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THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

Nedbank Namibia's digital banking adoption hits 91%

TUESDAY 04 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

Nedbank Namibia's digital banking adoption hits 91%

. . . reports double-digit earnings growth in H1 2026

Nedbank Namibia says 91% of its customers are now actively using digital banking channels as the bank continues to expand financial inclusion and strengthen customer engagement despite a challenging operating environment.

Speaking on the bank's H1 2026 results, Managing Director Martha Murorua said digital banking adoption has become a key driver of business growth, increasing transaction volumes while supporting stronger lending and deposit growth.

"We have actually reached 91% digital uptake, which has contributed to increased transaction volumes on the client side," Murorua said.

She said the bank has also increased the proportion of customers who use Nedbank as their primary bank to 42%, reflecting continued progress in deepening customer relationships.

"Our financial inclusion is also doing well. Digital adoption is 91%, but we have also improved our main bank customers to 42% in Namibia. All the levers are showing up well. Advances are growing

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
  * 12 August 2026
  * 29 October 2026
  * 10 December 2026
- **Namibia Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Mukopano**
  11 August 2026 at the Hilton Windhoek.
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference**
  18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek

well, deposits are growing well, and we just need to look at a stronger second half," she said.

Murorua said the bank continues to refine its digital strategy following the rollout of its mobile wallet platform, with greater emphasis now being placed on encouraging active account usage.

The bank also expanded its product offering during the period through the launch of MyCover Funeral, which allows customers to insure up to 39 family members under a single policy. Its Pay Today digital payments platform also continued gaining traction among businesses. The improved customer metrics supported the bank's double-digit headline earnings growth in H1 2026, alongside stronger advances, deposit growth and stable asset quality.

Nedbank Namibia's performance contributed to Nedbank Group's headline earnings of R8.4 billion for the first half of the year, while the wider Nedbank Africa Regions business reported a 39% increase in headline earnings and improved profitability.

Managing Executive for Nedbank Africa Regions Terence Sibiya said the group will continue investing in technology as digital banking becomes the preferred banking channel across the region.

"We will continue investing in technology and building more functionality into our digital channels to create an even better client experience," Sibiya said.

NamRA collects N$17.1 billion in Q1

. . . reaches 20.7% of annual revenue target

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) collected N$17.09 billion in net revenue during the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year, achieving 20.7% of its annual revenue target of N$82.60 billion.

According to NamRA, the agency collected N$19.52 billion in gross revenue by 30 June 2026. After processing N$2.42 billion in tax refunds, net collections amounted to N$17.09 billion.

"NamRA collected a net amount of N$17,094,326,516, which equates to 20.7% of the total revenue target of N$82,603,681,120 for FY2026/27," the agency said.

Domestic taxes remained the largest source of revenue, contributing N$10.30 billion, or approximately 60% of total net collections. Customs and Excise generated N$6.79 billion, accounting for the remaining 40%.

Value Added Tax (VAT) was the single largest revenue source, contributing N$5.77 billion, or 33.8% of total net revenue collected during the quarter. Revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) totalled N$4.51 billion, representing 26.4% of total collections, while Personal Income Tax (PIT) generated N$4.39 billion, or 25.7%.

Corporate Income Tax (CIT) contributed N$1.60 billion, representing 9.4% of total net revenue, while other tax categories generated N$825.34 million, accounting for the remaining 4.8%.

ALS acquires stake in Nexus Group

The ALS Group of Namibia has acquired a stake in Nexus Group Holdings.

Although the value and terms of the transaction were not disclosed, the investment is aimed at expanding the combined group's presence in Namibia's growing mining, construction and infrastructure sectors by combining ALS's expertise in contract mining, earthmoving and plant hire with Nexus's established civil engineering and construction business.

The companies said the partnership positions the enlarged group to compete for major projects across contract mining, earthmoving, civil infrastructure, roads, buildings, plant hire and property development as investment in Namibia's mining and infrastructure sectors accelerates.

Nexus has operated in Namibia for more than 48 years, delivering projects across all 14 regions, including roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, water infrastructure, housing and mining developments.

The company employs more than 750 people through its Building and Civils, Nexus Ino Mining and Nexus Plant Hire divisions.

Founded in 1989, ALS has grown into a regional contracting group operating across contract and open-pit mining, plant hire, construction, haul roads, property development and agriculture, supported by one of Southern Africa's largest earthmoving fleets.

As part of the transaction, Wouter Joubert has been appointed Managing Director Designate and will assume the role following a six-month transition period.

Current Managing Director Jan-Hendrik Engelbrecht will remain with the business in a senior consulting role after leading the company's growth first as Head of the Building Division and later as Managing Director.

Former Deloitte partner and Bell Equipment Chief Executive Leon Goosen has been appointed Executive Chairman and will lead ALS Namibia following its investment in Nexus.

The companies said the partnership will focus on investing in people, expanding equipment fleets, strengthening technical capabilities and developing local skills to support Namibia's growing pipeline of mining and infrastructure projects.

They added that the transaction marks the beginning of a long-term growth strategy aimed at building a larger Namibian contracting business capable of competing for complex projects while creating employment and supporting economic development.


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Standard Bank Namibia agrees 6% wage increase with NAFINU

Standard Bank Namibia and the Namibia Financial Institutions Union (NAFINU) have concluded their 2026 wage negotiations, agreeing to an average salary increase of 6% for employees, effective retrospectively from 1 March 2026.

The wage agreement was signed on 17 July following collective bargaining negotiations between the bank and the union.

The two parties said the agreement recognises employees' contribution while balancing staff welfare with the long-term sustainability of the bank.

Standard Bank Namibia Chief Executive Erwin Tjipuka said the agreement delivers a fair outcome for employees while supporting the institution's long-term growth. "We are pleased to have reached an agreement that is fair to our employees and sustainable for the organisation. Our people are central to our success, and this agreement reflects our continued investment in their wellbeing, financial security and future," Tjipuka said.

He thanked NAFINU for its constructive engagement throughout the negotiations, saying the parties had worked together to reach a mutually beneficial outcome.

NAFINU Secretary General Asnath Zamuee said the agreement followed extensive negotiations conducted in good faith.

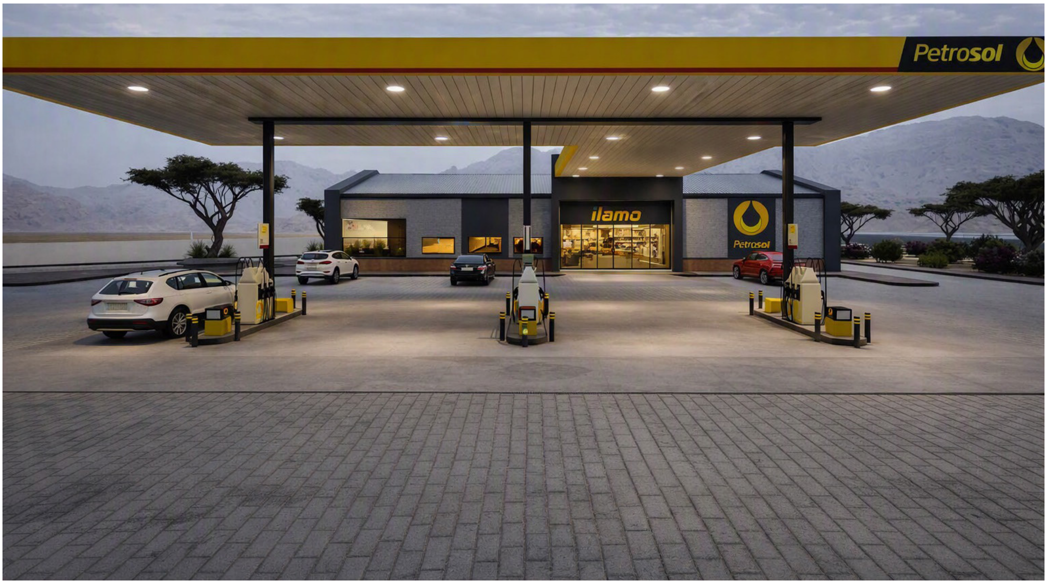
"This agreement is the result of open, honest and rigorous engagement between the parties. We welcome the outcome and believe it advances the interests of our members while supporting stability within the institution," Zamuee said.

She said the negotiations demonstrated the value of constructive dialogue and respectful engagement in resolving matters of mutual concern.

Standard Bank Namibia and NAFINU said the negotiations were concluded without any disruption to banking services, ensuring continuity for clients, stakeholders and the wider public.

The parties added that they remain committed to supporting employees, delivering quality service to customers and contributing to Namibia's economic growth.

Property Hub NAMIBIA



Elisenheim secures long-awaited fuel station as lifestyle estate expands amenities

Residents of Elisenheim Lifestyle Estate will soon have access to a long-awaited service station after the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy granted a retail fuel licence for the development, further expanding the estate's lifestyle and convenience offering.

The new service station, to be developed through a partnership between Elisenheim Property Development Company Limited (EPDC) and Petrosol Petroleum Solutions CC, is set to become another key amenity within one of Windhoek's fastest-growing residential communities.

Home to around 1,500 households and more than 5,000 residents, Elisenheim has evolved into a sought-after lifestyle estate with residential neighbourhoods, the Urban Village Retail Centre, a church, a daycare facility and estate-wide security. However, residents have had to travel more than seven kilometres to access the nearest fuel station.

APxHouse Property Development

Holdings Chief Executive Officer Le-Hugo van Rooyen said the fuel station forms part of the estate's original master plan to provide residents with essential services close to home.

"Elisenheim was never conceived as just another residential estate. It was planned from the outset as a complete, stand-alone community. Few services matter more to daily life than fuel and convenience retail close to home, and this licence brings that vision another step closer for our residents," he said.

The planned development will complement the existing Urban Village Retail Centre and further strengthen Elisenheim's position as a fully integrated lifestyle destination where residents can live, shop and access everyday services without leaving the estate.

Petrosol, which first identified Elisenheim as a strategic location several years ago, said the service station will improve convenience for residents while supporting continued growth along Windhoek's northern corridor.

"A nearby service station is something you only stop taking for granted when you don't have one. We look forward to giving Elisenheim's residents back the time they spend driving for fuel and to being part of this community for the long term," said

Johan Botes of Petrosol.

The development is also expected to enhance the estate's appeal to prospective homebuyers and investors by adding another essential service to its growing list of amenities.

Established in 2005 and officially launched in 2010, Elisenheim has become one of Namibia's premier lifestyle estates, with continued investment in residential, retail and community infrastructure supporting its long-term vision of creating a self-sustaining suburban community.

Further details on the service station's construction timeline and project milestones are expected to be announced as the development progresses.

Beyond buying shares and bonds: How Namibia's capital markets can become engines of domestic growth

By Arinze Okafor, CFA, CAIA

> "Traditionally, capital market activity has centred on buying and selling existing financial instruments.

Namibia's capital markets have long served an important purpose. They have provided investors with access to listed equities and government debt while offering businesses and the State an avenue to raise capital.

This traditional role has contributed to financial stability and wealth creation over many decades. Yet the question worth asking today is whether our capital markets can do more.

As Namibia pursues economic diversification, industrialisation, employment creation and increased private sector participation, perhaps the opportunity is not simply to grow our capital markets—but to rethink what they are capable of financing.

Traditionally, capital market activity has centred on buying and selling existing financial instruments. While this remains essential, it is largely transactional.

The next evolution should be about creating investable opportunities that directly unlock productive assets, infrastructure, businesses and jobs.

Around the world, mature capital markets increasingly finance real economic activity through innovative structures rather than relying solely on conventional listed companies. Namibia already has encouraging examples that demonstrate this potential.

The listing of investment vehicles has enabled investors to participate in diversified asset portfolios rather than individual businesses.

Property investment structures have similarly created opportunities for institutional and retail investors to participate in commercial real estate while providing long-term capital for property development and acquisition.

These examples illustrate an important principle: innovation in financial structures can mobilise domestic savings into productive investment without compromising commercial discipline.

Imagine extending this thinking further where a commercial property platform could list an unlisted property fund dedicated to developing industrial parks, student accommodation, logistics facilities or affordable housing.

Investors would receive commercial returns generated by professionally managed real assets, while the capital raised would finance construction activity, create employment and expand Namibia's productive infrastructure.

Likewise, specialised investment vehicles could finance renewable energy assets, export manufacturing facilities, agricultural processing infrastructure, sports infrastructure, healthcare facilities or technology ecosystems.

In each case, investors continue pursuing market-based returns, but their capital simultaneously contributes to measurable domestic economic development.

This is not about sacrificing investment performance for developmental objectives, but rather, it is about recognising that well-structured domestic investments can achieve both.

Institutional investors across the world increasingly seek investments that combine sustainable returns with measurable economic impact.

Namibia possesses significant pools of long-term capital through pension funds, insurers and other institutional investors. The challenge is often not the availability of capital, but the availability of investable structures capable of deploying that capital efficiently and responsibly.

This requires innovation across the entire financial ecosystem. Fund managers must design products that respond to national opportunities; Investment banks and advisors must originate transactions that previously did not exist; Developers and entrepreneurs must package projects to institutional standards; Regulators must remain open to structures that achieve investor protection while allowing innovation, and lasty, the stock exchange can continue evolving beyond being solely a marketplace for existing securities into a platform that enables capital formation for emerging sectors.

Importantly, none of this requires abandoning sound regulation. Quite the opposite, as financial innovation succeeds when supported by clear governance, transparent disclosure, robust valuation standards and appropriate investor protections. Good regulation should not merely control risk, it should also enable responsible innovation.

The objective is not deregulation but rather it is enabling regulation.

Throughout history, financial markets have evolved because regulators recognised new economic realities and created frameworks that allowed innovation to flourish without compromising market integrity.

Namibia has the opportunity to do the same. Our relatively small market can, in fact, become an advantage. Collaboration between regulators, policymakers, institutional investors, fund managers and industry participants is more achievable than in much larger financial systems. This creates an environment where practical innovation can be tested, refined and scaled.

The broader economic implications are significant. Every successful capital market structure that finances productive assets creates multiplier effects across the economy, supporting construction, professional services, manufacturing, logistics, technology, employment and future tax revenues.

Capital markets therefore become more than investment platforms. They become mechanisms for national development. As Namibia seeks sustainable economic growth, perhaps the most important question is no longer how much domestic capital we have.

It is whether we are creating enough innovative vehicles for that capital to build the Namibia we aspire to become as the future of our capital markets may therefore lie not only in trading existing assets, but increasingly in financing the creation of new ones.

That evolution will require vision, collaboration and thoughtful regulation. But if achieved, Namibia's capital markets could become one of the country's most powerful catalysts for inclusive, long-term economic growth.

Arinze Okafor CFA, CAIA is a seasoned investment professional with a strong passion for fostering impactful investments and skills and capacity building. He currently serves as Executive Investment Director at Mopane Asset Management, is the Treasurer of the Namibia Tennis Association, and is the founder of the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA). The views expressed herein reflect his independent perspective.

Who is Vehaka Tjimune? The new CEO set to lead Namibia's livestock industry

Vehaka M. Tjimune has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPB) on a five-year term, bringing more than three decades of experience across government, the livestock industry, farmer organisations, agribusiness and international development.

Tjimune succeeds long-serving CEO Paul Strydom, who retired at the age of 65 after more than 30 years of service to the board.

Following Strydom's retirement on 30 November 2025, Goliath Tujendapi served as Acting Chief Executive Officer from 1 December 2025 to ensure continuity during the leadership transition.

Tjimune joins the LLPB from the German development agency GIZ, where he has served as Senior Policy Advisor for Agriculture and Land since 2018, supporting agricultural policy reform, climate resilience and sector transformation.

Most recently, he played a key role in developing Namibia's Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-food Sector, launched in November 2024, and is currently supporting the review of the country's Drought Management Policy and Strategy.

His career spans more than 37 years, during which he has held senior leadership positions at the Ministry of Agriculture, the Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU), Meatco and GIZ, giving him extensive experience across Namibia's livestock and meat value chain, stakeholder engagement and agricultural policy.

Before joining GIZ, Tjimune spent a

decade at Meatco, where he served as Executive for Stakeholder Relations and Corporate Affairs after leading the Livestock Procurement and Producer Services Division.

During his tenure, he was twice appointed understudy to the Meatco Chief Executive Officer between 2012 and 2017 and was recognised as Meatco's Best Performing Executive in 2014. In 2016, he received special recognition after helping position Meatco as Namibia's second-best corporate communicator in a NaMedia survey.

Earlier in his career, he served as Executive Director of the Namibia National Farmers Union, where he led donor-funded agricultural development programmes and worked closely with commercial and communal farmers across the country. He also spent seven years at the Ministry of Agriculture in various leadership positions.

Beyond executive management, Tjimune has extensive governance experience. He served on the Agribank board from 2004 to 2012, including on the Risk and Compliance Committee and the Human Resources Committee, and chaired the Agricultural Trade Forum while also serving on the National Trade Forum.

Academically, Tjimune holds a Master of Arts in Rural Social Development and a Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Social Development from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, as well as a National Diploma in Agriculture from Tsumis Agricultural College. He has also completed executive training in corporate governance, project management, moderation and performance management.

His appointment comes at a critical time for Namibia's livestock industry as the sector seeks to rebuild cattle numbers following years of drought, strengthen export markets and increase value addition across the livestock value chain.

With experience spanning agricultural policy, producer relations, corporate strategy and stakeholder engagement, Tjimune is expected to lead the LLPB through the next phase of the sector's development.

Health Ministry allocates N$1.69bn to regional governments under decentralisation drive

The Ministry of Health and Social Services will channel N$1.69 billion to regional governments in the 2026/27 financial year as Namibia accelerates the decentralisation of healthcare services.

Presenting the Ministry's strategic direction to Parliament's Standing Committee on Tuesday, Deputy Director and Financial Advisor Almecro Boois said the allocation marks a significant shift in health funding following the transfer of delegated health functions to Regional Councils in November 2025.

The allocation, which falls under Subsidies and Current Transfers, will increase to N$1.79 billion by the 2028/29 financial year.

"A new N$1.69 billion allocation for Subsidies and Current Transfers begins in 2026/27 under Programme 02, rising to N$1.79 billion by 2028/29. This increases the category's share of the Vote from 2.8% to 13.1% due to the delegation of various functions to regional governments," Boois said.

He said the funding will strengthen Regional Directorates and District Health Services through the recruitment and training of healthcare workers, while improving planning, budgeting, procurement and financial management at regional level.

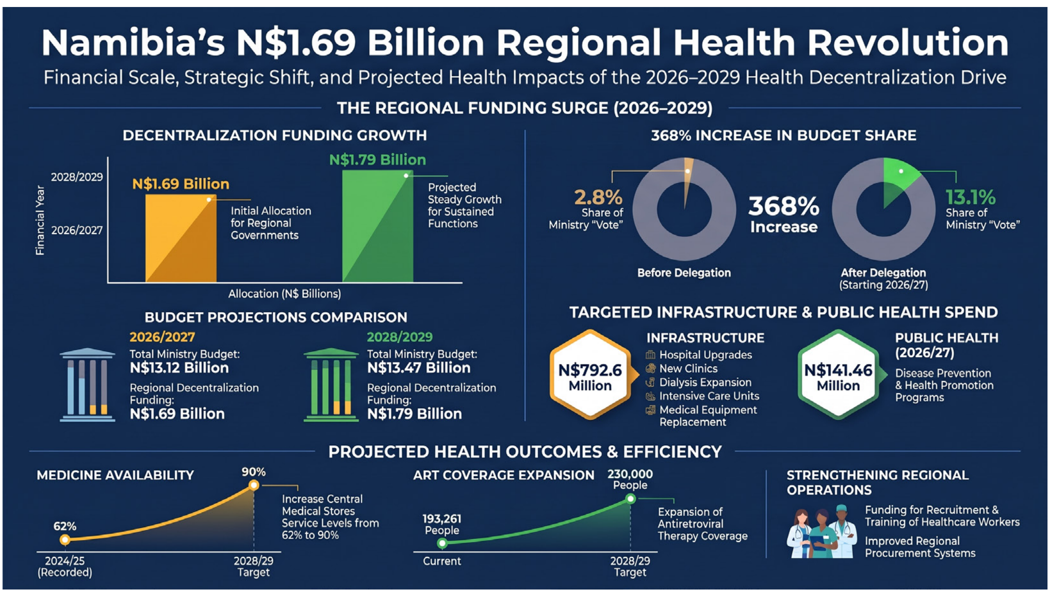
The ministry also plans to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems and improve coordination between Regional Councils, local authorities and communities to ensure more effective service delivery.

The decentralisation allocation forms part of the ministry's N$13.12 billion budget for the 2026/27 financial year, which is projected to rise to N$13.47 billion by 2028/29.

In addition to decentralisation funding, the ministry has allocated N$792.6 million for healthcare infrastructure, including hospital upgrades, new clinics, dialysis and intensive care expansion, and the replacement of ageing medical equipment.

Boois said the ministry is also targeting an improvement in medicine availability at the Central Medical Stores, with service levels expected to increase from 62% in 2024/25 to 90% over the medium-term expenditure period.

The Public Health Programme will receive N$141.46 million in 2026/27, supporting disease prevention programmes and expanding the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy from 193,261 to 230,000 by 2028/29.



A Continental Customs Union: Africa's next opportunity or its greatest challenge?

By Chilombo Olga Priscila

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has reignited discussions around one of Africa's most ambitious integration goals: a Continental African Customs Union.

While the vision promises deeper economic integration, stronger intra-African trade and enhanced global competitiveness, SACU Member States face a more practical question: will the benefits outweigh the costs?

A continental customs union would therefore require difficult decisions about revenue collection, distribution and compensation.

The debate should not be about whether Africa should integrate, but whether a continental customs union would genuinely improve economic welfare, industrial development, fiscal sustainability and competitiveness across the continent.

SACU: Africa's Customs Union Laboratory

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) offers Africa a valuable case study. For over a century, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa have operated under a common external tariff, free movement of goods, coordinated customs administration and a revenue-sharing formula based on customs, excise and development components.

While SACU has facilitated regional trade and generated significant revenue for smaller member states, it has also exposed structural imbalances. South Africa remains the dominant manufacturing hub, while smaller economies rely heavily on customs revenue transfers.

If these disparities exist within a five-member customs union, how would they be managed across more than fifty economies with vastly different levels of industrialisation and development?

The Revenue Question Cannot Be Ignored

For several SACU members, customs revenue is a critical source of government income. A continental customs union would therefore require difficult decisions about revenue collection, distribution and compensation.

Who collects the revenue? How is it shared? Who gains and who loses?

Without credible answers, smaller economies could face fiscal uncertainty. Continental integration may be politically attractive, but it must be underpinned by rigorous economic modelling and transparent negotiations.

Trade and Industrialisation

Customs unions can create new trade opportunities, but they can also divert trade from more efficient global suppliers to less competitive regional producers. The key question for SACU is whether a continental customs union would expand markets or simply redistribute existing trade.

Similarly, larger markets alone do not guarantee industrialisation. Competitiveness depends on reliable infrastructure, affordable energy, access to finance, skilled labour and policy certainty. Without these fundamentals, a continental customs union could reinforce existing industrial concentration, allowing stronger economies to capture most manufacturing opportunities while weaker economies struggle to compete.

SACU's own experience demonstrates that market integration does not automatically produce balanced industrial development.

Infrastructure Matters

Too often, discussions focus on tariffs while overlooking infrastructure.

Goods may move tariff-free on paper, but poor transport networks, congested ports, inefficient rail systems and lengthy border procedures continue to raise the cost of doing business.

For countries such as Namibia, investments in logistics corridors illustrate that trade agreements facilitate commerce, but infrastructure enables it.

Learning from Experience

Comparisons with the European Union are common but should be treated with caution. Europe's customs union evolved alongside decades of institutional development, infrastructure investment, economic convergence and financial support for less-developed regions.

Africa's realities are different. Rather than replicating external models, policymakers should build on Africa's own experience. SACU provides valuable lessons on both the strengths and limitations of customs union arrangements.

The Real Question: What Problem are we Trying to Solve?

Perhaps the most important question is not whether Africa should establish a continental customs union, but what problem it is intended to solve.

If the objective is greater intra-African trade, are tariffs really the main obstacle? If the goal is industrialisation, are customs arrangements the principal constraint? Without a clear diagnosis, there is a risk of creating institutions that address symptoms rather than underlying challenges.

Looking ahead...

The vision of a Continental African Customs Union is bold and inspiring. Yet successful integration requires more than political ambition, it requires practical solutions to complex economic realities.

SACU demonstrates that customs unions can promote trade and cooperation, but also highlights the challenges of balancing industrial development, fiscal sustainability and equitable growth among unequal partners.

As Africa advances its integration agenda, the conversation must move beyond aspiration and focus on measurable outcomes. The true success of a Continental African Customs Union should not be judged by the agreements signed, but by whether it delivers greater prosperity, competitiveness and opportunity for African businesses and citizens. Share your thoughts.

Disclaimer

The Views and Opinions expressed in this article are those of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views, policies or positions of the author's current or past employer, organisation or any other affiliated entities.

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Households turn to overdrafts as cost-of-living pressures mount

Namibian households are increasingly relying on overdraft facilities to cope with rising living costs, with overdraft borrowing more than doubling in June as inflation and tighter household budgets continued to weigh on consumers.

According to FNB Namibia's June Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) report, household credit growth accelerated to 4.5% year-on-year from 4.2% in May, driven largely by a sharp increase in overdraft borrowing, which rose from 5.8% year-on-year in May to 12.5% in June.

"The credit environment remained broadly stable in June 2026, showing a modest improvement despite heightened economic uncertainty. Private sector credit extension increased by 1.1% month-on-month, while annual growth strengthened to 4.5% year-on-year from 4.3% in May," the report said.

Overall private sector credit expanded by 1.1% month-on-month and 4.5% year-on-year, supported by stronger borrowing from both households and businesses.

Corporate credit growth edged up to 4.5% year-on-year from 4.4% in May, driven by increased demand for specialised loans and advances from the mining, energy, wholesale and retail, and financial services sectors.

FNB said growth in other loans and advances recovered to 2.5% year-on-year in June after contracting by 2.4% in May, reflecting renewed borrowing by companies in key sectors of the economy.

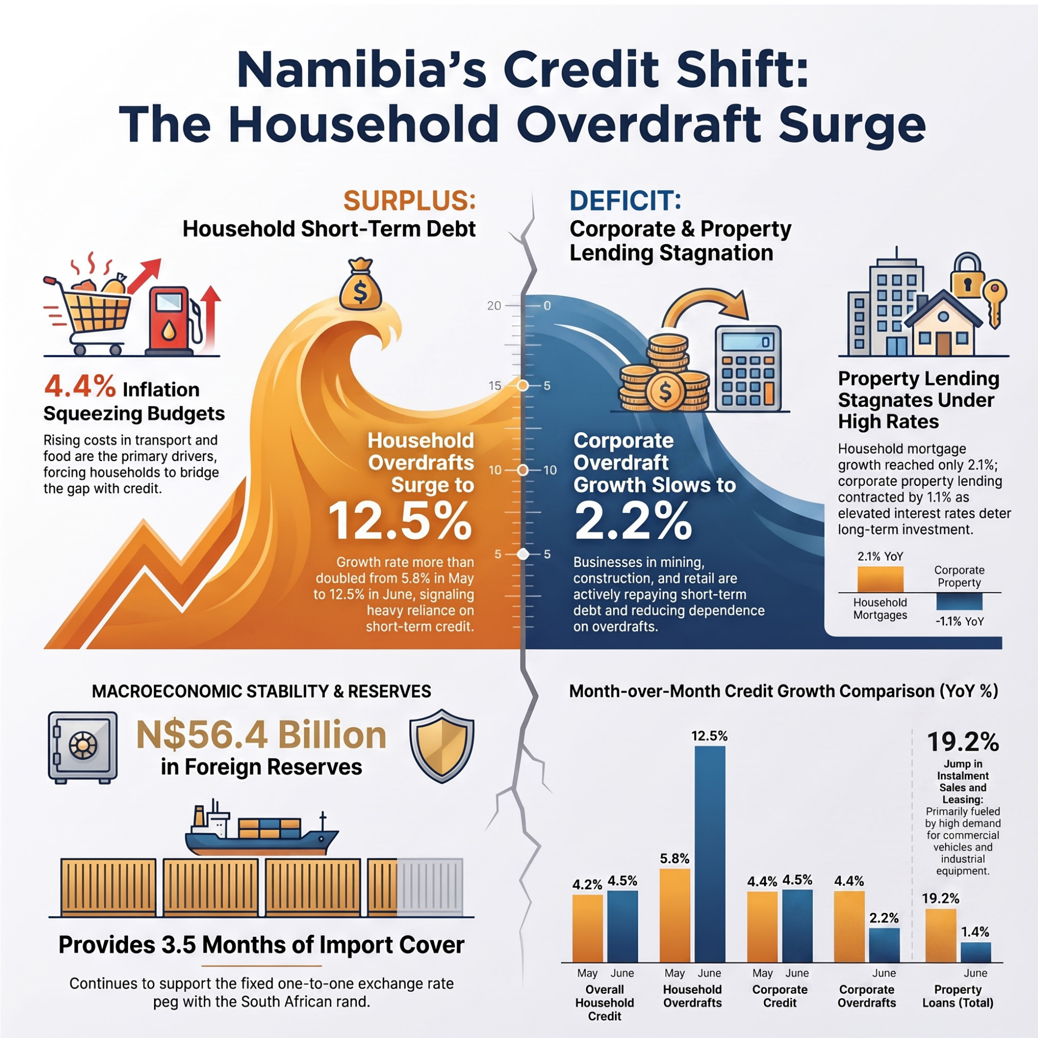
Despite stronger consumer borrowing, mortgage lending remained subdued. Property loans increased by just 1.4% year-on-year, with household mortgage growth edging up to 2.1%, while corporate property lending contracted by 1.1% as elevated interest rates continued to discourage long-term investment.

Instalment sales and leasing finance remained the fastest-growing lending category, expanding by 19.2% year-on-year, supported by continued demand for commercial vehicles and equipment.

In contrast to households, businesses reduced their dependence on short-term borrowing, with corporate overdraft growth slowing to 2.2% year-on-year as companies in the mining, construction and retail sectors repaid short-term debt.

The report also noted that annual inflation accelerated to 4.4% in June, driven mainly by higher transport and food prices, adding further pressure to household finances.

Meanwhile, Namibia's foreign exchange reserves stood at N$56.4 billion at the end of June, providing import cover of 3.5 months and continuing to support the Namibia dollar's one-to-one peg with the South African rand.



Standard Bank backs biomass sector as driver of jobs and rural economic growth

Standard Bank Namibia has identified the country's biomass industry as a key driver of rural economic growth, job creation and export development ahead of this week's 2026 Standard Bank Biomass Fair in Otjiwarongo.

The bank, in partnership with the Namibia Biomass Industry Group (N-BiG), will host the fair from 6 to 8 August under the theme "Powering Namibia's Bioeconomy."

Standard Bank Namibia Chief Executive Erwin Tjipuka said the biomass sector demonstrates how environmental challenges can be transformed into sustainable economic opportunities.

"The biomass sector demonstrates what is possible when innovation, partnership and sustainable enterprise come together to solve real economic challenges. By unlocking value from bush encroachment, Namibia has an opportunity to restore productive agricultural land, create jobs, support SMEs, strengthen export competitiveness and build a more resilient rural economy," he said.

The event will bring together investors, policymakers, producers, researchers, equipment suppliers, financiers and entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities across the biomass value chain.

Namibia Biomass Industry Group Chief Executive Officer Progress Kashandula said the sector is already making a significant contribution to Namibia's socio-economic development.

"The bush biomass sector already contributes extensively to socio-economic development in Namibia and has the potential to shape an inclusive

bioeconomy," he said.

Organisers said the fair will feature exhibitions, live equipment demonstrations, networking sessions and discussions on technologies that support biomass processing, renewable energy production and value-added manufacturing.

The event also aims to showcase how sustainable biomass utilisation can address Namibia's widespread bush encroachment while creating new business opportunities, restoring grazing land and improving energy security.

The organisers said the fair has established itself as Namibia's leading platform for collaboration and investment in the biomass industry as the country seeks to accelerate economic diversification through the development of its bioeconomy.

Corporate borrowing lifts Namibia's private sector credit growth to 4.5%

Namibia's private sector credit extension (PSCE) growth accelerated to 4.5% year-on-year in June, up from 4.3% in May, as stronger corporate borrowing offset subdued mortgage lending and supported overall credit expansion, according to IJG Securities.

The stock of total private sector credit increased by N$5.39 billion over the past 12 months to N$125.49 billion, while credit expanded by N$1.31 billion on a monthly basis.

IJG said total claims on the private sector have grown by an average of 4.5% so far this year, slightly below the 4.6% average recorded during the same period in 2025.

Corporate credit rose by N$903.4 million during June to N$53.19 billion, lifting annual growth to 4.5% from 4.4% in May.

"The improvement was primarily driven by increased demand for other loans and advances from corporates operating in the mining, wholesale and retail trade, financial services, and energy, oil and petroleum sectors," IJG said.

The report noted that corporate other loans and advances rebounded after two consecutive months of annual contraction, increasing by 3.9% month-on-month to N$21.04 billion, with annual growth improving to 2.5% from a contraction of 2.4% in May.

Corporate overdraft balances increased by N$234.4 million during the month to N$10.46 billion, although annual growth slowed to 2.2% from 6.1% in May.

Meanwhile, corporate mortgage lending declined by N$209.1 million to N$13.03 billion, pushing annual growth back into negative territory at -1.1%, compared with 0.3% growth recorded in May.

"Instalment and leasing finance remained the strongest-performing corporate lending category, expanding 24.4% year-on-year to N$8.67 billion," IJG said. Household credit also strengthened during the month, increasing by N$408.8 million to N$72.30 billion, with annual growth accelerating to 4.5%, the fastest pace since August 2023.

"The improvement was underpinned by broad-based growth across most lending categories, with mortgage lending and instalment and leasing credit remaining the primary contributors," the firm said.

Household mortgage lending increased by N$217.7 million to N$46.88 billion, with annual growth rising to 2.1%, the strongest level since January 2024.

IJG said household instalment and leasing credit remained robust, increasing to N$9.60 billion, with annual growth edging up to 14.8% from 14.6% in May, reflecting sustained demand for vehicle and asset finance.

Household other loans and advances grew modestly by 0.5% during the month to N$13.28 billion, although annual growth slowed to 4.9% from 5.3% in May.

While household overdraft balances declined by N$45.7 million during June, annual growth accelerated sharply to 12.5% from 5.8%, indicating continued reliance on short-term borrowing.

IJG said the improvement in overall credit growth points to a relatively resilient domestic economy, although lending activity remains weaker than in neighbouring South Africa.

"These trends suggest a relatively resilient domestic economy; however, credit growth remains subdued compared to South Africa, where PSCE growth remained in the high single digits at 7.8% year-on-year in June," the firm said.