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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Govt calls for urgent changes to home loan rules

MONDAY 08 JUNE 2026

MAIN STORY



Govt calls for urgent changes to home loan rules

Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare has called for urgent reforms to Namibia's housing finance system, arguing that current lending models are making homeownership increasingly unaffordable for many young Namibians.

Ngurare expressed concern over the widening gap between property prices and the ability of ordinary citizens to purchase homes.

He questioned why vehicles worth millions

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
 - * 17 June 2026
 - * 12 August 2026
 - * 29 October 2026
 - * 10 December 2026
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek**

of dollars can be financed over relatively short periods, while houses of similar or lower value often require repayment periods of up to 20 years.

The Prime Minister said many young professionals struggle to understand the rationale behind the current financing structure.

"I am speaking from a generation that you all know very well, the young professionals out there who are saying it does not mathematically add up. A car costing N\$2 million can be paid off in five or six years, but a house valued at N\$800,000 can take 20 years to repay. No matter the English we use, it is very difficult to convince those who are saying it is not fair," he said.

Ngurare directed his remarks to Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta, recalling recent discussions between the two on the issue and stressing the need for further engagement with commercial banks.

He praised the governor's role in maintaining macroeconomic stability but said discussions on housing affordability must continue.

"My appreciation also goes to the Governor of the Bank of Namibia, whose economic stewardship provides the macroeconomic foundation upon which our physical plans must be built. Our conversation is not complete yet. We must still meet with the CEOs of commercial banks and discuss the time it takes for houses to be paid compared to the time it takes for cars to be paid," he said.

The Prime Minister urged the Bank of Namibia, commercial banks and other financial institutions to review existing housing finance models and identify mechanisms that could make homeownership more affordable and accessible, particularly for first-time buyers and young people entering the property market.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah welcomed the proposal and called for collaboration between the Bank of Namibia, the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Prime Minister and commercial banks to explore potential reforms.

Ngurare also highlighted government's broader commitment to addressing housing and sanitation challenges, describing both as urgent national priorities.

He revealed that President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah had recently held discussions on the country's housing shortage and sanitation challenges, with the issues also receiving attention from disaster risk management structures.

"The President recently had a conversation on the lack of housing and sanitation as an emergency. Government is very serious about housing and very serious about sanitation, and will come through with that," he said.

According to the Bank of Namibia, around 70% of Namibians can no longer afford formal housing, as soaring property prices, weak income growth and limited access to mortgage finance continue to place homeownership beyond the reach of most households.

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BoN warns demand for government bonds is declining

Investor demand for Namibian government bonds is weakening, raising concerns over the state's ability to continue financing widening budget deficits through domestic borrowing, Bank of Namibia Governor Ebsen Uaguta has warned.

Speaking during a fiscal outlook presentation, Uaguta said Namibia's domestic capital market has historically provided strong support for government borrowing, with bond auctions regularly

attracting demand far in excess of the amounts on offer.

However, he warned that investor appetite for government securities has cooled significantly, increasing the risk that future borrowing requirements may not be fully funded through the local market.

"In the past, when the government issued securities to borrow money, we oversubscribed five-fold. If we wanted N\$1 billion, investors offered N\$5 billion. Today, that appetite has cooled significantly. This

suggests that the private sector's willingness to lend to the government is declining. If we do not implement reforms, we risk a situation where there is no demand for government securities at all," Unguta said.

The warning comes as Namibia's public debt has climbed above 65% of gross domestic product (GDP), well above the government's 50% debt benchmark.

Authorities have previously cautioned that, without corrective measures, the country's debt burden could approach or exceed 70% of GDP in the coming years.

Unguta said the weakening demand for government debt underscores the need for urgent fiscal reforms and tighter expenditure controls.

He urged government to reassess spending priorities, direct resources towards high-impact development projects and postpone lower-priority expenditure to improve fiscal sustainability.

The Governor attributed the country's fiscal pressures to sluggish economic growth, limited expansion in domestic revenue sources and volatility in receipts from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), while government spending remains elevated.

The warning comes at a time when Namibia faces a range of domestic and external risks that could further strain public finances and economic growth.

"Now, the domestic economy outlook remains subject to several downside risks from both external and domestic developments. Regionally,

the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in neighbouring countries, particularly in Botswana and South Africa, poses a risk to livestock production and export earnings. Globally, ongoing geopolitical tensions, as well as evolving United States policies, may contribute to volatility in commodity prices, the exchange rate, and also the cost of key imported inputs, such as food," Unguta said.

The remarks add to growing concerns over Namibia's fiscal position as government continues to balance rising spending demands against slower revenue growth and increasing debt-servicing obligations.

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CLOSING DATE: 15 June 2026



Namibia needs to save N\$2.3 billion annually to stabilise public finances

The government will need to generate annual savings of approximately N\$2.3 billion over the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period if it is to stabilise public finances and place Namibia's debt on a



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sustainable trajectory, Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare has warned.

Speaking at the official opening of the 2026/27 Budget Reform Roll-Out Workshop on Monday, Ngurare said the country's public debt has reached N\$174.6 billion, equivalent to 65.2% of gross domestic product (GDP), while the fiscal deficit is projected at 5.5% of GDP during the current financial year.

He said government remains committed to reducing the fiscal deficit to 3.3% of GDP by the 2028/29 financial year, but cautioned that achieving this objective would require strict expenditure controls across the public sector.

"The debt trajectory, on one hand, requires N\$2.3 billion in annual savings during the current MTEF period to come from expenditure restraint; these savings must therefore be identified early, protected during execution, and safeguarded against slippages," Ngurare said.

The Prime Minister stressed that spending cuts alone would not be sufficient to restore fiscal sustainability and argued that consolidation efforts must be accompanied by stronger economic growth and more effective public investment.


He called on government institutions to prioritise capital projects that boost productivity, attract private sector investment and improve service delivery.

Ngurare also warned against redirecting

funds earmarked for development projects towards recurrent expenditure, saying such practices undermine long-term economic growth and weaken government's ability to address fiscal pressures.

"This means directing scarce resources toward projects that raise productivity, crowd in private investment, expand economic opportunity, and improve service delivery. In other words, fiscal consolidation and development are not competing objectives. When we protect capital expenditure, improve project selection, and ensure timely execution, we support growth, widen the future revenue base, and make debt reduction more achievable and more credible," he said.

The remarks come as government intensifies efforts to restore fiscal discipline amid rising debt levels and growing pressure on public finances.



BID INVITATION

NamWater is inviting registered and reputable firms to submit bids for the following procurement.

Reference Number	Description	Non-Compulsory Pre-Bid meeting	Restriction: Section (29) (1)(b)	Non-refundable Document Levy	Last day for clarification request	Closing Date
NCS/EOI/NW-001/2027	Expression of Interest for the Invitation to Reputable Entities for the Development, Operation and Management of Tourism and Recreational Facilities at Selected NamWater Dams	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Free	09 July 2026	28 July 2026 at 11h00

Bidding documents will be available as of **29 May 2026**, on request at bids@namwater.com.na by forwarding Proof of Payment. Free bidding documents can be downloaded from www.namwater.com.na.

All prospective bidders who wish to do business with NamWater will be subject to the Public Procurement Act No 15 of 2015 as amended, Public Procurement Regulations 2017 and other directives issued under it.

Documents should be delivered to: The Quotation/Bid Box
 Namibia Water Corporation Ltd.
 176 Iscor Street, NamWater Head Office, Aigams Building,
 Windhoek

Enquiries:
 The Procurement Management Unit
 Fax : (+264 61) 21 0741
 Email : bids@namwater.com.na

NB: Please note that all enquiries should be made in writing.

The microlender trap: Why Namibian banks are punishing speed and sense

By Dawid Shikongo

Imagine this, it is 3:00 PM on a Thursday. Your geyser bursts, flooding your bedroom in Windhoek's Khomasdal suburb.

Your child needs school fees by Monday, or they cannot write their exams. Or perhaps a medical emergency has arisen, and your medical aid has refused to cover a critical procedure.

You do not have three to five working days to wait. You need cash now.

So, you turn to a microlender. You take out a short-term loan of N\$5,000 at a higher interest rate, fully aware of the cost, because the application takes twenty minutes and the cash lands in your account within the hour. You solve your crisis.

Three months later, you go to your traditional bank, say, FNB, Nedbank, or Bank Windhoek and this is to apply for a consolidation loan or a small personal loan to breathe easier. Your credit record is spotless. Your disposable income is healthy. You have never defaulted on a debt in your life.

Then comes the rejection letter. The reason? "Adverse credit record due to existing microlender exposure." Laughable right?

You have a microlender loan precisely because your bank was too slow to help you. And now, because you sought speed in an emergency, the bank is calling you a pariah.

This is not a logical risk assessment. It is



If Namibia is to achieve its development ambitions, it must ensure decisions are guided by integrated, reliable, and actionable data.

financial hypocrisy.

The Logic Gap

Let us be clear about what is happening in Namibia. Traditional banks have long argued that a client with a microlender loan is a "high-risk" client. Their reasoning is that microlenders charge exorbitant interest rates (often up to 30%), and therefore, if you were desperate enough to accept those terms, you must be financially unstable.

But that argument collapses under the slightest scrutiny.

First, desperation, is not default. A person taking a microlender loan to cover a two week cash flow gap is not the same as a chronic over-indebted spender. In Namibia's economy, where salaries often run out before month-end and emergencies don't wait for payroll, microlenders serve a legitimate function which is speed.

Second, disposable income does not

disappear. Many Namibians rejected by banks for having a microlender loan actually have more than enough net income to service a bank loan. They are not being turned away because they cannot afford the repayment. They are being turned away because of a label.

One client, a government employee from Ongwediva with a clean 10-year credit record, was recently declined a N\$20,000 bank loan because of an outstanding N\$3,000 microlender balance. His monthly disposable income after expenses was N\$8,500. The math worked. The system did not.

The Punishment Cycle

What is worse is the perverse cycle this creates.

The client needed cash quickly. The bank took six days to return a “we’re still processing” message. The client went to a microlender. Now the bank says, “We won’t touch you because you went to a microlender.”

So the client is stuck. They cannot refinance the high-interest microlender loan into a cheaper bank loan. They cannot consolidate their debt. They remain trapped paying 30% interest to the microlender, when they could have been paying 12% to the bank.

The bank, ironically, loses a profitable client. The client loses financial freedom. And the microlender wins another month of high interest.

This is not prudent lending. This is lazy underwriting.

A Wrong Approach That Must End

Banks in Namibia are sophisticated institutions. They have access to bank statements, Payslip data, Namfisa credit bureau reports, and real-time income verification. They can see exactly how much

disposable income a client has after the microlender payment is made.

So why is a microlender loan treated as an automatic disqualifier?

The honest answer is institutional rigidity. Most bank credit scorecards are built on outdated models that label any non-bank lender as “sub-prime.” The models do not distinguish between a client who has six runaway microloans and a client who has one microloan taken three months ago for a funeral or an emergency car repair.

This is a uniquely Namibian problem because of our geography and income cycle. In rural areas like the Zambezi or Kunene regions, bank branches are hours away. Internet banking is unreliable. A farmer or a teacher cannot wait five days for a loan decision. Microlenders are the only practical option.

Yet those same rural clients are then blacklisted by the very banks that failed to serve them.

What Needs to Change

It is time for the Bank of Namibia and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) to step in. A directive is needed, Banks must assess affordability, not origin.

A microlender loan should be treated as simply another liability, no different from a store card or a car loan. If the client’s debt-to-income ratio is healthy and their payment history is perfect, the source of the debt should be irrelevant.

Furthermore, banks should be required to offer “switching loans” products specifically designed to allow clients to pay off a microlender loan and move the balance onto a lower-interest bank loan. That would be actual financial inclusion, not the pretence of it.

The Bottom Line

Namibian consumers are not stupid. They know microlenders are expensive. They use them not out of ignorance, but out of necessity. When a burst pipe or a hospital bill cannot wait for a bank’s “five to seven business day” approval, the microlender is the only lifeline.

To penalize that decision, to call it a mark of financial irresponsibility is to misunderstand the reality of life in Namibia. It is time for banks to stop looking at where the loan came from and start looking at whether the client can pay it back. Until then, they are not protecting themselves from risk.

They are simply punishing speed and common sense.

** Dawid Shikongo in his personal capacity. I began my banking career in 2014 at FNB Namibia in Katima*

Mulilo as a Bulk Teller and Foreign Exchange Consultant. Over the years, I steadily progressed through increasingly senior roles: Multi-Skilled Consultant, Internal Auditor at FirstRand, Branch Operations Manager at FNB, and then Foreign Exchange Specialist at RMB Namibia, where I helped establish the FNB Forex Desk.

In 2024, I became Head of Retail Operations at FNB Namibia, a role I held until February 2025. Since February 2025, I have been serving as Head of Retail and SME Banking at Access Bank Namibia.

My journey has taken me from teller to executive, across treasury, audit, operations, and retail banking leadership. I have 12 years banking experience.

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Govt to review public service job grades and digitise recruitment

Government is preparing a comprehensive review of public service job categories and grading structures as part of broader reforms aimed at modernising the civil service, improving staff retention and digitising recruitment processes.

The reforms were discussed during a stakeholder engagement between the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Ministry of Information and

Communication Technology (MICT), where concerns were raised about the loss of skilled professionals due to outdated grading structures.

Deputy Executive Director in the Department of Public Service Management Joyce Mukubi confirmed that an advanced Cabinet submission has been prepared for a review of public service job categories.

MICT Executive Director Linda Aipinge-Nakale during the meeting, raised concerns

that specialised positions such as sound technicians, photographers, graphic designers, videographers and information officers remain graded at levels nine and eleven despite growing technical demands and market competition.

She warned that the current grading system is contributing to the loss of skilled personnel as government struggles to compete with private sector remuneration.

The planned review is expected to assess whether existing job categories and salary grades remain aligned with the skills requirements of a modern public service.

The reforms will also extend to the recruitment process, with the Public Service Commission looking to digitise government hiring systems.

The commission is exploring the automation of recruitment processes to improve efficiency, transparency and fairness in the appointment of public servants.

Currently, applications for government vacancies are processed manually and require the physical submission of documents.

Under the proposed system, applicants would be able to submit applications electronically, reducing administrative delays and improving access to employment opportunities.

The commission is also considering the

automation of internal human resource functions, including leave applications and other administrative processes.

The move forms part of broader efforts to modernise human resource management across government institutions.

The reforms come as Namibia's public service continues to expand.

According to the commission, the public service workforce increased to 118,936 employees as at 31 December 2025, up from approximately 107,000 civil servants catered for under the public wage bill in 2024.

The engagement between the PSC and MICT also addressed employee wellness programmes and compliance with statutory obligations involving the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF), the Social Security Commission and the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS).

Information and Communication Technology Minister Emma Theofelus further called for urgent structural reforms to enable government to recruit cybersecurity specialists as digital threats become increasingly sophisticated.

She said closer collaboration between the Public Service Commission and government ministries is essential to building a public service that is responsive to citizens' needs and fit for purpose.

The graphic is a promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF'. It features a central QR code with the text 'SCAN HERE' to its left. Below the QR code is the text 'for Daily Namibian News' with a WhatsApp icon. To the right of the QR code is the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL' in large, bold letters. The top right corner displays 'THE BRIEF' in large blue letters with the tagline 'News Worth knowing' below it. The background is light blue with faint icons of various professions and symbols. On the left side, there is a red Adobe PDF icon with the text 'Daily PDF version sent via email'. Below this are social media handles for Facebook (@thebrieflive), LinkedIn (@thebrieflive.nam), and Twitter (@TheBriefLive). At the top, the word 'Finance' is written above a blue circle containing a bar chart icon, and 'Business' is written above a blue circle containing a magnifying glass icon over a bar chart.

Leonard Hamunyela appointed Head of Enterprise Banking at FNB Namibia Commercial

FNB Namibia Commercial has appointed Leonard Hamunyela as Head of Enterprise Banking with effect from 1 June 2026.

Hamunyela joins the role from RMB Namibia, where he served as Senior Transactor in the Investment Banking Division, leading the origination, structuring and execution of financing transactions across the infrastructure, energy, sovereign, public sector and corporate sectors.

In his new position, he will lead FNB Namibia Commercial's Enterprise Banking segment, with responsibility for driving growth initiatives, strengthening client relationships and supporting the expansion of the bank's commercial banking business.

FNB Namibia Commercial CEO Philip Chapman said Hamunyela's appointment reflects the bank's focus on strengthening its leadership capabilities.

"Leonard's appointment reflects our commitment to strengthening our leadership capability with individuals who understand both the evolving needs of Namibian businesses and the broader financial landscape. His extensive experience across investment banking, structured finance, treasury, and strategic business development positions him well to lead our Enterprise Banking segment into its next phase of growth," Chapman said.

"We are excited to welcome him into this important leadership role and look forward to the value he will continue to bring to our clients and the broader economy."

During his time at RMB Namibia, Hamunyela was involved in several major financing transactions, including sovereign and infrastructure financings, renewable



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We are excited to welcome him into this important leadership role and look forward to the value he will continue to bring to our clients and the broader economy.

energy projects, oil and gas transactions, commercial property financings and structured corporate lending facilities.

Commenting on his appointment, Hamunyela said he was looking forward to supporting businesses operating in an increasingly complex economic environment.

"I am honoured to take on this role at a time when businesses across Namibia are navigating both opportunities and challenges in a rapidly changing environment. FNB Namibia Commercial has a strong track record of supporting enterprise growth and innovation, and I look forward to working alongside a talented team to deepen client partnerships, unlock growth opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to the development of Namibia's

commercial sector," he said.

Hamunyela is a Chartered Accountant, holding both CA(SA) and CA(NAM) designations. He holds a Bachelor of Honours degree in Chartered Accountancy from North-West University and a Bachelor of Accounting degree, awarded cum laude, from the University of Namibia.

Prior to joining RMB Namibia, he held leadership positions within FirstRand Namibia and NamibRe, where he gained experience in treasury finance, balance sheet management, investment management, strategic business development and risk governance.

He also previously worked at PwC's Financial Services division, providing assurance services to banks, insurers and asset managers in Namibia and South Africa.

Starlink yet to challenge Namibia licence rejection as 624 seek reversal

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) says Starlink Internet Services Namibia has not submitted a request for reconsideration following the rejection of its telecommunications and spectrum licence applications, despite the regulator receiving 624 petitions challenging the decision.

CRAN Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations, Mufaro Nesongano, said all 624 reconsideration applications were submitted by members of the public and other interested stakeholders after the regulator declined Starlink Namibia's licence applications in March 2026.

"We also clarify that no application for reconsideration has been received from Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd itself, only from members of the public aggrieved by the decision," said Nesongano.

He said the regulator would assess all submissions in accordance with the Communications Act and established regulatory procedures.

"CRAN acknowledges the public interest in this matter and wishes to assure all stakeholders that the reconsideration applications received will be handled through the established legal and regulatory processes," he said.

CRAN rejected Starlink Namibia's application for a Class Comprehensive

Telecommunications Service Licence, covering electronic communications services (ECS) and electronic communications network services (ECNS), as well as an associated spectrum licence for satellite services.

The decision was published in the Government Gazette on 23 March 2026.

"The Authority resolved to decline the award of a Class Comprehensive Telecommunications Service Licence (ECS and ECNS) to Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd. The Authority further resolved to decline the award of a Spectrum Licence for the provision of satellite services," the Gazette notice stated.

According to the application documents, Starlink Internet Services Namibia was incorporated in the United States and did not include Namibian shareholding or locally controlled ownership structures.

The proposed service would have used designated radio frequency bands to provide fixed satellite communications services across Namibia.

CRAN noted that Section 31 of the Communications Act allows the Authority to reconsider a licensing decision within 90 days, either on its own initiative or following a petition from an aggrieved party.

Nesongano said further communication would be issued once the reconsideration process had been completed.



Eight ministries to account for impact of public spending

Eight government ministries will be required to prove the impact of their spending under a new outcome-based budgeting system being rolled out by government as part of efforts to strengthen accountability and improve service delivery.

The pilot programme, which will begin in the second quarter of 2026, will require participating ministries to submit outcome-based budget reports to the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission.

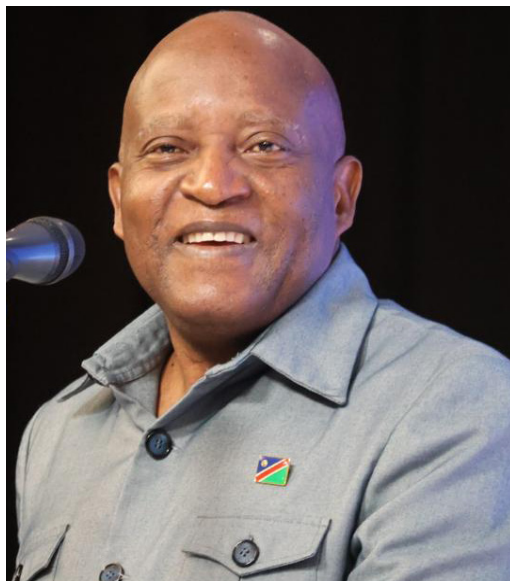
Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare said the reports would be closely scrutinised.

"By the second quarter of 2026, I anticipate that the participating OMAs, as previously mentioned, will submit their initial outcome-based budget reports to the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission. I will be paying close attention to those reports," Ngurare said during the official opening of the 2026/27 Budget Reform Roll-Out Workshop.

The initiative forms part of government's transition to Outcome-Based Budgeting (OBB), a framework designed to measure performance based on results achieved rather than expenditure levels.

Under the new system, ministries will be expected to demonstrate how budget allocations contribute to improved public services, economic development and better living standards.

The pilot phase will involve the Ministries of Education, Innovation, Arts and Culture; Health and Social Services; Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security; Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform; Finance; Industrialisation, Mines



and Energy; Environment, Forestry and Tourism; and Works and Transport.

Government intends to use the pilot programme to test the effectiveness of the framework before expanding it to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs).

"Moving forward, the implementation will encompass the remaining OMAs from 2027/28, aiming to complete the process within the current MTEF period (2026/27 - 2028/29)," Ngurare said.

The Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission will oversee the implementation process, review submitted reports and monitor compliance.

The reform is expected to reshape public sector performance management by placing greater emphasis on measurable outcomes and ensuring that public spending delivers tangible benefits to citizens.



Bannerman appoints Cirrus Securities as new NSX sponsor

Dual-listed uranium developer Bannerman Energy Ltd has appointed Cirrus Securities as its new sponsor on the Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX), replacing IJG Securities with immediate effect.

The company announced that the change took effect on 5 June 2026 and forms part of a rotation of sponsorship responsibilities for its equity dual listing on the NSX.

The appointment was made in accordance with the NSX Listings Requirements governing listed companies.

Cirrus Securities, a member of the Namibia Securities Exchange, will now serve as the company's NSX sponsor, providing regulatory and advisory support relating to its listing obligations on the local

bourse.

Bannerman said IJG Securities had stepped down from the role after serving as the company's NSX sponsor during its tenure.

The change does not affect Bannerman's operations or its listing status on either the NSX or the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), where the company is primarily listed.

Bannerman is advancing its flagship Etango Uranium Project in Namibia, one of the world's largest undeveloped uranium projects, and is targeting first production in 2028 following the recent conclusion of a strategic investment agreement with China National Nuclear Corporation's overseas subsidiary.



Govt commits additional N\$25m for nationwide rollout of computerised licence testing

The government plans to invest an additional N\$25 million to roll out a computerised learner licence testing system and digital booking platform to all 43 NaTIS centres nationwide, following an initial investment of approximately N\$1.2 million in the pilot project at the Okahandja NaTIS Centre.

The planned investment follows the official launch of the Computerised Learner's Licence Testing Method and Book & Pay System at the Okahandja NaTIS Centre on Monday, where 450 applicants have already been assessed during the first two weeks of operation.

Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi said the nationwide rollout would include 288 testing units.

"An additional N\$25 million will be invested to implement this system at all 43 NaTIS centres countrywide with 288

testing units," Nekundi said.

The new system replaces paper-based learner licence testing with a standardised computerised platform designed to improve security, reduce fraud and enhance efficiency in the licensing process.

According to Nekundi, the initiative forms part of broader efforts to modernise Namibia's transport sector and strengthen the integrity of the licensing system.

"This initiative introduces a secure, standardised computerised testing system nationwide. It will prevent paper-based test leakages, deliver instant results, expand daily testing capacity, and strengthen data security and system integrity," he said.

The first phase at the Okahandja NaTIS Centre currently offers four testing sessions per day, with a capacity of 18 applicants per session.

Government has already invested

This initiative introduces a secure, standardised computerised testing system nationwide. It will prevent paper-based test leakages, deliver instant results, expand daily testing capacity, and strengthen data security and system integrity.

approximately N\$1.2 million in the pilot implementation at the centre.

"So far, 450 applicants have been assessed, with a current pass rate of 14%. This is not a concern but proof that the system is restoring integrity," Nekundi said.

He said the low pass rate reflected the elimination of leaked examination papers and a greater emphasis on applicants demonstrating genuine knowledge of traffic laws and road safety regulations.

"Without leaked papers, applicants must now demonstrate genuine knowledge of road rules and traffic regulations. That is how we build safer roads," he said.

The rollout will next be extended to Gobabis, Karibib and Keetmanshoop before being progressively introduced at all NaTIS centres by March 2027.

Roads Authority board chairperson Martins Kambulu said the system incorporates several anti-fraud measures, including webcam monitoring, biometric

verification and randomised test structures.

"These measures include webcam monitoring during examinations, random biometric verification to confirm the identity of applicants, randomisation of test questions and test structures, strict time limitations, and restricted system access and enhanced security controls," Kambulu said.

The Roads Authority said applicants will now receive their test results immediately after completing their examinations, reducing delays associated with manual marking.

Kambulu said the introduction of the Book & Pay System would also reduce queues and improve public access to licensing services through digital booking and payment options.

"Through digital booking and payment capabilities, we are reducing queues, improving turnaround times, and offering customers a more efficient and user-friendly experience," he said.



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PM proposes food processing factories in all regions to boost value addition

Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare has proposed the establishment of agro-processing factories in every region of Namibia, tailored to local resources and economic strengths, as part of efforts to boost value addition, industrialisation and job creation.

Ngurare made the proposal while delivering the keynote address at the Nkurenkuru Expo 2026 Gala Dinner in the Kavango West Region on 6 June, where he argued that regional development should be driven by industries aligned to each area's comparative advantages.

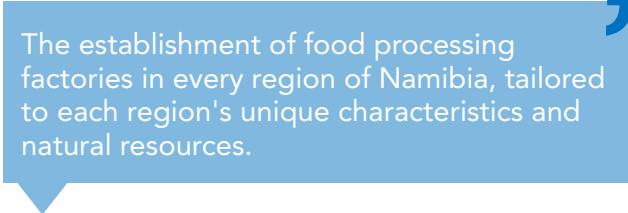
"The establishment of food processing factories in every region of Namibia, tailored

to each region's unique characteristics and natural resources," said Ngurare.

He said decentralised agro-processing would help unlock economic opportunities across the country while ensuring that regions contribute more directly to national production and industrial development.

The Prime Minister also called for the accelerated decentralisation of government institutions that continue to serve Kavango West from neighbouring regions.

"Institutions that continue to serve the people of Kavango West from neighbouring regions should accelerate the decentralisation of their operations, bringing services closer to the communities



The establishment of food processing factories in every region of Namibia, tailored to each region's unique characteristics and natural resources.

they serve," he said.

Ngurare said Namibia's regional development agenda must be underpinned by investments in infrastructure, agro-processing, tourism, renewable energy and manufacturing, adding that the country's economic potential must be translated into productive industries and employment opportunities.

He further stressed that sustainable regional growth would require stronger collaboration between government, the private sector and development partners to expand investment and create jobs, particularly in rural areas.

His remarks come as Namibia's Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) identifies agro-processing as a key pillar of the country's industrialisation strategy.

Under the plan, the sector's contribution to gross domestic product is expected to increase from 7.5% to 10% by 2030. Agro-processing currently accounts for about 70% of Namibia's manufacturing output.

NDP6 also targets a reduction in post-harvest losses from 24% to 15% by 2030, while local horticultural production is expected to rise from 47% to 60%. Agro-processed exports are projected to increase from N\$1.3 million to N\$5 million over the same period.

The development plan advocates a shift away from exporting raw agricultural commodities towards higher-value processed products for both domestic and export markets. The strategy is aimed at improving food security, increasing productivity and reducing Namibia's dependence on imports.

However, NDP6 notes that the sector continues to face structural constraints, including limited processing capacity and a heavy reliance on imported horticultural products.

Namibia imports horticultural products worth approximately N\$534 million annually, compared to local agro-processed output valued at N\$124 million.



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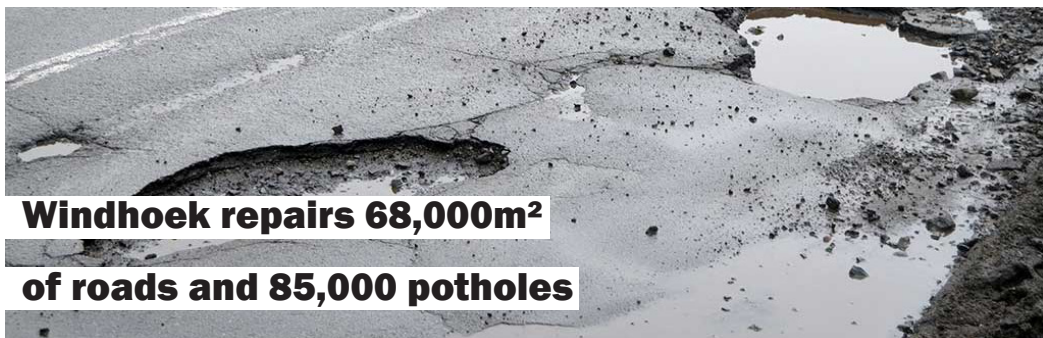
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Windhoek repairs 68,000m² of roads and 85,000 potholes

The City of Windhoek repaired more than 85,000 potholes and rehabilitated nearly 69,000 square metres of damaged road surfaces over the past 16 months, as the municipality continues to battle a growing maintenance backlog and funding shortfalls.

Mayor Sakaria Uunona revealed that 85,074 medium-sized potholes and 68,765 square metres of large-scale patchwork repairs were completed between 1 February 2025 and 31 May 2026.

The repairs were carried out across various suburbs under the city's scheduled road maintenance programme.

"Contractors have been appointed in line with the Public Procurement Act, ensuring compliance and transparency in the repair programme," Uunona said during the fifth ordinary council meeting.

The latest figures underscore the scale of infrastructure challenges facing the capital following extensive road damage caused by the 2024/25 rainy season.

According to the municipality, approximately 650 streets were affected, creating a substantial repair backlog and placing additional pressure on already constrained maintenance budgets.

Despite the progress, the city continues to face a significant funding gap. Uunona said Windhoek requires approximately N\$384 million annually for routine road maintenance, excluding an additional N\$353 million needed to repair rain-related damage.

"As reported on previous occasions

in this August House, the city requires approximately N\$384 million annually for road maintenance, for which no revenue is collected from road users by means of tariffs or levies," he said.

The mayor further noted that the municipality receives only between 5% and 10% of the support it requires from the Road Fund Administration, despite maintaining roads heavily utilised by motorists.

Municipal officials argue that maintaining the city's road network is essential not only for commuter safety but also for economic activity, logistics and trade.

"The programme is implemented across suburbs according to scheduled timeframes, ensuring equitable service delivery," Uunona said.

Beyond road repairs, the city is also investing in waste management infrastructure.

A total of 35 skip containers were procured in January 2026, with five allocated to Havana. The municipality plans to acquire a further 50 skips in the next financial year, including 20 earmarked for Havana.

The City of Windhoek believes the combined investment in road infrastructure and waste management will improve service delivery, reduce operational bottlenecks and support economic activity across the capital.

However, with road maintenance needs continuing to outpace available funding, the municipality faces an ongoing challenge to keep up with infrastructure deterioration while balancing competing service delivery priorities.

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