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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



**Govt advances N\$2.8bn Windhoek–
Rehoboth–Katutura commuter rail project**

FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026

MAIN STORY



Govt advances N\$2.8bn Windhoek– Rehoboth–Katutura commuter rail project

Government is moving ahead with plans to develop a commuter rail system linking Windhoek to Rehoboth and Katutura, with N\$13.08 million already spent on a feasibility study that is now 30% complete.

The proposed rail project, first presented to investors at the Invest in Namibia Conference in 2016, is estimated to cost N\$2.8 billion and is being supported by funding from the African Development

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**

Bank under its Transport Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi said progress on the study signals renewed momentum behind the long-delayed project.

“The consultancy services project for the feasibility study on commuter rail for the Windhoek–Rehoboth and Windhoek–Katutura sections is progressing well at 30%. A total of N\$13 million has been spent so far,” he said.

The commuter rail initiative forms part of a broader government push to modernise Namibia’s rail infrastructure and ease transport pressures between key urban and peri-urban areas.

In the 2026/27 financial year, government has allocated N\$952.06 million towards the expansion, maintenance and rehabilitation of the national rail network.

Planned works include the start of construction on the Kranzberg–Otjiwarongo railway upgrade, with earthworks already procured for two 50-kilometre sections. The project will also see continued upgrades to the line, supported by the delivery of rails and turnouts, including a final consignment under Lot 1 and 35,000 tonnes under Lot 2.

Maintenance is also scheduled across several key corridors, including

Windhoek–Gobabis, Kranzberg–Tsumeb, Ariamsvlei–Lüderitz, Windhoek–Kranzberg, Grünau–Keetmanshoop and Ariamsvlei–Grünau.

Further expansion projects planned for the period include upgrades to the Otjiwarongo–Tsumeb–Otavi–Grootfontein line, construction of the Ondangwa–Oshakati railway, and the development of a passing loop between Nonidas and Randrifle to ease congestion on existing lines.

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Government will also continue efforts to refurbish locomotives and wagons to improve operational efficiency.

In addition, feasibility studies for major regional rail corridors, including the Trans-Zambezi Railway Link and the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project, are expected to be completed as part of

efforts to strengthen Namibia's position as a regional logistics hub.

The commuter rail project is expected to play a key role in improving mobility, reducing congestion and supporting economic activity between Windhoek and surrounding areas, should it proceed to implementation.



EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DESIGNATE

Welwitchia University Group is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Edward Kafita as the Group Chief Executive Officer-Designate, effective 1 April 2026.

This designation forms part of the organisation's structured succession planning process aimed at ensuring leadership continuity and a smooth transition. In this capacity, Mr Kafita will work closely with the current Group CEO and contribute to key strategic and operational initiatives.

An executive leader with over a decade of experience across higher education, corporate operations, and governance, Mr. Kafita brings a multidisciplinary background supported by qualifications in law and international relations.

Mr. Kafita currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Welwitchia Integrated Services, a commercially entity of Welwitchia University Group, where he has been instrumental in driving organisational growth, innovation and strategic alignment. His Leadership experience is complemented by a track record in stakeholder engagement, risk management, compliance and strategic partnerships at both senior and executive levels.

Mr. Kafita holds an LLB (Hons) from the University of Namibia and a Bachelor of Social Sciences Honours in Industrial Sociology and Labour from the University of Pretoria. He further holds a Master's degree in International Relations and a Postgraduate Diploma in Development Finance from the University of Cape Town. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the International University of Management (IUM) as well as a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Johannesburg, to further strengthen his leadership and management capabilities.

He has served on various boards and governance structures, including as Deputy Chairperson of the Welwitchia Health Training Centre (WHTC) Council and as a current Council member of Welwitchia University. He also serves as a Board Member of the Namibia Training Authority and Rent-to-Own Housing Namibia (Ongos Valley). Through these roles, he has gained exposure to governance oversight, policy development, and institutional decision-making processes.

A strategic thinker and advocate for ethical leadership, Mr. Kafita is committed to organisational excellence, capacity building and sustainable development. His broad exposure and leadership experience position him to contribute meaningfully at the executive level.

The Board is confident that this designation will support a smooth and effective leadership transition, while ensuring continued organisational stability and performance.

Mr. Edward Kafita

Chief Executive Officer Designate



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Nicholas Mukasa appointed Bank of Namibia Deputy Governor

Nicholas Mukasa has been appointed as Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Namibia, effective 1 May 2026.

The appointment was made by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in terms of Article 32(4)(b) of the Namibian Constitution and Section 5 of the Bank of Namibia Act, 2020.

Mukasa succeeds Ebson Uanguta in the role, following Uanguta's appointment as Governor of the Bank of Namibia with effect from 1 January 2026 for a five-year term, succeeding Johannes !Gawaxab.

Leonie Dunn remains the other Second Deputy Governor, having been appointed in 2021.

Mukasa joins the central bank's leadership at a time when it is strengthening its capacity to respond to shifts in the economy, including the digitisation of financial services and emerging sectors such as energy.

He previously served as Director of Financial Markets at the Bank of Namibia, where he was responsible for managing foreign exchange reserves, implementing monetary policy decisions and overseeing government domestic debt issuance.

Mukasa has been with the central bank since 2011, when he joined as a Risk Analyst. He has since held several senior roles, including Portfolio Manager, Portfolio Risk Manager and Deputy Director for Compliance and Risk Analytics, before being appointed Director of Financial Markets in 2016.

He also served on the Bank's Management Committee and Monetary Policy Committee.

Before joining the Bank, Mukasa worked in stockbroking and asset management,



including roles at Namibia Equity Brokers and Prudential Portfolio Managers Namibia.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Namibia and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder. His executive training includes programmes at Stellenbosch University and Harvard Business School.

Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta said the appointment comes at a critical time for the institution.

“Nicholas's appointment could not be more timely as we continue to build a knowledge-based institution. His extensive expertise in financial markets and policy implementation will be crucial in guiding the Bank through this pivotal phase,” he said.



Gondwana begins construction of 24-room luxury hotel in Walvis Bay

Construction of a new luxury hotel development, The Admiral, has officially commenced along The Esplanade in Walvis Bay, marking a further expansion of Namibia's high-end coastal hospitality offering.

The 24-room hotel, which forms part of the Gondwana Collection Namibia portfolio, is scheduled to open in December 2027 and is expected to strengthen the group's presence along the coast.

Located overlooking the Flamingo Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean, the development is positioned within close proximity to the harbour, Walvis Bay International Airport and key tourism attractions, including Sandwich Harbour.

The project has been designed by Namibian architect Conrad Scheffer, with a concept inspired by the lines and design of luxury yachts.

The building will incorporate a wind-adaptive façade suited to coastal conditions,

while maximising ocean-facing views.

The hotel will comprise 24 suites, including three penthouse units.

Standard suites will offer approximately 80 square metres of space, while penthouses will extend to 110 square metres, all designed to provide uninterrupted views of the ocean and lagoon.

Each unit will be equipped with smart room technology, allowing guests to control lighting, climate and entertainment systems.

The suites will include a bedroom, lounge or office area, sun lounge, kitchenette and modern bathroom.

In addition to accommodation, the development will include three multimedia meeting rooms overlooking the ocean, a swimming pool and a guest lounge designed to cater to both leisure and business travellers.

The project is being developed across three consolidated properties, including two located along the Walvis Bay lagoon.

People will forget what you said, but will always remember how you made them feel

By Junias Erasmus

In life, we often focus on the words we use. We try to say the right things, give the best advice, or make powerful statements.

But over time, people may forget the exact words we spoke. What stays with them is not always the message, it is the feeling we left behind.

This simple truth reminds us that human connection is not built only on language, but on emotion. The way we treat people, the respect we show, the kindness we offer, and the energy we bring into a room, these are the things that last.

Think about a time when someone spoke to you with genuine care. You may not remember every sentence they said, but you remember how safe, valued, or encouraged you felt. That feeling stays in your heart. In the same way, harsh words, even if forgotten, can leave a lasting emotional mark.

This is why emotional intelligence is so important in our daily lives. Whether at work, at home, or in public, how we make others feel matters. A leader who inspires trust, a teacher who shows patience, a colleague who listens, these individuals create environments where people feel seen and appreciated. That feeling builds loyalty, confidence, and growth.



Think about a time when someone spoke to you with genuine care.

In professional spaces, many people focus on performance, results, and communication skills. While these are important, they are not enough on their own. People want to feel respected, understood, and valued. When employees feel appreciated, they perform better. When customers feel respected, they return. When students feel supported, they succeed.

The same applies in personal relationships. A simple act of kindness can mean more than a long speech. Listening without judgment, offering support during difficult times, or simply showing up for someone, these actions speak louder than words. They create memories that last far longer than conversations.

It is also important to remember that we are responsible for the emotional impact we have on others. We may not control how people interpret our words, but we can choose to act with empathy and awareness. Before speaking, we should ask ourselves: will my words build or break? Will they encourage or

discourage? Will they leave someone better than I found them?

This does not mean we should avoid difficult conversations. Honesty is still important. But even in truth, there is a way to communicate with respect and care. It is not just what we say, but how we say it.

As we move through life, we meet many people, some briefly, others for a long time. Each interaction is an opportunity to leave a positive mark. You may not always be remembered for your achievements, your titles, or your words, but you will be remembered for how you made people feel.

Let your presence bring comfort. Let your words carry kindness.

Let your actions reflect respect. Because in the end, people may forget what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

** Junias Erasmus is an Interdisciplinary Scholar and Legal Researcher, with Recognised Expertise in Artificial Intelligence grounded in a Multidisciplinary Foundation in Management Science. He is also a Strategic Scholar and Motivational Speaker. This article is authored in his personal capacity. For enquiries, he may be contacted at Junias99@gmail.com.*



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Telecom Namibia secures N\$9.8m USF deal to expand rural connectivity

Telecom Namibia has secured a N\$9.8 million subsidy from the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) to expand telecommunications infrastructure in underserved rural areas.

The funding forms part of Phase 2 of the Universal Service Fund (USF) project, aimed at closing Namibia's digital divide through targeted infrastructure rollout.

The agreement, signed on 9 April 2026, follows a competitive bidding process and will see Telecom Namibia deploy new Radio Access Network (RAN) sites to improve mobile broadband and voice coverage in remote regions. Telecom Namibia CEO Stanley Shanapinda said the project is central to extending digital access across the country.

"This agreement represents a significant step forward in our mission to connect all Namibians. By investing in robust infrastructure, we are creating a digital lifeline for rural communities," he said.

Under the agreement, Telecom Namibia will roll out infrastructure across regions including Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Zambezi and //Kharas, targeting areas where commercial investment has been limited.

A key component of the project is the provision of free connectivity to schools and health facilities within the coverage areas for a period of seven years, supporting access to education and healthcare services.

CRAN CEO Emilia Nghikembua said the initiative aligns with Namibia's broader digital infrastructure strategy.

"The Universal Service Fund is a cornerstone of our strategy to ensure inclusive communication services. This partnership will accelerate progress towards our 2024–2027 digital infrastructure targets," she said.

The rollout is expected to improve access to digital services in rural communities, support local economic activity and strengthen Namibia's broader digital inclusion agenda.

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Petrofund rolls out supplier workshop to boost local business participation

The government, through Petrofund and its partners, is rolling out a national suppliers workshop aimed at increasing the participation of Namibian businesses in emerging economic opportunities, including those linked to the oil and gas sector.

The two-day workshop, scheduled for 21–22 April 2026 in Windhoek, forms part of broader efforts to equip local companies with the skills and knowledge needed to compete for large-scale projects. A second session is planned for Walvis Bay in August.

The initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of small and medium enterprises, with a focus on improving their understanding of procurement processes, compliance requirements and industry standards.

Authorities say this is essential as Namibia enters a new phase of economic expansion, with increasing demand for local suppliers across key sectors, including upstream oil and gas.

The programme will bring together major companies and service providers, who are expected to outline procurement requirements, tender processes and the standards needed to secure contracts.

This will give local businesses



practical insight into how to position themselves for opportunities, while addressing common barriers to entry such as limited technical capacity and lack of information.

The workshop will also serve as a platform to connect local entrepreneurs with larger companies and potential partners, helping to build relationships that can support long-term business growth.

Government said the initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to ensure that Namibian businesses benefit more directly from economic activity, particularly through increased local participation and supplier development.

Applications for the Windhoek session close on 17 April 2026.

Beyond training: Why Namibian organisations need to become learning organisations

By Frieda Nangolo

Nowadays, learning is treated as an occurrence in most workplaces. It often takes the form of a workshop, a training session, or a one-off capacity-building event.

Employees are sent to attend, they take notes, receive certificates, and return to their everyday work. Yet, despite these efforts, very little has changed in how work is done or experienced.

But what if learning was not something we occasionally do, but something we live? Namibia's long-term development goals are centred on sustainability, innovation, and economic growth.

Achieving these ambitions requires a shift in how organisations approach learning. It is not organisations that simply train their employees that will shape the future, but those that intentionally transform themselves into learning organisations.

A learning organisation is not defined by the number of workshops it conducts, but by how deeply learning is integrated into its culture, systems, and daily activities. It is an organisation where learning is not separate



“Organisations must develop the ability to continuously learn, unlearn, and relearn to remain relevant and effective.

from work but embedded in how work is carried out.

In such an environment, employees are not only expected to perform tasks but to grow, reflect, question, and continuously improve. Learning does not exist only in training rooms; it takes place in meetings, feedback discussions, team reflections, and in the way challenges are approached and resolved.

This shift has become more important than ever before. The world of work is evolving rapidly, with industries transforming, new technologies emerging, and complex social challenges intensifying. In such a context,

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it is no longer enough to simply possess knowledge.

Organisations must develop the ability to continuously learn, unlearn, and relearn to remain relevant and effective.

However, this is where many organisations fall short. Learning is often treated as an individual responsibility rather than an organisational one. Employees are expected to develop themselves, while the organisation remains unchanged in its structures and ways of operating. This creates a disconnect, where learning happens in isolation instead of within a supportive system. True impact is achieved when learning becomes part of the organisational culture.

When learning is embedded at all levels, individual, team, and organisational, it begins to shape behaviour, decision-making, and performance. Employees feel empowered to share ideas, reflect on their work, and challenge existing practices.

Mistakes are not hidden but used as opportunities for improvement. Leaders shift from being authority figures to active learners alongside their teams. Over time,

learning becomes part of the organisation's identity.

The benefits of this shift are clear. Learning organisations tend to be more innovative because employees are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and explore new ideas. Innovation becomes a natural outcome rather than a forced initiative.

They also promote continuous improvement, regularly reflecting on what works and what does not, leading to stronger systems, better decision-making, and improved performance. In addition, learning organisations are more sustainable, not only in terms of environmental responsibility but in their ability to build systems that endure and adapt over time.

This aligns closely with Namibia's Vision 2030, which emphasises a knowledge-based and sustainable society. Achieving this vision requires organisations that are willing to learn and continuously adjust.

Becoming a learning organisation does not happen automatically. It requires intentional effort, commitment, and a shift in mindset. Leaders must create environments

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where learning is valued, supported, and modelled. Systems must be designed to encourage reflection, knowledge sharing, and continuous development.

Most importantly, learning should not be treated as an additional task, but as a core organisational attribute.

This approach to Organisational Learning and Development goes beyond traditional training models. It involves integrating learning into everyday work through mentoring, peer learning, feedback mechanisms, and reflective discussions. It requires recognising that both positive and negative experiences are valuable opportunities for learning and growth.

At the same time, employees also have a role to play. Learning should not be something we wait to receive, but something we actively pursue. It involves asking questions, observing, reflecting, and continuously developing within our roles.

In a true learning organisation, everyone becomes both a teacher and a learner.

As Namibia moves towards a more sustainable and prosperous future, organisations have a critical role to play. They are not just places of employment, but spaces where people grow, ideas are shaped, and systems evolve.

The question is no longer whether organisations should support learning, but whether they are willing to transform into learning organisations. Ultimately, success will not belong to those who know the most, but to those who are most willing to learn.

****FriedaNangoloisanOrganisational Learning and Development student at the University of Namibia. Her interest lies in the transformation of workplaces, learning in adulthood, and in developing sustainable, people-centred organisations.***

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Cabinet targets Nored overhaul as outages and debt mount

Cabinet has approved a comprehensive review to determine the full investment required to stabilise and expand the Northern Regional Electricity Distributor (Nored)'s infrastructure, as challenges in electricity supply continue in northern Namibia.

The assessment will be undertaken by the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy in collaboration with the Electricity Control Board (ECB) and Nored.

Information and Communication

Technology Minister and government spokesperson Emma Theofelus said the review will focus on the rehabilitation and expansion of Nored's distribution, transmission and substation infrastructure.

"Cabinet approved that the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, in collaboration with the Electricity Control Board and Nored, undertake a comprehensive technical and financial assessment to determine the full investment required to stabilise, rehabilitate and expand

Nored’s distribution, transmission and substation infrastructure,” she said.

The assessment will quantify the cost of stabilising and expanding the network, identify the main causes of outages and reliability issues, and evaluate the potential impact of investment on electricity tariffs.

It will also propose cost-effective solutions to improve network performance while maintaining affordability for consumers.

“The assessment should address the cost of substations and transmission constraints, while also ensuring affordability for consumers,” Theofelus said.

Cabinet also noted recent industrial action at Nored and the operational disruptions that followed, highlighting concerns over the utility’s governance and operational stability.

“Cabinet took note of the recent industrial

action at Nored and the operational disruptions that occurred,” she said.

Nored has been facing ongoing financial and operational challenges, including unreliable power supply, liquidity constraints and service delivery failures across the northern regions.

The utility has also struggled with mounting debt, including significant obligations to NamPower, as well as revenue losses linked to underbilling.

Despite a turnaround strategy introduced in 2024, financial pressures have persisted into 2026, with ongoing concerns over the company’s ability to sustain operations and maintain reliable electricity supply.

Government said strengthening Nored’s governance and infrastructure remains critical to securing electricity supply in northern Namibia.

A milestone worth celebrating. Namibia Mining & Energy has reached 50,000 followers on LinkedIn. Thank you to our readers, partners and industry stakeholders for being part of the journey. Continue to read, share and engage with us as we tell Namibia’s mining and energy story.

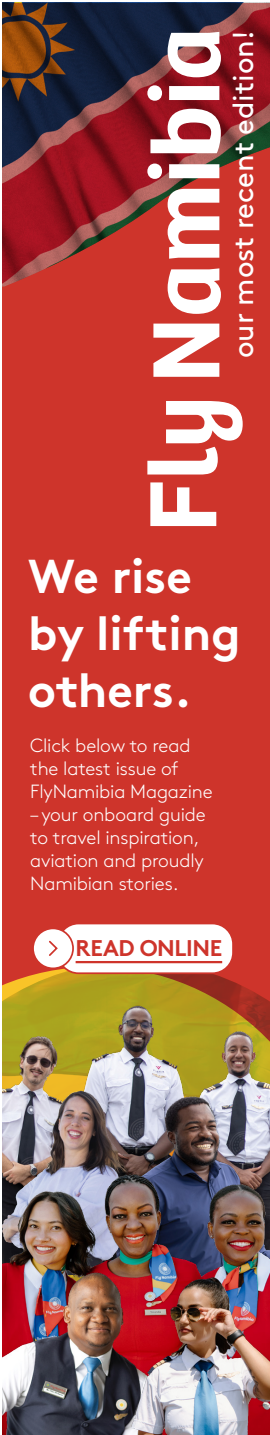
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MSC Cruises to recruit over 200 Namibians for onboard hospitality jobs

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), in partnership with MSC Cruises, is recruiting more than 200 Namibians for hospitality roles on board its cruise ships.

The vacancies include positions such as bartenders, beauty therapists, casino dealers, guest service staff, hairdressers, head waiters, massage therapists, nail technicians, photographers, restaurant managers, shop sellers, sommeliers, spa

managers, entertainment staff, dance instructors and youth staff.

Other roles include casino hosts, bike leaders, shore excursion staff, luxury sales advisers and water park cruise staff.

The recruitment drive follows a similar initiative in 2024, where more than 40 Namibians secured employment with the global cruise operator.

That campaign attracted over 8,100 applications from more than 1,200 applicants competing for 25 roles.



Savanna Beef secures export approval to UK, EU and EFTA markets

Savanna Beef has secured export certification to the United Kingdom, European Union and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) markets, marking a major milestone for the abattoir.

The approval, issued by the Directorate of Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, confirms that the company’s abattoir complies with international standards required for beef exports to the high-value markets.

The certification follows

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

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

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Proposed construction and operation of a 20km power line supplying NamPower earth electrode station located in Farm Patagonia, Ojijwarongo District, Ojijwarongu Region

PROJECT LOCATION:
The 20km power line stretches along Farm Kamapu Ost No. 24, Pareisi Farm, Welgelegen No.303 Farm, Sorn Remo Farm No. 26 and stops in Farm Patagonia where the electrode earth station is located. Ojijwarongo District, Ojijwarongu Region

PROFONENT: CENORED (PTY) LTD

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

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: Thursday, 23 April 2026
Venue: Business Centre, CENORED Head Office, Ojijwarongu
Time: 13h00

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project. In writing to:
Mr Nghyolwa, Fredrich
Tel: +264 (0) 81 147 2029
Email: lynorb200581@gmail.com

PROPOSED 20 KM POWER LINE TO NAMPOWER EARTH ELECTRODE STATION, FARM PATAGONIA, NEAR OJIJWARONGO

LEGEND

- Top
- Substation
- Trunk Road
- Branch Road
- Proposed powerline
- Existing powerline
- Farm boundary

Proposed voltage:
 - 350 kV
 - 220 kV
 - 400 kV

Not proposed for:
 - 110 kV
 - 132 kV

Map prepared for:
 Date: 04/04/2026
 System: 1:50,000
 Scale: 1:50,000
 Date: 04/04/2026
 Drawn: 04/04/2026
 Project: 110/2026





The certification follows a three-year process aimed at meeting stringent international standards for meat exports.

a three-year process aimed at meeting stringent international standards for meat exports.

Savanna Beef said it will begin slaughtering its first cattle for export on Monday, 13 April 2026.

The move will also mark the first cattle processed under Namibia's newly implemented slaughter right trading system.

The development is expected to strengthen Namibia's position in premium export markets while supporting value chain integration within the domestic beef sector.

Savanna Beef's Task Team and Board described the certification as a key step in expanding market access and unlocking new export opportunities for local producers.

The company has called on stakeholders across the beef value chain to continue

supporting the initiative as operations commence.

Industry player Meatco has welcomed the certification, saying it reflects growing confidence in Namibia's livestock sector and enhances the country's overall export capacity.

The company said sustainable growth in the beef sector will depend on collaboration among industry participants, increased value addition and improved returns for local farmers.

Meatco added that stronger coordination across the value chain will be critical, particularly as the sector continues to face pressure from live cattle exports, which limit domestic processing and value retention.

The company reaffirmed its role as a national export anchor while operating in an increasingly competitive environment.

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