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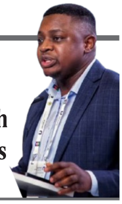


THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

Real estate, retail dominate Namibia's merger activity over past 16 years

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

Real estate, retail dominate Namibia's merger activity over past 16 years

Namibia's real estate and wholesale and retail sectors have dominated merger activity over the past 16 years, accounting for nearly 40% of industry-classified transactions reviewed by the Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC) since 2010.

The Commission determined 203 real estate merger cases between 2010 and July 2026, the highest of any sector, while wholesale and retail trade recorded 195 transactions.

NaCC Director for Mergers and Acquisitions Johannes Ashipala said merger activity over the period has been heavily concentrated in a handful of sectors.

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

"There is a significant concentration in real estate, followed by wholesale and retail. That slide basically indicates that about 20% of our merger cases are in real estate, and it is followed by wholesale and retail, manufacturing, mining and tourism," Ashipala said at a stakeholder engagement in Windhoek.

Manufacturing recorded 115 merger cases over the period, followed by mining with 89 and accommodation and food services with 67.

Together, the five sectors accounted for 669 merger cases, representing about 66% of all industry-classified transactions reviewed by the Commission over the past 16 years.

"If you look at just these five sectors, about two-thirds of the cases that we look at are made up by these five sectors," Ashipala said.

By comparison, merger activity remained limited in several other parts of the economy, with education, arts and recreation, and water and waste-related activities each recording fewer than 10 cases.

Overall, NaCC made 1,008 merger determinations between 2010 and July 2026. Annual determinations increased from 18 cases in 2010 to a peak of 93 in 2015 before moderating in subsequent years.

While real estate recorded the highest number of transactions, wholesale and retail generated the greatest number of competition concerns requiring conditions to be imposed on approved mergers.

The Commission approved 101 mergers subject to conditions over the period, of which 28 were in wholesale and retail.

Accommodation and food services accounted for 13 conditional approvals, followed by agriculture with 11, mining with 10 and manufacturing with eight. Together, the five sectors accounted for 70, or about 69%, of all conditional merger approvals.

"Competition issues are particularly prominent in wholesale and retail. About 28% of the merger conditions that we have imposed are from the wholesale and retail sector, followed by tourism, agriculture, services and mining. Approximately 70% of the merger conditions that we have imposed come from these sectors," Ashipala said.

NaCC has also recorded increasing complexity in merger investigations over the years, with some major transactions taking close to the statutory maximum of 150 days to conclude.

The Commission is seeking to shorten turnaround times, with delays in receiving information from merging parties and responses from stakeholders identified as factors contributing to longer investigations.

NAMIBIA AIRPORTS COMPANY

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Namibia Airports Company (NAC) hereby invites expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified investors, operators, and service providers to partner with us in the development and operation of facilities across NAC's airports. These opportunities form part of NAC's strategy to enhance passenger experience, diversify revenue streams, and strengthen the airport's role as a gateway for tourism, trade, and logistics. Rates are the minimum rental amounts based on passenger volumes, aircraft movements, and cargo volumes, all of which are included in the tables. Our airports handle thousands of passengers, aircraft movements, and cargo annually, presenting unique opportunities for strategic investment and service provision, with direct air connectivity to Zurich, Munich, Frankfurt, Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Luanda, and Lusaka.

AVAILABLE FACILITIES

WALVIS BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (WBIA)

• 107,200 passengers •2,800 aircraft movements •15.7t cargo worth N$22.3 million

WBIA	Description	Recommended Use	Placement	Quantity (> 1)	m² (unit)	Rate/m² (unit)
1	Lease Office Space (Mezzanine)	Office	Landside	3	17.65	560.00
2	Lease Office Space	Office	Landside	1	19.90	560.00
3	Car Rental Services	Car Rental Services	Landside	3	27.20	560.00
4	Lease a Kiosk (Ground Floor)	Retail	Landside	1	16.80	560.00
5	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	28.64	560.00
6	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	2	14.29	560.00
7	Lease a Kiosk (First Floor)	Retail	Landside	1	47.54	560.00
8	Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Hangar Facility	Aviation Support	Airside	2	150.11	21.00
9	Lease Office Space	Office	Landside	1	20.19	560.00
10	Airport Shuttle Management	Airport Shuttle Services	Landside	1	16.70	N/A
11	Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Car Wash Facility	Car Wash Services	Landside	1	N/A	21.00
12	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Heliport Facilities**					21.00
13	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Cargo, Warehouse, Cold Storage, Container Storage and Logistics Support Facilities**					21.00

HOSEA KUTAKO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (HKIA)

• 923,000 passengers • 15,700 aircraft movements • 4,200t cargo worth N$13 billion

HKIA	Description	Recommended Use	Placement	Quantity (> 1)	m² (unit)	Rate/m² (unit)
1	Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Hangar Facility	Aviation Support	Airside	2	N/A	28.00
2	Airport Shuttle Management	Management of Airport Shuttle Services	Landside	1	N/A	880.00
3	Lease Office Space	Office	Landside	1	734	550.00
4	Lease Retail Space	Informal Retail Outlet (Non-Terminal)	Landside	1	30	200.00
5	Lease Workshop	Workshop	Landside	1	250	150.00
6	Lease Primary Health Care Centre	Primary Health Care	Landside	1	250	200.00
7	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Cargo, Warehouse, Cold Storage, Container Storage and Logistics Support Facilities**					28.00

ANDIMBA TOIVO YA TOIVO AIRPORT (ONDANGWA)(ATYTA)

• 24,000 passengers • 1,400 aircraft movements

ATYTA	Description	Recommended Use	Placement	Quantity (> 1)	m² (unit)	Rate/m² (unit)
1	Provision for Car Rental Services	Car Rental Services	Landside	3	32.6	570.00
2	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	21	380.00
3	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	13.1	380.00
4	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	13.7	380.00
5	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	9.26	380.00
6	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Landside	1	8.9	380.00
7	Lease a Kiosk	Retail	Airside	1	20	380.00
8	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Cargo, Warehouse, Cold Storage, Container Storage and Logistics Support Facilities**					21.00

LUDERITZ AIRPORT

• 16,000 passengers • 1,800 aircraft movements

LA	Description	Recommended Use	Placement	Quantity (> 1)	m² (unit)	Rate/m² (unit)
1	Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Hangar Facility	Aviation Support	Airside	2	N/A	20.00
2	Provision for Car Rental Services	Car Rental Services	Landside	1	5	480.00
3	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Heliport Facilities**					21.00
4	**Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Cargo, Warehouse, Cold Storage, Container Storage and Logistics Support Facilities**					21.00

KATIMA MULILO AIRPORT

• 3,300 passengers • 400 aircraft movements

KM	Description	Recommended Use	Placement	Quantity (> 1)	m² (unit)	Rate/m² (unit)
1	Lease a Kiosk	Food & Beverage	Landside	1	13.5	90.00

Submission Guidelines

Interested parties are invited to submit their EOI, including:

- EOI number (eg. HKIA1)
- Facility required
- Company profile and relevant experience.
- Proposed business concept.
- Investment size and land requirements (in m²) for BOT developments only.

EOIs must be submitted to commercial@airports.com.na by 18 September 2026. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process. There will be regular EOI opportunities as NAC transforms its airports into commercial centers that support the national logistics hub aspirations.

Contact Information: For inquiries and submission details, please contact Robyn Conradie at conradier@airports.com.na.

Labour Minister warns oil industry against permanent reliance on foreign skills

Namibia has warned that foreign expertise brought into its emerging oil and gas industry should not become a permanent substitute for local skills, as the country prepares for increasingly complex offshore development and production activities.

Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation Minister Filemon Wise Immanuel said international specialists will be required in areas where Namibia currently lacks technical capacity, but petroleum companies should have clear mechanisms for transferring those skills to Namibians.

Speaking at the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference (NOGC) 2026 in Windhoek, Immanuel said the use of expatriate expertise should be transitional and subject to monitoring as local capabilities develop.

"The importation of these skills must not become a permanent substitute for local capacity. For local capacity, it must be an interim. It needs to be evaluated and monitored," Immanuel said.

The issue is becoming increasingly important as Namibia moves beyond exploration towards potential development, which will require specialised expertise across drilling, engineering, subsea operations, project management and petroleum services.

Immanuel said Namibia needs to consider not only which foreign skills are required, but whether international specialists are being used to train Namibians who can eventually assume those positions.

The approach forms part of a wider government push to ensure that petroleum development creates lasting domestic capacity rather than leaving Namibia dependent on imported expertise throughout the life of the industry.

The recently approved upstream petroleum local content policy seeks to increase Namibian participation through employment, procurement, enterprise development, skills and technology transfer, ownership and financing.

Immanuel said the policy will need to be supported by legislation and effective implementation to ensure its objectives translate into measurable participation by Namibians.

He said the country must also prepare its workforce and businesses for the demanding operational requirements of the international petroleum industry.

"The industry requires safety, the industry requires quality standards, the industry requires a case for miles, the industry requires insurance. The industry requires timely, consistent and professional. You must prepare yourself for that," Immanuel said.

The minister said petroleum development must ultimately deliver more than production volumes, with employment, decent wages, worker safety and job security forming part of the economic dividend expected from the sector.

"Our developmental trajectory and path must have a human face. It must be about how do we ensure occupational health and safety of those that will be employed? Can they think that? It must be about, how do we ensure dignity of those that will be deployed in this industry? It must be about how do we ensure job security by this industry? And how do we ensure decent wages for those that will be employed in this industry?" he said.

Immanuel said Namibia remains open to foreign investment and international expertise, but the long-term impact of that participation should include the development of Namibian professionals and businesses capable of taking increasingly significant roles in the petroleum value chain.

As offshore projects move towards potential development, the skills-transfer question is expected to become more pressing as Namibia seeks to ensure that international investment leaves behind technical capabilities that remain in the country beyond individual petroleum projects.

Capital markets in Namibia: From savings to sustainable growth

By Imanuel Hawanga

Namibia stands at a pivotal moment in the evolution of its financial sector. While Banking has traditionally dominated the financial landscape, capital markets are increasingly emerging as an important engine for economic growth, infrastructure financing, wealth creation and financial inclusion.

The question is no longer whether Namibia needs a deeper capital market, e.g. making the market larger, more liquid and more active, but rather how quickly the country can unlock its full potential.

Who are the key players in Namibia's capital markets?

Capital markets in Namibia involve a broad ecosystem of participants including government, regulators, institutional investors (pension funds, insurance companies, asset managers), securities exchanges, stockbrokers, central securities depository, issuers of securities (listed companies, private companies, public entities) and individual investors.

The Bank of Namibia, the Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX), pension funds and insurance companies, investment managers, corporate and individual investors also play a significant role in mobilizing domestic savings into productive investments.

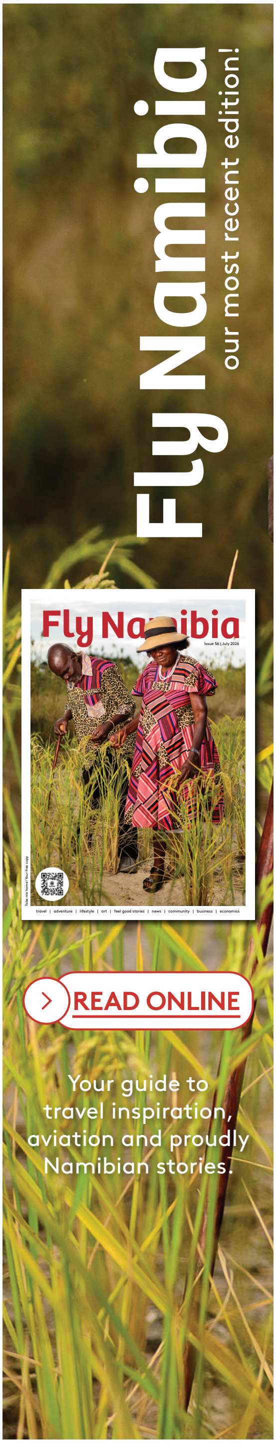
> **"Namibia is a nation with substantial institutional savings, particularly within pension funds and insurance companies.**

At the centre of regulation and supervision is the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), which oversees exchanges, stockbrokers, and investment managers, collective investment schemes, linked investment service providers and other market participants to ensure fairness, transparency, investor protection and ensure stable financial system.

What are capital markets?

Capital markets are platforms through which long-term funds are raised and invested.

They connect those who have capital



(savings) with those who need capital or want to borrow to grow businesses, build infrastructure and create jobs, or buy equity.

In Namibia, capital markets include:

* Equities listed on the Namibia Securities Exchange.
* Government and corporate bonds.
* Collective Investment Schemes and unit trusts.
* Investment management products.
* Alternative and unlisted investments

Unlike traditional bank lending, capital markets provide businesses and governments, as main users of capital markets, with access to long-term funding while offering both corporate and individual investors opportunities for wealth creation and portfolio diversification.

When did Namibia's capital markets become strategically important?

The strategic importance of Namibia's capital markets has grown significantly over the past decade as the country continues to seek new sources of economic growth amid fiscal pressures and constrained public finances. Recent regulatory reforms, including the implementation of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act (FIMA) and approval of the Namibia Financial Sector Transformation Strategy 2025–2035, are aimed at modernizing the sector, broadening and deepening the financial markets and aligning Namibia with international best practice standards.

These reforms are expected to improve market efficiency, strengthen investor confidence, support financial innovation and ensure stability.

The approval of Namibia's Central Securities Depository in 2024 marked another important milestone in the modernization of market infrastructure and is expected to improve settlement efficiency and liquidity in the domestic market.

Where is the capital market creating impact?

The impact of capital markets extends beyond Windhoek and the trading floors of the Namibia Securities Exchange.

Capital raised through the market finances infrastructure projects, supports corporate expansion, creates employment opportunities, and channels retirement savings into productive sectors of the economy.

Importantly, capital markets also provide ordinary Namibians with opportunities to participate in economic growth through pension funds, unit trusts (including money market funds) and listed investments, and insurance-linked investment products.

Collective investment schemes in Namibia managed assets worth approximately N$123.4 billion by the end of 2025, representing growth of 19.2 percent compared to the previous year. Of these assets, 56.5 percent were invested domestically, demonstrating the important role that local capital plays in financing Namibia's economy. (namfisa.com.na)

Why do capital markets matter for Namibia's future?

Namibia is a nation with substantial institutional savings, particularly within pension funds and insurance companies. The challenge is not a lack of capital, but rather creating sufficient investable opportunities domestically.

Deep and liquid capital markets can:

* Reduce dependence on foreign borrowing.

* Support infrastructure financing.

* Enable SMEs and growing businesses to access capital.

* Promote financial inclusion and citizen participation in wealth creation.

* Improve economic resilience through diversification

A vibrant capital market also allows retirement savings to work harder for Namibians while supporting national development objectives.

How can Namibia unlock the next phase of capital market growth?

Four priorities stand out.

1. Increase the supply of investable assets

More companies need to consider listing on the Namibia Securities Exchange, while government and state-owned enterprises can expand the use of bond markets to finance infrastructure and unlock SME and start-up capital.

2. Expand investor education

Financial literacy remains essential. More Namibians should understand the benefits and risks of investing beyond traditional savings products.

3. Accelerate digital transformation

The introduction of a Central Securities Depository and digital market infrastructure presents an opportunity to make investing more accessible, efficient and transparent and brings financial stability. (omutumwa.com)

4. Foster financial inclusion

To increase the availability, accessibility and diversity of financial products and services, which also caters for the inclusion of marginalised and underserved sectors of the economy.

Financial deepening is a process that involves increasing the efficiency, depth (e.g., credit intermediation and market turnover), breadth (e.g., range of markets and instruments), and reach (e.g., access) of financial systems.

As such, deepening can confer important benefits for macro stability, financial inclusion and sustained growth.

The road ahead

Namibia's broader capital market ecosystem is valued at approximately N$338.2 billion, while the entire non-bank financial sector has grown to more than N$552.8 billion in assets. These figures highlight the significant role that on-bank financial institutions already play in the economy and the opportunity that exists to deepen domestic capital formation further.

The future competitiveness of Namibia's economy will depend not only on how much we save, but on how effectively we mobilise those savings into productive investment.

Capital markets are therefore not merely financial infrastructure; they are national development infrastructure.

The countries that succeed in the coming decades will be those that transform savings into investment, investment into productivity and productivity into prosperity.

Namibia has the capital.

The next challenge is to put it to work.

*** *Imanuel Hawanga, General Manager: Capital Markets at NAMFISA***

Govt plans new national standard for vehicle number plates

Government is moving to introduce a new national standard for vehicle number plates as it seeks to tighten manufacturing requirements and improve the reliability of vehicle identification across the country.

The Ministry of Works and Transport said the proposed standard forms part of broader efforts to strengthen oversight of the number plate manufacturing industry and improve compliance within Namibia's vehicle registration system.

Ministry Public Relations Officer Tangi Shivute said stakeholder consultations have begun on measures aimed at improving the integrity of number plates and ensuring manufacturers comply with national requirements.

The initiative forms part of Namibia's implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and is also expected to strengthen law enforcement efforts against fraudulent or counterfeit number plates and vehicle-related crime.

"As part of the implementation of the Decade of Action for Road Safety in Namibia, the Ministry of Works and Transport will be conducting stakeholder consultation workshops aimed at strengthening the integrity of Namibia's vehicle registration system," Shivute said.

"The objectives are to enhance road safety and vehicle identification, prevent the manufacturing and use of fraudulent or counterfeit number plates, improve compliance with national standards, support law enforcement in combating vehicle-related crime, and promote accountability and professionalism within the number plate manufacturing industry."

The proposed changes are expected to place greater scrutiny on companies producing and selling vehicle number plates.

Under Regulations 77 to 80 of the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations of 2001, individuals and businesses are prohibited from manufacturing or selling number plates unless they are registered as manufacturers by the Minister.

"In accordance with Regulation 77-80 of the Road Traffic and Transport Regulation of 2001, a person may not manufacture or sell a number plate unless registered as a Manufacturer by the Minister," Shivute said.

"These regulations outline the procedures for applying for registration, the conditions for registration, and the processes for suspension or cancellation of registration for number plate manufacturers."

The Ministry is now looking to strengthen the regulatory framework through the proposed national standard and tighter oversight of registered manufacturers.

The changes are intended to ensure greater consistency in the production of number plates while making it more difficult for fraudulent or counterfeit plates to be manufactured and used.

The stakeholder consultations will help determine the requirements that could eventually apply to number plate manufacturers as government moves to strengthen Namibia's vehicle identification and registration system.

Aligning strategy, risk and culture: The reality check organisations need (Part 4 of 5)

By Monika Amukoto

> Risk culture becomes most visible in moments when risks are raised and decisions are challenged.

As you went through the previous articles, much of the content may have sounded familiar. In fact, you may have found yourself agreeing with many of the concepts discussed, as they are not entirely new.

However, the real question is what effective risk management looks like on a day-to-day, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis within an organisation.

There are a few simple tests organisations can apply to determine whether risk management is genuinely embedded in the business or merely documented.

1. Is there a clear link between your strategic objectives and risk mitigation actions?

Take your organisation's strategic plan and place it alongside its risk register or risk management plan. If you operate below executive level, do the same with your departmental plan.

If you are part of a team, compare your team's objectives with the risks that could affect their delivery.

Then ask yourself:

Can you clearly link your strategic objectives to the material risks and corresponding mitigation actions?

If the answer is no, you may have two perfectly sound documents that are functioning independently of one another.

I experienced this firsthand during the development of a local company's strategic plan. Although the strategic plan was well put together and aligned with the organisation's goals, it didn't consider the risks that could impact its success.

To remedy this, and rather than simply inserting a risk section in the strategic plan, I engaged the Executive Committee to challenge and evaluate each proposed strategic action through a risk lens.

What quickly became apparent was that several strategic initiatives were advancing without adequate consideration of the material risks that could undermine their successful execution.

A strategy may be comprehensive yet still be highly exposed to execution risks. When an organisation identifies an existential or material risk during its risk assessment process, that risk should not remain confined to the risk register.

It should be reflected in strategic priorities, resource allocation, budgeting decisions, and execution planning. When risks are treated separately from strategy, organisations create the illusion of preparedness while leaving themselves vulnerable to execution.

2. What happens when risks are raised?

Think about your recent executive committee, management, or team meetings. When someone highlighted a risk or challenged a proposed decision, what was the response? Was it curiosity and a willingness to understand the issue, or pressure to move ahead regardless?

Risk culture becomes most visible in moments when risks are raised and decisions are challenged. To assess the strength of your organisation's risk culture, consider the following questions:

Can employees question risk exposures and raise concerns without fear of being labelled negative or difficult?

When uncomfortable risks are raised, are individuals thanked for highlighting them, or questioned for doing so? Are difficult conversations encouraged, or do people tend to tell management what they believe management wants to hear?

Do leaders openly acknowledge when decisions have not worked as intended, and are mistakes examined as opportunities for learning rather than occasions for assigning blame?

Equally important, do employees escalate risks early, or wait until problems become unavoidable? When was the last time a significant decision was changed because a risk was identified? Perhaps the most revealing question of all is this: are there known risks that go unreported because people believe raising them will make no difference?

The lesson is simple: Effective risk management is not about explaining failures after they occur; it is about influencing decisions early enough to improve the likelihood of success.

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

Namibia moves to prepare qualifications for oil, gas and AI skills demand

Namibia is moving to adapt its qualifications system to emerging skills requirements in oil and gas, the energy transition and artificial intelligence as part of a new national framework aimed at keeping training aligned with changes in the economy.

The Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) says the National Policy on Qualification Standards will allow qualifications to be developed and updated in response to labour market demand, while setting nationally agreed minimum learning outcomes and competency standards.

NQA Head of Qualifications Joseph Amunyela said emerging industries are changing the types of skills required from Namibia's education and training system.

"These emerging sectors require the nation to change and to be responsive. Qualifications must be developed in alignment with labour market demands, and Namibia will also develop a national framework on the recognition and quality assurance of micro-credentials to support upskilling," Amunyela said.

Speaking at an introduction and familiarisation session on the National Policy on Qualification Standards, Amunyela said the framework will bring education providers, employers, professional bodies and government together to determine what graduates should know and be able to do.

The move is aimed at narrowing the gap between qualifications offered by training institutions and the competencies required by employers.

"A qualification in essence is a public promise. It is a promise to the learner who invests time and resources, a promise to the employer who needs to understand what the graduate knows and can do, and a promise to the wider public that qualifications are credible and verifiable," Amunyela said.

Under the policy, national standards will establish minimum learning outcomes and competencies without requiring institutions to offer identical programmes.

"As soon as we have national standards established, it means all of us will be recognised in terms of the acceptancy of any outcome of learning of any programme. The aim should be equivalent credibility, not identical programmes," he said.

The standards will be reviewed every five years, while targeted updates will be possible when technological developments, safety requirements or changes in industries require qualifications to be revised earlier.

The NQA is also planning a national framework for the recognition and quality assurance of micro-credentials, which could allow workers to acquire specific skills without necessarily completing full traditional qualifications.

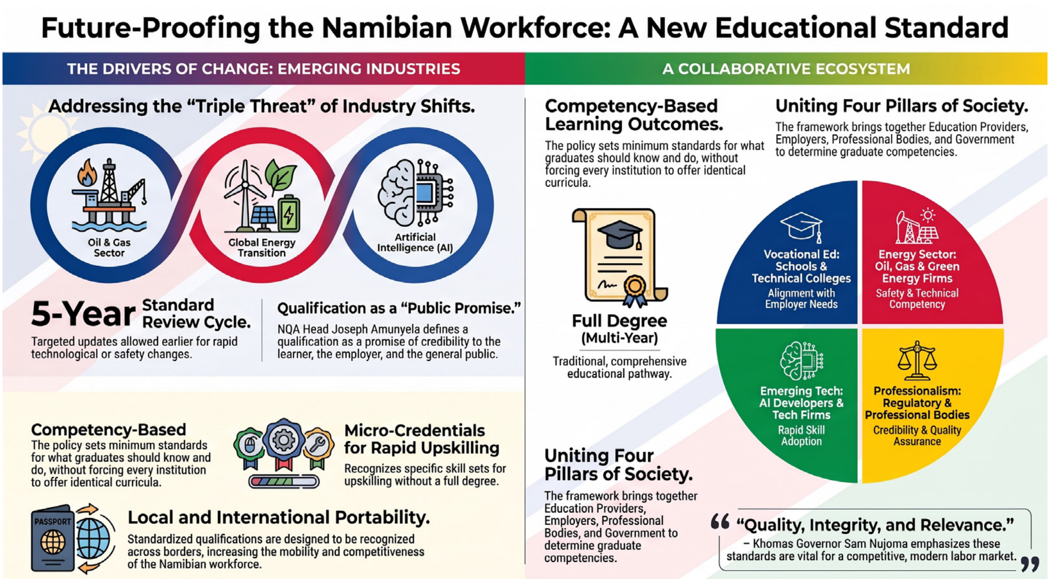
Khomas Governor Sam Nujoma said Namibia needs qualifications that remain relevant to an increasingly competitive labour market.

"We share a responsibility to ensure our graduates hold qualifications reflecting quality, integrity, relevance, and the competencies a competitive labour market demands," Nujoma said.

He said the policy will provide a common framework for qualifications offered by schools, vocational training institutions, colleges, universities and other providers.

"This policy therefore comes at an opportune time, providing a coherent framework so that qualifications from schools, vocational training institutions, colleges, universities, and other providers are developed, assessed, and quality assured to consistent national standards," Nujoma said.

The framework is also expected to improve the recognition and portability of Namibian qualifications locally and internationally.



Namibia Oil and Gas Conference: Day 3

Weaner demand drives 152% jump in Namibia live cattle exports

Namibia's live cattle exports surged by 151.61% year on year to 13,008 head in July 2026, driven largely by strong demand for 140–250kg weaners from South African feedlots preparing for the year-end season, as the country entered its June-to-September weaner marketing period.

According to the Livestock and Livestock Products Board's July Market Watch report, the increase in live exports was also significant on a monthly basis, rising 73.14% from June. Feedlot cattle accounted for the vast majority of exports at 12,480 head, or 95.94%, with most destined for South Africa. Breeding cattle accounted for 76 head, while other categories made up 452 head.

"The increase was primarily driven by live cattle exports, which rose by 151.61% y/y and 73.14% m/m to 13,008 head. A-class export abattoir slaughter also increased by 50.68% y/y and 18.51% m/m to 15,585 head, while B&C class abattoir throughput declined by 60.26% y/y and 20.31% m/m to 2,060 head. Overall, the increase in cattle marketing during July was concentrated in export-oriented channels, particularly live exports and A-class export abattoir slaughter," the report said.

The domestic slaughter market also recorded strong growth in some categories. A-class slaughter increased by

> The increase was primarily driven by live cattle exports, which rose by 151.61% y/y and 73.14% m/m to 13,008 head.

50.68% year on year to 15,585 head, while B&C-class slaughter declined sharply by 60.26% to 2,060 head.

The stronger cattle market was reflected in producer prices, with the weaner auction price increasing by 8.74% year on year to N$32.58 per kilogram. Slaughter ox prices rose by 11.16% to N$38.15/kg, while the Namibian Class B2 price increased by 9.66% to N$77.88/kg.

The all-grade carcass price also strengthened by 6.39% year on year to N$74.48/kg. The weaner-to-B2 price ratio improved from 39.63% in June to 41.83% in July, although it remained below the benchmark of 64%.

"Across slaughter classes, producer prices recorded mixed m/m movements during the review period, while all grades strengthened y/y. Class A, AB, B and C prices increased by 0.34%, 3.45%, 6.22% and 7.76% y/y, respectively. On a m/m basis, Class A declined by 2.02%, Class AB by 0.78%, and Class C by 1.86%, while Class B remained relatively stable, increasing marginally by 0.11%," the report said.

Meanwhile, Namibia's pork market recorded higher slaughter volumes but weaker prices. Pig slaughter increased by 13.08% year on year to 4,754 head, bringing year-to-date slaughter to 32,698 head, up 9.97%.

Despite the increase in slaughter, the calculated pork price fell by 13.23% year on year to N$38.91/kg, while the South African RMAA pork price declined by 12.55% to N$28.84/kg. The board-approved pork ceiling price was also reduced by 8.65% to N$47.61/kg.

Understanding the FIMA changes and why staying informed matters

By Tunohole Mungoba

> FIMA is Namibia's new legislative framework governing non-banking financial institutions and financial markets.

The financial services industry in Namibia is entering a new era with the implementation of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act, 2021 (FIMA).

While the legislation introduces significant changes for financial institutions, including medical aid funds such as Namibia Health Plan (NHP), one question remains top of mind for many members: "What does FIMA mean for me?"

The simple answer is this: FIMA strengthens the way NHP is governed and regulated, while your medical aid benefits, contributions and access to healthcare remain unchanged.

What is FIMA?

FIMA is Namibia's new legislative framework governing non-banking financial institutions and financial markets.

It was introduced to modernise the financial services sector by strengthening governance, improving accountability, enhancing consumer protection and promoting greater transparency across the industry. All medical aid funds in Namibia are all required to comply with the Act.

The biggest change: Claims assessing will become an NHP function

One of the most significant requirements introduced by FIMA is that, from 30 April 2027, every medical aid fund in Namibia must take ownership of its claims assessing function.

But what exactly does that mean?

Whenever you visit a doctor, specialist or pharmacy, a claim is submitted to your medical aid. Before that claim can be paid, it needs to be assessed to determine whether it qualifies for payment in accordance with your benefit option and the NHP Fund Rules.

Today, this assessment is performed by a service provider on behalf of the Fund. Under FIMA, that responsibility must now sit with NHP itself.

In simple terms, NHP will become directly responsible for assessing claims, ensuring that decisions are made in accordance with the Fund Rules and under the direct oversight of the Fund.

Why we launched the NHP FIMA Information Hub Rather than communicating only when changes occur, NHP has chosen to take an educational approach by launching the NHP FIMA Information Hub.

The hub has been created to serve as

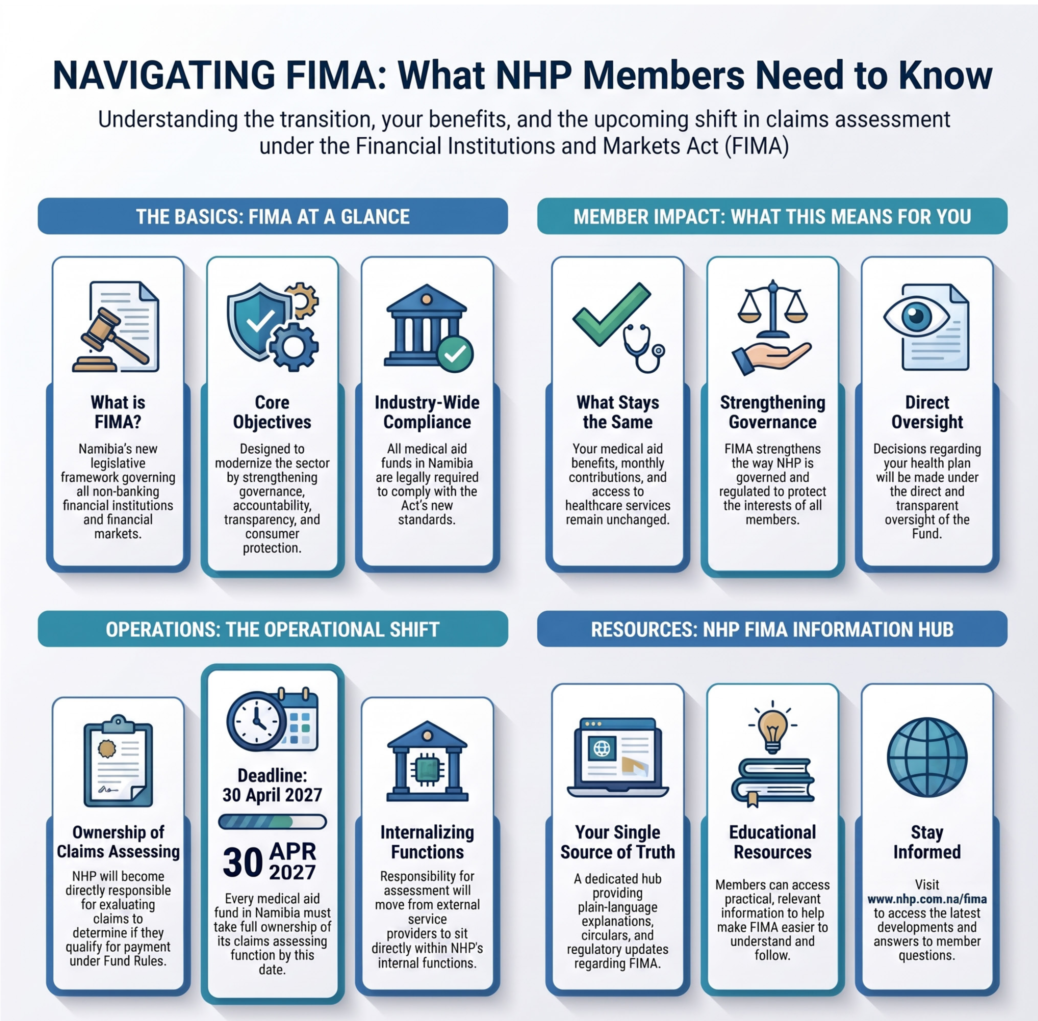
a single, trusted source of information where members can access plain-language explanations of FIMA, member circulars and updates and important announcements and regulatory developments.

Our goal is to make FIMA easier to understand by providing information that is practical, relevant and easy to follow.

As we continue implementing FIMA over the coming months, we will regularly update the FIMA Information Hub with new resources and important developments.

We invite all members to join us on this journey by visiting the NHP FIMA Information Hub regularly for the latest updates, educational resources and answers to your questions.

Visit the NHP FIMA Information Hub today at www.nhp.com.na/fima and stay informed as we continue building a stronger, more transparent and sustainable Namibia Health Plan.



Roads Authority targets N$2.1bn upgrade of nine Oshana roads

The Roads Authority has identified nine priority roads in the Oshana Region for upgrades at an estimated combined cost of N$2.1 billion, as government moves to improve transport links and support economic activity in the region.

According to the Oshana Regional Council's Regional Sectoral Report for 2025/26 submitted to the National Council, the projects form part of the Regional Roads Master Plan and are expected to improve transport efficiency, strengthen trade connectivity and stimulate regional economic activity. Progress is already being recorded on several road projects, including the DR4103 Okatana-Amutanga-Omulathitu-Onanime Road, where construction has reached 62.15%. Earthworks on the project are 85% complete, while culvert installation has reached 90%. Once completed, the road is expected to improve access to markets, social services and agricultural production while creating employment opportunities for local communities.

Work has also started on Phase 1A of the DR3607 Oshakati-Ompundja Road at a cost of N$29.9 million.

"Phase 1A of the DR3607 Oshakati-Ompundja Road, valued at N$29.9 million, commenced during the period under review. The project is designed to create employment and subcontracting opportunities for local SMEs," the report said.

Meanwhile, Phase 1 of the DR3605 Oluno-Uukwiyuushona Road has reached 99% completion.

The region also recorded approximately N$39.7 million in routine road maintenance investment, of which N$36.7 million had already been spent during the reporting period.

"These investments reflect Government's commitment to improving mobility and supporting economic development in the Region," the report said.

Local authorities are also investing in urban road and stormwater infrastructure.

Ongwediva Town Council invested N$30.5 million in road improvements and stormwater infrastructure, while Ondangwa Town Council allocated N$4 million towards roads in informal settlements.

Oshakati Town Council also invested in stormwater infrastructure aimed at reducing flooding and supporting the town's continued urban expansion.

The Oshana Regional Council, meanwhile, completed the Onamambili crossing bridge, improving year-round access to schools, health facilities and markets.

The planned N$2.1 billion road programme adds to ongoing infrastructure investment across Oshana as authorities seek to strengthen connections between communities, towns, markets and key economic areas.

Own the garage: Africa's next AI leap is about what we control

By Stantin Siebritz

A few weeks ago, I argued that Africa has never suffered from a talent gap. What it has suffered from is an investment and infrastructure gap.

The continent has long produced world-class athletes, entrepreneurs, engineers and innovators despite often lacking the ecosystems needed to support them.

Football provides a useful analogy. Africa produced some of the world's finest players long before many countries had elite academies, sophisticated scouting systems or the commercial machinery that underpins the global game today. Talent existed; the supporting infrastructure did not.

The same reality is becoming increasingly evident in artificial intelligence.

At IndabaX Namibia 2026, young developers, researchers and entrepreneurs demonstrated that African talent is more than capable of building meaningful AI solutions.

In the space of a week, teams were able to conceptualise, build and present credible products that addressed real-world challenges.

The event showcased creativity, technical competence and ambition in abundance. Yet the most important question was not what happened during the hackathon itself, but what happens afterwards.

What happens when the event ends, the mentors go home and the cloud credits run out?

The answer to that question will determine whether Africa becomes a creator of AI-driven value or merely a consumer of technologies developed elsewhere.

For much of the past decade, the ability to build and deploy advanced AI systems was largely concentrated in the hands of a small number of global technology firms and wealthy nations.

The costs associated with computing power, data storage and model development placed meaningful participation beyond the reach of most startups, universities and businesses across emerging markets.

Artificial intelligence was often discussed as a democratising force, but the infrastructure required to fully participate in it remained highly concentrated.

That landscape is beginning to change.

Advances in hardware and software are steadily lowering the barriers to entry. Powerful AI systems no longer require

> **"A useful analogy is the difference between renting a vehicle when needed and owning one with access to the engine.**

the scale of infrastructure associated with hyperscale data centres.

Increasingly, organisations can run sophisticated models within offices, innovation labs and universities using equipment that is becoming both more accessible and more affordable.

What was once available only to the largest technology companies is gradually moving within reach of smaller organisations and developing economies.

This shift matters because AI adoption is not simply about access to software. It is about control.

Organisations that own at least part of their computing capability gain more than operational flexibility.

They retain greater control over their data, reduce reliance on external providers and create an environment in which experimentation can flourish without every test, query or prototype adding to a monthly cloud invoice.

Just as importantly, technical expertise develops internally rather than residing entirely with external vendors.

This growing accessibility is being accelerated by the rise of open-weight models. Unlike closed systems where users can only consume a service, open-weight models allow organisations to understand, adapt and customise the underlying technology.

A useful analogy is the difference between renting a vehicle when needed and owning one with access to the engine. One provides convenience; the other provides capability. Ownership enables learning, adaptation and long-term value creation.

At the same time, innovations such as quantisation and model distillation are making AI dramatically more efficient.

Quantisation reduces the computational resources required to run models, while distillation transfers the capabilities of larger systems into smaller, faster and more economical versions.

The practical result is that increasingly useful AI applications can run on modest infrastructure. Businesses do not need supercomputers to automate administrative processes, analyse documents, improve customer service or derive insights from internal data.

What they need is the right-sized technology combined with quality data and a clear understanding of the business challenges they are trying to solve.

For Namibia and many other African countries, this presents an important strategic opportunity.

Too often, discussions about digital transformation are framed as a choice between complete dependence on global cloud providers and the unrealistic ambition of building infrastructure that

> Ultimately, the future of artificial intelligence in Africa will not be determined by the brilliance of our demonstrations or the enthusiasm generated by our innovation events.

rivals the world's largest technology companies.

In reality, there is a far more practical middle ground. The objective should not be technological isolation, nor should it be permanent dependence. It should be the development of sovereign capability.

Sovereign capability means owning enough infrastructure, skills and local data capacity to make independent decisions. It means maintaining the freedom to choose the right technology partners rather than being locked into them.

It means ensuring that local innovators can continue building regardless of external market conditions.

Most importantly, it means creating an environment where intellectual property, expertise and economic value have a greater chance of remaining within African economies.

This is not an argument against partnership. Collaboration with global technology firms will remain essential.

Cloud computing will continue to play a critical role in the continent's digital future. However, partnerships are most effective when they are entered from a position of strength. Ownership and collaboration are not opposites; they are complementary.

The more capability we develop locally, the more effectively we can participate in global innovation networks.

Ultimately, the future of artificial intelligence in Africa will not be determined by the brilliance of our demonstrations or the enthusiasm generated by our innovation events.

Those moments are important, but they are only the beginning. The real test is whether promising ideas can move beyond prototypes and become sustainable businesses, scalable solutions and enduring institutions.

That requires infrastructure. It requires investment. And it requires a collective shift in mindset from admiration to ownership.

The talent is already here. The technology is becoming increasingly attainable. The opportunity is no longer a distant prospect but a present reality.

The question facing Africa is whether we are prepared to take ownership of enough of the ecosystem to shape our own future.

The garage does not need to be enormous.

It simply needs to be ours.

Over 60 Namibians enter oil and gas industry through PETROFUND partnerships

More than 60 Namibians have secured employment and internship opportunities in the oil and gas industry through PETROFUND partnerships, as the Fund seeks to translate its N$160 million training investment into actual participation in the emerging sector.

The Petroleum Training and Education Fund (PETROFUND) has signed more than 10 strategic memoranda of understanding with international oil and gas operators and service companies, providing Namibians with access to employment, internships, on-the-job training and specialised skills development.

PETROFUND Chief Executive Officer Nillian Mulemi said the partnerships form part of efforts to ensure investment in training produces tangible employment and economic opportunities as Namibia moves from exploration towards potential development and production.

Her remarks were delivered on her behalf by PETROFUND Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations Shoki Kandjimi at the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference on 19 August 2026. TechnipFMC Namibia has employed 23 Namibians through the initiative and provided training opportunities in Ghana, Nigeria and France.

A further 13 Namibians are undertaking their second year of on-the-job training with SBM Offshore in India after completing their first year in Malaysia.

The placements form part of a broader N$160 million investment by PETROFUND in education and training for more than 500 Namibians through undergraduate, postgraduate, technical and vocational programmes.

More than 83 beneficiaries have specialised in petroleum and energy-related disciplines, including training in Indonesia, Angola, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Canada.

Training programmes have included RAST and roughneck training, welding, fitting and turning, as well as specialised oil and gas programmes.

"The true measure of the impact of the oil and gas industry on Namibia's economy will be accounted for through growth in jobs and living standards and the stimulation of local support services," Mulemi said.

The employment outcomes come as Namibia faces increasing pressure to ensure that investment in petroleum skills development translates into actual positions for Namibians as offshore projects advance.

With the country preparing for a potential shift from exploration to development and production, demand for specialised technical skills is expected to increase.

PETROFUND's partnerships are aimed at giving Namibians practical experience in established international petroleum operations while positioning them to take up roles in Namibia's industry as opportunities emerge.

The challenge will increasingly be to convert the country's growing pool of trained petroleum professionals into sustained local employment as offshore developments progress.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