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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



NaCC proposes N\$60m merger threshold to cut unnecessary filings

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

NaCC proposes N\$60m merger threshold to cut unnecessary filings

The Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC) is proposing to raise the threshold for mandatory merger notifications to a combined N\$60 million, potentially removing about 15% of transactions from compulsory regulatory filings.

NaCC Senior Researcher Taimi Amunkete said the proposal would increase the threshold for the business being acquired to N\$20 million, while the combined threshold for the merging parties would rise to N\$60 million.

She said the changes are aimed at cutting unnecessary filings for transactions that pose limited competition risks while allowing the Commission to focus on deals that require greater scrutiny.

“Grounding adjustments in economic reality by applying inflation indexing. This raises the target threshold to N\$20 million and the combined threshold to N\$60 million, exempting 98 transactions (15%) from unnecessary administrative filings,” Amunkete said.

The proposal follows an NaCC review of 606 mergers assessed between 2015 and 2025, which found that the overwhelming majority were approved.

According to Amunkete, 529 transactions, or about 87%, were approved without conditions, while 72, or approximately 12%, were approved



Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
* 29 October 2026
* 10 December 2026
- **Namibia Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Mukopano**
03 September 2026 at Windhoek Country Club Resort
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference**
18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek

subject to conditions. Only five mergers, less than 1% of the total, were prohibited.

Based on the historical transactions reviewed, the proposed thresholds would have exempted 98 mergers from mandatory notification.

Amunkete said the Commission considered a higher threshold that would have excluded about 21% of historical transactions but found that this could allow potentially harmful mergers to escape regulatory scrutiny.

NaCC is also proposing a major overhaul of merger filing fees, replacing the existing seven-tier system with three categories for small, intermediate and large transactions.

Amunkete said mergers valued between N\$60 million and N\$100 million would attract a filing fee of N\$90,000, while transactions between N\$100 million and N\$300 million would be charged N\$120,000.

Large mergers exceeding N\$300 million would face a maximum filing fee of N\$650,000.

“After undertaking a moderation exercise to ensure fees do not discourage strategic investment, we propose a filing fee of N\$90,000 for small mergers, N\$120,000 for intermediate mergers,

and a moderated fee cap of N\$650,000 for large mergers exceeding N\$300 million,” Amunkete said.

She said the N\$650,000 cap was reduced from the N\$900,000 that would have resulted from a strict inflation adjustment to prevent regulatory costs from discouraging major investments and strategic transactions.

The proposed reforms would also adjust fees for advisory opinions, exemptions and certifications to reflect inflation and changes in economic conditions.

However, Amunkete said transactions below the proposed thresholds would not automatically escape regulatory oversight.

NaCC would retain powers to require notification of smaller transactions where competition concerns arise, particularly acquisitions involving technology companies, innovative start-ups and other asset-light businesses whose competitive significance may not be reflected in traditional turnover or asset values.

The proposed reforms are intended to reduce the regulatory burden associated with lower-risk transactions while keeping potentially anti-competitive deals within NaCC’s reach.

SHOPRITE

MAJOR LEAGUE BIRTHDAY DEALS



9⁹⁹

Cheetos Cheese Puffs 100g



12⁹⁹

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22⁹⁹

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28⁹⁹

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29⁹⁹

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Namibia sets N\$40m local procurement condition for Pepkor-Retailability merger

Pepkor will be required to aim to spend N\$40 million buying products from Namibian manufacturers over the next three years as one of the conditions attached to its acquisition of Retailability Namibia businesses.

The Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) imposed the condition after approving Pepkor's acquisition of the Legit, Style and Swagga/Beaver Canoe businesses previously operated by Retailability Namibia.

NOTICE: ROAD USER CHARGES ADJUSTMENT

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) informs all stakeholders of the approved adjustments to Road User Charges as part of the 2026/27 financial year Business and Financial Plan.

Approved adjustments

- * Vehicle Licence Fees: **10% increase**
- * Mass Distance Charges (MDC): **10% increase**
- * Cross Border Charges (CBC): **20% increase**
- * Abnormal Load Fees: **20% increase**
- * Road Carrier Permits: **20% increase**

These adjustments will take effect from **01 August 2026**, following publication of the relevant amendments in the Government Gazette. Revenue generated will support the maintenance and rehabilitation of Namibia's road network, as well as the implementation of priority road infrastructure projects to strengthen economic corridors and connectivity.

Updated tariffs are available on the RFA website: www.rfanam.com.na.



The N\$40 million local procurement target will focus on Namibian manufacturers producing clothing, footwear and homeware.

NaCC Corporate Communications Practitioner Dina //Gowases said Pepkor will also be required to establish a N\$4.2 million Local Supplier and SME Development Programme over three years.

“The merged entity is required to establish and implement a Local Supplier and SME Development Programme valued at N\$4.2 million over three years and to use reasonable endeavours to achieve N\$40 million in local procurement spend from Namibian manufacturers in the clothing, footwear and homeware sectors over the same period,” // Gowases said.

If the N\$40 million target is reached, it would amount to an average of about N\$13.3 million spent with local manufacturers each year.

However, the condition requires Pepkor to make reasonable efforts to reach the N\$40 million target and does not guarantee that the full amount will be spent.

The Commission said

the requirement is intended to give more Namibian manufacturers an opportunity to supply products to Pepkor and increase the participation of local businesses in the retail supply chain.

Pepkor will also have to host a supplier



**SINOMINE
TSUMEB SMELTER**

THE EXTERNAL VACANCY BELOW IS NOW AVAILABLE AT SINOMINE TSUMEB SMELTER.

The Position: Site Nurse

The incumbent will report to the **Superintendent: Health & Wellness** and will be accountable for:

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Manage the occupational health clinic and maintain medical records confidentially.
- Provide primary healthcare services and first aid to employees.
- Monitor employee fitness for work and provide health advice.
- Provide initial management and follow up of occupational injuries, illnesses and maintain accurate reporting.
- Liaise with external medical practitioners, hospitals, and service providers.
- Conduct medical assessments provide appropriate interventions and cases requiring further medical assessment, diagnosis or specialized treatment.
- Coordinate medical surveillance programme in accordance with occupational health legislation.
- Assist with emergency preparedness and response, including medical emergencies.
- Promote workplace health through participation in health and wellness initiatives.
- Ensure compliance with Namibian occupational health legislation and company policies.
- Support the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) department in achieving company objectives.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Diploma or Degree in Nursing from a recognized educational institution.
- Current registration and license to practice as a Registered Nurse with the Health Professions Council of Namibia.
- Qualification in Occupational Health Nursing will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of three (3) to five (5) years' experience preferably within occupational health, mining, smelting, heavy industry or manufacturing.
- A dispensing license will be an advantage.
- Sound knowledge of occupational health legislation and workplace medical surveillance.
- Strong communication, interpersonal, and report-writing skills.
- Computer literacy, including competence in Microsoft Office and electronic health-record systems.
- Ability to work independently and respond effectively during workplace medical emergencies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

All applications meeting the **minimum requirements** must be accompanied by a non-returnable detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of qualifications and identification documents. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for and should be sent as **one PDF attachment**. Applications not adhering to these rules will not be considered

Please forward application to the email: stsrecruitment3@sinomine.na

CLOSING DATE: Friday, 19 August 2026, AT 16H00

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted, applicants, who are not contacted within two weeks after the closing date should consider their application unsuccessful.

The recruitment process will be administered as prescribed by Namibian Affirmative Action Act. Women and person with disability are encouraged to apply. Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter is an Equal Opportunity Employer

development summit and publicly invite local businesses to participate.

Namibian suppliers taking part in the programme are expected to receive mentorship, networking opportunities and other support to help them become suppliers to the merged retail business.

The requirements form part of a wider set of conditions imposed by the NaCC on the merger.

Through the transaction, Pepkor will add the Legit, Style and Swagga/Beaver Canoe businesses to its retail operations in Namibia.



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RESOURCES

NEW VACANCIES
RELEASE

LOCATION: TWIN HILLS GOLD MINE SITE (KARIBIB)

POSITION	QUANTITY	JOB SPECIFICATION
SUPERINTENDENT: MINING OPERATIONS (Permanent)	1	• Grade 12 • Degree in Mining Engineering • Post Graduate Diploma in Management will be an added advantage. • Blasting Ticket • Minimum of 7-10 years' experience in open-pit mining, including significant experience managing mining contractors of which 5 years must be at supervisory level. • Proven experience in mine planning, drill and blast, load and haul, contractor management, and production optimization. • Experience in Mine Planning Software, i.e. Datamine, Surpac, Minesight • Self-Starter, a Data analyst and good at problem-solving. • Lead daily mining operations to meet production targets. • Manage mining schedules, production forecasts, and pit development priorities. • Monitor production output against budgets, plans, and targets. • Analyze operational performance and drive improvement initiatives. • Identify bottlenecks and recommend timely corrective actions. • Manage mining contractors and ensure compliance with operational and safety standards. • Collaborate with technical services, maintenance, geology, and processing teams.
TECHNICAL MINING TRAINER (Permanent)	1	• Grade 12 • Certified by Namibian Qualification Authority, registered as an assessment practitioner, and must have an Approved Inspection Authority number issued by the Ministry of Labor • At least eight (8) years mining experience in surface mining operations, of which five (5) years must have been in a mine trainer capacity. • Mining equipment operating experience that covers a wide range of equipment such as loaders, haul trucks, bulldozers, excavators, face shovels, water trucks, graders, drills, inter alia. • A valid driver's license is a requirement. • Good communication and interpersonal skills • Should be in possession of a valid code of conduct certificate at the time of interview. • Issue LDV, HDV, Open Pit, and HME operating permits following practical and theoretical competence assessments. • Develop, review, and update training materials, manuals, presentations, and final assessments for contractor operators. • Maintain accurate training records and ensure compliance with regulatory and operational requirements. • Coach supervisors and new employees on safe operating practices and support incident investigations by addressing training gaps. • Conduct over-inspections, mandatory PTOs, and maintain accurate inventory of hardware, spare parts, and software licenses.
IT TECHNICIAN (Permanent)	2	• Grade 12 • A certificate, diploma, or equivalent in computer science / information technology is preferred (NQA-recognized). • At least 3 years of IT support, desktop support, or small-business network administration • Preferred experience in mining, the manufacturing industry, or remote-site IT. • International certifications such as CompTIA A+ / Networks or Microsoft are an advantage. • A valid driver's license is a requirement. • Good communication and interpersonal skills • Should be in possession of a valid code of conduct certificate at the time of interview • Install, configure, and perform basic maintenance of PCs, printers, and other IT equipment at the mine and offices. • Provide first-line IT support, assisting employees with the installation, configuration, and maintenance of Windows, Office, email, OA, SAP, and other software; collect on-site user issues and escalate them promptly to the service provider. • Assist with IT asset management, including equipment registration, inventory checks, and day-to-day custody and upkeep. • Monitor local area networks (LAN), Wi-Fi connectivity, routers, and switches. • Execute routine data backups, restore lost files, and update anti-virus or firewall software. • Keep an accurate inventory of hardware equipment, spare parts, and software licenses.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a resume, all supporting documents and a letter of motivation detailing relevant experience and potential starting date to recruitment@osinoresources.com by **27 August 2026**. Please clearly indicate position applied for in the subject matter line. Failure to do so, may result in disqualification of your application. If you have not heard anything from us two weeks after the due date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

NO HARD COPY CV'S WILL BE ACCEPTED AT OUR OFFICES.

Osino Gold Exploration and Mining and Shanjin International are an equal opportunity employer, committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Preference given to suitably qualified Namibian citizens. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

DBN injects over N\$819 million into north-east Namibia

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has approved more than N\$819 million in development finance for projects in the Omaheke, Kavango East and Kavango West regions as it intensifies efforts to expand access to funding for businesses, women and youth entrepreneurs.

The financing forms part of DBN's broader strategy to stimulate regional economic growth and was highlighted during the bank's four-day stakeholder outreach programme.

The outreach, led by DBN's executive management, included engagements with regional governors, councillors, businesses and entrepreneurs to strengthen partnerships and promote the bank's financing products.

DBN said it has approved N\$356.19 million for projects in the Omaheke Region, N\$331.92 million in Kavango East and N\$131.34 million in Kavango West.

The bank said the outreach generated strong interest, particularly in its DBN for Her financing facility, launched earlier this year to improve access to finance for women-owned businesses, and the National Youth Development Fund, which it administers on behalf of the Ministry of Finance.

DBN Chief Executive Officer Titus Ndove said the response reflected growing demand for development finance tailored to entrepreneurs.

"The level of participation witnessed throughout the outreach demonstrates a growing demand for accessible and relevant development finance. Through initiatives such as DBN for Her and the National Youth Development Fund, we are broadening access to finance for women



and young entrepreneurs, empowering them to establish and grow sustainable businesses that contribute meaningfully to Namibia's economic development," Ndove said.

Since its establishment, DBN has invested more than N\$23 billion in productive sectors of the Namibian economy.

The bank said it will continue rolling out its national outreach programme to improve access to finance and support entrepreneurship, investment and job creation across all regions.

This year's programme follows earlier engagements in the Erongo, Oshana and Omusati regions as DBN expands its nationwide drive to improve access to development finance.

The role of risk culture in strategic success (Part 3 of 5)

By Monika Amukoto

In the first two articles of this series, we explored how effective risk management supports strategy execution by improving decision-making, challenging assumptions, and helping organisations respond to uncertainty.

Yet even the most robust risk management processes will fall short if the organisational culture does not support the timely identification, escalation, and management of emerging risks.

Culture is the everyday behaviours, attitudes, and values that influence how work gets done. It is reflected in the decisions people make, how they respond to challenges, and their willingness to raise concerns when issues arise.

While strategy provides the roadmap for success, culture creates the environment that enables that strategy to be executed effectively.

Many organisations invest significant time and resources in developing strategic plans but pay less attention to the culture needed to support them.

New initiatives are launched, teams are mobilised, and targets are set, yet progress often stalls when collaboration, accountability, and adaptability are lacking.

Without the right behaviours and mindset across the organisation, even the most carefully designed strategies can struggle to deliver their intended outcomes.

Take for example an organisation embarking on a digital transformation journey. The technology may be world class and the implementation plan carefully



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mapped out, yet if employees do not understand the purpose of the change, or managers continue to rely on familiar ways of working, can quickly slow down. In such cases, the obstacle is often not the technology itself but the culture that shapes how people respond to change.

Leadership plays a critical role in shaping organisational risk culture. Employees are influenced far more by the behaviours they observe from leaders than by what is written in policies, strategies, or value statements.

When leaders encourage open dialogue, welcome different perspectives, and create an environment where concerns can be raised without fear, risks are identified earlier, assumptions are challenged, and more informed decisions are made.

The opposite is also true. When employees fear criticism or believe that speaking up will have negative consequences, important risks may remain hidden.

Over time, people become more focused on avoiding blame than contributing to organisational success, allowing issues to

escalate before they are addressed.

As a result, risks remain hidden until they begin to affect performance, disrupt strategic initiatives, or create costly setbacks.

This is why strong governance, and a healthy risk culture must work hand in hand. Boards and executive teams should look beyond financial and operational performance and assess whether the organisation's culture supports effective risk management and strategy execution.

A strong risk culture also promotes accountability, transparency, constructive challenge, and risk-informed decision-making across the organisation, recognising that every employee has a role in identifying and managing risk. Organisations that foster trust, collaboration, and open communication are better equipped to adapt to change and achieve their strategic objectives.

In the articles that follow, I will draw on my experiences and professional exposure to highlight the common pitfalls that prevent organisations from aligning strategy with risk management principles and translating both into effective day-to-day practices.

****Monika Amukoto is a Strategy, Governance, Risk and Compliance professional with expertise in helping organisations strengthen governance, manage risk and execute strategy effectively.***



**SINOMINE
TSUMEB SMELTER**

THE EXTERNAL VACANCY BELOW IS NOW AVAILABLE AT SINOMINE TSUMEB SMELTER.

The Position: Officer: Payroll & Benefit

The incumbent will report to the **Manager: Human Resources** and will be accountable for:

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Process monthly payroll accurately and within prescribed deadlines.
- Administer employee remuneration, allowances, overtime, deductions, leave, and benefits.
- Maintain accurate employee payroll and benefits records.
- Process new appointments, transfers, promotions, salary adjustments, and terminations.
- Reconcile payroll reports and statutory deductions.
- Prepare and submit statutory returns in accordance with Namibian legislation.
- Administer pension funds, medical aid, social security, and other employee benefit schemes.
- Respond to payroll and benefits-related employee queries professionally and confidentially.
- Ensure compliance with company policies, labour legislation, and tax regulations.
- Generate payroll reports and provide payroll-related information for audits and management reporting.
- Support annual remuneration reviews, budgeting, and benefit administration.
- Always maintain confidentiality of payroll information.
- Continuously identify opportunities to improve payroll processes and controls.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Diploma or Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources.
- Minimum three (3) years' experience in payroll and benefits administration.
- Minimum three (3) years' experience working with payroll systems ERP/SAP.
- Sound knowledge of Namibian labour legislation, PAYE, Social Security, and payroll best practices.
- Computer literacy (Microsoft Office packages, with strong Excel skills and Power Point skills).
- Excellent numerical accuracy and analytical skills.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to work under pressure.
- High level of integrity and confidentiality.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Code B drivers' license will be an advantage.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

All applications meeting the **minimum requirements** must be accompanied by a non-returnable detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of qualifications and identification documents. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for and should be sent as **one PDF attachment**. Applications not adhering to these rules will not be considered

Please forward application to the email: stsrecruitment3@sinomine.na

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NamRA eyes April 2027 rollout of Namibia-Botswana fast-track customs system

Namibia and Botswana are targeting April 2027 for the full implementation of a customs arrangement that will allow trusted businesses to move goods between the two countries with faster clearance and fewer inspections.

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) said the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs) will first undergo an eight-month pilot starting on 18 August 2026.

The pilot will test whether customs systems and border agencies in both countries can effectively recognise and provide preferential treatment to businesses accredited as compliant traders.

NamRA Chief Strategic Communications and Support Engagements Yarukeekuro

Ndorokaze said the arrangement will initially facilitate movements through the Trans Kalahari/Mamuno One-Stop Border Post and the Port of Walvis Bay.

“Under the MRA, accredited AEO traders in Namibia and Botswana will receive reciprocal recognition and enjoy enhanced customs facilitation benefits, including faster clearance of goods, reduced inspections where appropriate, improved predictability and greater supply chain efficiency,” Ndorokaze said.

The pilot effectively means that a company already vetted and accredited as a trusted trader by NamRA will have that status recognised by Botswana customs authorities. Botswana-accredited traders will receive similar recognition in Namibia.

The arrangement is intended to reduce

duplication in customs processes and allow authorities to focus resources on higher-risk shipments while accelerating the movement of cargo belonging to compliant operators. Ahead of the August launch, NamRA, the Botswana Unified Revenue Service, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Secretariat and other border agencies conducted a final dry run between the Port of Walvis Bay and the Trans Kalahari/Mamuno One-Stop Border Post.

The exercise was used to assess operational readiness, validate procedures and identify potential challenges before live cargo begins moving under the pilot.

NamRA currently has 10 accredited AEOs, although the programme is open to eligible importers, exporters, manufacturers, logistics providers and customs clearing agents.

The AEO programme operates under the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards and provides customs benefits to businesses considered compliant and secure.

NamRA said lessons from the pilot will be used to refine procedures before the

two countries move to full implementation in April 2027.

The initiative forms part of SACU efforts to improve regional trade facilitation and reduce customs barriers affecting the movement of goods between member states.



**SINOMINE
TSUMEB SMELTER**

THE CURRENT VACANCY IS NOW AVAILABLE AT SINOMINE TSUMEB SMELTER.

The Position: Manager: Organisational Development

The incumbent will report to the **Vice Director: Human Resources & Administration** and will be accountable for:

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Legal, Safety, Health and Environmental compliance as well as promoting a safety culture in area of responsibility.
- Develop and implement organisational development strategies that support the organisation's vision and goals.
- Lead Change Management initiatives and facilitate organisational transformation.
- Design and implement talent management, succession planning, and leadership development programmes.
- Analyze organisational structures, workflows, and workforce capabilities to improve effectiveness.
- Develop and oversee performance management and employee development frameworks.
- Conduct organisational needs assessments and recommend improvement initiatives.
- Facilitate employee engagement and culture-building programmes.
- Partner with senior leadership to provide strategic human capital advice.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of organisational development initiatives using key performance indicators.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Organisational Psychology, Business Administration, or a related field.
- A postgraduate qualification in Organisational Development, Human Resources, or a related discipline will be an added advantage.
- Eight (8) – ten (10) years' relevant experience in organisational development, change management, or a similar strategic Senior HR role.
- Strong knowledge of organisational design, performance management, leadership development, and change management methodologies.
- Excellent analytical, communication, facilitation, and stakeholder management skills.
- Ability to influence, build relationships, and drive organisational change across all levels.
- Experience in SAP SuccessFactors (Talent & Performance Management module) or similar system is an advantage.
- Self-motivation, enthusiasm and results focus, flexible, adaptable and comfortable with ambiguity.
- Committed to high standards and continuous improvement.
- Computer literacy (Microsoft Office packages, with strong Excel skills and Power Point skills).
- A Code B Driver's License.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

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Show Me the Money: Why AI's Next Chapter Is About Value, Not Hype

By Stantin Siebritz

Artificial intelligence is entering a defining new phase. After years of breathless headlines, billion-dollar investments and promises of disruption, business leaders are beginning to ask a tougher and far more important question: where is the return on investment?

Like many technological revolutions before it, AI has moved beyond the excitement of possibility and into the scrutiny of performance. In 2026, success will not be measured by who has the most advanced model, but by who can apply AI in ways that create measurable business value.

For African businesses, this shift could not come at a better time.

The AI Advantage Is No Longer Reserved for Big Tech

For much of the past two years, the narrative around AI was dominated by a handful of global technology giants. Access to cutting-edge AI seemed dependent on vast capital expenditure, specialised talent and expensive cloud infrastructure.

That assumption is rapidly changing.

A growing number of Chinese technology firms, including Moonshot AI, Zhipu, Alibaba and DeepSeek, have introduced models that are increasingly competitive with leading proprietary systems. While the performance gap has not disappeared entirely, it has narrowed sufficiently to challenge the notion that AI leadership will remain concentrated among a small group



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One of the most overlooked stories in the AI market is the dramatic decline in the cost of delivering useful AI solutions.

of companies and countries.

More importantly, the rise of open-weight models is giving organisations greater control over how they deploy AI. Businesses can now make decisions based on cost efficiency, regulatory requirements and data sovereignty rather than being locked into a single platform ecosystem.

For economies such as Namibia, where digital adoption must often balance ambition with affordability, this is a significant development. It lowers barriers to entry and creates opportunities for local innovation without requiring Silicon Valley-sized budgets.

Practical AI Is Becoming Affordable

One of the most overlooked stories in the AI market is the dramatic decline in the cost of delivering useful AI solutions.

Technical advances such as model quantisation and distillation have made AI systems leaner and more efficient. In simple terms, developers can now achieve strong performance with smaller, less resource-

intensive models. This reduces computing requirements and lowers operating costs without sacrificing the capabilities most businesses actually need.

That distinction matters.

Most organisations across Africa are not trying to build the next frontier AI model. They are looking for practical solutions to everyday business challenges: improving customer service, automating routine administrative tasks, analysing large volumes of documentation, supporting compliance functions or enhancing employee productivity.

These use cases do not require the most expensive technology available. They require reliable tools that solve real problems at a sustainable cost.

As the economics of AI continue to improve, the conversation is shifting from whether organisations can afford AI to whether they can afford to ignore the efficiencies it offers.

Investors Are Losing Patience With AI Theatre

The maturation of the market is also changing boardroom expectations.

For a time, simply announcing an AI strategy was enough to attract investor attention and generate excitement. Today, shareholders and executives are demanding evidence.

They want to see cost savings, increased productivity, improved customer outcomes and new revenue streams. They want measurable impact rather than ambitious presentations.

This should not be interpreted

as a sign that AI is losing momentum. Quite the opposite.

Every transformative technology experiences a period where enthusiasm gives way to accountability. The internet boom of the late 1990s followed a similar trajectory. Many overhyped ventures disappeared, but the infrastructure that remained reshaped entire industries.

AI is undergoing its own reality check. The winners will be businesses that move beyond experimentation and demonstrate tangible value creation.

Human Judgement Remains a Strategic Asset

Perhaps the most important lesson



Standard Bank

Expression of interest

EOI/SBN/001/07/2026 – VARIOUS DISCIPLINES - STANDARD BANK NAMIBIA LIMITED

1. Request for Information

Standard Bank Namibia Limited hereby invites registered, experienced and qualified suppliers from all Namibian regions to express their interest in providing the following services.

2. Description of Services

- A. Professional and Consulting Services
- B. Construction and Built Environment Services
- C. Facilities and Property Services
- D. Security and Risk Services
- E. Logistics and Support Services

3. Pre-Qualification Application

Interested suppliers can request application forms via the email address below:

✉ | SupplierSourcing@standardbank.com.na

Please note that all applications must be submitted via the online portal. No email or hand-delivered applications will be accepted. Enquiries via email only:

✉ | SupplierSourcing@standardbank.com.na

Closing date and time via online portal: **Monday, 31 August 2026 at 4 pm.**

Note: Only shortlisted companies will be contacted within 4 weeks after the closing date.

*This EOI does not constitute a commitment by Standard Bank Namibia to award any contract or to engage any responding party.

For more information, please visit

🌐 | standardbank.com.na

The future workforce will therefore not be defined by humans versus machines. It will

For Namibia and the broader African continent, the emerging AI landscape presents a unique opportunity. Unlike more mature markets burdened by legacy systems and inflated expectations, African organisations can focus on what matters most: solving real-world challenges.

In other words, the objective is not to have the most powerful AI. The objective is to achieve better outcomes.

As AI enters its practical era, business leaders should focus on three questions: What problem are we solving? Who remains accountable for the outcome? And what measurable value are we creating?

Those who can answer these questions convincingly will be far better positioned than those still captivated by the spectacle.

The AI revolution is no longer about potential. It is about performance. And in business, performance is where the real money is.





MUKOPANO 2026

CSI that Changes Lives

THE FIRST MUKOPANO

Bringing together corporates, NGOs, government, funders and development partners to connect, collaborate and *create meaningful impact*.

DATE & TIME:
3 SEPT, 2026
 08H00-18H00

 Windhoek Country Club Resort

THIS EVENT IS FOR

For corporations, NGOs, government stakeholders, funders, partners and organisations committed to meaningful impact.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

H.E. Pres. Ntumbo Nandi Ndaitwah

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Omaheke micro-lenders accused of charging up to 100% interest

... MPs accuse NAMFISA of weak oversight

Micro-lenders in the Omaheke Region are allegedly charging interest rates of between 50% and 100%, with some operating outside Namibia's regulatory framework, according to concerns raised during a parliamentary public hearing in Gobabis.

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration said the practices are worsening household debt and exposing weaknesses in the oversight of registered and unregistered micro-lenders.

Speaking during the hearing on household debt and lending practices, committee member and Member of

Parliament George Kambala said the committee had identified serious concerns about compliance in the micro-lending sector.

"We came to realise that there is a serious crisis in terms of micro-lenders breaking their own regulations. We have realised that the issue of NAMFISA not doing much oversight for micro-lenders, both registered and unregistered," Kambala said.

He said low-income earners, particularly those earning less than N\$10,000 a month, were struggling to access mainstream financial services, leaving some dependent on alternative

lenders.

Kambala also raised concerns about pensioners supporting grandchildren and foster children, saying they were particularly vulnerable to financial pressure and indebtedness.

Fellow committee member Michael Mulunga said residents had raised concerns about the number of unregistered micro-lenders operating outside Namibia's legal framework.

"Community members came out in big numbers, and they raised the issues from their hearts, the problems that they are faced with currently with the micro-lenders, especially that they have a lot of micro-lenders that are not registered, and not operating within the frameworks of the Namibian laws," Mulunga said.

He said households were increasingly turning to borrowing as stagnant incomes struggled to keep pace with rising living costs.

"Some of the issues that came out are that these micro-lenders are charging

high interest rates, some of which go up to 50% to 100%, which makes it very, very difficult for community members to survive," Mulunga said.

The committee warned that high borrowing costs, weak enforcement and limited access to formal financial services could deepen household indebtedness and undermine efforts to improve financial inclusion.

Lawmakers said changes to consumer protection and banking legislation may be required to strengthen oversight and close regulatory gaps in the lending market.

The Gobabis hearing forms part of a parliamentary process examining household debt and whether existing laws adequately protect consumers from potentially abusive practices by formal and informal micro-lenders.

The committee is expected to use submissions gathered during the hearings to make recommendations on possible legislative and regulatory reforms.



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Namibia inflation rises to 4.4% as fuel, transport costs surge

Namibia's annual inflation rate accelerated to 4.4% in July 2026 from 3.5% a year earlier, driven largely by a sharp rise in fuel, transport and housing costs, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The NSA's July 2026 Consumer Price Index Bulletin shows that transport emerged as the biggest driver of inflation, contributing 1.4 percentage points to the headline rate.

Annual inflation for transport surged to 9.3% from

a deflation rate of 1.2% in July 2025, reflecting significantly higher costs for motorists and public transport users.

The operation of personal transport equipment recorded inflation of 11.3%, compared with a 3% decline a year earlier, after petrol and diesel prices increased by 15.5%.

Public transportation services recorded an even sharper increase, with annual inflation accelerating to 14.7% from 1.3% in July last year.

"The Transport category, which carries a weight of 14.3 percent in the consumer

Public transportation services recorded an even sharper increase, with annual inflation accelerating to 14.7% from 1.3% in July last year.

basket, recorded an annual inflation rate of 9.3 percent in July 2026, compared to a deflation of 1.2 percent in July 2025,” the NSA said.

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels was the second-largest contributor to overall inflation, adding 1.2 percentage points. Inflation in the housing category increased to 4.8% from 3.6% in July 2025, reflecting higher electricity, gas and other fuel costs, as well as increases in rentals and dwelling maintenance.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed another 0.7 percentage points, although annual food inflation slowed to 3.7% from 6.1% a year earlier.

Fruit prices increased by 15.3%, while vegetables rose by 5.6%. Price pressures eased elsewhere, with fish inflation slowing to 3.1% from 10.3% and meat inflation declining to 3.3% from 10.3%.

Coffee, tea and cocoa inflation also slowed sharply to 1.5% from 9.1% in July 2025.

Services inflation increased to 4.8% from 3.8% a year earlier, while goods inflation rose to 4.2% from 3.3%.

Khomas recorded the highest regional inflation rate at 5.3%, up from 3.1% in July 2025, largely due to higher transport and recreation and culture costs.

Hardap, //Kharas, Erongo and Omaheke recorded combined inflation of 4.3%, compared with 3.6% a year earlier, while the northern regions recorded the lowest inflation rate at 3.6%, down from 3.9%.

Despite the acceleration in annual inflation, monthly price growth moderated, with inflation slowing to 0.1% in July from 0.3% in June. Core inflation, which provides an indication of underlying price pressures, stood at 3.7%.

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Property Hub NAMIBIA

Is it time to rethink our long-standing love affair with property?

For many years, owning a home has been seen as a major financial achievement. It has often been viewed as a symbol of security, success, and a reliable way to build wealth.

However, rising property prices, higher living costs, and changing lifestyles are causing many people to rethink whether buying a home is always the best financial decision. While property can still be a good investment, it's important to consider whether it suits your current circumstances and financial goals.

According to Bertie Nel, Head of Financial Planning at Momentum, the traditional advice was to buy a property as soon as you could afford the deposit. Today, the situation is more complicated.

"With higher interest rates, increasing living expenses, and rising municipal costs, owning a home has become more expensive," says Nel. "Property can still help you build wealth, but it should be part of a broader financial plan and not the only investment you rely on."

Buying vs renting: A different picture

The cost of owning a home is about more than just paying a bond each month. Homeowners also need to pay rates and



taxes, insurance, maintenance costs, and levies, which can put pressure on their budgets.

As a result, more people are choosing to rent by choice, not because they cannot afford to buy. Renting can offer more predictable monthly expenses and allows people to invest their money elsewhere.

On the other hand, buying a property allows you to build equity over time and benefit from any increase in the property's value.

Nel says the decision should not be seen as

"Both options can work well, depending on your personal situation," he explains. "It's important to remember that property is not a liquid asset. You cannot easily turn it into cash when you need money urgently."

A healthy financial plan should include a balance between property, emergency savings, and retirement investments.

As people's lifestyles change, so do their housing needs. Sectional title developments, security estates, and shared ownership options have become increasingly popular.

For example, sectional title ownership often includes levies that cover security and external maintenance, reducing some of the responsibilities that come with owning a standalone home. These property models reflect a growing demand for flexibility, convenience, and community-focused living.

Buying a home is not only a financial decision. Major life events often influence whether it makes sense to buy a property.

"There is no single 'right time' to buy property," says Nel. "What matters most is whether you are financially ready."

Without considering your future plans, you could end up making a long-term property commitment that limits your flexibility.

Because buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions most people will make, it is often helpful to seek professional advice.

A financial adviser can help you look beyond the emotional appeal of a property and determine whether it fits into your overall financial plan.

They can assess affordability, debt levels, and the potential impact on long-term goals such as retirement.

"When a home purchase supports your broader financial goals, it can become a valuable asset that contributes to long-term financial security," says Nel.

*** Bertie Nel, Head of Financial Planning at Momentum**

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