

CHINESE VEHICLE

Chinese vehicle brands increase Namibia market share to 16.5% in April

p. 07



FUNDING PROPOSALS

Finance Ministry cracks down on unsolicited funding proposals

p. 09



INVESTMENTS

Global water body targets N\$246 billion in investments from Namibia base

p. 16



THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

Fitch warns of rising SOE liabilities adding to Namibia's debt pressure



TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026

MAIN STORY



Fitch warns of rising SOE liabilities adding to Namibia's debt pressure

Namibia is facing mounting fiscal pressure as debt linked to state-owned enterprises has risen to around 4% of gross domestic product, according to the latest assessment by Fitch Ratings.

The agency said state-owned enterprises continue to pose a financial risk to government finances, with many entities still reliant on public support

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**

while undertaking major infrastructure projects in road construction, housing and power generation.

Fitch said these contingent liabilities are adding to Namibia’s already rising debt burden, which is projected to increase to 66% of GDP in the 2026/27 financial year, above the average for countries with a similar BB credit rating.

“We expect GG debt/GDP to rise by 1pp to 66% in FY26, amid a continued primary deficit, above the 'BB' median of 54%. Contingent liabilities are expected to stem from government-guaranteed debt of SOEs, amounting to 4.0% of GDP, reflecting increased budget support for key SOEs undertaking development projects in road construction, housing and power generation,” the report said.

The ratings agency also warned that the cost of servicing government debt is increasing sharply. Interest payments are expected to consume 18% of state revenue this year, compared to an average of 11% among countries in the same ratings category.

This means a growing share of government revenue will be directed towards debt repayments, leaving less funding available for public services and

development projects.

Despite the concerns, Fitch maintained Namibia’s BB- sovereign credit rating with a stable outlook.

The agency said the rating continues to be supported by Namibia’s relatively strong institutions, governance systems and access to domestic funding through pension funds and the broader non-bank financial sector.

“Namibia's ratings are supported by its strong governance indicators and institutional framework relative to rating peers, and by fiscal financing flexibility underpinned by a large non-bank financial sector, with assets amounting to about 182% of GDP at end-2025,” it said.

Fitch expects Namibia’s economic growth to remain subdued in the short term, forecasting expansion of 1.6% in 2026 following estimated growth of 1.7% in 2025.

The slowdown is linked to weaker global diamond demand, lower gold production and the broader economic effects of the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which has pushed up fuel costs and weighed on domestic demand.

However, the agency said stronger uranium production, ongoing



VACANCIES



The Road Fund Administration (RFA) invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced Namibians for the following positions:

- **EXECUTIVE: STRATEGIC SERVICES (PATERSON JOB GRADE – E2)**
FIVE-YEAR FIXED TERM
- **MANAGER: RISK (PATERSON JOB GRADE – D3)**

All applications should be submitted through the Trending Talent Recruitment website. Applications submitted via fax, postal mail, electronic mail, or hand-delivered will not be considered. Visit the RFA website for more information. Hand-delivered, faxed, or emailed applications will not be considered.

NB: Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Closing Date: Monday, 01 June 2026 at 17H00

Enquiries:
Mr. Tuhafeni Nekongo
061 433 3011

Visit our website for more information
www.rfanam.com.na

construction activity and a recovery in livestock production following the 2024 drought are expected to support the economy.

“Strong uranium production, alongside continued construction activity and a recovery in livestock production following the 2024 drought, underpin growth, which we forecast to pick up to 3.2% in 2027,” the assessment said.

Fitch also said Namibia’s budget deficit is expected to remain elevated, although it is projected to narrow slightly to 6.2% of GDP in the current financial year. This remains above government targets and significantly higher than the average for similarly rated countries.

According to the agency, government expenditure continues to face pressure from a rigid spending structure, rising debt servicing costs, fuel subsidies and

ongoing financial support for state-owned enterprises.

Fitch added that the public sector wage bill and interest payments together account for more than half of government revenue, limiting fiscal flexibility.

Revenue collection is also expected to weaken, largely due to lower diamond-related income. Although government has introduced tax reforms, including a 10% dividend tax, Fitch said the gains are likely to remain limited.

At the same time, lower corporate tax rates for non-mining businesses are expected to support investment but reduce state revenue in the short term.

“Fitch expects GG revenue-to-GDP to decline by 1.7pp to 30.1% in FY26, driven by lower diamond-related revenue and limited gains from tax reforms. The recent reduction in the non-mining corporate tax rate, to 28% from 30%,

should support investment, with anticipated revenue losses partly offset by measures such as the recent introduction of a 10% dividend tax,” the report said.

Fitch further noted that debt refinancing risks have eased after Namibia repaid its US\$750 million eurobond in October 2025.

The repayment reduced external debt obligations and lowered government borrowing requirements, while domestic investors, including pension funds and banks, continue to provide a reliable source of funding for the state.

SECURE UNBEATABLE

CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT RATES

FOR 2026



LEISURE

NAMIBIA THROUGH OUR EYES

Two of Namibia's top conference venues. One flash sale. Corporate and government clients can access special rates at Midgard Otjiaverera Windhoek and Strand Hotel Swakopmund, for a limited time only. Valid for stays and conferences through August 2026.

Both venues offer complete MICE facilities: professional AV equipment, flexible seating layouts, dedicated breakaway spaces and full catering. Book your 2026 dates now. Availability is limited.

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">FULL-DAY CONFERENCE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">MIDGARD OTJIHAVERA WINDHOEK</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">FROM</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">NS 965</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">INCLUSIVE OF ONE SOFT DRINK</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 5px 0 0 0;"/> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 0;">STRAND HOTEL SWAKOPMUND</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">FROM</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">NS 855</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">INCLUSIVE OF ONE SOFT DRINK</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">HALF-DAY CONFERENCE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">MIDGARD OTJIHAVERA WINDHOEK & STRAND HOTEL SWAKOPMUND</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">FROM FROM</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">NS 720</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">INCLUSIVE OF ONE SOFT DRINK</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">ACCOMMODATION</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">MIDGARD OTJIHAVERA WINDHOEK</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">FROM</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">NS 2949 DBB</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin: 5px 0 0 0;"/> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 0;">STRAND HOTEL SWAKOPMUND</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">FROM</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0 0 0 10px;">NS 3000 BB</p>
---	--	--




GET A QUOTE



Availability is limited. Contact our reservations team now to secure these rates.

Terms & Conditions Apply.

sales@ol.na | +264 61 431 8111

Sustainability. Our compound interest.

Financial solutions for
environmental impact



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



Thought Leadership piece:

Mobilising Climate Finance for Namibia's Sustainable Future

Namibia's sustainable finance agenda took a significant step forward when RMB Namibia, the corporate and investment banking division of FNB Namibia, partnered with the Bank of Namibia to convene industry leaders under the Namibia Sustainable Finance Alliance (NSFA).

The gathering brought together regulators, financiers and investors to confront a defining challenge: unlocking climate finance at the scale needed to underpin long-term, resilient growth. Against a backdrop of increasing climate vulnerability and an urgent global transition away from carbon-intensive economies, the dialogue underscored just how critical it is for Namibia to position itself as a credible and attractive destination for sustainable capital.

A central theme was the persistent imbalance in global climate finance flows. Capital continues to gravitate toward mitigation projects that offer clear, measurable returns, while adaptation critical for safeguarding economies and livelihoods remains chronically underfunded. For a country like Namibia, where the effects of climate change are already being felt through prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and increasing pressure on natural resources, this gap is not an abstract concern. It is a lived reality with tangible consequences for communities, industries and the broader economy. Closing it will demand innovative financing structures capable of accommodating longer time horizons, blended finance mechanisms, and risk-sharing arrangements that make adaptation projects viable for private investors.

Namibia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are estimated to require approximately USD 15 billion by 2030, a figure that underscores the sheer scale of investment needed across sectors including energy, water, agriculture and infrastructure. International capital will be instrumental in meeting this target, but it will not flow automatically. Investors are placing growing emphasis on bankability, policy certainty and sound risk allocation. Development finance institutions and multilateral climate funds have a pivotal role to play in de-risking early-stage projects and catalysing private sector participation, but their impact depends on strong domestic frameworks that inspire confidence.

The NSFA's message was unambiguous: capital exists, but it will only move where confidence does confidence in governance, in regulatory clarity and in well-structured investment opportunities. For Namibia, building that confidence means deepening institutional capacity, strengthening environmental and social governance standards, and creating the pipeline of investable projects that international and local financiers are looking for. The conversation is no longer simply about climate ambition. It is about translating that ambition into bankable realities that can attract, deploy and sustain the financing Namibia needs.

RMB Namibia has been actively involved in financing



and advising on key sectors underpinning Namibia's transition, including renewable energy, infrastructure and resource-based industries. Its approach is not limited to funding but extends to structuring solutions that align risk and return in a way that meets investor expectations. This includes working with clients to develop bankable projects, advising on capital structuring and facilitating access to both local and international funding pools. Investors and partners seeking to participate in Namibia's evolving sustainable finance landscape are encouraged to engage with RMB Namibia to explore bankable opportunities, innovative financing structures and strategic partnerships aligned to long-term growth.

** For more information contact Monét Basson, Sustainable Finance and Capital Markets Transactor at RMB Namibia, Email: monet.basson@rmb.com.na*





Chinese vehicle brands increase Namibia market share to 16.5% in April

Chinese and Chinese-linked vehicle manufacturers increased their share of Namibia's vehicle market to 16.5% in April 2026, as total national vehicle sales

reached 1,320 units, according to Simonis Storm Research.

The research firm said Chinese brands sold 218 units during the month, up from

momentum
life insurance

Enjoy up to 35% discount on life insurance premiums.
Screen and save. Join Momentum today!

Terms and conditions apply. Momentum Metropolitan Namibia is an authorised financial services, registered credit provider and part of Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Limited. Reg. No. 89/327



LifeReturns
Your life. Your future.

a market share of 13.2% in March, with growth recorded across passenger, light commercial, medium commercial and heavy vehicle segments.

“The most consequential development in April was a clear breakthrough in Chinese brand penetration. Chinese and Chinese-linked manufacturers collectively sold 218 units, lifting their share to 16.5% from 13.2% in March,” Simonis Storm said.

Jetour recorded 43 passenger vehicle sales during the month, while Haval sold 38 units and JAC delivered 24 units across light and medium commercial categories.

Other contributing brands included Shacman, Chery, FAW, Powerstar, Foton and Omoda.

“This is no longer a fringe phenomenon. The Chinese brand share is, in our view, on a credible glide path towards 20% by year-end,” the firm said.

Japanese manufacturers retained market dominance with an estimated 64% share,

led by Toyota, which accounted for 753 units across passenger and commercial categories in April.

Total vehicle sales declined by 20.6% from March’s 1,662 units but remained 5.7% higher than the levels recorded in April 2025.

Simonis Storm attributed the monthly decline to the unwinding of strong fleet and rental vehicle deliveries recorded in March.

“April’s print reflects the natural unwinding of that surge rather than a softening of the underlying demand impulse,” the firm said.

Commercial vehicle demand remained firm, with 757 units sold across light, medium, heavy and extra-heavy categories, representing a 31% increase compared to April 2025.

Passenger vehicle sales fell to 558 units in April, down from elevated March levels, although the firm said the decline did not indicate weakening household demand.

German manufacturers recorded the sharpest monthly correction, with combined sales declining to 126 units from 212 units in March, while Volkswagen passenger vehicle sales fell to 71 units.

“The retail value gap relative to comparably equipped Chinese and Japanese products continues to widen,” Simonis Storm said.

Looking ahead, the firm expects passenger vehicle sales to remain between 550 and 700 units over the next two quarters as higher interest rates and fuel-related inflation pressures continue to weigh on consumer demand.

PROUDLY ANNOUNCING OUR OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNERSHIP WITH **BANK WINDHOEK**

THE **BRIEF**
New Worth Knowing

Bank Windhoek

COFFEE EXTRAVAGANZA 2026

Follow The Brief on:  

Finance Ministry cracks down on unsolicited funding proposals

The Ministry of Finance has warned that the Namibian government does not borrow money through private individuals, companies or agents, as authorities move to clamp down on unsolicited infrastructure funding proposals targeting the state.

The warning comes as government faces increasing approaches from financiers and intermediaries seeking to channel money into Namibia through infrastructure projects outside formal state borrowing channels.

Finance Ministry Executive Director Oscar Capelao said the ministry had received “numerous funding proposals from private entities and/or agents acting on behalf of investors with funds looking for an investment home in Namibia”.

“A number of these investors have identified specific projects to channel their funds to. Most of the proposals also indicate the intention of the proponents to appoint contractors to implement the identified projects, on behalf of the Government,” Capelao said.

While acknowledging the potential value of the funding interest, Capelao made it clear that government borrowing cannot be arranged through unsolicited private deals.

“In view of the above, the Ministry of Finance would like to inform the public that the Government does not borrow money for funding for projects from unsolicited bids through individuals, private companies or agents acting on behalf of private companies or individuals,” he said.

The statement signals growing concern



within government over attempts by intermediaries to position themselves between investors and the state amid Namibia’s expanding infrastructure and energy development drive.

Capelao stressed that all infrastructure

financing arrangements are governed by strict laws and procurement procedures under the National Planning Commission Act, the State Finance Act and the Public Procurement Act.

“The Ministry of Finance would like to recognize the opportunity that these funding

proposals present to the Government of Namibia. Such opportunities could allow the Government to utilise such finances to fund national infrastructure projects, with the Government as the underlying borrower,” he said.

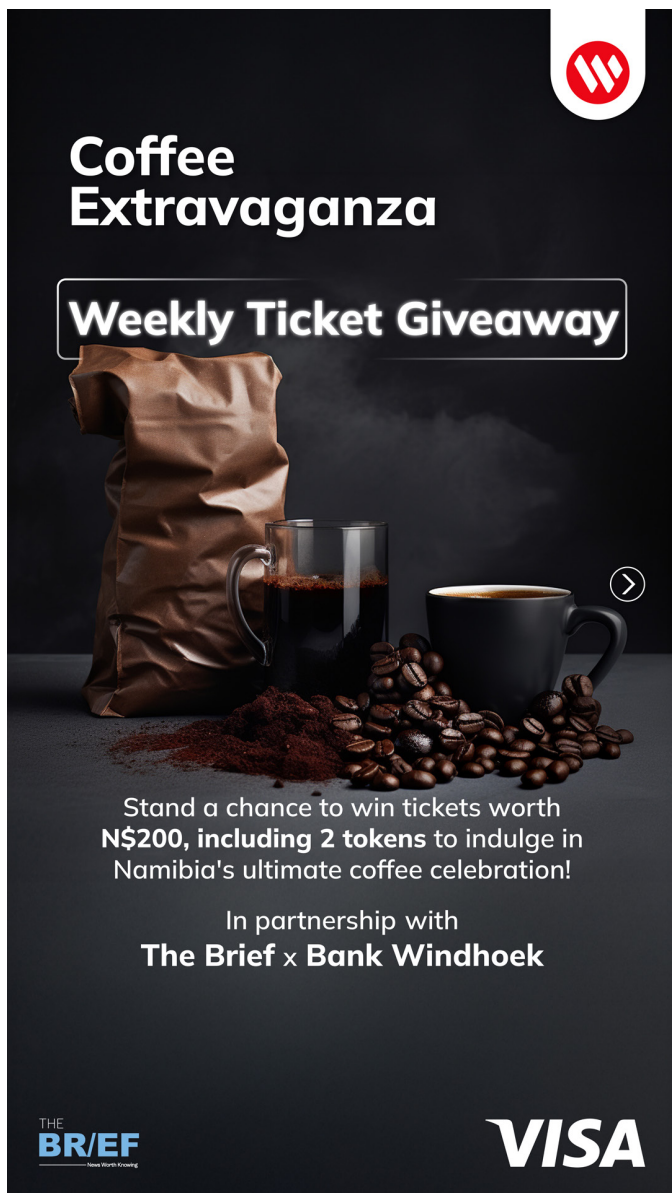
However, he said all projects must first go through formal state evaluation and approval processes before any funding decisions are considered.

According to the ministry, the National Planning Commission Secretariat is mandated to appraise, monitor and evaluate capital and development projects submitted by government offices, ministries and agencies before recommendations are made for possible funding.

Capelao said investors interested in financing Namibia’s infrastructure development should instead participate in official government borrowing programmes through Treasury bill and bond auctions conducted by the Bank of Namibia.

“Local and foreign investors with excess funds to finance infrastructures in Namibia are hereby invited to participate in the weekly Government auctions for Treasury bills and Bonds offered by the Bank of Namibia,” he said.

He added that investors could also participate through government’s international bond issuances undertaken periodically in global markets.



Coffee Extravaganza

Weekly Ticket Giveaway

Stand a chance to win tickets worth **N\$200, including 2 tokens** to indulge in Namibia's ultimate coffee celebration!

In partnership with
The Brief x Bank Windhoek

VISA

THE **BR/EF**
Namibia's Briefing

Zero-Tariff market access to China: Namibia's export opportunities, and the challenge over policy certainty

By Robeth Simon
and Hasekiel
Johannes



Namibia's recent inclusion under China's zero-tariff market access arrangement represents a major development in the country's external trade relations and export strategy.

The development comes at a time when trade relations between Namibia and China have expanded significantly over recent years, reflecting deepening economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

In the year 2025, total bilateral trade between the two countries exceeded N\$39 billion, making China Namibia's second-largest trading partner. Trade relations between the two countries have strengthened over the years, driven in part by increased Chinese demand for Namibia's uranium exports.

Namibia continued to maintain a trade surplus with China, with exports to the Chinese market accounting for 18.1% of total exports, valued at N\$22.7 billion in 2025. Meanwhile, imports from China constituted 11.9% of Namibia's total imports during the same period, with the value of goods imported from China amounting to N\$17.8 billion in 2025.

The structure of Namibia's exports to China in 2025 demonstrates the country's continued dependence on mineral exports. Total exports to China were dominated by uranium ores and concentrates, followed by nickel ores and concentrates, cobalt oxides

and hydroxides, lead ores, and copper ores.

Importantly, most of these mineral products were already entering China under zero or very low tariff conditions prior to the new arrangement, largely because China depends heavily on imported raw materials for industrial production, energy security, and battery manufacturing.

Against this broader trade backdrop, the introduction of zero-tariff access creates an important opportunity for Namibia to diversify its export basket beyond minerals and increase the contribution of agriculture, fisheries, and horticulture exports to the Chinese market.

The arrangement substantially improves the competitiveness of Namibian exports relative to suppliers that continue to face Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff rates.

The products expected to benefit most include beef, mutton, goat meat, seafood, grapes, dates, blueberries, and deep-sea red crab. Prior to the introduction of the zero-tariff arrangement, these products attracted relatively high Chinese import duties.

Beef entering the Chinese market carried tariffs ranging between 12% and 25%, while mutton and sheep meat faced tariffs of between 12% and 23%. Goat meat was previously subject to tariffs of approximately 20%, grapes 13%, dates 15%, blueberries up to 30%, and frozen deep-sea red crab approximately 7%.

The largest competitive gains are expected in products that previously attracted high

tariffs. Blueberries, for example, previously faced duties of up to 30%, representing one of the highest tariff burdens among the identified products.

The removal of this tariff immediately improves the commercial viability of Namibian blueberry exports to the Chinese

market. Similarly, beef, mutton, and goat meat stand to gain significantly from tariff reductions ranging between 12% and 25%, especially in light of growing Chinese demand for imported protein products.

China is currently one of the world's largest importers of agricultural and food products.

The country imports millions of tonnes of beef annually, while demand for imported seafood, premium fruits, and specialty protein products continues to expand alongside rising household incomes and changing consumer preferences.

Even a modest increase in Namibia's market share could therefore generate significant export earnings, investment opportunities, and broader economic benefits.

However, Namibia will not enter the market without competition. In beef exports, Namibia will compete directly against major suppliers such as Brazil and Australia, while Australia and New Zealand dominate China's sheep meat market.

In fruits such as blueberries and grapes, Peru and Chile remain highly established suppliers with mature logistics systems and long-standing commercial relationships in the Chinese market. In seafood products, countries such as Russia and Canada continue to maintain strong positions.

Namibia will therefore need to compete not only on price advantages arising from tariff preferences, but also on product quality, consistency, traceability, and reliability of

How to Enter & Win

1. Post a video of yourself

Share:

- Your name
- Where you're from
- Why you enjoy reading The Brief
- Where you follow The Brief

2. Request a collaboration

Tag The Brief on Instagram or Facebook

3. Get engagement

The videos with the most likes win!

supply.

From an international trade perspective, the arrangement has the potential to improve Namibia's export performance in many ways. First, the elimination of tariffs is likely to increase export volumes and export earnings by lowering the cost of Namibian products in China.

Second, it supports market diversification by reducing dependence on traditional export markets. Third, expanded exports to China could strengthen Namibia's trade balance through increased foreign exchange inflows and improved terms of trade.

The arrangement also presents broader economic opportunities beyond immediate export growth. Increased access to the Chinese market could stimulate investment in livestock production, fisheries processing, horticulture, cold-chain logistics, storage infrastructure, packaging, transportation, and export certification systems.

The multiplier effects across the economy could contribute to employment creation, rural income growth, industrial upgrading, and value addition in export-oriented sectors.

Namibia's comparative advantage lies not only in tariff preferences but also in the quality and reputation of its products. Namibia is internationally recognised for free-range livestock production systems, disease-free animal health standards, sustainably managed fisheries, and favourable climatic conditions for high-value horticultural production.

However, tariff preferences alone are insufficient to guarantee export success. Compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements remains one of the most critical determinants of effective market access to China.

SPS protocols regulate food safety, animal health, plant health, traceability, and quarantine requirements, and exporters must fully comply with Chinese import regulations before products can enter the market.

In practical terms, tariff access without SPS

approval effectively limits commercial access. Encouragingly, Namibia and China have already concluded SPS protocols for products such as beef, chevon, and mutton, thereby creating a foundation for expanded livestock product exports. Nevertheless, important challenges remain for other products, particularly high-value horticultural exports such as blueberries and grapes.

Discussions and negotiations surrounding SPS approval for these products have remained under consideration for approximately two years to date. Delays in finalising these agreements risk reducing Namibia's ability to fully benefit from the current tariff arrangement while competing countries continue strengthening their presence in the Chinese market.

For horticultural exporters, timing is especially critical. Blueberries and grapes represent high-value products with strong growth potential in China due to rising consumer demand for imported fruits. Without expedited SPS approvals, Namibia may struggle to capture market opportunities created by the zero-tariff arrangement.

An equally important consideration relates to the duration and predictability of this policy arrangement by China. Reports indicate that the zero-tariff offer is limited to a two-year period and is reportedly effective from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2028.

While this provides a short-term trade advantage, it raises important questions regarding long-term policy certainty and investor confidence.

Large-scale investments in export-oriented agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, logistics, and processing infrastructure typically require long investment horizons, stable market conditions, and predictable trade policies.

Investments in orchards, packhouses, cold storage facilities, meat processing plants, fishing operations, and export logistics systems involve substantial capital expenditure and often require several years

before achieving commercial returns.

Export-oriented investments are highly sensitive to policy certainty. Temporary trade arrangements may discourage large-scale capital commitments, particularly in sectors requiring long production cycles and substantial upfront infrastructure

investment.

Investors and exporters generally seek durable and predictable market access conditions before committing significant resources to export-oriented production systems. The absence of long-term certainty may therefore limit the scale of investment required to fully exploit the opportunity.

To maximise the benefits of the zero-tariff arrangement, Namibia will require a coordinated approach. Priority actions should include accelerating SPS negotiations for pending products, strengthening export certification and traceability systems, improving logistics and cold-chain infrastructure, supporting export readiness among producers, and engaging China on the possibility of longer-term trade arrangements that provide greater certainty for investors.

Ultimately, the zero-tariff arrangement presents Namibia with a rare opportunity to expand exports and diversify trade. However, the long-term success of the initiative will depend not only on tariff preferences, but also on the country's ability to secure SPS approvals, improve competitiveness, attract investment, and ensure policy certainty.

****Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position, policies, or views of his employer or any affiliated institution.***

It's a Weekly Giveaway!

New winners are announced every week.
Stay active and keep posting.

◀ ▶

**Competition runs until 4 June.
Create. Post. Collaborate. Win.**

Follow The Brief on: Instagram | Facebook

Ts & Cs apply

THE
BR/EF
News Worth Knowing

VISA



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 & Fleece
- Safety Boots & PPE Wear
- Caps, Beanies & Accessories
- Custom Embroidery & Branding



Contact us today
to place your order

✉ orbitalmedianam@gmail.com

☎ +264 81 434 3154

Global water body targets N\$246 billion in investments from Namibia base



The Global Water Partnership Organization says it aims to mobilise up to N\$246 billion (US\$15 billion) in global water investments from its new headquarters in Windhoek, as the intergovernmental organisation prepares to officially begin operations in Namibia later this month.

Speaking during a technical visit to finalise the relocation process from Stockholm, Sweden, GWP Chief Executive Officer Alex Simalawi said Namibia was selected to host the organisation’s headquarters because of its demonstrated leadership in water management, climate resilience and governance.

“As an organisation, under our 2025 to 2026 strategy, we aim to mobilise up to US\$15 billion in water investments, and we are going to do that very closely in partnership with the government of Namibia and other countries,” he said.

The organisation, which was established in 1996 by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Sweden, focuses on supporting governments in addressing water challenges through Integrated Water Resources Management.

A promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF' news outlet. The banner has a light blue background with faint icons of various professions and tools. On the left, it says 'SCAN HERE' in large blue letters. Below this is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL' in blue. At the top right, it says 'THE BRIEF News Worth knowing'. At the bottom left, there are social media handles for Facebook (@thebrieflive), LinkedIn (@thebrieflive.nam), and Twitter (@thebrieflive). At the bottom right, there is a WhatsApp icon and the text 'for Daily Namibian News'. In the center, there are two circular icons: one with a bar chart and 'Finance' above it, and another with a bar chart and 'Business' below it.

Simalawi said the decision to relocate the headquarters to the Global South reflects the growing urgency of water-related challenges such as droughts, floods and climate change impacts in developing countries.

He noted that the headquarters agreement was signed in Windhoek on 11 February this year, with operations expected to commence on 23 May.

“This is the first time that a global water organisation and intergovernmental institution will be hosted in the Global South, and Namibia has an opportunity to position itself as a global political and diplomatic capital for water investments,” he said.

Simalawi added that the organisation has already engaged several Namibian stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, NamWater, the Environmental Investment Fund, the United Nations system and local universities.

According to him, GWP plans to strengthen partnerships aimed at mobilising investment, improving water access and supporting climate adaptation initiatives in Namibia and across Africa.

“We have a strategic partnership. We have agreed that we are going to establish a memorandum of understanding to define the areas of cooperation. Namibia has challenges, but Namibia also has solutions,” he said. He said Namibia’s expertise in water-use efficiency and management has earned

international recognition and should be showcased globally through GWP’s network, which spans more than 180 countries and nearly 3,000 institutional partners.

Simalawi further revealed that GWP intends to collaborate with Namibian institutions on research, youth development and capacity building, including partnerships with the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

The organisation believes establishing its headquarters in Namibia will not only elevate the country’s international standing but also help attract critical investment to address local water access challenges, with an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Namibians still lacking access to clean water.

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
H.E. LUCIA WITBOOI
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
HON. GAYTON MCKENZIE – GUEST SPEAKER

VIP TABLE: N\$40,000

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

The illusion of intelligence: What the DIKW Pyramid taught me about knowing nothing

By Joram Kayofa

I used to think that I possessed a fair degree of intelligence and wisdom. Like many, I comfortably equated the sheer volume of facts I held in my head with profound intellect.

This comforting illusion remained perfectly intact until a seemingly ordinary day attending a lecture on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Amidst the complex discussions of algorithms and neural networks, a remarkably simple, triangular concept was projected onto the screen: the DIKW pyramid. I did not realise it at the moment, but that single image would fundamentally fracture my entire understanding of what it means to be smart.

For days and sleepless nights following that lecture, I found myself obsessively analysing this framework. The pyramid categorises human cognition into four distinct tiers: Data, Information, Knowledge, and Wisdom.

I began to look critically at my own habits. This year alone, I cannot even begin



“

I suddenly realised that almost all of my endless reading was trapped right here in these two lower levels.

to count the number of books, articles, case studies, and daily news reports I have consumed. I had been devouring text at a voracious pace, silently congratulating myself on my expanding, sophisticated mind.

Yet, when I sat down in the quiet hours of the night and rigidly applied the DIKW hierarchy to my ceaseless reading, the truth struck me with an uncomfortable force. I was gorging on the bottom tiers while entirely starving at the top.

The foundation of the pyramid is merely Data which is raw, disorganised facts, signals, and figures that inherently lack context. When we organise and

Bank Windhoek

Coffee Extravaganza

Bringing you the best beans, brews and baristas.

Date: Saturday, 6 June 2026

Time: 10h00

Venue: Windhoek Country Club Resort

Entry Fee: N\$200 per person, (Tickets available on Webtickets)

Early Bird Special N\$150 (first 500 tickets)

Come, journey with us.



give meaning to those facts, we move up slightly to Information.

I suddenly realised that almost all of my endless reading was trapped right here in these two lower levels. I was an excellent, highly efficient collector of information. I could recall headlines, summarise the central arguments of an article, and recite relevant statistics. However, the true intellectual leap occurs when we transition to Knowledge.

Knowledge requires us to synthesise that accumulated information, connecting disparate dots and testing them against reality to understand how things actually work. It demands active, prolonged engagement rather than passive consumption. My breathless race to quickly finish the next book or article left absolutely no room for this vital synthesis.

At the very pinnacle rests Wisdom, the most elusive and vital tier of all. If knowledge is understanding how to apply information, wisdom is the deeply human judgement of knowing when, why, and whether to apply it at all. Wisdom integrates ethics, empathy, and a profound awareness of the broader philosophical picture. It requires a slow, deliberate digestion of life experiences.

Looking through the sharp lens of the DIKW pyramid,

I saw that my frantic, continuous accumulation of facts was actually acting as a barrier to this deeper understanding. I was tragically confusing the heavy weight of a crowded memory with the sharp, luminous clarity of an insightful mind.

The ultimate irony of our hyper-connected modern age is that we have engineered a society overflowing with information but critically impoverished of wisdom. We read ceaselessly, scroll endlessly, and absorb continuously, convincing ourselves that we are growing more intelligent with every passing day.

But without the quiet, undisturbed reflection required to forge genuine knowledge, and without the deliberate lived experience necessary to cultivate wisdom, it is all just noise echoing in an empty room. My sleepless nights of analysis brought me to a deeply humbling, yet ultimately liberating, conclusion. We pride ourselves on the vast oceans of content we consume, but until we learn to actually process it, we are simply drowning. We know an awful lot, but fundamentally, we still know nothing.

****Joram N Kayofa is an author of multiple published and unpublished books and articles.***

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](#)



Namibia drops in Africa and global startup rankings

Namibia has dropped nine places to 94th globally and slipped from 8th to 10th in Africa in the StartupBlink Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2026, despite continued growth in the country's startup sector and improving business conditions.

The report said Namibia recorded annual ecosystem growth of 8.2%, below the global average, allowing faster-growing startup ecosystems to move ahead in the rankings.

"Namibia declines nine places to 94th globally, reversing steady progress from

99th in 2021 to 85th last year, with 8.2% growth well below the global average as faster-growing peers move ahead," the report said.

Although Namibia lost ground globally and continentally, it retained its position as Southern Africa's second-ranked startup ecosystem behind South Africa.

The report estimated Namibia's startup ecosystem value at US\$508.6 million, with Windhoek remaining the country's only city ranked among the world's top 1,000 startup ecosystems.

“Windhoek declines 13 places to 525th globally with 20.3% growth, a positive rate that nonetheless falls short of faster-growing peer cities,” the report said.

Despite the decline in overall rankings, Namibia performed relatively strongly in areas linked to international attractiveness and the business environment.

“Namibia ranks higher in the Innovators Business Environment Index at 83rd, indicating that strong business conditions have yet to fully translate into ecosystem outcomes,” the report said.

Namibia ranked fourth in Africa in the Ecosystem Attractiveness Functional Category, outperforming its broader continental ranking and reflecting what the report described as strong international appeal for startups and investors.

“Despite ranking 16th overall in Sub-Saharan Africa, Windhoek ranks 4th in the Ecosystem Attractiveness Functional Category in the region, reflecting strong international appeal,” the report said.

The report said Namibia’s startup ecosystem continues to benefit from regional connectivity, collaboration opportunities and policy coordination between public and private sector institutions.

Institutions highlighted as key supporters of the ecosystem included the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture, and the Namibia office of German development agency GIZ.

“Namibia’s startup ecosystem is shaped by its connectedness, resourcefulness and strong foundation for collaboration. Positioned within the African Continental Free Trade Area, the country serves as a strategic gateway for founders to test, build and scale solutions with regional relevance,” said Linda McLeod, Startup and Scale Manager at the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board.

The StartupBlink Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2026 ranked startup ecosystems across 120 countries and more than 1,500 cities using metrics including performance, growth and ecosystem value.



The **Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN)** herewith invites our stakeholders and the public to a consultative public hearing on the **Notice of Intention to amend the Regulations Prescribing Licence Fees and Regulatory Levies: Communication Act (No. 8 of 2009)** published in *Government Gazette* No. 8915, under General Notice No. 319, dated 08 May 2026.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date : Friday, 22 May 2026
Time : 14h00 - 17h00
Venue : Droombos Vineyard Country Hotel

Participants are required to pre-register before the hearing via the link <https://qr.codes/MOUteQ> or by scanning the QR code.

We look forward to your valued contribution.



SCAN TO RSVP





Namibia medicine stock levels remain at 60%

Namibia's medicine supply system is operating at only 60% stock availability, with several essential medicines and clinical products still either understocked or temporarily unavailable.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services said the current stock level reflects the quantity of medicines supplied compared to orders placed by healthcare facilities across the country.

The shortages have forced the Ministry to continue with emergency procurement measures as it works to increase medicine availability to at least 80%.

Additional pharmaceutical and clinical supplies were delivered to the Central Medical Stores between 27 April and 15 May 2026.

The deliveries included antibiotics, anaesthetics, chronic disease medication and critical care products, with some consignments expected to provide between 12 and 14 months of stock coverage.

However, the Ministry said some medicines remain in short supply due to

supplier production schedules, with further deliveries expected in batches over the coming weeks.

According to the Ministry, some of the quantities delivered may appear low because they are intended to supplement stock already available within the supply system while addressing urgent shortages.

Authorities are also pursuing longer-term bulk procurement arrangements aimed at improving stock stability across public health facilities.

The Ministry said several interventions are being implemented to strengthen the pharmaceutical supply chain, including pooled procurement systems, expanding supplier networks, faster medicine registration processes, real-time stock monitoring and improved distribution systems.

Additional reforms are also being introduced at the Central Medical Stores and the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council to improve procurement turnaround times and strengthen overall system capacity.



Meatco workers secure 11.5% wage increase over two years

Meat Corporation of Namibia and the Namibia Food and Allied Workers Union have concluded a two-year wage agreement that will see bargaining unit employees receive salary increases of 5% in the 2026/27 financial year and 6.5% in 2027/28.

The agreement follows wage negotiations between Meatco management, the union and the company's shop stewards committee.

Under the agreement, employees will receive a 5% across-the-board basic salary increase for the 2026/27 financial year,

together with a N\$200 monthly increase in housing allowance. There will be no increase in the cold allowance.

For the 2027/28 financial year, workers will receive a 6.5% across-the-board salary increase, while housing and cold allowances will remain unchanged.

Meatco Interim Chief Executive Officer Albertus Aochamub said the agreement was aimed at balancing employee welfare with the company's operational sustainability.

"This agreement reflects the commitment of both management and organised labour

“For the 2027/28 financial year, workers will receive a 6.5% across-the-board salary increase, while housing and cold allowances will remain unchanged.”

to work together responsibly in the interest of employees, operational stability and the long-term sustainability of Meatco,” Aochamub said.

He said the outcome provides certainty for the next two financial years while supporting the company’s turnaround and growth plans.

NAFAU deputy general secretary Willem Absalom said the negotiations were concluded amicably through meaningful

engagement between the parties.

“The agreement represents a balanced outcome that protects the interests of workers while recognising the current operational realities facing the company,” Absalom said.

Both parties said they remain committed to maintaining stable labour relations and improving productivity as Meatco continues efforts to strengthen operations and ensure long-term sustainability.

17 ARTISTS, 6 CHOIRS, 1 NIGHT. AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

Never Walk Alone

THE RESTORATION Concert 4.0

SATURDAY
31 OCTOBER 2026

DR. HAGE GEINGOB STADIUM
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

 MINISTER GLIC	 MIN. MICHAEL MAHEMBELE	 DEEA	 LINDA
 BEN-JAMIN DUBE	 IPINGE KIDS	 ASHI	 MINISTER BOBBY RICHTER
 BR CLARENCE	 JAEI, M.K	 ERIO MAHUA	 ESME
 RUTH	 LENTINA GRACE	 MIN ADOLPHE AMAHI	 MINISTER MOSES

 GRACE NOTES CHOIR	 JOSM CHOIR	 ADORATION CHOIR	 HALLELUJAH SINGOUT CREW	 VOCAL DYNAMIX	 JMM WORSHIP TEAM
---	---	--	--	--	--

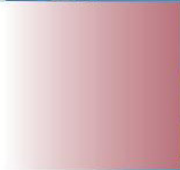
TICKET PRICES: VIP BOOTH 25 PERSONS N\$50,000 | VIP SINGLE N\$2,000 | GOLDEN CIRCLE N\$300

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [web tickets](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: NEVERWALKALONE359@GMAIL.COM OR +264813496234

THE
BR/EF
News Worth Knowing

Year in Review 5 2026 Outlook 6



[Click here to DOWNLOAD](#)



THE ASSET ALLOCATION VIEW: IN COLLABORATION WITH NORTHSTAR AND CIRRUS

	GLOBAL		SA		Namibia	
	CURRENT	TREND*	CURRENT	TREND*	CURRENT	TREND*
EQUITIES	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
BONDS	😞	😊	😞	😊	😞	😞
CASH	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊

ASSET ALLOCATION SNAPSHOT AS AT 12 MAY 2026

Source: Northstar Proprietary Research and Cirrus Fund Managers. Royale, Northstar and Cirrus reserve the right to amend this information, data and views presented. This document does not constitute advice.

*3 Year View



	CURRENT	TREND
GLOBAL EQUITIES	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>April saw cyclical and AI-led themes reassert themselves after March's sell-off. Strong earnings in AI-adjacent sectors reinforced confidence in long-term demand, with the MSCI World Semis Index returning 27.4%. Information Technology and Communication Services led, while Industrials and Consumer Discretionary also performed well as near-term growth confidence stabilised. Energy gave back recent gains and Health Care remained a laggard.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Index-level valuations and earnings growth expectations remain elevated despite recent energy and supply chain disruption, with growth skewed to cyclical areas like semiconductors, materials and energy, raising questions about long-term earnings durability. That said, selective opportunities exist for bottom-up investors. Capital concentration in a narrow set of growth themes has left several less-favoured segments trading at reasonable valuations relative to their long-term earnings potential.</p>
SA EQUITIES	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>The JSE gained just 1% in April, lagging emerging markets which advanced 4.5%. Telecoms led with a 5% gain on strong MTN and Vodacom growth, while Listed Property (+4.4%) and Banks (+3.1%) also advanced. Basic Materials lagged, falling 2.4% as gold retreated late in the month. The broader backdrop remains uncertain, no resolution to the Middle East conflict keeps oil supply risk elevated, inflation expectations sticky, and pressure on rate-sensitive sectors including Banks, Listed Property and consumer-facing retailers.</p>	<p>GOOD</p> <p>Our valuation work supports a constructive view on local equities, with opportunity skewed toward more cyclical areas. We see upside in selected retailers, rand hedges, and banks, though we remain mindful of downside risks should the Middle East conflict prove prolonged. Gold and PGM counters appear broadly fairly valued at current levels. Medium term, we remain constructive on the domestic macro recovery while remaining mindful of risk posed by the current geopolitical uncertainty.</p>
NAM EQUITIES	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Many of the tailwinds driving strong performance across Namibian Equities in recent years were short-lived boosts, providing temporary relief to consumers rather than structural changes. With these now fading and concerns around government's fiscal health arising, we're seeing momentum cool in 2026. Given Namibia's close economic integration with South Africa, local consumers are experiencing similar inflationary pressures. In this environment, we continue to favour more defensive names on the NSX, particularly financial stocks and other reliable high-dividend counters.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Namibian Equities remain attractively valued but need a friendly investment climate to do well. Therefore, we believe it is important to actively deviate from the benchmark and select quality companies with growth prospects and high-quality management teams.</p>
GLOBAL BONDS	<p>CONCERN</p> <p>Elevated geopolitical risk continues as of the Strait of Hormuz remains shut and no inroads have been made through multiple rounds of negotiations. With the oil price elevated, the trajectory of global inflation and path of interest rates have been upended. Bonds have sold off and could continue to come under pressure the longer the supply of oil remains offline.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Over the longer term, the outlook remains largely intact: Sticky inflation, stable labour dynamics, rising growth forecasts and questions over Fed independence in 2026, should keep yields elevated with the long-end most vulnerable to these pressures. A prolonged war in the Middle East will keep oil prices elevated and inflation concerns front of mind, causing volatility for yields at the short-end. The longer the conflict lasts, the more pronounced the feed through effects of a high oil price will be on the physical economy.</p>
SA BONDS	<p>CONCERN</p> <p>Local bonds remained on shaky ground in April as the global risk off environment continued despite a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East. Front-end bonds are seeing most of the pain as the market reassesses the interest rate path in light of a prolonged oil price shock. Growing uncertainty and rising inflation risks are negative for local bonds over the short term and may led to evidence of demand destruction, which would test medium term economic assumptions.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>Despite the recent sell off in local bonds, positive structural elements remain in place. Fiscal dynamics have improved and sovereign finances appear to be robust enough to weather global risks. The reform outlook is gaining credibility and could necessitate multiple rating upgrades from the ratings agencies over the medium term. The meaningful pull back in yields has provided for some opportunity at the front end of the curve, but longer out the curve appears fairly valued on our metrics, moving back from overstretch levels that we saw in February.</p>
NAM BONDS	<p>CONCERN</p> <p>Namibian bonds are expensive. We expect upward pressure on Namibian Government debt as government's fiscal position comes under significant pressure. Underweight long duration bonds and overweight short duration bonds.</p>	<p>CONCERN</p> <p>The Namibian Government has a saturated maturity profile with sizeable upcoming redemptions, which is expected to increase funding pressures and place upward pressure on yields.</p>
GLOBAL CASH	<p>GOOD</p> <p>Over the near term, cash is the area providing the best protection against volatility. One can still generate a real return from cash, and any inflationary impulses would be combated with interest rate hikes from central banks, making cash more appealing on relative basis.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>On a three-year horizon, our valuation points to better opportunities in bonds across the curve versus what could be received for cash. However, volatility is likely to persist over the medium-term with debates about labour market weakness and rising inflation pressures creating uncertainty for where interest rates may settle.</p>
SA CASH	<p>GOOD</p> <p>The materialisation of geopolitical risk will likely keep the SARB cautious and may even lead to rate hikes in the near term. Further, real rates remain elevated as the SARB attempts to drive inflation expectations lower and maintain credibility. Current cash rates on offer are well above the inflation rate, therefore investors can earn a healthy real return without taking on risk.</p>	<p>AVERAGE</p> <p>As inflation expectations move credibly lower over the medium, the SARB will become less restrictive and real rates will narrow, causing cash to become less competitive relative to other assets. It remains to be seen whether current geopolitical risks will be prolonged and to what extent the consequences stemming from elevated oil prices will filter into our longer term interest rate assumptions and cash valuations.</p>
NAM CASH	<p>GOOD</p> <p>Inflation expectations are rising on the back of the Middle East tensions, with 2026 inflation expectation revised upward by the central bank to 3.7%. At this level, cash still offers attractive real returns, however if the conflict is extended and inflation spikes to 4.5% or higher, real returns can erode quickly.</p>	<p>GOOD</p> <p>South Africa's lower inflation target is expected to ripple through to the Namibian market and with funding pressures anticipated locally, Treasury bill rates are likely to remain elevated, offering attractive real returns.</p>