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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Oryx plans N\$8bn–N\$10bn fund with GIPF as anchor investor

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026

MAIN STORY

Oryx plans N\$8bn–N\$10bn fund with GIPF as anchor investor



Oryx Properties is advancing plans to launch an unlisted property fund as part of a broader strategy to scale assets under management and diversify revenue streams.

Chief Executive Officer Ben Jooste said the company has secured a mandate to establish the fund, with the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) expected to serve as the anchor investor.

“Oryx has won a tender to create an

Crucial Dates

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

unlisted fund for GIPF, where GIPF is the main investor, and we are now starting to gain traction with this fund,” Jooste told The Brief.

The structure is designed to address constraints in Namibia’s unlisted property market, particularly around liquidity and exit options for institutional investors.

“What we are proposing is to build the fund with a pathway to exit into the listed platform,” Jooste said.

The model creates a pipeline between unlisted and listed assets, allowing Oryx to recycle capital while supporting the expansion of its listed balance sheet.

From a capital allocation perspective, the strategy is expected to enhance long-term asset growth, with Jooste indicating a target to build the listed platform into a mid-cap fund valued at between N\$8 billion and N\$10 billion.

The proposed vehicle could become one of the largest unlisted property funds in Namibia, positioning Oryx to attract additional institutional capital while deepening the domestic property investment market.

In addition to asset growth, the structure is expected to generate fee-based income through property management

and development services provided by the listed entity.

“This allows us to build what could become the largest unlisted property fund in Namibia, while the listed entity provides property management and development services, generating additional fee income,” Jooste said.

Oryx is a property fund listed on the Namibia Securities Exchange, with a real estate portfolio comprising 28 retail, industrial, office and residential properties.



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Namibia's economy grows to N\$269.8bn as real growth slows to 1.7%

Namibia's economy expanded to N\$269.8 billion in 2025, up by N\$19.7 billion from N\$250.0 billion in 2024, although real economic growth slowed markedly to 1.7%, according to data released by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The latest figures point to continued nominal expansion, driven by price and output effects, but reflect a deceleration in underlying economic activity. Real GDP growth declined from 3.8% in 2024 and remains well below the 5.4% recorded in 2022.

NSA Manager of National Accounts Ngainonekue Uamburu said the increase in nominal GDP underscores the growing size of the economy, which serves as a key benchmark for macroeconomic indicators.

“The size of the economy expanded by N\$19.7 billion in 2025. Nominal GDP reached approximately N\$270 billion, up from N\$250 billion in 2024.

This measure reflects both production and price dynamics and is critical for indicators such as the debt-to-GDP ratio,” he said.

Over the past decade, nominal GDP has grown at an average rate of 6.3%, rising from N\$158 billion in 2016 to current levels.

Sectoral performance was mixed, with construction emerging as the main driver of growth. The sector expanded by 20.2%, supported by increased civil engineering activity and building projects, particularly in the electricity subsector.

“Construction was the top performer at 20.2% growth, linked to building projects and increased civil engineering activity. This is closely tied to developments in the Electricity and Water sectors,” Uamburu said.

The Electricity and Water sector grew by 12.6%, driven by improved domestic power generation, particularly at the Ruacana Power Station following favourable rainfall,

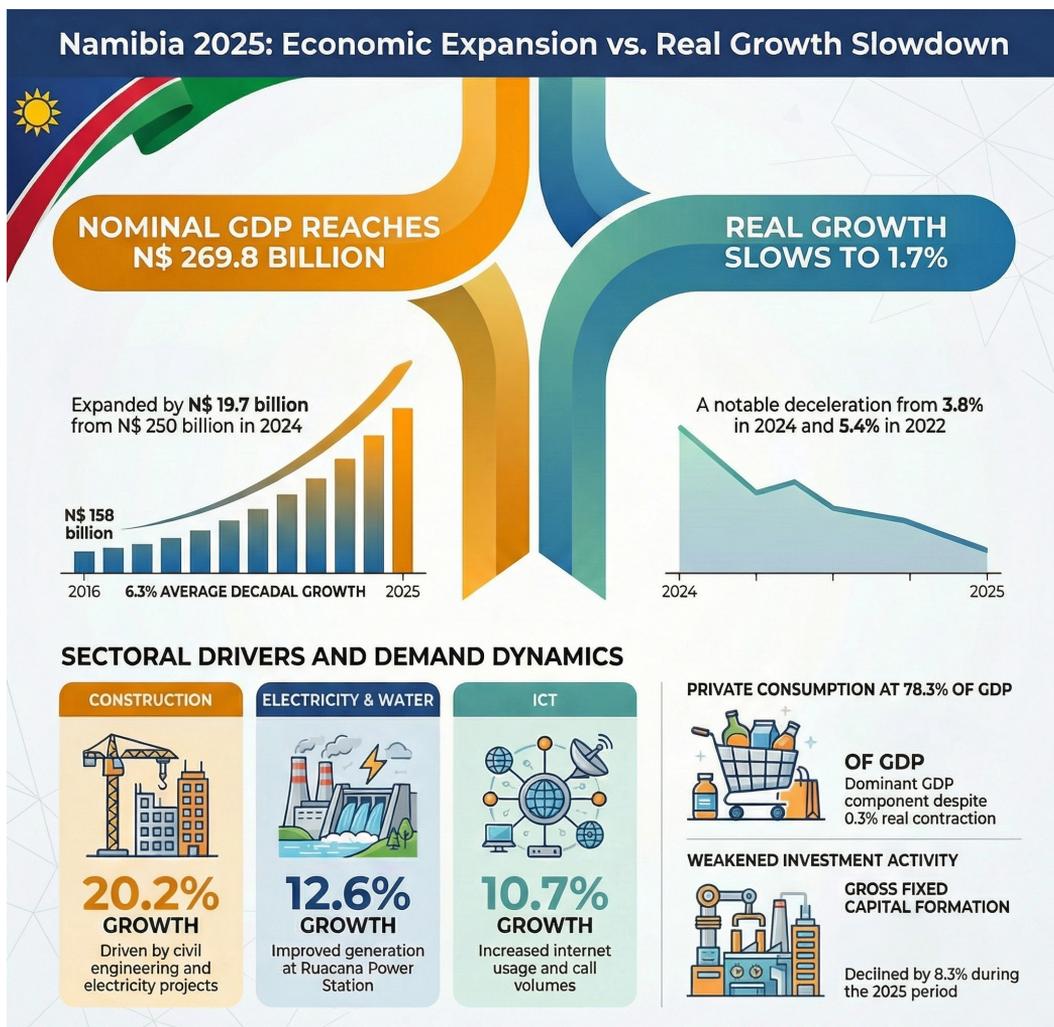
which reduced reliance on electricity imports. The Information and Communication sector also recorded strong growth of 10.7%, reflecting increased internet usage and higher call volumes.

On the demand side, private consumption remained the dominant component of GDP, accounting for a record 78.3%, despite a marginal contraction of 0.3% in real terms.

External trade trends showed divergence, with exports increasing by 11.8%, while imports accounted for 63.9% of GDP.

Although real import growth declined by 3.7%, the high share underscores Namibia's continued reliance on imported goods.

Investment activity weakened during the period, with gross fixed capital formation declining by 8.3%, although its share of GDP remained above the long-term average at 21.5%. The data reflects an economy that continues to expand in nominal terms, but with slowing real growth momentum and persistent structural dependencies shaping the outlook.



Rethinking private capital markets in Namibia: Why we keep getting vanilla and chocolate

By Chuka Okafor

A recent conversation got me thinking about private equity in Namibia; not in terms of performance, numbers or fund rankings - but in terms of structure and suitability.

In emerging markets, we often talk about 'unlocking opportunity', yet we spend less time interrogating whether the models that we use are actually fit for the environment that we operate in.

To explain what I mean, it helps to start with an analogy: Imagine a small, hot town where people like ice cream. In that town, you will almost certainly find vanilla and chocolate ice cream. Perhaps strawberry if the market is doing well and its tourist season.

What you will not find is a wide range of niche flavours - not because people wouldn't enjoy them, but because the market cannot support everything at once. Namibia's private capital market works much the same way.

Capital exists - but the market for niche flavours is small

Namibia is often described as capital-constrained. In aggregate, that is not quite accurate. Local pension funds, insurers, development finance institutions, and family office-type wealth runs into the hundreds of billions of Namibian Dollars.

It helps that regulation requires a meaningful portion of institutional savings to be invested domestically. The constraint is therefore not the amount of capital, but rather the diversity of participants and styles. A small group of Limited Partners /



In developed markets, exit multiples and an internal rate of return ("IRR") within a defined period may be a reasonable proxy for success.

Investors anchor most funds, often across fixed vintages and replicated strategies.

Unlike developed markets, where hundreds of Investors with different mandates coexist, Namibia's ecosystem is tight, concentrated, and interconnected. Capital is recycled rather than continuously expanded. In ice-cream terms: I see enough ice cream makers with enough ingredients, but there aren't enough customers to sustain twenty different flavours. The system therefore converges rationally on what is familiar.

Opportunity is real, but unevenly timed

This does not mean that Namibia lacks opportunity. On the contrary, there are many nascent investment opportunities across infrastructure, energy, logistics, agri-business, industrial services, and the built environment.

What Namibia lacks is constant deal activity at every stage of the company and capital cycle. Opportunities tend to emerge unevenly. They require patience, operational

build-out, regulatory navigation, and often long gestation periods.

They do not arrive neatly packaged within fixed investment windows. This matters because the typical closed-end private equity model assumes a steady rhythm of deployment and exit. That assumption holds in large, liquid markets. In small markets, it introduces friction.

Time is the least discussed risk

One of the most under-appreciated risks in emerging-market private equity is time. A manager may invest well, structure prudently, and build real value and still struggle because the timing is wrong. Funds raised just before COVID, or at the tail end of Namibia’s construction and government-spending boom, faced headwinds that had little to do with decision quality (although not all funds and investors are equal).

This raises an uncomfortable question: Are we judging decisions, or are we judging outcomes? As Annie Duke has observed, outcomes are noisy. Good decisions can lead to poor results, and vice versa. In markets with sharp cycles and thin liquidity, conflating the two leads to distorted conclusions.

The problem with forced exits

Closed-end funds assume that an exit is both possible and desirable within a defined timeframe. In Namibia, exits are episodic. Strategic buyers are few. Secondary markets are thin and mandates are more vanilla, some chocolate and strawberry if we’re lucky.

When exits are forced by fund timelines rather than asset readiness, value is often lost. Good assets are sold early, frequently to offshore buyers, and not because that is the best long-term outcome, but because the fund itself has an expiry date. This comes after the time pressure to invest – which is a different conversation altogether...

When this happens and the only offer is from an offshore buyer with no competitive bids; Namibia may give up more than ownership. It give up the ability to realise optimal value and compound value locally to more ice cream.

Structure shapes outcomes

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Closing date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026 at 12pm

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Structure matters more in small markets than we admit. There is a meaningful difference between capital allocators and institution builders (the “ice cream makers”). Builders originate ideas, assemble teams, navigate regulation, and stay invested through cycles. Their value often emerges slowly. In emerging markets, they provide continuity and institutional memory.

Yet builders are poorly served by closed-end, time-bound structures. Their work rarely fits neatly into a ten-year fund life. Just as a platform becomes robust, the exit clock starts ticking. This is how long-term value is truncated.

When a model designed for large, liquid markets is applied without adjustment, the ecosystem naturally narrows. Familiar strategies dominate. Vanilla and chocolate crowd out everything else and even if ice cream makers want to make more and different flavours – who will buy them? The reason we keep getting vanilla and chocolate is not that other flavours are inferior. It is that the system is not designed to support them.

Manager selection in a nascent market

Institutional tenders play an important role in Namibia. They promote transparency and comparability, and they are well suited to markets with many managers and a meritocracy of deep track records.

While this remains relevant in many instances - in a smaller market, tenders tend to select for familiar structures, strategies optimised for compliance and managers who know how to answer the questions being asked... In other words, you get what fits the template.

Unsolicited strategies; those rooted in local insight and conviction, often struggle to meaningfully compete in such frameworks. Over time, tender-heavy systems train managers not to innovate, but to conform. The result is fewer flavours and thinner differentiation. We must not confuse “newness” with the same basic ice cream flavours with different toppings and packaging (form over substance).

Permanent capital and

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Enquiries: Any enquiries relating to this EOI should be directed via email to: procurement@fnbnamibia.com.na on or before 20 March 2026.

Closing date: Friday, 27 March 2026 at 12pm

patience

Most professional investors in private markets often have the patience but not the time... Permanent or longer-duration capital changes the equation. It removes artificial exit pressure. It allows assets to be held, optimised, refinanced, or partially exited when conditions are right, and not when the calendar demands it.

Permanent capital is not without risk. Governance and incentives matter more, not less. But in a small market, it expands the opportunity set. It allows new flavours to exist. It makes pistachio ice-cream viable.

Many regulatory frameworks were designed with traditional funds in mind. That is understandable. But regulation should not inadvertently lock the market into a narrow set of outcomes. This is not a call for deregulation. It is a call for regulatory imagination and allowing institutional-quality permanent or hybrid continuation vehicles with appropriate safeguards. If Namibia wants to retain value locally, capital must be allowed to stay invested when staying makes sense.

Rethinking success

In developed markets, exit multiples and an internal rate of return ("IRR") within a defined period may be a reasonable proxy for success. In smaller markets, it can be misleading.

In our case, we should also ask: What institutions were built? What capabilities were retained? What value continues to compound locally?

These outcomes matter even if they do not fit neatly into quarterly reports. You can't eat IRR but you can continue to eat from the value that compounds. Ultimately, we will not get more flavours by demanding them at conferences or asking banks to do things that they are not setup to do. We'll get them by allowing experimentation, patience, and diversity of approach. Vanilla and chocolate will always have a place. But if we want a deeper, more resilient market; one that builds and retains value locally, we must make room for more flavours and build a meritocracy for the ice cream makers to innovate and raise like-minded capital.

That requires rethinking manager selection, embracing longer-duration capital, backing independent sponsors and judging success not only by when we exit, but by what we build and leave behind.

** Chuka Okafor is an active Investorpreneur. His work sits at the intersection of alternative investing, M&A, financial markets development, and entrepreneurship, connecting capital and capability across Africa's real economy.*



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Launch of DBN's Women-Focused Financing Initiative





Govt says existing programmes will sustain rural connectivity despite Starlink rejection

Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare says Namibia has existing government initiatives to expand connectivity, including programmes led by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) and funding mechanisms aimed at extending access to rural areas, dismissing concerns that the rejection of Starlink will undermine connectivity in underserved regions.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Ngurare said the country's approach to expanding digital access is anchored in structured, long-term programmes rather than reliance on a single operator.

He emphasised that connectivity rollout must be aligned with national priorities and deliver sustainable benefits.

“Let us do so in a manner that will benefit

Namibians and not for some others to come just because they want to make money and thereafter forget about that,” he said.

Ngurare was responding to criticism from Popular Democratic Movement leader McHenry Venaani, who questioned government's handling of the decision not to approve a licence for US satellite internet provider Starlink and raised concerns about the impact on rural connectivity.

Venaani also challenged the consistency of local ownership requirements and called for greater policy clarity.

In response, Ngurare defended the decision, insisting that Namibia will not compromise its laws or regulatory framework to accommodate any investor.

“I find it problematic that somehow we must bend our norms because of

personalities or personas that are involved in applying, and if and when they are rejected," he said.

He reiterated that Namibia's policy position is that citizens must benefit from economic activity in the country, adding that ownership requirements form part of a broader framework applied across sectors.

Ngurare acknowledged concerns about consistency, noting that the debate around ownership structures, including in mining, remains open and subject to review.

"It is a conversation that is worth having and which we must continue to have," he said.

He also rejected the notion that Namibia should adjust its regulatory stance based on geopolitical considerations or the profile of investors.

"If somebody comes because they have geopolitical connections to trample upon the principles and the laws of Namibia, we

must stand and say whoever comes to do business here must conform to the laws of the country," he said.

Ngurare further stressed that Namibia remains open to investment, but warned against creating exceptions that could weaken regulatory consistency.

"Namibia is a country where all those who respect our laws can do business. If we start to bend our laws because of who is involved, tomorrow we will not react the same way to others," he said.

The remarks follow a decision by CRAN to reject Starlink Internet Services Namibia (Pty) Ltd's application for both a telecommunications service licence and a spectrum licence, as published in the Government Gazette on 23 March 2026.

The decision prevents the company from rolling out fixed satellite internet services nationwide using designated radio frequency bands.



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Namibia recorded N\$2.9 billion in export earnings from fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates in the fourth quarter of 2025, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

This represents a 9.8% increase compared to N\$2.7 billion recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024.

The NSA said Spain was the main export destination during the period, accounting for 32.3% of total fish exports, with frozen hake fillets as the leading product.

Zambia and South Africa were the second and third largest export markets, accounting for 26.7% and 9.2% of exports, respectively. Frozen jack mackerel was the main product exported to Zambia, while horse mackerel dominated exports to South Africa.

Meanwhile, the import bill for fish and related products rose to N\$136.9 million

during the quarter, reflecting a 36.3% increase from N\$100.4 million recorded in the same period in 2024.

Fish imports were primarily sourced from South Africa, which accounted for 50.1% of total imports, with hake being the main product.

Spain was the second largest source of imports at 21.7%, followed by the Falkland Islands at 10.1%, with hake, cuttlefish and squid among the key products imported from these markets.

The NSA also reported a decline in total landings of quota species, which fell by 20.8% to 53,392 metric tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2025, compared to 67,382 metric tonnes in the same period a year earlier.

Horse mackerel accounted for the largest share of landings at 30,896 metric tonnes, followed by hake at 18,436 metric tonnes, while crab ranked third at 1,961 metric tonnes, the NSA said.

Namibia's investment boom: Opportunity today, responsibility tomorrow

By Gregory Lombardt

Namibia is increasingly positioning itself as a preferred destination for global investment, particularly in the oil and gas sector.

Industry leaders have praised the country's ability to attract international players, highlighting strong cooperation between government and industry as a key driver of this success.

Yet beneath this optimism lies a more complex reality: while investment is accelerating, production and the full economic benefit may still be years away.

Recent insights from industry stakeholders indicate that oil production could take up to 15 years after a final investment decision is made.

This timeline serves as an important reminder that while Namibia is attracting capital today, the true test lies in how effectively it manages the journey from exploration to production.

A Magnet for Investment

Namibia's emergence as an investment hub is no coincidence. Significant offshore discoveries, particularly in the Orange Basin, have placed the country firmly on the global energy map.

Over a relatively short period, exploration activity has accelerated, with multiple wells drilled and increasing interest from international operators.

Equally important is the fact that approximately 75% of Namibia's land remains unexplored, signalling that the



For Namibia, the focus must shift from short-term excitement to long-term planning.

current wave of investment may only represent the beginning.

From a financial perspective, this presents a rare opportunity. Early-stage investment inflows can stimulate economic activity, strengthen foreign exchange reserves, and position Namibia as a long-term energy player.

The Long Road to Value Creation

However, investment alone does not equate to immediate economic benefit.

The oil and gas sector is inherently capital-intensive and high-risk. Exploration phases require substantial funding, with no guarantee of commercial success. Even when discoveries are confirmed, the transition to production involves years of technical development, infrastructure investment, and regulatory alignment.

This lag between investment and revenue generation introduces a critical challenge: managing expectations.

For Namibia, the focus must shift from short-term excitement to long-term planning. The country must ensure that systems are in place to manage future revenues responsibly, rather than reacting once production begins.

Governance: The Defining Factor

Perhaps the most important message emerging from current discussions is the emphasis on responsible resource management. Parliamentary leaders have cautioned that natural resources must be managed wisely to avoid the pitfalls experienced by other resource-rich nations.

This is where financial governance becomes central.

Strong oversight, transparent reporting, and disciplined fiscal management will determine whether Namibia's oil wealth translates into broad-based economic development or becomes a missed opportunity. Global experience has shown that resource wealth alone does not guarantee prosperity it is the management of that wealth that matters.

Balancing Investment and Regulation

Another key consideration is the balance between attracting investment and maintaining regulatory discipline.

Recent industry engagements have highlighted concerns around taxation and compliance, particularly in relation to exploration activities. Investors seek certainty and fairness, while governments seek to secure long-term revenue. Striking the right balance is essential to sustaining investment momentum without compromising national interests.

Namibia's ability to remain competitive

while ensuring accountability will be a defining factor in the sector's success.

A Strategic Moment for Namibia

Namibia's current position is both promising and delicate. The country has successfully attracted global attention and investment, but the journey ahead requires careful navigation.

From a financial perspective, the priority should be clear:

- Strengthen governance structures
- Enhance transparency in reporting
- Build capacity within institutions
- Plan for long-term revenue management

These steps will ensure that today's investment translates into tomorrow's sustainable growth.

Conclusion

Namibia's rise as a magnet for investors marks the beginning of a new economic chapter. However, the real measure of success will not be the volume of investment attracted, but the value ultimately created and sustained.

The opportunity is undeniable but so is the responsibility.

As the country moves forward, the focus must remain on building a financial and governance framework capable of supporting long-term prosperity. In doing so, Namibia can ensure that its resource wealth becomes a foundation for inclusive growth, rather than a fleeting advantage.

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MTC's Tim Ekandjo appointed to new pan-African Creative Council

Tim Ekandjo, Brand, Marketing, Communications and Sustainability Officer at Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) Namibia, has been appointed to the newly launched Opportunity Africa Creative Council, a pan-African body aimed at reshaping the continent's global narrative.

The initiative, aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, brings together leading figures in communications, media and marketing to advance a more unified and opportunity-driven story of Africa.

Ekandjo said he was honoured to join what he described as a bold movement to reframe Africa's image.

"I look forward to working alongside Africa's best minds in brand and marketing to proudly tell the African story," he said.

The Creative Council forms part of the



broader Opportunity Africa platform, a continental movement designed to influence how Africa is perceived globally and internally by amplifying stories of progress, innovation and institutional growth.

The initiative is positioned as a strategic

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response to a shifting global landscape, where competition for capital, influence and attention is intensifying. Organisers argue that perception has become as critical as economic fundamentals, making narrative control a key lever for development.

The Council will guide the creative direction of the initiative, leveraging members’ networks to ensure messaging remains credible, culturally relevant and aligned with continental priorities.

Faith Adhiambo, Communications Officer for Agenda 2063 at the African Union, said the collaboration reflects the type of coordinated effort required to advance the continent’s long-term vision.

“This is exactly the kind of collaboration Africa needs to shape a narrative that reflects our aspirations under Agenda 2063 and builds The Africa We Want. It will strengthen how we communicate the Union’s priorities and amplify Africa’s voice,” she said.

Moky Makura, Executive Director of Africa No Filter and co-chair of the Council, described the formation of the body as unprecedented in its scope and level of expertise.

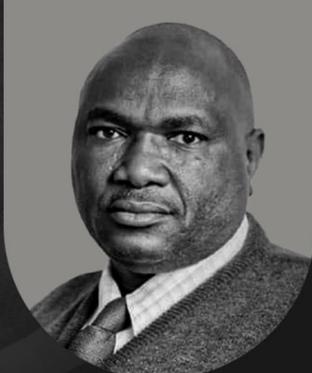
“It is rare to see this level of collaboration coming together to build the narrative infrastructure Africa needs to reframe the continent,” she said.

The Creative Council includes senior leaders from organisations such as TRACE, Africa Practice, the African Union, Brand

South Africa, IC Publications, Alpha Media Holdings and X3M Ideas, among others.

Opportunity Africa is convened by Africa No Filter and Brand Africa, in partnership with the African Union and other stakeholders. The platform seeks to position Africa as a continent of opportunity, progress and creativity by aligning brands, institutions and storytellers behind a shared narrative.

Africa No Filter, which serves as the Council’s secretariat, is an advocacy organisation focused on challenging stereotypical portrayals of Africa and supporting more balanced and nuanced storytelling across global media and communications platforms.




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**04
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2026**



Namibian grapes drive horticultural exports to N\$1.3 billion in fourth quarter

Namibia's horticultural exports reached N\$1.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 2025, with grapes accounting for the bulk of export earnings, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The figure represents a 4% decline from the N\$1.4 billion recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024.

“During the period under review, grapes were the top exported product, amounting to N\$1.2 billion, followed by dates at N\$22.1 million, while onions ranked third at N\$20.4 million,” the NSA said.

The Netherlands remained the largest export destination, accounting for 41.4% of horticultural exports, followed by the United Kingdom at 22.3% and Germany at 11.1%. Exports to all three markets were predominantly grapes.

Meanwhile, Namibia's horticultural import bill stood at N\$327.1 million during the quarter, down 0.5% from N\$328.7 million recorded in the same period in 2024.

“Potatoes were the most imported product at N\$53.3 million, followed by apples at N\$31.1 million and bananas at

N\$15.2 million. Horticultural products were mainly sourced from South Africa, which accounted for 95.7% of imports during the period under review,” the NSA said.

The agency noted that the main commodity sourced from South Africa was classified under “other stimulants, spices and aromatic crops”.

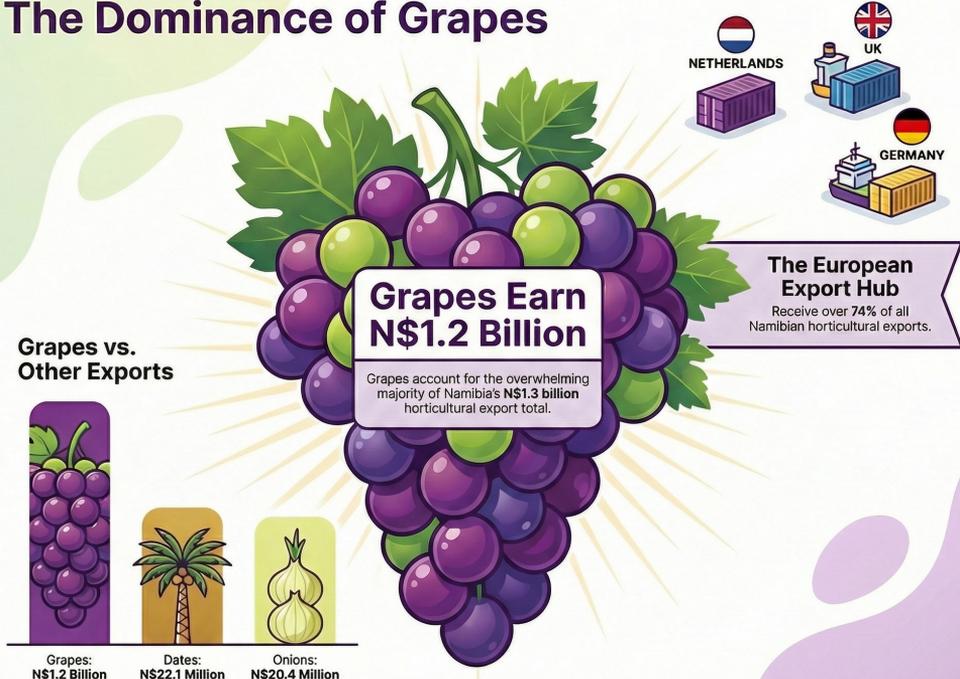
The NSA further explained that special controlled fresh produce includes all fruits and vegetables regulated by the Namibian

Agronomic Board (NAB) through import restrictions under the Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme.

Under these measures, imports of fresh produce are restricted when there is sufficient domestic supply. The MSP framework also requires buyers to source a portion of their demand locally before import permits are granted.

“These measures are designed to secure markets for local producers,” the NSA said.

Namibia’s Horticultural Trade: The Dominance of Grapes



Import Trends & Market Protection



South Africa Supplies 95.7% of Imports

Namibia relies almost exclusively on South Africa for imported produce like potatoes and apples.



Market Share Promotion (MSP) Scheme

A regulatory framework restricting imports to ensure local farmers secure domestic market access.



Regulated Fresh Produce

The Namibian Agronomic Board restricts imports when domestic supply is sufficient to meet demand.



Namibia urged to seize AI opportunity to boost skills, jobs and economic growth

Namibia must accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) to drive productivity, skills development and long-term economic growth, the Economic Association of Namibia (EAN) has said.

The call follows a public lecture, where policymakers, industry players and technology experts examined how AI can be leveraged to address key national

challenges.

EAN Chairperson Jason Kasuto said the country faces a strategic choice in how it responds to rapid technological change.

“We are witnessing an unprecedented pace of innovation. Artificial intelligence is no longer a futuristic concept. It is the defining tool of our current decade. The question for Namibia is whether we will be the architects of that change or merely its

observers,” he said.

Kasuto emphasised that economic growth must be anchored in skills development, with AI offering the potential to improve productivity across sectors including agriculture, mining, energy and healthcare.

“We don’t just want growth, we want smart growth. We want a future where Namibian talent is aligned with global innovation and where our workforce is equipped with 21st-century skills,” he said.

Technology expert and former Microsoft executive Chandan Chauhan said global investment in AI is accelerating at scale, with spending expected to exceed US\$2 trillion, presenting both risks and opportunities for African economies.

“AI is no longer just a tool. It is becoming an autonomous teammate that can reason, act and execute work,” he said.

Chauhan added that the technology could unlock significant economic value across the continent if the right capabilities are developed.

“AI represents a trillion-dollar opportunity for Africa, with the potential to drive growth, create jobs and transform industries. However, this will depend entirely on building the right capabilities,” he said.

He noted that Namibia is relatively well positioned to benefit from the transition, citing its infrastructure and macroeconomic stability, but warned that timing will be critical.

“This is not just a technology race, it is a timing advantage.

Early movers will define the standards,” Chauhan said.

Discussions at the lecture also highlighted the growing importance of skills such as critical thinking, creativity and adaptability in an AI-driven economy, alongside the continued relevance of human capabilities such as empathy.

EAN said the engagement forms part of its broader efforts to stimulate informed dialogue on emerging economic trends and ensure Namibia is prepared to harness new technologies for national development.

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NamWater, Standard Bank sign employee finance deal covering housing, vehicles and loans

NamWater and Standard Bank Namibia have signed an agreement to provide employees with easier access to housing, vehicle and personal loans.

The partnership introduces three loan schemes covering home finance, car finance and personal lending, all offered at preferential rates.

NamWater Acting Chief of Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Irwin Haihambo, said the initiative is aimed at improving employees' financial wellbeing.

"The agreements cover home loans, vehicle finance and personal loans, forming a complete financial support package for our staff," he said.

Under the deal, employees can access home loans of up to 108% of the property value, vehicle loans at below prime interest rates, and personal loans with repayment

periods of up to five years.

Loan repayments will be deducted directly from salaries, reducing risk and simplifying the process.

Standard Bank Namibia said the partnership forms part of its workplace banking strategy, which brings financial services directly to employees through on-site support and tailored solutions.

Head of Personal and Private Banking Karen van der Merwe said the model is designed to make banking more accessible.

"By bringing services into the workplace, employees can access support easily without having to travel, while benefiting from dedicated relationship management," she said.

The partnership is expected to improve financial stability among employees while strengthening cooperation between the two institutions.

Hartlief, O&L Leisure secure SADC quality awards recognition

Two Ohlthaver & List (O&L) Group subsidiaries, Hartlief and O&L Leisure, have received Certificates of Recognition at the SADC Quality Awards 2025/2026, held in Johannesburg on 25 March.

Hartlief Continental Meat Products was recognised in the Exporter of the Year category for large enterprises, while O&L Leisure received recognition in the Service of the Year category for large enterprises. The awards were accepted by Hartlief Marketing Manager Beverly Jandrell.

The SADC Quality Awards recognise organisations across the region that demonstrate compliance with international quality standards, robust management systems and measurable performance. Only national award winners qualify to compete at regional level.

O&L Group Executive Chairman Sven Thieme said the recognition reflects the group's operational focus on quality and performance.

“We are genuinely grateful for this acknowledgement. At O&L, our pursuit of excellence is embedded in how our people work, the standards we set and the accountability we maintain as we work towards Vision 2029,” he said.

Namibian Standards Institution Chief Executive Officer Dr Eino Mvula also congratulated the group on the achievement.

Jandrell said the recognition underscores the competitiveness of Namibian products and services at a regional level.

“This recognition affirms that Namibian-made products can compete at the highest



level. It reflects the commitment of our teams across production, quality control and operations,” she said.

She added that the award for O&L Leisure highlights the group's focus on service delivery across its hospitality operations.

The recognition marks a milestone for the O&L Group as it advances its Vision 2029 strategy, with the awards seen as validation of its standards across products and services in the region.



Orano refurbishes Arandis Open Market to support local businesses

Orano Mining Namibia, in partnership with the Arandis Town Council, has refurbished the Arandis Open

Market, strengthening support for small businesses and local economic activity in the town.

A milestone worth celebrating. Namibia Mining & Energy has reached 50,000 followers on LinkedIn. Thank you to our readers, partners and industry stakeholders for being part of the journey. Continue to read, share and engage with us as we tell Namibia's mining and energy story.

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The upgrade, completed at the end of 2025 at a cost of N\$300,000, restores the facility into a modern and functional trading space for local entrepreneurs. The market was originally established in 2012 through a N\$500,000 investment by Orano, then operating as AREVA Namibia.

The development of the market traces back to a 2005 baseline study which identified a lack of formal trading space as a major constraint for small and medium enterprises, many of which operated informally without adequate infrastructure.

The facility provides 16 business units along with shared trading areas and has since become a key hub for small-scale enterprise in Arandis.

Orano Mining Namibia Managing Director Marc Meleard said the refurbishment reflects the company's continued commitment to the town, despite its mining operations being placed under care and maintenance in 2013.

"Our wish is that we experience the growth of the Erongo Region together and benefit from it not only today, but for future generations," he said.

Arandis Mayor Johanna Namupala said the upgraded market highlights the importance of partnerships in driving economic diversification and supporting local

livelihoods.

She described the facility as a platform for entrepreneurship, providing a structured space for small businesses to grow and contribute to the local economy.

Namupala also acknowledged Orano's contribution to the town's 2024 to 2029 Strategic Plan, which focuses on strengthening infrastructure and promoting sustainable development beyond mining.

The refurbished market is expected to support local commerce, improve trading conditions and contribute to household incomes, as the town seeks to position itself as a centre for SME development.

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