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THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

High banking costs keep many Namibians out of formal financial system

FRIDAY 31 JULY 2026

MAIN STORY

High banking costs keep many Namibians out of formal financial system

High banking costs and the inability to maintain savings remain the biggest barriers preventing thousands of Namibians from accessing formal financial services, even as financial inclusion has reached a record 86%.

The latest Namibia Financial Inclusion Survey (NFIS) 2025 shows that 43.2% of adults without bank accounts cited insufficient funds to maintain savings as the main reason for remaining unbanked, highlighting affordability as the biggest

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

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obstacle to expanding financial access.

Although 86.0% of Namibia's adult population, equivalent to 1.56 million people, are now financially included, up from 78.0% in 2017, significant disparities remain between urban and rural communities.

Formal financial inclusion increased to 81.5%, with 75.6% of adults holding commercial bank accounts and 71.3% using other formal non-bank financial institutions.

The survey found that Namibians choose financial institutions largely based on recommendations from family, friends and communities (48.4%), while 37.7% said low fees and charges influence their choice of financial service provider.

Access to banking infrastructure also remains uneven. While 40.1% of urban residents can reach a bank within 30 minutes, only 5.7% of rural residents enjoy the same level of access. In contrast, 28.3% of rural residents travel more than three hours to reach a bank, compared with just 1.6% of urban residents.

The survey shows that women continue to lead financial inclusion, with 87.6% of females financially included compared with 84.2% of males, although the gender gap has narrowed since 2017.

Savings remain central to household financial management, with 72.5% of adults reporting that they save in some form.

However, the use of formal savings products declined from 60.0% in 2017 to 53.2% in 2025, while informal savings increased slightly from 2.9% to 3.5%.

Borrowing has become more common, rising from 42.1% in 2017 to 49.0% in 2025, with most loans used to cover essential household expenses such as food (51.3%), education (22.1%) and transport (16.4%).

Insurance coverage remains low, with only 32.7% of adults covered by either formal or informal insurance, leaving a majority of households exposed to financial shocks.

Money transfers remain widespread, with 61.6% of adults using formal or informal remittance channels, of which 58.5% relied on formal services. Most remittances (94.1%) were sent within Namibia.

Despite the progress, 14.0% of adults remain financially excluded, down from 22.0% in 2017, with exclusion highest in rural areas at 20.7%, compared with 8.3% in urban centres.

The survey also found that many households continue to face financial pressure. While the proportion of adults struggling to meet financial commitments fell to 63.0% from 68.5% in 2017, only 25.4% said they were often able to make their income last until their next payday.

Food remains the largest household expense, with 90.1% of adults identifying it as their primary spending category, while awareness of investment products remains limited. Only 6.4% of adults were aware of unit trusts and 5.6% knew about bonds and other investment products.

Fuel prices to rise by N$2.00 a litre as government restores levies

Fuel prices in Namibia will increase by N$2.00 per litre from 5 August 2026 after the government reinstated fuel levies that had been temporarily reduced, with higher international oil prices adding further pressure on pump prices.

Announcing the August fuel price adjustment, Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Modestus Amutse said the National Energy Fund (NEF) will absorb diesel under-recoveries and the remaining two cents per litre levy to limit the increase passed on to consumers.

"At this juncture, many Namibians may be asking why fuel prices may increase. The answer is simple. The current fuel price adjustment is primarily the result of the reinstatement of the four levies which had been temporarily reduced by 50% over the past three months as a government intervention to cushion consumers from the sharp increases experienced in the international oil prices," Amutse said.

The new pump prices at Walvis Bay will be N$24.48 per litre for petrol 95, N$26.26 per litre for diesel 50 parts per million (ppm) and N$26.36 per litre for diesel 10 ppm.

Amutse said the ministry's review of the fuel pricing model found that international oil markets remained highly volatile, driven by geopolitical tensions, supply constraints, fluctuations in global demand, exchange rate movements and higher freight and demurrage costs.

"The international oil market development remained highly volatile, driven by geopolitical tensions, global supply constraints and fluctuations in global demand," he said.

During the pricing period from 1 July to 27 July, the average international petrol price rose by 2.87% to US$115 per barrel.

Over the same period, the average price of diesel 50 ppm increased by 10.97%, from US$120 to US$141 per barrel, while diesel 10 ppm rose by 11.10%, from US$127 to US$141 per barrel.

The Namibia dollar also weakened slightly against the US dollar, depreciating from an average of N$16.38 to N$16.42 per US dollar, further increasing the cost of imported fuel.

Amutse said the government had restored the four fuel levies after reducing them by 50% between April and June, with the relief measures subsequently extended through July.

"These levies are essential for financing critical statutory obligations and strategic programmes of various beneficiaries, including the road user charge levy that is used for road infrastructure development," Amutse said.

He said government intervention through an emergency fuel supply arrangement had significantly reduced the impact of rising import costs on consumers.

Without the intervention, petrol prices at Walvis Bay would have increased to about N$28.48 per litre, while diesel 50 ppm and diesel 10 ppm would have reached N$30.26 and N$30.36 per litre, respectively.

"The emergency fuel supply arrangement has therefore significantly mitigated the impact of the international fuel market on Namibian consumers by eliminating the substantial import premiums that would otherwise have been passed directly to motorists," Amutse said.

He said the arrangement removed import premiums that had recently fluctuated between approximately 50 cents and N$4.00 per litre, meaning motorists would only bear the cost of the reinstated levies rather than the full increase in import costs.

Amutse also sought to reassure the public that the country has adequate fuel reserves.

"The Ministry reassures the Republic of Namibia that Namibia has sufficient fuel stocks and the national fuel supply system remains stable," he said.

He added that the ministry would continue monitoring global oil markets while balancing fuel security, consumer protection and the funding of key national infrastructure programmes. "The Namibian Government remains committed to ensuring security of fuel supply, cushioning consumers where possible, supporting economic stability and minimising disruptions to critical sectors of the economy," Amutse said.

Windhoek approves 20 new informal trading sites to tackle 3,000-space shortage

. . . 18 current informal markets support an estimated 44,200 livelihoods.

The City of Windhoek has approved 20 new temporary informal trading sites as it moves to address a shortage of about 3,000 trading spaces, with the municipality's existing 18 informal markets supporting an estimated 44,200 livelihoods.

Speaking during the municipality's July Ordinary Council meeting, Windhoek Mayor Sakarias Uunona said the expansion forms part of the City's Informal Market Development Master Plan, which aims to accommodate growing demand from informal traders while permanent market infrastructure is developed.

Uunona said Namibia's informal economy contributes about 26.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) and provides employment for 58% of the national workforce, highlighting its importance to household incomes and economic activity.

"To date, Council has developed a total of 18 open markets, including one communal car wash and four semi-developed markets that support the livelihoods of an estimated 44,200 people," said Uunona.

He said the municipality's existing facilities comprise 18 permanent open markets, one communal car wash, two product-specific craft markets and periodic markets. However, these facilities are no longer sufficient to meet growing demand from small businesses and start-ups.

To bridge the gap, Council has approved 20 temporary trading sites where informal traders will be allowed to operate under minimum hygiene standards while permanent market infrastructure is developed.

Uunona said the temporary sites will require investment in essential services, including water, electricity, ablution facilities and shaded trading areas.

The City is exploring public-private partnerships (PPPs), land exchange models, build-operate-transfer (BOT) arrangements and joint ventures to finance the developments.

He added that registering traders and providing basic infrastructure would improve compliance monitoring while enabling the municipality to collect levies to help fund future market developments.

"By implementing controlled measures such as site demarcation, infrastructure provision when funds become available, and the registration of traders, Council will be able to monitor compliance and collect relevant levies from the sites earmarked for temporary trading to support the rollout of future market infrastructure development projects," he said.

Uunona said supporting informal traders remains central to the municipality's efforts to improve livelihoods while ensuring trading activities are conducted within the City's regulatory framework.

"By supporting informal traders, Council aims to empower thousands of residents to support their families with dignity while contributing to the development and prosperity of our city. While Council has demonstrated its support for informal traders, these activities must be managed within the parameters of our laws to create a conducive environment and a prosperous city for all residents," he said.

The Informal Market Development Master Plan, first introduced in 2022 and approved by Council last year, is expected to guide the development of additional trading facilities through partnerships with the private sector and other investment models.


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Know the difference between enjoying your age and destroying your future

By Junias Erasmus

Every stage of life comes with unique opportunities and responsibilities. Youth is a time to learn, explore, build friendships and create lasting memories.

It is a season filled with energy, ambition and dreams. However, it is also a time when many people make decisions that shape the rest of their lives.

This is why it is important to understand the difference between enjoying your age and destroying your future.

Enjoying your age means making the most of the opportunities available to you while remaining responsible.

It means spending time with family and friends, pursuing your education, developing your talents, travelling when possible, participating in sports, volunteering and discovering your purpose. It means creating memories that you will look back on with pride, not regret.

> **“Enjoying your age means making the most of the opportunities available to you while remaining responsible.**

Destroying your future, on the other hand, happens when temporary pleasure becomes more important than long-term success.

Some young people believe that life is only about having fun today without thinking about tomorrow.

They engage in risky behaviour, neglect their education, misuse alcohol or drugs, spend money carelessly or surround themselves with people who encourage poor decisions.

While these choices may seem exciting at the time, they often lead to consequences that can affect a person's future for many years.

The truth is that every decision has a consequence. Good decisions create opportunities, while poor decisions often create obstacles.

A single choice can determine whether you graduate, secure meaningful employment, build a successful business or achieve your personal goals.

Likewise, one careless decision can damage your reputation, finances, health or relationships.

Enjoying your youth should never mean abandoning your responsibilities. There is nothing wrong with having fun, celebrating achievements or spending time with people you care about.

The problem begins when enjoyment comes at the cost of your education, your career, your health or your character. Balance is the key. A responsible young person knows when to have fun and when to focus on building a better future.

One of the greatest investments you can make while you are young is investing in yourself. Read books, learn new skills, pursue further education, develop your leadership abilities and build positive habits.

These investments may not bring immediate rewards, but they will create opportunities that last a lifetime. Your future depends more on what you build today than on what you wish for tomorrow.

It is also important to choose your friends wisely. The people you spend time with influence your thinking, your behaviour and your ambitions.

Friends who encourage discipline, hard work and positive values will help you grow. Those who encourage reckless behaviour may enjoy the moment with you, but they may not be there to face the consequences with you.

Remember that success is not built overnight. It is built through consistent, responsible decisions made every day.

The sacrifices you make today, studying when others are wasting time, saving money instead of spending it carelessly, or choosing discipline over temptation will become the rewards you enjoy in the future.

Young people should never feel pressured to copy what everyone else is doing. Social media often creates the impression that happiness comes from parties, expensive lifestyles and constant entertainment.

In reality, true success comes from purpose, discipline, integrity and continuous growth. The happiest people are not always those who had the most fun in their youth, but those who used their youth to build a meaningful life.

Know the difference between enjoying your age and destroying your future. Enjoy your youth, but do so wisely. Laugh, make memories and embrace life's opportunities, but never lose sight of your dreams and responsibilities.

Every choice you make today is laying the foundation for the life you will live tomorrow. Choose actions that your future self will thank you for. After all, it is possible to enjoy today without sacrificing tomorrow.

Junias Erasmus is an Interdisciplinary Scholar, Philosopher, and Legal Researcher, with recognised expertise in Artificial Intelligence grounded in a Multidisciplinary foundation in Management Science. He is also a Motivational Speaker. This article is authored in his personal capacity. For enquiries, he may be contacted at Junias99@gmail.com.

NamPost appoints Willem Mouton as CEO

NamPost has appointed Willem Mouton as its new Chief Executive Officer for a five-year term, effective 1 August 2026.

Mouton succeeds Eldorette Harmse, Executive: Legal Services, Governance and Compliance, who has served as Acting Chief Executive Officer since 1 September 2025 following the retirement of former CEO Festus Hangula.

Announcing the appointment, NamPost Board Chairperson Dr Simeon Amunkete said Mouton brings extensive executive experience and a deep understanding of the organisation's operations.

"The Board is delighted to appoint Mr Mouton as Chief Executive Officer. His proven leadership, extensive executive experience and deep understanding of NamPost's operations make him exceptionally well placed to lead the organisation into its next phase of growth and transformation," said Amunkete.

Mouton currently serves as NamPost's Chief Operating Officer and has held several senior leadership positions within the organisation in operations, business development and corporate management.

Before joining NamPost, he served as Chief Executive Officer of United Africa Group and previously held the position of Head of Business Development at Nampro Fund.

He holds an MBA in Organisational Leadership from the University of Roehampton in the United Kingdom, an MBA in Business and Commerce from Stellenbosch University, and a Higher Diploma in Accounting and Finance from the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Amunkete said the Board is confident Mouton will steer the organisation through its next phase of growth while strengthening its position in the postal sector.

"The Board is confident that Mr Mouton's strategic leadership and deep operational insight will guide NamPost as it continues to strengthen its position as Namibia's trusted national postal operator, while driving innovation, growth and long-term sustainability," he said.

The Board also paid tribute to Harmse for leading the organisation during the transition period following Hangula's retirement.

"The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Mrs Harmse for her exemplary leadership as Acting Chief Executive Officer. Her steady stewardship ensured continuity and organisational stability during the leadership transition," said Amunkete

Leadership is not a position. It's a responsibility

By Frieda Nangolo

> "A promotion gives you authority, but it does not automatically make you a leader.

Someone gets promoted. Colleagues applaud, congratulations fill the office and a new title appears in an email announcement.

Perhaps there is even a salary increase. From that day forward, everyone calls them "manager." It is a moment worth celebrating, but it is also the moment the real work begins.

A promotion gives you authority, but it does not automatically make you a leader. Leadership begins where the promotion ends.

Many people believe leadership is about having people report to them. I see it differently. A position asks, "What do these people owe me?" Leadership asks, "What do I owe these people?" That simple shift in thinking changes everything.

While a position gives someone the authority to manage people, responsibility challenges them to develop, support and inspire those people to become the very best versions of themselves.

The best leaders do not create dependence; they create confidence. They develop people who think independently, solve problems confidently and eventually become leaders themselves.

Leadership is therefore not measured by how important one person becomes, but by how many other people grow because of their guidance. A leader's greatest achievement is not building followers but building people who are capable of leading others.

This is why leadership sits at the heart of every learning organisation. Organisations do not become places of continuous learning by chance.

They become learning organisations because leaders intentionally create cultures where curiosity is encouraged, ideas are welcomed and learning becomes part of everyday work.

Emotional intelligence, trust and workplace culture all begin with leadership because leaders set the standard for how people learn, collaborate and treat one another.

From an Organizational Learning and Development perspective, a leader's role is not to have every answer. It is to create an environment where the best answers can emerge. When leaders believe they must always be the smartest person in the room, learning becomes limited by one person's knowledge.

However, when they encourage curiosity, collaboration and shared problem-solving, the organisation becomes far more intelligent than any individual could ever be. Great leaders are remembered not because they knew everything, but because they created workplaces where everyone could continue learning.

As Namibia works towards Vision 2030,

> Leadership is therefore not measured by how important one person becomes, but by how many other people grow because of their guidance.

leadership will become one of our greatest competitive advantages.

Our organisations do not simply need more managers with impressive job titles; they need leaders who understand that developing people is their greatest responsibility.

Sustainable organisations are built by leaders who invest in others, create opportunities for growth and leave behind capable teams that continue to succeed long after they have moved on.

The strongest legacy any leader leaves behind is not a building, a strategy or even a policy. It is people. It is the confidence they build, the opportunities they create and the leaders they develop. Long after projects have ended and strategies have changed, the impact of a leader continues to live through the people they empowered.

A title may give you authority, but responsibility earns you trust. A title may persuade people to follow because they have to, while responsibility inspires people to follow because they want to. That is the difference. And that is what leadership has always been.

Namibia targets higher beef exports and value addition in livestock sector

The Namibian government has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding beef exports and increasing value addition in the livestock sector, positioning the industry as a key driver of economic growth, employment and rural development.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform at the Meat Corporation of Namibia's (Meatco) 2026 Annual General Meeting, Deputy Executive Director for Agriculture Kingsley Kwenani said government wants to strengthen local meat processing, expand agro-processing industries and increase investment in value-added products to maximise returns from the country's livestock industry.

He said the strategy supports the government's industrialisation agenda and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), which prioritises value addition, economic diversification and sustainable job creation.

"Protecting our markets is only one part of the equation. The greater opportunity lies in creating more value from every animal produced in Namibia. Value-added products. Government's vision is clear. We must move beyond measuring success by the number of cattle we export and increasingly measure it by the value we create within our own economy. That means expanding local processing. It means strengthening agro-processing industries. This is fully aligned with Government's industrialisation agenda and the objectives of the Sixth National Development Plan, which places renewed emphasis on value addition, economic diversification and sustainable job creation. The livestock industry has a critical role to play in achieving these national priorities," Kwenani said.

Kwenani described Meatco as a strategic national asset, saying its role extends beyond meat processing to protecting export markets, maintaining Namibia's reputation for premium-quality beef and creating value across the livestock value chain.

He acknowledged that the corporation had faced one of its most difficult operating periods in recent years, with prolonged drought and national herd rebuilding efforts significantly reducing cattle supplies.

"The audited financial statements before us reflect one of the most difficult operating periods for Namibia's livestock industry in recent years. Successive droughts and the rebuilding of the national cattle herd resulted in significantly lower cattle availability," he said.

Kwenani commended the Meatco board, management and staff for maintaining financial resilience during the challenging period and called for continued improvements in operational efficiency, financial sustainability and market expansion.

He also underscored the importance of maintaining Namibia's disease-free status, veterinary services and livestock traceability systems, describing them as the foundation of the country's premium beef export markets.

Kwenani welcomed ongoing efforts to regain access to the United States market, restore beef exports to China and expand trade opportunities across Africa through the African Continental Free Trade Area

(AfCFTA).

"Government also welcomes the continued efforts to regain access to the United States market, restore exports to China, and expand Namibia's footprint across Africa through the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area. Diversified markets create diversified opportunities. They reduce risk. They strengthen producer confidence. And they position Namibia's livestock industry for long-term, sustainable growth," Kwenani said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ELECTRICITY CONTROL BOARD

RENEWAL OF MORATORIUM ON GRANTING OF GENERATION LICENCES FOR EXPORT PURPOSES

The Electricity Control Board (ECB) would like to inform the public that the Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, in terms of section 21 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2007 (Act No. 4 of 2007), on recommendation by the ECB, renewed the moratorium on the granting of generation licenses for export purposes as from 05 September 2025 for a period of 40 months ending 05 January 2029 or until the existing transmission network constraints are alleviated, whichever occurs first. The moratorium is further subject to earlier review should additional regional cross-border transmission capacity become available.

Exempted from this moratorium are variable renewable energy generating plants incorporating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) intended for night-time export to the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP). This exemption is subject to viability and night-time transmission capacity confirmation with the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA), and will be considered on a first-ready, first-served basis, prior to licence consideration. Also exempted are the Namibian Independent Power Producers whose participation in transmission infrastructure upgrades within NTCSA network has been formally confirmed by NTCSA, where such upgrades are intended to alleviate transmission congestion and unlock export capacity into SAPP. The ECB, in collaboration with NamPower, is currently assessing the available capacity and is therefore not considering the submission of new licence applications for export purposes until further notice. The ECB will not consider such applications until the moratorium is lifted; the applicable transmission constraints are formally confirmed to have been resolved, or the capacity assessment referred to above has been finalised. The ECB will revert to stakeholders and the public once this assessment has been finalised.

The Modified Single Buyer (MSB) market framework currently allows private generators to develop generation capacity in Namibia for export purposes. However, existing limited regional cross-border transmission capacity continues to constrain electricity exports from Namibia into SAPP, thereby necessitating the renewal of the moratorium.

For any clarification and further information, please contact **Mr. Lameka Amuanyena** at lamuanyena@ecb.org.na or alternatively **+264 61-374 300**.

Additional information on the moratorium is also available on the ECB's website on the link below: https://www.ecb.org.na/moratorium-on-vre-export-licenses/

TEL: +264 61 374 300 | www.ecb.org.na | info@ecb.org.na | P.O. Box 2923, Windhoek, Namibia

ECB House, 35 DrTheo-Ben Gurirab Street | Business Hours: Monday - Thursday 08:00 - 17:00 | Friday 08:00 - 13:00

Erongo proposes reclamation plant to address water challenges

The Erongo Regional Council has proposed the establishment of a water reclamation plant to strengthen water security, support industrial growth and improve long-term resilience in Namibia's coastal region.

Speaking at the Africa Public Service Day 2026 event in Swakopmund, Erongo Regional Council Director of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Desmond Kambatuamasa said the region should replicate Windhoek's potable water reclamation model to reduce pressure on scarce water resources.

"We have a reclamation plant in Windhoek. Why can't we have a reclamation plant in other towns if volumes allow? Is it not an option? How can we reuse and recycle our greywater? Scientifically, it's proven that 70% of your potable water ends one way or another at your ponds. That is water which is still useful," Kambatuamasa said.

He said water reclamation should extend beyond urban water supply and play a broader role in protecting groundwater resources while improving access to water in rural areas.

Kambatuamasa called for stronger collaboration between government, local authorities, academia, the mining sector and NamWater to develop coordinated regional water security strategies.

"Governance requires us to sit around the table. We need to have regional council, academia, local authorities, mining associations, the ministries, NamWater. We all need to sit around and look at water supply security, water supply governance within the region and at the national level," he said.

He added that water reclamation should become a national priority to balance industrial demand, rural livelihoods and environmental protection.

"Those issues really need to be taken up," he said.

The proposal comes as Windhoek continues to rely on the Goreangab Water Reclamation Plant, a globally recognised facility that converts treated wastewater into drinking water and supplies about a quarter of the capital's potable water needs.

In 2024, the City of Windhoek approved a combined N$1.7 billion (€90 million) investment to expand its direct potable water reclamation capacity and upgrade the Gammams and Otjomuise wastewater treatment plants.

At the time, City of Windhoek spokesperson Harold Akwenye said the projects were integrated because the success of the new Direct Potable Reclamation Plant depended on expanding the city's upstream wastewater treatment infrastructure.

"It became apparent that the DPR2 project is highly reliant on the upgrading and expansion of the upstream Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gammams (GWWTP) and Otjomuise (OWWTP), to ensure supply of adequate water, both quantity and quality, for reclamation. As a result, it was decided to implement the project as one package," Akwenye told The Brief.

He said a technical feasibility study completed in 2023 found that upgrading the existing wastewater treatment plants was essential to ensure the long-term success of the new reclamation facility.

What is the state of Namibia's economic sectors: Wealth generator or wealth dispatcher

By Tio Nakasole

The chronicle surrounding the Namibian economy has experienced notable growth since independence, but in recent real GDP per capita growth has slowed, while unemployment and inequality have remained high.

This is a major indication that Namibia faces both opportunities and challenges as it seeks to unlock its growth potential and tackle socio-economic challenges such as unemployment and inequality.

Based on the World Bank data of 2025, Namibia's economy was valued at approximately US$15.08 billion, with GDP per capita reaching US$4,876.

The economy recorded a slow growth of 1.7% in 2025 as compared to 3.8% in 2024 and 4.3% in 2023. Between 2023 and 2025, Namibia's sectoral composition indicates a gradual shift toward a more service-oriented economy.

The same period experienced a decline in the primary sector from 22.9% to 21%, while the tertiary sector increased from 53% to 55% of GDP.

Since 2012 the economy has been gravitating more toward services than resource dependence. However, the reality is less flattering.

On the surface, this appeared to be a classic structural transformation. Much of the tertiary sector's gain is arithmetic rather than organic. Primary industries did not contract because agriculture or mining became less relevant, but because both sectors hit global headwinds simultaneously.

“Based on the World Bank data of 2025, Namibia's economy was valued at approximately US$15.08 billion, with GDP per capita reaching US$4,876.

The mining growth collapsed from 19.3% in 2023 to -9.4% in 2025 as a result of diamond markets buckling under weak global demand and the rise of lab-grown alternatives. In tandem, agriculture shrunk in each of the three years as a result of climate change persisting across the region.

Based on the ND-GAIN Index, Namibia is ranked 109th out of 187 countries for climate vulnerability. When your two-anchor sector retreats simultaneously, the sector left standing accounts for a larger slice of a smaller pie.

Although the tertiary sector has evolved as the engine in terms of GDP contribution, the primary and secondary sectors are missing their appropriate gear, as they are rarely managed as an integrated system.

That is critical, because growth locked inside the linkage between them may exceed what any single sector can produce. Namibia continues to leverage its rich endowment of minerals, expanding energy sector, and stable macroeconomics to influence the long-term economic transformation.

The history of development in Namibia over the last three decades has shown that our economic growth has been minimal in circumventing several problems such as income distribution inequality and unemployment.

Factors such as employment are fundamental to human life, consisting of economic and social aspects. Labour is one of the supporting economic development mechanisms in a country that aims to achieve equitable economic growth.

However, employment in Namibia has been an unsolvable problem over the years now. The duality of the labour market, combined with slow job creation and low primary sector productivity, always results in very high unemployment.

Additionally, the population increase, surpassing the number of jobs that the primary and secondary sectors could create, exacerbates the situation. As a result, when the labour market demand and the labour supply market simultaneously move in the opposite direction, it establishes a situation of a flat wage level and an unbalanced labour utilisation.

In fact, the formula to enhance a sector's performance has already been discovered a long time ago and is not something new; division of labour is important to economic growth, national income per capita tells us more about what the economic development trajectory of a country is, and technological progress increases total factor productivity.

Based on this analysis, it is possible to outline a series of policy pillars to attempt to address these challenges in an internally coherent and holistic manner.

Namibia has made significant progress when it comes to macroeconomics stabilisation, which de-risked our key sectors from external shock and market instability.

The growth agenda now should be geared at helping Namibia make the most out of its natural resources while at the same time exploring alternatives that seek to expand into a more complex economic activity.

Strategic investment in the primary sector has the potential to stimulate industries in the secondary sector, but only when it can be able to create demand for manufacturing, value addition, agro-processing, and construction activities.

At the onset, the sector remains underdeveloped relative to the primary sector’s scale. The tertiary sector is growing but insufficiently integrated with the productive economy upstream.

The oil and gas exploration projects could present employment opportunities in the services sector such as retail, trade, accommodation, and food service. However, for that to happen, citizens need to be acquainted, they must have the required skills in order to take full advantage.

With respect to labour productivity, a great emphasis should be placed on gradually increasing the matching of the skill base of what the future of these sectors is looking for.

With regard to inclusion, a comprehensive agenda should go beyond compliance and enforcement. It is because policy intent, sometimes without measurement, ends up being policy theatre. That should be actively guarded against.

Long-term economic resilience among sectors does not necessarily require the discovery of new resources but requires extracting more value from the resources already being extracted.

The sector's sustainability depends on the business environment conditions, but when investors are placed under excessive cost, compliance pressure, and uncertainty, posing risks to employment opportunities and sectoral contribution to GDP also rises as a whole.

Our policy design should support economic diversification and job creation by improving the regulatory environment, balancing local content and ownership policies with investor incentives, accelerating digitalization and e-government reforms, and aligning education programs with labour market needs to reduce skills mismatch.

The sector's sustainability depends on the conducive business environment, but when investors are placed under excessive cost, compliance pressure, and uncertainty, posing risks to employment opportunities and sectoral contribution to GDP also rises as a whole.

The agenda should be about driving that purpose at home in order for the impact to be felt by both the economy and communities.

*** Tio Nakasole, Analyst at Monasa Advisory and Associates. His insights draw from his experience in economic and policy analysis. The views expressed do not represent those of his employer. - theoerastus@gmail.com***

Mondjila appointed to lead Daures Green Hydrogen Village Phase 2

. . . Jerome Namaseb steps down as CEO

The Daures Green Hydrogen Village (DGHV) has appointed Mondjila Project Management and Advisory to oversee the planning, development and implementation of the project's second phase, as the green hydrogen initiative moves from pilot operations to commercial-scale production.

The appointment comes as the project prepares to develop a 70-megawatt production facility capable of producing more than 80,000 tonnes of low-carbon ammonia fertiliser annually, marking its transition from proof of concept to industrial-scale development.

DGHV said Mondjila has been tasked with ensuring Phase 2 remains focused on its long-term industrial and commercial objectives as project planning and execution gather pace.

"In support of the next phase, Mondjila Project Management and Advisory has been mandated to assist with the planning, development and implementation of Phase 2 activities, ensuring the project remains focused on its long-term industrial and commercial objectives," the project said.

The second phase is expected to significantly expand Namibia's green hydrogen value chain while supporting the country's green industrialisation strategy, food security objectives and broader economic development through the large-scale production of low-carbon ammonia fertiliser.

Located on approximately 15,000 hectares in the Daures Constituency of the Erongo Region, the Daures Green Hydrogen Village was established to demonstrate a zero-carbon circular economy by integrating renewable energy generation, green hydrogen production and sustainable agriculture.

According to the project, Phase 1 successfully demonstrated the technical and commercial viability of producing green hydrogen and green ammonia using Namibia's abundant renewable energy resources, paving the way for industrial-scale expansion.

The appointment also coincides with changes to the project's leadership as it enters its next stage of development.

Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Jerome Namaseb has stepped down from the executive role to become Chairperson of the Board, where he will provide strategic leadership and governance oversight during the commercialisation phase.

Board member Martin Nambundunga has been appointed interim Chief Executive Officer while the project recruits a permanent CEO to lead day-to-day operations, strengthen commercial partnerships and oversee the transition to industrial-scale production. DGHV said it remains committed to positioning Namibia as a leading participant in the global green industrialisation economy while creating sustainable opportunities for local communities, agriculture and industry.

Property Hub NAMIBIA

Namibians are choosing to improve their homes rather than build new ones

As economic conditions continue to shape household spending decisions, Windhoek residents are increasingly choosing to invest in improving existing homes instead of embarking on entirely new developments.

The latest Building Plans Report for June 2026, compiled by IJG Securities using data from the City of Windhoek, points to a growing appetite for property additions and renovations, suggesting that homeowners remain willing to invest in their properties despite broader economic pressures.

During June, the City approved 142 plans for additions to existing properties, with a combined value of N$107.1 million. This represented a 35.2% increase in the number of additions approved compared to May, while the value of those approvals more than doubled, rising by 107.1% month-on-month. Compared to June 2025, the value of approved additions was 188.2% higher, reflecting significantly larger investments in improving existing properties.

The trend has also become evident over the course of the year. During the first six months of 2026, the City approved 736 property additions, representing a 4.7% increase in volume and a 15.3% increase in value compared to the same period last year.

While new residential developments continue to form part of Windhoek's growth story, the report suggests that many households are prioritising extending, upgrading or modernising existing homes rather than relocating or constructing entirely new ones.

This is reflected in residential approvals, which rose to 30 units in June. Although approvals increased by 7.1% from May and were 30.4% higher than a year earlier, the total value of approved residential projects remained relatively unchanged on a year-to-date basis, increasing by just 2.2% to N$341.6 million. According to the report, 173 residential units were approved during the first half of the year, representing a 21.8% increase in volume over the corresponding period in 2025.

For homeowners, investing in additions often reflects changing family needs or a desire to improve the value of an existing asset. Extra bedrooms, home offices, rental flats and entertainment areas have become common ways of making better use of existing properties without the higher cost and complexity associated with purchasing land and constructing entirely new homes.

The trend also carries broader economic significance. Home improvements support a wide range of industries, including contractors, architects, plumbers, electricians, hardware suppliers, furniture retailers and manufacturers of building materials. Increased spending on renovations therefore contributes to economic activity beyond the property sector itself.

However, the report also highlights a challenge facing the broader construction industry. Although building approvals recovered strongly in June, project completions remain well below last year's levels. During the first six months of 2026, completed building projects declined by 40.4%in number and 16.0% in value compared with the same period in 2025. IJG Securities says this growing gap between approvals and completions points to delays in project execution rather than a lack of development interest.

The research further notes that subdued private sector credit extension and weaker demand for mortgage financing continue to weigh on construction activity. Even so, the resilience shown in home improvement spending suggests that many property owners remain committed to maintaining and enhancing the value of their biggest asset.

While large commercial developments may fluctuate with economic cycles, the steady rise in investment in existing homes points to a more personal story unfolding across Windhoek—one where homeowners are choosing to build onto what they already have, strengthening both their properties and their long-term investment.


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