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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Banks process N$700 billion in payments in six months

WEDNESDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY



Banks process N$700 billion in payments in six months

Namibia's banking system processed 60,022 interbank transactions valued at N$700 billion during the first six months of 2026, representing a 21.93% increase in the value of payments settled compared with the corresponding period in 2025.

According to the October 2026 Namibia Financial Stability Report, published by the Bank of Namibia (BoN) and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory

Crucial Dates

- **EAN Public Discussion: National Skills and Employment Public Discussion**
  Wednesday 4 November 2026
  09h00 - 12h00
  Hilton Hotel, Windhoek
- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
  * 10 December 2026

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Authority (NAMFISA), transaction volumes also increased by 9.96% year-on-year.

The transactions were processed through the Namibia Interbank Settlement System (NISS), which facilitates the settlement of financial obligations between banking institutions.

"During the first half of 2026, the NISS processed 60,022 transactions with a total value of N$700 billion, supporting the safe and efficient settlement of interbank transactions. Compared to the corresponding period in 2025, the value and volume of transactions settled increased by 21.93 percent and 9.96 percent, respectively," the report stated.

Real-time gross settlement transactions accounted for 63.3% of the total value processed, amounting to N$443.4 billion, while retail payment bulk settlements contributed the remaining 36.7%, valued at N$256.7 billion.

The report found that operational and settlement risks within the NISS remained moderate during the first half of 2026, with most transactions settled during the earlier processing windows.

A total of N$382.8 billion, representing 54.7% of the value settled, was processed between 08h00 and 12h00.

A further N$184.5 billion, or 26.4%, was settled between 12h00 and 15h00, while N$132.8 billion, representing 19%, was processed between 15h00 and 16h40.

"The predominance of settlements during the earlier windows enhances overall system resilience by reducing the probability of settlement delays and providing participants with sufficient time to address potential liquidity constraints before the end of the business day," the report stated.

Meanwhile, the NISS recorded a system availability rate of 99.45% during the first half of 2026, falling short of the Bank of Namibia's operational target of 99.90%.

The central bank attributed the shortfall mainly to system stabilisation activities following the migration to the ISO 20022 financial messaging standard, which governs the exchange of payment information between financial institutions.

Despite the shortfall, the report indicated that the system continued to support interbank settlements, with the Bank conducting business continuity management and disaster recovery exercises to strengthen operational resilience.

"In both cases, the NISS recovery and failover procedures were executed successfully, and the switchback to the primary site was completed without incident. All systems were fully restored and continued to operate as expected," the report stated.





Dangote commits US$2.5bn to Namibia fuel storage and regional pipeline project

Dangote Industries Limited has committed approximately US$2.5 billion to develop a 600-million-litre fuel storage facility and a planned 1,700-kilometre regional petroleum pipeline in Namibia, aimed at supplying fuel markets across southern Africa.

The investment was announced by Dangote Industries Limited President and Chief Executive Officer Aliko Dangote during the official launch of the Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project at Farm 58, approximately 10 kilometres east of Walvis Bay, on Wednesday.

The proposed storage facility will have a capacity of approximately four million barrels, comprising 360 million litres of diesel and 240 million litres of petrol.

The development will also include truck-loading and dispensing facilities, alongside supporting infrastructure to facilitate petroleum storage and distribution.

Dangote said the planned 1,700-kilometre pipeline would connect Walvis Bay to inland markets, positioning Namibia as a regional petroleum distribution hub and providing an alternative fuel supply corridor for landlocked countries.

The proposed route will extend from Walvis Bay towards Otjiwarongo, with connections northwards towards Rundu and eastwards towards Ghanzi and Francistown in Botswana.

The broader distribution network is expected to serve Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and the southern Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, Dangote said the final pipeline alignment and length would be determined following detailed engineering studies, route surveys and the necessary regulatory approvals.

He said the investment was intended to improve regional fuel supply security, reduce transportation costs and strengthen petroleum distribution infrastructure across southern Africa.

"For Namibia, it is expected to moderate logistical vulnerabilities, high shipping costs and severe energy insecurity while promoting infrastructure, warehousing and service sector employment," Dangote said.

He added that Botswana would benefit from diversified petroleum supply routes, while Zambia could see improvements in fuel delivery and freight efficiency.

Dangote said the project would also strengthen economic cooperation and energy independence among six former frontline states by improving cross-border fuel distribution infrastructure.

The development is expected to create employment opportunities in construction, logistics, warehousing and related services, while supporting Namibia's ambition to establish Walvis Bay as a major regional energy and maritime logistics hub.

Dangote thanked President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Namibian Government and the people of Namibia for supporting the investment.

The project forms part of efforts to expand petroleum storage and distribution capacity in southern Africa, with Walvis Bay serving as a potential gateway for fuel imports destined for inland regional markets.

SINOMINE TSUMEB SMELTER

VACANCY

Temporary Vacancy

The Position: Protection Services Officer

The incumbent will report to the Manager: Health, Safety & Protection Services and will be accountable for

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Ensure compliance with Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) requirements, company security procedures, and Golden Rules.
- Monitor CCTV and fleet tracking systems, document activities, and report non□ conformances.
- Enforce access control at company gates in accordance with security procedures and contractual requirements.
- Conduct security patrols, inspections and preliminary investigations into security incidents and non-conformances.
- Coordinate emergency calls, employee callouts, and emergency response activities.
- Enforce the company Alcohol and Drug Policy, including required testing procedures.
- Protect company assets, infrastructure and equipment against theft, damage, and unauthorized access.
- Identify and report suspicious activities, security breaches, and unsafe conditions.
- Monitor the performance of security service providers and ensure compliance with contractual obligations.
- Liaise professionally with employees, contractors, visitors, and law enforcement agencies.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Grade 12 certificate and a Diploma in Security Management or relevant qualification.
- Minimum three (3) years' security-related experience.
- Strong investigation, CCTV surveillance, observation, and incident-reporting skills.
- Good communication, interpersonal, supervisory, and problem-solving skills.
- Computer literacy (Microsoft Office) and a valid Code B driver's licence.
- Physically fit (fitness test required) and able to remain calm under pressure.
- Open to working shifts, weekends, and public holidays.
- Previous policing experience, particularly in law enforcement, crime prevention, investigations, incident response, crowd and conflict management, evidence preservation, report writing, emergency response, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies and security stakeholders.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, 11 November 2026, AT 16H00

Please forward application to the email: **stsrecruitment3@sinomine.na**
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted, applicants, who are not contacted within two weeks after the closing date should consider their application unsuccessful.

The recruitment process will be administered as prescribed by Namibian Affirmative Action Act. Women and person with disability are encouraged to apply.

Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

All applications meeting the minimum requirements must be accompanied by a non-returnable detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of qualifications and identification documents. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for and should be sent as one PDF attachment. Applications not adhering to these rules will not be considered.



Namibia tables new investment Bill to boost job creation and local participation

. . . with a new national investment promotion agency proposed

The Namibian government has tabled the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill in Parliament, seeking to attract domestic and foreign investment, create employment opportunities and increase Namibian participation in the economy.

Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Modestus Amutse, acting as Minister of International Relations and Trade, said the proposed legislation aims to modernise Namibia's investment framework and improve the country's investment environment.

Tabling the Bill in Parliament on Wednesday, Amutse said the legislation would replace the Foreign Investments Act of 1990, which has governed the country's investment framework for more than three decades.

"The Bill advances a clear national aspiration: to attract and retain investment that creates decent employment, builds productive industries, develops skills and enables more Namibians to participate meaningfully in economic activities," he said.

The proposed legislation provides for the establishment of the Investment Promotion Agency of Namibia, which would be responsible for promoting investment, coordinating investor services and assisting businesses in navigating government institutions.

The agency would also support existing

investors to encourage the retention and expansion of investments in the country.

Amutse said the Bill would introduce transparent investment registration and monitoring systems, strengthen accountability in the administration of investment incentives and promote responsible investment.

The legislation also proposes measures to increase Namibian participation in the economy by allowing certain sectors or business activities to be reserved exclusively for Namibian citizens and qualifying enterprises.

Other sectors could be opened to investment subject to requirements for Namibian ownership and effective control.

"The Bill creates a framework for meaningful Namibian participation in the economy. It enables specified sectors or business activities to be reserved exclusively for Namibian citizens and qualifying enterprises, or to be opened to investment subject to citizen ownership and effective control requirements," Amutse said.

The proposed legislation further includes provisions to protect investors, ensure fair and transparent treatment and establish mechanisms for resolving investment-related grievances.

According to Amutse, the Bill was developed following public consultations across all 14 regions, involving business associations, investors, professionals and other stakeholders.

He said the proposed reforms are intended to strengthen Namibia's ability to attract and retain investment while ensuring that investment contributes to industrial development, skills development and employment creation.

Amutse urged Parliament to prioritise the legislation, citing changing global and domestic economic conditions and the need for Namibia to capitalise on emerging investment opportunities.

"The prevailing global and domestic economic realities dictate that this Bill be finalised as a matter of urgency," he said.

BANNERMAN
MINING RESOURCES NAMIBIA

Vacancy: Manager Mining
Location: Swakopmund | **Closing Date:** 13 November 2026

Why join us
Bannerman exists to fuel a cleaner, more resilient future through the Etango Uranium Project. As our Manager Mining, you will turn mine plans into safe, efficient production and help build a long-life operation in Namibia.

How we work
We lead with safety, accountability and disciplined execution. We work across functions, use data to guide decisions and hold ourselves and our contractors accountable for reliable delivery.

What you will do as our Mining Manager
- Lead mine planning and scheduling to deliver ore, waste, production and development targets.
- Oversee mining contractor performance across safety, production, quality, cost and schedule.
- Provide technical leadership in mine design, drill and blast, load and haul, scheduling and optimisation.
- Champion safety, compliance, critical controls and proactive mining risk management.
- Build a capable mining team, manage OPEX and CAPEX, and improve productivity and cost efficiency.

What you will bring
- BSc or BTech degree (NQF Level 7) in Mining Engineering or equivalent recognised mining qualification with a Blasting ticket and Mine Manager Certificate of Competence.
- 10 years post-degree relevant mining experience, preferably in an open-pit.
- 5 years leadership/supervisory experience.
- Postgraduate qualification in Mining Engineering, Mine Management, Business Management or Project Management will be highly regarded.
- Demonstrated experience managing mining contractors and contractor performance.
- Experience with mining budgets, cost control and production reporting.
- Strong understanding of mining legislation, HSE requirements and risk management.
- Must have a valid driver's license (Code B).
- Namibian citizen or rights to work in Namibia.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates meeting the above requirements are invited to apply by submitting their applications to NIEIS: https://nieis.namibiaatwork.gov.na or People@bannermanresources.com.au
In line with the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, Act 29 of 1998, Namibian Citizens from previously disadvantaged groups will be given preferential consideration.

PROACTIVITY | RELIABILITY | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DIVERSITY OF THINKING



Dangote's fuel infrastructure project to position Namibia as regional energy hub

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah says the Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project will strengthen Namibia's position as a regional energy and logistics hub, while warning that bureaucratic delays continue to threaten major investments in the country.

Speaking at the project's official launch at Farm 58 in Walvis Bay on Wednesday, Nandi-Ndaitwah said the government must accelerate administrative processes to attract and retain investments capable of driving economic growth, creating jobs and reducing poverty.

The project, spearheaded by Dangote Industries Limited, involves the development of a 600-million-litre petroleum storage facility and a planned 1,700-kilometre regional pipeline connecting Walvis Bay to markets across southern Africa.

The storage facility will have capacity for 360 million litres of diesel and 240 million litres of petrol, while the proposed pipeline network will extend towards Otjiwarongo and Rundu in Namibia, and Ghanzi and Francistown in Botswana.

The wider distribution network is expected to serve Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and the southern

Democratic Republic of Congo, positioning Walvis Bay as an alternative fuel import and distribution gateway for landlocked countries.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said she had personally intervened to ensure the project proceeded after previous experiences in which major investors abandoned planned developments because of administrative delays.

"I have witnessed as a Minister of International Relations and Cooperation very serious investors who wanted to invest in Namibia, but they got frustrated by our bureaucratic systems and we lost very important projects," she said.

The President said she subsequently instructed National Planning Commission Director-General Ambassador Kaire Mbuende to coordinate the Dangote investment and provide regular updates on its progress.

"I had to call Mr Dangote and plead with him that please hold on. I will make it work," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said Namibia could not afford to continue losing investment opportunities because of inefficient government processes, particularly when the country needed infrastructure development and private-sector investment to address unemployment and poverty.

She said the project was aligned with Namibia's broader infrastructure development priorities and its ambition to become a strategic gateway for regional trade, logistics and energy distribution.

The President also called for greater African ownership of economic development, arguing that countries on the continent must take responsibility for addressing their development challenges rather than continuing to depend on former colonial powers.

"Africa, over 60 years of our independence. Yes, the colonial administration has made the damage. But for how long will we continue to wait for them to correct the damage they have caused on us? We must now take charge of our responsibility,"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Purpose of Role
This role is responsible for managing Cyber Risk of the subsidiary. This entails serving as the primary liaison between the subsidiary and the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO).

Key Performance Areas (KPAs)

Responsibilities include:

- Cyber Resilience Strategy
  - Provide inputs to the Group Cyber Resilience Strategy to ensure that it addresses the Cyber risks of the subsidiary.
  - Provide inputs into the design of an appropriate cyber risk framework
- Cyber Risk Management and Reporting
  - Implementing a comprehensive cyber risk management approach that aligns cyber risks with the company's risk appetite. This includes deploying an appropriate cyber maturity framework and model to continuously assess and enhance cyber resilience.
  - Prepare and present meaningful cyber submissions to all relevant subsidiary committees and the Board, providing an overview of cyber risk posture and progress with cyber initiatives
- Cyber Controls Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Assurance
  - Execute appropriate cyber controls that would mitigate cyber risk to within appetite.
  - Advise business on cyber risk, cyber controls and other cyber requirements as part of projects and business cases
  - Oversee cyber threat modelling, threat hunting, and threat management activities, and facilitate and manage third-line assurance activities to uphold comprehensive cyber defence measures across the company.
- Regulatory and Compliance Management
  - Facilitate and manage regulatory reviews, developing action plans to address any findings and diligently monitoring the progress of their implementation.

Minimum Requirements
- Relevant tertiary qualification such as eg. B. Com / B.Sc. Information Systems, Computer Science, Engineering, risk management or equivalent 3+ year degree
- Relevant Honours/ Master's degree
- CISM/CISSP/C|CISO/CSX-P Certification is preferred and SABSA/TOGAF foundation an advantage

Experience
- 10 years in the field of Cyber Security; experience in the banking environment will be an advantage.
- 7 years in a senior management position in Cyber Security
- Deep understanding of cyber risk and how it relates to the entity
- Working knowledge of information security standards and frameworks
- Working knowledge of third-party cyber risk management

Closing Date: 10 November 2026

To apply, e-mail a comprehensive CV and supporting documents to: apply@rejoinderglobal.com

she said. She cited the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area as important frameworks for advancing regional integration, infrastructure development and intra-African trade.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said public-private partnerships would remain central to Namibia's development strategy, stressing the need for stronger cooperation between government and investors.

Meanwhile, Erongo Governor Natalia Goagoses said the investment would strengthen the region's role as a logistics and industrial centre, supported by the Port of Walvis Bay and transport corridors linking Namibia to neighbouring countries.

Goagoses said the project aligned with the Sixth National Development Plan, particularly its focus on infrastructure development, industrialisation and economic growth.

She said Erongo's established mining, fishing, logistics and tourism sectors provided a foundation for attracting further investment and expanding regional supply chains.

"Investments of this nature will strengthen our economic base, enhance regional supply chains and create meaningful opportunities for our communities," Goagoses said.

The governor said the project was expected to create employment opportunities, encourage local business participation and strengthen commercial activity in Walvis Bay and surrounding communities.

She added that the proposed fuel storage and pipeline infrastructure could expand Namibia's participation in regional petroleum supply chains by linking the Port of Walvis Bay directly to inland distribution markets.





Namibia Airports Company targets N$1 billion revenue by 2031

. . . as annual profit more than doubles to N$23.4 million

The Namibia Airports Company (NAC) is targeting annual revenue of N$1 billion and passenger traffic of 2.5 million by 2031, as the state-owned airport operator plans to expand infrastructure, commercial operations and cargo services over the next five years.

The targets form part of NAC's Integrated Strategic Business Plan for 2026 to 2031, which seeks to increase revenue by approximately 75% from the N$570 million recorded in the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

The company will also need to more than double its annual passenger traffic from the 1.13 million recorded during the reporting period to achieve its 2031 target.

According to NAC, the five-year strategy will prioritise airport infrastructure development, the expansion of commercial and cargo operations, digital transformation and improvements in passenger services.

The company also intends to incorporate environmental, social and governance measures into its operations while maintaining profitability.

The targets were announced following NAC's 2025/26 Annual General Meeting, where the company reported a 5.5% increase in revenue to N$570 million.

Profit after tax increased by approximately 146% to N$23.4 million, compared with N$9.5 million in the previous financial year.

NAC also reported cash reserves of N$353.2 million, supported by operating cash flows of N$136.9 million.

The improved financial performance enabled the company to declare a dividend of

N$7.8 million to the Namibian government, its sole shareholder, marking its first dividend in 20 years.

NAC Board Chairperson Rosalinde Nakale said the dividend reflected improvements in the company's financial management and operational performance.

"This dividend reflects the success of NAC's transformation efforts, prudent financial management, and our commitment to creating value for Namibia through responsible stewardship of national assets," Nakale said.

Chief Executive Officer Bisey /Uirab said the company's financial position would allow it to continue investing in infrastructure while maintaining profitability.

"The dividend demonstrates NAC's ability to balance profitability, investment, and service delivery while continuing to invest in infrastructure, customer experience, and sustainability," he said.

The company said its cash reserves provided sufficient financial buffers to support ongoing operations and maintain its ability to continue as a going concern.

Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi welcomed the dividend declaration, saying the funds would contribute to government spending on public services.

"This dividend will go a long way to help fund hospitals, clinics, schools, roads and other public services. The government remains committed to supporting NAC at all material times in its mission to provide sustainable and world-class airport infrastructure and services," Nekundi said.

He said the government would continue providing oversight and strategic guidance to support the development of Namibia's aviation sector.

NAC said its planned investments and commercial expansion would support its objective of positioning Namibia as a regional aviation and logistics hub while sustaining profitability through 2031.

ERONGO MARINE ENTERPRISES
AN OCEANA GROUP COMPANY

VACANCY

Erongo Marine Enterprises (PTY) LTD ("EME") is a proudly Namibian registered fishing company, based in Walvis Bay, and operates in the Horse Mackerel fishery. EME has an exemplary record in respect of its fishing operations as well as its focus on socio-economic investment and development, both regionally and nationally. We are hiring for the following position:

Human Resources Manager

Purpose of the role - To act as EME's frontline HR business partner, translating operational and vessel requirements into practical people solutions that support workforce availability, operational continuity and constructive employee relations. The role ensures ongoing engagement with union officials and shop stewards, clear two-way communication with shore-based employees and sea-going crew, and accurate, timely HR administration in close collaboration with the Group HR Service Centre and Centres of Excellence.

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Industrial Psychology, Organisational Psychology, Business Management or a related field.
- An Honours degree in a related field would be advantageous.
- A minimum of five (5) years' generalist HR experience across employee and stakeholder relations, payroll, recruitment, remuneration and benefits, performance management, training and organisational development.
- Experience in a blue-collar industry with strong industrial relations exposure would be advantageous.

Knowledge & Skills

- Strong operational HR business partnering and stakeholder management capability, including ongoing engagement with union officials, shop stewards, managers and crew.
- Sound knowledge of Namibian labour legislation, including the Labour Act 11 of 2007 as amended by Act 2 of 2012, and the ability to interpret employment policies, regulations and collective agreements.
- Practical experience in employee relations, disciplinary and grievance processes, payroll inputs, remuneration and benefits administration, recruitment, performance management and learning coordination.
- Demonstrated ability to maintain accurate HR records, reports and payroll submissions through disciplined checking, reconciliation and timely follow-through.
- Ability to coordinate crew work permits and visas, statutory reporting and confidential case documentation.

If you are interested in the above position and meet the required criteria, access the following link to apply: www.oceana.simplify/hr

Closing date for submissions: **13 November 2026**

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Only Namibian Citizens will be considered. Suitably qualified candidates from designated groups as defined in the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No. 29 of 1998 are encouraged to apply. No faxed or emailed applications will be accepted.

116 Theo-Ben Gurirab Street, Walvis Bay | Tel: +264 64 219 200
www.erongomarine.com.na



SDG Namibia One secures N$2.15 billion in funding commitments for green hydrogen projects

Namibia's SDG Namibia One Fund has secured approximately N$2.15 billion (US$129 million) in combined funding commitments and approvals to support green hydrogen and industrial decarbonisation projects, representing nearly 37% of its US$350 million fundraising target.

The figures were presented by Mercia Geises, Chief Executive Officer of Namibia Energy Transition Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd.

Namibia Energy Transition Fund Managers is a partnership between Climate Fund Managers, Invest International and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), established to manage SDG Namibia One.

According to the presentation, the funding includes commitments from Invest International and the European Union, as well as recently approved financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The latest funding approval, announced on 28 October 2026, comprises US$56 million (approximately N$932 million) from the GCF, with US$15 million allocated to early-stage project development and US$41 million earmarked for construction equity.

The approval builds on existing commitments of €40 million (approximately US$45 million) from Invest International and €25 million (approximately US$28 million) from the European Union.

Combined, the identified commitments and approvals amount to approximately US$88 million for development financing and US$41 million for construction equity.

However, the fund clarified that these amounts represent commitments and approvals rather than funding that has been fully disbursed or invested in projects.

SDG Namibia One is targeting total commitments of US$350 million at its final fundraising close, comprising US$75 million for its Development Tranche and US$275 million for its Construction Equity Tranche.

Based on the current funding position, the fund still needs to secure approximately

US$221 million, equivalent to about N$3.68 billion, to reach its overall target.

The fund has not yet reached its final close and remains in discussions with prospective development finance institutions and institutional investors across Africa, Europe and Asia.

Established on 13 November 2023, SDG Namibia One is Namibia's dedicated industrial decarbonisation investment fund, supporting green hydrogen production, green ammonia, green methanol and other low-carbon industrial developments.

The fund operates through a blended finance model that combines public and private capital to finance projects from early-stage development through construction and into operation.

It forms part of Climate Fund Managers' global Climate Investor Three investment platform and is managed by Namibia Energy Transition Fund Managers, a Windhoek-based asset management company.

Climate Fund Managers and Invest International jointly hold 51% of the management company, while the EIF holds the remaining 49%.

The latest GCF approval forms part of a broader US$140 million financing package for Climate Investor Three under the Southern African Industrial Decarbonisation Facility.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa serves as the GCF Accredited Entity responsible for programme oversight, monitoring and reporting.

Meanwhile, SDG Namibia One has supported four projects in Namibia's emerging green industrial sector.

These include Hyphen Hydrogen Energy's large-scale green hydrogen development in the //Kharas Region, in which the fund has acquired a 24% stake and provided development financing.

The Hyphen project is expected to create up to 15,000 jobs during construction and 3,000 permanent positions, with a target of 90% Namibian employment.

The fund has also supported HyIron's Oshivela green iron project in the Erongo Region, which commissioned its first phase in April 2025.

The facility is producing 15,000 tonnes of green iron annually, with subsequent phases targeting an expansion to two million tonnes per year.

Other supported developments include the Zhero Molecules green ammonia project near Walvis Bay, which targets annual production of 500,000 tonnes of green ammonia, and the Dâures Green Fertiliser Project, which aims to produce up to 20,000 tonnes of green ammonia and 80,000 tonnes of ammonium sulphate fertiliser annually.

The fund's financing structure is designed to reduce investment risks during project development and attract additional private capital for construction.

SDG Namibia One was established following Namibia's Development Finance Assessment conducted between 2020 and 2022 with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme.

The assessment informed the country's Integrated National Financing Framework, which seeks to mobilise public and private investment towards national development priorities.

The government subsequently mandated the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia to oversee the establishment of the investment platform in partnership with international financing institutions.

The fund's remaining fundraising requirement highlights the scale of additional capital needed to support Namibia's planned green hydrogen and industrial decarbonisation investments.

Slow industrialisation pushing Namibian workers into low-paying jobs

Namibia's persistently high unemployment rate is being driven by slow economic transformation, with limited industrial development and skills mismatches preventing the economy from creating sufficient jobs, according to the National Planning Commission (NPC).

NPC Deputy Executive Director for Macroeconomic Planning, Sylvester Mbangu, said the country's economic structure has failed to shift towards manufacturing and other productive industries capable of absorbing unemployed workers and creating higher-paying jobs.

Speaking at the Economic Association of Namibia's public discussion on national skills and employment on Wednesday, Mbangu said Namibia's development trajectory has differed from that of industrialised and industrialising economies.

"Namibia's stubborn high unemployment is explained, to a greater extent, in my opinion, by the country's economic structural transformation, which is very slow and has not followed the classical development path observed in many industrialised or industrialising economies," he said.



Mbangu said secondary industries, particularly manufacturing, contribute approximately 15% to Namibia's economy, a share that has remained largely unchanged over the years.

He noted that the limited growth of manufacturing has restricted the economy's capacity to create jobs for workers moving out of agriculture and other primary industries.

"There has been a slight shift of labour from primary industries. Despite the primary industry employing a larger part of our labour force, it is shedding employment.



And where are they going? They are not going into the secondary industry, but into the tertiary industry," he said.

Mbangu said the shift towards services has largely resulted in workers taking up low-paying employment rather than moving into higher-skilled occupations.

"Unfortunately, even when they move into these tertiary industries, they are going into low-paid jobs in wholesale and retail trade and some related industries. They are not going into highly skilled sectors," he said.

He explained that although the services sector accounts for a significant share of Namibia's economic activity, it remains dominated by non-tradable activities, including public services, rather than industries capable of generating stronger productive growth.

Mbangu further linked the country's slow industrial development to weaknesses in technical and innovation skills, saying the economy has not created sufficient opportunities for workers to develop and apply specialised capabilities.

He said these structural weaknesses have contributed to a mismatch between the skills available in the labour market and those required to support industrial expansion.

According to Mbangu, reducing unemployment will require greater investment in manufacturing and other productive sectors, supported by training that equips Namibians with relevant technical and employability skills.

He maintained that skills development alone would not resolve the unemployment challenge without corresponding changes in the structure of the economy.

The discussion, held under the theme Understanding Employer Skills Across Sectors, focused on the skills required by employers and the economic factors affecting Namibia's ability to generate employment.



The economic paradox of Namibia's resettlement criteria for emerging farmers

By Dr. Tuhafeni DaSilva Hishitelwa



Land reform in Namibia is both a question of historical justice and a practical development challenge. Colonial dispossession created deep inequalities in access to productive land, and independence did not automatically remove them.

The National Resettlement Programme therefore seeks to acquire commercial agricultural land, allocate it to previously disadvantaged Namibians and support beneficiaries in building sustainable livelihoods.

Its purpose is legitimate and necessary. The harder question is whether the programme, as designed and implemented, can meet public expectations at a meaningful pace.

In February 2024, the then, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Hon Carl HG Schlettwein rose in Parliament to table the revised 10-year National Resettlement Policy 2023–2033 for approval.

The policy recognizes many weaknesses of the earlier approach. It emphasizes equity, transparent allocation, tenure security, training, post-settlement support, monitoring and agricultural production.

It also introduces differentiated resettlement models for beneficiaries with different capacities and needs. These reforms make the programme more credible on paper.

Yet realism must be measured not by policy language alone, but by the availability of land, finance, infrastructure, skills, markets and reliable public administration.

> **"Concerns about fairness are reinforced by reports that some allocated resettlement farms remain unoccupied while long-standing local applicants continue to wait.**

Requirements to be allocated a Resettlement Farm in Namibia

According to the specific qualification standards managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), land must be given to emerging farmers rather than established commercial operators, and they must own no more than 150 Large Stock Units (LSU) (cattle/horses) or 800 Small Stock Units (SSU) (sheep/goats).

Applications are assessed by a Regional Resettlement Committee (RRC) using a structured 1-to-5 scoring system across multiple sections. Higher points are systematically awarded for: Gender, Experience & Training, Background; where Generational farm workers and individuals currently crowded into overpopulated communal spaces score higher, and finally the Income Stability, with proof of alternative

income or existing livestock to actively sustain and develop the farm unit.

The purported land reform achievements

Government reporting indicates that, by 2024, about 590 farms covering roughly 3.5 million hectares had been acquired at an estimated cost of N$2.5 billion, while close to 5,500 previously disadvantaged Namibians had been resettled. These figures show that the programme is not merely symbolic.

It has transferred substantial land, created farming opportunities and responded to the needs of some landless people, including generational farm workers and marginalized communities.

However, the scale of need remains far greater than the number of available farming units. In the 2023/24 financial year, seven farms totaling about 33,822 hectares were reportedly acquired for N$91.4 million, while only 23 beneficiaries were resettled. Such annual progress is meaningful for those selected, but too slow to satisfy a large and growing pool of applicants. It also illustrates the high cost of acquiring commercial land through market-based transactions.

Why Realism Is in Doubt?

First, land supply and public finance are limited. Suitable commercial farms are expensive, not always offered for sale and often require further investment in water, fencing, housing, roads and livestock facilities. Namibia had aimed to acquire five million hectares of commercial agricultural land, but reported acquisition remained around 3.5 million hectares in 2024.

Unless annual funding and acquisition rates rise substantially, redistribution will continue more slowly than public demand.



Renting commercial grazing land (often called "emergency grazing" or lease agreements) while waiting for allocation is heavily resource intensive. Using the average commercial market rates provided:

For Cattle/horses (150 LSU), at an average rate of N$130 to N$190 per head per month, maintaining a maximum allowable herd of 150 cattle requires N$19,500 to N$28,500 every single month just for the right to stand on land.

For Small Stock (800 SSU), at an average rate of N$20 to N$80 per head per month, a herd of 800 sheep or goats requires a steep rental overhead of N$16,000 to N$64,000 per month.

These figures illustrate the profound economic

challenges confronting emerging Namibian farmers, conditions that are fundamentally unsustainable.

In practice, the high cost of leasing grazing land makes maintaining such livestock volumes financially prohibitive, effectively preventing these farmers from meeting the ministry's resettlement criteria.

Second, allocation does not automatically create a viable farmer. Beneficiaries may receive land without sufficient working capital, livestock, machinery, technical knowledge or market access.

Government and parliamentary assessments have identified weak pre- and post-settlement support, poor agricultural productivity and inadequate monitoring as recurring problems. In a drought-prone country, climate risk makes these weaknesses even more serious.

Third, the programme must balance social justice with economic viability. Requiring applicants to have capital or productive assets may improve the prospects of commercial success, but it can exclude the poorest citizens the very people whom redistributive policy is intended to assist.

Conversely, allocating farms without adequate capacity and structured support may reproduce poverty on state-owned land.

A realistic programme must therefore distinguish between commercial farming, livelihood-oriented settlement and social protection, rather than expecting one model to serve every beneficiary.

Fourth, governance determines public confidence. Transparent selection criteria published allocation decisions, enforceable rules against subleasing and timely resolution of disputes are essential.

The revised policy's pathway from leasehold to possible freehold ownership may strengthen incentives to invest, but only if performance standards are clear and applied fairly.

Without credible monitoring data on farm output, household income and land condition, the country cannot know whether resettlement is generating durable benefits.

Press coverage cited in the discussion of transparency and fairness in resettlement land allocation.

Concerns about fairness are reinforced by reports that some allocated resettlement farms remain unoccupied while long-standing local applicants continue to wait.

In the //Kharas Region, for example, local stakeholders have alleged that farming units were awarded to beneficiaries from other regions who did not take possession, despite applications from residents who were ready to use the land.

Although such claims require formal verification, they highlight why allocation decisions should be publicly explained, consistently assessed against published criteria and followed by effective occupancy and land-use monitoring.

Fairness depends not only on who receives land, but also on whether the selection process is transparent and the allocated land is put to its intended productive use.

Katjiuanjo's Four-Year Displacement

Donald Tuarimbara Katjiuanjo, a livestock farmer in the Kalahari Constituency of the Omaheke Region, has reportedly grazed his animals in national road corridors for four years following an unresolved dispute over a family farm.

He says he approached the relevant authorities seeking land but remained without a secure grazing area. During this period, his small-stock herd reportedly declined from about 330 animals to roughly 200, with some livestock killed by vehicles.

Katjiuanjo has warned that cattle and small stock roaming beside a busy route endanger motorists, truck drivers, herders and the animals themselves, and he has appealed to the Government for a safe place to keep his

livestock.

The Omaheke governor acknowledged that his office was aware of the case but noted that Katjiuanjo was one of many farmers seeking grazing land and advised him to apply through the formal resettlement process.

This case, among others, illustrates a gap between formal eligibility and timely relief. A standard application process may protect consistency, yet prolonged exposure to road corridors can erode a farmer's productive assets before an allocation decision is reached and can create a wider public-safety hazard.

Katjiuanjo's experience therefore strengthens the argument for transparent waiting lists, clear reasons for decisions, emergency grazing arrangements and priority mechanisms for applicants facing verified displacement or immediate safety risks.

It also raises a practical fairness question: whether applicants with urgent, documented need receive an adequate response while some resettlement farms reportedly remain idle or underused.

A more Realistic Approach?

• Government should set measurable annual targets: Publish hectares acquired, units allocated, infrastructure rehabilitated and beneficiaries supported. Set clear selection transparent strategy in place. If what is achieved cannot be measured, then it did not happen.

• Fund the whole settlement package: budget for water, fencing, training, extension services, start-up finance and market access, not land purchase alone. Emerging farmers do not have access to finance, let alone market, an inclusion of this starter-pack package will be helpful.

• Match land to purpose: Use separate models for emerging commercial farmers, communal producers, generational farm workers and highly vulnerable households. These needs to be separated and clearly advertised and allocated separately.

• Use transparent selection and oversight: disclose criteria, regional allocations and reasons for awards, while providing a credible appeal process.

• Measure outcomes: track production, income, employment, loan performance and environmental condition over time. If a lack of performance is detected, the programme should make provisions for terminations through a clear and transparent process. Make mentors available to guide the new farmers for at least the first 3 years.

• Build climate resilience: prioritize water security, drought planning, appropriate stocking rates and diversified livelihoods.

Conclusion

Namibia's National Resettlement Programme is realistic as a long-term, targeted instrument of land reform, but unrealistic if presented as a rapid or stand-alone solution to landlessness, poverty and historical inequality.

The revised policy contains sensible reforms, yet its success depends on sustained financing, competent administration and serious post-settlement support.

The true test is not how many farms are handed over, but whether beneficiaries gain secure tenure, productive livelihoods and resilience.

If government links redistribution to transparent governance, adequate investment and measurable results, the programme can make steady contributions to justice and rural development. If those conditions are absent, it will remain politically important but economically fragile.

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TotalEnergies funds skills development beyond Namibia's oil and gas sector

TotalEnergies Exploration and Production Namibia (TEEPNA) has launched a scholarship programme aimed at developing skills in sectors outside the petroleum industry, including education, healthcare, food security and environmental management.

The initiative, implemented in partnership with the Petroleum Training and Education Fund (Petrofund), will provide fully funded undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships to eligible Namibian students for the 2027 academic year.

Petrofund spokesperson Shoki Kandjimi said the programme seeks to strengthen Namibia's human capital development by supporting tertiary education in fields that contribute to the country's economic and social development.

He said TotalEnergies, which operates Petroleum Exploration Licence 56 (PEL 56), will finance the scholarships, while Petrofund will administer the programme.

The 2027 Broad-Based Scholarship Programme will cover selected fields of study in education, healthcare, economic empowerment, biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

According to Kandjimi, the initiative forms part of TotalEnergies' corporate social responsibility commitments and aligns with the government's National Upstream Local Content Policy, which seeks to promote local skills development and ensure that the benefits of petroleum activities extend to other sectors of the economy.

The programme is intended to expand access to tertiary education and develop



qualified professionals in sectors identified as important to Namibia's long-term development.

Kandjimi said applications are open to Namibian citizens who meet the academic requirements for their chosen undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications.

However, applicants must select fields of study specified in the scholarship advertisement, with selection subject to the relevant admission and programme requirements.

The scholarships will provide full funding, except where subsidised funding arrangements are already in place.

The scholarship programme forms part of efforts to extend education and skills development opportunities beyond the oil and gas industry, while supporting Namibia's broader economic development priorities.



Standard Bank provides workplace readiness training to students with disabilities

Standard Bank Namibia has provided workplace readiness training to students with disabilities from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) to improve their employment prospects.

The training, held at the bank's head office in Windhoek, focused on equipping students with practical skills needed to transition from tertiary education into the labour market.

The workshop covered curriculum vitae (CV) development, interview preparation, career planning and confidence-building, alongside mock interviews designed to familiarise participants with recruitment processes.

Students also engaged with Standard Bank employees and senior management to gain an understanding of workplace expectations, career development and professional opportunities.

Standard Bank Namibia Executive Officer for People and Culture, Retuura Ballotti, said improving employment



opportunities for people with disabilities requires preparing them for the labour market before they begin seeking jobs.

"Workplace inclusion is about more than opening doors. It is about ensuring that people have the confidence, skills, networks and opportunities they need to walk through those doors and succeed," Ballotti said.

"Through initiatives such as this workshop, we are investing in people and helping to create pathways into meaningful careers for talented young Namibians living with disabilities."

The initiative forms part of the bank's broader diversity, equity and inclusion programme, which seeks to address barriers affecting people with disabilities in accessing employment and workplace opportunities.

Earlier this year, Standard Bank Namibia announced a partnership with the National Disability Council of Namibia (NDCN) to improve accessibility and inclusion across its operations.

The partnership followed an independent accessibility assessment which found that the bank's head office was 95% compliant with the National Disability Accessibility Standards.

The collaboration focuses on improving physical accessibility, disability awareness, assistive technologies and access to banking services and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Standard Bank said the workplace readiness programme is intended to help students develop the skills and confidence needed to compete for employment opportunities after completing their studies.



How mining can thrive in a water sensitive area

By Dylan Mukoroli



> **You cannot claim to care about the land while dismissing the people who work it and drink from it.**

You hear the same line over and over: you can't dig for uranium where the water is precious. Especially not near Leonardville.

The Stampriet aquifer is sacred, they say. Touch it and you poison everything; there is a one exceptionally sensational headline that states' a dash of lemon in your cake'.

And the method they are hellbent on discrediting is in situ leach recovery, the one where you don't dig a big hole, you work with what's already down there.

Let's talk plainly about what in situ leach actually is. The uranium is already sitting in the rock that the water moves through.

It is already in that water to some degree. The process doesn't invent the mineral or dump foreign poison into a pure underground water source.

It uses a carefully controlled solution to dissolve the uranium that nature already placed there, pumps it up, takes the mineral out, and manages the rest.

Done right, with proper monitoring wells, containment, and restoration plans, it has been done safely for decades. It leaves the surface almost untouched. No massive open pits. No mountains of waste rock.

That is the point. It stands proven that this is the method that is best suitable for the Stampriet Aquifer.

The will is not being reinvented, we make use of what is internationally proven and ensure all work being done is done adopted standards. By no means, do we undermine concerns as not relevant, of course they are.

Yet the scare tactics keep coming. This Oompie on one of SAUMA's videos said 'they are pouring battery acid" straight into the drinking water of the whole region. That language is not science. It is theatre.

It paints a picture of reckless dumping when the reality is a managed process designed to stay inside a controlled zone and no, it is not battery acid that is going to be used. Misinformation like that does not protect anyone.

It misleads. It builds a false narrative meant to frighten communities away from any opportunity that might come with the project. Fear becomes the product, not facts.

As Farmers, we understand risk better than most. Every season we put seed in the ground with no guarantee of rain, no guarantee of price, no guarantee the market will be there when the crop is ready.

We still plant because our livelihoods depend on it, we plan, build a system of resilience, We take the biggest risks every day and keep going. Mining is no different for the people of Leonardville.

They look at this project and see jobs, skills, income, a chance to lift their families out of the same hard cycle many of us know too well. They are not blind to water. They live with it every day.

> Honest work, good regulation, constant monitoring and respect for the people who live there is a better bet.

They simply refuse to accept that the only future on offer is permanent struggle, generational farmwork, while those who don't share their stark reality lecture them about contamination.

That is why those against the method's favourite line that a few hundred jobs for a "relatively small community" can never justify any risk to water; lands so badly.

It treats the people of Leonardville as an afterthought. It frames their hardship as a footnote in a bigger environmental story.

That is the real sham. It pretends the community's poverty and unemployment are somehow less important than a worst-case scenario that has not been proven on the ground here.

It undermines the very people who have to live with both the water and the lack of opportunity.

You cannot claim to care about the land while dismissing the people who work it and drink from it.

Mining can thrive in a water-sensitive area when it is done with right and in tune with all international standards guiding ISL. When the method matches the geology; When monitoring is real and continuous. When the community is not just consulted but actually sees the benefit. In situ leach is not perfect, nothing is, but it is not the cartoon villain it has been turned into. The resource is already there, in the water-bearing rock. The question is whether we manage the extraction carefully or keep telling people that any development is too dangerous for them.

Leonardville does not need another lecture about how fragile everything is. It needs a fair hearing for a method that, if properly controlled, backed by science, can bring real uplift without the surface destruction of traditional mining.

Fear and false narratives will not keep the aquifer safe forever. Honest work, good regulation, constant monitoring and respect for the people who live there is a better bet.

Dylan Mukoroli is passionate about sustainable community development.

