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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

Local council power networks emerge as weak link in Namibia's electricity system

MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

Local council power networks emerge as weak link in Namibia's electricity system

Electricity networks operated by local and regional councils have emerged as a major weak point in Namibia's power distribution system, with the //Kharas, Hardap and Omaheke regions recording some of the most significant infrastructure concerns, according to the Electricity Control Board (ECB).

The ECB's National Electricity Infrastructure Status Report for 2024/25 found that while Namibia's overall electricity network remains in satisfactory condition, significant differences persist between the reliability and maintenance of nationally and locally managed infrastructure.

The assessment followed inspections across all 14 regions covering networks operated by NamPower, Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs), municipalities, town and village councils, regional councils, farmer schemes and mines.

"Where electricity is run by Local and Regional Councils rather than a RED, the networks generally fare worse. //Kharas Region had the most concerns, followed by Hardap and Omaheke Regions," the report said.

Khomas, where the City of Windhoek manages the electricity network, and Otjozondjupa were identified as exceptions, with their networks maintained in good

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

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condition.

The findings expose a significant infrastructure gap between electricity networks managed by dedicated power utilities and those administered directly by councils.

NamPower's high-voltage transmission network, which carries electricity over long distances and forms the backbone of the national power system, was assessed as well maintained and reliable.

RED-operated networks also generally performed better than council-run systems. CENORED was singled out for maintaining its network in good condition, while NORED continues to address several non-compliance issues.

"Overall, Namibia's electricity network is in a satisfactory condition. The high voltage 'backbone' that carries power over long distances, and is run by NamPower, is well maintained and reliable. The bigger differences show closer to homes and businesses, in the networks that deliver electricity locally," the report said.

The situation is more severe among farmer electricity schemes, where eight of the 13 schemes inspected, more than 60%, were rated poor and require urgent attention.

The ECB attributed the poor condition of the schemes largely to shortages of technical expertise, funding constraints and inadequate maintenance, noting that managing electricity infrastructure is not the farmers' primary responsibility.

The findings raise concerns over the ability of some smaller electricity distributors to adequately maintain infrastructure as ageing networks and growing electricity demand place greater pressure on local systems.

The report also found that frequent electricity interruptions previously experienced in Tsumeb have been resolved following corrective maintenance and network improvement works.

The interventions included improved protection and fault-detection equipment, enhanced fault recording and analysis, additional safety systems and repairs to damaged wiring and equipment covers.

ECB Chief Executive Officer Robert Kahimise said the overall condition of the national electricity system remains sound, but weaknesses in locally managed networks require attention.

"The findings confirm that our electricity network is in good shape overall, and that gives us real comfort. At the same time, the report is honest about where the weak spots are, especially in areas where electricity is run by Local Councils rather than by a dedicated company," Kahimise said.

"We will keep on monitoring such studies so that problems are spotted early and fixed before they affect people's safety or their electricity supply."

MTC targets wider digital access with N$624.9m infrastructure investment

MTC says its N$624.9 million capital expenditure programme is aimed at widening digital access across Namibia through network expansion, fibre connectivity, infrastructure upgrades and accelerated 5G deployment.

Chief Technical and Information Officer Dr Monica Nehemia said connectivity should increasingly be viewed as economic infrastructure capable of linking businesses and communities to opportunities rather than simply providing voice and data services. Speaking at the official opening of the 25th Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF), Nehemia said the N$624.9 million investment was committed for the 2025/26 financial year as part of MTC's infrastructure expansion programme.

"Digital inclusion remains central to MTC's purpose, as connectivity extends beyond voice and data services to enabling businesses, linking communities to opportunities, and supporting national development," she said.

The investment is being directed towards expanding network coverage, rolling out fibre connectivity, upgrading existing telecommunications infrastructure and accelerating the deployment of 5G technology. MTC is pursuing the infrastructure investment alongside initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and economic participation. The telecommunications company allocates at least N$1.2 million annually towards trade fairs and exhibitions across Namibia, which it views as platforms for businesses and entrepreneurs to reach customers and investors.

MTC has supported OATF for more than 20 years, with Nehemia describing the partnership as part of the company's broader contribution to economic development.

"MTC does not view sponsorship as simply branding. It is participation in national development and an investment in entrepreneurship, innovation, and the communities that sustain our economy," she said.

Nehemia said the trade fair's 25-year history demonstrates the role such platforms can play in promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and economic participation.

She also called for companies operating in Namibia to strengthen their environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices and corporate social investment programmes.

"True business success must be measured not only by balance sheets, profits, and market share, but also by the communities uplifted, the young people empowered, and the hope restored," Nehemia said.

"As MTC, we believe that ESG principles must be embedded in the way we do business, because responsible companies have the duty to contribute meaningfully to society beyond their commercial objectives."

MTC said it intends to continue combining telecommunications infrastructure investment with initiatives aimed at expanding digital inclusion, entrepreneurship and economic participation.

Junior is a job title, not a limitation

By Fatima Santana

For a long time, I thought the word “junior” was an instruction.

Support. Execute. Learn. Wait your turn.

I believed that the bigger conversations belonged to people with bigger titles. Strategy was for managers. Commercial decisions were for senior leaders. My role was to support what had already been decided and ensure it was executed well.

The irony is that I was burning with ideas.

I could see opportunities for the brands I worked on. I had opinions on what we could do differently. But somewhere between having the idea and sitting in the meeting, I convinced myself that it was not my place to speak.

What if my idea was not good enough? What if I sounded inexperienced?

So, I made myself small.

The shift

Interestingly, the shift did not start at work.

During a period of personal coaching, I began reflecting more honestly on how I was showing up professionally. I recognised a pattern. I was comfortable sharing ideas in smaller, safer spaces, but hesitant to own those same ideas in bigger rooms.

I wanted my contribution to be recognised, yet I was not consistently giving myself the opportunity to be seen contributing.

That realisation was uncomfortable, but it was also freeing.

If I wanted to grow, I had to start showing up differently.

> “
> **Working more closely with teams and leadership has shown me something different: strong teams are built on shared contribution.**

Choosing to step forward

One of the most important steps I took was having an honest conversation with my manager about wanting to contribute more.

Speaking up when you are used to holding back can feel like overstepping.

But the response created a shift.

I was given more opportunities to share my thinking. I was invited into more strategic conversations. I was encouraged to stretch beyond the responsibilities I had previously associated with my title.

And as I stepped forward, something else happened.

The more I contributed, the more I was trusted to contribute.

Confidence is built, not waited for

I used to believe that confidence comes before responsibility.

That once I felt ready, I would take on bigger challenges.

In reality, confidence came after I stepped into things that felt uncomfortable.

There were areas I had previously

avoided because they felt too senior. Budget management. Pricing strategy. Business cases. These felt like responsibilities reserved for more experienced professionals.

Then I started leaning into them.

Not because I had all the answers, but because I was willing to learn.

I asked questions. I did the homework. I paid attention to how decisions were made. I allowed myself to be a beginner in spaces that intimidated me.

Over time, what once felt overwhelming became part of how I contribute.

Today, I have led consumer research, contributed to portfolio decisions and led brand repositioning projects. These experiences have deepened my understanding of both brand building and the commercial realities behind it.

My title did not have to change before my contribution did.

Rethinking what "junior" means

Being junior can make seniority look like certainty.

You assume that the people above you have all the answers.

Working more closely with teams and leadership has shown me something different: strong teams are built on shared contribution.

There are areas where I rely on the experience and guidance of those around me. And there are areas where my perspective is actively sought and valued.

That is what growth in a healthy environment looks like.

It also reinforced something important for me.

Being junior does not mean being invisible.

A mindset, not a limitation

Looking back, my title was not the main thing holding me back.

My interpretation of it was.

I had created boundaries around what I believed I was allowed to contribute to, simply because I was early in my career.

There is nothing wrong with being junior.

It is a season of learning, and experience matters.

But having more to learn does not mean having nothing to contribute.

Especially in marketing, where understanding people, culture and behaviour matters, valuable insight can come from anywhere in the team.

The responsibility, then, is to make that contribution meaningful.

Learn the skills.

Do the homework.

Ask questions.

Build relationships and earn trust.

Work on how you communicate your thinking.

Take on challenges that feel uncomfortable.

And when you have something valuable to contribute, say it.

I am still learning. I am still growing. There are still rooms that challenge me.

But I no longer believe I have to wait for a different title before I start becoming the professional I aspire to be. Because "just a junior" is not a position.

It is a mindset.

And mindsets can change long before job titles do.

Fatima Santana is a Brand Marketing professional in the FMCG sector, with experience leading consumer research and brand repositioning projects. Her work sits at the intersection of brand strategy, consumer understanding and commercial impact. She writes about building brands in African markets and what it means to grow into leadership early in your career.

Govt cracks down on unqualified instructors, unsafe vehicles at driving schools

The government is moving to tighten oversight of Namibia's driving school industry amid concerns that unqualified instructors, unsafe training vehicles and inconsistent teaching standards could be undermining efforts to improve road safety.

Works and Transport Minister Veikko Nekundi said shortcomings in the sector have highlighted the need for stronger registration, inspection, monitoring and enforcement of driving schools and instructors.

Speaking at a stakeholder consultation workshop in Swakopmund on Monday, Nekundi said the government wants to establish a regulatory system that protects learner drivers and ensures operators meet minimum national standards.

"At the same time, we must acknowledge that there are challenges within the sector which include differences in the quality of driver training, inconsistencies in operating practices, concerns regarding the competency and professional conduct of some instructors, the condition and suitability of training vehicles, and the need for stronger oversight and accountability," Nekundi said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT OF OKANDJIRA EXTENSION 1, ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 1 OF THE FARM OVITO RESERVE NO. 55, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

Notice is hereby given to all potential **Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)** that an application for an **Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)** will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the **Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007)** and the **2012 EIA Regulations** for the following proposed activities:

1. Project Overview & Location

The **Otjozondjupa Regional Council** (the Proponent) intends to undertake the establishment of **Okandjira Extension 1 Township on the Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Ovitoto Reserve No. 55,** Otjozondjupa Region. This initiative aims to provide secure land tenure, address informal settlement challenges, and stimulate local socio-economic growth through serviced land.

2. Location

Coordinates :

- **Latitude: 21°58′0″S**
- **Longitude: 17°13′0″E**
- It sits immediately adjacent to the existing **Okandjira Proper** area, located approximately **42 km East of Okahandja** via the **D2102 road**.

3. Triggered Listed Activities

In accordance with the Environmental Management Act (2007), the project triggers the following legally listed activities requiring environmental clearance:

- **Land Use & Township Establishment:** The legal establishment of Extension 1 Township and the subdivision of land into residential, institutional, commercial, and agricultural erven.
- **Infrastructure & Infrastructure Development:** Construction of public access roads, service corridors, and right-of-way servitudes.
- **Bulk Services:** Provision of bulk water supply, sanitation systems, and electricity distribution.

4. Potential Environmental & Social Impacts

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will identify safeguards and mitigate potential impacts, which include: increased traffic volumes, waste generation, dust emissions, heightened demand for water resources, local biodiversity/habitat disturbance, and soil erosion risks. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed to manage these impacts.

5. Invitation to Participate & Register

All local communities, traditional authorities, stakeholders, and potential I&APs are invited to participate in this public consultation process. You are encouraged to register formally to receive the full Background Information Document (BID), raise concerns, or provide comments to be included in the official Comments and Responses Report.

- **Public Meeting Details: 3 September 2026 @ Okandjira Settlement, community Hall**
- **Time: 10:00-16:00**
- **Deadline for Registration and Comments:** On or before **30 September 2026.**

6. Contact Information for Enquiries & Registration

Please submit your name, contact information, and interest/comments regarding the project to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP):

Environmental Consultant:

HEH URBAN NEST CREATIONS

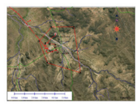
RITTA KHIBA Planning Consultants

Urban Projects Planning & Coordination Consultant

+264 81 256 9827 info@urbannest.com.na

Physical Address: Erf 1509, Virgo Street, Doradopark ,*Windhoek*

Date of Public Meeting: 3 September 2026



PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTABLISHMNET OF TOWNSHIP: OKANDJIRA EXTENSION 1, DRAFT OKANDJIRA URBAN STRUCTURE PLAN AND DRAFT ZONING SCHEME

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 107(1) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018), that HEH Urban Nest Creations on behalf of Otjozondjupa Regional Council, intends on applying to the Urban and Regional Planning Board for approval for the proposed Establishment of a Township of Okandjira Extension 1.
Additionally, further notice is given for the Draft Urban Structure Plan of Okandjira in terms of Section 34(2)(b) and the preparation of the Draft Okandjira Zoning Scheme in terms of Section 44 of the Urban and Regional Planning 2018 (Act No.5 of 2018).

OKandjira Extension 1 will comprise of approximately 162 erven and the Remainder, and the main purpose of the township establishment is to create more residential erven in Okandjira, to enable the Regional Council to address the housing backlog in the area.

The plan for the proposed township Extension 1 and the draft Okandjira Urban Structure Plan and draft zoning scheme lies for inspection at the Planning and Development Services of Otjozondjupa Regional Council, Government Office Park Otjiwarongo; Henk Willem Street and the Okandjira Settlement Constituency office.

Further take note that any person who wishes to object to the application as set out above may lodge such objection together with their grounds thereof in writing, with Otjozondjupa Regional Council, directed to Planning & Development Services, P.O. Box 1682, Otjiwarongo, alternatively to the consultant within 14 days after the publication of this notice, which is scheduled to end on Friday 4, September 2026.

Otjozondjupa Regional Council- Head Office
Henk Willem Street No.22
Planning and Development Services
Tel: 067 303702

Urban Projects Planning & Coordination Consultant

+264 81 256 9827 info@urbannest.com.na

HEH URBAN NEST CREATIONS

The proposed framework would require driving schools to be properly registered and instructors to be qualified and certified, while vehicles used for training would have to meet prescribed safety and suitability requirements.

The government also wants to establish more consistent training standards to reduce differences in the quality of instruction received by learner drivers across the country.

"Our objective must be to establish a system in which a person seeking driving instruction can have confidence that the driving school is properly registered, the instructor is properly qualified and certified, the training vehicle is safe and suitable, and the training provided meets an acceptable national standard," Nekundi said.

The framework will focus on five areas: professionalism and accountability, competent instructors, safe training vehicles, consistent training standards, and effective and fair regulation. Nekundi said Namibia already has legislation governing driving instructors under the Road Traffic and Transport Act of 1999, which requires anyone providing driving instruction or supervision for payment to hold a prescribed driving instructor's certificate.

The law also provides for requirements relating to instructor certification, training vehicles, instructor duties and the suspension or cancellation of certificates.

However, Nekundi indicated that regulation needs to be backed by effective enforcement, including registration procedures, inspections, record-keeping and continuous monitoring.

He said legitimate driving schools should not be forced to compete with operators working outside the regulatory framework.

The Minister acknowledged that driving schools provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities but warned that commercial interests could not take precedence over road safety.

"We cannot compromise public safety in the name of commercial activity," Nekundi said.

"At the same time, we must ensure that regulation does not become a barrier that unfairly prevents capable Namibians from participating in this industry. Our approach must therefore be one of fairness, transparency, inclusivity and accountability."

The stakeholder consultations are expected to shape the proposed regulatory framework as the government seeks tighter control over who can operate driving schools, who can provide paid driving instruction and the standards learners should receive before obtaining driving licences.

Property Hub NAMIBIA

Rethinking homeownership in Namibia: What Limpopo can teach us about solving the housing crisis

By Arlindo Adriano

For many young Namibians, owning a home is becoming increasingly unattainable.

With the average house price in Namibia now estimated at around N$1.4 million, middle-income earners particularly those earning between N$14,000 and N$30,000 per month are finding themselves priced out of the housing market.

Teachers, nurses, police officers, and other professionals often earn enough to sustain a household but not enough to comfortably finance an expensive mortgage while meeting the rising cost of living.

This raises an important question: Are we overlooking an alternative model of homeownership? One possible lesson comes from South Africa's Limpopo Province, where rural villages have experienced a noticeable increase in large, modern homes built by middle-income professionals.

While further research is needed to verify the scale and drivers of this trend, it has become widely recognised that many government employees including teachers, nurses and civil servants have managed to build impressive homes in communal areas without relying on traditional mortgage finance.

"In many communal areas, land is allocated through traditional authorities at little or no purchase cost.

The biggest advantage is the free land dividend. In many communal areas, land is allocated through traditional authorities at little or no purchase cost.

By removing the expense of buying serviced urban land, families can channel their resources directly into construction. Many homeowners also build incrementally, completing their houses in phases as finances allow, rather than taking on large long-term mortgage debt.

Namibia shares many of the same characteristics. The country has extensive communal land, particularly in the northern regions, and it is already common to see professionals building homes a few kilometres outside district towns.

However, these remain isolated success stories rather than a national housing strategy.

Perhaps it is time to change that narrative. Improved road networks, electricity, internet connectivity and better public services have made living in rural areas more practical than ever before.

For professionals working in nearby towns, building on communal land can provide significantly more space and long-term financial security than purchasing a small urban property at a premium price.

Instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on land alone, families can invest directly in building a permanent home while preserving their income for education, business opportunities or retirement savings.

Namibia also has an important advantage that deserves greater attention. The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) provides qualifying members with housing benefits that can finance the construction of homes, including structures built on communal land where the necessary requirements are met. Yet this opportunity is not promoted with the same visibility as conventional mortgage products offered by commercial banks.

Greater awareness of this benefit could encourage many young professionals to view communal land not as a last resort, but as a financially smart pathway to homeownership.

This is not to suggest that Namibia should abandon efforts to develop affordable urban housing. Cities still need serviced land, housing finance and well-planned residential developments.

However, solving the housing crisis requires more than one approach. Urban homeownership should not be the only measure of success.

Limpopo may not offer a perfect blueprint, but it highlights an important reality: one of the biggest barriers to affordable housing is often the cost of land rather than the cost of building itself.

Namibia has the opportunity to rethink its housing conversation by promoting rural homeownership, incremental construction and existing financing mechanisms such as the GIPF housing benefit.

For many middle-income Namibians, the path to owning a home may not begin in the city. It may begin on communal land, where the dream of homeownership is still within reach.

Nedbank eyes bigger role for banks in unlocking foreign investment

Nedbank says financial institutions should play a bigger role in unlocking foreign investment by helping international investors navigate regulatory requirements, move capital across borders and connect with local business opportunities.

The bank said the growing complexity of cross-border investment requires closer cooperation between financial institutions, diplomatic missions and governments if international relationships are to translate into actual economic activity.

Speaking at a Nedbank Namibia engagement with members of the Diplomatic Corps, government representatives and business leaders in Windhoek, Nedbank Namibia Managing Director Martha Murorua said international stakeholders often require support beyond conventional banking services.

"Diplomatic missions and non-resident stakeholders require financial partners that understand the complexities involved in operating across jurisdictions. Our commitment extends beyond traditional banking services," Murorua said.

"We understand that diplomatic missions and international stakeholders often require trusted partnerships that can help navigate local business environments, foster connections, and identify opportunities that contribute to sustainable economic growth."

Nedbank provides diplomatic missions and non-resident clients with specialist exchange-control expertise, dedicated relationship banking and local and foreign-currency banking solutions within applicable regulatory frameworks.

Nedbank Group Head of Non-Resident and Diplomatic Banking Elelwani Pandelani said changing geopolitical conditions are making cross-border investment decisions increasingly complex.

"Economic diplomacy must evolve from simply building relationships to managing interdependence. The world is not becoming less connected; it is becoming more selectively connected," Pandelani said.

She said banks provide part of the financial infrastructure needed to connect governments, businesses and investors and facilitate the movement of capital between markets.

Zimbabwean Ambassador and representative of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Melody Chaurura said international relationships should ultimately translate into greater economic activity.

"The challenge before us is how to convert diplomatic goodwill into sustainable economic value. Economic diplomacy must be more than the cultivation of relationships. It must create pathways for investment, facilitate trade, promote entrepreneurship and support infrastructure development," Chaurura said.

Nedbank Africa Regions Group Managing Executive Dr Terence Sibiya said the relationship between banking and diplomacy becomes particularly important when potential investments need to be converted into transactions.

"Diplomacy opens doors, strengthens relationships and creates possibilities. Banking gives those possibilities the financial infrastructure to become real, whether through trade, investment, cross-border payments, capital flows or business expansion," Sibiya said.

He said the benefits of foreign investment should also extend into the domestic economy through opportunities for local suppliers and skills development.

NETUMBONOMICS: SOEs productive outcomes & the case for government in business

By Dylan Mukoroli

> SOEs, which facilitate productive outcomes are important in the sense that GRN gets a piece of the pie.

As of late, the administration has been ramping up efforts for Government and its entities to realise their full potential.

SOEs has been the subject of many treasury bail outs and support over the fiscal years with little to no strategic oversight.

Now seemingly, with this administration, there will be a need to vehemently account and bring forth productive outcomes.

Equally, this administration is placing a big bet on mining and agriculture, two sectors that have proven time again then when they operate in a conducive environment, they have the opportunity to prop up GRN revenue.

In this opinion piece, I outline what strategic intervention and moves the administration is making for GRN to better account for on its high expenditure on SOEs, its moves to strengthen procurement and head in the direction of productive outcomes, and finally why GRNs optimistic bet on SOEs must be intensified.

Lets attempt to make the case for government in business, generally, there are those that feel GRN should play a more active role and yet those that feel that GRN should be less intrusive in the economy if we are to resolve our challenges.

This topic draws me back to when the late H.E Dr Hage Geingob, during his tenure as Right Honourable Prime Minister, once made a hawkish remark during one event on the eve of a just released budget statement where the economy recorded good economic growth and made good revenue, the remark was whether this would have been possible if Government had not stepped in with several policy, fiscal and procurement interventions to bolster the status quo.

What a moment it must have been, Unfortunately, we were very young that time and was debating who was better between the Dogg and Gazza.

We learn from the work of Dr. Gaby Magomola who has made a strong case for Governments intervention in South Africa's economy.

Dr. Magomola makes beautiful relational mention of classical theory pioneers such as Jean Baptiste, John Mill and Adam Smith who in their own spaces pioneered one or other theory on economics, economic growth, supply demand, link between population growth and economic growth and economies of scale.

It is important to mention that these theories came at a time when capitalism was in its peak and there was an overall rejection of Government in business.

Moreso and very relateable to Namibia, the keynesian theory played a great part in the establishment of the South African Reserve Bank in the 1920s and its very strong interventionist approach and its workings of the Common Monetary Area (The then Rand Monetary Area) of which today guides much of our policy stances. Enough with the history lesson, now on to why we are here.

I stand in full support that GRN must have a role to play by way of intervention and through SOEs. The economy cannot simply be left in the hands of private sector, of which they rarely have any social responsibility other than CSI.

SOEs, which facilitate productive outcomes are important in the sense that GRN gets a piece of the pie. We have also seen instances where GRN can simply not get it right with SOEs, and this technically is where private sector usually comes in and fills the gap.

Chairperson of the Social Research Foundation & Scenario planner, Dr. Frans Cronje recently drew strong distinction, that the private sector always comes into the fray where government ended up failing and tends to provide that service.

Air Namibia is one such case, to keep Namibia's aviation sector afloat, private sector came in and took over the space. Fortunately or unfortunarely, even without consensus, private sector preys on Government weakness.

It now should be a clarion call for SOEs to take Her Excellency's words to task and engage on where the low hanging fruit are, what are the issues where executive muscle can be used to bulldoze and work in results. It indeed simply cannot be business as usual.

To the benefit of all, this approach seeks to share resources, responsibility and synergies between the state and private sector, and effectively optimise on the strengths that both parties bring to the table, while vehemently holding each other accountable. To overcome the burden of inefficiencies, SOEs have been created to extend the governments ability to deliver services.

Throughought all administrations, interventions has been largely made to social sectors, through social grants, drought relief, social support

> Air Namibia is one such case, to keep Namibia's aviation sector afloat, private sector came in and took over the space.

. even though; GDP has increased from about N$ 7 billion in 1990 to about N$260 billion in 2025/26; the economy is still far from solving the unemployment, inequality and poverty challenges. GRN cannot still at this point and juncture, pump in billions in SOEs that have absolutely zero productive outcomes.

Encouragingly, SOEs command billions in non-banking assets and those assets must start getting to work. Gudos to our intentional Minister of Finance, Hon. Shafudah, who will seek to introduce a more streamlined procurement framework that will give SOEs breathing space.

In my final analysis, a lot is riding on our SOEs ability to come to the front and do what is required of them. Structurally, they must have plans that produce productive outcomes, not to overplan and promise and ensure every penny is used to its mandate.

** Dylan Mukoroli is passionate about sustainable community development and development finance.*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Toyota maintains lead as Namibia vehicle sales rise 16.6% in July

Namibia's new vehicle market recorded 1,535 sales in July 2026, up 16.6% year on year, as Toyota maintained its dominant position across the country's two largest vehicle segments, according to IJG Securities.

July sales were also marginally higher than the 1,523 units sold in June, increasing by 12 units, or 0.8%.

Cumulative new vehicle sales reached 9,380 units during the first seven months of 2026, up 12.6% from the corresponding period last year and representing the highest year-to-date sales level since 2019.

Passenger vehicles led growth during July, with 755 units sold, an increase of 47 units, or 6.6%, from June and the highest monthly passenger vehicle sales figure since July 2015.

"Passenger vehicle sales increased 24.8% year-on-year in July, while cumulative sales rose 9.4% year-on-year to 4,334 units. The segment narrowed the gap with commercial vehicles to 25 units, compared with a 107-unit difference in June," IJG said.

Commercial vehicle sales declined 4.3% month on month to 780 units, although sales remained 9.6% higher than in July last year.

Year-to-date commercial vehicle sales reached 5,046 units, representing growth of 15.7% compared with the same period in 2025.

Light commercial vehicles continued to account for the bulk of commercial sales, with 681 units sold in July and 4,358 units during the first seven months of the year, up 14.3% year on year.

Toyota remained the country's leading vehicle manufacturer, accounting for 50.9% of the year-to-date passenger vehicle market and 66.9% of light commercial vehicle sales.

"Toyota remains firmly in control of the two largest segments, holding just over half the YTD passenger car market (50.9% share) and two-thirds of the light commercial vehicle segment (66.9% share)," IJG said.

Volkswagen ranked second in the passenger vehicle segment with a 14.3% market share, while Chinese vehicle brands continued to increase their presence. Jetour accounted for 6.1% of the market, narrowly ahead of Haval at 6.0%, while Chery held 2.7%.

Toyota also led the medium commercial vehicle segment with a 42.0% market share, followed by Mercedes-Benz at 17.7% and Hino at 17.1%.

Competition was more evenly spread in the heavy commercial vehicle segment, where Powerstar led with a 19.3% market share, followed by Scania at 16.4%.

Shacman increased its share from 11.0% in June to 15.0% in July, moving into third position ahead of Hino at 12.8%. Heavy commercial vehicle sales increased 2.5% month on month and 22.7% year on year to 81 units in July. Year-to-date sales reached 507 units, representing a 39.3% increase from the corresponding period last year.

Medium commercial vehicles were the only segment to record a year-to-date contraction, with 181 units sold during the first seven months, down 1.1% year on year.

IJG said the latest figures indicate that Namibia's vehicle market has maintained its momentum despite softer commercial vehicle sales during July.

"The first seven months of 2026 point to a resilient vehicle market, supported by solid underlying demand even as fuel costs and levy changes introduce fresh headwinds into the second half of the year," IJG said.

WFP warns rising inflation could increase household vulnerability in Namibia

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that rising consumer prices could erode household purchasing power in Namibia, with vulnerable households and those dependent on fixed or low incomes expected to face the greatest impact.

In its August 2026 Country Brief, covering July, WFP reported that inflation increased to 4.4%, the highest monthly rate recorded so far this year.

"Rising consumer prices are expected to erode household purchasing power, with the greatest impact likely to be felt by vulnerable households and those dependent on fixed or low incomes," the report said.

The report also highlighted climate and

food security risks expected to increase in 2026, as a developing El Niño event is forecast to bring below-average rainfall across Southern Africa.

WFP said reduced rainfall could lower agricultural production and disrupt regional cereal supplies.

"Given Namibia's 70% reliance on food imports, these disruptions could drive up food prices and increase household vulnerability. The risks emerge as many communities continue to recover from the 2023/24 drought," the report said.

Namibia has a population of about 3 million people spread across 824,292 square kilometres. The report noted that the World Bank reclassified Namibia a year ago from an upper-middle-income to a lower-middle-income country, reflecting slower economic growth, weaker diamond sector performance and revised population estimates.

WFP said its Country Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2029 supports the Government of Namibia in strengthening emergency preparedness, social protection and food systems resilience.

During the reporting period, WFP reached more than 117,000 households with food assistance, while more than 51,000 children received meals at Early Childhood Development Centres. More than 4,700 metric tonnes of rice were distributed.

In July, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil contributed US$120,000, approximately N$1.9 million, through WFP to support food security, nutrition, livelihoods and resilient food systems in Namibia.

The contribution will support the continued implementation of five Integrated Food Systems Projects established in 2021 across Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Hardap, Kunene and Ohangwena.

The projects are based at schools and health centres and integrate horticulture, poultry production and livelihood activities.

WFP also reported that Namibia currently reaches approximately 466,860 learners, equivalent to 86% of school-age children, through its nationally owned school feeding programme.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan has a funding requirement of US$3.90 million, of which US$2.70 million has been secured. The net funding requirement for August 2026 to January 2027 stands at US$1.20 million.

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