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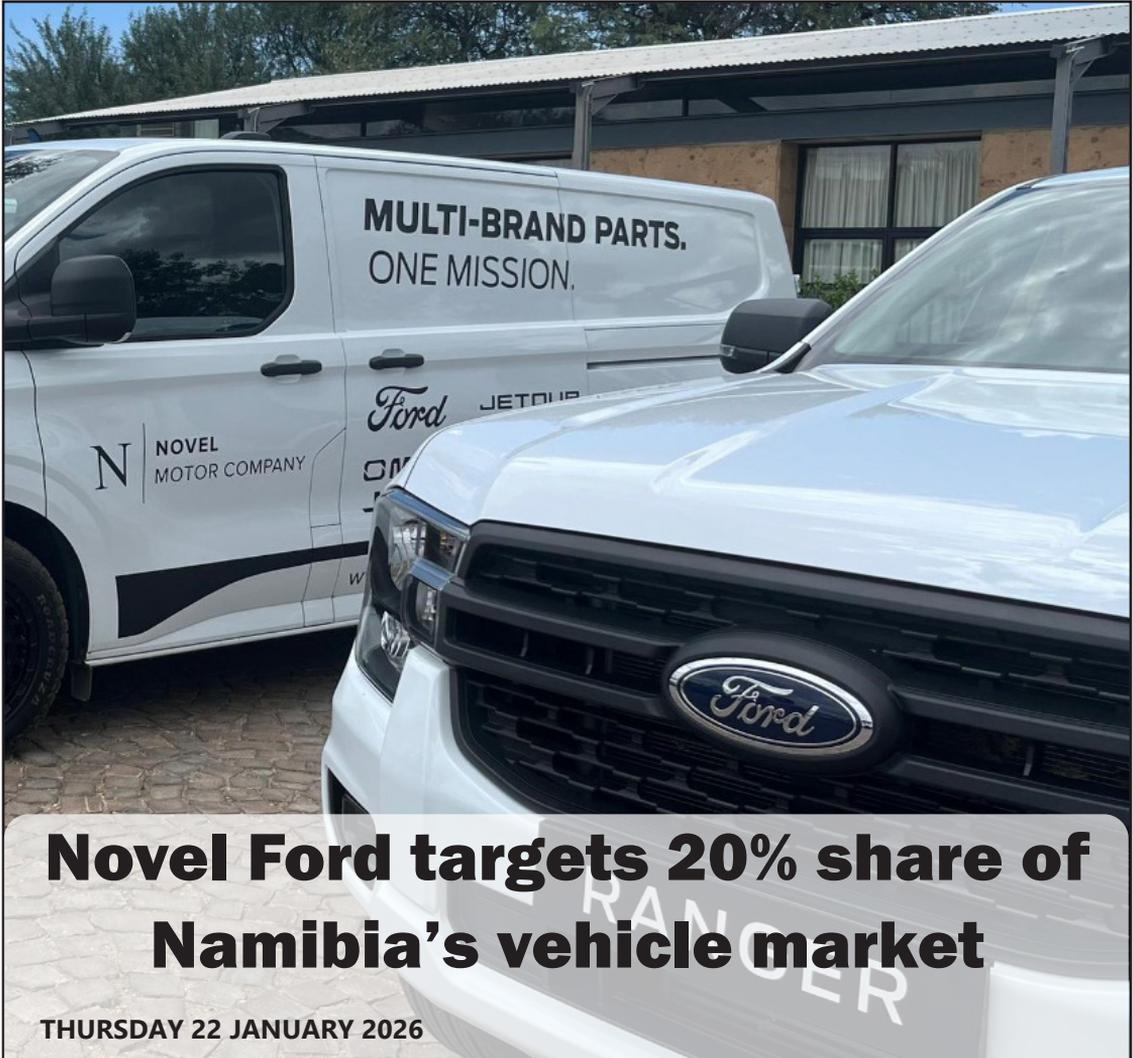
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# THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## Novel Ford targets 20% share of Namibia's vehicle market

THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026

## MAIN STORY

# Novel Ford targets 20% share of Namibia's vehicle market

**N**ovel Ford Namibia is targeting a 20% share of the domestic vehicle market, driven by an expanded fleet strategy, dealership upgrades and closer alignment with Ford's regional commercial vehicle programmes.

Novel Motor Company Namibia Managing Director Johan Pretorius said the growth push includes ongoing investment in infrastructure, a broader product range and deeper penetration in government, tourism and commercial fleet segments.

This he said, is being supported by developments within Ford's regional manufacturing and fleet operations.

Pretorius said the Walvis Bay dealership is undergoing phased upgrades to align with Ford's updated corporate identity while remaining fully operational.

"The Walvis Bay facility is an active operational site that will be upgraded to meet Ford's new corporate identity. This includes interior, exterior and workshop improvements, as well as an enhanced customer interface. The total investment will be around N\$7 million, which is a significant commitment for a port city," he said.

He said the 20% market share target reflects combined performance across Novel's brands, with Ford expected to lift its standalone share from about 12% to

Remarks  
ights  
ssion  
discussions



between 14% and 15% as fleet programmes gain traction.

Novel Motor Company Namibia represents a wide portfolio of vehicle brands

## 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**

in the local market, spanning passenger, commercial and premium segments. Its operations include Ford, Mazda, Jaguar, Land Rover, Volvo, Jetour, Omoda and Jaecoo, allowing the group to serve private, fleet and commercial customers across Namibia.

Pretorius said fleet sales are central to the group's growth strategy, particularly as government spending shows signs of recovery and tourism demand continues to improve.

"Fleet is critically important for us, especially government, tourism and rental operators. We are seeing fleets of between 200 and 240 vehicles entering second and third buying cycles. That repeat business reflects confidence in the quality and durability of the Ford product," he said.

He added that Ford vehicles are increasingly favoured by tourism operators due to their performance on gravel roads and reliability in demanding operating conditions, reinforcing the brand's position in the sector.

Pretorius said recent additions to the Ford range, including extended cab models and smaller SUVs such as the Ford Territory, have opened up previously underserved segments and strengthened competitiveness across price points.

"Our approach is based on clear market segmentation and placing the right product in each segment. We are now active in areas where we previously had gaps in the line-up. The focus is on getting the product into the market so customers clearly understand what is available," he said.

The local expansion is supported by Ford Motor Company's broader investment in commercial fleet capacity across southern Africa, with Namibia benefiting from regional sales and servicing integration.

"Ford continues to expand its commercial fleet offerings in African

markets, particularly in Southern Africa. These programmes support specialised conversions such as ambulances, emergency response units and mining vehicles. Namibia benefits directly from these regional fleet sales and servicing capabilities," said Ashen Ramdhani, FCSD sales and field operations manager at Ford South Africa.

Ramdhani said Ford South Africa launched the Ford Pro Converter programme in May 2025, replacing the previous QVM initiative. The programme allows approved converters to modify Ranger, Everest and Transit models while retaining full factory warranties.

"The Ford Pro Converter programme enables vehicles to be converted into ambulances, dropside trucks, mobile clinics and other specialised units. It directly supports commercial and public sector fleet needs. Fleet deals already include the delivery of 100 new Transits to RAM Couriers in July 2025," he said.

He added that the programme builds on Ford's manufacturing investment at the Silverton Assembly Plant in Pretoria, which underpins vehicle supply to regional markets, including Namibia.

"Ford invested about R15.8 billion to modernise the Silverton plant for next-generation Ranger production. This included R10.3 billion in technology upgrades and new facilities, and R5.5 billion in supplier tooling. The investment created more than 1,200 jobs at Ford and around 10,000 jobs across the supplier network," Ramdhani said.

Novel Ford currently operates more than 13 service centres nationwide, offering new, used and demo vehicles, parts and after-sales services. With major branches in Windhoek and Walvis Bay, the dealer network is positioned to support expanded fleet growth across Namibia.

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## Namibia looks to global partnerships to advance nuclear power plans

Namibia is anchoring its nuclear energy ambitions on international partnerships and established global benchmarks as it considers nuclear power generation to strengthen energy security and add value to its uranium resources.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Director General

of the National Planning Commission, Kaire Mbuende, said discussions around nuclear energy in Namibia are being driven by the need to diversify the mining sector, reduce reliance on imported electricity and capture more value from uranium production.

Namibia is pursuing nuclear power generation as part of a broader strategy to enhance

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long-term energy security and support industrial development.

Mbuende said the country is committed to full compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines as it develops the sector, while also assessing emerging technologies such as small modular reactors.

“We are keen to learn from the pioneers rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. We intend to develop this sector in close collaboration and partnership with those who have proven knowledge and experience,” Mbuende said.

He added that Namibia also plans to cooperate with other African countries to share best practices and address early-stage challenges associated with nuclear energy development.

Mbuende noted that Namibia is Africa’s largest uranium producer and the third-largest globally, making nuclear power a strategic consideration given that the country currently exports uranium for electricity generation elsewhere.

“Nuclear energy generation has become a serious option that we are pursuing vigorously. We have developed a national strategy that covers the broader scope of the nuclear industry,” he said.

The strategy includes provisions for governance structures, institutional development, human resource capacity and feasibility assessments leading to the commissioning of nuclear projects, including nuclear power generation.

The remarks follow Cabinet’s approval of a Nuclear Industry Strategy aimed at establishing a fully fledged nuclear sector in Namibia.

The decision was taken at Cabinet’s 22nd meeting on 23 September 2025 and includes amendments to the Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection Act of 2005.

The strategy also provides for the establishment of a Nuclear Institute of Namibia to drive implementation, while administration of the Atomic Energy and Radiation Protection Act will be transferred to the National Planning Commission.



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3 Years	2022	10%	72 months	20% RV	
4 Years	2021	10%	72 months		
5 Years	2020	10%	60 months		
6 Years	2019	10%	54 months		
7 Years	2018	15%	48 months	No RV	
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# Insights and perspectives: Leadership confidence

By Fenni Nghikevali

Leadership confidence is often assumed to be a natural trait of leaders. It is often admired, and expected, and in many leadership conversations, confidence is assumed to be either a personality trait or the natural outcome of seniority.

This article explores insights into where leadership confidence comes from, based on research insights and engagements I conducted through a leadership poll on the professional 'FENomenal Leader' LinkedIn page.

The question posed was simple but revealing: "What is the biggest contributor to leadership confidence?" Participants were asked to choose between four options. The results and perspectives behind them were as follows:

Question: What is the biggest contributor to leadership confidence?

- 1. 31% of respondents: Experience and Exposure
- 2. 26% of respondents:



Notably, mentorship and coaching ranked slightly lower than competence and skills (25% of respondents).

Competence and skills

3. 25% of respondents:

Mentorship and coaching

4. 18% of respondents:

Self-belief

**1st Ranking: Experience and Exposure**

The highest proportion of respondents (31% of respondents) selected experience and exposure as the primary source of leadership confidence. This outcome reflects a widely held belief that confidence is earned through time, repetition, and lived leadership moments.

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Experience provides context as it teaches leaders how to respond to uncertainty, manage complexity, and recover from setbacks. In many ways, experience legitimises confidence because it is rooted in what has already been navigated and survived.

## 2nd Ranking: Competence and Skills

Closely following was competence and skills (26% of respondents). This reinforces the view that confidence is strengthened by technical skills and capability.

Leaders who understand their roles, develop technical and behavioural skills,

and feel equipped to make decisions are more likely to project confidence.

Competence creates a sense of control, particularly in environments that demand accountability, technical expertise, and performance.

## 3rd Ranking: Mentorship and Coaching

Notably, mentorship and coaching ranked slightly lower than competence and skills (25% of respondents). This is a significant shift worth highlighting. Historically, leadership confidence has been framed as an individual endeavour, something leaders must build alone through resilience and personal drive.

The recognition of mentorship and coaching as a core contributor suggests a growing awareness that confidence can be developed through guidance, and support. Leaders are increasingly acknowledging the value of safe developmental spaces.

## 4th Ranking: Self-Belief

The lowest-ranked option was self-belief (18% of respondents). At first glance, this may seem counterintuitive. Self-belief is often associated with confidence, yet it received the least votes.

This does not imply that leaders view self-belief as unimportant. Rather, it suggests that self-belief operates quietly and is often undervalued or taken for granted. Many leaders rely on it implicitly but may struggle

## Public Notice

### Important Update on Tariff Adjustments

Dear Customer,

Starting 1 February 2026, Telecom Namibia will make some changes to its service prices. This is called tariff re-balancing, which simply means adjusting prices, so they match the cost of providing services and help us invest in better technology. Some prices will go down a lot, while a few will increase slightly.

#### WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Namibia is moving towards a more digital economy, and we want to make sure you have fast, reliable, and affordable services. To do this, we have to invest over N\$2.3 billion in the coming years to:

- Expand fibre-to-the-home/business and strengthen our national fibre network.
- Upgrade mobile networks (3G, 4G, 4.5G) and prepare for 5G.
- Improve international connectivity through the Google Equiano undersea cable.
- Enhance billing systems and customer self-service platforms.
- Invest in cybersecurity, cloud services, and backup power solutions.

These upgrades will support Namibia's Vision 2030 and ensure better internet, mobile coverage, and digital services for everyone.

#### WHAT IS CHANGING?

Here are the main highlights of the new prices:

##### 1. Local Calls (Fixed to Mobile):

- From N\$1.29 to N\$0.90 per minute (30% cheaper).
- TN Mobile standard rate drops from N\$1.45 to N\$0.90 per minute (38% cheaper).

##### 2. International Calls:

- Calls to the USA drop from N\$9.90 to N\$3.65 per minute.
- Calls to Australia, Kenya, Portugal, Netherlands drop from N\$9.90 to N\$4.99 per minute.

##### 3. Fixed Broadband Internet:

- Old 10Mbps plans prices: N\$909–N\$1,225.
- New price: N\$407–N\$534 (about 56% cheaper).
- Faster speeds now available (up to 500Mbps).

##### 4. Simplified Packages:

- Home and Business plans merged into one set of offers—easier to choose, same value for everyone.

##### 5. Other Adjustments:

- Some fixed-line and ISDN charges updated, but most reductions are on mobile and broadband.

Full details of the tariff adjustments, reflecting both previous and revised rates, are available on our website at [www.telecom.na/tariffs](http://www.telecom.na/tariffs).

#### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- Cheaper calls (local and international).
- Much lower internet costs with faster speeds.
- Better network and services as we invest in upgrades.

We know price changes can be challenging, and we appreciate your understanding as we work to secure Namibia's digital future.

#### For any questions or help:

- Call Centre: 11000
- WhatsApp: +264 85 211 1111
- Email: [customer@telecom.na](mailto:customer@telecom.na)
- Social Media: @telecomnamibia

Thank you for supporting us as we build a digitally ready Namibia for all.

Best regards,

Stanley Shanapinda  
Chief Executive Officer  
Telecom Namibia

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to articulate or prioritise it explicitly, especially in professional environments that favour measurable outputs over internal states.

### Research conclusion

Taken together, these results point to an important insight that leadership confidence is not built through a single source. It is cultivated through an ecosystem of experience, competence, belief, and support.

Another key perspective emerging from this research is that confidence is developmental, not static. Leaders do not simply have confidence; they first build it, lose it, recalibrate it, and strengthen it over time. A highly experienced leader may still experience moments of doubt when contexts change. Conversely, a less experienced leader may demonstrate strong confidence when supported, prepared, and self-aware.

From a personal leadership perspective, the research reaffirmed a critical belief: In today's environment of rapid change, heightened scrutiny, and increasing leadership demands, confidence cannot be left to chance. It must be cultivated deliberately, supported intentionally, and understood holistically.

Ultimately, the question is not where leadership confidence comes from, but whether leaders and organisations are willing to invest in building the conditions that allow it to grow.

Leadership confidence is not accidental. It is cultivated.

***\*Fenni Nghikevali is the Founder & CEO of the FENomenal leadership brand in Namibia. This article is written in her personal capacity as a leadership enthusiast, and is not representative of any institution).***



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# Lavoro Insurance Namibia enters market in partnership with UK firm

A new short-term insurance company, Lavoro Insurance Namibia Limited, which operates in partnership with British underwriting group City & Commercial Insurance Group, is set to be launched next week.

The company will be officially introduced at a launch reception hosted by the British High Commission in Windhoek.

Lavoro Insurance Namibia Limited is licensed by the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority as a short-term insurer and is registered in terms of the Short-Term Insurance Act, 1998. The company will focus on providing commercial and corporate insurance products to the Namibian market.

British High Commissioner to Namibia Neil Bradley said the launch reflected cooperation between the United Kingdom and Namibia in the financial services sector.

“The launch of Lavoro Insurance Limited, in partnership with City & Commercial Insurance Group (United Kingdom), is a great example of UK–Namibia cooperation in the financial services sector, supporting economic growth for mutual benefit,” Bradley said.

Managing Director of Lavoro Insurance Namibia Limited Nghikefwamendu Simon said the company aims to combine local underwriting capability with international expertise.

“The official launch of Lavoro Insurance Namibia marks an important milestone for our company and for the Namibian insurance market. Through our partnership with City & Commercial Insurance Group, we are able to bring international expertise, technical depth, and underwriting capacity to Namibia,



while building a locally grounded insurer that supports economic growth, innovation, and financial inclusion,” Simon said.

The launch is expected to increase competition in Namibia’s short-term insurance market, which is currently served by companies including Old Mutual, Santam, King Price, Momentum Short-term Insurance, Phoenix Namibia and Hollard, among others.

# Made in Namibia: A future built at home

By Sarah Goroh

Namibia has achieved growth and stability, but without strong local industries we remain dependent, and that dependency comes at a cost.

Namibia is a nation rich in land, resources, and human potential, yet we remain heavily dependent on goods produced elsewhere.

From food and clothing to construction materials and basic manufactured products, much of what we consume is imported, largely from South Africa.

This dependence is often treated as normal. It should not be. As a country, we cannot continue to consume more than we produce and expect long-term stability, job creation, and economic resilience.

Economic dependency is not merely a trade issue; it is a question of resilience, dignity, and national security. When a country cannot produce what it consumes, it exports jobs, skills, and value while importing vulnerability.

Any disruption in regional supply chains, whether economic, political, or infrastructural immediately affects prices, availability of goods, and household stability. In such moments, slogans about “buying local” lose impact when local production exists only in select areas and not yet at the scale needed to meet the country’s needs.

## Why locally owned industries matter

The case for building locally owned industries in Namibia is urgent and unavoidable. It is not about rejecting regional trade or foreign partnerships, it is about correcting an imbalance and ensuring that Namibia produces a meaningful share of what it uses every day.



**The case for building locally owned industries in Namibia is urgent and unavoidable.**

Locally owned industries matter because they keep money circulating within our economy, create jobs that cannot be outsourced, strengthen skills development, and reduce our exposure to external price shocks.

This transformation, however, cannot be carried by government alone. It requires a shared national effort, with clear roles for government, business, and civil society.

## The role of government: enabling production

Government has a foundational responsibility. It controls key levers that no other actor can substitute: land, policy direction, regulation, and public procurement. By deliberately designating land for industrial use, aligning procurement to support local producers, and creating a predictable policy environment, government can turn industrialization from aspiration into reality.

This includes making serviced industrial land accessible and affordable, with the necessary approvals and basic infrastructure in place, so Namibian businesses can build factories and scale production. Industrial growth does not happen by accident; it happens where the state is intentional and coordinated.

## The role of business: investing

## beyond importing

But government does not build industries—business does. The private sector must step forward not only as traders and importers, but as producers and investors. Namibian entrepreneurs, SMEs, cooperatives, and established firms all have a role to play in manufacturing, agro-processing, and value addition.

Where partnerships with foreign firms exist, they should strengthen local ownership, skills transfer, and long-term capacity, not replace them. An economy that grows without building domestic producers remains fragile.

The role of civil society: shaping culture and accountability

Equally important, and often overlooked, is the role of civil society. Churches, youth organisations, trade unions, professional bodies, and community structures shape public attitudes, social trust, and workforce readiness. Civil society can champion a culture of production, support skills development initiatives, and hold institutions accountable for inclusive growth. Industrialization must be understood not as a technocratic project, but as a national mission that benefits communities and families.

## Skills are the backbone of industrialization

At the centre of this effort lies a critical enabler: technical and vocational skills.

Namibia does not suffer from a lack of ambition; it suffers from a shortage of industrial skills at scale. Engineers, artisans, technicians, machinists, welders, electricians, food technologists, textile workers, and maintenance specialists are the backbone of any industrial economy. Without them, factories remain ideas on paper.

Rebuilding respect and investment in technical and vocational education is therefore non-negotiable. Young people should see trades and applied skills not as second options, but as dignified, viable pathways into stable employment and

entrepreneurship.

An industrial economy cannot be built through formal jobs alone; it is built through practical skills, production, and enterprise. Namibia also needs pioneers and visionaries—people who see the urgency of building local industries and are willing to invest, innovate, and make it happen.

## From dependency to resilience: 2030 and beyond

Locally owned industries matter because they create jobs that cannot be outsourced. They retain value within the country. They stabilize prices. They give citizens a stake in the economy. And they allow Namibia to engage in regional and global trade from a position of strength, not dependency.

This is not a call for instant transformation. It is a call for intentional progress. Step by step. Sector by sector. With clarity of purpose.

By focusing on industries that touch everyday life; food production and processing, clothing and textiles, construction materials, basic manufacturing, and selected technology assembly—Namibia can begin to reduce its reliance on imports and build resilience before disruptions leave us scrambling for solutions.

## A future worth choosing

The question before us is simple: do we want to remain primarily a consumer economy, or do we want to become a producing one?

The answer will determine whether Namibia enters the next decade constantly reacting to external changes, or confident in its ability to provide for its people. Building locally owned industries is not just an economic strategy. It is a shared responsibility. And it is a future worth choosing.

*\*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, Cuba in talks to establish pharmaceutical manufacturing plant

Namibia and Cuba have agreed to explore the establishment of a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Namibia, following discussions held during a courtesy visit by Cuban Ambassador Sergio Vigoa De La Uz to Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare.

The proposed facility would draw on Cuba's biotechnology and pharmaceutical expertise, with the long-term objective of enabling Namibia to achieve greater self-reliance in the supply of essential medicines. The plant could also position Namibia as a regional supplier to the Southern African Development Community and other export markets. "The project is envisaged to boost economic cooperation between the two

countries, enabling Namibia to become self-reliant in the supply of pharmaceutical products and potentially export to the SADC region and beyond," the Prime Minister's office said. The two sides also discussed the possible introduction of Cuba's Family Doctor Concept in Namibia, as well as the consideration of cultural and youth exchange programmes to strengthen bilateral relations.

According to the Prime Minister's office, the discussions come at a time when Namibia is reforming its pharmaceutical procurement system amid calls to bypass intermediaries who inflate costs charged to the Ministry of Health, while also addressing persistent medicine shortages in public health facilities.

The Ministry of Health last year disclosed

The project is envisaged to boost economic cooperation between the two countries, enabling Namibia to become self-reliant in the supply of pharmaceutical products and potentially export to the SADC region and beyond.

that it had saved approximately N\$221 million by procuring essential medicines directly from international manufacturers and wholesalers, rather than through intermediaries.

Despite nearly N\$1.9 billion, or about 15.5% of the ministry's total budget, being allocated to pharmaceutical and clinical supplies in the 2025/26 financial year, shortages have persisted. The challenges have been attributed to the absence of long-term supply contracts, global supply chain disruptions, inefficiencies in warehousing and inventory systems, and

weak accountability mechanisms.

Over the past two years, service levels at the Central Medical Stores have fallen below 57%, significantly short of the required 80% benchmark, resulting in widespread stock-outs that have affected patient care.

Other reforms under consideration include securing long-term supply agreements with manufacturers, establishing a new access-controlled and centralised warehousing facility, introducing modern tracking and financial management systems, and excluding underperforming suppliers.

Conversation with Martha Nangombe and James Chapman

# LEADING WITH PURPOSE IN A CHANGING BANKING LANDSCAPE

[Watch full interview here](#)



## President flags investor confidence risks during visit to BIPA One Stop Centre

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has warned that delays and inconsistent communication by public institutions could harm Namibia's competitiveness as an investment destination, following an impromptu visit to the One Stop Centre at the Business and Intellectual Property Authority in Windhoek.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said Namibia's ability to attract domestic and foreign investment depends not only on policy reform but

also on how efficiently those policies are implemented at the service-delivery level.

"You should not take a whole week to inform an investor whether the response is positive or negative. Keeping people in uncertainty frustrates them and pushes away other investors. Information spreads very fast, and perceptions about doing business in Namibia travel just as quickly," she said.

The President said the private sector remains central to economic growth,

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employment creation and wealth generation, adding that public institutions must engage investors as partners in development rather than as clients navigating complex processes.

She met with management and staff to assess the Centre’s role in coordinating approvals and investor services across government, which is intended to reduce duplication and shorten turnaround times.

The One Stop Centre, launched last year, is a key component of government’s investment reform programme aimed at improving transparency and predictability for investors.

Nandi-Ndaitwa acknowledged capacity and infrastructure constraints at the Centre, including

limited office space, and said further institutions would be integrated to improve coordination and minimise the need for investors to engage multiple agencies.

She said sustained improvements in service delivery are critical to protecting Namibia’s investment reputation.

“Without effective implementation, commitments remain words and do not translate into action,” the President said, adding that public servants play a decisive role in whether reforms succeed.

The visit comes as Namibia seeks to strengthen its investment appeal amid regional competition for capital and ongoing efforts to boost economic growth.



## NamPower – A Year in Review

NamPower maintained its reputation as a leader in reliability, innovation and accountability over the last 12 months.

The power utility rolled out a series of important initiatives that not only light up homes, industries and businesses but also inspire hope and opportunity across the country through an unwavering dedication to sustainability, ethical governance and empowering communities.

From groundbreaking energy projects to transformative infrastructure developments, NamPower demonstrated that it is not just a reliable power provider but also a strategic partner in Namibia’s journey toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

### LAUNCH OF THE “INTEGRITY IS OUR POWER” CAMPAIGN

In October, NamPower launched an ethics awareness campaign titled “Integrity is our Power” to sensitise employees to the organisation’s new Ethics Strategy, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy. During the launch, Board

Chairperson Laurence Kavendjii said it would be impossible for NamPower, a key role player in the achievement of national development objectives, to effectively serve the Namibian economy without sound governance.

He reminded employees that Pillar 4 of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP 6) calls for the adoption of a culture of integrity, ethical behaviour, accountability, transparency and fairness in public service, including electricity supply.

“As we launch the Ethics Awareness Campaign, I want to emphasise, as the shareholder representative, that unethical behaviour undermines the State’s ability to promote competitiveness and sustainable development, crucial for growth and poverty reduction,” Kavendjii said.

He urged members of the board, executive management, and employees to embody a culture of ethical conduct to ensure a reliable electricity supply to the Namibian nation.

“As employees of a public enterprise which plays a key role in the achievement of national objectives, you are required



to make morally defensible decisions and recognise the principles of good governance through efficient, effective service grounded in ethics.”

### **ANIXAS POWER STATION RETAINS ISO CERTIFICATION**

NamPower’s Anixas Power Station proudly retained its ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification earlier this year following an external audit conducted by Bureau Veritas Namibia (Pty) Ltd.

The prestigious ISO 9001:2015 recertification confirms the power station’s commitment to delivering high-quality services through streamlined processes that comply with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, as well as defined policies and procedures. It is also a reflection

of the station’s dedication to customer satisfaction, stakeholder confidence, and continuous improvement in line with global best practices.

### **RECOGNITION FOR WORKPLACE WELLNESS**

In September, the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) recognised NamPower for its exemplary commitment to employee wellness. The WBCG awards celebrate strategic investments in wellness programmes that create a healthier, more supportive and productive work environment. They highlight the important link between employee well-being and organisational performance.

### **GENERATION FRONT: EXPANDING ENERGY CAPACITY**

### **1. Inauguration of the 54 MW Anixas II Power Station**

NamPower officially commissioned the 54 MW Anixas II Power Station on 5 March, in a move that significantly boosted Namibia's electricity generation capacity. Inaugurated by Namibia's fourth president, Dr Nangolo Mbumba, the N\$1.28 billion project has greatly improved Namibia's energy security and stimulated the local economy through job creation and infrastructure development.

The new plant is helping the country meet the growing energy demands while supporting economic development. Anixas II will support the future integration of renewable energy projects by offering backup power to stabilise fluctuations from intermittent sources.

NamPower Managing Director Kahenge Haulofu said the project aligns with the company's strategy to secure power supply through a diversified, least-cost energy mix and increased local generation capacity.

### **2. NamPower Breaks Ground on Largest Solar PV Power Station**

NamPower broke ground on the 100 MW Sores |Gaib Solar Power Station, the country's largest solar photovoltaic project. Located 33 km northwest of Rosh Pinah, this ambitious project will reduce dependence on imported electricity, boost economic development and strengthen Namibia's climate resilience.

With an investment of N\$1.6 billion, it is expected to create over 300 jobs during construction.

Commercial operation of the power station is scheduled for late 2026.

### **3. Omburu Battery Energy Storage System Project Takes Off**

Namibia's first utility-scale battery storage initiative, the Omburu Battery

Energy Storage System (BESS) Project, reached a major milestone with the arrival of its first shipment at the Port of Walvis Bay on 13 October.

The Omburu BESS - a 51 MW / 51 MWh lithium-ion (LFP) storage facility – is being constructed at the Omburu Substation near Omaruru. It will result in a more cost-effective management of electricity demand and supply by allowing energy arbitrage and reducing the use of costly emergency power. It will further support grid stability and facilitate the addition of more intermittent renewable energy sources, bolstering Namibia's long-term energy security.

### **4. Otjikoto 40 MW Biomass Power Project Breaks Ground**

NamPower has begun construction of the Otjikoto 40 MW Biomass Power Station, marking the start of Namibia's first utility-scale biomass generation project. The power station will strengthen energy security by generating cost-effective baseload electricity from biomass resources sourced from local farmers and contractors.

"The Otjikoto Biomass Power Station will create jobs, bring new skills, and give local businesses fresh opportunities to thrive. For the local business community, this project will open doors for partnerships and growth," NamPower Managing Director Kahenge Haulofu said.

The project will also have a long-term positive impact on farming communities as Namibia grapples with massive bush encroachment affecting more than 26 million hectares of farmland, leading to billions in economic losses. By creating a market for biomass, the power station will boost agricultural productivity and advance renewable energy development.

Commercial operation is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

## TRANSMISSION ADVANCEMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE

### 1. GridOnline Unveils New National Pricing Structure

GridOnline, NamPower's bulk data backhaul service, introduced a unified national pricing framework to expand access to digital infrastructure across Namibia. The platform previously operated on a cost-recovery model based on fibre-distance usage.

NamPower Chief Operating Officer Fritz Jacobs said the revised pricing will level the playing field and enable broader participation in the ICT sector utilising NamPower's extensive and robust fibre network. "We are adding services that will enable smaller operators to be competitive, grow and offer connectivity in underserved areas. With these innovations, GridOnline is positioning itself not simply as a network provider but also as a catalyst for digital growth, business competitiveness, and social inclusion," Jacobs said.

Established in 2019, GridOnline has grown into a key pillar of Namibia's ICT backbone and a trusted platform for bulk data transmission.

### 2. NamPower Commissions Africa's First Fully Digital Substation

NamPower successfully commissioned Africa's first fully digital substation, the Sekelduin Substation near Swakopmund, on 24 September. With an investment of N\$394 million, this state-of-the-art facility is designed to modernise operations and improve grid reliability, setting a new precedent for the continent's energy infrastructure.

The substation's digital process and station bus system reduce copper cabling, support advanced remote monitoring, improve fault-location accuracy and

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strengthen cyber-secure SCADA integration while mitigating copper-theft risks. The platform also provides the foundation for future AI and machine-learning applications.

The indoor substation, housed in a purpose-built structure, protects high-voltage equipment from the corrosive coastal environment.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES

The NamPower Foundation, the power utility's corporate social investment arm, allocated N\$8.5 million in 2025 to community upliftment projects in line with national development priorities and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

### 1. Educational Support

The Foundation donated uniforms and supplies to Mix Settlement Primary School on the outskirts of Windhoek, valued at N\$71,500. It donated five computers to C. Heuva Secondary School in the Otjombinde Constituency of the Omaheke Region, and provided three vehicles (two Quantum busses and a double cab) to schools in underprivileged areas, easing transportation challenges.

In July, Toivo ya Toivo Pre-Primary School in Havana Extension 1 received classroom furniture, a solar system, a gas stove, a computer, and a four-in-one printer from NamPower, valued at N\$119,886.38.

NamPower donated a digital photocopier valued at N\$38,500 to the Oshana Secondary School of Computing to support teaching activities and improve the school's learning resources. It further invested N\$300,000 towards the purchase of phonics and reading books for lower primary learners in the Kunene Region. Speaking at the handover ceremony at the end of August, Ruacana Power Station



acting manager Sakaria Shivolo said the donation will strengthen foundational literacy skills.

“Recognising that reading and comprehension is a challenge at the junior primary level across the country, these essential learning materials will strengthen foundational literacy skills for learners in those specific grades,” Shivolo said.

The NamPower Foundation allocated N\$1.6 million towards improving educational infrastructure in the Omaheke Region as part of its ongoing support for projects that advance socio-economic development. Speaking at the handover ceremony in Drimiopsis in September, Head of the NamPower Foundation Otilie Mujoro said education remains a top funding priority for the power utility because it is one of the most important pillars of socio-economic development and the greatest equaliser of society.

“At NamPower, we believe that learners’ safety, a conducive learning environment, and appropriate infrastructure are prerequisites for a positive schooling experience and improved attendance,” Mujoro said.

The Jarijo Kindergarten in Otjiyere, Epukiro Constituency, received a new classroom and perimeter fence valued at N\$777,165. The Foundation also invested N\$643,308 for renovations to the laundry room, study room, and science laboratory at Mokganedi Tlhabanello Secondary School in Drimiopsis, including the purchase of new science equipment.

## 2. Healthcare Contributions

The Foundation supported health services in Omusati by donating ambulances and medical equipment, reinforcing its dedication to comprehensive community welfare. NamPower handed over an ambulance and medical equipment valued at N\$238,958 to the Omona Watjihozu Health Centre, along with 35 single-bed mattresses worth N\$34,212 for the hostel at Uahekua Herunga Primary School in the Omusati Region.

Omusati Regional Health Director Dr Alfons Amoomo assured NamPower that the equipment received would be properly maintained and responsibly managed to ensure long-term benefits for the Ruacana community.