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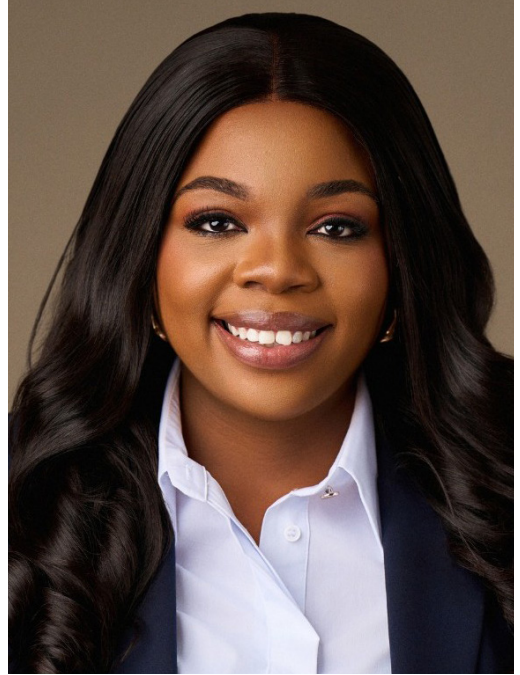
News Worth Knowing



Namibia's mounting fuel relief bill raises sustainability concerns

FRIDAY 05 JUNE 2026

MAIN STORY



Namibia's mounting fuel relief bill raises sustainability concerns

Economists have warned that Namibia may only be able to sustain its current fuel price relief measures for another six to 12 months, as rising subsidy costs place increasing pressure on public finances.

The warning comes after government moved to keep fuel prices unchanged in June despite a provisional petrol under-recovery of N\$1.56 per litre.

To avoid passing the increase on to consumers, the Ministry of Industries,

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**

Mines and Energy absorbed an estimated N\$47.2 million through the National Energy Fund.

However, Standard Bank Namibia Economist Helena Mboti cautioned that the current approach is becoming increasingly expensive and cannot be maintained indefinitely.

“The fiscal burden is already significant and requires financing through increased domestic borrowing, bond issuance or, as a last resort, external debt. Given these pressures, the current approach is only sustainable in the short term, roughly six to 12 months,” Mboti said.

According to estimates, government has already spent between N\$847.2 million and N\$1.3 billion cushioning consumers against higher fuel prices.

The intervention has shielded households and businesses from a series of global oil market shocks linked to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and disruptions in international energy supply chains.

High Economic Intelligence Economist Lewis Komu said the policy remains appropriate as a temporary response to exceptional market conditions but warned against turning it into a permanent subsidy programme.

“Government can sustain the intervention as long as it remains a temporary cushioning measure rather than a permanent subsidy,” he said.

The latest fuel price decision highlights the difficult balancing act facing policymakers, who must protect consumers

from inflation while safeguarding fiscal sustainability.

Industry analysts say a full pass-through of fuel costs could have accelerated inflation and increased transport and production costs across the economy.


At the same time, continued intervention is steadily eroding the National Energy Fund's financial reserves.

Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Modestus Amutse recently acknowledged that the fund's surplus has been "almost exhausted" after months of absorbing under-recoveries and additional import costs.

Government is now pursuing structural reforms aimed at lowering fuel procurement costs, including the introduction of a bulk petroleum import coordination system.

The new framework is expected to consolidate fuel purchases, improve bargaining power and reduce premiums charged above the Basic Fuel Price.

The regulations are targeted for implementation by the end of September 2026.



NAMWATER
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BID INVITATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Namibia Air feasibility study completed with less than N\$800,000 spent

Government has completed a feasibility study into the possible establishment of a new national airline, tentatively known as Namibia Air, with less than N\$800,000 spent on the exercise thus far despite an initial budget allocation of N\$20 million.

Works and Transport Minister Veikko Nekundi revealed in the National Assembly that the study has been finalised and is currently under review, marking a significant step in government's efforts to revive a national carrier five years after the liquidation of Air Namibia.

The study was conducted during

the current financial year by an inter-ministerial team of experts drawn from government institutions and the aviation sector.

“Therefore, at this stage, unfortunately we are unable to reveal much. However, I can confirm that the feasibility study is done and is now under review. We had budgeted for about N\$20 million, of which less than 4% have been utilised to that effect. The study was conducted by the inter-ministerial team of experts; the study was conducted during the current financial year,” Nekundi said.

Although N\$20 million was budgeted for

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the feasibility study, Nekundi said less than four percent of the allocation, or under N\$800,000, has been utilised thus far.

However, the minister declined to disclose the findings of the study, arguing that the aviation industry requires careful strategic planning due to its highly competitive nature.

“Honourable members, as leaders of this country, just as other countries around the world, we must know what to publish and when to publish. The aviation industry is highly complex and competitive, therefore we must understand and appreciate the strategic scope and framework required to enter such a complex and competitive industry,” he said.

According to Nekundi, the committee overseeing the project includes representatives from the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Attorney General, Namibia Airports Company, the Namibia Civil Aviation Authority, the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) and aviation industry stakeholders.

He said the team also includes three aviation specialists with a combined industry experience of more than 50 years, supported by experts in law, transport economics and governance.

The proposed airline would mark government's return to commercial aviation following the collapse of Air Namibia

in 2021 after years of financial losses and repeated state bailouts.

While government has not yet indicated whether the study recommends proceeding with the airline, Nekundi said work on the project remains ongoing.

The completion of the feasibility study is expected to inform government's next steps on whether Namibia should re-enter the aviation market through a state-backed carrier or pursue alternative models to improve air connectivity and support tourism, trade and economic development.

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Prosperity Lifecare Insurance Limited (“the Insurer”), a licensed life insurer in terms of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act, 2021 (FIMA), invites applications from suitably qualified and fit and proper individuals for appointment as Independent Insurance Agents. The successful applicants will be authorised to market and distribute approved life insurance products of the Insurer, strictly in accordance with applicable legislation, regulatory standards, and the Insurer’s governance framework.

Key Responsibilities:

- Market, promote, and distribute the Insurer’s approved insurance products to prospective policyholders.
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- Facilitate the completion of compliant application documentation and disclosures
- Maintain proper records of advice and transactions as required by law
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- Act with due skill, care, diligence, and in the best interests of policyholders at all times

Minimum Requirements (Fit and Proper):

- Grade 12 (or equivalent qualification) with commercial or business-related subjects
- Relevant experience in insurance, financial services, or sales will be advantageous
- Must meet the Fit and Proper requirements as prescribed in FIMA
- No criminal record relating to dishonesty or financial misconduct
- Sound knowledge of insurance products and regulatory requirements (or willingness to undergo training)

Regulatory Requirements:

- Appointment is subject to approval and registration as an insurance agent with Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority
- Applicants must comply with all requirements relating to intermediary licensing, including training, competency, and ongoing compliance obligations
- Agents will act under a written mandate and intermediary agreement with the Insurer
- Remuneration will be strictly in accordance with approved commission structures and regulatory limits

Important Disclosures:

- This is an independent intermediary role and does not constitute permanent employment unless expressly agreed otherwise
- Agents may only market products for which they are duly authorized
- All activities must comply with the provisions of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act, 2021 and applicable standards

Application Process:

- Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed CV, certified copies of qualifications, and identification documentation to cv@prosperitynam.com
- Shortlisted candidates will be required to undergo a fit and proper assessment and regulatory vetting process

CLOSING DATE: 15 June 2026



Government tests nationwide EV charging network with Windhoek pilot

The Ministry of Works and Transport is exploring the development of a nationwide electric vehicle (EV) charging network following the launch of a pilot charging station at its headquarters in Windhoek.

Speaking in Parliament, Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi said the number of electric vehicles on Namibian roads is steadily increasing, particularly in the Windhoek and central regions, prompting the ministry to assess the country's future charging infrastructure requirements.

The pilot charging station was designed and installed by the ministry's in-house engineering division and will serve as a test case to inform the possible rollout of EV charging facilities across the country.

“This initiative was developed and designed by the Ministry's in-house engineering team and is aimed at serving as a study case that will inform possible future EV charging

network deployment nationwide,” Nekundi said.

He said the ministry is well positioned to lead such an initiative due to its responsibility for managing government-owned immovable properties.

According to Nekundi, a future national charging network could support the adoption of electric vehicles within the government's fleet while also potentially serving the wider public. The pilot project forms part of broader efforts to prepare Namibia's transport sector for the transition to cleaner and more sustainable mobility solutions.

Lessons from the operation of the Windhoek charging station are expected to guide future policy decisions, infrastructure planning and investment in electric vehicle charging facilities.

“As custodian of government immovable properties, the Ministry is suitably positioned to develop an extensive charging station

network nationwide, with a view to catering for a future government electric vehicle fleet and possibly the public at large,” he said.

Government employees who own electric vehicles and wish to use the charging facility have been encouraged to register with the

Office of the Director of Capital Project Management at the ministry's headquarters.

The move signals government's growing interest in supporting electric mobility as Namibia prepares for increased adoption of electric vehicles in the coming years.

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In his new role, Fabio will be responsible for Institutional client coverage across pension funds, corporates, consultants, trustees and strategic institutional stakeholders. His mandate will include the delivery of treasury and liquidity solutions, pooled investment offerings and bespoke segregated mandate portfolios across fixed income and equity strategies.

He brings extensive experience within the Old Mutual Group, having held various leadership and distribution roles across the corporate and broker distribution environment. Most recently, Fabio served as National Sales Manager within the Corporate Segment, where he played a key role in driving strategic growth initiatives, strengthening intermediary relationships and supporting business development across the national platform.

Fabio holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice from the University of Cape Town, executive management qualifications from Stellenbosch Business School, and recently completed Bloomberg ESG Certification. His experience spans institutional relationship management, portfolio analysis, investment benchmarking, sales leadership and strategic stakeholder engagement.

His appointment further strengthens Old Mutual Investment Group Namibia's institutional capability as the business continues to deepen its position as a trusted investment partner to pension funds, corporates and institutional investors across Namibia.

Old Mutual Investment Group Namibia provides institutional investors with access to a broad suite of local and international investment solutions designed around liquidity management, capital preservation, long term growth and portfolio diversification across both public and private market strategies.

You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great

By Junias Erasmus

Many people want to succeed in life, but they delay starting because they feel they are not ready.

They think they must first be smart enough, experienced enough, or confident enough before they can begin.

This thinking often stops people from reaching their dreams. The truth is simple: you do not have to be great to start, but you have to start to become great.

Nobody starts life as an expert. Every successful person was once a beginner. They also had doubts, fears, and limited knowledge.

What made them different is not that they were perfect at the beginning, but that they were willing to begin. They took the first step, even when things were uncertain.



Fear is one of the biggest reasons people do not start.

Many people wait for the “right time” to start. They wait for more money, better opportunities, or more confidence.

But the right time rarely comes. Life does not usually give perfect conditions. Most of the time, you must start with what you have, where you are, and grow from there.

Fear is one of the biggest reasons people do not start. Some fear failure. Others fear what people will say if they fail.

But failure is not the end. Failure is part of learning. A child learning to walk falls many times before walking well. In the same way, people learn by trying, making



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mistakes, and trying again.

Starting something new may feel uncomfortable. The first time you try something, you may not do it well. You may feel shy, confused, or unsure. But with practice, you improve. Confidence does not come before action. Confidence grows after you start doing the work.

In today's world, many people see the success of others and feel discouraged. They see the results but not the hard work behind them. They do not see the early struggles, failures, or long hours of practice. This can make people feel like success is impossible for them. But that is not true. Every success story begins with a simple decision to start.

Greatness is not built in one day. It grows step by step. Every small effort counts. Every attempt teaches you something new. Over time, these small steps turn into big achievements. No one becomes great without starting small.

Young people should understand this. Waiting too long to start can lead to missed opportunities. It is better to try and learn than to wait and never begin. Even if the first step is small, it is still progress.

What matters is moving forward, not standing still. When you start something,

you also learn important life lessons. You learn patience, discipline, and responsibility.

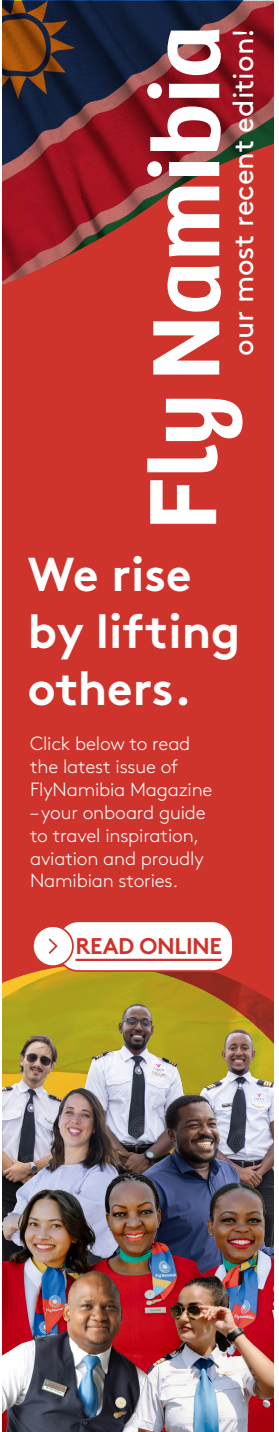
You learn how to solve problems and how to keep going when things are difficult. These lessons are more valuable than waiting for perfect conditions.

The truth is simple. Action creates progress. Waiting does not. Dreams only become real when you take the first step.

You may not be perfect, but you can improve. You may not be ready, but you can learn. You may not be great yet, but you can start. So do not wait for everything to be perfect. Start where you are.

Use what you have. Learn as you go. Every great achievement begins with someone who was brave enough to start. You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great..

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



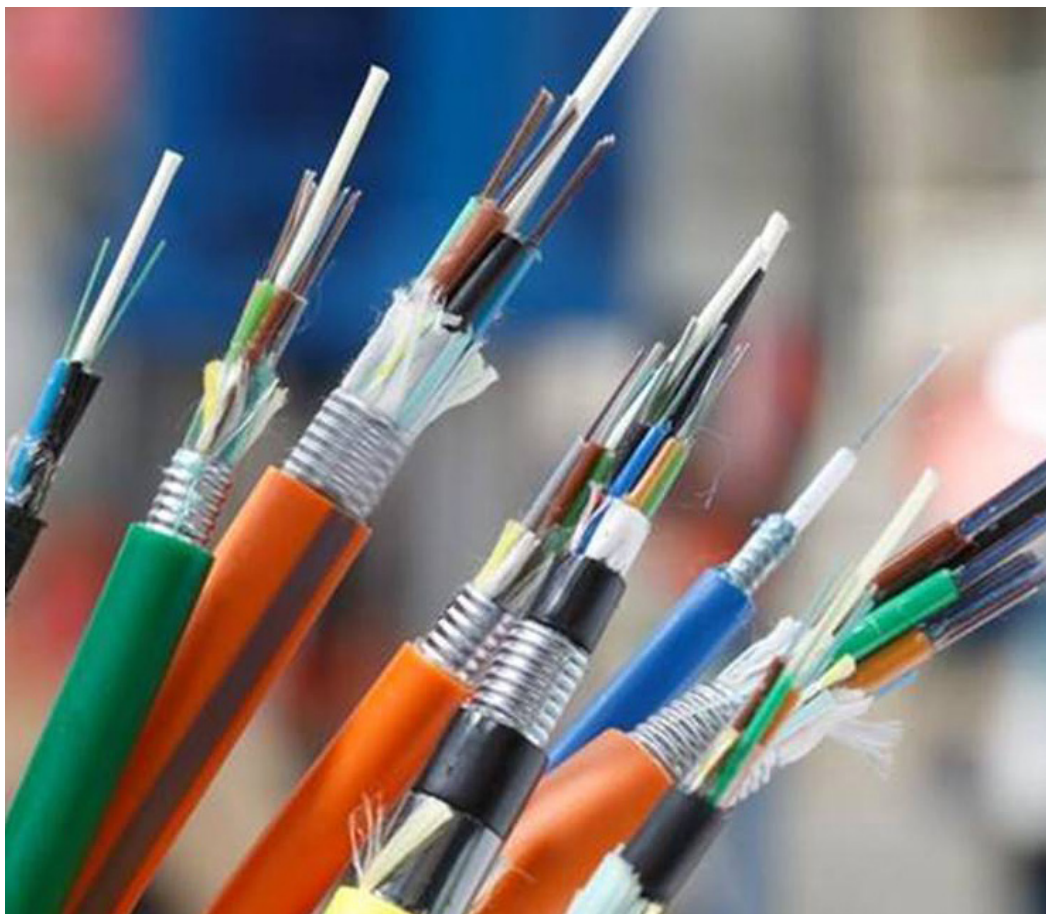
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A vertical banner for Fly Namibia magazine. At the top is the Namibian flag. Below it, the text 'Fly Namibia' is written vertically in large white letters, with 'our most recent edition!' in smaller white text to its right. Below this is the slogan 'We rise by lifting others.' in white. Underneath is a call to action: 'Click below to read the latest issue of FlyNamibia Magazine – your onboard guide to travel inspiration, aviation and proudly Namibian stories.' followed by a button that says '> READ ONLINE'. At the bottom of the banner is a group photo of several people, including pilots in uniform and other staff members, smiling.



Windhoek advances fibre commercialisation to power smart city vision

The City of Windhoek has advanced plans to commercialise its municipal fibre optic network, a move expected to strengthen municipal revenues, improve digital connectivity and support the capital's ambition of becoming a leading smart city in Africa.

Speaking at the fifth ordinary council meeting, Windhoek Mayor Sakaria Uunona said the first phase of the fibre commercialisation project has been

completed with the assistance of specialised advisers.

The phase focused on identifying viable business models for the network and assessing market opportunities to maximise the value of the city's fibre infrastructure.

According to Uunona, the upgraded network has already attracted new digital service providers and improved connectivity in pilot areas across the city.

“As a result, municipal revenue streams

are expected to grow, connectivity has improved in pilot areas, and Windhoek is better positioned to implement the People-Centred Smart City Strategy,” he said.

The mayor said the fibre network is a critical component of the city's broader digital transformation agenda and will provide the infrastructure needed to support future smart city initiatives.

“The upgraded infrastructure has fostered innovation, advancing Windhoek as a smart city hub,” Uunona said.

The fibre rollout comes as the City of Windhoek finalises its first People-Centred Smart City Strategy, developed in partnership with UN-Habitat under the UNITAC project.

The strategy is designed to place citizens at the centre of digital transformation efforts by using technology and data to improve municipal service delivery, strengthen urban governance and enhance public participation.

“The strategy prioritises citizens in digital transformation, using technology and data to improve service delivery, enhance citizen participation, strengthen urban governance, and raise residents’ quality of life,” Uunona said.

The municipality expects the combination of fibre commercialisation and smart city planning to improve service delivery, support investment attraction, boost trade efficiency and create a digital

platform for future urban development.

Windhoek approved the implementation of its municipal fibre project in 2022 after years of discussion around the city's smart city ambitions.

A smart city uses digital technologies, sensors and data-driven systems to manage infrastructure and public services more efficiently, while improving the quality of life of residents.

The latest developments mark a significant step in Windhoek's efforts to modernise its infrastructure and position itself as a technology-driven urban centre capable of supporting future economic growth and innovation.



Standard Bank

Request For Proposals

RFP/SBN/001/05/2026 - Professional Programme Management Services

1. Information

Standard Bank Namibia invites experienced, qualified independent contractors and consulting firms to submit proposals for the provision of Project Head services for Retail Banking Transformation on a fixed-term outsourced basis.

2. Description of Role

The role will focus on leading the delivery of a Board-approved retail transformation programme, including coordinating cross-functional initiatives, ensuring effective execution, and monitoring performance and benefits realisation.

3. Key Responsibilities

- Drive disciplined execution of retail banking transformation initiatives.
- Monitor and report on transformation benefits and outcomes.
- Provide executive-level reporting, analysis, and strategic insights.
- Coordinate programme delivery across multiple business functions.

4. Experience Required

- Minimum of 10 years’ experience in banking or financial services.
- Proven experience in delivering retail banking and/or payments-led transformation programmes.
- Experience engaging and operating at an Executive Committee and Board level.
- Strong understanding of regulatory requirements and governance practices.

Contract Nature: This is a fixed-term independent contractor engagement and does not constitute employment with Standard Bank Namibia.

Application Process: Interested suppliers and consultants may request the detailed RFP document and required submission forms by emailing:

✉ | SupplierSourcing@standardbank.com.na

• Closing Date: Friday, 05 June 2026 at 16:00

Note: Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted within two weeks after the closing date.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not constitute a commitment by Standard Bank Namibia to award any contract or engage any responding party.



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Should you pay off your bond faster or invest in stocks?

By Erastus Kalenga Hamunjela

This is one of the most common questions I get, and it usually comes from someone who is finally in a good financial position.

The debt is under control, there is a bit of money left over at the end of the month, and the choice is between throwing that extra cash at the home loan or putting it into the market.

Both feel responsible and both are. So how do you decide?

The starting point is to stop thinking of it as paying off debt versus making money and start thinking of it as two competing returns. When you pay extra into your bond, you are not just reducing what you owe.

You are earning a guaranteed, risk-free return equal to your bond interest rate. If your home loan is at around 11%, then every extra N\$1 000 you put in is effectively earning you 11% with absolute certainty. There is no market that can take that away from you. One caveat, though, is that 11% is not locked in for the life of the loan.

Namibian home loans float with the prime rate, which the central bank nudges up or down as inflation shifts, so your bond rate will move over the years. What stays certain is the principle, not the number.

Paying down the bond always earns you exactly



The starting point is to stop thinking of it as paying off debt versus making money and start thinking of it as two competing returns.

whatever your rate happens to be at the time, with no market risk attached, and if rates climb, attacking the bond only becomes more rewarding. Investing in shares, on the other hand, offers a higher expected return over the long run, but the most important

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word there is 'expected'. It is not guaranteed, and in any given year it can swing hard in either direction.

What most people miss is that the 11% from your bond is not just guaranteed, it is also tax-free, and that is a bigger advantage

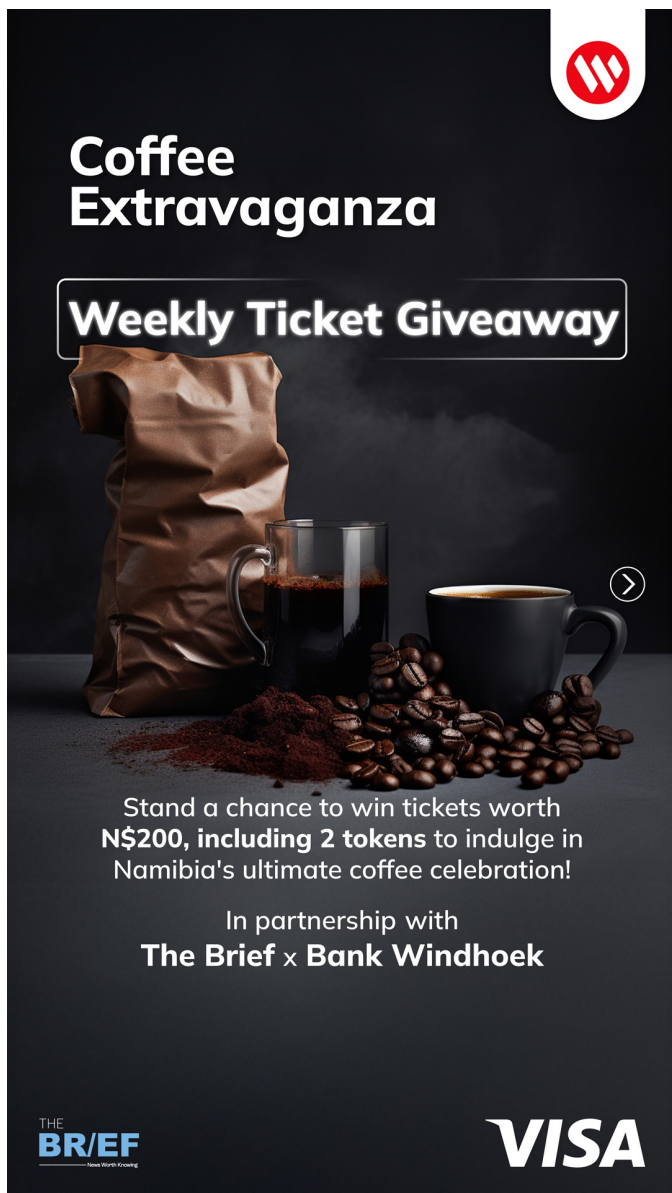
than it sounds. Money you do not pay in interest is not income, so it cannot be taxed. Compare that to the most common "safe" alternative, parking your money in a fixed deposit or money market fund.

In Namibia, the interest those products pay is hit with a 10% withholding tax that the institution deducts before the money ever reaches you. That changes the maths completely. To actually match your 11% bond saving after tax, an interest-bearing investment would need to earn close to 12.2% before tax just to break even with paying down the loan.

Very few low-risk, interest-paying products clear that bar. The unit trusts that do reach 15% or even 20% get there by taking on equities, not by being safe, and their returns come from market growth rather than interest, which is taxed differently and far more lightly. In other words, the only realistic way to comfortably beat your bond is to accept real investment risk, and that trade-off sits at the very heart of this whole question.

Put real numbers to this. Take a N\$1 million bond over twenty years at 11%. Your repayment works out to roughly N\$10 300 a month, and over the full term you would hand the bank around N\$1,48 million in interest alone.

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fifteen, and saves you close to N\$420 000 in interest, while you only contributed an extra N\$182 000 of your own money. That saving is guaranteed.

Now take that same N\$1 000 a month and invest it instead over the same fifteen years, and the outcome depends entirely on the return you earn. At a conservative 10% a year you would reach about N\$414 000, at 12% about N\$500 000, and at 14% around N\$606 000, having put in only N\$180 000 of your own money either way.

Notice what that range is telling you. At the lower end, investing roughly ties the guaranteed bond saving, so the bond's certainty wins the argument. At the higher end, investing pulls clearly ahead. But the higher you assume, the more you are betting that recent strong conditions will repeat, and they may not.

The bond gives you one fixed number you can count on. The market hands you a range, and where you land inside it is the risk you are taking on.

When the gap is this narrow, the guaranteed option deserves serious weight. But there is a second mistake hiding in the word "invest," and it is worth naming. Many Namibians hear "invest in the market" and picture buying local shares, yet our own exchange makes that harder than it should be.

The NSX Local is small and thinly traded. Trading activity remained muted through 2025, one of the lowest years

for local value traded in over a decade, and the index leans heavily on a handful of mature financial and telecoms counters such as Capricorn Group, FirstRand Namibia, Standard Bank and MTC. Those are solid businesses, but a portfolio built only on them is concentrated and difficult to trade in and

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out of.

Namibians actually have an edge here that is easy to miss. Because we share the Common Monetary Area with South Africa and the Namibia dollar is pegged one-to-one to the rand, money moves between the two countries with very little friction, and

our currency and the rand are effectively interchangeable.

That means you can open an account on a platform like EasyEquities, buy ETFs listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange directly in rand, and end up owning the largest companies on earth without ever dealing with a foreign exchange desk. A single S&P 500, Nasdaq 100 or global index ETF puts Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia and hundreds of others into your portfolio for the cost of one trade.

The numbers behind this have been compelling. The Satrix S&P 500 ETF, which you can buy in rand right here, has returned roughly 16.7% a year since it launched in 2017 and about 15% a year over the past five years, comfortably ahead of what a local fixed deposit or a basket of NSX shares would have given you over the same stretch. There is even a bonus built in.

When the rand weakens against the US dollar, the rand value of those offshore holdings rises, so a falling currency that hurts you at the petrol pump actually lifts the value of your global investments.

But the honesty has to sit right next to the reward. That same fund has had a year where it returned a remarkable 38% and a year where it gave barely 4.7%, and somewhere ahead of you there will be a year where it falls and stays down for a while.

That swing is the price of admission, and those returns

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also rode an unusually strong run in US shares and a weaker rand, neither of which is guaranteed to repeat. For an investor with a ten-year timeframe and the temperament to sit through the bad years without selling, this is what “investing in the market” should really mean.

There are also things the pure maths leaves out. A paid-off home is a feeling, not just a number, and the cash flow you free up once the bond is gone is enormous and arrives with certainty.

Money poured into your bond is locked in the house unless you have an access or flexi facility, while money in the market can be reached if life goes sideways. The good news is that many Namibian home loans now come with a flexible facility that lets you pay extra and still draw it back later, which hands you the best of both worlds.

Somewhere in all this, it helps to step back and notice that the whole debate is built on a false choice. We talk about paying off the bond versus investing as if they are two fighters and only one can win, but they are not even playing the same game.

Your bond is your shield. Paying it down is guaranteed, tax-free, lowers your risk, and one day hands you back a large chunk of monthly cash flow for good. Global equities are your sword. They are uncertain and they will test your nerves, but over decades they are the engine that actually grows your wealth well beyond inflation.

Shield and sword are not rivals. A person who pours everything into the bond and never invests will be debt-free but will under-build their future for thirty years. A person who throws everything into shares while carrying expensive debt is taking on risk they were never paid to take.

The goal was never to crown a winner and neglect the loser. It is to let each one do the job it is good at, and to refuse to regret the

one you did not choose, because done right, you are not choosing at all.

So what is the real answer? For most people it is not one or the other. Clear any expensive debt first, because a credit card or personal loan at 18% or more beats both options and should never be left sitting while you debate this question.

Keep an emergency fund so you are never forced to sell investments at the worst possible time. After that, the sensible path is usually to do both: put something extra on the bond to capture that guaranteed, tax-free return and shorten your debt, and invest the rest into diversified growth assets so your money keeps compounding over the decades ahead. You do not have to win this argument. You just have to keep doing both, consistently, for a very long time. In the end, wealth isn't built by out-smarting a spreadsheet; it's built by staying disciplined enough to let both your shield and your sword do their jobs.

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****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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Telecom Namibia given four months to fix network as CRAN warns of penalties

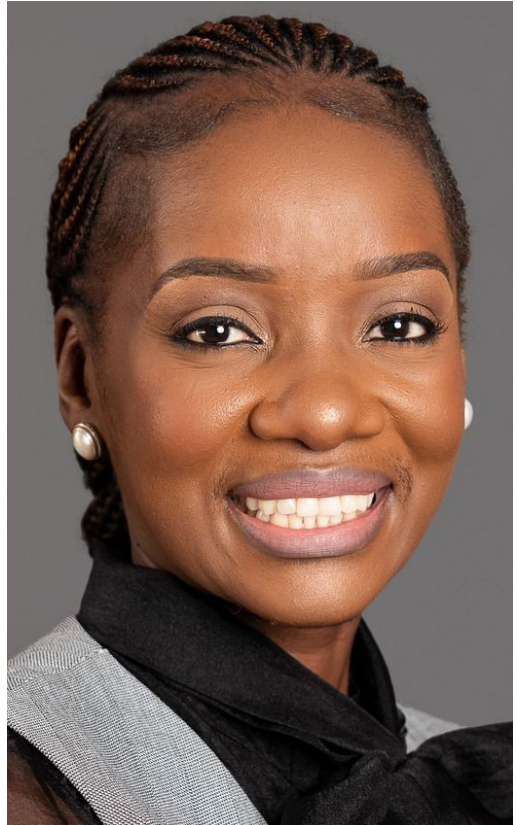
Telecom Namibia has been given four months to stabilise its network after repeated nationwide service outages prompted regulatory intervention by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

The regulator said the state-owned telecommunications operator suffered multiple disruptions between January and May 2026, affecting voice, data and messaging services across the country and raising concerns about the reliability of one of Namibia’s key communications networks.

Following a formal engagement with Telecom Namibia on 3 June, CRAN outlined a series of corrective measures that the operator must implement immediately, while warning that further regulatory action could follow if service quality standards are not met.

CRAN Chief Executive Officer Emilia Nghikembua said the outages were caused by a combination of access system failures, power interruptions, fibre network faults, hardware failures, transport infrastructure challenges and increasing incidents of copper theft.

The regulator revealed that more than 80 cases of copper theft were recorded in the first four months of the year, undermining connectivity and exposing vulnerabilities in



Telecom Namibia’s ageing infrastructure. To address the challenges, Telecom Namibia has committed to replacing fragile network equipment, strengthening backup

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power systems, improving international connectivity and intensifying measures to combat copper theft.

Beyond the immediate interventions, the company is expected to develop a broader turnaround strategy focused on modernising its network infrastructure, upgrading backbone capacity, expanding international links and overhauling critical billing and core systems.

CRAN said the measures are necessary but warned that they will not be sufficient without substantial capital investment.

“Telecom Namibia requires significant capital investment, whether through debt, equity or other appropriate instruments, to modernise and consolidate its network,” Nghikembua said.

“Short-term interventions will not, on their own, cure the present deficiencies.”

The regulator indicated that sustained

investment and structural reforms are required to ensure the operator’s long-term viability and its ability to provide reliable communications services.

CRAN also confirmed that it will conduct a detailed assessment of Telecom Namibia’s compliance with quality-of-service regulations and licence conditions.

where non-compliance is identified, the regulator said enforcement measures could include fines and penalties.

The intervention comes as pressure mounts on Telecom Namibia to improve service reliability amid growing dependence on digital communications by businesses, government institutions and consumers.

CRAN said it would closely monitor implementation of the agreed measures and treat any future instability with urgency given the critical role telecommunications infrastructure plays in the economy.

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Namibia airport passenger traffic climbs to 90,658 in March

Namibia recorded 90,658 passenger movements across its airports in March 2026, reflecting a strong recovery in air travel activity following a slower February, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

Passenger movements increased from 69,129 recorded in February 2026 and were also higher than the 85,098 movements registered in March 2025.

The NSA said the Passenger Movement Composite Index, which tracks international, regional and domestic arrivals and departures across all airports, rose by 31.1% month-on-month in March, reversing the 8.4% decline recorded in February. On an annual basis, the index increased by 6.5%.

"Hosea Kutako International Airport accounted for 79.8% of total passenger

movements during the month, followed by Walvis Bay Airport with 12.3% and Eros Airport with 4.5%," the NSA said.

Hosea Kutako International Airport remained the country's busiest gateway, recording 38,616 arrivals in March, compared to 27,865 arrivals in February and 34,195 arrivals in March 2025.

According to the NSA, the airport's arrivals index increased by 38.6% month-on-month and by 12.9% year-on-year.

Departures through Hosea Kutako also rose to 33,766 passengers in March, up from 26,341 in February and 32,343 in the corresponding month last year.

The departures index increased by 28.2% on a monthly basis and by 4.4% compared to March 2025.

Walvis Bay Airport also recorded strong growth, with arrivals rising to 5,677 passengers in March from 4,185 in February and 4,184 in March last year.

The NSA said the airport's arrivals index increased by 35.7% both month-on-month and year-on-year.

Departures from Walvis Bay Airport

increased to 5,519 passengers in March, compared to 4,593 in February and 4,408 in March 2025.

The departures index rose by 20.2% month-on-month and by 25.2% year-on-year.

At Eros Airport, arrivals increased to 2,050 passengers in March from 1,837 in February. However, this remained below the 2,748 arrivals recorded in March 2025.

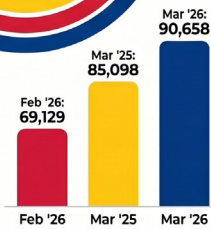
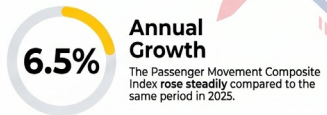
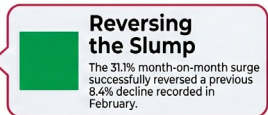
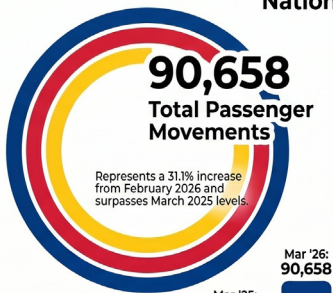
The NSA said the airport's arrivals index rose by 11.6% month-on-month but declined by 25.4% compared to the same period last year. Departures through Eros Airport increased to 2,025 passengers in March from 1,827 in February, but remained below the 2,834 departures recorded in March 2025.

According to the NSA, the departures index at Eros rose by 10.8% month-on-month but declined by 28.5% year-on-year.

The increase in passenger traffic comes amid continued growth in international and regional air connectivity, with airlines expanding services into Namibia and tourism arrivals showing signs of recovery.

Namibian Aviation Ascent: March 2026 Traffic Recovery

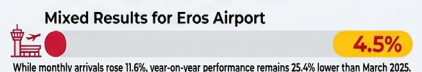
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Nandi-Ndaitwah commends progress at northern green schemes

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah says she is encouraged by the progress made at Namibia's northern green schemes, citing improved production and stronger farmer support following government interventions introduced two years ago.

Speaking after inspecting several green schemes in the Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena and Omusati regions, the President said the projects are beginning to show positive results despite challenges posed by heavy rainfall and infrastructure constraints.

“But by and large, I can tell you that I am satisfied with what they have done,” Nandi-Ndaitwah said during her visit to

the Ndonga Linena Green Scheme.

The President's remarks come after a week-long tour of key agricultural projects, including the Etunda Green Scheme in Omusati, the Ekoka Brownfield Green Scheme in Ohangwena, the Sikondo Green Scheme in Kavango West, and the Uvhungu-Vhungu, Shadikongoro and Ndonga Linena Green Schemes in Kavango East.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said improvements at the schemes follow recommendations she submitted to Cabinet in 2024 while serving as Vice President to address operational and production challenges affecting the projects.

According to the President, farmers

Under NDP6, which is informed by the SWAPO election manifesto, agriculture is both a priority area as well as an enabler.

have since reported improved support from government and better production outcomes.

At Ndonga Linena, farmers reported increased cereal production compared to the previous season, despite delays caused by heavy rains. The scheme has also commenced winter wheat planting.

The President said the improvements demonstrate the importance of sustained government oversight and investment in agriculture.

“Under NDP6, which is informed by the SWAPO election manifesto, agriculture is both a priority area as well as an enabler. If the green schemes are not productive, it will be very difficult for the government to convince citizens to invest in agriculture for us to ensure food security,” she said.

She also highlighted efforts to diversify production across the schemes.

At Sikondo, mixed farming operations

now include garlic production, while plans are underway to establish a feedlot. At Ndonga Linena, undeveloped land has been earmarked for tree crops, vegetables and other cash crops as part of efforts to expand production and improve sustainability.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said agriculture remains central to Namibia's efforts to strengthen food security, create jobs and reduce reliance on imported food.

“When you feed your own people, and when you create jobs, people become self-reliant because if you are working, you can take care of yourself,” she said.

The President pledged to continue monitoring the performance of green schemes annually to ensure momentum is maintained and investments translate into higher agricultural output.

“From now, I must be visiting these green schemes every year. Now, when I came now, I am even more happy,” she said.

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Scaling up afforestation for sustainable development in northern Namibia

By Paulina Shipahu

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Seminar on Climate Change and Sustainable Development for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries in Beijing, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organised by the National Academy of Forestry and Grassland Administration (NAFGA).

The seminar brought together officials from various BRI countries to exchange experiences, learn from China's practices in ecological civilisation, forestry and grassland management, ecosystem restoration, and ecological poverty alleviation as tools for sustainable development.

Coming from the Northern Part of Namibia, where afforestation and environmental restoration are vital after years of deforestation, it was both insightful and immensely inspiring.

Outside the seminar room, field visits from Beijing to Fujian Province illustrated and showcased how agricultural development, urbanisation, culture and tourism can be integrated while promoting climate adaptation and environmental sustainability.

One of the most significant lessons from the seminar was China's experience in combating desertification and restoration of degraded ecosystems. While climatic situations vary from place to place, there are useful lessons that Namibia can draw from and adapt to fit our unique environmental challenges.

Namibia is under increasing environmental



“

The starting point is to stop thinking of it as paying off debt versus making money and start thinking of it as two competing returns.

stress, including soil degradation, sand mining, deforestation, drought and water scarcity.

China's ecological restoration initiatives demonstrate that state-led, long-term environmental planning is key.

The Chinese approach is based on the notion that forest protection is not only about climate change mitigation, but also about enhancing livelihoods, water resource conservation, strengthening food systems and maintaining ecological balance.

Crucially, China has integrated climate goals directly into its national development blueprints. Under this framework, the institutional cadre evaluation system actively incentivizes environmental stewardship by tying “promotions” to a balance between GDP growth and ecological sustainability.

The Five-Year Plans evaluate Local Authorities and State-Owned Enterprises not only on economic growth, but also on energy efficiency and carbon intensity targets, and this points to a governance style that is increasingly seeing environmental

The Five-Year Plans evaluate Local Authorities and State-Owned Enterprises not only on economic growth, but also on energy efficiency and carbon intensity targets, and this points to a governance style that is increasingly seeing environmental sustainability as part of economic development rather than a competing priority.

sustainability as part of economic development rather than a competing priority.

These lessons resonate strongly with Namibia as the 8th Administration has declared 12 May as Nujoma Day and National Tree Planting Day. This day honours the late Founding President Sam Nujoma's commitment to environmental conservation while promoting a culture of tree planting and ecological responsibility.

Furthermore, although participation remains voluntary, there is a need to elevate Tree Planting into a broader civic responsibility and national culture.

Carbon markets and nature-based climate solutions are another promising avenue. Namibia is developing a carbon market framework and positioning itself as a future green industrial hub through renewable energy and green hydrogen development.

Partnerships on forestry carbon sinks and ecosystem-based carbon projects could create opportunities for climate finance, green jobs, and rural income generation.

Crucially, this increasing cooperation mirrors a wider global truth: environmental sustainability and economic growth are no

longer mutually exclusive concerns.

The importance of environmental sustainability is also evident in Namibia's tourism sector, one of the country's core economic pillars.

A particular concern is the fragility of Etosha National Park, where, during October 2025, a massive blaze that originated from charcoal production activities near commercial farms caused widespread environmental destruction and significant wildlife casualties.

Protecting this natural asset is both an environmental and economic imperative. With sustained investment, strategic collaborations and policy consistency, Namibia can undoubtedly transform its environmental challenges into opportunities for economic growth, employment creation, ecological sustainability and turn its environmental concerns into employment opportunities, ecological sustainability and become a worldwide leader in dryland development.

****Paulina Shipahu is a Public Policy Scholar and advocate for Global Partnerships. She writes in her personal capacity.***



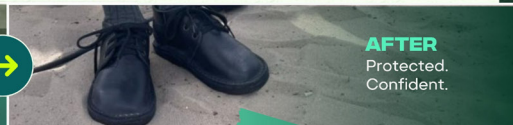
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OL launches alumni programme for former employees

OL has launched the OL Legends Alumni Programme, an initiative aimed at formally recognising former employees who have contributed to the group's growth and development over more than a century.

The programme was launched in Windhoek on 5 June 2026 and is open to former employees who served the company continuously for at least five years and left in good standing.

OL Chief Experience Officer Franziska Rüeck said the initiative forms part of the group's efforts to preserve its institutional culture, celebrate its history and maintain lasting relationships with former employees.

"OL Legends represents the Group's commitment to honouring its history, preserving its culture and ensuring that the actions taken today extend beyond employment and across generations," said Rüeck.

She noted that many of the programme's inaugural members embodied the company's values long before the OL Persona framework was formally introduced.

OL Executive Chairman Sven Thieme said the programme acknowledges the contribution generations of employees have made to building the business.

"For more than 106 years, generations of people have given a part of their lives to the OL Group. I see people. I see relationships. I see stories. I see sacrifices. And I see lessons passed from one generation to the next," said Thieme.

"You helped build our businesses. You

helped shape our Persona. And you remain part of our future. Welcome home," he added.

Former OL Human Capital Director Berthold Mukuahima said the initiative demonstrates the company's commitment to recognising the contributions of employees beyond their years of active service.

"Contribution matters, that people are remembered and that relationships do not end when employment does," said Mukuahima.

Former Group Chief Operating Officer Günther Hanke said the programme would help facilitate mentorship and knowledge transfer between former and current employees.

"Experience is one of the most valuable assets an organisation can hold and OL Legends creates a meaningful bridge between those who built the foundation and the generation now responsible for the future," said Hanke.

OL employee and 2025 Group Overall Persona Champion for OL Centre, Ellen Geingos, said younger employees have inherited a workplace culture shaped by previous generations.

"Culture is not built in boardrooms but through people, in every daily interaction, and my generation has inherited something meaningful, shaped by those in the room," said Geingos. According to OL, the programme is designed to recognise former employees, strengthen engagement between alumni and current staff, and support mentorship and knowledge-sharing for future generations within the group.

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