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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Kelp Blue harvests 730 tonnes as annual output set to nearly double

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026

MAIN STORY

Kelp Blue harvests 730 tonnes as annual output set to nearly double

Kelp Blue has harvested approximately 730 tonnes of kelp since the start of its operations at its more than 6,000-hectare site off the coast of Lüderitz and expects annual production to nearly double this year as it expands its seaweed farming activities.

Kelp Blue Deputy Operations Manager Iriya Jona said harvesting activities will continue through June before resuming later in the year.

Jona said the company had already harvested around 360 tonnes of kelp by the end of May and expects total production for 2026 to reach about 500 tonnes, nearly double last year's output.

"Regarding harvesting, to date we have harvested approximately 730 tonnes of kelp. As of the end of May this year, we had already harvested around 360 tonnes and we will continue harvesting through June before resuming again in November and December. We expect to finish the year at approximately 500 tonnes, which is nearly double last year's output," she said.

The projected increase comes as Kelp Blue expands its farm infrastructure and cultivation areas to secure sufficient biomass for future production growth.

"We plan to expand our farm because we are confident in the growth potential and want to ensure we have enough



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**

biomass for future years," Jona said.

The company is also working to improve the efficiency of kelp deployment and installation processes to reduce losses and increase productivity.

"Another priority is optimising our installation processes. The less time our kelp spends out of the water before deployment, the better. There is always a risk of loss when material remains out of the sea for extended periods," she said.

Kelp Blue is simultaneously investing in research to better understand the marine ecosystem developing around its seaweed farms.

According to Jona, the company regularly monitors species interactions within the cultivation areas, including organisms that feed on kelp and marine species that use the underwater forests as habitat.

"Our teams regularly go out to sea to collect samples and monitor activity. We are also investigating whether some of these organisms could have commercial value or be incorporated into other products," she said.

Jona noted that research conducted through the Kelp Forest Foundation has provided early insights into how the farms may support marine biodiversity.

She said one study examining lobster populations found that juvenile lobsters appear to be more common within the kelp farm than in surrounding areas.

"This is likely because younger animals benefit from the shelter provided by the kelp forest. The farm reduces wave action and creates a more protected environment," Jona said.

She said kelp forests create favourable conditions for marine life by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen through photosynthesis.

"That is why we often observe schools of fish and other marine life within the farm. The environment provides food, shelter and protection, particularly for younger organisms," she said.

Jona added that the research forms part of Kelp Blue's broader effort to build scientific understanding of large-scale kelp cultivation and its environmental impacts while supporting the development of new kelp-based products and applications.

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Namibia trades N\$13.2 billion with Africa in April

More than half of Namibia's exports and imports were traded within Africa in April 2026, highlighting the importance of regional markets and trade agreements such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The NSA reported that Namibia exported goods worth N\$5.5 billion to African countries during the month, while imports from the continent amounted to N\$7.7

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billion, resulting in total intra-African trade of N\$13.2 billion and a trade deficit of N\$2.3 billion.

According to the agency, 56.1% of Namibia's total exports were destined for African markets, while 54.7% of total imports originated from the continent.

The NSA said the figures demonstrate the significant role regional markets play in Namibia's trade.

"Intra-African trade is vital for promoting economic diversification, industrialisation and resilience by reducing dependence on external markets. Through initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and regional blocs such as the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), it enhances market access, strengthens regional value chains and supports sustainable economic growth across the continent," the agency said.

Data showed that South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe were Namibia's main export destinations within Africa during April.

On the import side, South Africa, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Morocco were the country's leading African suppliers.

The report showed that 98.9% of Namibia's exports to Africa were destined for countries in Southern Africa, with intra-SADC exports accounting for 55.5% of the country's total global exports during the month.

Similarly, 85% of goods imported from Africa

originated from SADC member states, with intra-SADC imports representing 46.5% of Namibia's total imports from the rest of the world.

By economic bloc, NSA data showed that SACU was Namibia's largest export destination, accounting for 38.2% of total export value, followed by the OECD with 24.1% and SADC countries outside SACU with 17.3%. BRIC+ and COMESA accounted for 17.3% and 16.7% respectively.

"Exports to SACU were led by non-monetary gold, while exports to OECD markets were dominated by fish, nickel ores and concentrates, and uranium. Exports to SADC countries outside SACU mainly comprised fish, fertilisers, sulphur and unroasted iron pyrites," the NSA said.

On the import side, SACU supplied 35.6% of Namibia's total imports, with major products including commercial motor vehicles, sugar, molasses and honey, and passenger motor vehicles.

Meanwhile, the OECD accounted for 18.2% of imports, followed by BRIC+ at 15.7%, the European Union at 12.3% and COMESA at 11.3%.



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NAMPOST CERTIFIED FOR SUCCESSFUL INSTANT PAYMENT PROGRAMME (IPP) GOVERNMENT-TO-PERSON (G2P) PAYMENT TRANSACTION



Abсалom Sheya, Head: Project Management Office, NamPost; Willem Mouton, Chief Operating Officer, NamPost; Marsorry Ickua, Chief Operating Officer, IPP (BoN); Eldorette Harmse, Acting Chief Executive Officer, NamPost; Rodney Shivangulula, Head: Payment Solutions; Jerome Mouton, Head: Retail Bank; and Rivan Meyer, Executive: Financial Services.

NamPost is pleased to announce the successful completion of its first transaction under the National Instant Payment Programme (IPP). This milestone marks a significant advancement in NamPost's commitment to digital transformation and financial inclusion in Namibia.

The successful certification confirms NamPost's readiness to commence Government-to-Person (G2P) payments, which will be implemented in carefully planned phases.

NamPost Acting Chief Executive Officer, Eldorette Harmse, expressed pride in NamPost's achievement as the first Namibian financial institution to complete an IPP transaction. She noted that this milestone will be followed by the development of additional use cases aimed at improving access to financial services and making them more inclusive and affordable for all Namibians.



As a trusted financial services provider and digital innovator, NamPost is committed to ensuring that this national initiative delivers substantial and lasting benefits for its customers and the nation. NamPost will continue investing in technologies and forming partnerships that enhance customer experience, improve access to financial services, and support Namibia's broader economic development goals.



Namibian accountants and auditors face tougher oversight under new regulator

... ICAN, NIPA and ACCA also to be accredited

The Namibian government is moving to place accountants, auditors and accounting technicians under a single regulator with expanded powers to inspect, investigate and discipline practitioners as part of a major overhaul of financial sector oversight.

Finance Minister Erica Shafudah on Tuesday tabled the Accountants and Auditors Regulatory Authority (AARA) Bill in the National Assembly, seeking to replace the country's 75-year-old accounting law and establish a modern regulatory framework

for the profession.

Under the Bill, accountants, auditors and accounting technicians will be required to register directly with the Accountants and Auditors Regulatory Authority (AARA) and obtain practising certificates before offering professional services.

The regulator will also be empowered to suspend or cancel registrations where professionals fail to meet the required standards.

The Authority will further gain powers to conduct inspections, perform quality

assurance reviews, investigate misconduct and enforce disciplinary measures against practitioners and firms found to be in breach of professional standards or regulatory requirements.

In a significant shift for the sector, professional bodies such as ICAN, NIPA and ACCA will themselves become subject to accreditation, supervision and potential sanctions by the Authority, introducing a new layer of oversight over institutions that have traditionally regulated their own members.

The Bill also empowers the Authority to

adopt and enforce international accounting and auditing standards, a move aimed at improving the quality, consistency and global comparability of financial reporting in Namibia.

A nine-member board will oversee the Authority, supported by a full-time chief executive officer and dedicated secretariat, while an independent Appeal Board will hear challenges to regulatory decisions.

The proposed legislation will repeal the Public Accountants' and Auditors' Act of 1951 and transform the existing Public Accountants' and Auditors' Board into the Accountants and Auditors

Regulatory Authority, an independent body with jurisdiction over individual practitioners, firms and professional bodies.

The reforms come as the government seeks to strengthen financial accountability and improve confidence in corporate and public sector financial reporting amid increasingly complex auditing and compliance requirements.

According to the government, the reforms are necessary because the existing legal framework no longer reflects the realities of the profession, which has expanded beyond traditional auditing into areas such as forensic accounting, digital financial reporting, financial data analytics and sustainability reporting.

Shafudah said the legislation would close regulatory gaps, strengthen

NOTICE



Meatco Annual General Meeting scheduled for 3 July 2026

By virtue of Section 14 (8) of the Meat Corporation of Namibia Act, Act 1 of 2001, notice is hereby given to all registered Members of the Meat Corporation of Namibia, that Meatco's 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) **for the financial period that ended 31 January 2026**, will be held on Friday, 3 July 2026, at 09:00 in Windhoek, NIPAM.

Date: Friday, 3 July 2026

Time: 09:00

Venue: NIPAM (Executive Conference Hall)

Submission of Motions:

Deadline: (09h00, 19th June 2026)

A member can submit a motion to be included on the Agenda on/or before the above mentioned date and time, either hand-delivered to Meatco Head Office, or via the e-mail below:

Attention: The Deputy Chairperson - Board of Directors

E-mail: chairperson@meatco.com.na

Hand-delivery: Meatco Head Office, 1 Simataa Khama, Northern Industrial Area, Windhoek

Consistent with Sections 13 and 14 of the Meatco Act, Act 1 of 2001, only registered Meatco Members may attend and vote at the AGM. By virtue of a resolution passed at the 37th AGM, to qualify for registration as a member of the Corporation as per Section 17(1) of the Meatco Act 2001, a Producer must at least sell one unit of livestock to the Corporation during the period immediately preceding three (3) years for Members South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (SVCF) and five (5) years for Members North of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (NVCF/NCA) from the date of which his/her membership is determined. Accordingly, SVCF Producers who were Meatco Members as of **03 July 2023**, and NCA producers who were Meatco Members as of **03 July 2021**, are eligible to register between **07:30 and 08:30** before the AGM starts.



professional accountability and bolster investor confidence in Namibia's financial reporting environment.

If passed, the Bill will create the most comprehensive regulatory framework yet

for Namibia's accounting and auditing professions, significantly expanding oversight powers while bringing all accounting practitioners under a single statutory authority.



FRANS INDONGO GROUP

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) - Vacancy

Visions Consulting was appointed by the Frans Indongo Group to independently administer the executive recruitment process in compliance with company policy and governance principles.

The Frans Indongo Group:

The Frans Indongo Group is a proudly Namibian-owned investment entity with a diversified portfolio across various sectors in Namibia. Founded by Dr. Frans Aupa Indongo, a visionary entrepreneur, the Group is built on a strong foundation of sustainable growth and long-term success.

Primary Purpose of the Job:

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO), together with the CEO and COO, is responsible for providing strategic leadership to drive financial sustainability, governance excellence and long-term value creation across the Frans Indongo Group's diversified investment portfolio. Furthermore, to oversee the effective management of the Group's financial strategy, treasury, risk, reporting and governance functions by supporting sound capital allocation, portfolio optimisation, commercial viability, regulatory compliance and stakeholder confidence, while serving as a strategic business partner to the CEO, COO, Board and Investment Committees.

Key Performance Areas:

- Strategic Financial Leadership
- Financial Management and Reporting
- Financial Control, Governance and Compliance
- Treasury, Liquidity and Capital
- Investment and Transactional Support
- Risk Management
- Information Technology Oversight
- Company Secretarial
- Leadership and Team Development

Minimum Requirements:

- A Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification or equivalent professional financial qualification
- Strong understanding of IFRS, financial governance and financial management principles
- A valid Code B Driver's License is required

Experience Required:

- Seven (7) to ten (10) years' post-articles experience, of which five (5) years should have been in a relevant commercial and/or financial leadership role.
- Experience in one or more of the following areas will be an added advantage:
 - a) Diversified group or investment holding company environments
 - b) Strategic finance, treasury and capital allocation
 - c) Financial modelling, investment evaluation and funding structures
 - d) Corporate finance activities

Application Procedure:

- A cover letter, providing a detailed motivation for the position, signed by the applicant
- An updated detailed curriculum vitae, including at least two professional references (including the name, position, organisation, email address and contact number of the reference)
- Certified copies of the highest academic qualifications attained
- Certified copies of Identity Documents and all other supporting documents
- Preference will be given to Namibian citizens
- Vetting will be conducted on all shortlisted candidates

Scan the below code or follow the link to access online applications via the recruitment portal:
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Only online applications via Visions Foresight will be accepted. No emailed or manual applications will be accepted.

Closing Date: Friday, 19 June 2026 at 16:00



Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Kindly note that submitted documents will not be returned to applicants.

Kindly note: For any technical or application-related support regarding the Foresight online platform, the Visions Helpdesk is available on workdays, Monday to Friday, during office hours (08:00 – 17:00). For assistance, please contact us on recruitment@visions.com.na



It was never just about the interest rate

Unpacking the Prime Minister, the banks, and the real reason home ownership stays out of reach for you.

By Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela



The public dispute between Prime Minister Dr Elijah Ngurure and the financial sector has exposed a fundamental question about how capital is allocated in our economy.

The core issue is not a misunderstanding of interest rates. It is a structural double standard built into the way commercial banks lend.

A young professional earning N\$45,000 a month can secure approval for a N\$1 million luxury vehicle within forty-eight hours, yet if that same professional applies to finance a home of identical value over an accelerated five-year term, the application is rejected.

The system lubricates short-term consumer debt with remarkable ease while erecting friction-heavy barriers around long-term wealth creation.

The banking sector's defence, echoed through the Bankers Association of Namibia, rests on the mathematics of central bank pricing. With the Bank of Namibia holding the repo rate at 6.50 percent, the commercial prime lending rate sits at 10.00 percent, and home loans are technically the cheapest credit available to the public because property serves as appreciating collateral.

The industry argues that the twenty-year mortgage timeline is a mechanism for access rather than a penalty, and on this point it is correct. Compressing a N\$1 million home



Vehicle finance is a high-velocity engine for retail banks because short repayment cycles allow interest to compound quickly and the book to turn over every five years.

loan into a five-year window pushes the monthly instalment above N\$21,000, and under responsible lending rules a citizen would need to earn more than N\$70,000 a month simply to qualify.

Abolish the twenty-year framework tomorrow, and the working middle class would be priced out of ownership altogether.

So far, the mathematics holds. But the defence grows quiet on the matters that deserve the most scrutiny. Commercial lenders are not, in truth, avoiding risk. They are pricing it where it is most profitable.

Vehicle finance is a high-velocity engine for retail banks because short repayment cycles allow interest to compound quickly and the book to turn over every five years.

To keep that credit flowing, lenders lean on structural mechanisms such as balloon payments, which park thirty to forty percent of the principal at the end of the term and artificially lower the monthly instalment just enough to slip beneath the consumer's financial defences and the legal debt-to-

income limits.

The bank accepts the risk of a mobile, rapidly depreciating asset because the short-term margins justify it.

The double standard is exposed most clearly in income caps and the demand for upfront capital. When assessing a vehicle loan, the retail desks are strikingly flexible, often permitting a repayment to consume a far larger share of a buyer's take-home pay on the reasoning that a car carries no rates, taxes, or structural maintenance.

But when that same buyer, on the same salary, approaches the mortgage desk, they meet an unyielding cap that limits the instalment to roughly thirty percent of gross earnings, alongside a demand for a ten to twenty percent deposit and registration and transfer fees that can easily require N\$100,000 in cash before a single key changes hands.

The vehicle buyer, by contrast, frequently drives off with nothing down, the costs simply folded into the loan.

On housing, the calculus is reversed in a way that works against the buyer. By holding property loans within the rigid twenty-year frame, a bank turns a N\$1 million asset into roughly N\$2.3 million in total repayments over the life of the loan.

The lower, prime-linked rate is something of an illusion, because it is time, not the headline rate, that does the real extraction.

The sector has little commercial incentive to design accelerated five or ten-year products for the middle class, because shortening the term would strip hundreds of thousands in interest income from the balance sheet. The friction is not a law of nature. It is a feature of the model.

This is far more important beyond any single household, because it shapes how the nation's capital is allocated, channelling money toward depreciating assets and away

from the foundation of household wealth.

And it does so at a moment of national strain. Motions before the National Assembly are urging that the urban housing shortage be declared a national emergency. Bank of Namibia figures indicate that roughly 70 percent of the population cannot afford formal housing, that around 75 percent of workers earn less than N\$5,000 a month, and that the backlog has grown to an estimated 300,000 units, even as the average urban house price has climbed past N\$1.44 million.

Hold those numbers together and the Prime Minister's frustration answers itself. If our institutions can engineer the approval of a N\$1 million vehicle loan in two days, they plainly have the capability to engineer a smoother path to property ownership. The question is whether the incentive exists to do so.

Resolving a gridlock of this scale calls for reforms that reach beyond local retail balance sheets, and we need not invent the solution from nothing.

Kenya offers the most instructive example. Faced with banks that blamed short-term deposits for their inability to lend long, the government established the Kenya Mortgage Refinance Company, a treasury-backed institution regulated by the central bank.

Rather than relying on deposits, it raises long-term funds through bonds and lends them to mortgage providers at a concessional rate of around 5 percent, on condition that the saving is passed on to homebuyers as single-digit, fixed-rate mortgages with terms of up to twenty-five years.

The effect has been to push home loan rates well below the market average, while a complementary guarantee facility absorbs early default risk so lenders can relax the rigid income caps that lock out the working class.

Singapore went further and built the

global benchmark. Through its Housing and Development Board, the state stepped around the commercial banks entirely.

Citizens contribute a portion of their salary into a national savings fund, and the Board, rather than a private bank, holds the mortgage and is repaid directly from those savings.

Because the state acts as the lender, it waives the profit margins, caps the rates, and structures accelerated timelines that let young professionals build equity within a decade, producing one of the highest home ownership rates in the world at close to 88 percent.

Namibia need not copy either model wholesale, but the lesson is plain. Where the commercial market will not deliver access, the state can build the architecture that compels or replaces it.

Closer to home, the levers are clear. The Bank of Namibia could introduce a state-backed housing guarantee fund that takes on a share of the default risk, enabling banks to soften the rigid thirty percent income cap and waive the heavy upfront deposit for first-time buyers. The relevant Ministry could pioneer direct tenant-purchase schemes that bypass commercial gatekeeping.

And if the financial sector can engineer complex balloon structures to place citizens in luxury vehicles, it can equally be required to offer a genuine wealth-building mortgage: an accelerated ten or twelve-year product with capped interest, absorbed upfront fees, and a real path to equity for the middle class.

None of this, however, helps the teacher, the nurse, or the young professional standing at the mortgage desk today, watching the door that opened so easily for a car stay firmly shut for a home.

So while the country waits for reform to catch up with reality, the power that remains sits with the individual, and there is a way

to beat the system at its own game. Sign the standard twenty-year contract to clear the bureaucratic hurdles, then override it.

By routing even a few thousand extra dollars into the home loan principal every month, you can collapse a twenty-year timeline to ten years or fewer, stripping the lender of the compound interest that was the whole point and turning a long debt into a fast-built asset.

Beyond that, guard your credit record, refuse to let an easy car loan devour the borrowing power you will need for a home, rent below your means, and invest the difference toward a deposit.

Because in the end, this debate was never about the interest rate. The enemy was never prime. It was a lending model built to fast-track the debt that drains you and to gate the debt that could free you.

The Prime Minister is right that ordinary Namibians are being failed. The banks are right about their mathematics. The truth, as always, lives in everything that sits between the two; when you understand the whole machine, you stop being a passenger in it.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute financial, investment, legal, or professional advice. Readers should not rely on this content as the sole basis for making investment decisions and are encouraged to seek independent professional advice before acting on any information contained herein.

****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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Bank of Namibia

hikes repo rate

to 6.75%

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.75%, citing rising inflationary pressures linked to higher oil prices, food costs and the need to protect the one-to-one peg between the Namibia dollar and the South African rand.

The decision, taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) during its meeting on 15 and 16 June, was in line with the expectations of economists surveyed by The Brief, who had largely forecast a 25-basis-point increase.

The move raises the prime lending rate to 10.25%.

Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta said the MPC opted for a moderate tightening of monetary policy to contain inflation risks while safeguarding macroeconomic stability.

"This policy stance is deemed appropriate to mitigate inflationary risks, support the stock of international reserves and safeguard the one-to-one link between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand," Uanguta said.

The central bank said inflation has

accelerated both globally and domestically as energy price shocks and supply chain disruptions continue to filter through economies.

Uanguta noted that South African inflation rose from 3.1% in March to 4.0% in April, while several major central banks, including the South African Reserve Bank, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan, have shifted towards tighter monetary policy.

In Namibia, headline inflation increased from 2.1% in March to 4.1% in May, driven mainly by higher transport costs resulting from rising fuel prices.

As a result, the BoN revised its inflation outlook upwards and now expects average inflation of 4.0% in 2026 before easing to 3.6% in 2027.

"The upward revision is grounded mainly on the assumption of higher oil prices," Uanguta said.

He warned that inflation risks remain tilted to the upside due to possible increases in administered prices, exchange rate

movements and any renewed escalation of conflict in the Middle East.

Despite the rate increase, the central bank acknowledged that domestic economic activity remains subdued.

Economic performance weakened during the first four months of 2026, particularly in the mining, manufacturing, tourism, electricity generation, construction and communications sectors. Agriculture, however, recorded strong growth supported by improved crop production.

The BoN expects economic growth to improve from 1.7% in 2025 to 2.6% in 2026, supported by stronger activity in uranium mining, wholesale and retail trade, financial services and public administration.

However, Unguta cautioned that geopolitical tensions, weaker global demand, the potential emergence of El Niño and water supply constraints affecting uranium mining continue to pose risks to the outlook.

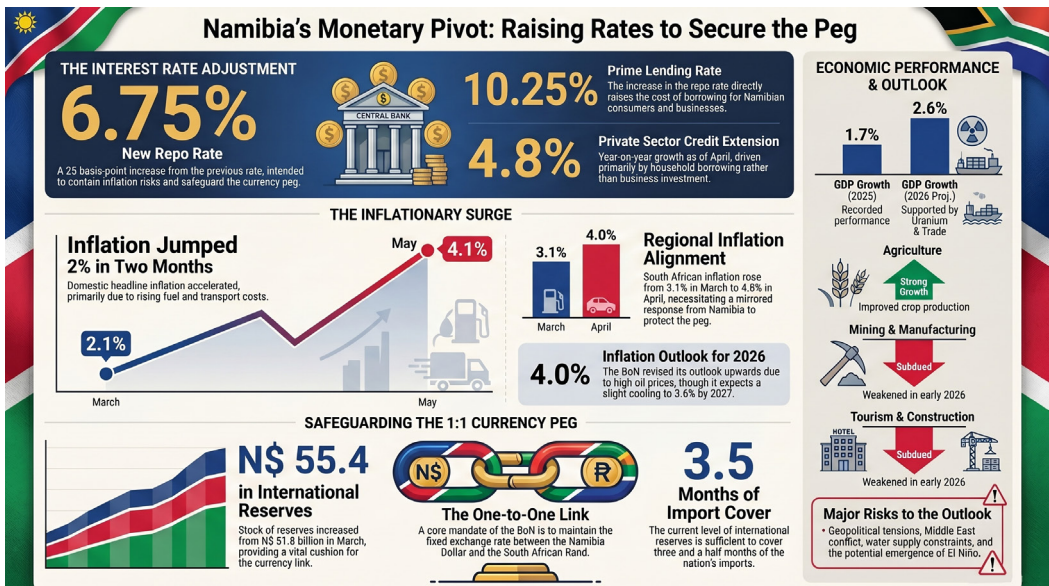
Private sector credit extension remained relatively weak despite some improvement. Credit growth increased to 4.8% year-on-

year in April, driven mainly by household borrowing, while lending to businesses moderated.

Meanwhile, Namibia's international reserves increased from N\$51.8 billion at the end of March to N\$55.4 billion at the end of May, providing 3.5 months of import cover.

"The Committee was mindful of the subdued domestic economic activity and sluggish credit extension to the private sector. In balancing these against the imperative to maintain the currency peg and mitigate second-round effects of the energy shock, a moderate tightening of monetary policy was deemed appropriate," Unguta said.

He added that the central bank would continue to monitor inflation expectations, capital flows and broader economic developments and would take further action if necessary. "The Bank of Namibia will continue to closely monitor developments and stands ready to take appropriate measures to contain second-round inflationary effects and safeguard the currency peg," Unguta said.





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Bank Windhoek processes first govt grant payments on instant payment network

Bank Windhoek has processed the first live government grant payments on Namibia's national instant payment network, marking a major milestone in the country's efforts to modernise public-sector payments and expand financial inclusion.

The first batch of Government-to-Person (G2P) payments was made to beneficiaries under the Marginalised Beneficiaries grant category on 17 June 2026, with funds made available to recipients in near real time through the instant payment system.

The rollout follows Bank Windhoek's certification as part of the first group of financial institutions participating in the Instant Payment Programme (IPP).

The bank said the successful transaction demonstrates the practical implementation of Namibia's National Payment System modernisation strategy and positions the country among the early adopters of Unified Payment Interface-enabled payment technology outside India.

The initiative is expected to improve

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The rollout follows Bank Windhoek's certification as part of the first group of financial institutions participating in the Instant Payment Programme (IPP).

access to government services and reduce reliance on cash, particularly among underserved and previously unbanked communities.

Bank Windhoek Managing Director James Chapman said the successful implementation highlighted the role technology can play in improving service delivery.

"The successful controlled go-live implementation of G2P payments demonstrates how innovation can enhance service delivery, improve accessibility and advance financial inclusion. It reinforces Bank Windhoek's commitment to shaping the future of payments in Namibia while delivering solutions that create tangible value for the people we serve," Chapman said.

Government grant payments are financial assistance funds distributed by government authorities to individuals, businesses or organisations.

According to the bank, the implementation represents the first live use case delivered by Bank Windhoek on the

national instant payment infrastructure.

The bank plans to expand the service to additional government grant categories in the coming months while continuing the broader rollout of instant payment services to individuals, businesses, merchants and other participants in the payments ecosystem.

Bank Windhoek Chief Financial Officer Zenaune Kamberipa, who also chairs the Instant Payment Programme, said the achievement marks an important step in the modernisation of Namibia's payments infrastructure.

"Bank Windhoek is honoured to contribute to the modernisation of Namibia's payments ecosystem through this historic achievement," Kamberipa said.

He also acknowledged the support of the Bank of Namibia, Instant Payment Namibia and implementation partners Finacus Solutions and Change Logic, whose collaboration helped deliver the project.

A career in politics: Purposes or poison?

By Lisa Matomola

Ever wondered what it feels like to hold the pen that literally writes the future of many? To shape laws that decide who thrives and who struggles? A career in politics promises that power, but also, consider the responsibility that comes with it.

For those driven by a burning desire to fight injustices and uplift communities, politics could provide an unmatched platform to tackle societal inequalities and improve the lives of our fellow citizens.

In Namibia, as in many nations, political roles give us the chance to amplify the voices of the unheard and craft legislation that will pave the way for a brighter future.

One of the most rewarding aspects of a political career is the ability to effect change at the highest levels. Politicians play a crucial role in crafting policies that address poverty, improve education, expand healthcare access, and promote economic growth.

Through their leadership, they transform communities, set up infrastructure, and create opportunities for marginalized populations.

Let us take Namibia as a career case study.

This is a country with diverse social and economic challenges, and dedicated political leaders have the potential to uplift rural communities, bridge economic disparities, and create inclusive growth.

By listening to the concerns of ordinary Namibians, politicians could drive reforms that make a tangible difference in people's daily lives.

Moreover, political careers often do not require formal qualifications.

While education and experience are



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advantageous, many political leaders rise to power through community engagement, activism, and a strong connection to the public. This inclusivity ensures that individuals from all walks of life can represent their communities and advocate for their needs.

Despite its potential, a career in politics is not without its pitfalls.

One of the most significant challenges is the uncertainty of tenure. Political careers can be very short-lived, especially if the represented political party fails to attain sufficient votes through the electoral process or loses public favor.

Political reshuffles, cabinet changes, and internal party politics often lead to abrupt terminations and resigning politicians without long-term job security.

Popularity does play a peculiar role in political survival, sometimes if overly coveted to self-inflicting acts and a loose tongue.

It is beneficial for politicians to learn how to navigate the delicate balance between making unpopular but necessary decisions and maintaining public approval. This pressure often extends to the need for acceptance

within their own political party, where peer support could determine career progression.

THE POISON

In somewhat very common cases, political power could breed greed and complacency.

Politicians tend to lose sight of their initial mission and convictions of the people they represent, focusing instead on personal gain or gluing themselves to the power seats. The erosion of integrity does and could lead to corruption and alienation from the people they serve.

Furthermore, the demands of political appointments can be overwhelming, with constant pressure to align with the interests of those who facilitated their rise to power. This lack of autonomy could compromise personal values and decision-making.

To navigate the unpredictability of political life, aspiring politicians should always prepare and be mindful of life beyond politics. Investing in business ventures, acquiring new skills, and building a personal brand outside of politics does provide stability when a political career is cut short.

Engaging in community development projects or pursuing higher education could equally serve as a safe landing that ensures continued relevance and contribution to society.

Integrity and self-awareness are vital, and non-negotiable for long-term success in politics.

Leaders who remain grounded in their positive moral values and prioritize the needs of their constituents over personal ambition

tend to be more likely to leave a lasting and impactful legacy.

Additionally, fostering genuine connections with the public and maintaining transparency does help politicians scale political storms and preserve reputations.

Well considered and attended to, a political career offers an extraordinary opportunity to impact lives, fight injustices, and shape the future of Namibia and any other country. However, it is not without its challenges. By staying true to the mission, preparing for life after politics, and maintaining a strong ethical foundation, aspiring politicians have an opportunity to navigate the complexities of the political landscape and make meaningful contributions that outlive their time in office.



Expression of Interest (EOI) for Property Valuation Services for FNB Namibia Ltd.

Ref: NARFX10787

FNB Namibia Ltd is looking to expand its approved panel of Valuers in reference to the above-mentioned services.

Interested, reputable Namibian-registered companies are invited to submit their documentation for evaluation and, if successful, will be considered for inclusion on the approved panel of valuers.

The EOI application document can be obtained from the below email address: procurement@fbnamibia.com.na

Submission: A formal EOI request will be issued from the FNB portal for submission. No hand delivered applications will be accepted.

Enquiries: Any enquiries relating to this EOI should be directed via email to procurement@fbnamibia.com.na on or before 24 June 2026.

Disclaimer: FNB Namibia Limited shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this Expression of Interest and furthermore reserves the right to not give any reasons for acceptance or rejection of any offer, and no correspondence will be entered into in this regard.

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Govt moves to establish Tax Court within High Court system

The Namibian government has begun the process of establishing a dedicated Tax Court within the High Court system to hear income tax and value-added tax disputes following the tabling of amendments to the Income Tax Act in Parliament.

Finance Minister Erica Shafudah introduced the proposed legislation in the National Assembly on Tuesday, saying the reforms seek to restore a specialised forum for tax appeals while strengthening the separation between executive and judicial

functions.

According to the minister, the proposed amendments will establish a Tax Court to hear appeals relating to income tax and value-added tax matters and provide the administrative and procedural framework governing tax hearings.

Under the new structure, the Tax Court will form part of the High Court hierarchy in line with the Constitution and will operate as an independent judicial institution.

"The Tax Court will be an independent judicial institution that will be tasked to

render fair and objective decisions that are free from external influence, and it will serve as the guardian of transparency and fairness," Shafudah said.

She added that the court will strengthen public confidence in Namibia's tax system and improve access to specialised tax dispute resolution.

The proposed amendments also clarify the roles of the Minister of Finance and the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) by replacing references to the minister with the commissioner in matters relating to tax administration and collection.

The bill further establishes a clear appeals hierarchy, with the Tax Tribunal remaining the first forum for taxpayers disputing assessments issued by NamRA, while the Tax Court will hear appeals against decisions of the tribunal.

Transitional provisions contained in the bill will allow matters that were pending

before the former Special Tax Court to be heard by the newly established Tax Court once the legislation comes into effect.

The move follows a 2021 High Court ruling that declared provisions governing the former Special Tax Court unconstitutional because the Minister of Finance had the power to both constitute the court and appoint its members while also administering the tax legislation under which disputes arose.

"The effect of the order made by the High Court of Namibia meant that the Special Tax Court ceased to exist as an institution under the law. Taxpayers were therefore left without a specialised legal forum to which they could turn to have their matters heard," Shafudah said.

Shafudah urged lawmakers to support the amendments, saying they would enhance fairness, transparency and judicial independence in the administration of Namibia's tax laws.

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Bank Windhoek's Jacqueline Vemunikapi Pack wins continental marketing award

Bank Windhoek Executive Officer for Marketing and Corporate Communications, Jacqueline Vemunikapi Pack, has been named the recipient of the Women in Marketing Award at the Africa Women in Banking and Finance Awards (AWBFA) 2026.

The award recognises Pack's contribution to marketing innovation and brand development within Namibia's financial services sector.

Pack has been credited with leading Bank Windhoek's award-winning marketing strategy, including the "Is it possible to love a Bank?" campaign, which helped the bank become the first Namibian-owned company to win at the SMARTIES Sub-Saharan Africa Awards.

The campaign secured four awards, including a Gold Award in the Short or Long Video category and Silver Awards for Brand Experience and Omnichannel Marketing.

During her more than eight years at Bank Windhoek, Pack has overseen a range of brand-building, stakeholder engagement and customer-focused initiatives aimed at strengthening the bank's market position.

Under her leadership, Bank Windhoek's social media presence grew by 72% on Instagram and 20% on Facebook, while the bank expanded campaigns focused on financial literacy, fraud prevention and responsible banking.

Her role also includes aligning the bank's communications strategy with broader business objectives and strengthening public trust through transparent stakeholder engagement.

Pack holds a Master's degree in Marketing



Management and is recognised within the industry for her strategic leadership and expertise in corporate communications.

The Africa Women in Banking and Finance Awards recognise women who have demonstrated excellence, leadership and innovation across the banking and financial services sectors on the continent.

The latest recognition places Pack among a growing group of African banking and finance professionals being acknowledged for their contribution to advancing the industry through leadership, innovation and customer-focused solutions.



Hardap expands farmer support as region pushes to become agricultural hub

More than 1,187 farmers in the Hardap Region received agricultural training, while 62 farmers benefited from mechanisation support as the regional government intensified efforts to boost productivity and strengthen food security.

The figures were revealed by Hardap Governor Riaan Charles McNab during his 2026 State of the Region Address, where he outlined ongoing investments in mechanisation, irrigation, seed improvement and farmer support programmes aimed at positioning Hardap as one of Namibia's leading agricultural production regions.

According to McNab, the Namibia Agricultural Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Programme provided ripping, ploughing, discing and baling services across 136 hectares, benefiting 62 farmers.

A further 1,187 farmers received training in crop production, livestock management

and other agricultural disciplines aimed at improving productivity and strengthening resilience in the sector.

The governor said government has also expanded support through poultry, dairy and horticulture value chain programmes that have provided inputs, equipment and training to more than 100 farmers.

"These schemes are designed to empower youth and women, strengthen resilience against drought, and expand opportunities for commercial farming," McNab said.

Meanwhile, the Hardap Green Scheme generated N\$1.5 million in revenue from maize production and produced 1,300 lucerne bales for the market.

"By investing in irrigation, crop diversification and modern farming practices, we are ensuring that agriculture remains the backbone of our regional economy and a key pillar for national food security," McNab said.

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