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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Windhoek says more funding needed after repairing 76,000 potholes

FRIDAY 08 MAY 2026

MAIN STORY



Windhoek says more funding needed after repairing 76,000 potholes

City of Windhoek has repaired more than 76,000 potholes covering over 57,000 square metres of damaged road surfaces despite facing road maintenance funding pressures exceeding N\$737 million, Mayor Sakarias Uunona said.

Uunona said the city requires about N\$384 million annually for routine road maintenance, excluding an additional N\$353 million needed to repair damage caused during the 2024/2025 rainy season.

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**

The municipality receives only between 5% and 10% of the required funding support from the Road Fund Administration despite maintaining roads heavily used by motorists.

He said the municipality receives only between 5% and 10% of the required funding support from the Road Fund Administration despite maintaining roads heavily used by motorists.

“As reported on previous occasions in this August House, the city requires approximately N\$384 million annually for road maintenance, for which no revenue is collected from road users by means of tariffs or levies,” Uunona said.

The City of Windhoek’s road network suffered extensive damage during the 2024/2025 rainy season, affecting about 650 streets and creating a significant repair backlog.

Despite the funding challenges, Uunona said the city has continued with routine maintenance and permanent pothole repairs using bitumen.

The rehabilitation of Eveline Street is nearing completion, while contractors have been appointed for periodic maintenance work along sections of Mandume Ndemufayo Avenue and David Hosea Merero Avenue.

The municipality has also appointed a contractor to continue the phased upgrading of gravel roads to bitumen standard under the Northern Suburb Phase 8 project.

The works include roads in Wanaheda Extensions 2, 3 and 4.

In addition, procurement processes are underway for the resealing of minor streets in other parts of Windhoek.

The city is also continuing infrastructure expansion in informal settlements through electrification and lighting projects.

During the current financial year, 383 informal houses were connected to electricity, while 15 high-mast lights were erected across informal and peri-urban areas.

Uunona said the projects form part of broader efforts to improve urban infrastructure and public safety across the capital.

“Notwithstanding the above budgetary challenges, the City has made great strides in routine maintenance by attempting to permanently fix potholes with bitumen,” he said.

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FlyNamibia says Airlink partnership continues despite shareholder exit

FlyNamibia says its franchise partnership with Airlink remains fully operational despite the South African airline having exited its shareholding structure nearly two years ago.

Responding to enquiries from The Brief, FlyNamibia Chief Executive Officer Nerine Uys said Airlink's exit formed part of the airline's strategy to strengthen its position as a fully Namibian-owned carrier.

"Airlink's shareholding in FlyNamibia concluded approximately two years ago as part of FlyNamibia's strategic direction to strengthen its position as a proudly 100% Namibian-owned airline, with a continued focus on developing aviation in Namibia for the benefit of Namibians," Uys said.

She said the operational relationship between the two airlines remains unchanged.

"The franchise partnership with Airlink remains in place and operational, and there has been no change to our day-to-day operations or collaboration. It is very much business as usual," she said.

Airlink had initially acquired a 30% stake in FlyNamibia as part of a joint venture aimed at supporting the growth and stability of the privately-owned Namibian airline.

The agreement enabled FlyNamibia to use Airlink's "4Z" International Air Transport Association (IATA) designator for ticket sales and scheduled flights, while maintaining its



own branding and corporate identity.

The partnership also expanded FlyNamibia's international market visibility through Airlink's reservation systems and global airline partnerships, while providing operational, technical and commercial support.

FlyNamibia currently operates domestic routes between Windhoek and Ondangwa

Airlink continues to operate multiple daily flights between South Africa and both Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

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Namibia's Q1 exports rise to N\$31.2bn as March records 99.6% jump

Namibia's export earnings rose to N\$31.2 billion during the first quarter of 2026, supported by strong uranium shipments and rising mineral exports, according to the latest International Merchandise Trade Bulletin released by the Namibia Statistics Agency.

The country's cumulative exports increased from N\$29.9 billion recorded during the same period in 2025, reflecting improved performance in the mining sector and stronger global demand for key commodities.

March emerged as the strongest trading month of the quarter, with export earnings surging by 99.6% month-on-month to N\$13.2 billion.

"Namibia's 2026 cumulative exports amounted to N\$31.2 billion during the month of March 2026, which shows an increase when compared to N\$29.9 billion registered over the same period of the previous year," the report said.

Uranium remained the country's top export driver during the month, with export earnings increasing by N\$3.5 billion compared to February.

Nickel ores and concentrates also recorded significant growth, rising by N\$1.1 billion, while non-monetary gold exports increased by N\$446 million.

The latest figures highlight the growing importance of Namibia's extractive industries in supporting export earnings

Namibia: The 2026 Mineral Export Surge

Export Performance & Mineral Drivers

N\$31.2 Billion
Total Q1 2026 Exports
 Earnings increased from **N\$29.9 billion** during the same period in 2025.

March
99.6%
Export Surge

March recorded **N\$13.2 billion** in export earnings.



Uranium Dominates Global Demand

Uranium earnings rose by **N\$3.5 billion** in March due to nuclear energy interest.



China is the top Urban shipping export ecmuta.



Trade Balance & Global Partners

Narrowing the Trade Deficit



China and South Africa Lead Trade

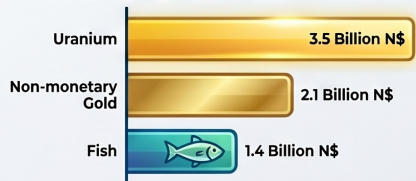


China
 Top Export Market

South Africa
 Primary Import Source

N\$3.5 Billion Surplus in Uranium

Top 3 Commodity Trade Surpluses in March 2026



and foreign exchange inflows, particularly amid rising international demand for uranium linked to renewed global interest in nuclear energy.

Despite stronger exports, Namibia continued to record a trade deficit during the first quarter as imports remained elevated.

Cumulative imports reached N\$38.6 billion by the end of March, resulting in a trade deficit of N\$7.4 billion for the quarter.

However, the monthly trade deficit narrowed to N\$2.3 billion in March from N\$5.2 billion recorded in February, indicating improved export performance during the month.

Imports continued to be driven by petroleum oils and vehicle purchases.

“The March 2026 figures saw trade deficits recorded on goods such as petroleum oils (N\$2.1 billion), motor vehicles for commercial purposes at N\$931 million,

Cumulative imports reached N\$38.6 billion by the end of March, resulting in a trade deficit of N\$7.4 billion for the quarter.

and motor vehicles for the transportation of persons at N\$439 million,” the report said.

On the export side, Namibia recorded strong trade surpluses in uranium, non-monetary gold and fish.

“The country recorded trade surpluses on commodities such as uranium (N\$3.5 billion), non-monetary gold (N\$2.1 billion), and fish at N\$1.4 billion,” the report said.

China remained Namibia’s largest export market during March, largely due to uranium demand, while South Africa continued to dominate as Namibia’s main import source and a key export destination for gold.

“The March 2026 figures show Namibia’s trade surpluses with countries such as China (N\$2.2

billion), Canada (N\$856 million), and Botswana (N\$828 million). On the other hand, the country recorded trade deficits against South Africa (N\$2.3 billion), Oman (N\$513 million) and Kuwait (N\$507 million),” the report said.

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Focus turns effort into results

By Junias Erasmus

In life, many people work hard, but not everyone gets the results they hope for. This is because effort alone is not always enough.

Effort without focus can feel like running fast in the wrong direction. You may be busy, tired, and committed, but still not making real progress. The missing ingredient is focus.

Focus is the ability to direct your energy, attention, and time toward one meaningful goal. It is deciding what matters most and giving it your best attention. In a world full of distractions, focus has become one of the most valuable skills a person can develop.

Today, many people struggle with divided attention. Phones, social media, endless notifications, and unnecessary comparisons compete for our minds every day. As a result, people start many things but finish few.

They become interested in everything but committed to nothing. This weakens performance, delays growth, and creates frustration. A focused person understands the power of discipline. They know that saying “yes” to one goal often means saying “no” to many distractions. Focus is not about doing everything. It is about doing the right things consistently.

A student who focuses on academic excellence will likely perform better than one who studies only when exams are near. A professional who focuses on mastering their role becomes more competent and valuable in the workplace. An entrepreneur



Focus is the ability to direct your energy, attention, and time toward one meaningful goal.

who focuses on solving one real problem is more likely to build a successful business than one chasing every trend.

Focus also improves the quality of your work. When your mind is fully present, you think clearly, work carefully, and make fewer mistakes. You become intentional rather than reactive. You stop wasting time on activities that do not move your life forward.

This does not mean the journey will always be easy. Focus often requires sacrifice. Sometimes you must reduce unnecessary entertainment, distance yourself from negative influences, or delay immediate pleasure for long-term reward. This is not punishment; it is investment. Many people underestimate the power of small, focused actions repeated daily. Big achievements rarely happen overnight. A degree is earned one assignment at a time. A career is built one responsibility at a time. Financial stability grows one disciplined decision at a time. Personal growth happens one habit at a time.

When you focus, you also develop resilience. Challenges no longer distract

you from your destination. You become less shaken by setbacks because your eyes remain on the bigger picture. Focus gives you direction, and direction gives meaning to your effort.

Young people especially need to understand this lesson. Talent is helpful, but talent without focus often goes to waste. Intelligence is valuable, but intelligence without discipline produces limited results. The most successful people are often not the most gifted, but the most consistent and focused. Ask yourself: What truly matters in my life right now? What goal deserves my best energy? What distractions must I reduce? These are not small questions. They shape your future.

At the end of the day, effort is important, but effort becomes only powerful when guided by focus. Hard work without focus creates exhaustion. Hard work with focus creates progress and tangible results. Remember this simple truth: being busy is not the same as being productive. Movement is not always progress. But focused effort, applied consistently over time, almost always produces meaningful results.

Your future is built by what you repeatedly give your attention to and what you prioritise. Protect your focus. Manage your time. Commit to your priorities. Stay disciplined. Because in the end, focus turns effort into results.

** 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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Windhoek debt falls to N\$869m as city pursues gvt N\$716m land swap deal

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The City of Windhoek’s debtors’ book declined to N\$869 million by 31 March 2026, down from N\$888 million recorded at the end of the previous financial year on 30 June 2025, as the municipality intensifies efforts to improve revenue collection and stabilise its finances.

Speaking during the municipality’s April ordinary council meeting, Windhoek Mayor Sakarias Uunona said arrears also declined from N\$650 million to N\$626 million over the same period.

Uunona said the figures reflected gradual progress in strengthening the municipality’s financial position despite continued economic pressure on households and businesses.

“Council remains one of the largest drivers of economic activity and employment within the local economy, and stable revenue collection is fundamental to fulfilling this responsibility,” he said.

The municipality is also continuing engagements with central government on a debt and land swap arrangement linked to a government loan currently valued at N\$716 million.

According to Uunona, nearly half of the amount relates to



accumulated interest.

“The successful conclusion of this arrangement will not only improve Council’s liquidity position, but will also create greater financial space for infrastructure investment, service expansion, and long-term urban development,” he said.

The proposed arrangement is expected to improve the municipality’s current ratio from N\$1.13 to N\$1.80 for every dollar of current liabilities.

Uunona said the

improvement would strengthen the city’s institutional resilience and ability to meet service delivery obligations.

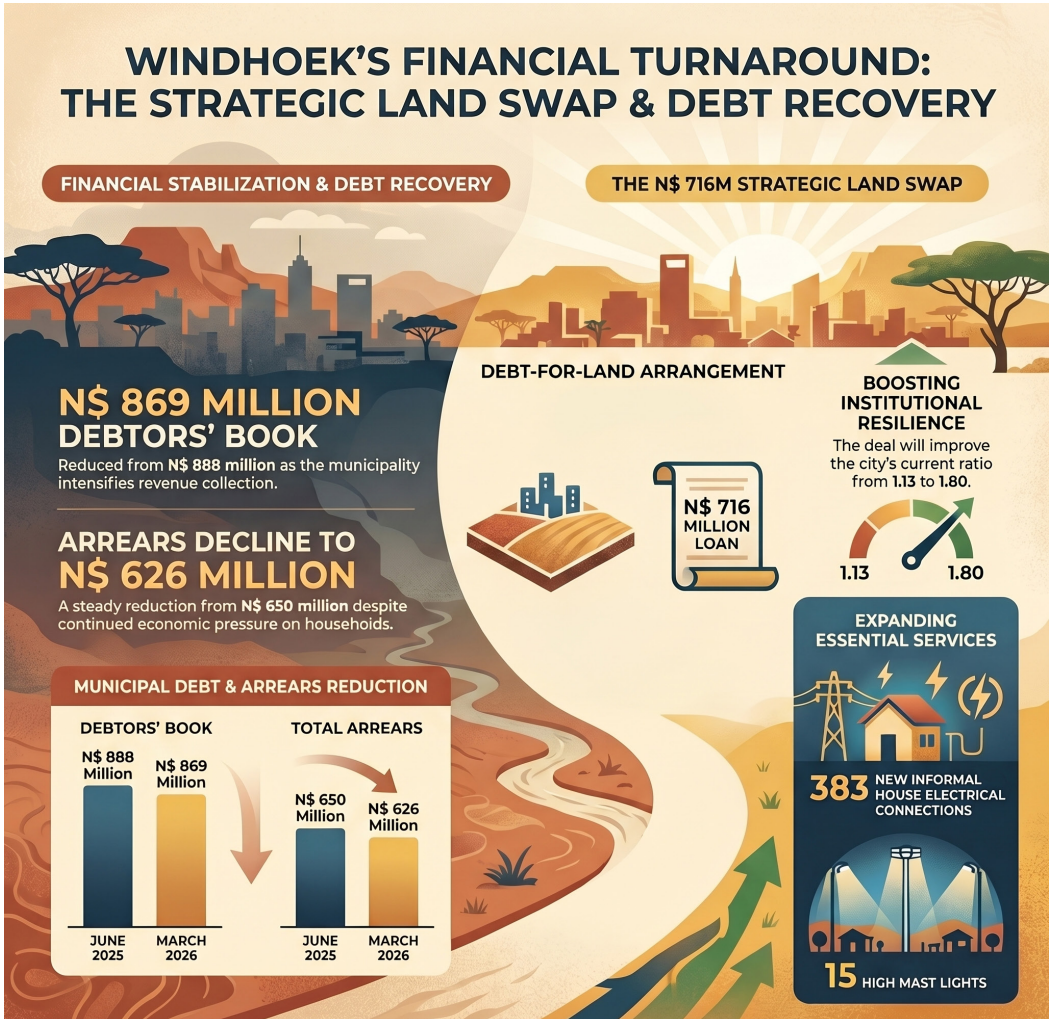
The municipality also reported progress on infrastructure and public service projects during the current financial year.

A total of 383 informal houses were connected to electricity, while a further 103 connections remain pending lease agreement approvals despite electricity poles already being installed.

The city also erected 15 high mast

lights across informal settlements and constituencies in Windhoek. Four are already operational, while the remaining 11 are expected to be connected within the next two to four months.

“These developments place the City of Windhoek on a stronger and more sustainable footing to meet its obligations, protect essential service delivery, and advance a responsive, developmental, and economically resilient municipality for all residents,” said Uunona.



Why a narrow strait in the Middle East matters to Namibia

By Erastus Nashima

In recent weeks, many of us have become familiar with a narrow stretch of water thousands of miles away in the Middle East known as the Strait of Hormuz.

This awareness has been sharpened by heightened geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran, during which Iran threatened or limited shipping traffic through the strait.

These events raised important questions: what exactly is a strait, who controls it, and why does its closure affect countries as far away as Namibia?

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It lies between Iran to the north and Oman to the south, and at its narrowest point measures just 21 nautical miles (nm) (approximately 34 km).

Despite this limited width, the shipping lanes within the strait are even narrower, about 2 nm wide in each direction, making it one of the most congested and strategic maritime passages in the world.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), a strait is defined as a natural passage used for international navigation that connects one part of the high seas or an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to another.

Importantly, international straits may fall entirely or partly within the territorial



The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

seas of coastal states. In the case of the Strait of Hormuz, this includes the territorial waters of both Iran and Oman.

This legal status is crucial, as whilst coastal states generally exercise sovereignty over their territorial seas, UNCLOS places limits on that sovereignty when it comes to international straits.

Ships of all nations are entitled to what is known as the “right of transit passage,” allowing continuous and expeditious passage through the strait without interference. It is this principle that caused global concern when Iran indicated its ability and willingness to suspend or restrict passage through the Strait of Hormuz during periods of geopolitical tension.

Notably, neither Iran nor the United States is a party to UNCLOS, and Iran maintains that the right of transit passage can be suspended under certain

circumstances, an interpretation not universally accepted.

The global reaction to these developments is understandable. Around 20% of the world's oil consumption (20 - 21 million barrels per day) passes through the Strait of Hormuz. In addition, about one-fifth of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade also transits this narrow channel.

The impact, however, extends well beyond fuel shortages. Namibia, like many countries, felt the effects through rising fuel prices, visible primarily at the pump.

Less obvious, but equally concerning, was the disruption to the export of Iranian urea fertilizer, a key input for global agriculture.

The Gulf region provides up to 50% of global urea exports, making the strait crucial for worldwide urea and nitrogen fertilizer supply. Reduced availability of fertilizer affects crop yields and has the potential to push food prices higher worldwide. South Africa and Nigeria import urea through the strait of Hormuz and are among Namibia's top urea suppliers.

The Gulf region accounts for up to half of global urea exports, making the Strait of Hormuz a critical chokepoint for the worldwide supply of urea and nitrogen based fertilizers. Any reduction in fertilizer availability can negatively affect crop

yields and potentially drive up global food prices.

While Namibia does not import fertilizers directly through the strait, its exposure is primarily economic rather than logistical, transmitted through regional supply chains, particularly via South African suppliers making the country indirectly vulnerable to instability in this critical maritime corridor.

Within the maritime and offshore sectors, the closure of the strait resulted in



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vessel delays, rig standby time and marine insurers withdrew or severely cancelled war-risk coverage, making navigation commercially unviable.

Tankers ceased trading in certain parts of the Gulf, leading to price volatility and long-term energy projects were all adversely affected.

For Namibia, there is a clear lesson to be drawn. External shocks to global supply chains are not abstract events, they have tangible local consequences. One important takeaway is the importance of strengthening national fuel reserve storage capacity as a buffer against international volatility. There is also valuable experience to be drawn from countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have invested heavily in cross-country pipeline infrastructure. By transferring oil via pipelines rather than

relying solely on road or rail transport, these systems enhance supply security, reduce logistical risks, and improve overall efficiency an approach worthy of consideration in Namibia's long-term energy and maritime planning.

A narrow strait in the Middle East may seem distant, but its closure reminds us just how interconnected the global economy truly is and why maritime stability matters to Namibia.

****Erastus Nashima a Master Mariner and Senior Marine Surveyor / Marine Consultant with over 23 years of progressive experience across offshore and maritime operations. His career combines senior seagoing command with extensive shore-based technical, consulting, and advisory expertise.***





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Nandi-Ndaitwah pushes industry-focused education as NUST graduates 2,962

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called for Namibia's higher education system to be more closely aligned with industrialisation, entrepreneurship and job creation, warning that the country cannot build a competitive economy through theoretical education alone.

Speaking at the May 2026 graduation ceremony of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Windhoek on Friday, Nandi-Ndaitwah said institutions of higher learning must produce graduates equipped with practical and industry-relevant skills capable of driving economic transformation under Vision 2030 and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

The university graduated 2,962 students across various disciplines, including 164 master's degree graduates and 13 doctoral candidates. The graduating class comprised 1,187 males and 1,775 females, while 132 international students also graduated.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said the gender imbalance among graduates remained a concern, particularly the lower participation of male students.

"However, what is disturbing is that those figures do not reflect the female-to-male population ratio of 51.2% and 48.8%, respectively. The message is clear: we must take the issue of the boy child seriously if we are to strengthen our social fibre and economic advancement," she said.

The president said government views education and skills development as central to Namibia's industrialisation strategy and long-term economic growth.

She said institutions such as NUST have become increasingly important in



supplying technical skills and applied research needed to support value addition, innovation and employment creation.

"As Namibia prepares for a knowledge-based economy in a rapidly evolving global landscape, I am encouraged by the transformative role of institutions like NUST. NUST stands out as one of the hubs of innovation and applied research, producing graduates equipped with practical skills essential for industrial growth, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development," Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

She highlighted specialised programmes in areas such as emergency medical care, medical laboratory science and vocational trainer development as examples of industry-linked education required to support economic expansion.

The president said government had expanded access to tertiary education funding through the Subsidised Tertiary Education Funding Model covering students at public and private institutions, as well as vocational training centres.

She added that the income threshold for non-tuition financial assistance had been increased to N\$300,000 to broaden access for middle-income households.

Despite progress in higher education access, Nandi-Ndaitwah acknowledged persistent challenges including youth unemployment, skills mismatches and limited workplace opportunities for graduates.

She said government offices, ministries and agencies had been directed to allocate funding towards internships and apprenticeship programmes aimed at improving graduate employability.

“I urge all institutions of higher learning not to graduate students equipped only with theoretical classroom knowledge, without first-hand practical exposure to actual industry experience. Practical education

in the real work environment should supplement the education content received in the classroom,” she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also called on the private sector to strengthen partnerships with universities and support workforce development initiatives.

She said Namibia’s future competitiveness would depend on its ability to integrate education, science, technology and innovation into broader economic development.

“In this new era, it is through knowledge that we will build resilient food systems, create industries, design technologies, grow businesses, improve public services, and develop innovative solutions that respond to the needs of our people,” she said.



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NCCI pushes for faster reforms to improve Namibia's business climate

Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pushing for faster policy reforms, improved trade facilitation and reduced investor uncertainty as the country seeks to strengthen its business environment and

attract investment. This emerged during a meeting between the newly constituted NCCI board and Minister of International Relations and Trade Selma Ashipala-Musavyi in Windhoek on Thursday.

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The meeting focused on improving the ease of doing business, accelerating trade-related legislation and strengthening cooperation between government and the private sector.

Newly elected NCCI President Vetumbuvi Mungunda said the Chamber wants closer engagement with government on policy matters affecting business competitiveness and investment.

“We remain committed to working with Government from a policy perspective to help improve the ease of doing business and the competitiveness of the Namibian business sector,” Mungunda said.

He said the Chamber also plans to expand its national footprint by strengthening regional branches and increasing support

for micro, small and medium enterprises.

“We also intend to strengthen support to our branches nationwide and to reactivate branches that have been less active in recent years. Today we have close to 30 active branches; our aim is to grow that to about 50 so that the chamber truly represents business across the country,” he said.

Ashipala-Musavyi said government is prioritising legislation aimed at improving Namibia’s investment climate and reducing uncertainty for businesses.

“Government cannot do this alone. We must accelerate the finalisation of the instruments within our portfolio so that we do not prolong uncertainty for investors, businessmen and women,” she said.

The Minister confirmed that government plans to prioritise the Investment Promotion Bill and the Trade Facilitation Bill when Parliament resumes in June.

“When Parliament resumes in June, we will prioritise the Investment Promotion Bill and the Trade Facilitation Bill,” she said.

The discussions also focused on improving trade promotion initiatives for MSMEs, strengthening bilateral engagement with foreign business chambers and ensuring private sector input informs future policy development.

The NCCI said it also wants to establish a permanent platform for structured engagement between government and the private sector through the Ministry of International Relations and Trade.

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A generation positioned to win: Why building wealth is no longer optional

By Johannes Nghishidimbwa,
Financial Advisor

We are living in a defining moment, one that demands more from our generation than ever before.

Ours is not just a generation of ambition; it is a generation that must be intentional about winning, not by chance, but by design. Consider a young professional, just a few years out of college, balancing rising rent payments, student loans, and a desire to build a life of meaning and security.

With every paycheck quickly spoken for, the pressure to get ahead feels constant, and the risk of falling behind is real. These challenges are not unique; they are shared by countless others striving to find their footing.

The good news is that with focus and determination, these obstacles can be overcome. To truly succeed and realise our dreams, we must first commit to being authentic, grounded in who we are, yet bold enough to evolve with the world around us.

The reality is clear: the world we are stepping into is more complex and more expensive than any before it. The cost of living continues to rise, while traditional paths to financial stability are becoming less reliable. In this new landscape, financial independence is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity for survival and dignity.

This shift calls for a new mindset.

It is no longer enough to earn an income; we must build wealth. We must move



Investing is not just for the privileged few; it is a critical tool for anyone serious about financial security.

beyond short-term financial thinking and begin focusing on long-term value creation. Building your net worth should become a deliberate strategy, one that includes saving, investing, and creating multiple streams of income. To make this actionable, start with concrete first steps: set up an automatic savings plan, learn the basics of budgeting, and open a separate account dedicated to investments or future goals. Spend some time each week researching investment options that align with your risk tolerance and explore opportunities to develop new skills that could turn into profitable side ventures. By taking these specific actions, you lay a strong foundation for lasting financial security.

The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.

Investing is not just for the privileged few; it is a critical tool for anyone serious about financial security. Whether through businesses, assets, or innovative ventures, the goal is to create income sources that

Take the first step today: set a simple savings goal, no matter how small, and commit to reaching it this month.

will sustain you tomorrow, even when you are no longer actively working.

Equally important is the courage to start.

Too often, great ideas remain unrealised because of hesitation. It is completely normal to feel fear or doubt when stepping into something new, especially with your finances on the line. The key is to start small, pick one manageable goal or project and focus on that.

Even if you experience setbacks, treat them as valuable lessons that will help you improve. In today's world, starting an income-generating project, no matter how small, can be the turning point toward financial freedom. Entrepreneurship, side

ventures, and creative solutions are no longer optional paths; they are essential responses to the economic realities we face.

Our generation has the tools, the knowledge, and the opportunity to redefine what success looks like.

But it requires action.

Build your net worth. Invest with intention. Create opportunities for yourself. The future will not wait, and neither should you. Take the first step today: set a simple savings goal, no matter how small, and commit to reaching it this month.

* **Johannes Nghishidimbwa,**
Financial Advisor

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