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BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



UAE eyes free trade pact, investment protection and double taxation deal with Namibia

WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026

MAIN STORY



UAE eyes free trade pact, investment protection and double taxation deal with Namibia

The United Arab Emirates has indicated its readiness to explore a free trade agreement, investment protection accord and double taxation agreement with Namibia as part of efforts to expand bilateral trade and deepen private sector investment.

Speaking during the Namibia–UAE Business Forum on Tuesday, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Thani bin

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**

Ahmed Al Zeyoudi said current trade volumes do not reflect the full economic potential between the two countries.

“Our bilateral non-oil trade was around US\$260 million last year, and I am sure this does not reflect the capabilities of both nations. We can do much, much higher than these numbers,” he said.

Al Zeyoudi noted that the UAE’s non-oil trade surpassed US\$1 trillion last year, driven by expanded trade agreements, logistics investments and broader trade partnerships.

“We concluded 10 agreements with African nations and we are ready to explore that with Namibia. Complementing that, we are very interested in investment protection agreements as well as double taxation arrangements. This is going to send a message to the private sector that the two governments are working together and that a supportive ecosystem will be provided to businesses and investors from the UAE side,” he said.

Namibia’s Minister of International Relations and Trade, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, said the visit builds on bilateral relations dating back to 1990 and aligns with government’s seven development priorities under the eighth administration of President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

She said trade data shows Namibia’s main exports to the UAE include diamonds, scrap metal, charcoal, precious stones, frozen fish and grapes, while imports from the UAE range from petroleum oils and fertilisers to machinery and automotive parts.

Ashipala-Musavyi said Namibia is seeking greater export

diversification and value addition, including in diamond cutting and polishing.

“We invite the UAE to explore investment in Namibia’s diamond cutting and polishing industry, and also to form joint ventures to increase value addition before exports,” she said.

She added that Namibia is keen to expand beef and meat exports to the UAE market while strengthening cooperation in agro-processing, irrigation technology and food value chains.

At the same event, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), Jessica Hauuanga, described the UAE as a strategic partner and global economic hub.

“It is therefore our wish that this business forum marks the beginning of ongoing dialogue and strategic partnership that translates into joint ventures and bankable projects to expand the trade and investment linkages that already exist,” she said.

Namibia also highlighted the upgraded container terminal at the Port of Walvis Bay and its logistics corridors as potential areas for infrastructure collaboration, positioning the country as a regional trade hub.



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Ngunare vows tough action on non-performing contractors

Prime Minister Elijah Ngunare has warned contractors and service providers that failure to meet agreed timelines or the abandonment of government projects will no longer be tolerated, signalling a tougher approach to accountability in public service delivery.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Ngunare said government intends to

enforce stricter oversight on both public servants and private contractors involved in state projects, emphasising that performance and accountability must become standard practice.

“The same is true for those who are awarded tenders and are not performing according to agreed timelines or abandoning sites. Accountability will be the

norm on our part,” he said.

Ngurare said government is actively addressing bottlenecks that hinder the implementation of public projects and has already taken action against underperforming officials and service providers.

Since assuming office in March 2025, the Prime Minister said he has approved the discharge or demotion of several public servants across key ministries, including Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture; Health and Social Services; and Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform.

“Other ministries are encouraged to institute similar disciplinary procedures should it be found that there are public servants committing acts which are contrary to our national aspirations for service delivery,” he said.

He also stressed the need for closer coordination between the Executive, Legislature and the private sector, urging government departments to avoid working in isolation and instead align efforts towards common national objectives.

Ngurare reminded Members of Parliament of their oversight responsibilities, referring to legislation such as the Public Procurement Act, the Anti-Corruption Act and the State Finance Act as key instruments for ensuring transparency,

ethical governance and effective implementation of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

“We know what these Acts provide for and what constitutes their best application to achieve the best outcomes when NDP6 ends in 2030. As I have said before, the true spirit of the law must be applied in order to achieve justice. I believe laws are most effective when they are aligned with the social justice needs and priorities of the society they apply to, because that speaks to humanity, development and equality,” Ngurare said.



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AAC advances Namibia salmon project with NIDA partnership and leadership appointments

African Aquaculture Company (AAC) has announced a series of leadership appointments and a strategic partnership with the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) as it advances plans to develop offshore salmon farming operations in the Benguela Current off the coast of Namibia.

The company confirmed the election of aquaculture executive Per-Roar Gjerde to its board of directors, a move aimed at strengthening technical expertise as AAC prepares for the operational and development phases of its proposed salmon

farming project.

Gjerde brings more than 25 years of experience in the global aquaculture sector, including senior roles at Mowi ASA, formerly Marine Harvest, where he served as Director of Global Farming Operations and oversaw production across Chile, Canada, Scotland and Norway.

AAC said his experience in large-scale farming operations and international market development is expected to support the company's expansion into emerging salmon markets.

AAC Chairperson Tom Eng said the

appointment aligns with the company's growth strategy and sustainability objectives.

"Per-Roar Gjerde's global leadership and hands-on farming expertise will accelerate our sustainable growth in African aquaculture. His philosophy of prioritising people, product, and understanding all aspects of the operation perfectly fits our vision," Eng said.

The company also announced the appointment of Robert Sandslett as Chief Operating Officer in Namibia, where he will lead operational development of AAC's planned salmon farming activities near Lüderitz. Sandslett has more than three decades of experience in aquaculture, including senior roles in Norway and North America covering sea-based production, fish health and operational performance.

Eng said Sandslett's experience would be critical as the company moves towards operational readiness.

"Robert brings a rare combination of hands-on farming leadership, fish health expertise and large-scale operational management from both Norway and North

America. His track record of improving key production metrics and building strong operational teams will be invaluable as we advance Namibia's salmon farming potential," Eng said.

In addition to the leadership appointments, AAC confirmed it has signed Heads of Agreement with NIDA and Namibia Atlantic Salmon Holding (NASH) for a substantial double-digit euro investment, marking a further milestone in the development of the proposed industry.

The agreement forms part of broader efforts to establish an Atlantic salmon aquaculture sector in Namibia, with AAC and NIDA set to host a seminar in Windhoek aimed at bringing together government representatives, industry stakeholders and international investors to discuss opportunities linked to the project.

AAC said the initiative seeks to combine Norwegian aquaculture expertise with local partnerships to develop a sustainable aquaculture industry focused on environmental stewardship, job creation and long-term food security in Namibia.



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Leading through uncertainty: How Namibian CEOs can reframe adversity as a path to resilience

By Asteria Pirola

In today's volatile business landscape, uncertainty isn't an anomaly — it's the norm. For CEOs and senior leaders, the ability to navigate adversity while maintaining organizational stability has become a defining characteristic of effective leadership.

Rather than viewing uncertainty as a threat, forward-thinking executives are learning to reframe challenges as catalysts for growth and resilience.

The CEO Perspective on Uncertainty

Uncertainty creates tension between what leaders know and what they don't. A CEO's responsibility extends beyond their own well-being to that of their entire organization.

This elevated burden means that how leaders process and respond to adversity directly impacts their teams, company culture, and ultimately, business outcomes.

The difference between leaders who falter and those who thrive often comes down to their mindset—the ability to see uncertainty not as paralysis but as an opportunity for innovation and adaptation.

When CEOs embrace uncertainty as inevitable rather than avoidable, they unlock a powerful shift in perspective. Instead of asking, "What could go wrong?" they begin asking, "What can we learn?" and "How can we grow from this?"



The most successful CEOs engage in continuous learning about themselves and the world around them.

This subtle mental reorientation transforms adversity into a wellspring of resilience, enabling leaders to make clearer decisions even when the path ahead remains cloudy.

Building Resilience Through Adversity

True resilience isn't the absence of struggle—it's the capacity to move through struggle with purpose. For CEOs, building organizational resilience requires three critical elements. First, leaders must cultivate self-awareness around their own reactions to stress and uncertainty.

Understanding your triggers, biases, and emotional patterns enables you to respond intentionally rather than react impulsively when challenges arise.

Second, resilience is built through deliberate exposure to manageable challenges. CEOs who encourage their teams to experiment, take calculated risks, and learn from failures create a culture where resilience becomes embedded in the organizational DNA.

This approach acknowledges that

adversity will come— and when it does, the team will have the experience and confidence to navigate it.

Third, resilience requires connection. Leaders who maintain strong relationships with mentors, peers, and team members have access to diverse perspectives and emotional support systems that strengthen their capacity to endure and overcome difficulties.

The isolation of the corner office is a myth that undermines many executives' ability to build genuine resilience.

The Mindset Shift

The most successful CEOs engage in continuous learning about themselves and the world around them.

They seek out diverse perspectives, read widely, and most importantly, they listen—to their teams, their customers, and thought leaders who challenge their

assumptions. This growth-oriented mindset isn't reserved for a select few; it's a practice that can be cultivated by anyone willing to commit to it.

Exploring conversations with entrepreneurs, innovators, and thought leaders provides CEOs with real-world frameworks for navigating uncertainty.

As highlighted by The Growthmindset Podcast, hosted by Asteria Pirola, meaningful dialogues with diverse business leaders across Africa and Europe revealed patterns in how successful entrepreneurs and creators approach adversity.

These candid conversations showcased the vulnerability, resilience, and strategic thinking required to build something meaningful in uncertain times.

The Growthmindset Podcast brought together roundups of insightful

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For CEOs, resilience in the face of adversity and uncertainty is not about having all the answers — it's about developing the flexibility to find them.

conversations that explore how today's thought leaders, academics, and business innovators cultivated their mindsets to thrive amid challenges, lessons worthy of adopting.

Each episode reflected the reality that growth isn't a destination— it's a practice of continuous adaptation and learning.

For CEOs, resilience in the face of adversity and uncertainty is not about having all the answers — it's about developing the flexibility to find them. By reframing uncertainty as a growth opportunity, building strong support systems, and committing to continuous learning, leaders can transform challenges into competitive advantages. In doing so, they don't just survive uncertainty; they use it as fuel to build stronger, more innovative, and more resilient organizations.

The leaders who will define the next era of business success are those willing to lean into adversity, embrace vulnerability, and recognize that uncertainty is not a barrier to overcome — it's the raw material from which authentic resilience is built. A value creation.

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Procurement reform, youth unemployment and policy certainty dominate pre-budget discussions

Public procurement bottlenecks, youth unemployment, development spending and policy certainty dominated discussions at a high-level dialogue on the 2026/2027 National Budget convened by the Economic Association of Namibia (EAN) in partnership with Capricorn Group and the Hanns Seidel Foundation Namibia.

The discussion focused on the key policy trade-offs facing government ahead of the national budget, with participants questioning whether structural constraints, weak inclusivity in economic growth and persistently high unemployment would be meaningfully addressed.

Presenting on the global, regional and domestic economic outlook, Salomo Hei, Managing Director of High Economic Intelligence and an EAN associate member, said Namibia's core challenge lies not in growth itself but in the structure of the economy and the inclusivity of that growth.

"We don't have a growth problem; the reality is that our growth is not inclusive. For us to get to the inclusive growth we want to see, the structure of the Namibian economy needs to change," Hei said.

He added that emerging sectors such as oil and gas could provide an opportunity to address unemployment and inequality if managed strategically.

"The oil and gas discoveries present opportunities. We must therefore try to use this as an opportunity to deal with our issues of high unemployment, high inequality and exclusive growth, and bring it into inclusive growth," he said.

On financing growth, Standard Bank Namibia economist Helena Mboti cautioned that incentives must produce measurable outcomes rather than simply subsidising existing activity.

"The banking sector is cautious due to high default risk and structural economic issues such as youth unemployment and low incomes. Incentives like tax benefits should be measured for effectiveness, and more focus is needed on their uptake and conversion to permanent opportunities," she said.

EAN Vice-Chairperson Jesaya Hano-Oshike highlighted youth unemployment, estimated at 44%, and called for more deliberate use of government procurement to support domestic manufacturing and job

creation.

“Government procurement is one of those levers that we can use to really help build our economy. We need more local procurement by the state in the manufacturing sector. If you are able to support local manufacturers who create local jobs, that is one way we can decrease unemployment in the country,” he said.

Hei also stressed the importance of policy clarity in attracting investment, noting that inconsistent policy environments discourage long-term capital commitments.

“Without clear, persistent policies and governance, sectors struggle to attract and retain investment. Structural reforms and clarity in economic plans are crucial,” he said.

Floris Bergh of Capricorn Asset Management pointed to structural mismatches between available capital and investment needs, particularly in relation to public-private partnerships.

“Fund management operates based on members’ mandates, leading to a mismatch between available capital types and

investment needs. Regulatory initiatives have pushed pension funds to invest in unlisted strata, offering structures for asset managers to handle such funds with defined mandates,” Bergh said.

EAN Chief Executive Officer Cons Karamata said the dialogue was intended to sharpen expectations ahead of the budget and assess whether previously proposed reforms would translate into policy action.

“What can we expect from the Minister? Will we see the recommendations proposed last year to address bottlenecks in public procurement reflected in her budget speech?” he asked.

Karamata said the development budget, higher education funding and the Youth Development Fund remain critical areas requiring closer scrutiny as government prepares to table the 2026/2027 national budget.

“I urge you to participate in this discussion, because together we can influence the fiscal policy of our country,” he said.

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BoN holds repo rate at 6.50%, prime lending rate to remain at 10.00%

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%, with Governor Ebson Uanguta citing low inflation, subdued private sector credit uptake, an improved trade balance and adequate international reserves as key factors supporting the decision.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which met on 16 and 17 February 2026, unanimously resolved to maintain the current policy stance in order to safeguard the one-to-one peg between the Namibia

Dollar and the South African Rand, while remaining supportive of domestic economic activity.

Uanguta said domestic inflation remained well contained, averaging 3.5% in 2025 compared to 4.2% in 2024, and easing further to 2.9% in January 2026.

“Inflation is projected to remain steady at 3.5% in 2026 before moderating slightly in 2027. Domestic inflation remains well contained and is projected to stay within comfortable levels over the medium term,

supported by lower oil and food price assumptions and a stronger currency, although upside risks remain,” Uanguta said during his maiden monetary policy announcement.

He noted that economic activity slowed during the first three quarters of 2025, with contractions recorded in agriculture, fishing, mining and manufacturing.

“High-frequency indicators point to subdued growth relative to 2024, and overall output for 2025 is now estimated to be lower than previously projected,” he said.

Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) growth also moderated, easing from 5.9% in September 2025 to 4.4% in December. Although the average annual growth rate improved to 4.9% in 2025 from 2.5% in 2024, Uanguta said credit uptake by businesses and households remains subdued.

Namibia’s external position strengthened during 2025, with the merchandise trade deficit narrowing by 35.4% to N\$25.0 billion, supported by higher export volumes and strong commodity prices, particularly uranium and gold.

International reserves improved following the redemption of the US\$750 million Eurobond, rising to N\$51.9 billion at the end of January 2026, equivalent to 3.3 months of import cover.

“At this level, foreign

reserves are sufficient to support the currency peg and meet the country’s international financial obligations, which remains a central consideration in our policy decisions,” Uanguta said.

He added that while weaker domestic activity and benign inflation projections were considered, the MPC balanced these factors against the need to ensure orderly capital flows and preserve the currency peg arrangement.

Commercial banks are expected to maintain the prime lending rate at 10.00%. The next MPC meeting is scheduled for 27 and 28 April 2026.

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Khomas unemployment at 34.4% as population nears 500 000

New data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census shows an unemployment rate of 34.4% within the Khomas Region labour force, while 36.0% of the population aged 15 and above remains outside the labour force.

According to the report, 64.0% of the

population in the Khomas Region aged 15 and older is actively part of the labour force. Within this economically active group, 65.6% are employed, meaning approximately two out of every three people seeking work are employed.

“In Khomas Region, 34.4 percent of

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the population in the labour force were unemployed. It is important to highlight that a significant percentage (94.6%) of the potential labour force were discouraged jobseekers,” the report stated.

The census further indicates that the region remains highly urbanised, with 98.3% of the population living in urban areas.

The total population has grown to 494,605, presenting both opportunities and significant infrastructure challenges.

The number of households has increased to 144,630, representing a 61.7% rise since 2011, while the average household size now stands at 3.3 persons. Most households rely on wages and salaries as their primary source of income.

Access to basic services remains relatively high, with 98.7% of households having access to safe drinking water and 62.7% using electricity for lighting.

However, 17.0% of households still have no toilet facilities, while 63.2% of the population has access to flush toilets, highlighting disparities in sanitation standards across the region.

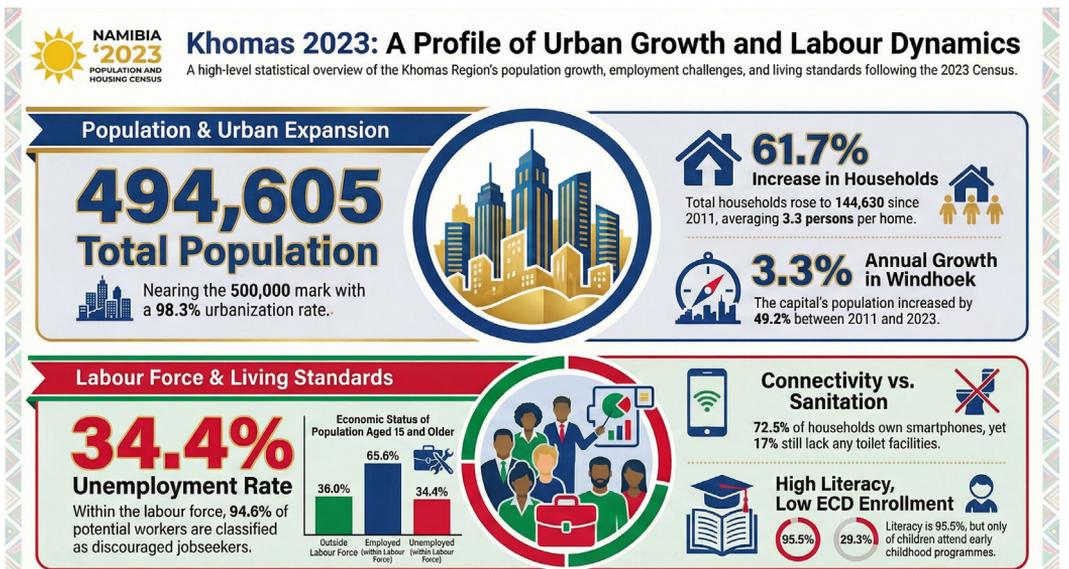
“The urban locality (Windhoek) in Khomas Region had a population increase of 49.2 percent, with an annual growth rate of 3.3 between 2011 and 2023,” the report noted.

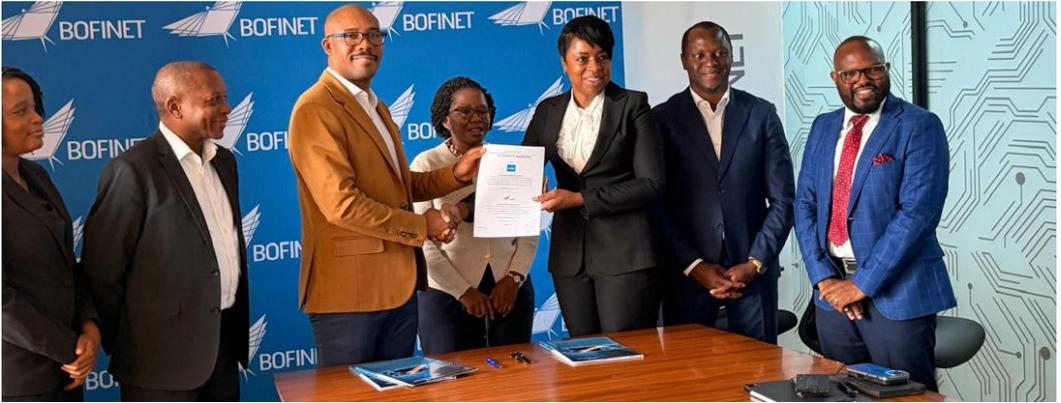
The census also highlighted gaps in early childhood education. Of the 61,978 children aged between 0 and 5 years, only 29.3% (18,144) are attending Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes.

Among those who have completed their schooling, 31.4% attained secondary education, while 19.6% completed tertiary education. The region maintains a high literacy rate of 95.5% among people aged 15 and older.

In terms of information access, residents primarily receive information through SMS (69.0%), followed by social media (54.9%), internet browsing (54.4%) and email (47.6%).

“Most households in the Khomas Region owned smartphones (72.5%), followed by televisions (51.6%) and TV decoders (44.5%). Smartphones (73.0%) were the most commonly owned asset in urban areas and 45.4% in rural areas respectively,” the report stated.





MTC, BoFiNet sign agreement to strengthen Namibia–Botswana digital connectivity

Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) and Botswana Fibre Networks (BoFiNet) have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cross-border digital connectivity between Namibia and Botswana, establishing a framework for cooperation on fibre interconnection and network capacity exchange.

The agreement, signed in Gaborone, provides for collaboration on cross-border fibre infrastructure, IP transit and wholesale capacity, with both parties aiming to improve network resilience and reduce latency between the two countries.

The partnership includes development of the Buitepos–Ngoma corridor, identified as a key cross-border route intended to

The Namibia–Botswana Digital Corridor: Strengthening Regional Connectivity

The Partnership Framework

Strategic Impacts



The Buitepos–Ngoma Corridor
A primary cross-border route established to link regional markets and digital ecosystems.

Infrastructure Integration
Collaborative focus on fibre infrastructure, IP transit, and wholesale capacity exchange.

Streamlining Operations
A commitment to reducing administrative red tape to accelerate infrastructure activation.

Enhanced Network Performance
Significant improvements in network resilience and reduced latency between the two nations.

Regional Transit Gateway
Positioning Namibia as a critical transit market for regional digital traffic.

Economic Resilience
Supporting broader economic cooperation through strengthened digital infrastructure leadership.

support connectivity between Namibia and Botswana and strengthen regional digital infrastructure.

MTC Managing Director Dr Licky Erastus said the agreement forms part of the company’s strategy to expand regional connectivity and support the development of a digital corridor linking regional markets.

“This partnership provides the framework guiding our transformation. It aligns with our strategic pillar of expanding our core and building the future through digital infrastructure leadership and ecosystem partnerships, specifically under regional connectivity, international wholesale growth and digital corridor development,” Erastus said.

He said the corridor would also support MTC’s international expansion strategy and reinforce Namibia’s position as a transit market for regional digital traffic.

“The Buitepos–Ngoma corridor is not a mere physical interconnect point. It is a route key to our international expansion strategy, providing an operational entry point into the Botswana wholesale ecosystem while reinforcing Namibia’s position as a transit and digital gateway market,” Erastus said.

BoFiNet Acting Chief Executive Officer Keabetswe Segole said the agreement reflects a focus on practical

implementation and improved operational cooperation between the two operators.

“Both institutions share a responsibility to reduce administrative red tape that often delays infrastructure activation and commercial realisation. We must ensure that technical integration and wholesale arrangements are implemented efficiently, in the mutual interest of both operators and the two countries,” Segole said.

He added that the partnership represents a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening regional digital resilience and supporting broader economic cooperation between Namibia and Botswana.



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We need to create the right conditions for every child to grow in their own way

By Simeon Tuyoleni

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about how our education system feels a bit like fast food. It is standardised, efficient, and almost the same everywhere you go.

It's delivered uniformly quickly, but sometimes it leaves you wanting more variety or personalization.

In Namibia, our centralized curriculum already includes a lot of localization, which is good. It builds a strong foundation across the country.

That foundation is important because it ensures that every child receives the same reading, writing, mathematics, and basic knowledge no matter where they are.

However, sometimes the way it is taught does not quite reach the child where they really live, and that gap makes learning feel distant.

Imagine if education felt like a family kitchen where teachers mix lessons to fit each child. Some children love numbers and become excited when they see how those numbers work in real life.

Others dream about starting something of their own or creating things that make them happy. Imagine a classroom full of children following what lights them up inside, mixing their own interests with the skills they need, all while keeping that strong foundation we have.

A teacher can do this right now. When it is time for writing or a project, let the child choose a topic from their own life, something



In Namibia, our centralized curriculum already includes a lot of localization, which is good. It builds a strong foundation across the country.

they know well.

The teacher still teaches the same skill of clear sentences, good structure, and proper spelling, but the child writes about what they actually care about, so the work comes with more energy. The lesson stays the same, but the child feels it is about their world.

If we keep teaching every child in exactly the same way, without any room for differences, many will struggle. A teacher can add small personal touches. Ask the class who has something they like doing at home.

Then give options for the activity such as draw it, explain it in words, make a list, or build a small model. The work still meets the lesson goal, but the child picks the way that suits them.

These small changes make everything stronger because children feel more connected and learn better. When school starts to feel like it really belongs to them, children stop switching off.

Too many do that now because the lessons

It is simply about not letting any spark go out and not burying any talent.

feel far from their real world. But when a teacher brings even a small piece of that world into the classroom by letting a child use their own example or their own way of showing understanding, everything changes.

The child who used to stare out the window suddenly looks up, asks questions, and wants to finish the work.

They stop seeing school as something they just have to get through. They start seeing it as a place where they are seen and where they matter.

In the end, keeping our strong national foundation while making a bit more room for each child's own interests and daily life is not

complicated. It is not about huge changes or things that only look good on paper.

It is simply about not letting any spark go out and not burying any talent. It is how we help our young child leave school ready, ready to start something small in their village, solve everyday problems in their communities, keep our culture alive, and follow dreams that feel true and right for them. That is the kind of education that can really nourish Namibia's future.

** I'm Simeon Tuyoleni, a software engineer and founder of Asmbly, a startup focused on supporting the education system.*



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Standard Bank supports housing delivery in Okalongo through Buy a Brick initiative

Standard Bank Namibia has expanded its support for affordable housing in the Okalongo community through its 2026 Buy a Brick community outreach initiative, delivered in partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN), regional authorities and corporate partners including Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH) Namibia.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts to improve access to safe and decent housing for low-income households, with 63 houses completed in Okalongo to date and a further eight currently under

construction.

Of these, 15 homes were delivered through the Buy a Brick initiative, while the remainder were built through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

In addition, 234 plots have been developed to support future low-cost housing projects.

Standard Bank Namibia Outapi Branch Manager Emeritha Iita said the programme demonstrates the impact of collaboration between communities, government and the private sector.

“Buy a Brick represents the power

of partnership. When communities, government and the private sector come together, we create real change. The homes built here in Okalongo are a testament to what collaboration can achieve,” Iita said.

Iita also congratulated the community on Okalongo’s recent proclamation as a Village Council, describing the development as an important milestone expected to unlock further economic opportunity and development in the area.

Omusati Region Governor Immanuel Shikongo said access to decent housing plays a critical role in improving social outcomes, particularly for children in rural communities. He said secure housing provides a safe and conducive environment for learning and personal development, while participation by government leaders in construction activities reinforces a shared commitment to inclusive development.

Since its launch in 2015, the Buy a Brick initiative has raised more than N\$27 million, enabling the construction of over 740 homes for low-income families across Namibia. Through its community-driven model, the SDFN has facilitated the construction of more than 7,000 brick houses, benefiting over

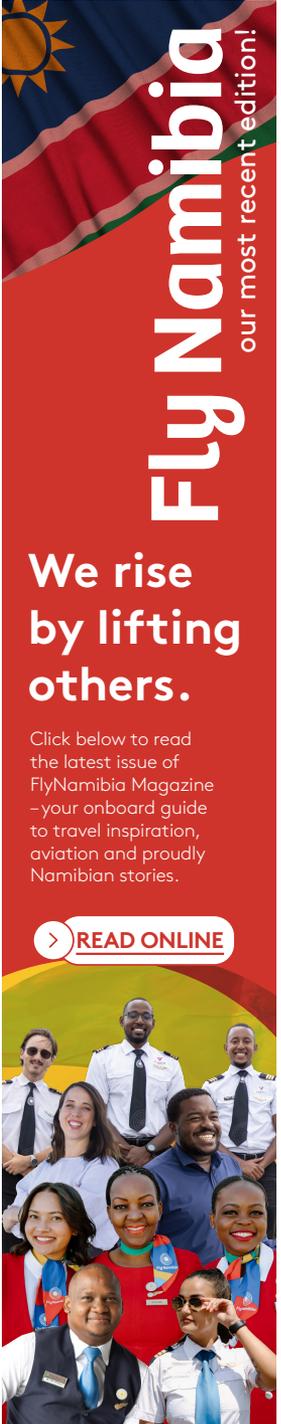
30,000 Namibians.

In the latest funding cycle, Standard Bank contributed N\$3.5 million raised in 2024, supporting the construction of 76 additional homes in the Erongo and Omaheke regions. Staff-led fundraising initiatives also contributed nearly N\$1 million towards the programme.

Speaking on behalf of CDH Namibia, Inonge Mainga highlighted the scale of Namibia’s housing challenge, noting a national backlog estimated at around 300,000 housing units and that nearly 29% of urban households live in informal settlements. She called for accelerated land allocation processes and reduced administrative delays to improve housing delivery nationwide.

Standard Bank said it remains committed to working with the newly established Okalongo Village Council and local leadership to support access to financial services, economic participation and sustainable community development.

“Growth does not happen in boardrooms; it happens here – on the ground, where communities show resilience, unity, and possibility,” Iita said. “Namibia is our home; we drive her growth.”



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