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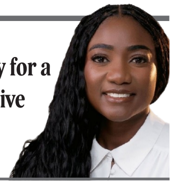

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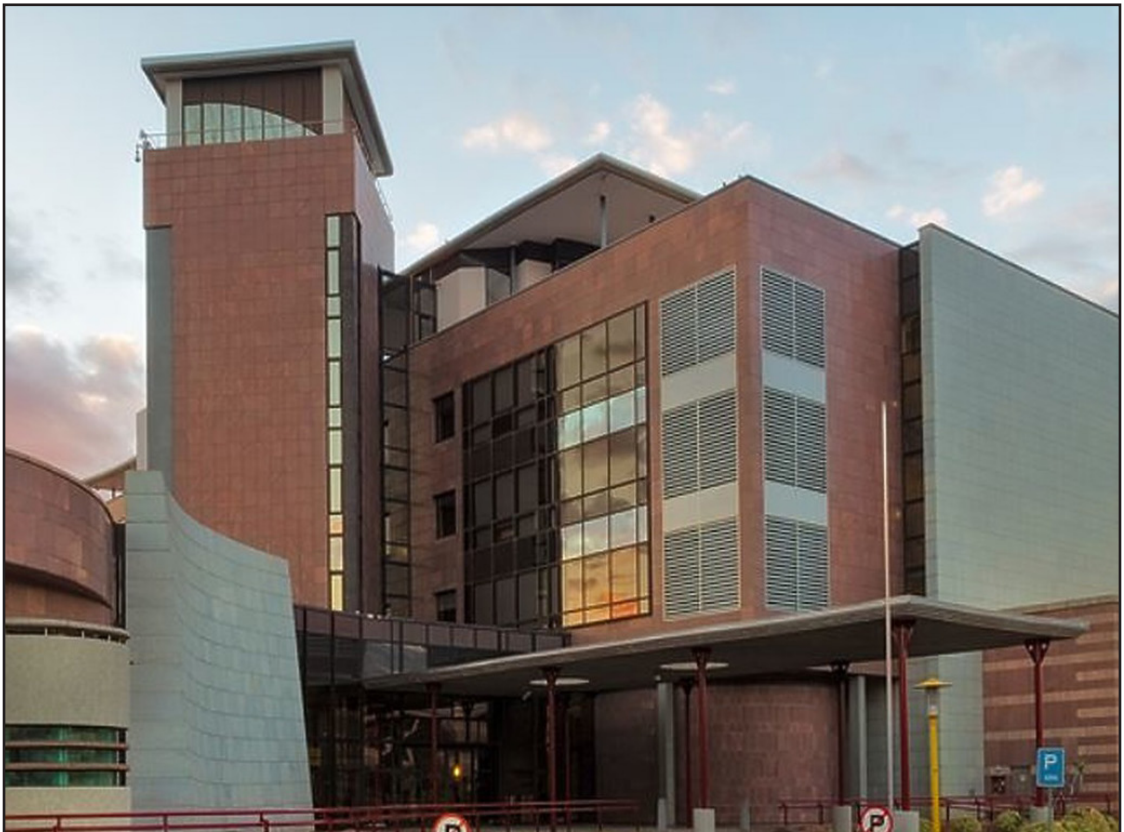


Bank of Namibia yet to decide on gold reserve target beyond 3%

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2026

MAIN STORY

Bank of Namibia yet to decide on gold reserve target beyond 3%

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has yet to decide whether it will increase the share of gold in its international reserves beyond the 3% target set for the first phase of its gold accumulation programme.

Deputy Governor Nicholas Mukasa said the central bank will assess its position in the first quarter of 2027, after reaching the initial target, before deciding whether to proceed with a second phase of gold accumulation.

"We want to first of all focus on phase one and then, in the first quarter of next year, we can sit as an institution and decide and say, look, fine, we are now at the 3% target that we wanted for phase one. What do we do now in phase two?" Mukasa said.

The central bank is currently implementing the first phase of the programme through monthly purchases of gold from local mines, with the transactions conducted in Namibia dollars.

Mukasa said the immediate objective is to gradually increase gold holdings until they account for at least 3% of the country's reserves.

"We want to ensure that at least we have 3% of our reserves denominated in gold, so that's the plan that we have for phase one, and that is basically in full swing at this stage," he said.

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

> The central bank is currently implementing the first phase of the programme through monthly purchases of gold from local mines, with the transactions conducted in Namibia dollars.

The programme comes as BoN's July 2026 international reserves data show official reserve assets of N$58.04 billion, of which gold was valued at N$573.4 million.

This means gold accounted for about 0.99% of official reserve assets at the end of July.

The central bank reported gold holdings of 0.00857352 million fine troy ounces, equivalent to about 8,574 fine troy ounces, valued at a reported price of US$4,046.15 per fine troy ounce.

Based on the July reserve position, increasing gold to 3% of total reserves would raise the value of the central bank's gold holdings to about N$1.74 billion, assuming the overall reserve position remains unchanged. This would require about N$1.17 billion in additional gold holdings compared with the N$573.4 million recorded at the end of July.

At the reported July gold price, a 3% allocation would be equivalent to approximately 25,721 fine troy ounces, compared with the current 8,574 fine troy ounces.

This suggests BoN would need to accumulate roughly 17,147 additional fine troy ounces to reach the target, assuming no changes in the gold price or the overall value of reserve assets.

Foreign currency reserves remain the largest component of Namibia's official reserve assets, standing at N$53.74 billion at the end of July. Securities accounted for N$40.43 billion, while currency and deposits stood at N$13.31 billion.

Mukasa said any decision on the size and scope of a second phase will only be taken after the bank has assessed the outcome of the current programme and reached the 3% target.

Namibia's universities face barriers in aligning courses with job market

Namibia's higher education institutions face regulatory delays in adjusting academic programmes to changing labour market and technological requirements, according to the National Council Standing Committee on Education, Science, ICT and Youth Development.

The committee said existing regulatory requirements restrict institutions from rapidly making significant curriculum changes, even when emerging industries and technologies create demand for new skills.

The findings are contained in the committee's report following engagements with education stakeholders in July.

"Current regulatory frameworks limit rapid curriculum adjustments, even when contemporary crises or opportunities demand immediate responses. NUST noted that changing a course beyond a certain percentage requires regulatory approval that does not respect contemporary trends," the committee said.

According to the report, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) proposed allowing institutions between 30% and 40% curriculum flexibility to respond to emerging needs while maintaining minimum procedural and quality assurance requirements.

The committee said the regulatory constraints come amid a broader mismatch between academic programmes and the skills required by Namibia's labour market.

According to the report, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) identified a persistent mismatch between higher education programmes and labour market requirements, which it partly attributed to weak collaboration between industry, government and higher education institutions.

The committee further found that Namibia is producing an oversupply of graduates in some fields while experiencing shortages in others.

"The oversupply of graduates in certain fields (e.g. primary education) and the undersupply in others (e.g. secondary subject specialists) demonstrates a clear disconnect between enrolment planning of institutions and the actual needs of the economy," the committee said.

The report also raised concerns that many graduates possess theoretical knowledge but lack the practical skills, adaptability and resilience required by employers.

The committee recommended stronger collaboration between the education ministry, NCHE, the Namibia Qualifications Authority and higher education institutions to ensure curricula respond more effectively to labour market and technological changes.

According to the committee, the growing number of programmes offered across the higher education sector is also placing pressure on regulatory oversight.

The report said NUST offers more than 150 programmes and the University of Namibia (UNAM) about 400, while private higher education institutions collectively offer more than 1,000 programmes.

The committee said the number of programmes has raised concerns about the capacity of central regulatory bodies to conduct adequate due diligence and maintain quality assurance across the sector.

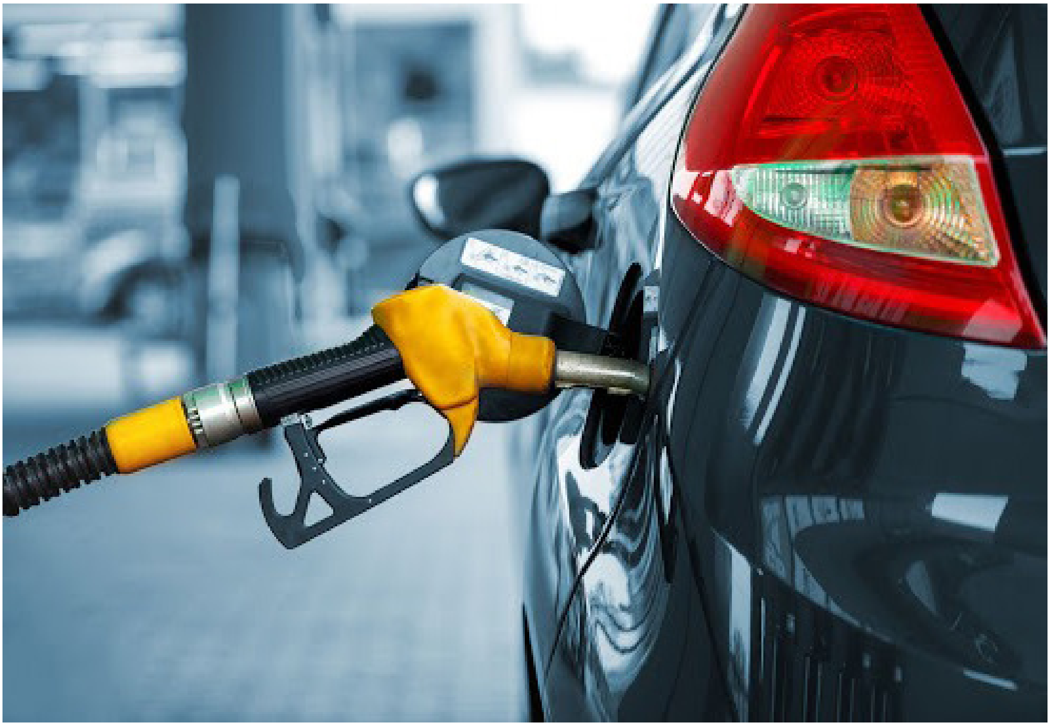
"There is a need to bring all regulatory bodies together for coordinated oversight. The 'mushrooming' of private institutions and the quality concerns around them highlight the need for harmonised regulation," the committee said.

The report said NUST is adjusting its programmes in response to artificial intelligence, digital transformation, the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions and the green economy, including through work-integrated learning, entrepreneurship and digital skills.

The committee recommended that NUST institutionalise graduate tracer studies and publish annual employment outcome reports to provide clearer information on how graduates perform in the labour market.

It also recommended investment in artificial intelligence laboratories, innovation hubs and cybersecurity training.

The committee further called on NUST and the education ministry to explore establishing satellite campuses across Namibia's regions to expand access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, particularly for rural youth.



Motorists to pay N$1.60 more for diesel, 60 cents more for petrol

Namibian motorists and businesses will face higher fuel costs from 2 September 2026, with diesel prices increasing by N$1.60 per litre and petrol rising by 60 cents per litre, the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy announced on Friday.

The increase will push the Walvis Bay pump price of Petrol 95 to N$25.08 per litre, while Diesel 50ppm will rise to N$27.86 per litre and Diesel 10ppm to N$27.96 per litre. Prices elsewhere in the country will be adjusted accordingly.

The new prices will take effect at 00h01 on 2 September.

The ministry attributed the increases largely to a sharp rise in international petroleum product prices during the August review period, which outweighed the benefit of a stronger Namibian Dollar against the US Dollar.

According to the ministry, the average international price of Petrol 95 increased by 5.67% from US$116.803 per barrel in July to US$122.947 per barrel between 1 and 25 August.

Diesel recorded significantly larger increases, with the average price of Diesel 50ppm rising 11.29% from US$145.298 to US$161.708 per barrel, while Diesel 10ppm increased 11.42% from US$145.944 to US$162.606 per barrel.

"The average price of Petrol 95 for the period 1-25 August 2026 was USD 122.947 per barrel, representing an increase of 5.67% from the July 2026 average of USD 116.803 per barrel. The average price of Diesel 50ppm increased by 11.29%, from USD 145.298 per barrel in July 2026 to USD 161.708 per barrel in August 2026," the ministry said.

The Namibian Dollar strengthened by about 1.61% against the US Dollar during the review period, averaging N$16.1974 per US Dollar compared with N$16.4627 in July.

Despite the stronger currency, the fuel pricing model recorded under-recoveries of 68.032 cents per litre for Petrol 95, 215.321 cents for Diesel 50ppm and 214.502 cents for Diesel 10ppm.

The ministry said geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and disruptions to crude oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz continued to constrain global supply and shipping conditions.

Higher tanker freight rates also added pressure to delivered petroleum costs, as tighter vessel availability, longer voyage distances and increased risk premiums pushed up shipping costs.

The September adjustment also includes a 30-cent-per-litre increase in the Road User Charge Levy from 243 cents to 273 cents per litre.

According to the ministry, the additional levy is required to finance the implementation of national priority feeder road projects.

"The Ministry has resolved to adjust the fuel pump prices, with ULP95 increasing by 60 cents per litre, while Diesel 50ppm and Diesel 10ppm will each increase by 160 cents per litre, including for RFAs adjustment," the ministry said.

It said Brent crude prices eased towards the end of the review period amid renewed expectations of a possible reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. However, constrained physical oil flows and vessel movements limited the impact of lower crude prices on delivered petroleum costs.

The ministry said it would continue monitoring international oil market developments and their impact on domestic fuel prices.

Good fences no longer make good neighbors

By Junias Erasmus

For many years, we have heard the saying, "Good fences make good neighbors." It teaches us that boundaries are important and that people should respect each other's space, property, and privacy.

While boundaries are still necessary, life today has shown us that fences alone do not create good relationships.

A fence can separate two homes, but it cannot create understanding, respect, or peace. Good fences no longer make good neighbors; good communication does.

Many neighbourhood problems do not begin because people live too close to each other. They begin because people do not talk.

A neighbour may play loud music, park in a way that causes problems, leave rubbish in the wrong place, or allow a pet to disturb others.

Instead of discussing the matter, people may complain to others, become angry, or make assumptions. A small problem can then become a serious disagreement.

Good communication allows people to solve problems before they grow. A respectful conversation can explain a concern without creating unnecessary conflict.

> **"A neighbour may play loud music, park in a way that causes problems, leave rubbish in the wrong place, or allow a pet to disturb others.**

Sometimes people do not even know that their behaviour is disturbing someone else. Once the matter is explained calmly, they may be willing to change.

Communication therefore gives people an opportunity to understand one another.

This lesson is not only about neighbours. It applies to families, workplaces, friendships, and communities.

Many relationships suffer because people stop communicating. Someone becomes upset but does not explain why.

Another person makes assumptions. Before long, both sides are angry over something that could have been solved through one honest conversation.

Good communication also means listening. It is easy to speak, but listening requires patience.

A good neighbour should be willing to hear another person's concerns without immediately becoming defensive.

Sometimes we may discover that we misunderstood the situation. Listening does not mean agreeing with everything; it simply means giving people a fair chance to explain themselves.

Respect is equally important. Neighbours may have different lifestyles, cultures, beliefs, routines, and ways of doing things.

Living close to one another requires understanding these differences. We do not have to agree with everyone, but we can respect them.

Good communication helps people manage differences without turning them into personal conflicts.

Today, technology has also changed how we communicate. People can easily send messages through phones and social media, but written messages can sometimes create misunderstandings.

A simple message may sound rude when that was not the intention. When an issue is serious, a face-to-face conversation or a respectful phone call can sometimes be better than sending angry messages.

This does not mean that fences are no longer useful. People still need privacy, security, and clear boundaries.

However, physical boundaries should not replace human communication. We can protect our property while still being friendly. We can respect our space while also respecting the people around us.

A good neighbour is not simply someone who keeps their property clean or stays behind their fence.

A good neighbour is someone who considers others. They communicate when there is a problem, listen when concerns are raised, and try to find peaceful solutions. Sometimes being a good neighbour means helping someone. Sometimes it simply means being considerate.

Many communities experience unnecessary conflict because people talk about each other instead of talking to each other. Gossip rarely solves problems.

Anger rarely creates understanding. Silence can also allow problems to grow. When something needs to be addressed, it is often better to speak directly, calmly, and respectfully.

The same principle applies in the workplace. A strong team is not built by putting up walls between departments or individuals.

It is built when people communicate, share information, listen to different ideas, and work together. The same is true in families.

A home may have strong walls, but peace inside the home depends on how people treat and communicate with one another.

The truth is simple: a fence can protect your property, but communication protects your relationships.

A fence can show where your space ends, but communication helps people understand how to live together peacefully.

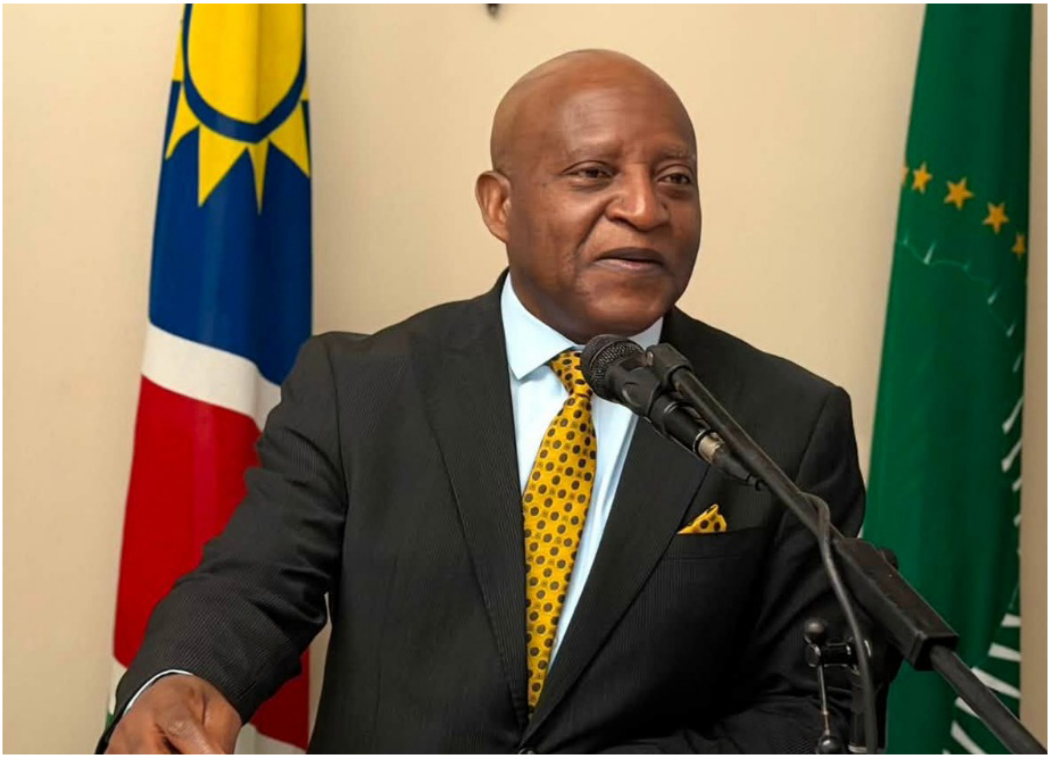
Therefore, build good boundaries, but do not build walls around your relationships. Talk to your neighbours. Listen to their concerns.

Respect their space and expect them to respect yours. When problems arise, choose communication before confrontation.

Good fences no longer make good neighbors. Good communication makes good neighbors.

A peaceful community is not built only with walls, gates, and fences. It is built through respect, understanding, cooperation, and the willingness to talk.

Junias Erasmus is an Interdisciplinary Scholar, Philosopher, and Legal Researcher, with recognised expertise in Artificial Intelligence grounded in a Multidisciplinary foundation in Management Science. He is also a Motivational Speaker. This article is authored in his personal capacity. For enquiries, he may be contacted at Junias99@gmail.com.



Ngurare says progress being made on 14-region factory plan

The government says it is making progress towards establishing manufacturing facilities across Namibia's 14 regions as part of plans to expand local processing, promote value addition and create jobs.

Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare said the initiative follows a directive by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah for each region to develop a factory aligned with the products, resources and economic strengths available in that area.

Speaking at a regional development event in Windhoek on Thursday, Ngurare said the programme is aimed at moving Namibia beyond primary production by developing regional manufacturing and processing capacity.

"When Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, addressed Heroes Day Commemoration in Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region, last year, she gave a directive that each region must have a factory unique to what it produces and supplies," Ngurare said.

"This was a deliberate intervention, informed by the reality that Namibia must move, regionally and nationally."

Ngurare said the government is making progress on the initiative, although he did not provide details on the factories already identified, their expected investment requirements or implementation timelines.

"Each of our 14 regions will have a manufacturing plant unique to what it produces. On this mission we are making progress," he said.

The Prime Minister said the regional approach is intended to support a more diversified economy by developing industries around the comparative advantages of individual regions.

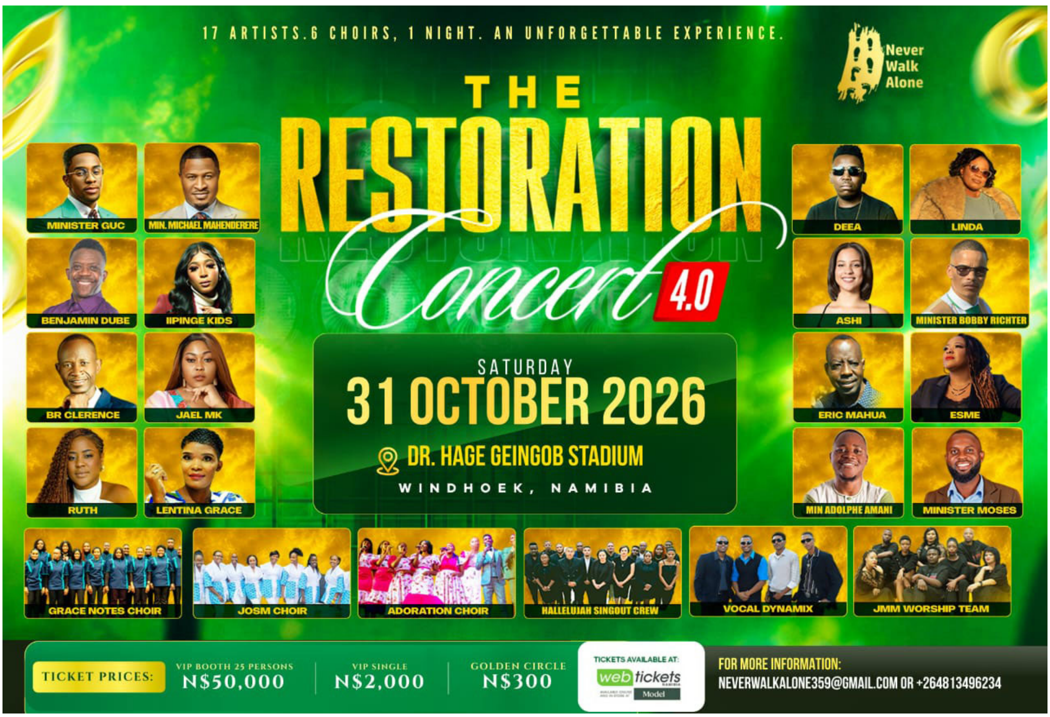
"From Zambezi to Khomas, from Omaheke to Hardap; from Omusati to Kavango East and from Kunene to Oshikoto. All stakeholders are getting on board," he said.

Ngurare said economic opportunities differ across the country, requiring regional industrial development strategies that respond to locally available resources, production and market opportunities.

The initiative is also expected to support the government's industrialisation, value-addition and employment objectives under the Sixth National Development Plan.

Developing processing capacity closer to areas of production could allow more locally produced agricultural, mineral and other raw materials to be processed domestically rather than leaving regions primarily as suppliers of unprocessed products.

"Our economy must become more diversified, resilient and capable of creating opportunities for all Namibians," Ngurare said. He said regional leaders would play a key role in identifying viable opportunities and ensuring that proposed investments respond to local economic conditions and community needs.



Building risk maturity for a resilient and competitive future (Part 5 of 5)

By Monika Amukoto

Risk maturity measures how well risk management is embedded into an organisation's daily decisions, strategy and culture.

When we talk about organisational risk maturity, it is easy to think of it as another framework or compliance exercise.

On the contrary, risk Maturity helps an organisation progress towards a more proactive level of risk management, enabling it to anticipate uncertainty, respond to change and act before risks become problems.

The first step organisations can take to accelerate the risk maturity journey is through conducting a formal risk maturity assessment, which provides insights on where the organisation currently sits on the risk maturity curve.

This risk maturity curve ranges from a largely reactive risk management approach, where risks are addressed only after they materialise, to a proactive and integrated risk management approach, where risk considerations are embedded in everyday decision-making and strategic conversations.

The risk maturity assessment can provide credible benchmarking against recognised standards and industry practices, creating positive peer pressure and a clear roadmap for continuous improvement.

"The first step organisations can take to accelerate the risk maturity journey is through conducting a formal risk maturity assessment, which provides insights on where the organisation currently sits on the risk maturity curve.

Ultimately, the value of organisational risk maturity extends far beyond stronger risk processes. The ability to manage uncertainty well can become a source of competitive advantage.

Competitive advantage is not only about having better products, lower costs or greater market share. It can also come from being able to see change earlier and respond to it better and faster than competitors.

Organisations that build this capability are better positioned to protect value, respond to disruption and adjust their strategies as conditions change. More importantly, they may be able to turn uncertainty into opportunities before others do.

This has become increasingly important as organisational success is no longer measured by growth, profitability and market share alone. While these measures remain important, recent events have shown that an organisation's ability to adapt, recover and continue creating value in uncertain conditions is just as critical.

History shows that organisations unable to anticipate and adapt to change often struggle to survive.

Consider Kodak.

Kodak was a successful photography company, but the rise of digital photography fundamentally changed the industry and how people took, stored and shared photos.

The interesting part is that Kodak saw the change coming. It even developed one of the world's first digital cameras. The challenge was that embracing digital meant disrupting the film business that had made Kodak successful. As digital photography became mainstream, Kodak was slow to shift its business model and continued to rely heavily on film. By the time it responded, the market had already moved on.

Then there's Nokia.

Nokia was once the global leader in mobile phones, with a strong brand, extensive distribution network and impressive technology. But the smartphone changed what customers expected. Competition was no longer simply about making a good phone. It was about software, apps, connectivity and the overall customer experience.

Nokia struggled to make that shift quickly enough and eventually lost significant market share.

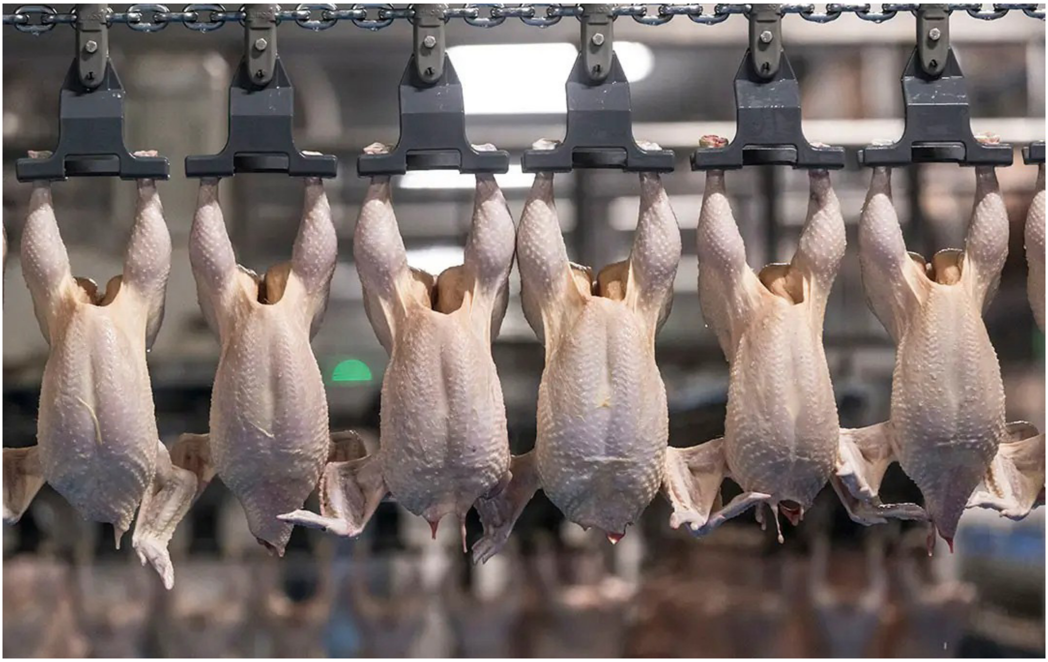
The interesting thing about both stories is that neither company was simply blindsided by change. They had the information, resources and capabilities to recognise what was happening.

Their challenge was turning awareness into action.

And this is where risk maturity makes a difference. A risk-mature organisation doesn't just identify and monitor risks. It continually challenges its assumptions, looks ahead and is prepared to act when circumstances change, even when that means disrupting what is working today.

Therefore, the question is: where is your organisation sitting on its risk maturity journey?

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



Namibia's poultry output forecast to rise 13.8% to 3.81 million kg

Namibia's local poultry production is forecast to increase by 13.81% to approximately 3.81 million kilograms in August 2026, from about 3.35 million kg produced in July, according to the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia.

The Board's August 2026 market report said the expected increase will be supported by higher production across several poultry categories, particularly breasts, thighs, drumsticks and offal products.

In July, other chicken cuts, including individually quick frozen (IQF) and nine-piece cuts, accounted for the largest share of domestic production at approximately 2.39 million kg, representing 71.35% of total output.

Whole and half birds accounted for about 241,605 kg, with the remainder comprising breasts and fillets, wings, thighs, drumsticks and offal products.

"Local poultry product production totaled approximately 3.35 million kg in July 2026, with other chicken cuts, including IQF and 9-piece cuts, accounting for the largest share of production at 2.39 million kg (71.35%)," the report said.

"Production is forecast to increase by 13.81% to approximately 3.81 million kg in August 2026, with notable increases expected in breasts, thighs, drumsticks and other offal products."

The expected increase follows higher

poultry throughput in July, when 2.15 million chickens were marketed, representing an increase of 19.83% compared with July 2025 and 0.42% from June. According to the Board, all chickens marketed during the month went to domestic slaughter.

Despite the higher volumes, the average chicken carcass producer price declined to N$29.96 per kg in July, down 6.24% from June and 11.35% compared with July 2025.

"The combination of higher slaughter volumes and lower carcass prices points to increased domestic poultry availability during the review period," the report said.

Meanwhile, Namibia marketed 10.35 million eggs in July, down 6.59% from June and 2.41% compared with July 2025.

Despite the decline during the month, cumulative egg marketing reached 72.65 million eggs between January and July 2026, representing a 15.37% increase compared with the corresponding period in 2025. The Board reported that the average egg price increased to N$2.52 per egg in July, up 11.50% month on month and 17.76% year on year.

Small eggs recorded the highest average price at N$3.00 each, followed by extra-large eggs at N$2.98, large eggs at N$2.78, medium eggs at N$2.30 and jumbo eggs at N$1.54.

"Prices for small eggs increased sharply from N$1.01/unit in June to N$3.00/unit in July, while large and extra-large egg prices increased to N$2.78/unit and N$2.98/unit, respectively," the report said.

Raw milk production also increased to 1.50 million litres in July, up 9.84% from June, although output remained 7.30% below the level recorded in July 2025.

According to the Board, the average milk producer price remained largely unchanged at N$6.69 per litre in July, broadly in line with the baseline price of about N$6.70 per litre.

Beyond the exhibition stand: Rethinking the role of universities at Namibia's trade fairs

By Hasekiel Johannes

Trade fairs are a familiar part of Namibia's economic landscape, and universities are regular participants.

They showcase programmes, promote research, meet prospective students and build visibility. But a bigger question is emerging: are universities getting enough value from simply putting up a stand?

In an economy that needs stronger links between education, industry and employment, the answer may require universities to rethink what they do when they enter the exhibition space.

The question is particularly relevant at the 2026 Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF), taking place from 21–29 August 2026.

With more than 200 exhibitors and over 30 speakers, OATF is designed to connect business, networking, exhibitions and local economic development.

It is therefore more than a place to display products; it is a meeting point between ideas, capital, skills, markets and opportunity.

Universities are already part of this ecosystem, with institutions such as the University of Namibia and Welwitschia University listed among OATF exhibitors.

But simply being present is no longer enough. If a university spends money and time participating, there should be something measurable to show for it.

The university stand should become a gateway to partnerships, problem-solving, research, innovation and economic opportunity.

> **"Industry-sponsored research, consultancy, training, innovation partnerships and commercial agreements can all begin with a conversation on the exhibition floor.**

From Exhibitors to Economic Partners

The traditional model is simple: set up a stand, display programmes, distribute brochures and engage visitors. Useful? Certainly. Enough? Probably not.

Universities should ask: What can happen at this trade fair because we are here? The answer could be research partnerships, industry challenges, internships, student projects, consultancy, innovation and new funding.

That means moving from being exhibitors to becoming economic partners.

A university should leave a trade fair with more than photographs and contacts; it should leave with opportunities that can be converted into projects, partnerships and impact.

Turn the Stand into an Innovation Hub

Imagine a trade-fair space where companies do not just display products but bring their problems. A mining company could ask for a cheaper way to monitor water quality.

An agricultural business could seek better irrigation solutions. A financial institution could ask how to improve financial inclusion among young people.

Researchers and students could then work on these challenges, creating a pathway from industry problem to research, prototype, testing and commercialisation.

That is far more powerful than exchanging business cards. It also gives students a chance to work on real problems while giving companies access to knowledge and fresh ideas.

Bring Industry Challenges to the Fair

Trade fairs could introduce short Industry Challenge Sessions, giving companies 10–15 minutes to explain the skills they need, the problems they face and where they need research or innovation.

Universities could immediately connect those challenges to the right researchers, students and departments.

The fair then becomes the starting point for projects that continue long after the tents come down. This could become one of the most practical ways of closing the gap between what universities teach and what industry actually needs.

Take Research to the Market

Universities should also make research easier for industry to understand. A simple "Research in Five Minutes" session could ask every researcher: What is the problem? What did you discover?

What is the solution? Who can use it? What partnership is needed? The goal is to move research from the campus into the marketplace turning knowledge into products, services, consultancy and new ventures.

Research should not remain locked behind academic language when a company, community or entrepreneur may be able to use it.

From Competition to Commercialisation

A National University Innovation Challenge could bring universities together to solve real Namibian problems presented by industry.

Students could develop solutions and pitch them to industry, investors, government and entrepreneurs. But the prize should be more than a trophy.

Winners should receive mentorship, incubation, industry testing, intellectual-property support and access to potential funding.

The real victory should be a solution that reaches the market. A trade fair could therefore become the place where Namibia discovers its next startup, technology or locally developed solution.

From Exhibition to Employment

Trade fairs can also become talent markets. An Industry Talent and Internship Day could connect students and graduates directly with companies offering internships, apprenticeships, graduate jobs and research placements.

Universities could then measure success by the opportunities created—not the number of brochures handed out. For students, this changes the trade fair from a place to visit into a place where careers can begin.

A New Resource-Mobilisation Platform

There is also a financial opportunity. A researcher may arrive with a promising technology while a company at the same fair is searching for that exact solution.

The university can connect the two from testing and intellectual property to commercialisation and revenue.

Trade fairs can therefore become part of a university's resource mobilisation strategy, not just its marketing calendar.

Industry-sponsored research, consultancy, training, innovation partnerships and commercial agreements can all begin with a conversation on the exhibition floor.

Universities Should Improve the Fair Too

The relationship should work both ways. Universities should not only ask, "What can we get from the trade fair?" but also, "What can we contribute?"

They can help organisers understand visitor behaviour, SME performance, economic impact, innovation and market opportunities.

At OATF, for example, digital tools such as visitor surveys, exhibitor ratings, QR-code engagement and visitor statistics create opportunities for universities to turn event data into useful business intelligence.

In this way, the university becomes not just an exhibitor, but a knowledge partner helping the trade fair itself become smarter and more valuable.

Measure What Matters

The biggest change may be how universities measure success. Forget counting brochures, photographs and visitors. Count industry challenges, research partnerships, internships, jobs, innovations, commercialisation opportunities, funding, consultancy projects and new agreements.

Ask how many companies engaged researchers, how many students found opportunities, how many projects were launched and how much new value was created. That is how trade-fair participation becomes an outcome-driven strategy.

Namibia's Bigger Opportunity

Namibia has no shortage of trade fairs. From agricultural shows to business and industrial exhibitions, these events bring together people who rarely sit in the same room.

The opportunity is to turn them into temporary innovation ecosystems: industry brings the problems, universities bring knowledge, students bring creativity, researchers bring solutions, government provides policy support and investors bring capital. The outcome should be partnerships, businesses, jobs and innovation.

Beyond the Stand

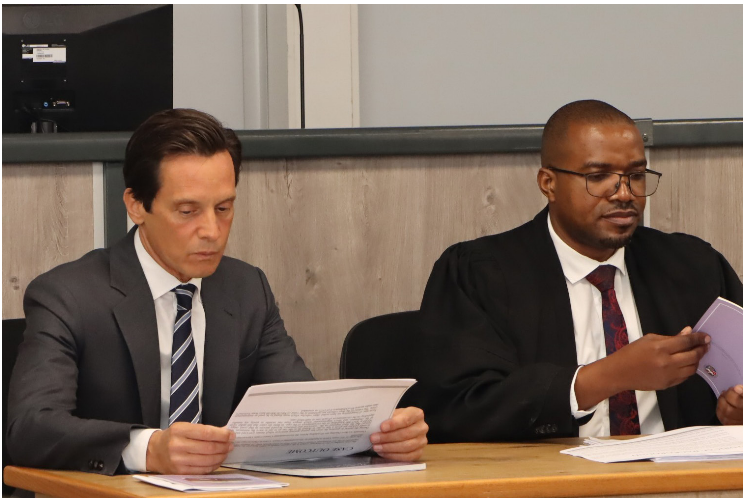
For universities such as Welwitschia University, the message is clear: the goal should no longer be simply to have a stand, but to create an ecosystem around it.

A successful trade fair should leave behind partnerships, research projects, student opportunities, innovations and commercial possibilities. The stand should be the front door not the destination.

The real question after the fair should not be, "How many people visited our stand?" It should be: "What did we build because we were here?" That is the shift Namibia's universities should make from exhibition to innovation, from visibility to value, and from attendance to impact.

If one conversation can become a research project, one student can find a job, one idea can become a business and one industry problem can become a Namibian solution, then the trade fair has delivered something far more important than publicity. It has created value.

Mr. Hasekiel Johannes serves as the Innovation and Resource Mobilisation Coordinator at Welwitchia University. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Welwitchia University.



US commits N$310m to Namibia's wildlife conservation and law enforcement capabilities

The United States has committed more than N$310 million over the past decade to strengthen Namibia's wildlife conservation and law enforcement capabilities, targeting transnational criminal networks linked to rhino poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

US Ambassador to Namibia John Giordano said enforcement efforts need to extend beyond arresting individual poachers to dismantling the trafficking networks, financial structures and overseas markets that make wildlife crime profitable.

"Rhinos are not being slaughtered simply because poachers happen upon them. They are being killed because transnational criminal organizations can make enormous amounts of money supplying illegal overseas markets," Giordano said.

"If we want to stop the killing, law enforcement must disrupt the entire criminal enterprise, from the poacher on the ground to the trafficker moving the horn across borders to the networks and markets financing the crime."

Giordano made the remarks during a three-day field mission to wildlife protection, investigation and prosecution facilities across Namibia.

According to the US Embassy, Namibia recorded its lowest level of rhino poaching in more than a decade in 2025, while rhino-related arrests reached their highest level in five years.

The US has also provided more than N$2.6 million through the Department of State's Bureau of International

Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs to establish the Environmental Crimes Court in Otjiwarongo. The embassy said the facility is Namibia's first dedicated environmental crimes court and only the second of its kind in Africa. It recorded a 94% conviction rate during its first two years of operation.

Giordano visited the court and met Magistrate Billy Lutaka and officials responsible for investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes.

"The message should be unmistakable: Namibia's wildlife is not for sale to transnational criminal organizations," Giordano said.

"As a federal prosecutor, I learned that criminal enterprises survive when the profits outweigh the risks. Effective investigation, aggressive prosecution, and international cooperation change that calculation."

Giordano also visited Etosha National Park, where he joined Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism rangers and veterinary professionals involved in rhino protection operations.

He said wildlife crimes committed in Namibia are linked to international trafficking networks and demand in overseas markets.

"What happens to these animals in Namibia is connected directly to organized crime and illegal demand thousands of miles away. A rhino killed in Africa can generate profits through an international chain of traffickers, smugglers, middlemen, and buyers," he said.

According to the US Embassy, wildlife trafficking generates billions of dollars globally and often uses the same routes, financial systems and criminal networks involved in trafficking narcotics, weapons and people.

Giordano also visited the Cheetah Conservation Fund near Otjiwarongo, which employs more than 160 Namibians, to observe its conservation and research activities.

The United States said it would continue supporting Namibia in strengthening investigations, prosecutions, border enforcement and international cooperation against wildlife trafficking.

"The objective cannot simply be to catch the person holding the weapon. Law enforcement must identify the traffickers, follow the money, and dismantle the networks and illegal markets that make these crimes profitable," Giordano said.

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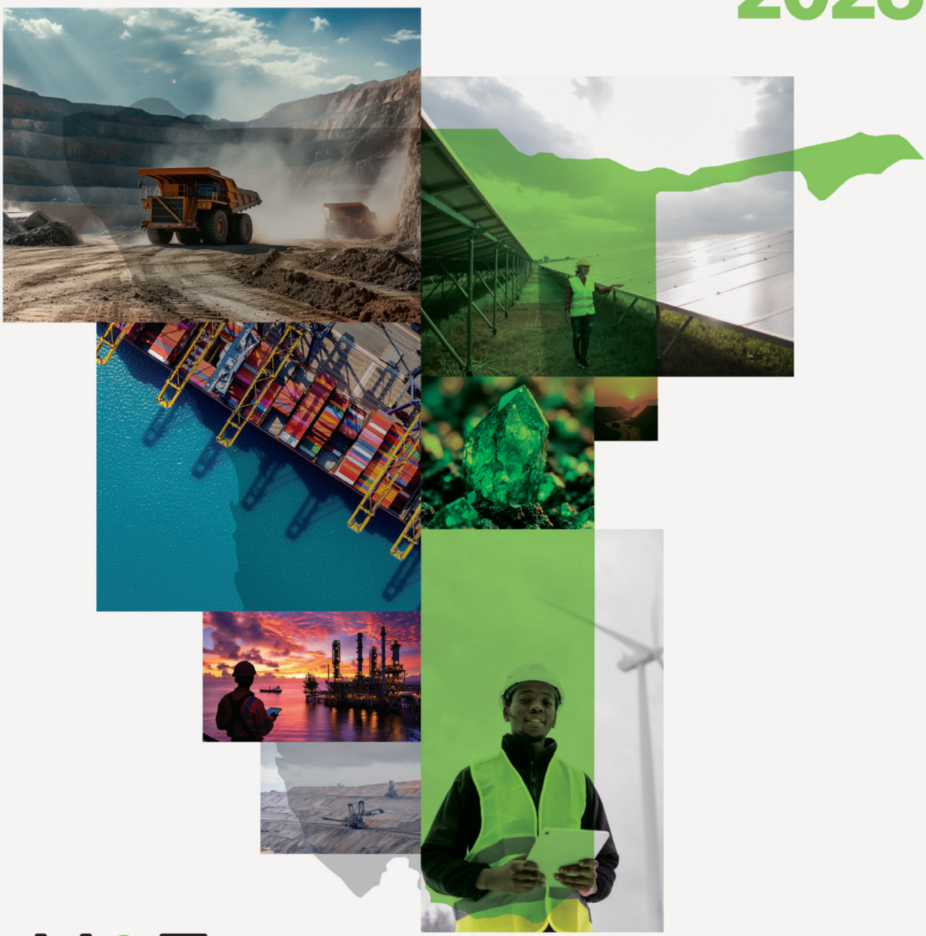

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