

TRANSPORT LAWS

Namibia gives Yango, inDrive 56 days to comply with transport laws

p. 06



NEXT CLIMB

The plateau is not the end. It is the pause before the next climb

p. 08



LAWYER OF THE YEAR

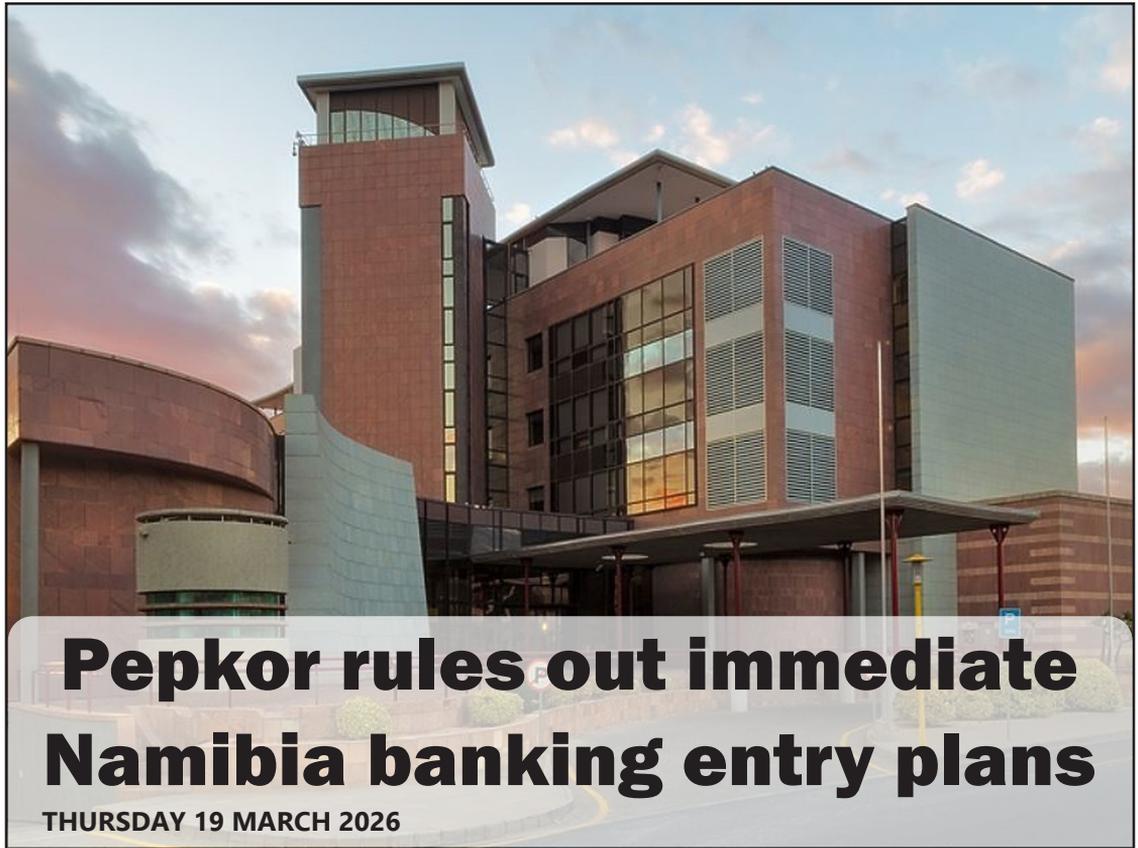
IFLR Africa Legal Awards name Shakwa Nyambe Namibia's Lawyer of the Year

p. 12



THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Pepkor rules out immediate Namibia banking entry plans

THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026

When doorstep hustle needs real support

We're here to back the unstoppable spirit of Namibian businesses.

Change to FNB

081 299 8883

Get a Speedee

Help Changes Everything

First National Bank of Namibia Reg. 2022/018/NA. A member of FirstRand Namibia Limited.



Business

MAIN STORY



Pepkor rules out immediate Namibia banking entry plans

... prioritising South Africa rollout

Pepkor Holdings has ruled out any immediate plans to enter Namibia's banking sector, despite securing regulatory approval to launch a digital bank in South Africa.

The retail group, which owns brands including PEP and Ackermans, said its current priority is the rollout of its banking operations in South Africa. Pepkor spokesperson Elizabeth Senger told The Brief the company is focusing

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**

on execution following approval from the country's Prudential Authority in November 2025.

The group plans to leverage its fintech acquisition, Cloudbadger, to launch a digital bank targeting under-served consumers.

Pepkor's extensive retail footprint in Namibia has fuelled expectations of a possible move into financial services. Through PEP and Ackermans, the group serves a large base of low- and middle-income customers, a segment increasingly targeted by digital banking models.

The company's strategy reflects a broader shift among South African retailers seeking growth beyond traditional retail. Companies such as Shoprite and Pick n Pay have already expanded into financial services, with Pick n Pay partnering with TymeBank to offer in-store banking solutions.

The Bank of Namibia said it cannot confirm whether Pepkor or its subsidiaries have applied for a banking licence or a specialised deposit-taking institution licence, noting that such processes remain confidential.

"Details of licence applications are confidential, and any approvals would only be announced after due process," the central bank said.

The regulator added that it remains open to new entrants and evolving business models, particularly

where these support financial inclusion, consumer protection and overall financial system stability.

"New business models, including retail-led or technology-driven approaches, are assessed on their merits within the existing regulatory framework," the Bank said.

In South Africa, Pepkor is set to enter a highly competitive banking market dominated by established players including Standard Bank, FirstRand, Absa, Nedbank and Capitec Bank.

**CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF
NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE**

Reaffirming our commitment to creating opportunities for young Namibians through our Internship and Apprenticeship Programmes. Enhancing skills transfer, and supporting efforts to reduce unemployment!

Happy Independence Day, Namibia!

FOLLOW US!





Nasan Energies approved to acquire 52 fuel service stations

Nasan Energies (Pty) Ltd has received approval to acquire 52 Engen and Shell-branded fuel service stations across Namibia from Vivo Energy Namibia.

Millennium Falcon Investments, owned by Miguel Hamutenya, holds a controlling 70% stake in Nasan Energies, while the remaining 30% is owned by Tobico Holdings, a family-owned company comprising Kathy Tobias and her sons, Sean and Shiraz Tobias.

The approval follows a stakeholder

conference convened by the Namibia Competition Commission, where members of the public and industry participants engaged on the proposed transaction. The process concluded with support for the acquisition.

The deal forms part of Vivo Energy's divestment of selected retail assets following its 2024 acquisition of Engen Limited from Petronas, which included Engen Namibia's operations.

Managing Director Jean-Blaise Ollomo

said the company will now move to implement the transaction.

“We are pleased about the outcome and remain committed to upholding international operational standards while meeting public expectations. The next steps will involve engaging with dealers and stakeholders to finalise implementation,” Ollomo said.

Co-founder Miguel Hamutenya confirmed that rebranding of the acquired service stations will begin at the end of March.

“We have invested heavily in this acquisition and have been awaiting confirmation from the Namibia Competition Commission to proceed. We look forward to maintaining service standards while increasing participation of local suppliers and service providers,” Hamutenya said.

The transaction will position Nasan Energies as the third-largest fuel retailer in Namibia, behind Vivo Energy and Puma Energy.

The company said the acquisition forms part of its strategy to expand its footprint in a market historically dominated by multinational operators, with a focus on local participation, service delivery and operational growth.

Nasan Energies is among the first privately owned local oil marketing companies in Namibia to scale operations to this level, signalling increased domestic participation in the downstream petroleum sector.

The company is expected

to engage dealers and stakeholders in the coming weeks as it moves to integrate the acquired sites into its network.

According to details of the transaction, it includes certain operating businesses and related assets from Vivo/Engen Media Limited and Engen Media Pty Ltd, comprising 52 service stations: 18 company-owned, eight leased and 26 dealer-owned sites.

Following the acquisition, Nasan Energies will operate 73 of Namibia’s 266 fuel stations

Share opportunities

Vacancies

As a leading ICT player and equal-opportunity employer, Telecom Namibia is committed to innovation and service excellence. We are at the forefront of cutting-edge technologies, driving 5G expansion, cloud transformation, and managed cybersecurity services to enhance connectivity across Namibia. Our competitive remuneration and investment in human capital empower our employees to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

If you are a forward-thinking professional eager to shape the future of telecommunications, we invite applications for the following position based in Windhoek.

POSITION:	SENIOR REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
REPORTING TO:	HEAD: LEGAL SERVICES AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
DIVISION:	LEGAL DEPARTMENT
DUTY STATION:	WINDHOEK
GRADE:	D2

KEY PURPOSE:
The position of the Senior Regulatory and Compliance Officer is responsible for assisting line management in discharging its responsibility to comply with applicable statutory, regulatory and supervisory requirements. The Senior Officer should enable the company to demonstrate to the Regulators that it is fit and proper to undertake its business. The position holder is liable to facilitate the management of compliance risks, to avoid regulatory summons and action by the Regulators as well as, to minimise the possibility of civil and criminal action against the company. The Senior Officer: Regulatory and Compliance is responsible for embedding the administrative and process support to the compliance function with implementation of the compliance framework, policy, and methodology.

KEY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Bachelor's degree in law, or similar field.
- A Compliance Certificate or Diploma.
- Knowledge of Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint.
- Minimum 5 years' experience in the legal/auditing environment.

NOTES TO APPLICANTS:
A comprehensive application supported by a detailed CV with copies of educational qualifications should be addressed in confidence to: The Acting: Human Resources Business Partner: Corporate & Marketing Divisions via the following email address: apply@telecom.na

Suitably qualified applicants from designated groups defined in the Affirmative Action Act (1998) are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be communicated with, and no personal documents will be returned.

CLOSING DATE: 26 March 2026

FOLLOW US!



www.telecom.na





Namibia gives Yango, inDrive 56 days to comply with transport laws

The Namibian government has issued a 56-day ultimatum to e-hailing operators Yango and inDrive to comply fully with national transport regulations, signalling a tougher stance

on a sector that has expanded rapidly but remains only partially regulated.

The directive followed an urgent meeting in Windhoek between regulators, platform operators and drivers, convened



► Nedbank Investment Accounts

Your interest first. Always.

A better opportunity for your goals with our investment options. Open a Gold Combo Account, Platinum Invest Account or Business Accelerator Fund today. Get solid interest rates* and great benefits.

Join the bank that's right for your investment.

Shift today

+264 81 959 2222

nedbank.com.na

* Interest rates apply only when you maintain the minimum balances.



When you think investments, think Nedbank.

see money differently

Terms and conditions apply. Nedbank Namibia Ltd Reg No 73/04561. Licensed financial institution and credit provider.

NEDBANK

by Information and Communication Technology Minister Emma Theofelus and Works and Transport Minister Veikko Nekundi.

Under the agreed timeline, operators have 28 days to meet compliance requirements, after which the two ministries will undertake a further 28-day verification process before enforcement action is considered.

Government said while it recognises the role of e-hailing platforms in improving access to transport and driving innovation, operators must adhere to the same legal framework governing public passenger transport.

“The service that you offer is important and has contributed to the transport sector, but it must operate within the law,” Theofelus said.

Operators raised concerns over delays in permit approvals, warning that backlogs are affecting drivers who rely on e-hailing as a primary source of income. They also called for a review of the current legal framework, arguing that existing road transport legislation does not adequately cater for digital platform-based services.

Nekundi, however, made it clear that compliance with existing laws is non-negotiable.

“Anyone who wants to operate in Namibia must comply with the laws of the Republic. If you do not want to comply, then you should not enter the market,” he said.

He emphasised that all public passenger transport

services are subject to established legal requirements, including valid operating permits, roadworthy vehicles and properly licensed drivers.

“Before transporting passengers, operators must have the required permits, vehicles must meet regulatory standards, and drivers must hold a valid public driving permit and pass the necessary medical examinations,” Nekundi said.

The ministers acknowledged gaps in the current regulatory framework and said government would review outdated provisions to better accommodate evolving business models in the sector.



Vacancy

Assistant Financial Accountant (Permanent) x1

Interested candidates should visit our website:

<https://www.kuleni.com.na/vacancies/> or
<https://nieis.namibiaatwork.gov.na/>

NO E-MAIL OR HAND DELIVERED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Enquiries regarding these vacancies should be addressed to:

Ms. Mirjam Mateus

Email: info@hitohr.com

Cellphone: +264 81 264 2171

CLOSING DATE: 23 MARCH 2026 @16H30

Kuleni offers a competitive, total remuneration package with a standard range of benefits in line with the responsibilities, qualifications, and experience of the role.

The plateau is not the end. It is the pause before the next climb

By Chaze Nalisa-Jagger

At some point in life, everyone reaches a plateau.

It can happen in many areas of our lives. Professionally, we may feel that our career growth has slowed or that opportunities for advancement are no longer as visible as they once were.

Financially, we may find ourselves maintaining stability but not making the progress we once did. Socially, friendships and networks may settle into routine patterns. In relationships, the emotional or intimate connection may feel steady but no longer expanding.

Even in our personal growth, learning, health, fitness, or leadership journeys, we may experience periods where progress feels flat.

The natural instinct when we hit a plateau is often frustration. We begin to question ourselves. Are we doing something wrong? Have we reached our limit? Is this as far as we can go?

A plateau should not be interpreted as failure. In many ways, it is a necessary stage of growth.

A plateau is life's signal for us to pause. To step back. To reflect.

It is an opportunity to assess whether the strategies, habits, and approaches that brought us this far are still the right ones for the next phase. Growth is rarely linear. Periods of acceleration are often followed by periods of consolidation.



The most successful people and organizations are not those who never plateau.

During these times, what may appear as stagnation is actually a moment where experience, resilience, and perspective are quietly being built.

I have recently experienced this in a very personal way.

In November last year, I started a weight-loss journey with a clear goal in mind. Through consistent effort, focusing mainly on cardio exercise and maintaining a calorie deficit, I saw steady progress over the first four months.

Then the plateau arrived.

Despite maintaining the same routine, the scale stopped moving. At first, it was frustrating. It is easy to assume that when results slow down, something is wrong. But rather than becoming discouraged, I decided to reflect and reassess my strategy.

One of the most important reflections I had was to question what I was measuring. Is the scale really the best, or the only, tool to gauge progress? This question came because in many other ways, I had improved; my energy levels were high, my skin looked more refreshed and vibrant, my clothes were loosening up, and I simply felt better overall.

So, had I truly plateaued, or had something specific plateaued, in this case, the mass of my body, but not necessarily my overall health or fitness progress?

Sometimes, when we narrow our approach too much, we lose track of the real change that is happening around us. True growth can manifest in ways that aren't immediately visible on a number or a scale.

Part of this reflection reminded me that the strategy that gets you started may not be the strategy that ultimately gets you to the goal. What worked initially to kickstart progress may need adjustment or evolution to take you all the way. The goal remains the same; weight loss and improved overall health. So, I have adjusted my approach. I have introduced intermittent fasting into my routine and placed a much stronger focus on strength training, rather than relying primarily on cardio and calorie restriction. The idea is to give my body a new stimulus and allow it to adapt in different ways. This small personal journey reminded me of a broader lesson about life: the destination can remain clear, but the route to get there often requires adjustment.

When we reach these moments, the most important response is not panic or self-criticism. It is kindness, first toward ourselves, and then

toward the people around us.

Often when we feel stuck, we unknowingly project that frustration onto colleagues, friends, or family. Instead, we should extend grace, understanding that everyone around us may also be navigating their own plateaus.

Reflection then becomes essential. What has worked well? What no longer serves the journey ahead? Are we still aligned with the purpose that once motivated us? Sometimes the plateau is not a sign to push harder in the same direction; sometimes it is an invitation to adjust strategy, develop new skills, expand networks, or rethink priorities.

The most successful people and organizations are not those who never plateau. They are those who learn how to navigate these periods wisely. They pause long enough to learn from them, but not so long that they become permanently stuck.

After reflection comes recalibration. Then we move forward again.

Life requires flexibility. The ability to adapt our approach without abandoning our optimism. Plateaus test patience, discipline, and emotional maturity, but they also prepare us for the next phase of growth.

The climb does not end at the plateau. In many ways, that is exactly where the next ascent begins.

CRAZY DISPLAY DEALS

STANDARD PULL-UP
Banners
NS\$1 000.00



EXECUTIVE PULL-UP
Banners
NS\$1 200.00



PVC BANNER
WITH EYELETS
NS\$250.00 per SOM



CANVAS FRAME



A3 - NS\$250.00
A2 - NS\$400.00
A1 - NS\$500.00
A0 - NS\$850.00

Custom Sizes Available
Prices Excludes VAT



CALL US TODAY


+264 81 434 3154



FNB Namibia named Best Bank for second consecutive year

FNB Namibia has been named Best Bank in Namibia for 2026 by Global Finance, marking the second consecutive year the lender has received the international accolade. The recognition forms part of Global Finance's World's Best Banks Awards, which

assess financial institutions across more than 30 African markets based on performance, innovation and service delivery.

The award places Namibia among leading banking markets on the continent, reflecting continued resilience in the country's

Finance





THE
BR/EF
News Worth Knowing

SCAN HERE

Daily PDF version sent via email

 @thebrieflive
  @thebrieflive.nam
 @TheBriefLive
  @thebrieflive

Business



for Daily Namibian News



TO FOLLOW OUR
WHATSAPP CHANNEL

The award places Namibia among leading banking markets on the continent, reflecting continued resilience in the country’s financial sector amid evolving regulatory, technological and competitive pressures.

financial sector amid evolving regulatory, technological and competitive pressures.

FirstRand Namibia Chief Executive Officer Conrad Dempsey said the recognition reflects sustained effort across the organisation.

“This award is the result of years of collective effort across the business. It reflects our focus on innovation, service delivery and our ability to respond to customer needs,” Dempsey said. He said the bank’s approach remains centred on developing solutions aligned with Namibia’s economic conditions and customer requirements.

“At the centre of it are our people, who continue to approach banking from the customer’s perspective and develop solutions that respond to real challenges,” he said.

Global Finance Founder and Editorial Director Joseph D. Giarraputo said the awards recognise banks that continue to perform strongly despite global economic pressures.

“The global banking sector continues to demonstrate resilience despite geopolitical volatility, regulatory pressure and increasing competition. These awards recognise institutions that effectively

manage their operations while investing in digital innovation,” he said. The bank said it will continue to prioritise innovation and service delivery as part of its broader strategy to support economic development and strengthen its position in the market.

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Namibia Health Plan, Medscheme Namibia and Universal Care confirm Managed Care transition and continuity for members



Namibia Health Plan (NHP), Medscheme Namibia and Universal Care issue this joint statement to clarify recent media reports regarding NHP’s Managed Care services and to reaffirm continuity of service for members, providers and employer groups.

Strengthening care management and member value

As part of NHP’s ongoing commitment to strengthen healthcare value and improve long-term sustainability, the Fund is implementing a planned transition of its Managed Care service provider. The purpose of this transition is to enhance care management capability and operational efficiency, enabling stronger support for prevention, chronic disease management and appropriate utilisation while protecting the Fund’s sustainability for the benefit of all members.

NHP is the **first medical aid fund in Namibia** to embark on this journey as part of a broader modernisation programme aimed at strengthening Managed Care capability. This step is important because the healthcare environment is evolving rapidly and medical aid funds must continuously improve clinical oversight, preventive health interventions, and operational efficiency to deliver sustainable value.

NHP confirms that Medscheme Namibia remains the Fund’s primary administrator, a role it has fulfilled since 1995. This administrative relationship remains fully in place. The only change currently underway is the planned transition of the Managed Care function to Universal Care.

NHP, Medscheme Namibia and Universal Care confirm that the transition is being managed through a structured implementation process with appropriate oversight and safeguards. Medscheme Namibia and Universal Care are working closely together to ensure a seamless integration, stable operational processes, and continuity for all stakeholders.

What is changing and what is not

The transition relates specifically to Managed Care services, which typically include functions such as related claims assessments, pre-authorisation support, disease management programmes and provider network-related administration. It is important to note that:

- Members’ benefits remain unchanged and members will continue to access services as they do currently.
- There is no disruption anticipated to members’ access to care or continuity of benefits during the transition.
- Members, providers and employer groups will continue to receive the same level of service and engagement they are accustomed to.

Commitment to member interests and healthcare delivery

NHP, reaffirms our commitment to transparency, sound governance, and responsible implementation, always guided by what delivers the best outcomes and value for members.

Further updates will be provided at the appropriate milestones as the transition progresses.

ENDS

Media enquiries:
Tunohole Mungoba
Corporate Communications Manager
tmungoba@nhp.na
Namibia Health Plan (NHP)



IFLR Africa Legal Awards name Shakwa Nyambe Namibia's Lawyer of the Year

Shakwa Nyambe, Managing Partner of SNC Incorporated, has been named Namibia's Lawyer of the Year at the IFLR Africa Awards 2026.

The IFLR Africa Awards recognise law firms, lawyers and in-house teams shaping the continent's legal landscape across sectors including mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, corporate and commercial law, finance and energy.

The awards honour practitioners whose work demonstrates innovation and excellence in complex legal and business matters.

Nyambe was recognised for his leadership and expertise in corporate, commercial and energy sector transactions, as well as his role in supporting the development of Namibia's emerging oil and gas industry.

The judges also cited his more than two decades of experience advising on complex transactions in Namibia's natural resources and capital markets sectors, describing him as a leading corporate and energy lawyer.

His work has contributed to key transactions and legal developments that continue to strengthen Namibia's position as a credible destination for international investment.

"It is truly encouraging to be honoured by the IFLR. What makes this recognition meaningful is the continued trust our clients place in my judgement on matters that are often complex and commercially significant. I am equally grateful to my colleagues, whose teamwork and professionalism make it possible to deliver work we are proud of," Nyambe said.

The awards ceremony was held at



the Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa, bringing together leading practitioners from across the continent to recognise notable achievements in dealmaking.

The award further underscores Nyambe's contribution to the legal profession and his role in advancing Namibia's growing presence in the global investment landscape.

SNC Incorporated was also named National Law Firm of the Year for Namibia at the IFLR Africa Awards 2026.



Windhoek building approvals rise to N\$145.8 million in February

The value of building plans approved by the City of Windhoek rose sharply to N\$145.8 million in February 2026, signalling a rebound in construction activity following a subdued start to the year.

The figure represents a 43.2% increase from N\$101.8 million recorded in January, alongside a rise in the number of approvals from 109 to 163 over the same period, according to data analysed by Simonis Storm Securities.

Economist Almandro Jansen said the increase points to a recovery in both volumes and values.

“The recovery in volumes was accompanied by a similarly strong rebound in the value of approved building plans,” he said.

On a year-on-year basis, approvals in Windhoek increased by 7.9%. Year-to-

date, a total of 272 building plans valued at N\$247.6 million have been approved, compared to 233 plans worth N\$183.2 million during the same period in 2025.

Jansen said the upward trend suggests that improving macroeconomic conditions and easing financing constraints are beginning to support activity in the construction pipeline.

Despite the improvement in approvals, completions remain uneven. A total of 21 projects were completed in February, up from 10 in January, with a combined value of N\$21.8 million. However, this remains below the 30 completions recorded in February last year.

“Completed projects continue to be dominated by smaller-scale works, primarily additions and alterations, rather than large new developments,” Jansen said.

At the coast, Swakopmund recorded

a marked increase in activity, with 132 building plans approved in February compared to just 20 in January. The value of approvals rose to N\$91 million, while year-to-date figures show a 66.7% increase compared to 2025.

According to Jansen, coastal demand continues to be driven by lifestyle migration, tourism-related investment and interest from foreign buyers.

While February data points to a broad-based recovery, he cautioned that structural

constraints persist.

“Without final investment decisions in green hydrogen, oil and gas, and logistics infrastructure, construction growth will remain uneven and segmented,” he said.

The construction sector is expected to expand at a moderate pace in 2026, supported by infrastructure and mining activity, but remains dependent on large-scale capital investment to sustain momentum.

Windhoek's Construction Rebound: February 2026 Building Approvals

Following a slow start to the year, the City of Windhoek saw a 43.2% surge in the value of approved building plans in February 2026. This recovery is driven by improving macroeconomic conditions and easing financing constraints across the Namibian construction sector.



Windhoek's February Surge



N\$145.8 Million in Approvals

The value of building plans rose sharply from N\$101.8 million in January.



163 Approved Plans

The volume of approvals increased by nearly 50% compared to the 109 recorded in January.



7.9% Year-on-Year Growth

Windhoek's construction activity shows a steady upward trend compared to February 2025.

Market Momentum & Drivers



2025 (YTD)

233 plans (N\$183.2M)

2026 (YTD)

272 plans (N\$247.6M) approved so far in 2026 versus 233 (N\$247.6) in 2025.



Coastal Activity Boom

Swakopmund approvals jumped from 20 in January to 132 in February, valued at N\$91M.



Investment-Driven Growth

Future stability depends on investment decisions in green hydrogen, oil, gas, and logistics.



Standard Bank expands MSME programme, adds informal sector track

Standard Bank Namibia has expanded its enterprise development programme, increasing participation to about 80 small businesses and introducing a dedicated track for the informal sector as it seeks to

strengthen the country's micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) base.

Launched in partnership with the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), the second edition of the Standard Bank



Standard Bank

The best roads on the continent await

You, behind the wheel of your dream car, your favourite playlist blasting, your favourite people accompanying you, or a solo trip; let us finance your best road trip on the continent's best-rated roads yet.

- Applicable to all new and pre-owned cars
- Up to 35% residual value on new vehicles
- Prime rate
- 3-month payment holiday

Special valid until 31 March 2026. Ts & Cs apply.

#KeepGrowing



standardbank.com.na





Fly Namibia
our most recent edition!

We rise by lifting others.

Click below to read the latest issue of FlyNamibia Magazine – your onboard guide to travel inspiration, aviation and proudly Namibian stories.

[> READ ONLINE](#)

Blue Growth Series 2026 aims to improve business sustainability, governance and access to finance for entrepreneurs across the country.

The launch event brought together government officials, financial sector leaders and the new cohort of entrepreneurs, with Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture Dino Ballotti delivering a keynote address focused on building an entrepreneurial mindset.

“Entrepreneurs need an ecosystem. They need banks that believe in them, mentors to guide them, investors willing to take risks, and policies that enable innovation. That is why initiatives like this matter, because they are building the environment entrepreneurs need to thrive,” Ballotti said.

The expanded programme aligns with national priorities on MSME development, youth entrepreneurship and the formalisation of informal businesses. It is designed to equip participants with the tools required to improve financial discipline, strengthen governance and prepare for investment.

The seven-month programme, delivered by NIFA, includes training in financial management, business strategy, governance and investment readiness. Participants will also receive Bloomberg Finance Fundamentals certification

through the Namibia University of Science and Technology’s Bloomberg Finance Lab.

Standard Bank Namibia said a key addition this year is a structured informal sector track, aimed at helping micro-enterprises transition into the formal economy through improved record-keeping and exposure to formal commercial systems.

Rodney Coetzee, Head of Enterprise Direct at Standard Bank Namibia, said the programme addresses a critical gap facing local businesses.

“The primary constraint facing Namibia’s MSMEs is not capital availability, but bankability. This programme is designed to close that gap in a structured and scalable way,” he said.

Jane Auala, founder of Ontoko Foods and winner of the 2025 Blue Growth Series, said the programme had played a pivotal role in strengthening her business.

“Passion started our journey, but systems, structure and mentorship turned that passion into a business that can grow,” she said, encouraging the new cohort to fully utilise the support provided.

The expansion of the programme reflects growing recognition of the role MSMEs play in job creation and economic diversification, particularly as Namibia seeks to build a more inclusive and resilient economy.



Govt commits over N\$114.7 million to Keetmanshoop TVET centre development

The Namibian government has committed more than N\$114.7 million towards the development of the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre in the //Kharas Region, as part of efforts to expand technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Vice President Lucia Witbooi officially inaugurated the facility in Keetmanshoop on Thursday, describing it as a key milestone

in strengthening skills development and improving access to vocational training.

“The inauguration of this centre is a clear testament to our Government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that every Namibian, especially the youth, has access to quality vocational training that equips them with relevant skills required in today’s job market,” she said.

The project received an initial N\$11.7

million allocation for Phase 1, followed by a further N\$103 million for Phase 1B construction, reflecting continued public investment in training infrastructure.

Spanning approximately 300,000 square metres, the centre is positioned as a specialised hub for the energy sector, with a focus on oil and gas as well as green hydrogen.

“It underscores Namibia’s upward trajectory in advancing our shared national objective of expanding access to technical and vocational skills,” Witbooi said.

She added that the facility aligns with national development priorities under the Sixth National Development Plan, particularly efforts to improve the responsiveness of the TVET sector to labour market demands.

“By 2030, the TVET sector aims to increase the proportion of graduates whose skills are aligned with industry needs from 65% to 70%,” she said.

The Keetmanshoop centre becomes the 12th regionally based vocational training facility established by government, forming part of a broader strategy to ensure all 14 regions have access to TVET institutions.

“Institutions such as the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre will play a critical role in equipping our youth with practical, industry-relevant competencies required in emerging sectors,” Witbooi said.

She added that the facility is expected to support skills development linked to major economic projects, including green hydrogen, oil and gas, and irrigation initiatives around the Neckartal Dam.

“This state-of-the-art facility ultimately belongs to the people of Namibia and exists to equip our youth with the knowledge and practical skills they require to succeed in today’s job market,” she said.



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.

50K followers

Namibia
M&E
MINING & ENERGY

SCAN HERE TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL



 miningandenergy.com.na

 @miningandenergy

 Namibia Mining and Energy

 Namibia Mining and Energy

Pensioners, pension funds and the 2026/27 budget

By Vincent Shimutwikeni

On the 26th of February 2026, the Honourable Minister of Finance, Ms. Ericah Shafudah, MP, presented the 2026/27 National Budget to the August House under the theme “People, Productivity and Prudence.”

The budget was delivered at a time of constrained fiscal space, elevated debt levels, and a moderate but fragile economic recovery, setting the tone for a careful balancing act between development and sustainability.

Naturally, public attention gravitates toward allocations to healthcare, education, and agriculture, and rightly so. These sectors are visible, immediate, and directly felt.

However, what is often overlooked is how the budget quietly shapes the position of pensioners and the broader retirement industry. While not always explicitly addressed, the implications are embedded within the fiscal framework and macroeconomic direction.

At its core, the 2026/27 budget is anchored in fiscal consolidation and prudence. The projected narrowing of the budget deficit from 6.6 percent of GDP to 5.5 percent signals a deliberate effort to restore fiscal stability over the medium term. This is not merely a technical adjustment.

For pensioners, it speaks directly to the sustainability of the economic environment in which their retirement income exists. Stability in public finances supports currency strength, anchors inflation



Naturally, public attention gravitates toward allocations to healthcare, education, and agriculture, and rightly so.

expectations, and ultimately preserves purchasing power.

Inflation, projected to average around 3.5 percent in 2026, provides a relatively stable outlook compared to previous periods of volatility.

For pensioners, particularly those reliant on fixed incomes, inflation remains one of the most significant determinants of financial well-being. A contained inflation environment, therefore, offers a measure of protection, even in the absence of direct fiscal support.

The interest rate environment also carries important implications. The Bank of Namibia’s decision to reduce the repo rate to 6.50 percent in 2025, with stability into 2026, reflects an accommodative stance aimed at supporting economic activity.

While this may ease borrowing conditions and support asset growth, it also introduces a more complex dynamic for pension funds. Lower interest rates can compress returns on fixed-income investments, requiring funds to be more deliberate in their asset allocation strategies in order to meet long-term obligations.

For pensioners, it speaks directly to the sustainability of the economic environment in which their retirement income exists.

Another notable feature of the fiscal framework is the trajectory of public debt. Government debt is projected to stabilise at elevated levels over the medium term, with interest payments consuming an increasing share of revenue.

This has a dual implication for the retirement industry. On the one hand, government securities remain a key investment instrument for pension funds, offering relatively stable returns.

On the other hand, rising debt servicing



**LAUNCH YOUR
BRAND INTO ORBIT
WITH PREMIUM
CORPORATE WEAR**

- 📍 Corporate Lounge Shirts
- 📍 Branded Golf Shirts
- 📍 Formal & Casual Trousers
- 📍 Workwear & Overalls
- 📍 Corporate Dresses & Skirts
- 📍 Branded Winter Jackets
- 📍 Body Warmers & Fleeeces
- 📍 Safety Boots & PPE Wear
- 📍 Caps, Beanies & Accessories
- 📍 Custom Embroidery & Branding

**CONTACT US TODAY
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER**



orbitalmedianam@gmail.com



+264 81 434 3154

costs highlight the importance of managing sovereign exposure carefully within investment portfolios.

Beyond the macroeconomic landscape, the budget also signals incremental progress in financial sector development. The introduction of an instant payment solution to facilitate government-to-person payments is a particularly relevant development for pensioners.

By improving the efficiency and accessibility of payment systems, especially in rural areas, this initiative has the potential to enhance the manner in which pension benefits are received, reducing reliance on cash-based systems and improving overall financial inclusion.

Perhaps most telling, however, is what the budget does not contain. There are no explicit changes to pension taxation, no adjustments to commutation thresholds, and no direct regulatory reforms targeting retirement funds.

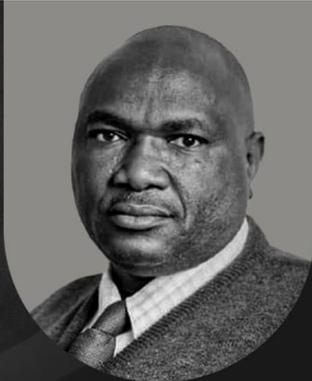
This absence suggests a period of policy continuity for the retirement industry. While stability can be welcomed, it also highlights that broader structural issues, such as coverage, adequacy, and the integration of informal sector participants, remain areas for future reform rather than immediate intervention.

The budget does not place pensioners at the forefront of its narrative, yet its impact on them

is undeniable. It is a budget built on fundamentals, discipline, stability, and cautious reform rather than direct intervention.

For pensioners, this translates not into immediate gains, but into the safeguarding of the environment that sustains their livelihoods. Its effect is therefore subtle but significant: reinforcing the system rather than expanding it. For the retirement industry, the message is equally clear, navigate carefully, remain adaptable, and plan beyond the immediate horizon.

***Vincent Shimutwikenj;**
Manager, Legal Services RFS Fund Administrators




JOHN AKAPANDI ENDJALA
Annual Memorial Lecture
Speaker: Sisa Namandje
Topic: The Pursuit of Happiness
Entrance Free (tickets available at Country Club)
Pledges are encouraged and funds will be used to start the John Akapandi Endjala Foundation.

Venue: Country Club | Time: 18h00

Account Details:
Account Number: 8031211890 | Account Type: CHK | Bank: Bank Windhoek Ltd. |
Branch: Kudu (WHK) | Branch Code: 482-172 | Swift Code: BWLINANX

For Enquiries:
Diana Endjala-Kaute +264 81 200 4983 | David Endjala +264 81 635 4249

04 JUNE 2026



Capricorn Foundation launches entrepreneurship programme for vocational graduates

The Capricorn Foundation, in partnership with Unmatched Potential – Business Box Namibia, has launched a new entrepreneurship programme aimed at equipping vocational graduates with business skills and practical experience.

The Vocational Graduate Entrepreneurship Programme was launched in Swakopmund and targets Technical and Vocational

Education and Training (TVET) graduates, with a focus on strengthening entrepreneurship and improving youth employment outcomes.

The initiative forms part of broader efforts to support vocational training in Namibia, which is identified as a key driver of economic growth under national frameworks such as Vision 2030 and the Sixth National

Bank Windhoek | THE BRIEF

The Business Banking Masterclass

Marketing and Branding

[Click here to watch the full video](#)

Development Plan.

In its first phase, the programme will select 20 graduates from the Erongo Region who completed accredited TVET qualifications at levels three or four within the past five years.

Participants will undergo a three-month programme focused on bridging the gap between technical skills and business readiness. The training will include mentorship, practical guidance and exposure to entrepreneurial concepts aimed at enabling participants to start and manage their own ventures.

Head of the Capricorn Foundation, Veripura Muukua, said the initiative is designed to support young people in translating their technical skills into sustainable livelihoods.

“Vocational graduates are at the centre of Namibia’s development.

This programme provides not only skills, but pathways for young people to create opportunities for themselves and contribute to economic growth,” Muukua said.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Unmatched Potential – Business Box Namibia, Etienne Raymond, said the programme aims to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among participants.

“We believe that shifting mindsets from dependency to value creation is critical. This programme focuses on helping participants turn their skills into commercially viable opportunities,” Raymond said.

The programme will begin with an application

and selection process, where 30 shortlisted candidates will be invited to pitch before 20 participants are selected for the final cohort.

Applications are open to eligible graduates in the Erongo Region, with submissions closing on 3 April 2026.

The Capricorn Foundation, a Namibian welfare organisation funded by Bank Windhoek, Capricorn Asset Management and Entrepo, said the initiative forms part of its broader focus on youth development, entrepreneurship and community upliftment.

The programme comes as Namibia continues to face high youth unemployment, with increased attention being placed on entrepreneurship and skills development as key drivers of inclusive economic growth.

Never Walk Alone

PROJECT NEVER WALK ALONE
INVITES YOU TO THE
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING
GALA DINNER
SAT, 30TH MAY 2026 18H00

VENUE: MOVENPICK HOTEL
DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE

SPECIAL GUEST:
GAYTON MCKENZIE
(MINISTER OF SPORTS, ARTS & CULTURE-SOUTH AFRICA)

VIP TABLE: N\$40,000

FOR ENQUIRIES CONTACT +264 81 349 6234 OR NEVERWALKALONE359@GMAIL.COM

THE
BR/EF
News Worth Knowing

Year in Review 5 2026 Outlook 6



 [Click here to DOWNLOAD](#) 