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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



RFA warns cheaper fuel could come at cost of road upgrades

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2026

MAIN STORY

RFA warns cheaper fuel could come at cost of road upgrades

... as fund draws on reserves to finance projects

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) has warned that extending the fuel levy reduction beyond June could create a larger road funding crisis, forcing the country to defer maintenance and ultimately increasing the cost of repairing roads in future.

The warning comes after the temporary fuel levy cut, introduced to cushion motorists against rising fuel prices, reduced RFA revenue by an estimated N\$100 million per month.

According to RFA Chief Executive Officer Ali Ipinge, the three-month measure has already cost the authority around N\$300 million, money that would ordinarily be used to maintain and upgrade Namibia's road network.

"We sympathise with why Cabinet took that decision. It was intended to cushion road users, but at the same time the revenue that was sacrificed is the same revenue used to ensure those road users have safe and well-maintained roads," Ipinge said.

To prevent projects from stalling, the RFA has drawn between N\$300 million and N\$350 million from its reserves to fund maintenance works, emergency repairs and road programmes already approved for 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**

We could have reduced road works because of the revenue shortfall, but we chose not to.

current financial year.

The authority said postponing maintenance is not a viable option because road deterioration accelerates rapidly once repairs are delayed.

“We could have reduced road works because of the revenue shortfall, but we chose not to. Delaying maintenance today simply means paying significantly more tomorrow,” Ipinge said.

The warning highlights the growing tension between short-term consumer relief and long-term infrastructure sustainability.

Namibia's road sector already faces an estimated funding shortfall of N\$3 billion this financial year, even before accounting for the impact of the fuel levy reduction.

The situation is further complicated by Namibia's fuel levy refund system, under which sectors such as mining, fishing, agriculture and construction receive substantial rebates because much of their fuel is consumed away from public roads.

According to the RFA, these refunds account for roughly 20% of total fuel levy collections annually.

Ipinge warned that a further extension of the levy reduction

could force the authority to abandon plans for additional road projects and limit spending to programmes already approved in the current budget.

“Beyond June, if the fuel levy cut continues, we will not have the resources to fund additional programmes. We will only be able to complete what has already been planned,” he said.



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.

Closing date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 12pm




Condor to launch direct Frankfurt-Windhoek flights three times a week

German leisure airline Condor will resume direct flights between Frankfurt and Windhoek from June 2027, becoming the latest European carrier to expand services to Namibia.

The airline announced that it will operate the Frankfurt-Windhoek route three times a week, with flights departing Frankfurt on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and returning from Windhoek on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.


The move marks Condor's return to Namibia after an absence of several years.

The airline previously operated the route for about seven years from November 2014.


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Condor Chief Executive Officer Peter Gerber said Namibia remains one of the most sought-after long-haul destinations for German travellers.

“Windhoek is returning to our long-haul portfolio after having been part of our route network for many years. Namibia has long been one of the most sought-after long-haul destinations for German holidaymakers. With this direct connection and our modern Airbus A330neo fleet, we are creating an attractive offering for both leisure travellers and tour operators that meets the strong demand for travel to Southern Africa,” Gerber said.

The announcement further strengthens Namibia's growing air connectivity with Europe, which has expanded significantly as airlines respond to rising tourism demand and increased business travel linked to sectors such as oil and gas.

The Namibia Airports Company (NAC) welcomed the decision, describing it as a strong vote of confidence in Namibia as both a tourism and business destination.

According to NAC, the return of Condor is expected to increase passenger traffic through Hosea Kutako International Airport while boosting revenue from airport operations, retail services, hospitality businesses and vehicle rental operators.

The additional capacity is also expected to create opportunities for increased cargo traffic between Namibia and Europe.

The announcement comes as Discover Airlines prepares

to expand its Munich-Windhoek service from three to five weekly flights from April 2027.

Discover Airlines already operates daily flights between Frankfurt and Windhoek, while its Munich service has been operating since 2025.

Swiss leisure carrier Edelweiss has also strengthened its Namibia offering through seasonal direct flights between Zurich and Windhoek during the northern hemisphere summer.

The latest additions will significantly increase European seat capacity into Namibia, reinforcing the country's position as one of Southern Africa's fastest-growing tourism destinations and improving access for both leisure and business travellers.

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Khomas records highest number of road crashes with 494 accidents in six months

The Khomas Region recorded the highest number of road crashes in Namibia during the first six months of 2026, accounting for more than a third of all reported accidents nationwide, according to the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund.

Data released by the Fund shows that 493 crashes were recorded in Khomas between 1 January and 21 June 2026, followed by Erongo with 171 crashes and Otjozondjupa with 130.

Nationally, Namibia recorded 1,333 crashes, resulting in 2,273 injuries and 229 fatalities during the period under review.

Although the figures reflect an improvement compared to the same period last year, the MVA Fund warned that road deaths remain unacceptably high and called for greater responsibility from all

road users.

Compared to the corresponding period in 2025, crashes declined by 11% from 1,500, injuries fell by 9% from 2,486 and fatalities decreased by 6% from 243.

“The statistics show that progress is possible, but they also remind us that far too many lives are still lost on our roads. Every crash prevented spares a family from tragedy. Every life saved is a victory for Namibia,” said MVA Fund Chief Corporate Affairs Officer John Haufiku.

Haufiku stressed that improving road safety requires behavioural change from motorists, passengers and pedestrians alike.

“Road safety is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement or road safety institutions. It is a shared responsibility that requires a change in behaviour among

all road users,” he said.

The Fund's latest weekly report showed that between 15 and 21 June, Namibia recorded 45 crashes, resulting in 84 injuries and eight deaths.

While weekly crash figures have improved compared to previous years, the MVA Fund said the loss of eight lives in a single week underscores the continued dangers on the country's roads.

Pedestrian safety remains a major concern. Between January and 21 June, Namibia recorded 489 pedestrian-related crashes, resulting in 203 injuries and 37 fatalities.

The data also revealed that young adults continue to be disproportionately affected by road crashes. During the reporting week, people aged between 25 and 29 recorded the highest number of fatalities and injuries.

Haufiku said the impact of road crashes extends far beyond those directly involved.

“The statistics are a reminder that road crashes not only affect those directly

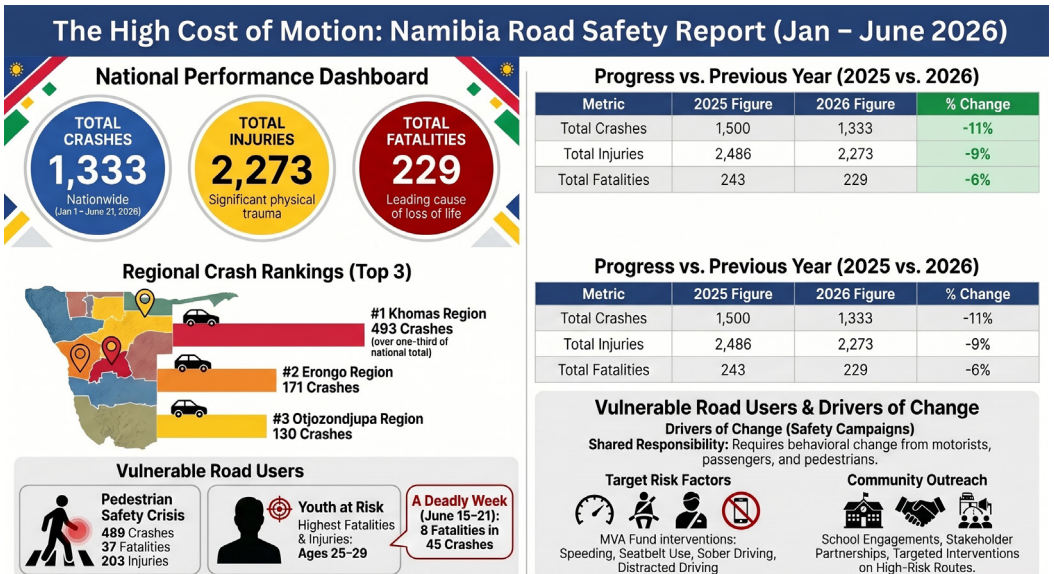
involved but also leave lasting emotional, social and economic consequences for families and communities across Namibia,” he said.

In response, the MVA Fund has intensified road safety campaigns nationwide through community outreach programmes, school engagements, stakeholder partnerships, public education initiatives and targeted interventions along high-risk routes.

The campaigns focus on speeding, seatbelt use, pedestrian safety, sober driving, vehicle roadworthiness and the dangers of distracted driving.

Haufiku said meaningful reductions in road fatalities will only be achieved when road users fully appreciate the consequences of their actions.

“The Fund believes that lasting improvements in road safety can only be achieved when every road user recognises that their decisions behind the wheel, on a motorcycle, on a bicycle or as a pedestrian have consequences that extend beyond themselves,” he said.



Namibia: A destination built for distinguished travellers

By Victory Shimwandi

Incentive travel has moved from a discretionary line item to a boardroom priority. In a labour market defined by high attrition and intensifying competition for top performers, organisations are re-examining every tool available for retention and engagement.

What the research consistently shows is that experiential reward outperforms cash bonuses and merchandise in emotional impact, memory durability and the strength of connection it creates between a high performer and the organisation that recognised them.

The Incentive Research Foundation has documented this repeatedly: travel-based rewards are harder to commoditise, impossible to compare with a colleague's salary package and, critically, shared.

A well-designed incentive trip becomes a reference point in a team's culture — a marker of achievement that people speak about years later.

The global incentive travel market, valued at over USD 60 billion in 2024, reflects this momentum.

The sector continues to grow even as organisations apply greater scrutiny to travel budgets generally.

The distinction is that incentive travel is



The global incentive travel market, valued at over USD 60 billion in 2024, reflects this momentum.

now evaluated as a performance investment, with companies designing programmes around measurable objectives and placing a premium on the quality and memorability of the experience over volume or frequency.

Geopolitical shifts are reshaping destination selection in parallel. There is growing appetite for destinations that are stable, distinctive and capable of delivering a genuine sense of occasion, without the logistical uncertainty that has come to characterise some traditional incentive markets.

Africa and southern Africa in particular, is benefitting from this reassessment. The Namibia Tourism Board, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, recently gave formal expression to this momentum with the launch of the Luxury Travel Expo, deliberately positioning

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Namibia as one of Africa's leading high-end and sustainable travel destinations. It is a signal worth taking seriously.

The profile of the incentive traveller has shifted accordingly. Today's high performers, senior executives, top producers and leadership teams are well-travelled and difficult to impress with standard resort packages.

They have been to the Maldives, done the European capitals, experienced the obvious. What motivates them now is access to places and moments that feel truly rare, where the destination itself communicates that their achievement has been taken seriously. This is the market that Namibia and OL Leisure, are positioned to serve.

A destination built for distinguished travellers

Namibia occupies a rare position in the global travel landscape. The second least densely populated country in the world, it offers space, silence and an absence of crowds that no resort amenity package can manufacture.

This is a genuine revelation for incentive groups accustomed to peak-season Europe or overbooked island destinations.

Its natural credentials are equally compelling: the Namib Desert is the oldest on Earth at approximately 80 million years; Sossusvlei's dunes rise to 325 metres; the Fish River Canyon is the second largest in the world.

Namibia was the

first country to enshrine environmental protection in its constitution and today holds the largest free-roaming populations of cheetah and black rhino on Earth. These are facts that carry weight with high-net-worth travellers who have seen a great deal.

Political stability and accessibility complete the picture. Namibia is one of Africa's most consistent democracies, a fact that matters to corporate travel managers and insurers conducting destination risk assessments.

Direct flights from Frankfurt, München and Zürich, and connections through Johannesburg, Cape Town and Addis Ababa, place Namibia within comfortable reach of European, American and Asian markets. Kasane International Airport broadens the options for multi-destination programmes.

The infrastructure to match the destination



SanlamAllianz

BRIEF SESSIONS

Get ready for another episode of the **SanlamAllianz Brief Sessions**. Lined up is another hot topic in the country - "Apps vs Taxis: Who Really Owns Namibia's Roads?".

Don't miss out on this insightful discussion.

Date: 25 June 2026
Venue: Online - Scan QR Code
Time: 09:00 for 09:30 to 11:00



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News Worth Knowing

What separates a compelling destination from a compelling incentive programme is the infrastructure to deliver consistently at a premium level.

At OL Leisure, we have built a handpicked portfolio of six properties guided by a single principle: Namibia through our eyes. Each property is shaped by its landscape and expresses the OL Leisure Persona through its location, its people, its design and its service.

From the Atlantic seafront of Strand Hotel Swakopmund to the wildlife immersion of Mokuti Etosha, the mountain seclusion of Midgard Otjihavera Windhoek, the over-water intimacy of Chobe Water Villas, the desert drama of Mirage Lodge and the riverside wilderness of Divava Okavango.

No two share a setting or a character, which is what makes seamless multi-property itineraries possible without repetition.

The portfolio spans intimate 16-villa executive retreat settings to venues capable of near-exclusive company takeovers, with accommodation from standard rooms to

Presidential Suites and a range of culinary, wellness and activity experiences that belong entirely to their setting.

What connects every property is a service culture anchored in our Golden Ambassadors programme - one brand, one experience, across every landscape. Leisure Tours, our dedicated travel arm, handles the logistics: chartered flights, road transfers and multi-destination routing across the region, so that incentive planners can focus on the outcome rather than the operation.

The incentive travel market is, at its core, a market for stories. The best programmes give participants something they will still be talking about at the next annual conference, something they did not know was possible until they experienced it.

Namibia has that raw material in abundance. We have the properties, the people and the understanding of this country to turn it into something lasting.

**** Victory Shimwandi, Sales General Manager, OL Leisure***



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MTC wins five Brand Africa Awards, named among Africa’s Most Admired Brands

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Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) has been named one of Africa’s most admired brands after securing five awards at the 2026 Brand Africa Awards held in Windhoek.

The telecommunications company took home the prestigious Most Admired Brand Grand Prix Award, which recognises brands demonstrating purpose-led excellence, sustainability, social impact and a commitment to advancing development across the continent.

MTC also received awards in four additional

categories: Most Admired Namibian Brand in Telecommunications, Most Admired Brand for Doing Good for Society and the Environment, Most Admired Brand Contributing to a Better Africa, and Most Admired African Brand.

The awards ceremony also saw MTC's Chief Brand, Marketing, Communications and Sustainability Officer, Tim Ekanjo, recognised with the Most Influential African Chief Marketing Officer Award.

Speaking after receiving the accolades, Ekanjo said the recognition reflected the contribution of MTC's customers and communities across Namibia.

"These awards do not belong to MTC alone. They may carry our name, but ultimately, they carry the Namibian story," he said.

He added that the company's success was rooted in the support of its customers, families and communities, whom he

described as the heartbeat of the brand.

The Brand Africa Awards are regarded as one of the continent's leading platforms for recognising Africa's most admired, trusted and influential brands.

MTC said the recognition reflects its continued investment in innovation, customer experience, digital inclusion and sustainability initiatives aimed at supporting Namibia's development goals and broader continental priorities.

The awards ceremony brought together business leaders, brand executives and industry stakeholders from across Africa to celebrate brand excellence and purpose-driven growth. Organisers said the event highlighted the growing role of African brands in promoting social inclusion, innovation and long-term value creation, while encouraging responsible corporate leadership across the continent.

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Business Breakfast Club

Theme: Business Continuity & Water Scarcity



The power of a compelling reason to believe

By Jacqueline Pack

In today's banking environment, customers are no longer persuaded solely by advertising.

They are looking for proof. They want substance behind the story. They want to know not only what a bank stands for, but why they should believe it.

That is why the most enduring brands are built not simply on emotional connection, but on a compelling "reason to believe."

At Bank Windhoek, this understanding sits at the heart of the next phase of our *Is it Possible to Love a Bank?* campaign.

The first phase challenged perceptions and sparked conversation around the emotional relationship people can have with their bank. The second phase goes deeper. It answers the question customers naturally ask next: "Why should I switch?"

Because in a world of increasing choice, trust is earned through consistent experiences.

Customers are not just comparing interest rates or transaction fees. They are evaluating whether a bank understands their realities.

A compelling reason to believe emerges when a bank continuously delivers against these expectations.

Bank Windhoek has consistently demonstrated this, achieving an overall customer satisfaction score of 77% and an impressive 84% in brand affinity, according to recent surveys. These results reflect a strong foundation of trust built through consistent service delivery.

For Bank Windhoek, this means ensuring



Bank Windhoek has consistently demonstrated this, achieving an overall customer satisfaction score of 77% and an impressive 84% in brand affinity, according to recent surveys.

our products and services are not simply available, but relevant. Beyond traditional offerings, Bank Windhoek provides embedded value-added services, such as funeral and legal cover for transactional accounts and a free will-drafting service, demonstrating a commitment to holistic customer well-being.

Whether through innovative digital banking solutions, home financing, support for Small and Medium Enterprises, vehicle financing, investment offerings, or customer-centric service channels, our goal is to create banking experiences customers can rely on every day.

Brand affinity is important, but affinity without evidence is fragile. Customers may appreciate a campaign, enjoy a slogan, or resonate with a message. However, long-term loyalty is built when validated through tangible experiences. This is where the concept of "reason to believe" becomes powerful. It bridges the gap between emotion and action.

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For many customers, changing banks can feel overwhelming. Banking relationships are deeply embedded in daily life. Salaries, debit orders, savings, loans and personal financial histories create inertia. Even dissatisfied customers often remain with institutions because switching can feel complicated or uncertain.

To inspire customers to move, banks must provide a credible, compelling reason to make the change worthwhile. As a proudly Namibian bank, Bank Windhoek's strength lies not only in the products we offer, but in our deep connection to the communities we serve.

Our role extends beyond banking. We are part of Namibia's economic and social fabric. We support businesses, empower entrepreneurs, invest in communities, drive financial literacy and contribute to national development.

This commitment is further exemplified by the Capricorn Foundation, an intentional Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) vehicle that has invested over N\$37.4 million in initiatives uplifting communities through a portfolio of more than 100 projects across Namibia.

These projects span critical areas such as Economic Advancement, Education,

Sustainability, Health and Vulnerability Initiatives.

Customers switch when they believe that another institution will better support their goals, simplify their lives and value their relationship.

This is why a compelling reason to believe cannot be generic. It must be an authentic and consistently experienced. Our latest campaign showcases the practical proof points behind our brand promise: Products designed around customer needs; Accessible and innovative banking solutions; Dedicated service delivery; Digital convenience; Relationship-driven banking and a genuine commitment to Namibia's growth.

A compelling reason to believe is not built overnight, but through every interaction, every solution and every promise kept.

As Bank Windhoek continues its "Is it Possible to Love a Bank" journey, the focus remains clear: creating meaningful and valuable banking experiences that give customers confidence not only to believe in their bank, but to choose it. 'Switch to Love' today.

*** Jacquiline Pack is Bank Windhoek's Executive Officer of Marketing and Corporate Communication Services,**

Namibia places technology at centre of industrialisation push

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called for Namibia to transition from being a consumer of imported technologies to becoming a producer of innovation, placing science, technology and digital skills at the centre of the country's industrialisation agenda.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Science Exhibition Hall and the upgraded Rössing Foundation Ondangwa Digital Technology Hub, the President said Namibia's long-term economic competitiveness would depend on its ability to develop local technological solutions and build a knowledge-based economy.

“As Namibians, we cannot afford to be mere consumers of technology developed elsewhere. We must become creators, innovators and producers of knowledge,” Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

The remarks signal a growing policy focus on innovation-driven economic growth as Namibia seeks to position itself for opportunities emerging from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The upgraded digital hub is expected to provide young Namibians with access to modern technologies, digital learning tools and innovation platforms designed to strengthen technical skills and entrepreneurship.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said investment in digital infrastructure was critical not only for education but also for industrialisation, productivity growth and economic diversification.

“By equipping young people and communities with access to modern



technology and digital resources, we accelerate industrialisation and strengthen the foundations of a digital economy,” she said.

The President argued that future economic growth would increasingly be determined by countries' ability to generate knowledge, innovation and intellectual property rather than rely solely on natural resources.

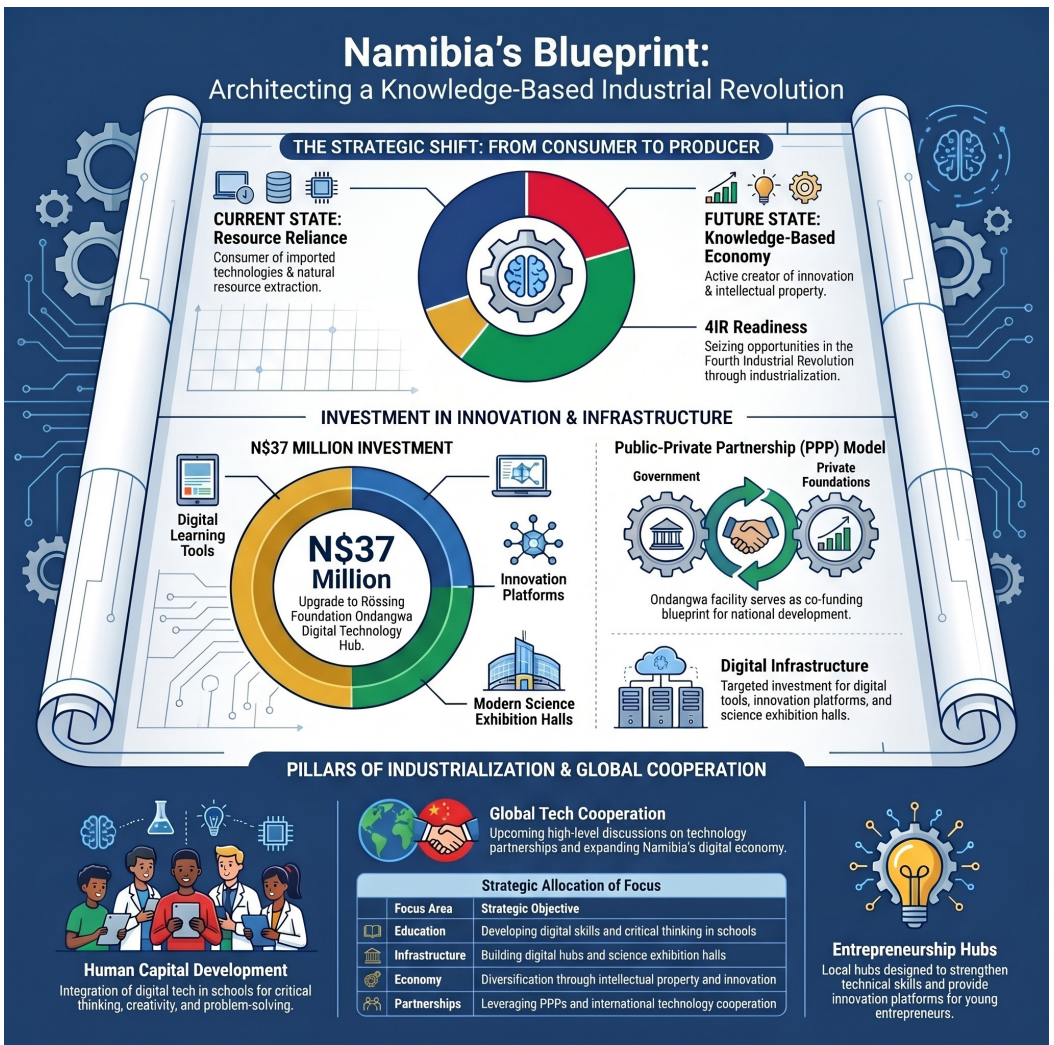
She said the integration of digital technologies into schools and training institutions would help develop critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills needed by future industries.

The call comes as Namibia pursues broader ambitions to expand its digital economy, strengthen innovation ecosystems and attract technology investment.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also disclosed that

she will travel to China in the coming days accompanied by Namibian business leaders, with technology cooperation and economic partnerships expected to feature prominently in discussions.

The President further revealed that the Rössing Foundation invested N\$37 million in upgrading the Ondangwa facility, describing the project as a practical example of how public-private partnerships can support national development priorities.





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The Namibian consumer protection bill – when do we get it prioritized?

By Freddy Tyapa

A consumer protection bill is a document that safeguards the intra trade conditions between a consumer and suppliers.

Have you ever been offered a product or a hire purchase for a good and days later your change your mind due to the terms not being favorable?

This often becomes very difficult to resolve as there is currently no bill in place that guides on trade-related resolutions.

According to consumer bills promulgated in other countries worldwide, the standard of the bill is - “To promote a fair, accessible and sustainable marketplace for consumer products and services and for that purpose to establish national norms and standards relating to consumer protection, to provide for improved standards of consumer information, to prohibit certain unfair marketing and business practices, to promote responsible consumer behavior, to promote a consistent legislative and enforcement framework relating to consumer transactions and agreements.

This bill has the capacity to change or improve the standards on conduct currently practice in the market place.

After 36 years of independence, we as a nation still have our consumers which sustain our economy not protect from traders and common deal makers.

The sad part in Africa, Namibia form part of the 5 countries which still do not have



This bill has the capacity to change or improve the standards on conduct currently practice in the market place.

a bill that protects its consumers alongside Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, and Guinea-Bissau.

The consumer protection brings a level of assurance to the consumers in Namibia with few focal points which are to advantage both the consumer and supplier. Currently the country has no legal frame which protects both parties involved in the consumption market. Below are some of the points which will be addressed directly by the consumer protection bill.

1. The right to equality – the concept of equality ensures that all customers are treated equally in the buying and supplying space. This would ensure that the prices and product offering are all aligned with every potential customer without considering the consumers background whether it is race, class or social background.

2. **The right to privacy** – in most cases purchase agreements are contracts

that contain both parties' information. Currently due to the lack of any bill in place, the supplied information is not protected and the extend to which the consumers information is exposed without their consent still poses a certain level of risk. Practical examples can be suppliers marketing their products directly to their consumers without their consent. This often lead consumers making uninformed decisions to make purchase as they are being lured to do so.

3. The right to choose – the consumer deserves the right to choose what they intent to buy. Currently in the market certain consumers are force into closing purchase deals. It has been a proven fact that most consumers are force into making purchases without enough time to consider on the final decision. This is an infringement to the consumer rights.

4. The right to disclosure of information – often times suppliers fail to fully reveal the full details on contracts. This is mostly made easier through making the contracts to long with unnecessary details which makes it hard for the consumer to read it all.

The bill would enable to amendments to be done to these contracts and have them simplified for the consumer to fully understand what they are committing to. Majority of consumers that have disputed their contracts are often deprived from information.

5. Right to fair and responsible marketing – the bill would prohibit unfair marketing practices, which includes bait marketing, negative option marketing, catalogue marketing, referral selling, sets standards for customer loyalty programmes and regulates promotional competitions.

6. The right to fair and honest dealing – the contracts between the

consumer and supplier should always be beneficial to both parties. A deal can never be considered to be fair if one party is used or baited into that contract.

7. The right to fair and reasonable terms and conditions - A supplier must not offer to enter into an agreement to supply any goods or services at a price or on terms that are unfair, unreasonable or unjust, and must not negotiate an agreement for the supply of any goods or services in a manner that is unfair, unreasonable or unjust.

8. The right to safe and quality goods – the supplier would be required to make sure the any product traded to a consumer does not possess any unsafe or hazardous risk at all time.

The bill would help ensure that products are of the highest quality standards approved.

It is interesting to note that our currency is pegged with the South African Rand and this allows Namibians to do trades on regular basis.

According to the trading economics website, South Africa is Namibia's largest bilateral trading partner for both imports and exports. Namibia heavily relies on South Africa for consumer goods, vehicles, and petroleum oils, while exporting commodities like precious stones, live animals, and fish in return.

Trade between the two countries consistently results in a trade deficit for Namibia. South Africa as a counterpart has a consumer protection bill whilst we are still to table one. This means that when a Namibian consumer is trading with South Africans we are not protected by our laws.

**Freddy Tyapa – Seasoned banker, economic and legal analyst who writes in his own capacity*



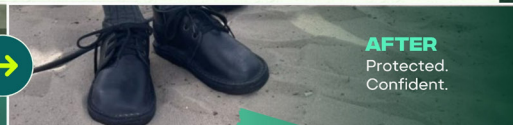
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Namibians travelling less despite record tourism boom

Namibia's hospitality sector may be enjoying record occupancy levels, but new data suggests local travellers are playing a diminishing role in the country's tourism industry.

While national occupancy reached a record 62.17% in May 2026, the share of bed nights sold to Namibians remained significantly below pre-pandemic levels, raising concerns about the health of domestic tourism.

According to Simonis Storm economist Almandro Jansen, Namibian travellers accounted for just 17.97% of all bed nights sold in May, broadly unchanged from a year earlier but around eight percentage points lower than in 2019.

The figures indicate that the sector's recovery and growth are increasingly being driven by international visitors rather than

local travellers.

"This gap suggests that Namibians may be travelling less, or increasingly making use of unlisted accommodation providers not captured in the national dataset," Jansen said.

The trend comes despite a strong rebound in overall tourism activity, with occupancy levels surpassing both 2025 and pre-Covid benchmarks.

Industry observers say the decline in domestic tourism may reflect growing pressure on household finances, with rising living costs, debt obligations and slower income growth limiting discretionary spending on leisure travel.

At the same time, international visitors, particularly from Europe, continue to fill hotel rooms and lodges across the country.

Germany, Austria and Switzerland

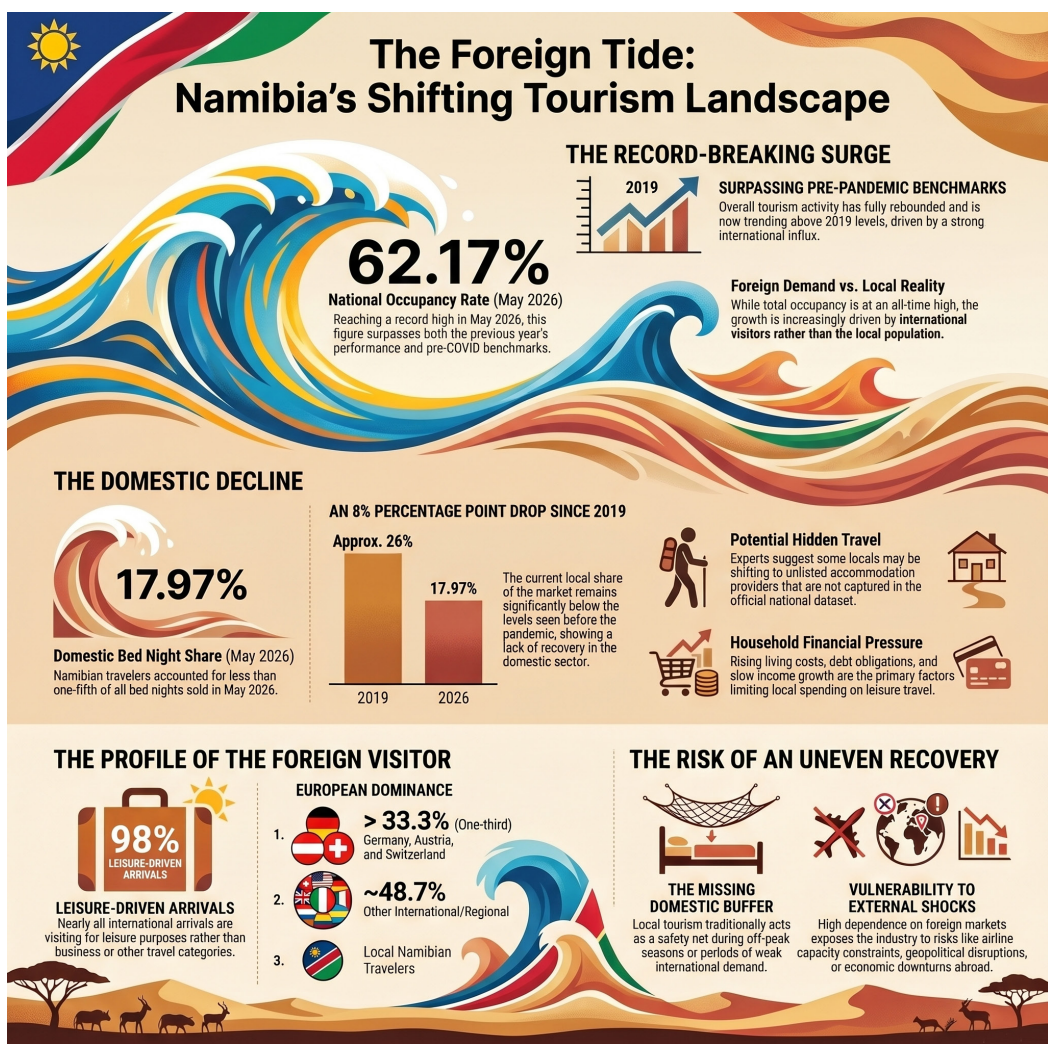
accounted for more than a third of all bed nights sold during May, while leisure travellers represented nearly 98% of all arrivals. The data highlights an increasingly uneven tourism recovery, where foreign demand is growing strongly but domestic travel has yet to return to historic levels.

Tourism operators have long argued that domestic tourism provides an important buffer during periods of weaker international demand and helps sustain

businesses outside peak seasons.

A continued decline in local travel could leave the industry more exposed to external shocks such as economic downturns in key source markets, airline capacity constraints or geopolitical disruptions.

While Namibia heads into the peak June-to-August tourism season with record occupancy momentum, the latest figures suggest one segment remains missing from the recovery story: the Namibian traveller.





Oshana sets aside 15% of procurement budget for local small businesses

The Oshana Regional Council has reserved 15% of its N\$110 million procurement budget exclusively for micro-enterprises and informal businesses, creating opportunities worth approximately N\$16.5 million for local entrepreneurs.

The ring-fenced allocation was a key highlight of the recent State of the Region Address (SORA) delivered by Oshana Governor Hofni Ipinge.

The targeted procurement policy forms part of a broader economic development strategy aimed at strengthening Oshana's position as the commercial and administrative hub of northern Namibia.

“The Oshana Regional Council continues to promote local economic participation through its procurement policy. Of a procurement budget of approximately N\$110 million, 15% was reserved for micro, small and informal businesses. This approach creates opportunities for local entrepreneurs to participate in government contracts, generate income and expand their operations. These empowerment initiatives continue to stimulate local economic growth while broadening participation in the formal economy,” Ipinge said.

He said the local procurement initiative complements ongoing growth in the region's

micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. During the past financial year, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade registered 1,329 new businesses and issued 975 micro-enterprise certificates across the region's 11 constituencies.

To further reduce barriers for emerging entrepreneurs, more than N\$866,000 worth of equipment and raw materials was distributed to 15 previously disadvantaged business owners.

In addition, the Development Bank of Namibia approved N\$11.3 million in financing to support projects in construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade and other sectors.

“Access to finance remains critical for economic expansion and job creation. During the reporting period, the Development Bank of Namibia approved financing amounting to N\$11.3 million for projects in the region. The funding supported key sectors, including construction, electricity infrastructure, manufacturing, health services, wholesale trade and business services,” Ipinge said.

The governor also revealed that Oshana received a capital allocation of N\$357.3 million, of which N\$180.1 million had been spent by the end of the fourth quarter.

According to Ipinge, the expenditure has supported job creation through public infrastructure projects, generating 120

permanent positions and more than 1,600 temporary and impact jobs across regional councils, educational facilities and local utilities, including Oshakati Premier Electric. Ipinge said the workforce behind this employment growth is currently upgrading the region's water, electricity and health infrastructure through several major development projects.

In the water sector, Phase 1 of the Ondangwa Wastewater Treatment Plant has reached 95% completion. At the same time, NamWater is implementing bulk water infrastructure upgrades valued at nearly N\$1 billion, including the refurbishment of the Karuheke–Oshakati Canal, replacement of the Ogongo–Oshakati pipeline and upgrading of the Oshakati Water Purification Plant.

“Government, through NamWater, continues to invest in strategic bulk water infrastructure to secure the region's long-term water supply needs. Key projects currently underway include the refurbishment of the Karuheke–Oshakati Canal, the replacement of the Ogongo–Oshakati pipeline and the upgrading of the Oshakati Water Purification Plant. Collectively valued at nearly N\$1 billion, these projects will significantly strengthen water security, improve system reliability and support future economic growth across the northern regions,” he said.

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