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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Japan injects over N\$80 Billion into Namibia's development

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026

MAIN STORY



Japan injects over N\$80 Billion into Namibia's development

Japan has contributed more than N\$80 billion towards Namibia's development since independence, including approximately N\$47 billion in grants and development assistance, according to the National Planning Commission (NPC).

NPC Executive Director I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi revealed the figures during the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Namibia.

The funding has supported projects across key sectors, including infrastructure development, agriculture, education,

skills development, institutional capacity building and policy support.

Nashandi said the partnership between Namibia and Japan predates the

Crucial Dates

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

establishment of JICA's office in Namibia, noting that Namibians were already benefiting from Japan-funded training programmes during the 1990s.

He said JICA has played a significant role in strengthening Namibia's development agenda through technical assistance, infrastructure planning, agricultural productivity programmes and community empowerment initiatives.

The agency has also provided support for government policy formulation, education and skills development, as well as programmes aimed at improving institutional performance and competitiveness.

According to Nashandi, Namibia has also benefited from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme, which was formalised through an agreement signed in December 2004.

Since then, 177 Japanese volunteers have been deployed to Namibia, with 11 currently serving in the country.

"These deployments offer skills transfer and on-the-job training to our people," Nashandi said. The volunteers have supported sectors such as education, vocational training, engineering, mechanics, dressmaking and agriculture, helping to strengthen local skills and capacity.

Nashandi further highlighted opportunities created for Namibian professionals through training programmes, technical exchanges, study tours and

postgraduate studies in Japan.

He said the partnership is anchored in a shared commitment to inclusive, sustainable and people-centred development, principles that align closely with Namibia's Vision 2030 and successive National Development Plans.

As Namibia prepares to implement the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), Nashandi said international development partnerships remain critical to supporting economic growth, job creation, poverty reduction, industrialisation, food security, climate resilience and human capital development.

"It is through partnerships like this that we are able to attract development assistance to complement our own resources for implementing national development plans," he said.

Nashandi described human capital development as one of JICA's most enduring contributions to Namibia, saying investments in education and skills development are essential to advancing infrastructure development, industrialisation, natural resource beneficiation and technological progress.

He added that Namibia remains committed to strengthening its partnership with Japan and JICA, noting that the collaboration has consistently supported the country's development priorities while promoting local ownership, sustainability and long-term impact.

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Meatco secures key Woolworths certification as beef retail expansion accelerates

Meat from the Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) has passed a Woolworths food safety audit, securing a Blue Rating as the state-owned meat processor advances plans to expand sales of Namibian beef through local and regional supermarket chains.

The certification comes as Meatco pursues supply opportunities with major retailers, including Woolworths and Shoprite, as part of a strategy to move beyond traditional bulk beef exports and increase sales of consumer-ready products.

Interim Chief Executive Officer Ambassador Albertus Aochamub said the audit outcome demonstrates that Meatco can meet the stringent food safety, traceability and animal welfare standards required by leading regional retailers.

"This Blue Rating is more than an audit result. It is an endorsement of Meatco's food safety systems, traceability standards and operational discipline. Most importantly, it strengthens our ambition to supply Woolworths with high-quality Namibian beef products and expand the presence of our products in premium retail markets across the region," Aochamub said.

The audit, conducted by independent auditors AVUTOM Consultants



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from 10 to 11 June 2026, assessed Meatco's production processes, food safety systems, documentation, traceability controls and animal welfare practices against Woolworths supplier requirements and South African red meat industry standards.

According to Aochamub, the certification supports Meatco's shift towards value-added products packaged for direct retail sale.

"The certification supports Meatco's strategy of moving beyond bulk beef sales towards consumer-ready products in smaller retail packs that better meet customer preferences and market demand," he said.

The company has increasingly focused on expanding market access and improving returns through branded and value-added beef products rather than relying solely on wholesale exports.

Earlier this month, Meatco confirmed it was in discussions with Woolworths and Shoprite regarding the sale of Namibian beef through retail channels in both domestic and regional markets.

The company plans to introduce smaller family-sized beef packs aimed at supermarket consumers, marking a departure from its traditional model of supplying large bulk cartons to retailers and distributors.

Aochamub said the Woolworths certification forms part of Meatco's broader commitment to maintaining internationally recognised food safety and quality standards.

The company currently holds several international certifications, including Brand Reputation through Compliance Global Standards (BRCGS), HACCP, FSSC 22000, Halaal certification from the Muslim Judicial Council of South Africa, GEIA Food certification and REMA 1000.

The latest certification is expected to strengthen Meatco's position as it seeks to expand the presence of Namibian beef in higher-value retail markets across Southern Africa.

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Namibia ranked third in Africa for digital rights and inclusion

Namibia has been ranked third in Africa for digital rights and inclusion, according to the 2025 Londa Report published by Paradigm Initiative.

The country scored 42 out of 60 on TheScore Index, placing it behind only South Africa (47) and Ghana (43), and marking a three-point improvement from its 2024 score of 39.

The report, which assesses 29 African countries across 12 key indicators, commended Namibia for expanding connectivity and digital infrastructure.

However, it warned that the country's progress is being undermined by critical governance and legal gaps, including the absence of comprehensive data protection and child online safety legislation.

"As a moderately compliant country with the African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Declaration, Namibia has made steps to ensure digital inclusion and combat cyber threats. However, without comprehensive digital rights laws, the country still has a lot to do to protect its citizens' online rights," the report said.

Namibia's improved ranking was largely driven by the launch of the Universal Service Fund (USF) in March 2025. Government committed N\$145 million (US\$7.25 million) over three years to bridge the rural digital divide.

By November 2025, the first phase of the USF rollout had extended 4G connectivity to remote communities for the first time, focusing on underserved regions including Kavango West, Kavango East, Kunene, Oshikoto and Ohangwena.

Private sector investment also contributed significantly to the country's

digital transformation.

In September 2025, Paratus Group launched Namibia's first privately owned mobile network through a N\$600 million (US\$37.7 million) investment, challenging the longstanding dominance of MTC and Telecom Namibia.

"A landmark development reshaping Namibia's telecommunications landscape was Paratus Group's launch of the country's first privately owned mobile network in September 2025. Backed by a N\$600 million (US\$37.7 million) investment and built entirely on 4G LTE technology with 5G readiness, the network covered 50 major towns and 80 communities, focusing on the east-west and Windhoek-Oshakati routes," the report said.

Other developments highlighted in the report included the establishment of the Namibia Cyber Security Incident Response Team (NAM-CSIRT) with N\$20 million (US\$1.25 million) in funding, as well as the launch of Namibia's first Artificial Intelligence Readiness Assessment Report in August 2025 to guide the development of a national AI strategy.

Despite these achievements, the report identified several shortcomings preventing Namibia from attaining "considerably compliant" status.

According to the report, Namibia has yet to adopt comprehensive data protection legislation, leaving citizens without clear legal remedies in cases involving privacy violations or data breaches.

"The State has not adopted laws for the protection of personal information of individuals in accordance with international human rights law and standards, and individuals have no legal recourse to effective remedies," the report said.

The report also raised concerns about the

lack of transparency surrounding the use of biometric data collected through SIM card registration and other government programmes.

It noted that while Namibia's Communications Act permits telecommunications interception, it remains unclear whether such practices consistently comply with international human rights standards.

In addition, Namibia has no dedicated child online protection policy, although a Child Online Protection Task Force has been established to oversee serious cases involving children online.

"While the country has a Child Online Protection Task Force, Namibia has no child online protection policy," the report noted.

To improve its compliance ranking, the report recommends that Namibia enact comprehensive data protection legislation with strong oversight mechanisms, adopt specific laws and policies aimed at protecting children online, and develop a national artificial intelligence strategy addressing the design, deployment and governance of AI technologies.

The report also recommends that the Universal Service Fund explicitly targets previously marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, children and indigenous women, while requiring internet intermediaries to incorporate human rights safeguards into content moderation processes.

The Londa 2025 Report is produced annually by Paradigm Initiative, a pan-African digital rights organisation based in Lagos, Nigeria. It assesses country compliance with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.

Approaching the mid-year point under highly fluid conditions

By **Ebson Uanguta**
BoN Governor

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the midpoint of 2026, which simultaneously marks 6 months since assuming my role as Governor.

The global economic outlook continues to remain resilient, although marked by an ever-evolving landscape.

This changing landscape brings in complexities for policymakers, especially when there is uncertainty on whether a shock is short-lived or longer-lasting, hindering appropriate policy adjustments.

In my initial blog post following the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision, I emphasised that Namibia does not operate in isolation. As a small open economy, we remain highly susceptible to external shocks and vulnerabilities that typically materialise through various transmission channels.

We held our third MPC deliberations of the year and subsequently announced an increase in the repo rate by 25 basis points amid rising inflationary pressures.

While we had hoped for a more short-lived episode, our monitored indicators are responding to the severe supply shocks, particularly from oil infrastructure damage in major oil suppliers in the Gulf and the disruption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which have triggered inflationary pressures and raised global energy prices.

The conflict in the Middle East officially



Our monitored economic indicators signal that domestic activity remained weak over the first four months of the year, while inflation increased markedly.

surpassed three months (over a quarter) at the time of the MPC discussions, although peace proposals were being discussed.

Internally, we undertook a preliminary assessment of the impact of the conflict on our domestic economy, which we published through a discussion note on our official website. Bottom line: higher oil prices are contributing to a pickup in headline inflation given our heavy reliance on energy imports despite government attempts to cushion the economy. Since our February decision, the annual domestic growth for 2025 was officially released painting a weak and narrow trajectory.

Our monitored economic indicators signal that domestic activity remained weak over the first four months of the year, while inflation increased markedly.

While the weaker performance was broad-based, it was most pronounced

in the mining, manufacturing, tourism, electricity generation, construction, and communication sectors. Going forward, we expect growth to pick up some steam from 1.7 percent in 2025 to 2.6 percent in 2026, primarily on account of leading indicators pointing to strong activity in uranium mining, wholesale and retail trade, financial services and public administration and defense sectors. Nevertheless, many factors remain at play with risks associated to continued geopolitical tensions, weaker global demand, and possible development of an El Niño event. Other domestic binding constraints such as water supply challenges, especially for uranium mining activities, restricts optimal growth potential.

Our decisions will remain anchored on a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of domestic, regional, and global macroeconomic conditions, primarily aiming to achieve price stability while supporting sustainable economic growth. While the recent ceasefire announcement is a welcomed development, we are aware that supply will take time to recover given the significant infrastructure damage in the

Middle East. Furthermore, we are also tasked with balancing the imperative to maintain the currency peg and mitigate second-round effects of the energy shock as the primary consideration of our price stability mandate. We are mindful of the impact our decision may have on borrowers already reeling from elevated transport and fuel costs. Containing inflation and promoting price stability, however, will be beneficial to borrowers in the long run. As previously communicated, the MPC is committed to equalising rates between Namibia and the anchor country in the medium term in an orderly fashion. As such, a moderate tightening of monetary policy was deemed appropriate at the current juncture. Going forward, the Bank will closely monitor economic data, particularly developments in inflation expectations as well as capital flows given the current rate differential with South Africa and will react appropriately to contain second-round effects and safeguard the currency peg.

Finally, as we transition into the second half of 2026, the Bank will build on the strides made to align its strategies to support national development priorities for long-term economic growth. Our mandate on monetary and financial stability as well as the role of fiscal adviser will continue to support an enabling environment. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing this work and remain committed to policy decisions that deliver on our price stability mandate and broader contributions to the evolving needs of our domestic economy.


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Telecom investment doubles to N\$411m in Q1

Total telecommunications investment in Namibia more than doubled to N\$411 million during the first quarter of 2026, driven largely by network upgrades and universal service rollout initiatives, according to the latest Quarterly Statistics Bulletin released by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

The Q1 2026 figure represents a significant increase from the previous quarter, with MTC accounting for 73% of total investment. Paratus Telecom contributed 14%, while Telecom Namibia accounted for 12%.

"In Q1 2026, telecommunication investment amounted to N\$411 million, more than doubling compared to the previous quarter, largely driven by network upgrades and universal service rollout initiatives. This increase was primarily attributed to MTC, which accounted for 73%

of total investment, followed by Paratus Telecom at 14% and Telecom Namibia at 12%," the report said.

The report further noted that total active SIM card subscriptions declined slightly during Q1 2026, decreasing from 2.788 million in Q4 2025 to 2.746 million. The decline was primarily driven by a 2% decrease in prepaid subscriptions, while postpaid subscriptions increased by 1%.

Mobile broadband usage remained stable, with 64% of active SIM cards accessing internet services during the quarter, reflecting continued demand for mobile broadband connectivity.

Total outgoing mobile call minutes also remained relatively stable compared to the previous quarter. TN Mobile recorded a 6% increase in outgoing minutes to 114 million, while MTC experienced a slight decline of

1% to 2.7 billion minutes.

"Total outgoing mobile minutes remained relatively stable in Q1 2026 compared to the previous quarter. TN Mobile recorded a 6% increase in outgoing minutes, while MTC experienced a slight decline of 1%, with 97% of calls being terminated on-net, a trend that has remained consistent over time," the report said.

SMS traffic increased significantly by 14% to 30 million messages, reversing the stability observed in recent quarters. The growth was partly driven by Paratus Telecom's entry into mobile services, which

recorded a substantial 95% increase in SMS traffic. MTC also registered a 14% increase, while TN Mobile experienced a 7% decline in SMS volumes.

Cyber threat incidents and identified vulnerabilities declined during the first quarter of 2026. Cyber threat events decreased by 47%, while reported and detected vulnerabilities fell by 31%.

"Cyber threat incidents and identified vulnerabilities declined significantly during the first quarter of 2026," the report said.

The report further indicated that pay-TV subscriptions increased by 2% during Q1 2026, mainly driven by growth in satellite subscriptions. Total subscriptions reached 140,917.

Broadcasting revenue continued its downward trend, decreasing by 7% to N\$211 million. Advertising contributed 11% of total revenue, down from 13% in the previous quarter, while advertising revenue declined by 18%.

The number of postal establishments also increased during Q1 2026, with nine new post offices established, all located in rural areas. As a result, 84% of postal establishments are now situated in rural communities.

"As a result, 84% of postal establishments are now situated in rural areas. This reflects ongoing efforts by NamPost to expand and strengthen universal postal service coverage," the report said.

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.



Healthy boards deliver healthy companies: Bridging the divide

By **Hilda Basson-Namundjebo**

Namibia's public enterprise boards are frequently populated by academics, technocrats, and compliance specialists.

Their expertise is valuable, but too often these boards become insular; absorbed in inward-facing compliance, risk registers, and policy manuals.

Governance without grit. Structures that tick boxes but struggle to grasp what the business must deliver at its core.

Swing the pendulum the other way and you find entrepreneurs. They bring energy, instinct, and a relentless focus on delivery. They understand markets, customers, and the urgency of cash flow.

Yet their strength is also their weakness. In their own ventures, they are accountable almost exclusively to themselves. On boards, many entrepreneurs disregard governance frameworks, overreach fiduciary boundaries, and confuse stewardship with ownership.

The challenge is clear: how do we integrate these two communities namely academics and entrepreneurs to ensure that our public enterprises are not only compliant, but also commercially viable?

Governance without Growth

Academics anchor boards in rules, frameworks, and accountability. They ensure fiduciary duties are respected,



Structures that tick boxes but struggle to grasp what the business must deliver at its core.

procurement processes followed, and reporting obligations met. In a country where public resources must be safeguarded, this discipline is essential.

But governance without growth is sterile. A board that only looks inward suffocates the enterprise. Compliance is necessary, but not sufficient.

Public enterprises must deliver services, generate revenue, and contribute to national development. Without commercial imagination, boards become guardians of process rather than delivering impact.

Growth without Guardrails

Entrepreneurs thrive on risk and opportunity. They are impatient with bureaucracy, allergic to red tape, and driven by results. Their instinct is to cut through process in pursuit of delivery.

On boards, this instinct can be both refreshing but dangerous. Refreshing, because it injects urgency and market awareness into underperforming institutions. Dangerous, because entrepreneurs may disregard fiduciary

boundaries, confuse oversight with executive control, and undermine collective responsibility. Governance requires boundaries; but boundaries as a concept do not appear in the lexicon of entrepreneurship.

The Integration Imperative

Healthy boards must integrate both lenses. Academically grounded yet commercially attuned. Upholding fiduciary responsibility while embracing entrepreneurial urgency.

With the soon-to-be promulgated Public Enterprise Amendment Bill, Namibia has the opportunity to reset. How could we achieve this?

- **Balanced Composition:** Recruitment

must deliberately blend academic expertise with entrepreneurial experience. Neither community should dominate. Diversity of perspective is the lifeblood of effective boards.

- **Induction and Training:** Entrepreneurs must undergo rigorous induction in governance principles. Academics, in turn, must be exposed to commercial realities and customer expectations.

- **Mentorship and Pairing:** Pair entrepreneurs with governance veterans. A learning loop where entrepreneurs absorb discipline, while academics gain exposure to commercial instinct.

- **Agenda Design:** Board agendas must balance compliance with strategy. Too often they are consumed by reports and approvals. Boards must carve out space for market analysis, geopolitical impacts, innovation, and delivery metrics.

- **Performance Metrics:** Boards should measure themselves not only by compliance but by impact. Did the public enterprise deliver services efficiently? Generate revenue? Contribute to national priorities? Governance must be judged by outcomes, not only by processes.

Too many boards today lean inward; heavy on law, engineering, finance, and regulation, while light on strategy, marketing, and commerce.

That imbalance matters because in Namibia the most urgent challenges facing our enterprises are



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Closing date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 12pm

not only technical resilience or compliance, but brand renewal, market relevance, and customer trust thus delivering ROI. Without outward-facing voices, we will bounce from one turn-around strategy to the next.

A Covenant of Trust

Governance is doing the right things, in the right way, achieving the right outcomes. As business leader Vetu Mungunda stated recently at the Bank of Namibia board seminar, “governance is not compliance”.

Entrepreneurs must learn that fiduciary responsibility is not optional and managing conflicts of interest is obligatory. They must also be mindful that their responsibility is not operational; thus calling the CEO or staff at random times is simply an overreach and a misalignment of purpose. Similarly, academics and technocrats must learn that delivery is not incidental, but essential.

The integrity of a boardroom depends not only on the diversity of voices but on the honesty of those voices.

Entrepreneurs often arrive with side businesses and parallel interests. Without declarations of interest, whose voice is the board truly hearing? NamCode cautions that compliance must go beyond the tick box, because it

is a covenant of trust.

To manage conflict of interest is not a technicality; it is the safeguard that ensures directors speak for the enterprise, not for themselves.

As board members we make decisions for people we will never meet; citizens who depend on services and integrity, employees who seek wellness, and future generations who inherit the consequences.

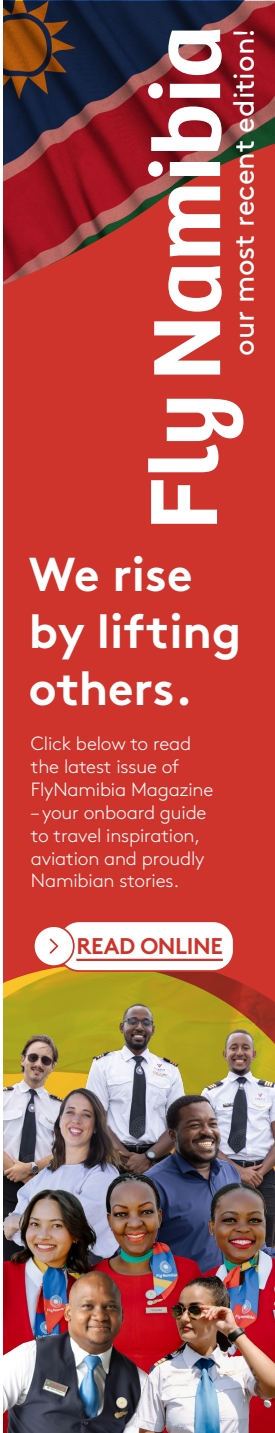
To honour that responsibility, boards must breathe with both lungs: the discipline of governance and the urgency of entrepreneurship.

Conclusion

Namibia’s public enterprises cannot afford sterile compliance or reckless entrepreneurship. They require boards that are both guardians and builders, custodians and creators. Integration is not compromise; it is synergy.

Healthy boards combine the rigour of governance with the imagination of enterprise. They are not inward-facing committees, nor reckless ventures. They are covenants of trust, charged with delivering businesses that are compliant, competitive, and contributory to national progress.

Healthy boards must do more than keep the lights on. They must make our brands shine.



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Just 8 government entities met procurement planning deadlines

Only about 30% of public entities submitted their annual procurement plans on time for the 2026/27 financial year, according to the latest Procurement Tracker data compiled by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

According to IPPR Associate Researcher Frederico Links, by 10 June 2026, only 53 of the 176 public entities required to submit procurement plans had made them available on the e-Procurement Portal.

Even more concerning, he said, only eight plans, representing about 5% of the total, were submitted within the legally

required deadline of 31 December 2025, as stipulated under Section 25(4)(a) of the Public Procurement Amendment Act of 2022.

The law requires public entities to submit procurement plans at least three months before the start of the financial year. However, data shows compliance with this requirement remains consistently weak, even a decade after the Public Procurement Act framework came into force during the 2017/18 financial year.

"As such, all procurement plans should have been accessible by 1 April 2026.

However, compliance remains low, with only a 30% submission rate recorded at this stage. Nearly three months into the financial year, after the close of the first quarter, the majority of entities had still not complied with the requirement," he said.

Links said the persistent failure reflects a broader and long-running breakdown in procurement governance across the public sector. Similar concerns have repeatedly surfaced in high-risk sectors, particularly healthcare, where procurement irregularities, delays and corruption allegations have been reported for years.

He further argued that the recurring nature of procurement scandals points to a cycle of investigation without resolution. Reports produced by the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU) in previous years identified potential irregularities and recommended further investigations, but enforcement action has remained limited.

His latest analysis contends that fragmented investigations risk becoming a distraction if they focus broadly on institutions rather than targeting specific decision-makers and accountability structures.

Calls are growing for deeper and more focused investigations into procurement practices within key ministries, alongside stronger transparency and enforcement mechanisms. Although the current procurement framework contains transparency provisions, compliance remains inconsistent.

"The PPU's report, which was available on its website and which we have archived, clearly pointed out evidence of alleged corruption. It explicitly stated that these matters should be investigated and identified the specific individuals who should be held accountable. Yet nothing happened. The Ministry of Finance's

own unit conducted an investigation and produced findings, but the report simply sat there. None of this is new, nothing is being fixed, and no one is being held accountable," he said.

Links also called on government to strengthen oversight institutions and accelerate reforms proposed in the Public Procurement Amendment Bill of 2025, which includes the establishment of a more robust procurement regulatory authority with enforcement powers.

At present, the Procurement Policy Unit functions primarily as an advisory body without law enforcement authority, limiting its ability to ensure compliance.

"We need full transparency around public procurement. We are not asking for anything radical; we are simply asking for compliance with the law. The current procurement framework already contains built-in transparency mechanisms that are being ignored," Links said.

Beyond enforcement, he said there is a need for the full implementation of existing laws, including access-to-information and beneficial ownership disclosure frameworks, many of which remain only partially operational despite having been enacted.

There are also renewed calls to fast-track the rollout of e-procurement systems, particularly in high-risk sectors such as healthcare, where procurement failures have direct consequences for public service delivery.

"We need to begin implementing e-procurement, and the health sector makes the strongest case for a pilot programme. Procurement failures in the Ministry of Health directly affect the most vulnerable citizens of this country, the majority of whom rely entirely on the state healthcare system," he said.



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Namibia names Aune Amutenya Acting Petroleum Commissioner

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy has appointed Aune Amutenya as Acting Petroleum Commissioner, replacing Maggy Shino as Namibia's chief petroleum regulator at a critical time for the country's fast-growing oil and gas sector.

Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse announced the appointment on Wednesday, confirming that Amutenya assumed the role on 2 June 2026.

Amutenya currently serves as Deputy Director of Petroleum Exploration and Production and takes over the position in terms of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 1991.

"The Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy hereby notifies the public and stakeholders in the oil and gas sector of the appointment of Ms Aune Amutenya, Deputy Director of Petroleum Exploration and Production, as the Acting Petroleum Commissioner, in terms of Part II, Sections 3 to 7, of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 1991," the ministry said.

The appointment follows the removal of Maggy Shino as Petroleum Commissioner, ending her tenure as the country's top petroleum regulator amid ongoing efforts by government to reshape oversight of the upstream oil and gas sector.

Despite relinquishing the commissioner role, Shino will remain within the ministry as Director of Upstream Petroleum Affairs.

"Her appointment follows the relief of Ms Maggy Shino as Petroleum Commissioner. Ms Shino will continue to serve in her current capacity as Director under the Department of Upstream Petroleum Affairs," the ministry said.



The leadership change comes as Namibia's petroleum sector enters a pivotal phase, with international oil companies advancing appraisal and development programmes following a series of major offshore discoveries in the Orange Basin.

The appointment also coincides with government's proposed reforms to petroleum governance, including plans to establish an Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Presidency, a move that has triggered debate over the future structure of oil and gas regulation in Namibia.

Amutenya now assumes responsibility for overseeing regulatory functions in one of the country's most strategically important sectors as Namibia positions itself for potential first oil production within the next decade.

www.miningandenergy.com.na

Official Launch of the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference





Namibia's first Bloomberg Finance Lab set to expand into schools

Namibia's first Bloomberg Finance Lab is set to expand beyond university students, with plans underway to introduce Bloomberg-backed financial literacy and markets training to secondary schools across the Khomas Region.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), will use the Bloomberg Finance Lab at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) as a launchpad for a pilot programme aimed at equipping learners with practical

knowledge of financial markets, investment, entrepreneurship and economic decision-making.

The programme is expected to offer Bloomberg Financial Foundations certification, financial literacy workshops, entrepreneurship boot camps and career guidance sessions to learners from Grade 8 upwards.

The planned rollout was announced during a visit by Khomas Governor Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma to the Bloomberg Finance Lab, where he was introduced to the technology and training platforms

used by leading universities and financial institutions worldwide.

"What I experienced today in this Lab demonstrates precisely the kind of bridge we must build between academia and industry in Namibia," Nujoma said.

"I am particularly encouraged by the vision to extend this access to high school learners across the Khomas Region. When our young people understand how the economy works in real life, how markets move, how investment decisions are made, and how financial systems shape their futures, we are equipping them not just for university, but for life."

The Bloomberg Finance Lab, established through a partnership between NUST, MTC Namibia and NIFA, provides access to Bloomberg Terminal technology used by investment banks, asset managers, stock exchanges and leading universities around the world.

NIFA Chief Executive Officer Arinze Okafor said the programme aims to expose learners to real-world financial tools long before they enter tertiary education or the job market.

"Through this initiative, we intend to make world-class financial education accessible to every learner in the Khomas Region, regardless of which school they attend or what background they come from," Okafor said.

The pilot programme is expected to be launched in partnership with public and private secondary schools across the Khomas Region before being considered for a broader national rollout.

The initiative comes as Namibia increasingly focuses on strengthening digital skills, financial literacy and workforce readiness to support growth in sectors such as banking, investment, technology and entrepreneurship.

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Namibia sets September launch for electronic identity cards

The Namibian government has confirmed that the rollout of electronic identity (e-ID) cards will begin in September 2026, following delays to allow for the finalisation of legislation governing data protection and identity management.

Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security Minister Lucia Iipumbu announced the timeline while responding to questions in Parliament this week.

The electronic identity card system was initially scheduled for implementation in February but was postponed to ensure the necessary legal framework was in place before the launch.

According to Iipumbu, the e-ID project forms part of government's broader efforts to modernise identity management, strengthen national security and improve access to public services.

The electronic cards will store biometric and demographic information, including fingerprints and photographs, in a secure digital format designed to support identity verification across both public and private sector institutions.

The minister said funding for preparatory work had already been allocated in previous financial years and that the ministry was continuing with implementation preparations ahead of the September launch.

Iipumbu also revealed that government intends to source the technology through an open tender process and will seek to maximise participation by local service providers.

"And what we are saying is that we want to help the service providers being sourced locally. There would be an open tender when the time is right for the systems to be



developed, and that is the approach," she said.

Addressing concerns raised on social media, Iipumbu dismissed claims that the system would be used to track citizens or involve the implantation of microchips.

"Furthermore, the e-ID has no capability to track, monitor or control the movements or activities of citizens. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is fully committed to protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of all citizens," she said.

The ministry has also begun stakeholder consultations and public awareness initiatives to explain how the electronic identity system will operate and the safeguards that will be put in place to protect personal information.

Once implemented, the e-ID card is expected to become a key component of Namibia's digital transformation agenda and the modernisation of government services.



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Ignorance or Indifference: What is really behind Namibia's cybersecurity awareness problem?

By Erick Shapumba

For years, we have advocated by running campaigns, hosting workshops, publishing articles, and using every platform available to educate the public on the risks that come with living, working, and banking in a digital world.

And to a degree, the message has landed. The working class and the younger generation are, by and large, competent users of technology.

They know their way around a smartphone, are active on the internet, and are, in every sense, plugged in.

We also know they understand, at some level, that their devices carry information worth protecting. The phones are password-protected. The banking apps have PINs and biometrics.

There is a clear understanding that technology holds value, and that value is worth protecting.

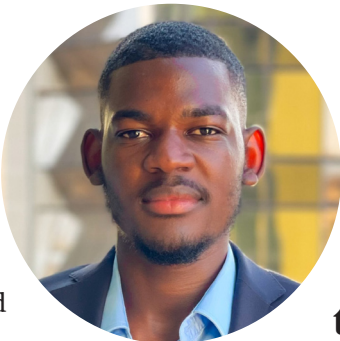
So why, then, do we keep getting it wrong?

The Classification Problem

The gap is not in general awareness. The gap is in classification, the ability to identify what information is sensitive, what is at risk, and what the real cost of exposure might be.

Most people struggle to apply a basic definition: personal information is any data that can be used to identify you, your full name, ID number, physical address, phone number, and your email, among others.

These are not abstract concepts, they are the building blocks that criminals use to impersonate you, defraud you, or access



Cybersecurity awareness campaigns have largely failed to dismantle this belief because they deal in abstract, future-tense threats, statistics from other countries and hypothetical scenarios.

your accounts without permission.

The problem is that we have normalised giving this information away casually, without hesitation, and without consequence, at least none that we have seen yet.

Think about the last time you stood at the till. The teller asked for your ID number, your email address, or your phone number.

You gave it and moved on. But ask yourself: do you ever stop and ask why? What does that store need your ID number for? What are they going to do with your email address?

Do they even have security measures in place to protect that information? Is it truly necessary to give it at all?

If your honest answer is no, you have never asked, then you are not alone. Most of us have never asked, and that silence is

exactly where the risk lives.

We Have Not Seen the Consequences

In my experience, the deeper issue is not ignorance, but the absence of visible consequence.

People are rational, but in a narrow, immediate way. We secure what we have already felt the cost of losing.

We lock our phones because we understand what it means for a stranger to pick it up, we protect our bank accounts because money disappearing is immediate, tangible, and devastating.

But handing over an ID number at a till? Nothing bad happened, so the brain files it under safe.

Psychologists call this optimism bias, the quiet belief that bad things happen, just not to you. Cybersecurity awareness campaigns have largely failed to dismantle this belief because they deal in abstract, future-tense threats, statistics from other countries and hypothetical scenarios.

What we need are local, real, and relatable examples of what happens when personal information falls into the wrong hands.

We need look no further than the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF). Earlier this year, students' personal information was published on the institution's own website following a data breach.

The Communications Regulatory

Authority of Namibia noted that institutions lack clear protocols for managing data breaches, not out of negligence alone, but because in the absence of a comprehensive legal framework, there is nothing compelling them to have any.

The consequences of unprotected data are not hypothetical. They are local, they are recent, and they affected real Namibians.

The Digital Permanence

There is another layer to this problem that deserves attention: our collective failure to understand what digital existence truly means.

When you write something on a piece of paper and throw it away, it is gone. When you share information digitally, on a form, on a platform, with an app, it is rarely gone. It can be stored, copied, sold, leaked, or hacked. Digital data has a permanence that physical data simply does not.

We have caught a glimpse of how carelessly people treat this reality through the recent social media trend of asking AI tools to generate images or profiles based on what those platforms "know" about a person.

When we analysed what people were actually entering into those systems, their workplace, their location, their physical description, their daily routines, the results painted a troubling picture.

People were assembling detailed personal profiles and feeding them to AI tools, all

The graphic is a promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF'. It features a central QR code with the word 'Finance' above it and 'Business' below it. To the left of the QR code is a blue circular icon with a white bar chart and the letters 'NS'. To the right is a blue circular icon with a white WhatsApp logo. Below the QR code is the text 'for Daily Namibian News'. On the far left, there is a red Adobe PDF icon with the text 'Daily PDF version sent via email'. Below this are social media handles: '@thebrieflive' for Facebook, '@thebrieflive.name' for LinkedIn, '@TheBriefLive' for Twitter, and '@thebrieflive' for Instagram. On the far right, the text reads 'THE BRIEF News Worth knowing' and 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL'. The background is light blue with faint icons of various symbols like a dollar sign, a gear, and a person.

Namibia's Data Protection Bill has been in development since 2021 and was expected to be tabled in Parliament in late 2025.

in the name of a trend, without pausing to consider where that information goes or what it could be used for.

This is not a small thing, it is the kind of data that, in the wrong hands, enables identity theft, targeted fraud, and manipulation-based scams.

What Changes Behaviour

Awareness alone has a ceiling, and we have reached it.

What actually changes behaviour is the habit of pausing before handing over personal information and asking: Is this necessary? What will this be used for? Who else will have access to it?

These are not paranoid questions, they are smart ones, and they are precisely what data protection law is designed to empower you to ask.

Namibia's Data Protection Bill has been in development since 2021 and was expected to be tabled in Parliament in late 2025. When passed, it will establish clear obligations for how organisations collect, store, and handle your personal information.

It will require them to justify why they need your data, put security measures in place to protect it, and be held accountable when they fail. It will, in other words, give legal weight to the very questions this article

is asking you to start asking.

But a law only works when the people it protects know their rights under it, and are willing to exercise them. Legislation without awareness is as ineffective as awareness without legislation.

What changes behaviour is consequence visibility, not statistics, but stories. Real people, real losses, real lives disrupted by information that was shared too freely, too casually, in too many places.

Finally, what changes behaviour is a cultural shift in how we think about personal information. Not as a courtesy to hand over freely and speed up a transaction, but as something with value, value worth protecting, worth questioning, worth keeping close.

We have done the work of raising awareness, the next challenge is making people act on what they know. That starts with one question, the next time someone asks you for your ID number at the till or anywhere: Why do you need this?

Ask it, and get comfortable asking it. And if they cannot give you a satisfactory answer, you have every right to decline.

Your information is yours. Treat it that way.

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