HOUSING DELIVERY

Governor warns bureaucracy, land scarcity slowing Khomas housing delivery

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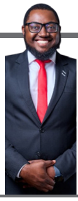

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THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

Namibia secures N$5.62bn AfDB backing to expand TVET system, establish AI institute

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026

MAIN STORY

Namibia secures N$5.62bn AfDB backing to expand TVET system, establish AI institute

Namibia is set to significantly expand its technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system under a N$5.62 billion African Development Bank (AfDB)-backed programme that will modernise vocational institutions, establish a National Artificial Intelligence Institute and create 15,000 workplace opportunities for young people by 2030.

According to the AfDB's Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA)

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
  * 12 August 2026
  * 29 October 2026
  * 10 December 2026
- **Namibia Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Mukopano**
  11 August 2026 at the Hilton Windhoek.
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference**
  18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek

report, the Namibia Skills for Employability and Job Creation Programme will run from the second quarter of 2026 to the fourth quarter of 2030 with an indicative budget of UA230 million, equivalent to approximately US$316 million or N$5.62 billion.

The AfDB will make an initial disbursement of UA57 million, or about US$78 million (approximately N$1.3 billion), once the programme becomes effective.

The remaining funding will be released in phases after independently verified performance targets have been achieved.

The programme is intended to reduce critical skills shortages, strengthen technical education and improve youth employability as Namibia works towards its target of creating 500,000 jobs by 2030 under the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6). A key component of the initiative will focus on expanding Namibia's TVET infrastructure.

According to the report, the programme will expand eight existing Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), construct and operationalise a new VTC at Omuthiya, establish a National Assessment and Technology Transfer Centre, and modernise facilities at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the University of Namibia (UNAM).

It will also convert four state-owned VTCs into accredited TVET colleges offering diploma programmes, develop industry-led training programmes in 55% of identified priority sectors, train 75% of TVET trainers, technical teachers and managers, and establish a National Training Fund to strengthen the sector.

Youth employment forms another major pillar of the programme, with targets to place 10,000 young people in internships and a further 5,000 in apprenticeships.

Business development support, start-up assistance and access to finance will also be expanded through the National Youth Fund, Youth Credit Scheme and agricultural cooperatives operating across Namibia's 121 constituencies.

To strengthen entrepreneurship, the programme will construct or upgrade four Multipurpose Youth Centres, establish three Youth Skills Training Centres and repurpose eight industrial parks into skills development, business incubation and market access hubs.

The programme also targets the development of value chains in manufacturing, green hydrogen, tourism, gaming and the circular economy, while supporting youth-owned enterprises and increasing local participation in Namibia's emerging green hydrogen industry.

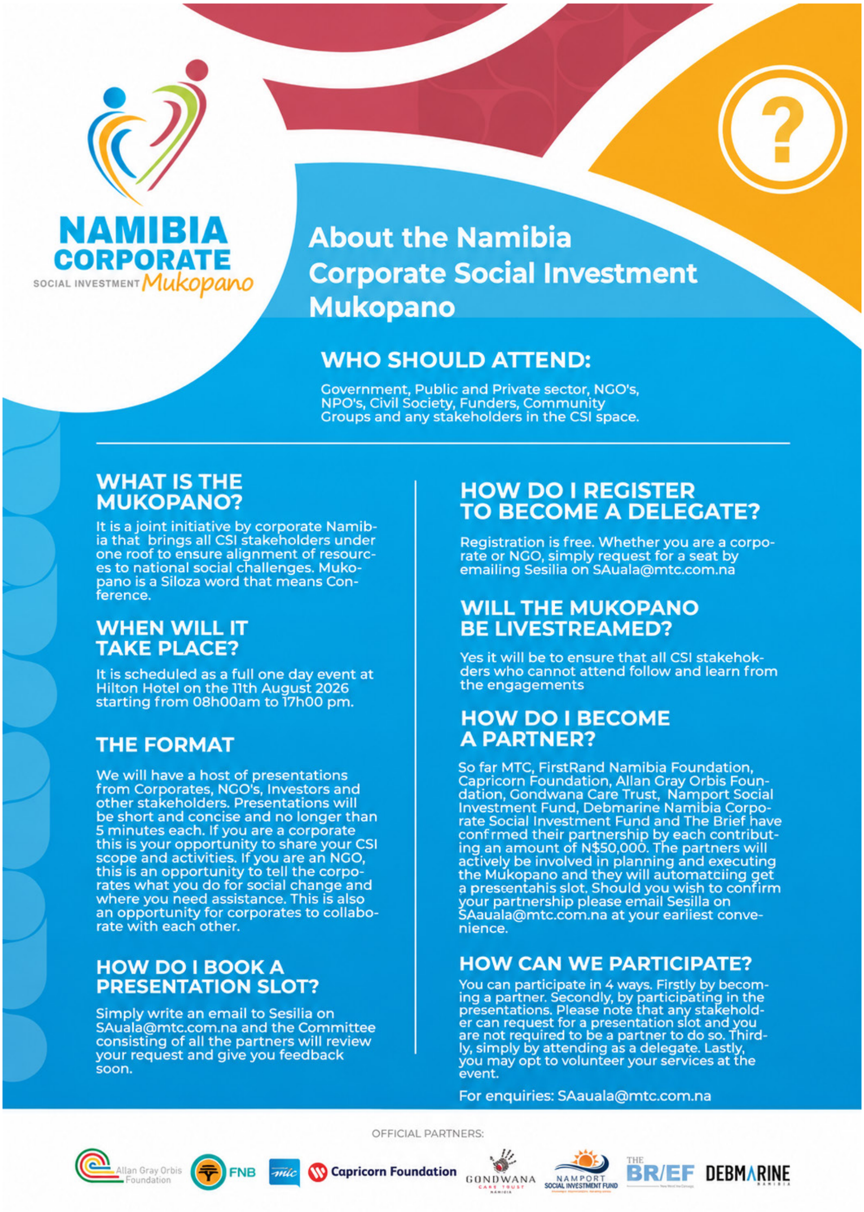
Digital transformation is another major focus of the programme.

The AfDB said the initiative will establish a National Artificial Intelligence Institute, construct a National Data Centre, introduce a national digital platform to track youth skills and employment outcomes, and accelerate the digitalisation of public services across participating institutions.

In higher education, the programme aims to align 710 qualifications with emerging industry requirements through the National Qualifications Framework.

Capacity-building measures include training and certifying 600 TVET managers, trainers and technical teachers, while 2,500 higher education lecturers and researchers will complete continuous professional development and upskilling programmes.

The report also outlines plans to strengthen digital service delivery through training for officials from the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture and regional youth officers, alongside the development of digital dashboards, secure data exchange systems and analytical tools to improve evidence-based planning. According to the AfDB, the programme is structured around three strategic pillars: skills development and education infrastructure; youth entrepreneurship, MSME development and job creation; and institutional strengthening, digital transformation and youth service readiness.



Governor warns bureaucracy, land scarcity slowing Khomas housing delivery

Khomas Governor Sam Nujoma has warned that land shortages, bureaucratic procurement processes and lengthy township establishment procedures are slowing housing delivery in the region, despite a N$750 million government commitment to upgrade and formalise informal settlements.

Nujoma said implementation of the informal settlements upgrading programme had been delayed by coordination challenges between the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and the City of Windhoek, even after the Office of the Prime Minister tasked his office with coordinating the implementation plan.

He said housing delivery continued to face multiple structural constraints, including limited land availability, high land costs, ageing sewer infrastructure and administrative delays, while rapid rural-to-urban migration continued to increase demand for housing and public services.

"The shortage of urban and rural land remains a major obstacle to infrastructure development and housing delivery," Nujoma said.

The Governor said the City of Windhoek has completed layout designs for 11,226 proposed erven across 18 townships, with N$296.4 million allocated for land servicing and housing delivery during the 2026/27 financial year in Cimbebasia, Otjomuise, Rocky Crest, Havana, Goreangab and Okahandja Park.

However, he warned that delays in approving environmental clearances could further slow the delivery of serviced land and urged the Office of the Environmental Commissioner to expedite the review of five Environmental Impact Assessment applications submitted by the City.

To address landlessness, Nujoma called for the accelerated implementation of the resolutions of the 2018 Second National Land Conference and the recommendations of the Ancestral Land and Restitution Commission, including the establishment of communal areas in the Khomas Region.

He also urged Parliament to expedite the passage of the Constituency Development Fund Bill and proposed greater use of public-private partnerships to finance road and transport infrastructure.

"The implementation of the 2018 Land Conference resolutions and the Ancestral Land and Restitution Commission recommendations to create communal areas in the region must be expedited to alleviate landlessness and cushion the effects of eviction and landlessness," he said.

Nujoma further identified learner placement, public safety, public transport and the electrification of informal settlements as key development challenges facing the region.

He said staffing shortages within the Namibian Police and the City Police have weakened law enforcement capacity amid rising incidents of housebreaking, vehicle theft and cybercrime, while Windhoek's continued reliance on private vehicles underscores the need for investment in mass public transport.

Under the Mass Housing Development Programme, 304 housing units are currently under construction in Windhoek, while the National Housing Enterprise completed two housing units in the Khomas Region during the previous financial year at a cost of N$1 million.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the National Housing Enterprise plans to invest N$82 million in the region through the construction of 73 housing units, the design of civil and electrical services for 380 erven in Otjomuise and the upgrading of 22 housing units in informal settlements.

The debt we are handing our children

Our children will not inherit our money. They will inherit our habits.

By Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela

> **We cannot go back and change how we were raised, but we are entirely free to decide how we raise them.**

Most of us grew up financially blind, because nobody ever sat us down and explained how money actually works.

We were not taught what debt really costs over time, how compound interest can either build us or slowly bury us, or why a bank pays us almost nothing on our savings while lending that same money out at a profit.

We left school able to solve equations we would never use again, yet we stepped into adulthood unable to read a payslip.

So we did what uninformed people tend to do. We spent everything we earned and confused the appearance of wealth with the reality of it.

We bought cars we could not afford on terms we did not understand, and signed up for policies because someone convinced us to rather than because we knew what they were. We took on debt to plug the gaps, and then more debt to service the debt we already had.

Many of us are still there today, earning perfectly decent salaries and yet drowning, month after month.

The real tragedy is that, unless we do something deliberate about it, this will become our children's story too. They are always watching, and they absorb our financial habits long before they ever earn a cent of their own.

They learn from the arguments about bills, from the panic before month-end, and from watching us swipe a card for things we cannot actually pay for. So we are not merely failing to teach them.

We are actively teaching them the very habits that trapped us, and that is the real inheritance most of us are preparing to hand down. Not money, but habits, and in far too many cases, debt.

We have to break this cycle, and we have to do it on purpose, because a cycle like this never breaks on its own. The encouraging part is that doing so is neither complicated nor dependent on being wealthy.

What it really requires is intention. It begins with talking to our children about money instead of hiding it from them, which means letting them see how a budget works and explaining why we say no to certain things.

It means teaching them the difference between a need and a want before the world teaches them to want everything, and giving them a small allowance so they make their mistakes early, with small amounts, rather than later with amounts large enough to ruin them.

But there is something even more powerful we can do, and it is something almost none of us had done for us. We can start investing for them from the day they are born.

With some providers you can open an investment account for a child and contribute as little as N$300 a month, which for many of us is less than what we spend on things we will not even remember by month-end. Left to grow across eighteen years, that small and consistent amount becomes something remarkable.

At a realistic long-term return, N$300 a month can grow into roughly N$180,000 to N$227,000 by the time a child turns eighteen, despite only around N$64,800 having actually been contributed. Stretch it to twenty-one, and the same discipline can reach between N$255,000 and N$338,000.

It is worth pausing on what that actually means. It is the difference between a young adult stepping into the world burdened by debt or nothing at all, and one who begins with a real foundation beneath them.

That might be money for further education, capital to start a business, or simply a cushion generous enough that their first financial mistake does not define the rest of their life.

That is what compound interest does when you give it enough time, and children hold the one asset the rest of us are always short of, which is time. The eighteen years we so often waste are precisely the years that would have done the heavy lifting for them.

Perhaps the most valuable part is not even the money, but what the child absorbs simply by watching it grow.

A young person who sees an investment build slowly throughout their childhood grows up understanding patience, consistency and ownership in a way no single classroom lesson could teach. That account becomes their first real teacher.

They arrive at adulthood not merely holding some capital, but carrying the mindset needed to protect it and grow it further, which is ultimately what separates the people who keep wealth from those who lose it.

We cannot go back and change how we were raised, but we are entirely free to decide how we raise them.

The choice comes down to whether we hand our children the same blindness and the same slow march into debt that we inherited, or whether we give them the two things we were so rarely given.

An understanding of money, and a foundation solid enough to stand on. It costs little more than an honest conversation and as little as N$300 a month or even N$100, and yet it could change the entire trajectory of a life.

The debt we are handing our children, then, is not only a financial one. It is a debt of knowledge, the understanding we were never given and are now at real risk of never passing on. We build the foundation at home, and they carry it with them for life. That is how a cycle like this one finally breaks.

Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela is a Namibian investment researcher and financial markets commentator with a strong focus on capital markets, investment literacy, and data driven financial education.

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DBN appoints Mbango, Mbuende to executive leadership

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has appointed Johannes Mbango as Chief Credit Risk Officer and Tjivingurura Mbuende as Chief Investment Officer.

Mbango assumed his new role on 1 July 2026, while Mbuende will take up the position of Chief Investment Officer on 1 August 2026.

DBN Chief Executive Officer Titus Ndove said the appointments strengthen the bank's leadership capacity as it advances its development finance mandate.

"The appointments of John Mbango and Tjivi Mbuende reinforce DBN's commitment to strong leadership, sound governance and sustainable development finance. Both executives bring exceptional experience, strategic insight and leadership capability that will strengthen the Bank as we continue to deliver on our mandate of driving Namibia's socio-economic development," Ndove said.

Mbango has spent more than 20 years at DBN, holding several senior positions across the bank's lending and credit divisions, including Head of Coverage, Head of Portfolio Management, Head of Lending and, most recently, Acting Chief Credit Risk Officer.

The bank said his experience in development finance, portfolio management and risk governance positions him to lead its credit risk function as DBN expands its development financing activities.

He holds a Master of Science in Financial Economics from the University of London and a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Namibia. He has also completed executive development programmes at Stellenbosch Business School, Euromoney and Queen's University.

Mbuende joins DBN with more than 15 years of executive and senior leadership experience in Namibia's financial services sector.

He previously held senior leadership positions at Nedbank Namibia, STANLIB Namibia, Standard Bank Namibia and Alex Forbes Invest, where he led corporate and investment banking, public sector banking, investment management, business development and strategic growth initiatives. He also serves as a non-executive director on several corporate boards.

Mbuende holds a Master of Arts in Economics from The New School University in New York and a Bachelor of Business in Corporate Finance and Marketing from the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia.

According to DBN, the appointments form part of efforts to strengthen the bank's executive leadership as it implements its Integrated Strategic Business Plan and advances its long-term development objectives

Namibia reviews social security laws ahead of ILO convention ratification

Namibia has begun reviewing its social security laws, policies and administrative systems against the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (Convention No. 102), as government assesses the reforms required before ratifying the international treaty.

Opening a national technical workshop in Windhoek, Acting Executive Director in the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations Aune Mudjanima said the gap analysis would determine whether Namibia's legal and institutional framework complies with the convention's minimum standards and identify areas requiring reform.

"A gap analysis is therefore essential. It enables us to identify areas of compliance, areas requiring minor adjustments, and those where more substantial reforms are needed. This ensures that ratification is not symbolic, but meaningful, responsible and sustainable," Mudjanima said.

She said the review would provide a roadmap for legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, administrative improvements and sustainable financing while reducing the risk of committing to international obligations before national systems are fully prepared.

The exercise forms part of efforts to align Namibia's Social Protection Policy 2021-

2031 with Convention No. 102, which sets minimum standards across nine branches of social security for workers in both the formal and informal economy.

Mudjanima said government allocated N$7.27 billion to social grants during the current financial year to support vulnerable Namibians, demonstrating the country's commitment to expanding social protection.

"In the current financial year, government channelled N$7.27 billion directly into social grants, supporting vulnerable Namibians. These figures demonstrate that our national budget is structurally geared toward social equity and the fulfilment of Article 95 of our Constitution," she said.

She cited the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2024-2026, which found that 52.4% of the global population receives at least one social protection benefit, while 3.8 billion people remain without any form of social protection.

The report also found that high-income countries spend an average of 16.2% of gross domestic product on social protection compared with 0.8% in low-income countries.

Mudjanima said the ILO identifies Mauritius as Africa's benchmark for universal lifecycle social protection and South Africa for its extensive cash transfer programmes, while Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho are among the leading Sub-Saharan African countries financing social protection primarily through domestic tax revenue.

She added that Namibia's participation in the United Nations Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions has provided technical assessments and comparative analysis to support the country's social protection reforms.

However, Mudjanima said the completion of the gap analysis had been delayed after some institutions failed to provide the required information.

"Social protection reform is a whole-of-government responsibility. When data is requested for national processes of this magnitude, all institutions must respond promptly and comprehensively. Our ability to design accurate, sustainable and inclusive systems depends on the quality of information we provide," she said.


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From Okocha to open models: Why Africa's real competitive gap is investment, not talent

By Stantin Siebritz

> If football requires a pitch, AI requires infrastructure.

As the world turns its attention to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Africa has reason to celebrate more than just participation.

With a record 10 African nations represented at the tournament, thanks to FIFA's expanded 48-team format, the narrative surrounding African football is beginning to shift.

For decades, discussions about Africa's performance on the global stage were framed around a perceived "talent gap". Yet history tells a different story.

From Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar's exploits in the 1980s and Nigeria's mercurial Jay-Jay Okocha in the 1990s to today's global stars such as Mohamed Salah, African talent has never been in short supply.

What has often been lacking is the infrastructure that enables talent to consistently compete at the highest level: quality academies, coaching systems, sports science, scouting networks, facilities and long-term commercial investment.

The same lesson applies to one of the defining technologies of our time: artificial intelligence.

Much of the global conversation around AI revolves around technological leadership, innovation ecosystems and national competitiveness.

In Africa, however, there is still a tendency to view AI readiness through the lens of capability rather than capacity. It is an important distinction. Africa does not suffer from a shortage of human potential.

Namibia certainly does not lack intelligent young people, ambitious entrepreneurs, capable engineers or institutions eager to modernise. The challenge is not talent. The challenge is creating the conditions that allow that talent to flourish.

If football requires a pitch, AI requires infrastructure.

Without affordable compute power, robust digital connectivity, data storage capacity and reliable energy supply, even the most promising AI developer is forced to compete from the sidelines.

African innovators often find themselves building on foreign platforms, paying foreign cloud prices and relying on infrastructure designed primarily for markets thousands of kilometres away. The result is that local talent spends more time working around constraints than creating solutions tailored to local realities.

Encouragingly, the AI landscape is evolving in ways that create new opportunities for emerging economies. The earliest race for AI dominance appeared to favour a handful of well-capitalised technology giants with exclusive access to advanced models and massive computing resources.

Today, that advantage is narrowing. Highperforming open-weight AI models can increasingly be downloaded, hosted and customised, giving organisations greater control over how they deploy and adapt the technology.

This shifts the conversation. If access to leading AI models is becoming more democratic, then infrastructure becomes the critical differentiator.

For Namibia, this presents a significant strategic opportunity.

The country possesses some of the best renewable energy resources in the world. With abundant solar irradiation, strong wind potential and vast available land, Namibia is uniquely positioned to support the development of environmentally sustainable data centres and AI compute hubs.

Such infrastructure would not only strengthen domestic technological capabilities but could support a wide range of sectors, including financial services, agriculture, healthcare, education, mining and public administration.

The economic implications extend far beyond technology itself. Just as transport infrastructure enables trade and telecommunications infrastructure enables connectivity, AI infrastructure will increasingly enable productivity. Businesses that can access affordable computing resources will innovate faster. Researchers will be able to analyse local datasets more effectively. Governments will be better positioned to improve service delivery. Start-ups will gain the ability to build solutions for African challenges without being entirely dependent on offshore platforms.

Importantly, investment in AI infrastructure should not be viewed solely as a technology agenda. It is fundamentally an economic development agenda.

Throughout history, countries that invested early in foundational infrastructure created the conditions for future growth. Roads enabled commerce. Electricity powered industrialisation. Broadband accelerated digital economies. AI infrastructure represents the next layer in that evolution.

For Namibia, the question is not whether artificial intelligence will shape the future economy. It already is. The more pressing question is whether we will remain consumers of AI developed elsewhere or position ourselves as contributors to its development and application.

Football offers a useful reminder. When African players gained access to world-class coaching, facilities and professional structures, they did not suddenly become talented overnight. Their talent had always existed. What changed was the ecosystem around them. The world stopped talking about potential and started recognising performance.

The same principle holds true for artificial intelligence.

Africa's greatest constraint is not a shortage of ideas, ambition or capability. It is the investment gap that separates raw potential from competitive advantage.

Namibia does not need to wait for permission to participate in the AI economy. But participation will require deliberate investment in the infrastructure that underpins innovation.

In football terms, the talent is already on the field.

Now it is time to build the pitch.

**** Stantin Siebritz - Founder of New Creation Solutions and Head of ICT and Emerging Technology at the Performance Development Centre, where he drives AI, data engineering and digital infrastructure projects. He is also a member of Namibia's National AI Strategy Committee, serving as Chairperson for Compute Infrastructure.***

Marginalised communities make up 2.5% of Namibia's population

Namibia's marginalised communities comprise 75,569 people, representing 2.5% of the country's population, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency's (NSA) 2023 Population and Housing Census profile.

The report, presented by Statistician-General Alex Shimuafeni, provides the first comprehensive digital census profile of the San, Ovature/Ovatwa and Ovatjimba communities and is intended to support evidence-based policymaking and development planning.

The census found that 75.9% of the marginalised population is under the age of 35, highlighting a predominantly youthful demographic with growing needs in education, employment and social services.

Otjozondjupa has the largest marginalised population at 23,864 people, while the //Kharas Region has the smallest at 159. The San population is concentrated mainly in Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Kunene, while the Ovature/Ovatwa and Ovatjimba communities are predominantly found in Kunene.

"Total marginalised population groups comprise 75,569 persons, which is about 2.5% of Namibia's total population. The largest population of marginalised communities is found in the Otjozondjupa Region, while the region with the least population is //Kharas," Shimuafeni said.

The report also highlights low labour force participation among marginalised communities, with the participation rate standing at 44.7% for males and 30.0% for females.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing remain the largest employers, accounting for 41.9% of employed people from marginalised communities, while 35.5% are employed in elementary occupations, reflecting limited access to higher-skilled jobs.

"The labour force participation rate for males stands at 44.7%, while for females it is 30.0%. Across all age groups, males have a higher participation rate than females. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry is the largest employment sector for the marginalised population, accounting for 41.9% of employment," Shimuafeni said.

Households headed by members of marginalised communities rely primarily on salaries and wages, which account for 42.4% of household income, followed by old age pensions at 15.6%. State Maintenance Grants and Old Age Pensions are the most widely accessed forms of social assistance.

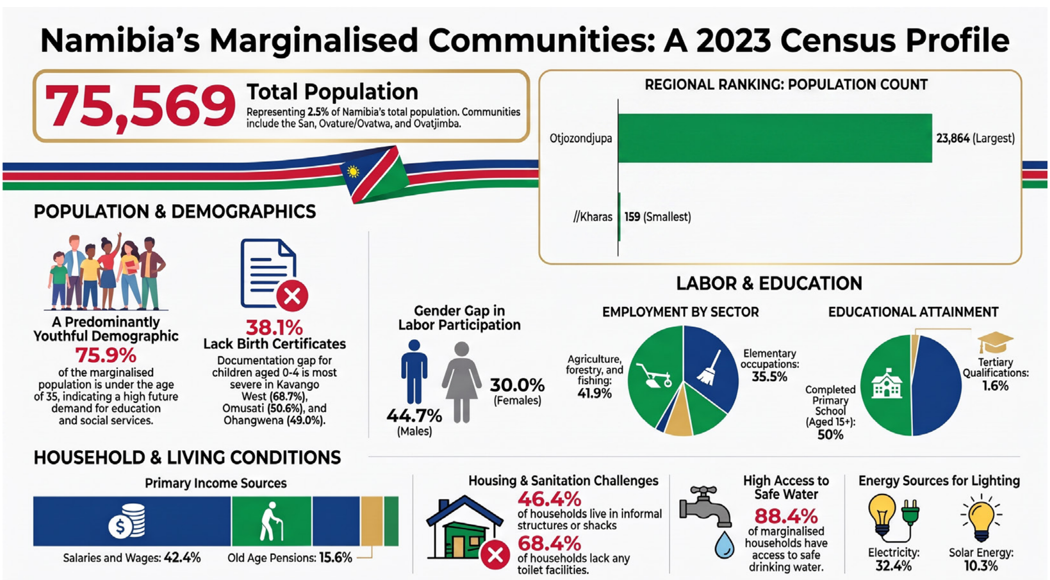
The census further found that 38.1% of children aged between zero and four years do not have birth certificates, with the highest proportions recorded in Kavango West (60.7%), Omusati (50.6%) and Ohangwena (49.0%).

Educational attainment remains low. Half of the marginalised population aged 15 years and older have completed only primary education, while 7.5% have completed secondary education and just 1.6% have attained tertiary qualifications.

Housing conditions also remain challenging. Of the 21,379 households headed by members of marginalised communities, only 26.5% own the dwellings they occupy, while 46.4% live in informal structures or shacks.

The report found that 68.4% of these households have no toilet facilities, while 61.6% of urban households lack access to a flush toilet. However, 88.4% have access to safe drinking water.

Electricity is the main source of lighting for 32.4% of households, while 10.3% rely on solar energy.



Nandi-Ndaitwah, Ramaphosa to co-chair Namibia-South Africa Bi-National Commission

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will co-chair the Fourth Session of the Namibia-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC) in Pretoria on Friday, where the two countries are expected to review bilateral cooperation, sign new agreements and issue directives aimed at strengthening economic ties and regional integration.

According to the Namibian Presidency, the summit will conclude a week of engagements between the two governments, beginning with a Senior Officials' Session on 14 and 15 July, followed by a Ministerial Session on 16 July.

The ministerial meeting will be co-chaired by Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Trade, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, and South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola.

The Bi-National Commission is the highest permanent mechanism for cooperation between Namibia and South Africa and oversees more than 150 bilateral agreements covering political, diplomatic, legal, economic, social, defence and security cooperation.

"The two countries remain committed to working together in the interest of their people, and the Fourth Session of the BNC offers an opportunity to further strengthen the bilateral relations and cooperation that exist between the two countries," the Presidency said.

The commission will discuss trade, investment and economic integration, border management and boundary matters, infrastructure, energy and connectivity, disaster management and humanitarian cooperation, defence and security, transnational challenges, as well as regional, continental and global issues.

Several agreements and memoranda of understanding are expected to be signed during the session, reflecting the breadth of cooperation between the two countries.

On the sidelines of the commission, the South Africa-Namibia Business Forum will be held under the theme, Driving Regional Industrialisation, Investment and Sustainable Growth through Strategic South Africa-Namibia Partnerships.

The forum will bring together government representatives, business leaders, investors and industry stakeholders to strengthen commercial partnerships, promote private sector participation, showcase investment opportunities and advance bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

"The forum will serve as a platform to bring together government representatives, business leaders, investors and industry stakeholders, strengthen commercial partnerships, encourage private sector participation in the bilateral relationship, showcase investment opportunities and advance bilateral trade and investment cooperation," the Presidency said.

The event is being hosted in partnership with South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Namibia's Ministry of International Relations and Trade, the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, and the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Presidency said Namibia and South Africa remain among each other's largest trading partners for both exports and imports. Both countries are also members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

At the conclusion of the summit, the two Heads of State are expected to issue directives aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation and advancing initiatives that support economic growth, regional integration and improved livelihoods in both countries.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah is scheduled to depart for South Africa on 16 July and return to Namibia on 17 July 2026.

Namibia showcases technical and vocational skills on global stage in China

Namibia will showcase its technical and vocational education and training capabilities across 16 skill areas at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China, where 17 young competitors will represent the country from 22 to 27 September 2026.

The competition, held every two years under the auspices of WorldSkills International, is expected to bring together about 1,400 competitors from more than 70 countries and regions to compete in 64 vocational and technical disciplines judged against international industry standards.

The Namibia Training Authority (NTA) and WorldSkills Namibia announced the country's participation on World Youth Skills Day, saying the event provides an opportunity to benchmark Namibia's skills development system while exposing young professionals to global best practice.

The 17-member Team Namibia will compete across 16 skill categories, including one team trade, with competitors having undergone months of technical preparation, structured training and readiness assessments ahead of the international event.

Beyond the competition, Namibia will participate in the WorldSkills Conference, where Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture Sanet Steenkamp will join ministers from WorldSkills member countries to discuss workforce development, future labour market trends, technical and vocational education and training transformation, and the role of skills in driving inclusive economic growth and industrialisation.

Namibia will also form part of a coordinated African presence at the WorldSkills Exhibition alongside nine other African countries, where it will showcase the country's achievements in technical and vocational education and training while promoting regional cooperation in skills development.

WorldSkills Namibia Technical Delegate Sens Shoolongo said the competition provides an opportunity for Namibia to measure its technical capabilities against global standards.

"As a global benchmark for technical excellence, WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 represents an opportunity for Namibia to showcase the capabilities of our skilled professionals. Team Namibia has undergone comprehensive technical preparation, including structured training, skills development and readiness assessments to ensure our competitors are equipped for the global stage," he said.

NTA Chief Executive Officer and Official Delegate of WorldSkills Namibia Erick Fundula Nenghwanya said the country's participation reflects efforts to equip young people with skills required by industry.

"Skills are the foundation of our future workforce, our economy and our shared prosperity. Our country's participation in WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 supports efforts to empower our young people with future-ready competencies that respond to industry needs and global standards," Nenghwanya said.

Namibia has been a member of WorldSkills International since 2011 and joined WorldSkills Africa in 2024.

The NTA serves as the national coordinating body for WorldSkills activities and established the WorldSkills Namibia Secretariat in 2016 to coordinate national skills competitions and the country's participation in international WorldSkills events.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