

SAVANNA BEEF

Savanna Beef secures N\$40m equity injection, lifts project funding to N\$290m

p. 05



STARLINK

Starlink's effect on Namibia's industrialization

p. 09



VISION 2029

Transformation: O&L's Journey Toward Vision 2029

p. 13



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GIPF pays out more than N\$30bn in benefits over five years

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MAIN STORY



GIPF pays out more than N\$30bn in benefits over five years

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) paid out more than N\$30 billion in social protection benefits between 2020 and 2025, according to fund data.

Annual benefits payments rose steadily from N\$4.9 billion in 2020 to N\$5.2 billion in 2021 and N\$5.5 billion in 2022, before climbing sharply to N\$6.9 billion in 2023.

In the 2024 reporting period, benefits payments declined by 9% to N\$6.3 billion,

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

Annual benefits payments rose steadily from N\$4.9 billion in 2020 to N\$5.2 billion in 2021 and N\$5.5 billion in 2022, before climbing sharply to N\$6.9 billion in 2023.

a decrease of more than N\$585 million compared with the previous year.

Over the wider period from 2018 to 2023, the fund reported paying out more than N\$20 billion in benefits, with the bulk of payments occurring from 2020 onwards as pension and claims volumes increased.

In 2025, GIPF recorded notable membership growth, largely driven by employer transitions approved under Section 14 of the Pension Funds Act.

“Transfers approved by the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority included 255 members from Namibia Wildlife Resorts, 76 returning members from the Namibia Airports Company, and three members from the Namibia Tourism Board who became eligible after transitioning from contract to permanent employment,” the fund said.

As a result of these transfers and routine onboarding, active membership increased from 103,696 in January 2025 to 109,813 by October 2025. This represents a net increase of 6,117 members, or growth of 5.9%, after accounting for exits due to retirement, resignation and death.

In 2024, GIPF reported benefits payments of N\$6.3 billion, down 9% year on year. During the period, the fund paid 2,846 retirement lump-sum claims, 2,142 resignation transfers, 44 resignation cash claims, 122 ill-health claims, 1,366 funeral claims and 694 death claims. The number of monthly pensions paid rose to 46,000.

The benefit contribution ratio stood at 132%, while the cost-to-serve ratio increased to 1.9%.

The 2023 annual report showed benefits payments of N\$6.9 billion, with 9,038 benefit claims settled during the year, 191 more than in 2022.

Monthly pension payouts increased by 12%, while lump-sum retirement payments rose by 31.6%. Resignation benefits increased by 86.7%, and death benefits by 55.7%.

“The number of pensioners receiving regular payments declined by 6,734, or 11.65%, mainly due to delayed biometric verification, with affected pensioners verified after year-end,” the report noted.

In 2022, benefits payments rose to N\$5.5 billion, up 7.5% from the previous year. A total of 8,847 benefit claims were paid, 1,110 more than in 2021, largely driven by higher monthly pension payouts, increased death benefits and rising funeral costs. Monthly pensions paid increased to 46,931, up from 45,497 in 2021.

According to the 2021 annual report, GIPF paid N\$5.2 billion in benefits, a 5% increase year on year. Benefit claims during the period were driven by higher lump-sum retirement payments, monthly pensions, death benefits and funeral costs.

“Monthly pensions increased to 45,497 from 39,504 in 2020, while retirement lump-sum claims rose to 3,197 from 2,961,” the report said.

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Savanna Beef secures N\$40m equity injection, lifts project funding to N\$290m

Savanna Beef has secured an additional N\$40 million in private equity funding through a share allotment to BPF Windsor Holdings Ltd, lifting total private equity financing for the

project to N\$290 million.

The company said the N\$40 million investment is expected to be allotted within three weeks, following the conclusion of final negotiations and procedural

Final negotiations were concluded and procedures finalised over the last few weeks with BPF Windsor Holdings Ltd for the allotment of the agreed N\$40 million shares within the next three weeks.

requirements.

“Final negotiations were concluded and procedures finalised over the last few weeks with BPF Windsor Holdings Ltd for the allotment of the agreed N\$40 million shares within the next three weeks. This will bring the total private equity to finance the project to N\$290 million,” Savanna Beef said.

The funding follows the completion of the abattoir construction phase under the engineering, procurement and construction contract with NEXUS on 27 October 2025, with ownership formally transferred to Savanna Beef Operations.

The Directorate of Veterinary Services conducted the regional Southern African Development Community (SADC) slaughter audit in November, which the company said has paved the way for European Union export certification targeted for 2026.

To date, around 1,000 cattle have been slaughtered, mainly for staff training and data collection. Savanna Beef said challenges related to accessing the local market are being addressed.

The company has also focused on improving meat quality along the value chain, drawing on input from meat scientist Phillip Strydom of the University of Stellenbosch and working with Global

Protein Solutions on its marketing strategy.

“The year 2025 has seen immense progress in the construction and completion phase of this major capital development, and our vision of a profitable beef processing facility is on a favourable trajectory,” the company said.

During the year, Savanna Beef participated in the ANUGA food trade fair in Germany, where it launched its premium “Endless Farm” beef brand. The company said the brand received positive interest from international buyers.

“The detailed management of all financing aspects received meticulous attention. Much time and effort was spent on the sales and marketing strategies and the flow of the product to the market,” the company said.

Savanna Beef currently employs 111 staff members, with further recruitment expected once SADC and European Union export certifications are secured.

In the first six months of the 2024/25 financial year, the company reported an operating loss, largely attributable to construction and operational ramp-up costs. It said the loss was below initial projections and that strict financial planning remains in place to ensure ongoing stability.



Medical aids post N\$129.5m surplus in Q3 2025

Namibia's medical aid funds industry recorded a net surplus of N\$129.5 million in the third quarter of 2025, according to the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA).

The regulator said the industry's assets remained sufficient to fully cover liabilities during the period, while reserve levels increased and stayed above the minimum

prudential requirement of 25%.

NAMFISA reported that reserves strengthened during the quarter, reflecting sustained investment performance and the impact of cost containment measures implemented across the sector.

The industry comprised eight registered medical aid funds during the period under review. Asset concentration remained high, with the three largest funds accounting

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for more than 80% of total industry assets as at 30 September 2025.

“The industry remained financially stable during the review period, supported by adequate reserves and sufficient asset coverage. Prudential compliance continues to be a key indicator of the sector’s resilience under prevailing cost pressures,” NAMFISA said, adding that it will continue to monitor financial performance to ensure long-term sustainability.

Total industry membership rose to 223,961 beneficiaries as at 30 September 2025, representing quarter-on-quarter growth of 0.8% and year-on-year growth of 2.4%. Growth was recorded across all beneficiary categories.

NAMFISA noted that the largest increase was among pensioner beneficiaries, pointing to demographic shifts within existing medical aid schemes. Non-pensioner principal members increased, while non-pensioner dependants declined slightly during the quarter.

The regulator said overall membership growth remained moderate, reflecting constrained household affordability and broader economic pressures.

“Membership trends continue to reflect demographic changes within existing schemes rather than new market expansion.

The increase in pensioner beneficiaries highlights long-term pressures on benefit structures and claims profiles,” NAMFISA said.

The industry’s claims ratio stood at 88.6% for the quarter ended 30 September 2025, remaining above the upper limit of the ideal benchmark range. Elevated claims continued to place pressure on contribution income available for non-healthcare costs.

Despite the high claims environment, total industry investments increased to N\$2.7 billion, supported by the consistent reinvestment of investment income since the fourth quarter of 2023. NAMFISA said cost containment measures reduced the need to liquidate investments to settle expenses.

Accumulated funds and reserves increased to N\$2.6 billion, with the overall reserves ratio rising to 39.7%. One open medical aid fund failed to meet the minimum prudential requirement and remains under close regulatory monitoring.

“Sustained claims pressure remains a structural challenge for the medical aid funds industry. However, improved investment performance and disciplined cost management have supported reserve growth. Regulatory oversight remains focused on the early identification of emerging risks,” NAMFISA said.

Starlink's effect on Namibia's industrialization

By Oscar Festus

Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX that utilises thousands of small satellites in low-Earth orbit (LEO) to deliver high-speed, low-latency broadband internet, particularly to remote and rural areas lacking internet coverage.

The internet service provider is active in twenty-five (25) African nations and has applied for licenses in other countries, including Namibia.

Starlink possesses some benefits and challenges for the industrialisation ambition of developing nations, such as Namibia.

The benefits could be stable coverage and an enhanced value chain. The challenges could be the lack of local content in manufacturing and unfair competition.

PRONS

One of the key benefits of Starlink is the extensive internet coverage, which directly supports the national development agenda, such as Vision 2030 and National Development Plan 6 (NDP6).

Local firms can adopt more advanced production equipment, which can boost their production capacity and enable them to diversify their production units across the country.

The innovation would flourish, whereby the firms will be able to conduct R&D to improve their manufacturing processes, allowing the development of quality



The challenges could be the lack of local content in manufacturing and unfair competition.

products that can compete in both local and international markets.

Namibia's ambition to add value to its natural resources could be optimised. Thus, the supply chain management would be improved by reliable internet connectivity.

The worldwide reach makes it possible to follow shipments of goods in real time throughout the whole supply chain.

This visibility supports more effective "just-in-time" manufacturing processes by assisting firms in minimising stockouts, optimising inventory levels, and streamlining operations.

CONS

The lack of local manufacturing of the components for Starlink; instead they will be manufactured in the United States according to Starlink.

There will be no local employment creation derived from manufacturing of components since they will be imported as finished products from the United States.

The manufacturing of Starlink's components requires high-tech production equipment, which is quite

pricey. However, there is still an opportunity for the government and Starlink to explore an opportunity for some of the components where Namibia has existing capability to produce them locally.

The unfair competition, Starlink internet coverage could be the cheapest, and this will drive out of the market the local internet providers, such as Telecom Namibia, Mobile Telecommunication and Connectivity (MTC), and Paratus.

This will result in the massive job loss from those Local Service Providers; not all workers will be able to be observed by Starlink. The employees who might be observed by Starlink are those working at the Client Service Department for customer support only, and fewer for installation, since the company's products do not require complicated installation.

There is no need to dig a line for the cable connections, the products are wireless can be easily installed by the customers; maybe they can require employees to assemble the kit. That means all the labourers and some of the technicians will be required.

COULD STARLINK BE ENDORSED TO OPERATE IN NAMIBIA

The NDP6 aims to create 80,000 quality jobs by 2030, primarily through

the manufacturing sector, with one key contributor being the enhancement of mineral beneficiation.

Starlink and the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy are therefore required to identify some of the components or products that can be manufactured locally, such as boxes (kits), cables, and other items where local entities have the capacity.

This will increase employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector as outlined in NDP6. Regarding fair competition, the government should provide fiscal or tax incentives to local service providers by lowering taxes and reducing or exempting customs duties on large equipment or machinery importation, which aims at enhancing productivity. Such measures would enable the Local Service Providers to compete effectively with Starlink, helping to prevent retrenchments and, in a worst-case scenario, industry collapse.

**Oscar Festus is an Economist holding a B. Tech and an Honours degree in Economics from NUST, and an MBA in Management Strategy from UNAM. The views expressed here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer.*

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Namibia's live cattle exports decline as slaughter and marketing ease

Namibia's exports of live cattle on the hoof declined sharply in November 2025, with 3,584 animals shipped, down from 4,323 in October 2025 and 8,152 in November 2024, according to the latest data from the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The agency said the Index for Live Cattle Exported on Hoof fell by 17.1% in November 2025, following a steeper contraction of 43.9% in October. On a year-on-year basis, the index declined by 56.0%.

In contrast, the Butchers Index recorded

growth during the month. The index rose by 44.9% in November 2025 and was up 63.0% year on year, despite a month-on-month increase of 12.2%.

"In November 2025, 14,367 small stock were sold to butchers and abattoirs authorised for export," the NSA said. "Only 16 animals originated from north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (N-VCF), while 14,351 came from south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (S-VCF)."

The Livestock Marketed Composite Index declined by 8.7% in November 2025,

reversing a 12.6% increase recorded in October. On an annual basis, however, the index rose marginally by 0.5%.

“In total, 55,126 cattle were sold in November 2025, up from 53,370 in October 2025, but lower than the 58,444 cattle sold in November 2024,” the NSA reported.

The Cattle Export to Approved Abattoirs and Butchers Index decreased by 9.8% during the reporting period, reversing the previous month’s gain of 32.2%. Despite the monthly decline, the index increased by 20.6% year on year.

In terms of volumes, the NSA said 11,565 calves were sold to butchers and abattoirs authorised for export in November 2025. This was lower than the 12,823 calves sold in October 2025, but higher than the 9,592 recorded in November 2024.

Live small stock exports also weakened during the month. After increasing by 20.4% in October, the Index for Live Small

Stock Exports fell by 1.5% in November 2025 and declined by 22.5% year on year.

“Sheep accounted for 64.0% of the 33,338 small animals exported live during the period, while goats made up the remaining 36.0%,” the NSA said.

Although the November 2025 figure exceeded the 27,536 animals exported in November 2024, it was slightly lower than the 33,356 small stock exported in October 2025.

Pig slaughtering activity also declined. The NSA said the Pigs Slaughtered Index fell by 8.3% in November 2025, compared with a 4.5% decline in the previous month, while the index decreased by 1.8% year on year.

“In November 2025, 4,270 pigs were slaughtered locally, down from 4,655 in October 2025 and 4,349 in the corresponding month of 2024,” the agency reported.



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Transformation: O&L's Journey Toward Vision 2029

O&L Executive Chairman Sven Thieme reflects on a year of strategic repositioning, operational resilience and deepened commitment to the O&L Persona.

“This year tested our resolve in ways we anticipated and in ways we didn’t,” Sven acknowledges. “What stands out are the numbers on our balance sheet and the character our people demonstrated when faced with uncertainty.”

Financial performance and strategic milestones

The Group delivered revenue growth of 4.4% to N\$5.05 billion, whilst operating profit surged 94% to N\$363.7 million. This performance, however, tells only one part of the story. Behind these figures lie strategic decisions that position the Group for long-term sustainability.

Capital expenditure of N\$532.8 million demonstrated the Group’s commitment to infrastructure modernisation and operational excellence.

Investments spanned critical areas including manufacturing upgrades at Hartlief and Namibia Dairies, the commissioning of aircrafts for internal logistics, new acquisitions and enhancement of O&L Leisure’s premium positioning.

The retail transformation reached a defining moment with the launch of Model Auas Valley, representing a rebranding exercise and a fundamental reimagining of Namibian retail ownership to an independent, locally owned brand which required meticulous planning



and substantial investment in systems, infrastructure and talent development.

Stakeholder value and local economic impact

Local procurement spend reached N\$1.1 billion, representing 79.4% of total operational expenditure. This commitment extends beyond compliance metrics,

actively supporting small, medium and large enterprises whilst strengthening supply chain resilience.

Corporate giving amounted to N\$3.29 million, with investments spanning community development, health and safety, environmental conservation and education.

Strategic acquisitions and portfolio optimisation

The acquisition of full ownership in Mach 10 (previously Dimension Data Namibia) strengthened the Group's technology capabilities whilst aligning digital transformation initiatives across operating companies.

O&L Leisure's portfolio grew through the strategic acquisition of Le Mirage and Divava, extending premium hospitality offerings to iconic Namibian destinations. All O&L Leisure properties collectively position the operating company as a showcase of "Namibia Through Our Eyes," the brand promise that captures the nation's spirit through world-class experiences.

Meanwhile, the pending disposal of Cleanergy Solutions Namibia reflects strategic focus sharpening. "Cleanergy established Namibia as a credible player

in green hydrogen," Sven explains. "Having pioneered that space, we're now concentrating resources on strengthening core operations that drive Vision 2029 targets."

The O&L Persona: From concept to culture

FY2025 witnessed the formalisation of the O&L Persona Diagnostic, a survey developed in partnership with PwC. This comprehensive measurement tool assesses how effectively the characteristics of being Authentic, Caring and Passionate filter through the organisational culture, decision-making processes and stakeholder interactions.

The diagnostic framework incorporates employee surveys, focus group discussions, performance reviews and external stakeholder feedback.

Whilst internal data dominated the initial assessment, establishing a robust baseline, the initiative represents a fundamental shift toward values-driven performance measurement.

"Vision 2029 calls for an O&L Persona score above 85%," Sven notes. "This desired score is about ensuring every colleague, customer and community member



The O&L Group’s FY2025 financial year marked an essential chapter in the organisation’s journey toward Vision 2029, characterised by significant strategic repositioning, operational challenges and notable achievements across its diverse portfolio. Executive Chairman Sven Thieme describes the period as one that required discipline as well as boldness.

experiences who we truly are at every single touchpoint.”

The introduction of Persona Champions of 2029, a digital recognition platform, provides ongoing visibility to colleagues living and breathing these values. The initiative complements the 100th edition of O&L World, the Group’s leadership development programme that transforms participants’ understanding of their potential and responsibilities.

Human capital and organisational development

The Group employed 5,577 people at year-end, while the Great Place to Work Trust Index score improved from 62% to 70%, achieved through 99% survey participation—a testament to employee engagement levels.

Thirteen Emerging Talent recruits joined the organisation, selected from engineering, culinary, finance and business development disciplines. These youngsters represent O&L’s investment in developing future leadership capability aligned with Vision 2029 requirements.

The path to vision 2029

Vision 2029 articulates four integrated objectives: achieving industry-standard profitability and returns on assets across all operating companies; reaching N\$2.5 billion in Group-wide EBIT; maintaining an O&L Persona score above 85% and securing Top 10 Great Place to Work recognition globally.

“These targets are a commitment to creating workplaces where people thrive, businesses uplift communities and operations honour environmental stewardship,” Sven emphasises. “The roadmap forward requires continued operational discipline, deepened collaborations between business units and our steadfast focus on values-driven decision-making.”

As the O&L Group advances toward Vision 2029, the foundation established during FY2025 provides confidence that ambitious targets, whilst demanding, remain achievable through authentic leadership, caring stewardship and passionate execution.



Namibia's green hydrogen drive gains international recognition at IRENA

Namibia has been praised at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly in Abu Dhabi for the rapid growth of its green hydrogen sector, with international stakeholders describing the country as a fast-moving market underpinned by clear strategy, political backing and emerging leadership in green hydrogen development.

Speaking at the assembly, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Phillipus Katamelo said Namibia's momentum was the result of deliberate and aligned reforms,

rather than a single policy intervention.

"It may look like a success story, but it did not come from one single policy. It came from deliberate reforms that were aligned, and those reforms provided clarity, investor confidence and credibility in what we wanted to achieve as a country," Katamelo said.

He said a key driver of progress was clear strategic intent anchored at the highest political level, with green hydrogen identified early as a priority economic sector and embedded in Vision 2030,

It may look like a success story, but it did not come from one single policy.

national development plans and Namibia’s climate commitments.

Katamelo said institutional coordination and procurement clarity also played a central role. Namibia established a single entry point for green hydrogen investors, simplifying engagement across government and providing a defined pathway for projects to move from concept to implementation.

“This alignment resulted in reduced policy uncertainty and strengthened long-term confidence within the market,” he said.

He added that early reforms to land access and permitting helped remove bottlenecks that typically delay large-scale infrastructure projects. Clear processes for accessing state land, together with predefined environmental and social assessment requirements, improved predictability for investors from the outset.

Katamelo said risk-

sharing arrangements were deliberately built into the framework, with government absorbing early-stage planning, coordination and institutional risks, while private developers took on construction and operational risks.

“There was a clearly defined allocation of risk and roles between government and investors, which helped accelerate processes and improve delivery timelines. These interventions are what have produced the progress we are seeing today,” he said.

Discussions at the IRENA Assembly focused on regional energy transitions, power grid modernisation, energy planning, digital innovation and mobilising finance for sustainable aviation fuels and green industrialisation, with Namibia cited as an example of how coordinated policy and institutional reform can accelerate clean energy development.

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Namibia's economic outlook for 2026: The inertia of structural economic shift

By Tio Nakasole

Namibia distinguishes itself from neighbouring countries as an attractive hub for investment and trade. Based on Fitch ratings (ranked sixth out of fourteen in Southern Africa and 4th out of forty-nine in Sub-Saharan Africa), in terms of trade openness (3rd out of fourteen in Southern Africa and 4th out of 49 in Sub-Saharan Africa), and lastly, when it comes to economic openness (Namibia is ranked 4th in Southern Africa, in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 74th out of 202 markets globally).

Despite the above good score point for Namibia, the economy remains highly underdiversified, as the vast amount of commercial activity is centred on mining and agriculture.

In addition to that, the Namibian economy remains closely linked to the South African economy, from which the bulk of Namibia's imports originate.

This is reflected by the NSA's last quarter report on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, by which 36.6% of Namibian imports are sourced from South Africa. That also tells an interesting story: Namibia cannot afford to close her borders with South Africa without committing economic suicide.

This is exactly because of Namibia's heavy dependence on South Africa. In terms of consumption, Namibia's inflation has been contained at 3.5% in December 2025 due to Namibia's strong commitment to the



Namibia remains an economy with a small population, making it prone to global events, as discussed above.

Namibia dollar's peg to the South African rand and the Bank of Namibia's monetary policy cut rate.

Major contributors to inflation recorded at the end of last year have been mainly housing, transport and hotels. In spite of that, heavy reliance on imports and external global shock uncertainty (such as the Venezuela and US conflict and Russia and Ukraine) may drive the inflation up to around 3.8%, as per the projection made.

The Fitch forecast also indicates that there will be some sigh of relief expected as the Bank of Namibia will respond to these effects by cutting its policy rate further by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25% by the end of 2026 and by 50 bps to 5.75% in 2027.

Why GDP Growth Matters

The leading question is, why does Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth come into an equation in terms of determining the nation's economic shift, like Namibia? Yes, nearly all countries around the world measure the size of their economy using

GDP as the standard measure of what a nation's economy produces.

Macroeconomically, GDP has become an important factor for any country, as it reflects the size of an economy, and governments monitor how the size of the economy moves from one year to another. Therefore, it is every government's interest to see the size of their economy growing year after year. And usually most of the economies on average grow by 2–3%.

Using an expenditure approach, the composition of GDP is mainly made up of independent variables, which include consumption, investment, government spending, and net export. These variables can positively and negatively affect the GDP growth, and to a further extent by external shocks such as geopolitical shock, global commodity price, pandemic, climate and weather, and technological and market transition.

Some of the contributing factors to economic growth are the growth of the labour force, the skill level of human capital, the high rate of physical capital stock, and improvements in technology and natural resources (such as oil, diamonds, and uranium, to mention only some).

Hence, the sustainable rate of economic growth for Namibia, for example, is of paramount importance based on the above factors, as its spillover effect has direct and indirect implications on the status of the economy, particularly for ordinary citizens.

Based on the Bank of Namibia, Namibia's real GDP growth is expected to pick up from an estimated 3.0% in 2025 to 3.8% in 2026, to be driven by a rising investment and commercial services sales related to the country's nascent oil sector, construction and uranium sector.

Whereby, offshore oil and gas discoveries and green hydrogen production present opportunities to boost foreign direct

investment inflows further in both 2026 and 2027. Nevertheless, our investment flows into Namibia have been heavily dependent on mining, particularly diamonds, gold and uranium, for growth in exports have been dominated by and exposed to fluctuations in global commodity prices.

As a result, that prolongs the spillover effects into the mainstream of the economy, down to its heavy reliance on extractive industries, particularly mining.

Therefore, the addition of the discovery of oil and gas, as well as the rollout of green hydrogen project initiatives, is expected to bring in capital inflow, which can eventually shift our growth rate compared to the past years.

Key Risks to the Economy

Namibia remains an economy with a small population, making it prone to global events, as discussed above.

Apart from that, some risks remain sectorally driven, such as the weakening in global demand for diamonds due to lab-grown diamond competition, posing a further threat to Namibia's mineral market exports.

In addition, our tax rates in Namibia remain high relative to those of other Southern African markets. Namibia's ranking in terms of taxation is 13th regionally and 186th globally, according to a government intervention analysis done by Fitch this year.

Therefore, with such a fiscal regime and mine ownership restructure, the complexity and volume of payments required could increase, which may act as a significant obstacle to businesses and depress the market's attractiveness, create backlogs and cause delays.

Other bottlenecks in the similar sector: smaller diamond miners could possibly lack the economies of scale and access to

capital as enjoyed in sister countries such as Botswana, South Africa and Angola.

Moreover, despite the economy being tied to agriculture, future events, such as extreme weather (drought or flood) and locust outbreaks, pose substantial risks to that sector.

On the other hand, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) remained locked out of transactions due to red tape when it comes to access to capital, which stands out as a common denominator of obstacles, despite their estimated contribution of 12% to the country's GDP.

Lastly, outdated statistics such as the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (the last time it was conducted was in 2015/16) also weigh on the reliability of socioeconomic data for the market, making it difficult to accurately assess the economic health and wealth both nationally and regionally.

The consequence of such statistical time lags can lead to myopic policymaking, decisions and later wasteful government expenditure, as resources and development budgets may end up being allocated inaccurately and eventually ending up misplaced, solving the symptoms and not placed where the root causes are.

Productivity-Led Renaissance Strategy

The follow-up question could be, what can we do in order to move away from the mark and mire of global risks and dependence to that of resilience and resurgence? Undisputably, one may agree that "if one can feed you, at the same time can also control you." So, sectors such as agriculture are ones that should be of the national powers, as food security should be the fulcrum on which the survival of a nation-state like Namibia should rest.

Hence, it is so interesting that as the

first area of focus sector in the NDP6, the government's commitment toward climate-smart, sustainable and competitive livestock value chains should be a main target, especially for that at-line ministry.

Agriculture is important not only for food security but is also a more labour-intensive sector than some other sectors combined. Therefore, the revival of some green schemes, for example, will enable the absorption of some of those who have been stranded due to scarce opportunities.

Strategic partners are needed across the Namibian sectors in ensuring that value creation and value addition on minerals and natural resources are well catered for before export. Additionally, activation of Special Economic Zones at ports of entry on the coast (especially Walvis Bay) and at the national border in the north (such as Oshikango and Katima Mulilo) through regional investor map design needs to be simplified to work in the best interest of all Namibians.

Upgrade Namibia's transport corridors to modern and competitive standards, enabling seamless regional connectivity and the efficient movement of strategic commodities ranging from green hydrogen and oil to bulk freight through modern, interoperable logistics systems, including smart tolling and dry-port management infrastructure, that may contribute extra revenue to the government coffers to finance other national development budgets, in tandem easing budget deficit pressure.

Especially the Walvis Bay–Ndola–Lubumbashi Corridor, the Trans-Kalahari Corridor, and the Trans-Caprivi (Zambezi) Corridor to feed the landlocked countries of both Southern and SSA that rely on our ports of entry.

With global supply chains and rising product standards, enterprises in

Upgrade Namibia's transport corridors to modern and competitive standards, enabling seamless regional connectivity and the efficient movement of strategic commodities ranging from green hydrogen and oil to bulk freight through modern.

Namibia need equal attention for safer funding with different means of verifying creditworthiness and not only collateral.

A mechanism that is based on expected cash flows and not current assets, for instance. The National Equitable Economic Empowerment Bill, 2015, would, if promulgated, have a wide-reaching impact on the Namibian business sector.

These pieces of legislation would introduce Namibian ownership and local content requirements in some of these resource-rich sectors; therefore, they need to be expedited and become effective.

In totality, our pursuit of sustainable economic growth for 2026 and beyond should be guided by our economic policies that are in harmony with our priority focus area, as well as our strategic means of production.

Most of the good policies already exist but demand implementers. The government should aim to build a haven for a well-coordinated investment around our strategic means of production and not promise heaven out of a single resource like

oil, gas and green hydrogen alone.

But with other areas as well, such as manufacturing, tourism and ecotourism, technologies, and technical skills development.

This is because some resources can deplete over a lifetime, but a robust economic architecture can remain standing strong for many more years to come. Therefore, through a comprehensive and disciplined approach of implementation that is corruption-free, Namibia can enable sustainable and inclusive growth while mitigating the economy against structural fractures of Dutch disease, enclave-driven development and cyclical recessionary pressure that simultaneously accompany resource-led growth trajectories.

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