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Galito's targets 30 Namibia stores as GaliPod model drives expansion

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

Galito's targets 30 Namibia stores as GaliPod model drives expansion

Galito's is targeting a network of 30 stores in Namibia within the next five years as the fast-food chain combines traditional restaurants with its container-based GaliPod model to accelerate expansion.

The target would more than triple the company's current footprint after it recently opened its ninth Namibian outlet in Okuryangava. The new outlet is its second GaliPod in the country, following the launch of the first in Pioneers Park.

Galito's Director for Marketing and Communications Anouk Savic told The Brief that both conventional restaurants and GaliPods will remain central to the company's expansion strategy.

Traditional restaurants will continue to anchor the brand in key locations, including its Klein Windhoek flagship and Maerua Mall outlet, while the GaliPod format will allow the company to enter locations where a conventional restaurant may not be suitable.

"Both formats will remain central to our strategy. Traditional outlets continue

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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to anchor our presence in key locations, like our Klein Windhoek flagship and Maerua Mall, while the GaliPod, a shipping container converted into a fully functioning Galito's outlet, gives us a faster, more flexible way to reach additional sites, particularly at partner forecourts and retail locations," Savic said.

"We see it as a complementary growth lever rather than a replacement for our standalone stores."

The company does not have a fixed target for the number of GaliPods it plans to roll out, with potential locations to be assessed individually based on commercial viability and operating conditions.

Savic said the container model requires less construction time and capital investment than a conventional restaurant, allowing the company to establish outlets more quickly when suitable locations become available.

"The biggest draw of the container format is flexibility. A GaliPod can be placed in almost any location, without compromising on the quality or freshness of our flame-grilled menu," she said.

Savic said the format is particularly suited to Namibia because of Galito's partnerships with fuel and retail operators, where available space may not accommodate a full-scale restaurant.

"This suits Namibia well given our strong partnerships with fuel and retail brands, whose forecourt and retail sites often don't have room for a full-scale restaurant but are ideal for a compact, self-contained unit," she said.

Nokubiko targets Q1 2027 opening of redeveloped Kapps Hotel in Lüderitz

Nokubiko Investment is targeting the first quarter of 2027 to open the redeveloped Kapps a Kubata Loft Hotel in Lüderitz as the company steps up engagements with government ahead of the launch.

The Namibian-registered real estate and hospitality investor is redeveloping the former Kapps Hotel, which was built in 1907 and is regarded as Lüderitz's oldest hotel.

The revamped property will have 33 rooms, conference and office facilities, with interiors commissioned from Namibian artists. Its reopening in 2027 will coincide with 120 years since the original hotel opened.

Nokubiko said it has held meetings with Environment, Tourism and Forestry Minister Indileni Daniel and //Kharas Governor Dawid Gertze, with further engagements planned with the ministries responsible for industrialisation, mines and energy, finance, international relations and trade, as well as the Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Office of the President.

Daniel said the investment would contribute to Namibia's tourism offering while preserving the heritage of the property.

"This is a truly welcome investment. It responds directly to our tourism master plan by strengthening Namibia's luxury offering, preserving heritage, and expanding conference capacity in a region that urgently needs it," she said.

The redevelopment retains the protected building's historic façade, front wall, main archways, cone and original name, while two new executive levels have been added above the existing structure.

Nokubiko said the project is aimed at positioning Lüderitz to capture increased demand from business travellers, tourists and diplomatic visitors, while generating employment and procurement opportunities for local businesses.

The investment comes as Lüderitz attracts increased economic activity linked to oil and gas exploration, logistics, tourism and other emerging industries.

Investor Jorge de Morais said Namibia's emerging oil and gas industry initially attracted the shareholders to the country, but the investment decision was also influenced by opportunities in tourism and the country's financial sector.

"We first came to Namibia because of the growing global attention on its oil exploration. When we looked more closely, we realised there was significant room accompanied by real opportunity to grow," he said.

De Morais said the company plans to use local businesses and workers in its operations as part of efforts to increase domestic economic participation.

"We want this project to be part of the community. Wherever we invest, we build with local people, local companies, and local knowledge, because that is how you create real in-country value," he said.

The hotel also plans to establish off-taker agreements with farmers in southern Namibia to supply produce to the property.

"We are establishing off-taker agreements with farmers in the south to ensure farm-to-fork quality produce. This supports the farming community, empowers young people, and aligns with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's focus on agriculture and youth employment under the Eighth Administration," De Morais said.

Nokubiko currently owns five income-producing investment properties in Windhoek, in addition to the Lüderitz hotel development.

Its shareholders are also behind KAESO Energy Services, a separate oilfield services and industrial solutions company that has operated in Namibia since 2021.

KAESO operates an approximately 35,000-square-metre integrated oil and gas base in Lüderitz and a second base in Walvis Bay, and holds 30,000 square metres of industrial land in Okahandja for fabrication, assembly and inland logistics.

The company provides services spanning industrial and energy assets, drilling and subsurface operations, modular systems, procurement, digital services and project advisory.

KAESO said its clients include TotalEnergies, Galp, Rhino Resources and SLB, while its Namibian operations manage more than 750 cargo-carrying units.

The company is certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001. It also operates in Angola and plans to enter Mozambique before the end of 2026.

The Brief | ISSUE 1201 | AUGUST 25 2026

How to structure and diversify an investment portfolio: An educational guide using ETFs

By Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela

> **The Satrix Top 40 gives you broad exposure to South Africa's largest companies in a single holding.**

The longer you can leave your money untouched, the more short-term ups and downs you can afford to ride out, and the more growth you can reasonably pursue.

Third, what is your risk appetite? This is not only about the returns you want, but about what you can genuinely tolerate. A portfolio you panic-sell in a downturn is worse than a steadier one you can actually hold. Once you are honest about these three things, the shape of your portfolio almost chooses itself.

Diversification is important; this simply means not putting all your money in one place. Different assets behave differently, so when one is falling, another may be rising or holding steady, and that balance is what smooths your journey and protects you from a single bad bet.

This is exactly why ETFs are so useful for ordinary investors. A single ETF can give you exposure to dozens or even hundreds of companies at once, at a very low cost.

Instead of trying to pick individual winners, you own a slice of the whole basket. For most people, a handful of well-chosen ETFs is enough to build a genuinely diversified portfolio.

Avoid the Overlap Trap: here is a mistake many beginners make, and it is worth understanding because it is not obvious. It is possible to hold several different ETFs and still not be properly diversified. This happens when the funds you choose are all tracking the same underlying assets.

You might buy two or three funds from different providers, feel diversified because you hold several funds, and only later realise they all hold largely the same big companies. If those companies fall, all your funds fall together, because underneath the different names, you own the same thing.

So when you build a portfolio, look through to what each fund actually holds. The goal is for your funds to complement each other, a local fund alongside a global one, a growth fund alongside something steadier, rather than several funds quietly doing the same job.

Keep Your Costs Low: fees come off your returns every single year, so over the long term they make a real difference to what you actually keep. This is one of the biggest advantages of ETFs, they are generally far cheaper than actively managed funds.

To give a sense of how low costs can go, a broad local ETF like the Satrix Top 40 carries a total expense ratio of roughly 0.10 percent a year, and the Satrix RESI 10 around 0.43 percent a year, based on their published fund fact sheets.

Compare that to many actively managed funds, which can charge two percent a year or more once all fees are added. On a long-term investment, that difference compounds into a very large sum, so always check the total cost before you choose.

Ten Worked Examples: The ten structures below show how these principles come together in practice. Each is built to be diversified, to combine funds that do different jobs rather than duplicating one another, and to match a particular goal and level of risk.

They are teaching examples, arranged roughly from lower to higher risk. As you read them, focus less on the exact funds and more on why each fund is there and how they fit together.

1. The Beginner Core Portfolio

For someone just starting out who wants simplicity and solid diversification, a clean three-fund structure works well: around 40 percent in the Satrix Top 40 ETF, 40 percent in the Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, and 20 percent in the 10X Yield Bond ETF.

The Satrix Top 40 gives you broad exposure to South Africa's largest companies in a single holding. The Satrix MSCI World Feeder carries your global developed-market exposure, including the large international technology names, and acts as a rand hedge.

The 10X Yield Bond ETF adds a measure of stability and income to soften the ride. Together these three form a low-cost foundation that balances local and global exposure, and for a beginner it is hard to go wrong with something this simple.

2. The Balanced Growth Portfolio

For an investor with a medium to long timeframe who wants more growth but still values balance, a structure might be 30 percent Satrix Top 40 ETF, 25 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 20 percent Satrix RESI 10 ETF, 15 percent Satrix MSCI India ETF, and 10 percent Satrix Divi Plus ETF.

The Top 40 and MSCI World form the stable core, with the MSCI World already carrying your major US technology exposure. The RESI 10 adds South African resources, which are heavily weighted toward gold and platinum mining shares, so it behaves very differently from the rest and is cyclical by nature.

The MSCI India ETF gives you a second growth engine in a completely different economy, deliberately avoiding another dose of US technology. The Divi Plus ETF provides some dividend income to smooth returns during volatile periods.

3. The Long-Term Wealth Builder

For someone with a long timeframe who wants to lean into equities, a structure might be 35 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 30 percent Satrix Top 40 ETF, 20 percent Satrix MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, and 15 percent Satrix S&P 500 ETF.

This is an equity-heavy portfolio built to compound over many years. The MSCI World and S&P 500 give you strong developed-market and US exposure, the Top 40 keeps you anchored locally, and the emerging markets ETF adds higher-growth potential from developing economies.

Because the timeframe is long, there is time to recover from the inevitable downturns, which is what justifies the heavier equity weighting here.

4. The Conservative Income Portfolio

For someone who prioritises capital preservation and regular income over growth, perhaps closer to or already in retirement, a structure might be 25 percent 10X Yield Bond ETF, 25 percent Satrix

Property ETF, 20 percent Satrix Divi Plus ETF, 15 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 10 percent 10X Government Bond ETF, and 5 percent Satrix Inflation Linked Bond ETF.

The bond ETFs provide predictable yield and stability, the Property ETF distributes rental income regularly, and the Divi Plus focuses on dividend-paying shares.

A small allocation to the MSCI World is included to protect purchasing power over time, because even a conservative portfolio needs some growth to stay ahead of inflation.

5. The Global Diversification Portfolio

For an investor who wants to spread their money across the whole world rather than being tied to any single country, a structure might be 40 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 20 percent Satrix MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, 20 percent Satrix STOXX Europe 600 ETF, and 20 percent Satrix Japan ETF.

This gives you clean exposure across developed markets, emerging economies, Europe, and Asia without doubling up on any one region.

The MSCI World provides your core developed base covering the United States and United Kingdom, while the Europe and Japan funds hedge against volatility specific to the US market.

This structure ensures your outcome is not decided by the mood of a single country's stock market.

6. The Resource and Inflation Hedge Portfolio

For an investor who wants protection against inflation and rand weakness alongside growth, a structure might be 30 percent Satrix Top 40 ETF, 25 percent Satrix RESI 10 ETF, 20 percent NewGold ETF, 15 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, and 10 percent Satrix Property ETF.

The RESI 10 and NewGold give you real exposure to resources and gold, which historically perform well during periods of currency weakness and global uncertainty. It is worth being clear-eyed here, though. This is a more volatile, cyclical structure.

Resources ran up sharply into late 2025 and then corrected hard through 2026, so this portfolio suits someone who understands and accepts those swings, with the Top 40 and MSCI World providing some balance.

7. The Retirement Accumulation Portfolio

For someone steadily building toward retirement over decades, a structure might be 30 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 25 percent Satrix Top 40 ETF, 20 percent Satrix Balanced ETF, 15 percent 10X Yield Bond ETF, and 10 percent Satrix Property ETF.

The MSCI World and Top 40 provide long-term equity growth, the Balanced ETF brings professional multi-asset management to help navigate different market conditions, the bond ETF adds capital protection, and the Property ETF offers diversification and regular income.

This is designed to compound steadily over time while managing the depth of any drawdowns as you move closer to retirement.

8. The High-Yield Income Portfolio

For an investor who needs their portfolio to generate consistent cash flow, a structure might be 25 percent Satrix Property ETF, 20 percent 10X Yield Bond ETF, 20 percent Satrix Divi Plus ETF, 15 percent 10X Government Bond ETF, 10 percent Satrix Income ETF, and 10 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF.

The combination of property, bonds, dividend-paying shares, and a dedicated income fund is built to maximise regular distributions. The small global equity slice is there to stop the portfolio falling behind inflation over time.

This suits someone who needs an income from their investments, provided they understand that property and bonds carry their own risks and that distributions are never guaranteed.

9. The Aggressive Global Growth Portfolio

For an experienced investor with a long timeframe and a genuine appetite for risk, a structure might be 35 percent Satrix S&P 500 ETF, 25 percent Satrix MSCI World Feeder ETF, 20 percent Satrix MSCI Emerging Markets ETF, 10 percent Satrix STOXX Europe 600 ETF, and 10 percent Satrix MSCI India ETF.

This is a pure-growth, equity-only structure spread across the world's major growth regions, with a heavy tilt toward US and global developed markets and a meaningful slice of emerging markets and India for extra growth potential.

There are no bonds or income assets here, which means bigger swings in both directions, so this only suits someone who can genuinely stay invested through steep falls without panicking and selling.

10. The Values-Based Sustainable Portfolio

For an investor who wants their money to reflect their principles, a structure might be 30 percent Satrix ESG Equity ETF, 25 percent Satrix Capped All Share ETF, 20 percent Satrix MSCI World ESG ETF, 15 percent Satrix Property ETF, and 10 percent 10X Yield Bond ETF.

The ESG equity funds screen companies for environmental, social, and governance standards, both locally and globally, while the Capped All Share provides a broad, well-diversified South African base with caps that prevent any single company from dominating.

The property and bond ETFs add income and stability.

This shows that investing according to your values does not mean giving up diversification or sound structure.

Notice what runs through all ten of these examples.

Each one is diversified, each combines funds that do genuinely different jobs rather than duplicating each other, and each is matched to a particular goal and level of risk..

The specific funds is more important far less than the structure and the discipline behind it.

Whichever direction you lean, choose something you understand, make sure your funds are not secretly holding the same things, keep your costs low, contribute consistently, and give it time. There is no single perfect portfolio. There is only the one that fits you, and that you can hold with confidence for years to come.

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This article is for educational purposes only and does not constitute financial or investment advice. The example portfolios are illustrations of how a portfolio can be structured and are not recommendations. They do not take into account your personal circumstances, financial situation, or objectives.

Govt targets Q1 2027 reopening of Oshakati abattoir

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform is targeting the first quarter of 2027 to reopen the Oshakati abattoir after more than a decade of closure, with rehabilitation works and machinery assessments required before operations can resume.

Agriculture Minister Inge Zaamwani said the government had initially targeted the end of 2026 for the facility to become operational, but preliminary assessments indicate that extensive rehabilitation will make that deadline difficult to achieve.

“Initially, I thought we could have it operational by the end of the year, but it now looks almost impossible to have it up and running by then. However, by the first quarter of next year, it should be operational,” Zaamwani said.

The planned reopening is expected to support the Etunda feedlot, which is nearing completion and will have capacity for about

1,000 cattle.

"The importance of this facility is that we are now nearing completion of the construction of the Etunda feedlot, which will have a capacity of 1,000 cattle. Those cattle need to go somewhere for slaughter, and this is the facility where that should happen," she said.

Zaamwani said the abattoir has been closed for more than 10 years and requires significant rehabilitation of its electrical, mechanical and machinery systems before slaughtering operations can restart.

A recent inspection by the Ministry found that while the interior of the facility remains in relatively better condition, equipment that has been idle for more than a decade will require further technical assessment.

The Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco), together with technical officials from the Ministry, is expected to conduct a detailed assessment of the abattoir next week to determine which equipment can be repaired or recommissioned and which machinery will need to be replaced.

The Ministry, Meatco and the Office of the Governor are expected to work jointly on the rehabilitation programme as the government seeks to accelerate the reopening of the facility.

However, Zaamwani warned that additional funding could be required, particularly if critical machinery needs to be replaced.

"We have some funding available at the Ministry at the moment, but it might not be sufficient. In particular, some of the critical machinery may need to be replaced," she said.

She said the reopening timeline would ultimately depend on the availability of funding and the extent of rehabilitation identified through the technical assessment.

RMB Namibia appoints Rehabeam Auala Jr as Head of Global Markets

RMB Namibia has appointed Rehabeam "Ray" Auala Jr as Head of Global Markets, effective 1 June 2026.

Auala, who has been with the FirstRand Namibia Group for more than 12 years, previously led RMB Namibia's Trade and Execution Desk and has held roles across financial accounting, treasury and global markets.

His appointment comes as demand for foreign exchange, risk management and capital markets solutions continues to grow, with Namibian businesses increasingly exposed to movements in currencies, interest rates and international financial markets.

RMB Namibia said the appointment forms part of efforts to expand its Global Markets business and strengthen its ability to help corporate clients manage financial risks and access domestic and international markets.

Auala joined the FirstRand Namibia Group as a bursary student before progressing through various roles within the financial services group. He holds an Honours degree from the University of Cape Town, majoring in Economics, Accounting and Finance, and has completed specialist financial markets and leadership programmes, including ACI Dealing and the CFA Programme.

RMB Namibia Chief Executive Officer Daniel Motinga said Auala's appointment reflects the bank's focus on developing internal talent while strengthening specialist expertise.

"Global Markets is a business built on judgement, technical expertise and trust. Ray has earned the confidence of colleagues and clients through his ability to understand markets, make sound decisions and lead with humility," Motinga said.

"Just as importantly, he shares our belief that strong financial markets contribute to a stronger economy, and that makes him the right person to lead this business into its next chapter."

Auala said his focus would be on helping Namibian businesses manage rapidly changing market conditions while accessing opportunities beyond the country's borders.

"Namibian businesses are operating in a world where market conditions can change quickly and opportunities often extend beyond our borders. Our role is to help clients respond with confidence, giving them access to the insight and market solutions they need to manage risk, make informed decisions and grow their businesses," he said.

Auala also serves on the RMB Corporate Social Investment Committee and on the boards of several non-profit organisations.

RMB said the appointment forms part of its broader investment in specialist expertise as it expands financial market solutions for businesses operating in an increasingly complex domestic and international environment.

Namibia cannot afford to watch the AI revolution from the sidelines

By Dr Etuna Simon

Namibia is in danger of misunderstanding artificial intelligence.

Too many people still treat AI as a novelty. A clever toy; A trendy digital assistant for students, office workers and tech enthusiasts.

> **“No, Namibia is not about to build the next frontier AI model on the scale of the United States or China.**

We compare chatbots. We laugh at funny prompts. We marvel at how quickly these systems can write, summarise and answer questions.

But while we are being entertained, the rest of the world is reorganising itself around a technology that will shape who learns faster, who works smarter, who innovates better, and who gets left behind.

That should worry us.

A few days ago, I was having a light-hearted conversation with a friend about artificial intelligence (AI). We were comparing Claude, developed by Anthropic, and ChatGPT, developed by OpenAI. Somewhere in the conversation, I jokingly said: “Claude is like the rich kid who went to private school, while ChatGPT is the smart learner who went to government school.”

We laughed.

But later I realised the joke was carrying more truth than humour.

And the more I thought about that joke afterwards, the more I realised that behind the humour sits a much bigger conversation that Namibia needs to have.

Of course, Claude did not attend private school and ChatGPT did not grow up in a government-school classroom. Both are sophisticated AI systems developed by well-resourced technology companies. Nor should my analogy be interpreted as suggesting that one is inherently superior to the other, or that private-school and government-school learners can be reduced to stereotypes.

Give that learner a difficult assignment and the response is often: “We will make it work.” That is where my comparison between Claude and ChatGPT began. The point of the comparison is not that one is superior to the other. The point is that environment matters. Exposure matters. Resources matter. But so do adaptability, resilience and the ability to make something work even when conditions are far from ideal.

And in Namibia, that should sound familiar.

Most people here understand the difference implied in that joke. The private-school learner is often imagined as polished, well-supported, well-connected and confident. The government-school learner may be just as intelligent, but more likely to have studied in crowded classrooms, shared textbooks, dealt with weak connectivity or travelled long distances to school. And yet that learner often develops a powerful survival skill: the ability to make a plan.

That is not a small thing. In fact, it may be exactly the mindset Namibia needs in the AI era. Let us be clear. This is not really about Claude versus ChatGPT. It is not about Anthropic versus OpenAI. It is not about which model sounds more refined, which one writes better paragraphs, or which one handles documents more smoothly.

That is the shallow version of the conversation.

The real issue is much bigger.

The real divide in the AI age will not be between people who use one chatbot and people who use another. It will be between those who know how to work with artificial intelligence and those who do not. It will be between schools where learners have access to devices, internet and teachers who understand AI, and schools where none of that exists.

It will be between a student in Windhoek who can experiment with these tools every day, and a student in a rural community who is equally capable but has never had a realistic opportunity to engage with them.

It will be between a business owner who uses AI to draft proposals, analyse markets and save time, and another entrepreneur with the same determination but no digital access, no training and no exposure.

That is the divide that should concern us.

Because if AI becomes just another advantage for those who are already privileged, then Namibia will not be using technology to reduce inequality.

We will be using it to harden inequality into code.

That is why the AI conversation in Namibia cannot remain a niche discussion for policy workshops, consultants, universities and urban professionals. If this conversation stays in Windhoek boardrooms and conference venues, we have already failed. Artificial intelligence is not only a technology issue. It is an education issue. A labour issue. A business issue. A governance issue. A national development issue.

It belongs in schools, colleges and universities.

It belongs in vocational centres.

It belongs in small businesses.

It belongs in hospitals, ministries, local authorities and community discussions.

It must reach Katima Mulilo, Oshakati, Eenhana, Rundu, Opuwo, Keetmanshoop, Outapi, Gobabis, Lüderitz and all our villages. It must include teachers, nurses, farmers, students, civil servants, start-ups and community leaders.

Because AI is not waiting for Namibia to feel ready.

It is already changing how knowledge is accessed, how work is organised, how decisions are made and how competitive economies function. And this is where many developing countries make a familiar mistake. They tell themselves they must wait for perfect conditions before taking meaningful action.

Perfect connectivity first.

Perfect infrastructure first.

Perfect policy first.

Perfect budgets first.

But countries do not catch up by waiting for ideal circumstances. They catch up by starting where they are, using what they have, and building capability over time. Namibia should absolutely invest in digital infrastructure, better internet access, devices in schools, teacher training and stronger national coordination. Those things matter.

But we must not make the perfect the enemy of the possible.

What can teachers already do with the tools available to them?

What can university students begin learning right now?

What can small businesses achieve if they are shown how to use AI responsibly and practically?

What can government departments improve if routine administrative work is supported by better digital systems?

What can farmers, health workers and entrepreneurs do if AI tools are adapted to local realities instead of imported blindly as ready-made magic?

Those are the questions that matter.

There is another issue Namibia should confront early.

Too often, Africa joins technological revolutions mainly as a consumer. The tools are built elsewhere. The data is owned elsewhere. The platforms are controlled elsewhere. The profits are captured elsewhere.

We arrive later as users.

That pattern cannot continue unchallenged.

No, Namibia is not about to build the next frontier AI model on the scale of the United States or China. We do not have those resources. But that does not mean our role is limited to passive consumption.

We can still shape how AI is used here.

We can still build local capability.

We can still support researchers, developers and entrepreneurs to create tools that solve Namibian problems in agriculture, education, health, tourism, mining and public administration.

We can still insist that our context matters.

We can still ask whether local languages, rural realities and public-interest needs are reflected in the systems we adopt.

We can still build governance that takes privacy, fairness, bias and accountability seriously.

These are not side issues.

They are sovereignty issues.

That is why the joke about Claude and ChatGPT matters more than it first appears.

It is not really a joke about chatbots.

It is a mirror held up to Namibia.

A country with talent, but unequal opportunity.

A country with ambition, but uneven access.

A country that cannot afford to sit casually on the edge of a technological shift that is already changing the global economy.

The future will not belong only to the countries with the biggest servers, the deepest pockets or the flashiest platforms. It will also belong to those who know how to adapt quickly, learn intelligently, govern wisely and include broadly.

Namibia has done difficult things before.

We know how to build under pressure. We know how to stretch limited resources. We know how to make a plan.

Now we must apply that same instinct to artificial intelligence.

Not by pretending every new tool is a miracle.

Not by turning chatbot comparisons into national strategy.

But by making sure that a child in a rural government school and a child in a well-resourced urban school both have a fair chance to understand and benefit from the technology that is reshaping their future.

If AI becomes one more advantage for the already advantaged, then we will have digitised inequality. But if we widen access, build skills, support teachers, equip institutions and encourage local innovation, AI could become one of the most practical equalising tools of our time. The revolution has already begun.

The question is whether Namibia will join it with purpose or watch it happen from the sidelines.

*** Dr Etuna Simon is a researcher, strategist and writer with a keen interest in education, innovation, artificial intelligence and national development. The views expressed in this article are solely those of the author. She can be reached at etunasimon@icloud.com***

Thirty-five families to receive homes under Buy-a-Brick initiative

Thirty-five low-income families in Okahandja, Okongo and Opuwo are set to receive new homes this year under Standard Bank Namibia's Buy-a-Brick Initiative, backed by a N$2.5 million investment.

The housing programme has already delivered 15 houses in Okongo and four in the Oshetu 1 community of Okahandja, while another 16 homes are earmarked for handover in Opuwo.

The latest handover saw four Okahandja

families receive keys to newly constructed homes, bringing the number of houses delivered under the programme so far this year to 19.

The initiative is implemented by Standard Bank Namibia in partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) and the Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG), targeting affordable housing for low-income households.

The four Okahandja houses were supported by Vivo Energy Namibia, BodyWise, Standard Bank Private Bank and Ninety One Namibia.

Standard Bank Namibia Executive Officer for Corporate and Investment Banking Nelson Lucas said the programme demonstrates how partnerships between businesses and community organisations can contribute to addressing Namibia's housing needs.

"Today is not simply about handing over houses. It is about creating a place where families can build their futures with greater security and peace of mind. A home provides a foundation from which people can pursue opportunities, support their children and plan for the years ahead," Lucas said.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Special Advisor Boniface Mutumba said Namibia's housing challenge requires coordinated action from government, businesses, local authorities, civil society and communities.

He described housing as a national priority requiring urgent intervention and commended the partners for directing resources towards vulnerable households.

SDFN and NHAG have been central to the programme through community-led housing initiatives, including savings groups, collective action and self-help construction models aimed at making housing accessible to low-income Namibians. "As Standard Bank, we remain committed to initiatives that create measurable impact and contribute to stronger communities across Namibia. Through programmes such as Buy-a-Brick, we continue to support solutions that improve lives and create positive change where it matters most," Lucas said.

Once the 16 Opuwo houses are handed over, the programme will have delivered 35 homes across the three communities during 2026.

Namibia manufacturing producer prices rise 23.5% in Q2

Namibia's manufacturing producer prices rose by 23.5% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, driven largely by a sharp increase in rubber and plastic product prices, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The NSA's Producer Price Index (NPPI) Bulletin shows that prices for rubber and plastic products increased by 74.9% compared with the same quarter of 2025, recording the largest annual increase within the manufacturing sector.

Other significant annual increases were recorded in diamond cutting and processing at 31.2%, meat processing at 22.5%, non-metallic mineral products at 17.9% and other food products at 16.8%.

On a quarterly basis, manufacturing producer prices increased by 1.1%, with the sector's index reaching 129.1 points.

"During the second quarter of 2026, the Producer Price Index for the manufacturing sector increased by 1.1% quarter-on-quarter. The quarterly increase was primarily driven by higher prices recorded by rubber and plastic products (12.4%), dairy products (4.9%), grain mill products (4.7%), and fish processing (3.8%)," the NSA said.

Rubber and plastic product prices increased by 12.4% quarter-on-quarter, while dairy products rose by 4.9%, grain mill products by 4.7% and fish processing by 3.8%. Meat processing prices increased by 0.7%.

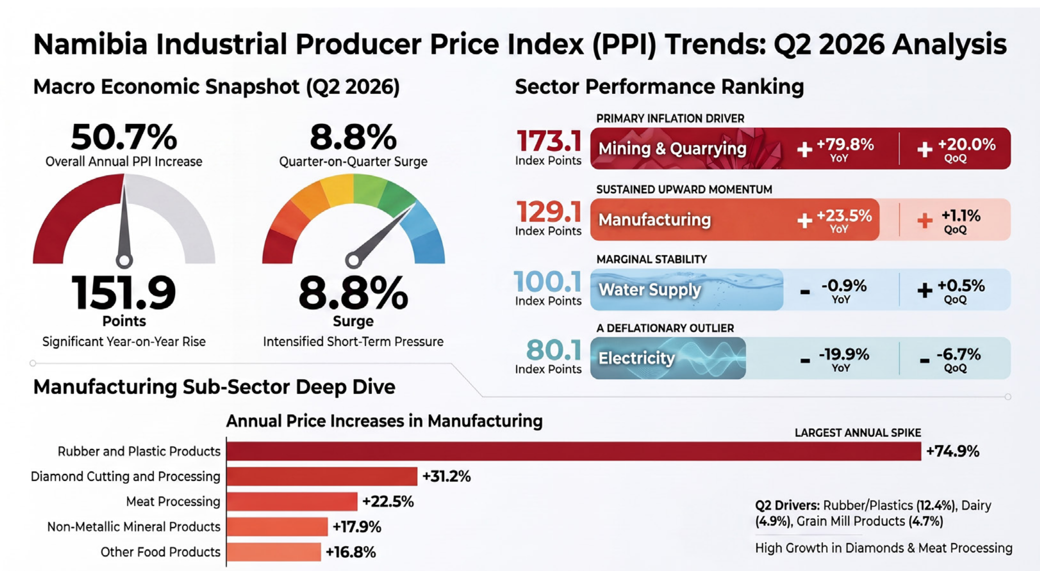
The increase in manufacturing prices came amid broader producer price pressures in the economy, with Namibia's overall Producer Price Index rising by 50.7% year-on-year and 8.8% quarter-on-quarter to 151.9 points.

Mining and quarrying recorded the largest increase among the major sectors, with producer prices rising by 79.8% year-on-year and 20% quarter-on-quarter. The sector's index reached 173.1 points during the quarter.

Electricity producer prices, however, declined by 19.9% year-on-year and 6.7% quarter-on-quarter, bringing the sector's index to 80.1 points.

Water collection, treatment and supply prices increased marginally by 0.5% quarter-on-quarter but declined by 0.9% compared with the second quarter of 2025.

The water sector index stood at 100.1 points during the quarter, compared with 99.6 points in the first quarter of 2026 and 101.0 points in the corresponding quarter of 2025.



REIAoN appoints Paulus Mulunga as new Chairperson

The Renewable Energy Industry Association of Namibia (REIAoN) has appointed Paulus Mulunga as its new Chairperson, elevating the long-serving leadership member from his previous role as Secretary.

Mulunga takes over the leadership of the renewable energy industry body with a mandate to strengthen private-sector coordination and position REIAoN as a unified voice for companies and organisations operating across Namibia's renewable energy sector.

"A central theme of my tenure will be moving from advocacy towards coordinated action. REIAoN has a diverse membership with significant technical, commercial and institutional expertise, and we need to harness that knowledge more effectively," Mulunga said.

Under his leadership, REIAoN plans to establish specialised task forces, each with a chairperson, defined mandate, action plan and measurable deliverables.

The task forces will focus on solar PV GreenSeal and installer quality, net metering and distributed energy, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), electric mobility, green hydrogen, suppliers and local manufacturing, as well as government and political engagement.

"These Task Forces are platforms

through which members identify industry challenges, develop solutions and engage the appropriate institutions collectively," Mulunga said.

Mulunga has also identified closer engagement with the Electricity Control Board (ECB) as a priority during his tenure.

The association plans to engage the regulator on simplifying generator licensing, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), electric vehicle regulation, implementation of net metering rules, large mini-grid regulation and emerging electricity market opportunities.

Mulunga said REIAoN would also seek to bring commercial banks, insurers, training institutions, utilities and regulators together to improve technical standards and strengthen opportunities for qualified local renewable energy installers.

His agenda also includes expanding REIAoN's involvement in regional energy discussions as Namibia seeks to leverage its renewable energy resources and participation in the Southern African Power Pool.

"REIAoN should therefore contribute to discussions around regional power trading, transmission and grid expansion, cross-border electricity markets and how Namibia can maximise periods of abundant renewable generation while benefiting from competitive regional electricity when appropriate," Mulunga said.

REIAoN was established in May 2008 and represents participants across Namibia's renewable energy industry, including IPPs, renewable energy companies, equipment distributors, engineering and design consultants, research and academic institutions, and financial sector entities involved in clean energy development.

CRAN, NORED sign five-year agreement to align electricity rollout with broadband expansion

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) and NORED Electricity have entered into a five-year partnership to support the expansion of broadband connectivity into underserved and rural areas through closer coordination of telecommunications and electricity infrastructure.

The agreement will allow the two institutions to coordinate rural electrification and broadband projects, potentially enabling communications

> The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in Ondangwa on Tuesday, also covers information and data sharing, capacity building, regulatory cooperation and knowledge exchange.

infrastructure to be planned alongside the expansion of electricity networks.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in Ondangwa on Tuesday, also covers information and data sharing, capacity building, regulatory cooperation and knowledge exchange.

CRAN Chief Executive Officer Emilia Nghikembua said the partnership is aimed at addressing infrastructure gaps that continue to constrain access to digital services in some parts of the country.

"The MoU represents an important milestone in strengthening collaboration between the communications and energy sectors. By working together, CRAN and NORED are laying the foundation for improved connectivity, enhanced service delivery, and greater socio-economic inclusion for all Namibians," she said.

Nghikembua said coordinating infrastructure planning between the electricity and telecommunications sectors could support the development of solutions to extend broadband services and digital opportunities to communities with limited connectivity. Under the agreement, the two institutions will hold regular consultations and exchange information on infrastructure and other matters of mutual interest.

CRAN personnel will also be included on NORED's electricity outage communication platform, giving the regulator timely information on planned outages that could affect telecommunications networks and services.

NORED Chief Executive Officer Silvester Wayiti said integrating electricity and communications infrastructure planning could improve the delivery of essential services to remote communities.

"Reliable electricity and modern communications infrastructure are both critical enablers of economic growth and improved quality of life. This partnership positions our organisations to work more effectively together in supporting national development priorities and ensuring that communities benefit from integrated infrastructure planning," he said.

The five-year agreement will also support capacity building, regulatory cooperation and knowledge exchange between the two institutions as they seek to improve infrastructure development and digital inclusion across Namibia.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