

**LIVESTOCK**

Namibia needs N\$1.5 billion to protect N\$15bn livestock sector from FMD threat

p. 05



**CLIMATE ADAPTATION**

Namibia strengthens climate adaptation and water security measures

p. 19



**CYBERSECURITY**

Post-festive cybersecurity risks

p. 21



THE

# BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



**Ngurare pushes for digitalisation in PM's office to speed up service delivery**

WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026

## MAIN STORY

## Ngurare pushes for digitalisation in PM's office to speed up service delivery

Prime Minister Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare has called for the urgent digitalisation, innovation and technological advancement within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to speed up coordination and service delivery across government.

Ngurare made the remarks while addressing staff at the Office of the Prime Minister, where he outlined the institution's central role in driving Public Service Reform under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

He said the OPM remains the main coordinating centre for all offices, ministries and agencies, with oversight responsibilities that directly affect the performance of the wider public service.

"The OPM is responsible for a critical NDP6 objective: Public Service Reform. In delivering efficient public services, the OPM remains the main conduit through which all OMAs function. It has the overall mandate to ensure effective coordination and implementation of public service legal and policy frameworks, programmes and projects. It also plays a significant oversight role," Ngurare said.

The Prime Minister said the office's mandate covers human resource management, industrial relations, disciplinary systems, disaster management, policy coordination and technological development, warning that weak performance at OPM level



### Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
  - \* 18 February 2026
  - \* 22 April 2026
  - \* 17 June 2026
  - \* 12 August 2026
  - \* 21 October 2026
  - \* 02 December 2026
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek**

would undermine service delivery across government.

He pointed to ongoing reforms, including the establishment of a One-Stop Service Centre with the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) and other institutions, the modernisation of IT systems, the development of a Public Service Culture Change Programme, and revisions to staff rules and the Public Service Act.

Ngurare said digital platforms and innovation must be central to future operations as government works towards positioning the Namibian public service as an international benchmark.

“At the OPM, we aim to establish Namibia as a global leader in all aspects of our operations, including innovative employment methods through online platforms and the responsible utilisation of technological advancements. We are also building on the foundation established by previous administrations,” he said.

He further urged public servants to internalise President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah’s address to public servants delivered in July 2025, saying it clearly outlines expectations around accountability, teamwork and performance.

Ngurare directed supervisors to ensure that public servants are provided with adequate tools, training and supportive working environments, while calling for the elimination of absenteeism, corruption, nepotism and

other practices that undermine service delivery.

He said the principles of unity, integrity and collective responsibility must guide public service operations as government works to meet national development objectives across all regions and constituencies.

The remarks come as the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Namibia expects to finalise the funding estimate required to fully automate the recruitment process in the public service by the next financial year. The planned automation is aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability in government hiring, while reducing bureaucratic delays.



**HITO HR**  
People First



SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY

# We're Hiring!

## CLUB MANAGER

An established hospitality operation on the outskirts of Karibib is seeking a hands-on and experienced Club Manager to oversee lodge, restaurant, camping, and kiosk operations. This role suits a strong leader with proven hospitality management experience, capable of leading teams, managing daily operations, and engaging key stakeholders to deliver consistent service excellence.

### Key responsibilities

- Overall management of lodge, restaurant, and facilities operations
- Ensuring excellent guest experience and service standards
- Budget preparation, cost control, and performance reporting
- Inventory control (front office, bar, service & housekeeping)
- Staff leadership, training, performance management, and employee engagement
- Infrastructure and facilities maintenance
- Management Committee reporting

### Requirements

- Minimum 6 years' experience in hospitality (lodge and/or restaurant management)
- Strong leadership, organisational, and communication skills
- Proven staff management and training experience
- Hands-on, customer-focused approach
- Experience managing events (weddings/corporate) is an advantage
- Fluent in English (additional languages advantageous)
- Computer literate (MS Office, email, reporting)
- Hospitality or tourism qualification is an advantage

[APPLY HERE](#) ▼

<https://e-recruitment.hitohr.com>

Closing Date for Applications is 19 February 2026



# Save together, grow together with **FNB weSave**

**FNB weSave** brings family, friends, or your community together to turn shared dreams into real moments that shape memories, milestones, and the future you are building

**Stay on track** with real-time progress updates via the FNB App, Online Banking, or Cellphone Banking.

It's **transparent, secure, and convenient** - because when **we save together, we grow together.**

Visit your nearest FNB branch today and open your **FNB weSave** Account.

061 299 2222

081 953 6262

Terms & Conditions apply

**First National Bank** of Namibia Limited. Reg. No. 2002/0180. A subsidiary of FirstRand Namibia Limited





## Namibia needs N\$1.5 billion to protect N\$15bn livestock sector from FMD threat

Namibia will require an estimated N\$1.5 billion, in addition to the N\$57.5 million already approved by Cabinet, to strengthen prevention and preparedness measures against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Minister Inge Zaamwani has revealed.

Zaamwani told the National Assembly that the additional funding is necessary to protect a livestock sector valued

A BRIGHTER  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOUR  
TOMORROW.

[OFFICIAL]  
**VACANCIES**



Namdeb Diamond Corporation invites interested individuals to be part of alluvial mining operations that offer unique challenges for professionals who wish to be part of a world-class operation.

Applications are invited for the following positions:

- MINING ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING (MEIT)/GRADUATE TRAINEE (FLEET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FMS) (C1) REF76842H**

Interested candidates should upload CVs with supporting documents to  
<https://smrtr.io/x5Kst>

**The closing date: 27 FEBRUARY 2026**

Previously disadvantaged individuals are encouraged to apply.

[www.namdeb.com](http://www.namdeb.com)



**NAMDEB**  
A NAMIBIA DE BEERS PARTNERSHIP

at N\$15 billion and to preserve Namibia's access to international export markets amid rising regional disease risks.

The proposed N\$1.5 billion investment is aimed at scaling up surveillance, response capacity and biosecurity interventions to maintain Namibia's FMD-free status and safeguard the livestock sector from regional disease threats.

The minister briefed lawmakers on the country's preparedness as outbreaks of FMD continue to affect parts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. She said recurring outbreaks have been recorded since 2019, particularly in South Africa, which lost its FMD-free status as recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The latest development follows the confirmation of a new case on 8 February 2026 in Nkuruman in South Africa's Northern Cape, approximately 400 kilometres from the Namibian border. Botswana has also reported an outbreak within its FMD-Free Zone 6b.

Zaamwani said these developments increase the risk of transboundary

transmission through both formal and informal livestock movements, noting that the Northern Cape borders the //Kharas and Hardap regions, bringing the threat closer to Namibia's southern livestock production areas. She warned that the elevated risk poses significant implications for Namibia's FMD-free status, the livestock and meat export industry, revenue generation, employment and food security.

"In view of this increasing proximity and intensity of risk, Namibia must urgently and aggressively accelerate its prevention and preparedness measures. Preliminary estimates indicate that an investment of approximately N\$1.5 billion will be required over and above the already approved N\$57 million in order to adequately protect a livestock sector valued at N\$15 billion and preserve the country's vital market access," Zaamwani said.

FMD is a highly contagious transboundary animal disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. The introduction of the virus into Namibia would trigger immediate restrictions on the export of meat and meat products and could result in prolonged disruptions to international markets, with the meat industry contributing billions of dollars to national trade and economic stability.

Government has introduced a range of preventative and risk mitigation measures, including the suspension and strict control of imports of cloven-hoofed animals and related products from affected areas and from non-export-approved establishments.

The ministry has also

**Public Discussion**

The National Budget at a Pivotal Moment:  
**Choices, Trade-offs and Economic Direction**

Tuesday, 17 February 2026 | 18h00–20h00  
Hilton Hotel, Windhoek



**Salomo Heil**  
Managing Director,  
High Economic Intelligence  
& EAN Associate Member  
(Presenter)



**Helena Mboti**  
Group Economist,  
Standard Bank  
Namibia  
(Panelist)



**Jesaya Hano-Oshike**  
Vice-Chairperson,  
EAN  
(Panelist)



**Floris Bergh**  
Chief Economist,  
Capricorn Asset  
Management  
(Panelist)



**Livestream:**  
Economic Association of  
Namibia Facebook Page

intensified inspections and vehicle searches at border posts to prevent the illegal movement of high-risk animal products.

Human resource capacity has been reinforced, with 23 Directorate of Veterinary Services officials permanently deployed at various border posts and a further 29 officers mobilised to support frontline operations.

Of these, 16 were deployed through the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia and 13 were seconded from other offices, while plans are underway to deploy an additional 28 officials.

The Directorate of Veterinary Services continues to issue public notifications to ensure rapid communication of disease risks, control measures and movement restrictions.

“Awareness campaigns have been conducted in high-risk regions in collaboration with livestock industry stakeholders. The Ministry is also engaging the Namibian Defence Force and NamPol through their oversight ministries to strengthen coordinated enforcement,” Zaamwani said.

The ministry said

future prevention measures will include re-zoning and further strengthening of border biosecurity systems.

**City of Windhoek**  
 Vision: To be a Sustainable and Caring City by 2027

# Valentine's

## MOVIE NIGHT 2026

Love Under the Stars: I Love Windhoek Edition

DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 2026

City of Windhoek Independence Avenue @ Time: 18h00

### Show Your Love for Windhoek & WIN BIG!

Take a photo at any  
**I ♥ WINDHOEK**

signage or landmark, between 2 – 11 February 2026 and tag the **City of Windhoek Facebook page**, and stand a chance to **WIN** exclusive I Love Windhoek goodies! With the **ULTIMATE PRIZE**: One-night stay for two at Hilton Hotel

PRIZE GIVING:

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Valentine's Movie Night.

Food and drinks will be available for sale!  
 Bring along your camping chairs, blankets and cushions for comfort.

A romantic Valentine's Movie Night Experience  
 Movie proudly sponsored by DSTV Namibia

Issued by: Office of the Chief Executive Officer  
 Corporate Communication, Marketing and Public Participation

f @ X in



## SME poultry producers drive growth in Namibia's expanding poultry sector

The Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU) says small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are playing an increasingly important role in Namibia's poultry industry, with SME producers supplying about 60,000 broilers per week to informal markets.

The NAU said growth in the SME segment has been supported by stronger regulatory enforcement, including border policing by the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia and levy-funded controls aimed at curbing poultry smuggling.

The union added that ongoing engagements with the Directorate of Veterinary Services are focused on

developing an Avian Influenza Master Plan to safeguard sector-wide biosecurity.

According to the NAU, the poultry industry continues to expand rapidly and is now the second-largest contributor to farmers' cash receipts, supported by growing private-sector investment and closer regulatory coordination.

"Namibia's poultry sector continues to expand rapidly and is the second biggest sector contributing to farmers' cash receipts. The SME segment is also growing, producing approximately 60,000 broilers per week for informal markets. Regulatory support through LLPBN border policing and levy-funded enforcement

has strengthened controls against poultry smuggling,” the union noted.

The NAU reported that production growth has been driven by both established producers and new market entrants. In 2024, broiler production increased by 14.94%, while egg production rose by 6.63%.

The union added that this momentum continued into 2025, with more than 9.3 million chickens marketed in the first half of the year, largely driven by NPI and the first full year of operations at Kadila Poultry.

The NAU further noted that several producers are undergoing major expansions, including new processing plants and integrated breeder-hatchery systems, positioning the industry for significant scale-up in the coming years.

“In 2024, broiler production increased by 14.94% and egg production by 6.63%. More than 9.3 million chickens were marketed in the first half of 2025. Several producers are undergoing major expansions with new processing plants and integrated breeder-

hatchery systems,” the NAU said.

Despite strong domestic growth, the NAU said Namibia continues to import large volumes of poultry meat, with more than 11,388 tonnes imported in the first half of 2025, accounting for about 30% of domestic consumption.

According to the union, the sector also remains heavily dependent on imported yellow maize and soy for feed, exposing producers to feed cost volatility and external supply risks.

Looking ahead to 2026, the NAU expects the poultry sector to maintain its upward trajectory, supported by expanding processing capacity, maturing breeder and hatchery operations, and improved biosecurity planning.

“Namibia still imports large volumes of poultry meat, accounting for about 30% of domestic consumption. Feed cost volatility and Avian Influenza risks in neighbouring countries remain key challenges. Overall, the sector is well-positioned for sustained growth, with SME participation remaining robust,” the union said.



# The Business Banking Masterclass

Foundations of Entrepreneurship

# What every Namibian board needs to know about AI risk in 2026

By Even Hashikutuva and Chisom Obiudo

In 2021, Zillow shut down its AI-powered home-buying operation after losing over \$800 million. The algorithm kept purchasing homes in the wrong markets at the wrong prices.

Knight Capital's trading algorithm lost \$440 million in just 45 minutes in 2012. Apple's credit card algorithm, developed with Goldman Sachs, gave women lower credit limits than men with identical financial profiles, triggering a regulatory investigation by the New York Department of Financial Services.

These weren't IT errors or technology glitches. They were governance failures that reached the boardroom.

Artificial intelligence touches nearly every industry, from banking and insurance to retail, manufacturing, and government services.

Yet most Namibian boards delegate AI decisions entirely to technology teams, assuming it's a technical problem rather than a strategic one. It isn't.

Consider what is happening in Namibia's HR departments today. Organisations are quietly adopting automated screening tools to rank CVs, filter candidates, and recommend hires. Globally, these systems have been shown to amplify bias and exclude qualified talent.



Amazon scrapped its AI recruiting tool after discovering it systematically discriminated against women, penalising resumes that included the word "women's" or graduates from women's colleges.

But in Namibia, most boards would struggle to answer a basic question: if an algorithm rejects a candidate, who is accountable? The HR manager? The software vendor? The board itself?

The shift is happening globally, and it's accelerating. According to a 2025 report by the Ernst & Young (EY) Center for Board Matters, 48% of Fortune 100 companies now formally cite AI risk as part of their board oversight responsibilities, up from 16% the previous year.

Companies are treating AI governance as a boardroom priority because regulators are watching, investors are asking harder questions, and the financial and reputational consequences of AI failures have become too severe to ignore.

In Namibia, this discussion has only recently begun. A Data Protection Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament this year, followed by a proposed AI Bill aligned with UNESCO's ethical guidelines and regional frameworks such as the SADC Model Laws.

The EU AI Act already imposes fines of up to €35 million or 7% of a company's total worldwide annual turnover for

illegal AI practices, whichever is higher. Waiting for regulators to act first causes companies to rush and puts them at a competitive disadvantage.

**AI risk is already a board duty**

Fiduciary responsibility: Under Section 430 of the Namibian Companies Act 28 of 2004, a court can declare directors personally liable, without any limitation of liability, for the debts of a company if its business was carried on “recklessly, or with the intent to defraud creditors.”

In the future, this could be interpreted to include the deployment of high-risk AI without proper oversight.

This risk becomes real when a bank deploys an AI credit scoring model trained on historical data. If that model systematically denies loans to applicants from certain areas while approving similar applications elsewhere, the board is responsible, not the data science team.

In such a case, the court’s inquiry into reckless conduct would focus on the boardroom: Did your board know that this system had been implemented? Did you review its training data? Did you test for bias?

**Consider a local scenario:** a telecommunications company uses an AI-driven system to determine which

customers qualify for device financing.

If the system, trained on data skewed toward urban subscribers, systematically declines applicants in rural areas, many of whom are from indigenous communities, the company could face claims of indirect discrimination under any future data protection or consumer protection legislation.

Regardless of future legislation, the reputational risk alone carries direct commercial consequences.

**Risk oversight:** Your board already reviews a monthly risk register. Add AI-specific line items immediately: model

**SPECTRAGO**

**Work faster and stay connected.**

No fibre in your area? No problem.  
Get 5G Wi-Fi for your home office and enjoy ultra-fast, high-quality internet that's quick to set up and easy to install today.

**From as little as N\$ 389 per month**

- ✓ Flexible contract
- ✓ No deposit
- ✓ Fast installation

**5G Brings It Home.**

Scan the QR code or call 9011 to get started.

SpectraGO is a plug-and-play 5G solution on a flexible contract you can cancel with one month's notice. Service is available in areas with 4G or 5G coverage. The SIM is locked to the registered address and cannot be used elsewhere. Top-up bundles are only available for the 350GB and 600GB plans.

Ts & Cs apply

mic

drift (your AI was trained on 2022 data but it's now 2026, has performance degraded?), third-party vendor risk (your HR screening vendor in South Africa was just fined for discrimination, are you exposed?), and regulatory breach (can you explain in plain language why your AI denied a loan to a specific customer?).

### **Strategy and capital allocation:**

Before approving AI investments, always ask: What's the expected return on investment (ROI) with measurable outcomes? What's the deployment timeline? What happens if it fails? Who at the executive level is accountable? These are the same questions you ask about a factory expansion. AI spending requires identical scrutiny.

### **Five actions for the board**

**1. Establish an AI Oversight Committee.** Assign oversight of AI to your existing Risk & Audit Committee or establish a dedicated Technology & AI Governance Committee. The committee's charter should include: quarterly AI risk assessments; the authority to approve or reject high-risk AI deployments; direct access to the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and the Chief Risk Officer (CRO); a mandate to commission independent AI audits; and a requirement to report AI incidents to the full board within 48 hours.

**2. Request a Complete AI Inventory.** Ask your CTO, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) for a detailed list of all AI systems in use, in development, or under review. For each system, include the system name and vendor, business function, deployment status, data sources, decision authority (whether autonomous or human-assisted), risk classification, and the accountable executive.

### **3. Set Board Approval Thresholds.**

High-risk AI (credit decisions, hiring, customer-facing systems without human review, safety-critical applications) requires full board approval before deployment. Medium-risk AI requires executive approval with board notification. Low-risk AI (email filtering, calendar scheduling) requires only CTO approval.

### **4. Ask Five Questions About Every High-Risk System.**

What data does it use, and what data does it not use? What is its error rate by demographic group? When was it last updated? Who can override it? If you are sued, can you explain this system to a judge?

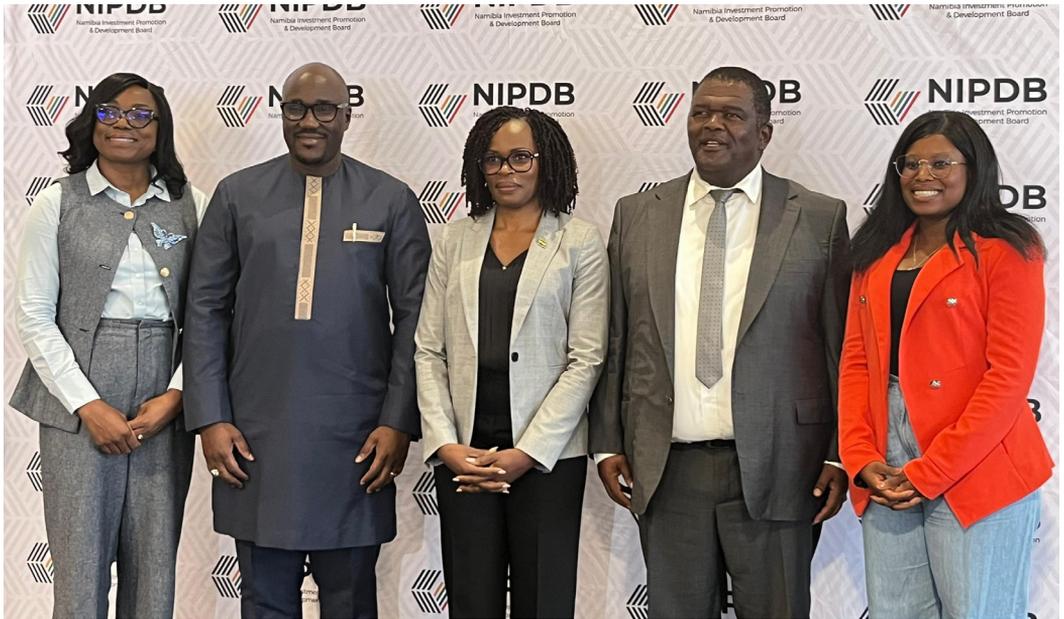
### **5. Hire an external AI audit service.**

Engage a reputable auditing firm or qualified local legal counsel to review your highest-risk AI systems. The audit scope should include bias testing across gender, race, language, and geography; model explainability; data privacy compliance; vendor contract review; and incident response preparedness.

There is a stark difference between a company that spends the next six months building an AI governance framework and one that scrambles to assemble one after a regulatory notice arrives. The first sets the terms. The second inherits them.

The board meeting is in two weeks. Add AI governance to the agenda.

***\*Mr. Hashikutuva is a Namibian AI-driven automation strategist, entrepreneur, and co-founder of the tech startup Refrane. Ms. Obiudo is a legal practitioner with specialisation in corporate governance and AI governance. She serves on the National Artificial Intelligence Technical Advisory Committee on law and governance.***



## Namibia and Gabon target stronger trade ties in fisheries, energy and infrastructure

Namibia and Gabon are looking into the potential to boost trade between the two countries, with both governments exploring opportunities to strengthen cooperation in fisheries, petroleum services, oil refining and infrastructure development.

The Ministry of International Relations and Trade's Acting Director for Africa and the Middle East, Ambassador Humphrey Geiseb, said the two

A BRIGHTER  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOUR  
TOMORROW.

[OFFICIAL]  
**VACANCIES**



Namdeb Diamond Corporation invites interested individuals to be part of alluvial mining operations that offer unique challenges for professionals who wish to be part of a world-class operation.

Applications are invited for the following positions:

- BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER (Band 6) – STRATEGIC PROJECTS**  
**REF77193N**

Interested candidates should upload CVs with supporting documents to  
[https://smrtr.io/x5H\\_F](https://smrtr.io/x5H_F)

**The closing date: 27 FEBRUARY 2026**

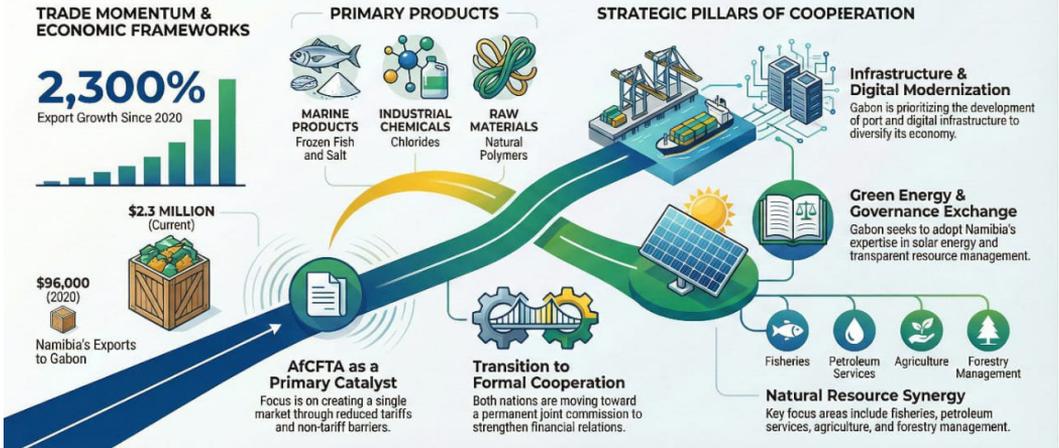
Previously disadvantaged individuals are encouraged to apply.

[www.namdeb.com](http://www.namdeb.com)



## Namibia & Gabon: Forging New Trade Frontiers

Following a decade of limited trade, Namibia and Gabon are leveraging a new joint business forum to boost economic ties, utilizing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework to transform diplomatic relations into robust industrial partnerships.



countries are seeking to expand bilateral engagement through a joint business forum aimed at increasing trade and facilitating structured sector partnerships.

The forum, convened on Wednesday in collaboration with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board and the Namibia Chamber of Commerce, brought together business leaders and government officials to identify joint projects and promote engagement between public and private sector actors in priority industries.

Geiseb said Namibia and Gabon established diplomatic relations on 17 October 2012, with Namibia's Embassy in Brazzaville accredited to Gabon, while Gabon maintains a non-resident mission accredited to Namibia. He noted that trade volumes between the two countries remain limited despite more than a decade of diplomatic ties.

According to the ministry, Namibia exported goods valued at US\$2.3 million to Gabon during the 2024–2025 period, including chlorides, natural polymers, frozen fish and salt. Export values increased

from US\$96,000 recorded in 2020.

“This is a genuine task. As such, a joint commission of cooperation between Gabon and Namibia could be incorporated as a mechanism to strengthen financial relations. The potential for expanding trade flow is very realistic when you are looking at the fact that over the past five years, exports in value from Namibia to Gabon have grown,” Geiseb said.

The ministry said both countries share interests in agriculture, forestry, environmental conservation and fisheries, creating opportunities for expanded cooperation across multiple sectors.

Geiseb added that Namibia's participation in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the EU–Namibia Partnership Agreement provides a framework for broader market access and tariff reduction.

“However, the African Continental Free Trade Area is currently the focus and a significant trade agreement aimed

at creating a single market for goods and services across the 55 countries of the African Union. Through the promotion of free market systems, reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers,” he said.

Gabon’s Ambassador to Namibia, Edwige Koumby Missambo, said Gabon is prioritising the development of port and digital infrastructure and is seeking to diversify its economy towards agriculture and services.

“And in the sense of diversity, you know, Gabon is mainly forest. More than 80% of the country is the forest. We have a strategic geographical position in Central Africa. We have the projects to develop port and digital infrastructure. We are in big need of infrastructure. And we are also willing to diversify our economy toward agriculture and services, among others,” Missambo said.

She added that Gabon is also interested

in cooperation in mining governance, renewable energy and institutional transparency, citing Namibia’s experience in green energy development and governance practices.

“And we are very interested in learning about this practice in Namibia. You also have a big advance in green energy and solar energy. That is also an area where we can have cooperation; we can partner. You are also very good in transparency. And that is key. Because when you want to develop resources, you have to build the framework to make sure that the benefits of the resources participate to the development of the country and also to the people,” she said.

Both sides said the forum is intended to provide a foundation for more structured cooperation, with potential progression towards formal bilateral mechanisms and sector-specific project development.



- Corporate Lounge Shirts
- Branded Golf Shirts
- Formal & Casual Trousers
- Workwear & Overalls
- Corporate Dresses & Skirts
- Branded Winter Jackets
- Body Warmers & Fleece
- Safety Boots & PPE Wear
- Caps, Beanies & Accessories
- Custom Embroidery & Branding

**CONTACT US TODAY  
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER**



[orbitalmedianam@gmail.com](mailto:orbitalmedianam@gmail.com)



+264 81 434 3154

# From commitment to production: Removing the handbrakes holding local industries back

By Sarah Goroh

Namibia's conversation on building sustainable local industries is gaining momentum. There is broad agreement that producing more of what we consume is essential for economic resilience, job creation, and long-term growth. Government policy recognises this.

The private sector understands the opportunity. Young people are eager for practical skills and employment pathways.

If Buy Local is to move beyond awareness and become a reliable economic engine, production must be able to start, scale, and supply without stalling at critical moments.

Yet, despite this alignment, progress on the ground remains slower than it should be. The challenge is no longer about awareness or intent. It is about execution — and more specifically, about how promising local production efforts stall at the last mile.

## The gap between commitment and production

Across the country, there are individuals and small businesses who have already demonstrated serious commitment to local production. They invest their own capital, take risks, clear land, install infrastructure, and prepare for scale.

These are not speculative ideas on paper; they are real investments made with the intention to produce, employ, and contribute to the economy.

Yet many of these initiatives stall not



**If Buy Local is to move beyond awareness and become a reliable economic engine, production must be able to start, scale, and supply without stalling at critical moments.**

because the vision is flawed, but because of small, critical gaps that prevent production from starting or expanding.

Consider a common scenario: an aspiring agricultural producer clears land, fences it, invests in water infrastructure, installs irrigation systems, and acquires basic machinery. Everything is in place, except a few essential implements needed to begin planting.

The total cost of these final inputs is modest compared to the overall investment already made. But without them, production cannot start. Jobs cannot be created. Skills training opportunities cannot be offered. The entire value chain remains dormant.

This is not a story of lack of effort. It is a story of momentum halted by missing links.

## Small gaps, big consequences

What makes this problem particularly striking is that the cost of the final missing pieces is often small relative to the economic

potential they unlock. A modest intervention can be the difference between idle land and productive farms; between imported goods and local supply; between unemployment and skills development.

Once production begins, a multiplier effect follows. Increased output creates demand for storage facilities, transport services, maintenance, and eventually processing. Each stage introduces new business opportunities and new jobs. Training placements for vocational students become possible. Value addition begins to take shape.

Without mechanisms to bridge these final gaps, none of this happens.

### Why the system struggles at the last mile

The issue is not the absence of policy or financing instruments. Namibia has development banks, funds, incentive schemes, and strategic frameworks aimed at supporting production. The challenge lies in how these tools connect – or fail to connect – to real-world timelines.

Support often arrives too early, too late, or in forms that do not match the specific stage of investment. In some cases, requirements are designed for large, established operations, leaving emerging producers

stuck between informal survival and formal scale.

What is missing is a responsive, stage-appropriate support system, supported by platforms that bring producers, financiers, buyers, and relevant government ministries together to recognise demonstrated commitment and move quickly to unlock productivity.

### Meeting commitment halfway

Supporting local production does not mean subsidising inefficiency or creating dependency. It means recognising when serious investment has already been made and stepping in strategically to accelerate outcomes.

Meeting committed producers halfway is smart economics. It reduces risk, speeds up production, and delivers public benefits in the form of jobs, skills transfer, and local supply. It is far more cost-effective to unlock existing investment than to start new initiatives from scratch.

Such support does not have to be permanent. In many cases, it is catalytic – once production starts and revenue flows, the business becomes self-sustaining.

### Skills, scale, and systems

This conversation is inseparable from the issue



**Fly Namibia**  
our most recent edition!

**We rise by lifting others.**

Click below to read the latest issue of FlyNamibia Magazine – your onboard guide to travel inspiration, aviation and proudly Namibian stories.

[> READ ONLINE](#)

A vertical banner for Fly Namibia magazine. At the top, the Namibian flag is partially visible. Below it, the text 'Fly Namibia' is written vertically in large white letters on a red background, with 'our most recent edition!' written vertically in smaller white letters to its right. Below the text, there is a white button with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'READ ONLINE'. At the bottom of the banner is a group photo of several people, including pilots in uniform and other individuals, smiling.

# CRAZY DISPLAY DEALS

STANDARD PULL-UP Banners

NS\$1000.00

EXECUTIVE PULL-UP Banners

NS\$1200.00



PVC BANNER with Eyelets  
NS\$250.00 per SQM



CANVAS FRAME

A3 - NS\$250.00  
A2 - NS\$400.00  
A1 - NS\$500.00  
A0 - NS\$850.00

Custom Sizes Available  
Prices Excludes VAT



CALL US TODAY

+264 81 434 3154

of skills development. When production is delayed, opportunities for hands-on training disappear. Technical and vocational education thrives when there are real sites of production where students can learn by doing.

Local industries are not built through policy alone. They are built through machines that run, land that produces, and people who gain experience through work. When production stalls, skills development stalls with it.

### From intent to execution

Our nation does not lack ideas. It does not lack policies. It does not lack willing producers. What it lacks is a system that connects all three at the right moment.

If we are serious about building local industries and sustaining “Buy Local” beyond campaigns, then execution must receive as much attention as vision. The question should not only be what sectors to prioritise, but how quickly and effectively committed producers can move from readiness to production.

Removing the handbrakes that stall progress at the last mile would do more for local production than many new strategies combined. If we want locally produced goods to scale by 2030, we need a PPP coordination mechanism that solves execution problems in real time, not after momentum

is lost.

### A practical path forward

The opportunity before us is clear. By identifying bottlenecks, responding with targeted support, and aligning financing with real production stages, Namibia can unlock dormant potential across agriculture, manufacturing, and processing.

This is not about lowering standards or bypassing accountability. It is about designing systems that are flexible enough to recognise progress and practical enough to respond when momentum matters most.

Local production will not scale through intention alone. It will scale when committed investment meets timely support, when systems work at the pace of production, and when small gaps are no longer allowed to block big outcomes.

If “Buy Local” is to become a lasting economic culture, then unlocking production at the last mile is where the work must now focus.

*\*Sarah Goroh is an Award-winning Writer | Life Coach | Strategist | Youth Advocate | Project Director – Global Reputation Forum | A.U.C.S. (African Union Commission Simulation Agenda 2063) Ambassador - Jet Age Nation Builders*



## Namibia strengthens climate adaptation and water security measures

*... signs agreement to host Global Water Partnership Secretariat*

Namibia is strengthening its water sector through expanded climate adaptation measures, investment in alternative water sources and improved early-warning systems aimed at reducing vulnerability to drought and extreme weather events, Minister of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Land Reform Inge Zaamwani has said.

Zaamwani made the remarks during the signing of the headquarters agreement between Namibia and the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), which

will see the organisation establish its Secretariat in Windhoek.

She said Namibia's approach includes continued investment in groundwater development, desalination and water reuse technologies as part of efforts to diversify water supply sources and reduce reliance on erratic rainfall patterns.

"It is this understanding that has guided Namibia's sustained engagement in integrated water resources management, climate adaptation, groundwater development, desalination, water reuse,

These commitments reflect our understanding that effective global institutions require not only vision, but also predictable and supportive operating conditions.

and early-warning systems. It is also what has shaped our strong commitment to transboundary water cooperation, as a country that shares five major river basins with our neighbours across Southern Africa,” Zaamwani said.

The minister said the decision to host the GWPO Secretariat reflects growing international confidence in Namibia’s institutional capacity and Africa’s leadership in addressing water security challenges.

“Against this backdrop, the decision to host the GWPO Secretariat is not incidental. It is a natural extension of Namibia’s long-standing role as a reliable partner in regional and global water cooperation,” she said.

Under the headquarters agreement, Namibia will provide the Secretariat with an enabling operational environment, including office infrastructure, administrative and

logistical support, visa and residency facilitation, tax and customs exemptions for official operations, and a stable legal framework aligned with international hosting standards.

Zaamwani said these commitments are intended to ensure that the Secretariat operates with legal personality, privileges, immunities and full operational independence.

“These commitments reflect our understanding that effective global institutions require not only vision, but also predictable and supportive operating conditions,” she said.

The establishment of the Secretariat forms part of a dual-headquarters model, making the GWPO the first intergovernmental organisation dedicated to water to be anchored in the Global South.

The graphic is a promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF'. It features a central QR code with the text 'SCAN HERE' to its left. Below the QR code is the text 'for Daily Namibian News'. To the right of the QR code is the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL'. The background is light blue with faint icons of various symbols like a dollar sign, a gear, and a person. At the top left, there is a 'Finance' icon (a bar chart with an upward arrow) and at the bottom left, a 'Business' icon (a magnifying glass over a bar chart). On the far left, there is a PDF icon and the text 'Daily PDF version sent via email'. At the bottom left, there are social media handles: '@thebrieflive' for Facebook, '@thebrieflive.name' for LinkedIn, '@TheBriefLive' for Twitter, and '@thebrieflive' for Instagram. On the far right, the logo 'THE BRIEF' is displayed in large blue letters, with the tagline 'News Worth Knowing' underneath it.

# Post-festive cybersecurity risks

By Mufaro Nesongano

As we have entered the new working year after the festive break, individuals and organisations are reminded that the beginning of the year is one of the most active periods for cybercrime.

The start of the year has become one of the most critical months for cybersecurity. While many people associate cyber threats with the busy holiday period in December, the weeks after the holidays are often even more at high risk of cyber security threats.

During the festive period, many employees travelled with their work laptops, connected to public or home Wi-Fi, and sometimes used work devices for personal activities such as social media, streaming, or online shopping.

When those devices reconnect to corporate networks as the year starts, any malware or hidden infections picked up during the holidays can spread silently inside organisational systems.

At the same time, many users forget passwords, reuse old ones, or rush through account recovery processes, creating opportunities for attackers to exploit weak authentication and compromised credentials.

## Phishing and Social Engineering Attacks

One of the most common threats remains phishing. Employees and executives alike should expect an increase in fake emails and messages. These messages are carefully crafted to create urgency or emotional appeal, encouraging recipients to click malicious links, download malware, or disclose login credentials. Attackers often impersonate



**Employees and executives alike should expect an increase in fake emails and messages.**

trusted brands or service providers, making the scams very convincing.

## Business Email Compromise

The resumption of business operations in January creates ideal conditions for Business Email Compromise (BEC). Attackers actively exploit year-end payment cycles, and backlogged financial processes to send fraudulent emails requesting urgent actions, such as emergency payments, changes to supplier bank details, or the release of sensitive financial information.

These emails often impersonate senior executives, finance managers, or trusted vendors and rely on urgency, authority, and reduced verification procedures to succeed. Messages may claim that a payment must be processed immediately, that a supplier's banking details have changed, or that a confidential transaction must be handled discreetly.

As per the norm, finance teams are under pressure to clear outstanding invoices and resume operations quickly after the holidays. Verification controls are sometimes relaxed, increasing the likelihood of successful fraud.

## The Rise of WhatsApp Account Hijacking Scams

Attackers deploy fraudulent websites that closely mimic legitimate WhatsApp web and security verification pages, exploiting trust in the platform to compromise user accounts.

A growing and particularly concerning threat during the festive season was the large-scale hijacking of WhatsApp accounts through sophisticated phishing campaigns.

Recent threat intelligence has identified an active global operation, commonly referred to as the HackOnChat campaign, targeting WhatsApp users across regions.

Attackers deploy fraudulent websites that closely mimic legitimate WhatsApp web and security verification pages, exploiting trust in the platform to compromise user accounts.

Two (2) primary techniques are used. In the first, victims are tricked into scanning a QR code or entering a pairing code on a fake WhatsApp web page, unknowingly linking their account to an attacker-controlled session. In the second, victims are lured into entering their phone number and a OneTime Password (OTP) on a phishing page, allowing attackers to fully take over the account.

Once compromised, WhatsApp accounts are weaponised.

Attackers impersonate the victim to contact friends, colleagues, or business partners, requesting urgent financial assistance, sensitive information, or further OTPs.

Because these messages originate from a trusted contact, recipients are significantly more likely to comply without verification, leading to rapid financial loss and further spread of the scam.

**Ransomware and Attacks on**

### **Unattended Systems**

Ransomware operators deliberately target holiday periods when monitoring and response capabilities are reduced. Attacks are often launched during long weekends or shutdown periods, with encryption remaining unnoticed until staff return.

Unpatched Virtual Private Network (VPN) appliances, exposed remote access services, and weak administrative credentials are common entry points. In several cases globally, attackers have also targeted backup systems during the holidays, reducing organisations' ability to recover without paying ransom demands.

Reducing Cyber Risk Organisations should ensure continuous monitoring and incident response coverage, enforce multi-factor authentication across all critical systems, and complete patching and security testing before staff go on leave.

Equally important is staff awareness. A simple post-holiday reminder encouraging employees to remain cautious of password changing emails, verify payment requests, and report suspicious activity promptly can prevent incidents from escalating. As we prepare to start the year, it is important to recognise that cyber threats do not take holidays they exploit them.

**\* Mufaro Nesongano Executive: Communication and Consumer Relations**

THE  
**BR/EF**  
News Worth Knowing

# Year in Review **5** **202** Outlook **6**



 [Click here to  
DOWNLOAD](#) 