a day before the new fuel prices came into effect on 1 April 2026, with petrol increasing by N\$2.50 per litre and diesel by N\$4.00 per litre.

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy said it will take action where evidence of supply manipulation is found.

“Should formal investigations uncover that the conduct of certain players created artificial shortages and undermined national fuel availability and security, appropriate punitive action will be taken,” the Ministry said. Authorities said the alleged withholding of fuel on 31 March, in anticipation of higher prices, is a direct threat to supply stability.

“The deliberate withholding of oil supplies in anticipation of capitalising on higher prices should be immediately ceased,” the Ministry said.

Fuel wholesalers have been instructed to deliver all outstanding orders to compliant

retailers, while retailers have been warned against restricting access to consumers.

“All licensed fuel retailers must serve fuel consumers indiscriminately without placing any unlawful limitations on volumes dispensed in anticipation of capitalising on higher prices,” the directive states.

Government said any practice of withholding fuel on 31 March and releasing it after the price adjustment to maximise profits undermines national fuel security.

“Any unwarranted practice where oil supply is withheld today (31 March 2026)... and released tomorrow (01 April 2026) for the sole purpose of maximising profit undermines the objective of ensuring the security of fuel supply in Namibia and should be stopped immediately,” the Ministry said.

Fuel wholesalers have also been ordered to provide written justification for any supply disruptions, supported by verifiable stock and logistics data.

The investigation comes as authorities tighten oversight of the fuel sector, following reports of supply disruptions linked to the price adjustment, with a focus on preventing similar incidents going forward.

FlyNamibia, Shell launch Eros – Lüderitz partnership flights



FlyNamibia has launched scheduled flights between Windhoek’s Eros Airport and Lüderitz, in partnership with Shell Namibia Upstream B.V., to support increased activity linked to offshore oil exploration.

The service will operate from 2 April to 22 April 2026, providing additional air connectivity as movement of workers, contractors and business travellers into Lüderitz intensifies.

The development comes as Shell prepares to commence drilling operations this month under Petroleum Exploration Licence 39 (PEL 39), with the Deepsea Mira contracted for the campaign.

FlyNamibia Chief Executive Officer Nerine Uys said the route is aimed at ensuring reliable access to the coastal town during a period of heightened demand.

“FlyNamibia is proud to partner with Shell to deliver reliable connectivity to Lüderitz at a time when accessibility is critical for both the local community and the many professionals

travelling to the region,” she said.

“These flights are not only about transportation – they are about supporting livelihoods, enabling business continuity, and ensuring that Lüderitz remains connected to the rest of Namibia.”

The temporary service is expected to support the movement of personnel and services linked to offshore operations, while also benefiting residents and local businesses.

The partnership reflects growing coordination between the aviation and energy sectors as Namibia’s oil and gas industry expands, particularly along the southern coast where exploration activity is increasing.

Shell’s involvement in the arrangement forms part of broader efforts to support operational logistics and local economic participation during the drilling campaign.

Improved air access is also expected to ease pressure on existing transport routes and enhance the movement of goods and services into Lüderitz, which has seen rising activity in recent months.

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