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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Afreximbank commits to financially backing Dangote and other credible investors in Namibia

THURSDAY 05 NOVEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY



Afreximbank commits to financially backing Dangote and other credible investors in Namibia

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has pledged to finance major investment projects in Namibia through the Dangote Group and other credible African investors capable of delivering on the country's economic development priorities.

Afreximbank President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, George Elombi, said the bank was prepared to support projects identified by the Namibian government, provided the investors demonstrated the financial credibility, technical expertise and capacity to execute them.

Speaking in Namibia, Elombi said Afreximbank's willingness to provide financing to the Dangote Group was based on the company's track record in implementing large-scale projects across Africa.

"We have no difficulty putting US$10 billion on the table for him because the

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
  * 10 December 2026

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money would not be lost. We know the projects would be done and with time as an institution we would be repaid," Elombi said.

He said the bank was equally prepared to extend financing to other investors identified by Namibia, emphasising that its resources were intended to support economic development across the continent.

"African Bank's money at the end belongs to the governments, to the states, to the African taxpayers. So those promoters whom you think you can give Namibia's money to and go to sleep when you bring them, we will also support them in the same way that we support the Dangote Group," he said.

Elombi urged the Namibian government to identify priority investment projects and engage Afreximbank on financing opportunities, particularly in sectors requiring substantial capital and technical expertise.

He called for coordination between the Bank of Namibia, the Ministry of Finance and the country's economic planning authorities to identify projects that could be implemented through partnerships with established African investors.

"The money is there, we don't have the expertise but the Dangote Group has the expertise," Elombi said.

He stressed that Afreximbank's mandate extended beyond conventional commercial lending, with the institution focused on financing projects that support industrialisation, infrastructure development and economic transformation across Africa.

"We are not a bank, we are a development institution. Banking is just a tool, an instrument for achieving that development," he said.

Elombi said Afreximbank remained committed to supporting Namibia's development ambitions by connecting financing with investors capable of implementing commercially viable projects.

He emphasised that successful investment partnerships would depend on the government's ability to identify its most pressing economic challenges and work with credible project promoters to address them. The financing pledge comes as the Dangote Group advances its investment plans in Namibia, including the development of a fuel storage facility and regional pipeline infrastructure at Walvis Bay.

However, Elombi did not announce a specific financing allocation for Namibia or confirm funding commitments to individual projects.





AI could boost Namibia's economy by N$3.58 billion over next decade

Artificial intelligence (AI) could increase the size of Namibia's economy by N$3.58 billion (US$219 million) after ten years, although high youth unemployment, limited electricity access and inadequate digital infrastructure could restrict the country's ability to benefit from the technology, according to a new study.

The 2026 Commonwealth Youth AI Readiness Index, released by the Ayre Think Tank on Thursday, ranks Namibia 36th out of 56 Commonwealth countries, with a score of 42.7 out of 100, below the study's readiness benchmark of 53.

The report, launched during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, estimates that AI could increase Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) by between N$1.73 billion (US$106 million) and N$5.43 billion (US$332 million) after ten years, depending on the extent of AI adoption.

Under its moderate scenario, researchers estimate a N$3.58 billion increase in the level of GDP after a decade. The projections are illustrative estimates of potential economic gains rather than guaranteed outcomes or annual increases.

The study identifies unemployment among young Namibians as a major challenge, estimating that 47% of young people in the labour force are unemployed, the second-highest rate among the 56 Commonwealth countries assessed.

Namibia has approximately 800,000 young people aged between 15 and 29,

a population the researchers say could benefit from AI-related employment, entrepreneurship and skills development opportunities.

However, the report found that inadequate infrastructure remains a significant barrier to digital participation.

According to the study, electricity reaches only 59.3% of Namibia's population, while slow fixed broadband speeds and frequent internet disruptions experienced by businesses further limit access to digital technologies.

Despite relatively widespread mobile-phone ownership and internet use, the researchers warned that unreliable connectivity and limited access to electricity could prevent young Namibians from fully participating in the AI-driven economy.

The Index also gave Namibia a score of just 3.1 out of 10 for decent work, enterprise and transitions, highlighting weaknesses in the country's ability to translate technological opportunities into employment and business development.

The report further identified gaps in digital education and skills development, noting that computing was not recorded as implemented under its curriculum assessment.

Researchers also found insufficient comparable evidence to assess young Namibians' digital and AI capabilities, although they cautioned that this did not necessarily mean such skills were absent.

Ayre Think Tank founder Calvin Ayre said governments needed to ensure that young people were equipped with the skills and opportunities required to benefit from emerging technologies.

"AI is going to change how we work, how we do business and how wealth is created. But this is not a race that only the biggest or richest countries can win," Ayre said.

"What matters is giving young people the skills and the chance to get ahead – whether to start businesses, find jobs or build something for themselves."

The report acknowledged steps taken by Namibia to strengthen its AI capabilities, including the launch of the



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

National Artificial Intelligence Institute in September 2026.

The institute is intended to support research, develop locally relevant technologies and provide practical training opportunities for young Namibians.

Earlier in 2026, more than 1,100 students, lecturers and staff at the Namibia University of Science and Technology participated in an AI training programme delivered through MIT Open Learning.

However, the researchers said further investment in electricity infrastructure, reliable internet connectivity and practical digital skills would be necessary to improve Namibia's readiness for AI adoption.

The study also called for stronger links between education, training and employment to ensure that young people can use emerging technologies to establish businesses and secure jobs.

Other priorities identified include developing AI tools suited to local languages and needs, improving access to affordable technology and strengthening safeguards that allow young people to question automated decisions.

University of the West Indies Pro Vice-Chancellor and Five Islands Campus Principal Professor C. Justin Robinson said developing countries needed to ensure that young people were not limited to consuming AI technologies developed elsewhere.

"We need to make sure that the next generation will be able to do more than just consume AI products made elsewhere. Access must come with its own agency and a real equitable stake in how these systems are governed," Robinson said.



The Ayre Index assessed AI readiness across all 56 Commonwealth countries using 1,128 research sources covering digital infrastructure, education, employment, enterprise and access to technology.

Singapore topped the rankings with a score of 77.6, followed by Malta at 75.0 and Australia at 71.0.

Within southern Africa, South Africa ranked 13th with a score of 56.8, while Botswana placed 45th with 38.9.

The researchers said Namibia's ability to benefit from AI would depend on improvements in infrastructure, education and employment opportunities, particularly for young people entering the labour market.



Govt rejects N$13 billion in additional spending requests to contain debt

The Namibian government has rejected N$13 billion in additional spending requests in an effort to contain public debt amid a N$1.5 billion revenue shortfall in the 2026/27 financial year.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah said the government had instead revised total expenditure downwards by 0.9% to N$105 billion, while revenue is projected at N$88.1 billion.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday during her response to contributions on the 2026/27 Mid-Year Budget Review and Appropriation Amendment Bill, Shafudah said the decision reflected the government's commitment to fiscal discipline amid mounting economic pressures.

"Despite a revenue shortfall of N$1.5 billion, Government has not responded by borrowing more to cater for additional requested amount of N$13 billion. Instead, total expenditure has been revised down by 0.9% to N$105 billion," she said.

Shafudah acknowledged concerns raised by Members of Parliament over the country's growing public debt and the increasing cost of servicing it.

She noted that interest payments were more than double the N$6.6 billion allocated to development projects through the State Revenue Fund, limiting resources available for infrastructure and other development priorities.

"Concerns were raised about the growing public debt and the cost of servicing it. Honourable Members rightly observed that interest payments amount is more than twice the N$6.6 billion allocated to development projects through the State Revenue Fund," she said.

"However, we must also take into account infrastructure projects whose funding is

sourced outside the State Revenue Fund. The government fully agrees that high interest payments crowd out the space for development. Hence, the strongest call for fiscal discipline across all OMAs, by budgeting within our means."

The Minister said the government remained committed to the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) debt-to-GDP benchmark of 60%, which it aims to achieve by the final year of the next Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

To manage spending pressures, the government has also redirected N$685 million from underperforming projects and government offices towards more urgent priorities. Shafudah explained that the reallocation did not represent lost funding but rather resources that could not be utilised during the current financial year.

The redirected funds will support priorities including foot-and-mouth disease containment, grain reserves, the public servants' medical aid scheme and the replenishment of the Contingency Fund.

"Honourable Members questioned the reallocation of N$685 million from projects and offices classified as non-performing. This is not money lost. It is funding that could not be spent within this financial year, redirected to where it can be spent now," she said.

"To address under-execution, I enumerated various strategic expenditure proposals in my statement, including prioritising ready-to-implement projects and finalisation of ongoing projects."

The Minister further acknowledged that Namibia's economic growth had slowed, while lower-than-expected revenue, rising fuel prices and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks had placed additional pressure on public finances.

She said the government would continue prioritising projects ready for implementation, completing ongoing infrastructure developments and strengthening expenditure management to ensure that available resources deliver measurable economic and social benefits.

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



Rising transport and food costs push Namibia's inflation to 5.6%

Namibia's annual inflation rate increased to 5.6% in October 2026, up from 5.4% in September and 3.6% in October 2025, driven largely by rising fuel, transport and food prices, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The latest Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI) Bulletin shows that monthly inflation accelerated to 0.7% in October, compared with 0.4% in September.

Transport was the largest contributor to annual inflation, accounting for 2.5 percentage points of the overall rate. Inflation in the sector rose sharply to 16.5%, compared with 2.1% in October 2025.

The increase was mainly driven by petrol and diesel prices, which rose by 34.1% year-on-year, compared with an increase of 0.8% during the corresponding period last year.

The cost of operating personal transport equipment increased by 22.7%, compared with 1.7% a year earlier, while public transport services recorded inflation of 15%, up from 0.8% in October 2025.

"Operation of personal transport equipment recorded an increase of 22.7 percent during the review period, compared to 1.7 percent increase in October 2025," the NSA said.

"The increase was mainly due to petrol/diesel (from 0.8% to 34.1%), licence and registration fees (from 0.0% to 8.7%) and spare parts and accessories (from 1.1% to 8.6%)."

Meanwhile, annual inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased to 4.8%, compared with 4.6% in October 2025, contributing one percentage point to the

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.

overall inflation rate.

Fruit prices recorded the highest increase among food categories at 13.5%, driven by higher prices for bananas, which rose by 28.8%, avocados by 21.4% and pears by 9.2%.

Vegetable inflation accelerated to 10.5%, compared with 5.7% a year earlier. Onion prices increased by 27.3%, broccoli and cauliflower by 20.5%, and sweet potatoes by 17.1%.

Prices for milk, cheese and eggs rose by 7.8%, reversing a 1% decline recorded in October 2025.

Meat inflation stood at 5.9%, while bread and cereals recorded an increase of 2.7%.

According to the NSA, food accounts for 14.8% of the national consumer basket, with bread and cereals carrying the largest weighting at 4.8%, followed by meat at 3.5%.

Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate and confectionery account for 1.4% of the basket, while vegetables and milk, cheese and eggs each account for 1.2%.

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, which make up 28.4% of the consumer basket, recorded annual inflation of 3.9%, down from 4.1% in October 2025.

The category contributed one percentage point to overall inflation.

The NSA further reported that annual goods inflation increased to 6.3%, compared with 3.4% in October 2025, while services inflation rose to 4.5%, up from 4% a year earlier.

"The annual inflation rate for goods stood at 6.3 percent during the review period, up from 3.4 percent

Regionally, Khomas recorded the highest annual inflation rate at 6.2%, followed by Zone 3, comprising //Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke, at 6.1%.

recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year. Meanwhile, the annual inflation rate for services rose to 4.5 percent, compared to 4.0 percent in October 2025," the report stated.

On a monthly basis, goods inflation increased to 0.7%, compared with 0.6% in September, while services inflation accelerated to 0.8%, up from 0.1% in the previous month.

Regionally, Khomas recorded the highest annual inflation rate at 6.2%, followed by Zone 3, comprising //Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke, at 6.1%.

Zone 1, covering the northern and northeastern regions, recorded the lowest inflation rate at 4.6%.

Meanwhile, core inflation, which excludes selected volatile food and energy items, stood at 3.7%, below the headline inflation rate of 5.6%.

The NSA reported that the 12-month average annual inflation rate stood at 3.8%, while average inflation for the April to October 2026 fiscal period was estimated at 4.6%.





Namibia records over 506,000 cybersecurity vulnerability detections in Q3

Namibia recorded 506,143 cybersecurity vulnerability detections and 163,053 cyber events during the third quarter of 2026, as exposed network services and poorly secured systems continued to pose risks to organisations and digital infrastructure.

According to the Namibia Cyber Security Incident Response Team (NAM-CSIRT) Cybersecurity Constituent Newsletter for July to September 2026, vulnerability detections declined by 1.5% from 513,921 in the previous quarter, while cyber events increased by 0.93% from 161,547.

Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations, Mufaro Nesongano, warned that organisations remained exposed to cyberattacks through outdated software, insecure network configurations and internet-facing management systems.

"Organisations must remain vigilant and take proactive steps to protect their systems. Timely security updates, secure configurations, strong access controls and continuous monitoring are essential to reducing exposure to cyber threats," Nesongano said.

The report identified Open CWMP as the most frequently detected vulnerability, accounting for 320,664 detections during the quarter, followed by NTP Version Report with 50,103 detections.

Accessible Telnet detections increased from 42,941 in the second quarter to 49,533 in the third quarter, while Open SNMP detections rose from 22,989 to 24,008.

Detections involving accessible Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) services also increased from 6,763 to 7,537.

NAM-CSIRT warned that exposed remote-management services could provide attackers with opportunities to gain unauthorised access to organisational networks.

It advised organisations to disable unnecessary services, install security updates, strengthen access controls and restrict direct internet access to sensitive management systems.

Meanwhile, cyber events were largely driven by sinkhole-related activity, with Sinkhole HTTP events increasing from 109,593 to 115,063, while non-HTTP events rose from 39,593 to 45,552.

The activity indicates continued attempts by potentially compromised or suspicious systems to communicate with infrastructure associated with malicious cyber operations.

Although distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) activity declined during the quarter, the report found that scanning and probing of internet-facing systems continued.

The newsletter also identified emerging ransomware and data-extortion groups, including Emperador, nOn and EndZone, which use various methods to steal sensitive information and threaten to publish it unless victims comply with their demands.

According to NAM-CSIRT, the nOn group had already targeted an information technology services and document-processing company in Mali, while EndZone had been associated with attacks involving trusted contractors and service providers.

The report further highlighted critical security vulnerabilities affecting Microsoft SharePoint Server and VMware vCenter environments.

A SharePoint vulnerability identified as CVE-2026-50522 could allow attackers to execute malicious code remotely on vulnerable systems.

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.

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Meanwhile, VMware vCenter vulnerabilities CVE-2026-59309 and CVE-2026-59310 could enable unauthorised access and remote code execution.

Organisations operating affected systems were urged to install relevant security updates and restrict access to management interfaces.

The quarterly newsletter also examined cybersecurity incidents involving the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs and the RelyComply anti-money laundering platform, highlighting risks associated with sensitive government information and third-party service providers.

NAM-CSIRT called on organisations to strengthen incident-response procedures, maintain secure backups, implement multi-factor authentication and improve network segmentation and third-party risk management.

As part of efforts to strengthen cybersecurity awareness, CRAN and NAM-CSIRT hosted a media engagement in Windhoek on 4 August 2026, focusing on cyber threats, incident response, simulations and crisis management.

Nesongano urged government institutions, businesses and members of the public to adopt stronger cybersecurity practices and remain alert to emerging threats.

Consumers were advised to exercise caution when opening unexpected email attachments, verify suspicious communications, update software regularly and report suspected phishing attempts.

The report also encouraged organisations responsible for digital platforms to conduct regular vulnerability assessments and strengthen application security to address threats such as SQL injection.



Beyond political time

By Hilda Basson-Namundjebo



> **"I remember a Namibia where citizens rose for the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister. Nowadays, we rise for everyone deemed honourable.**

One of the most important distinctions a leader can make is understanding the difference between power and leadership.

Power is often granted while leadership is earned. And the way power is conferred is through election, appointment or promotion.

Leadership emerges when people willingly trust, follow and believe in your stewardship. While the two are not mutually exclusive, they are not the same thing.

This distinction becomes clearer when viewed through the lens of time. The ancient Greeks described time in two ways: Chronos and Kairos.

Chronos is measured time. It is the time of calendars, clocks, terms of office and constitutional mandates. It is sequential and predictable.

Chronos measures: How much time do I have ?, while Kairos is different. Kairos is the moment of significance and the divine.

It is the opportune moment that carries the possibility of transformation. Kairos asks: What is this moment of destiny asking of me?

In modern democracies there is a third form of time worth considering: Political Time.

Political time is not the same as Chronos, even though it is measured through it. Political time is the temporary authority entrusted to an individual through a democratic process.

It begins on the day a persona assumes office and ends the day that persona leaves it. In Namibia, political time is measured in five-year cycles.

Political time is borrowed time. It is rented time. It is stewardship time. But the problem is that many leaders mistake rented time for permanent ownership.

The moment individuals begin to identify themselves with the position rather than the purpose of the position, leadership starts to deteriorate into entitlement.

Political time has a peculiar effect on people. Because they know it is fleeting, they often seek to maximise their authority while they have it.

Rather than becoming servants of the office, they become consumers of it. Rather than asking how they can create value, they focus on extracting value.

This is where John C. Maxwell's Five Levels of Leadership becomes particularly relevant.



Maxwell identifies Position as the first and lowest level of leadership. At this level, people follow you because they have to.

The authority comes from the title rather than from the person holding it. As an example : a minister can issue instructions because they are the minister. A chief executive can make demands because they are the chief executive.

Positional authority is necessary. Every institution requires structure and accountability. The danger emerges when people never advance beyond that level.

Those trapped in positional leadership behave more like bosses than leaders. They become dependent on visible demonstrations of authority.

They require constant affirmation that their position matters. They need ordinary people to acknowledge, validate and perform respect toward the office.

I remember a Namibia where citizens rose for the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister. Nowadays, we rise for everyone deemed honourable.

And everyone adorns themselves with titles that far outstrips their character while every designation seems to demand ceremonial recognition.

We have become increasingly generous with prefixes such as "Honourable", "Distinguished", "Executive", and a growing collection of status markers.

While respect for public office is important, there is a hidden consequence. When distinctions are stretched too broadly, they lose distinction. When every office bearer is distinguished, nobody is distinguished.

When every official is honourable, the title gradually loses its weight. The result is not an elevation of dignity but rather a dilution of it.

The very honours designed to recognise exceptional public responsibility become reductive through overuse.

True authority rarely requires constant announcement.

The most secure leaders often have the least need to remind others of who they are. This is why Maxwell's higher levels of leadership matter. At the second level, people follow because of relationships.

At the third, because of results. At the fourth, because leaders develop other leaders. And finally at the fifth level, people follow because of who the leader is and what they represent.

Notice what happens as a leader ascends these levels. Their influence becomes less dependent on political time. The title becomes less important. The contribution

becomes more important. The office becomes less significant than the legacy.

Some people leave office and immediately disappear from public relevance. Their influence was attached entirely to the seat they occupied. Once the seat was gone, so was their authority.

Others continue to shape institutions, communities and national conversations long after they have surrendered their titles. They understood something fundamental.

Political time has an expiry date. Leadership does not.

Perhaps this is why people occasionally produce the dangerous phrase: "It is our time to eat."

The statement represents the ultimate expression of positional thinking. It assumes that political time exists for personal consumption rather than public stewardship. It treats office as an entitlement instead of a trust.

But seats are not owned.

They are occupied and positions are not inherited. They are borrowed. Similarly, authority is not permanent but is entrusted.

The question every leader must eventually answer is therefore not how long they managed to hold power. The real question is what they did with the time entrusted to them. It is noteworthy that a leader obsessed with Chronos counts the years and seeks tenure while a leader trapped in political time counts the privileges, demanding advantage while a leader operating in Kairos time, contrastingly weighs the opportunity and seeks transformation.

And when the five years inevitably come to an end, only one of those will be remembered.

"An age always thinks itself immortal, its thrones unshakable, its banners untouchable until time arrives, quiet and unyielding, to remind us that glory fades, empires crumble and even the fiercest gods fall silent." Bernardus Harageib

Hilda is a business leader, public speaker and a seasoned broadcast journalist. Founder of the national brand and organisation Team Namibia, Hilda believes her purpose is to impact the world with kindness, one engagement at a time





Namibia vaccinates over 62,000 cattle as FMD outbreaks persist

Namibia has vaccinated 62,180 cattle across the //Kharas and Zambezi regions as veterinary authorities intensify efforts to contain foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks that have prompted livestock movement restrictions and increased surveillance.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Deputy Director Romeo Muyunda said on Wednesday that vaccination campaigns were continuing in the affected regions, while authorities had mobilised approximately N$16.2 million in donations and pledges to support the national response.

According to Muyunda, 18 farms in the //Kharas Region have been confirmed as infected, with 131 positive FMD cases recorded as of 4 November 2026.

The outbreak, first confirmed on 23

September, remains confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District.

He said compulsory vaccinations commenced on 17 October, with 19 teams deployed to contain the disease.

"The compulsory FMD vaccination campaign commenced on 17 October 2026 in the //Kharas Region, with 19 vaccination teams deployed. As of 4 November 2026, a total of 8,267 cattle had been vaccinated across 90 farms," Muyunda said.

The Ministry has also expanded surveillance to areas north of the B3 road, where 51 farms have been inspected and sampled during the second round of surveillance. Meanwhile, 19 stationary roadblocks and veterinary checkpoints remain operational across the //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas and Otjozondjupa regions to enforce livestock movement restrictions and prevent the spread of the disease.

In the Zambezi Region, where FMD was confirmed on Kalala Island on 6 October, veterinary authorities have completed the first round of vaccinations, covering 53,913 cattle across 37 crush pens within a 30-kilometre radius of the affected area.

Muyunda said preparations were underway for a second vaccination round targeting cattle within the designated Disease Management Area (DMA) and surrounding areas.

"Preparations are underway for the second round of vaccination targeting cattle within the DMA and surrounding areas," he said.

He added that preparations were also being made for the routine annual FMD vaccination programme across the rest of the Zambezi Region.

The Ministry confirmed that no new cases had been reported outside the DMA, with the Zambezi outbreak remaining confined to Kalala Island.

Meanwhile, Muyunda said the national FMD response had attracted approximately N$16.2 million in donations and pledges from companies, organisations and individuals.

"The Ministry appreciates the generous response from companies, organisations and individuals who have pledged and contributed towards the national FMD response efforts. To date, the fund has mobilised approximately N$16.2 million in donations and pledges," he said.

"The Ministry remains encouraged by the support received and calls upon more companies, organisations and individuals to join this national effort."

The Ministry said restrictions on the movement of livestock and animal products remain in force under Veterinary Public Notification No. 20 of 2026 as authorities continue implementing measures to contain the outbreaks.





GIPF to host two-day Pension and Investment Symposium

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) will bring together pension funds, regulators and policymakers on 11 and 12 November 2026 to assess Namibia's readiness to attract institutional capital and identify investment opportunities capable of delivering financial returns and supporting economic development.

The two-day Pension & Investment Symposium, scheduled for the Windhoek Country Club and Resort, will focus on regulatory conditions, governance, investment risks and the readiness of major projects to secure institutional funding.

Held under the theme "Investment Ready: Positioning Namibia for Institutional Capital", the symposium aims

to develop a common institutional position on the conditions required to unlock long-term investment in Namibia and the wider region.

GIPF Chief Executive Officer and Principal Officer Martin Inkumbi said the discussions would examine how policy, legislation and national development priorities could create an environment conducive to institutional investment.

"The symposium seeks to build a lasting understanding of market readiness, including how policy, legislation and development priorities can support investment for current and future generations," Inkumbi said.

He said the fund was seeking practical outcomes that would enable institutional investors to assess opportunities against clearly defined standards while maintaining their fiduciary responsibilities.

"Central to the discussions is GIPF's conviction that the right investments can deliver returns, create impact and build quality industries that generate jobs, advance development and improve socio-economic conditions in Namibia and the region," he said.

According to GIPF, participating institutions will assess selected major Namibian projects to determine their readiness for institutional financing, identify investment gaps and establish what improvements are required before capital can be committed.

The assessments will not serve as investment pitches but will instead evaluate projects against a proposed readiness framework. The symposium is expected to produce four outcomes, including a collectively developed Environmental Readiness Framework for evaluating investment opportunities, greater clarity on fiduciary obligations and development mandates, agreed standards for accepting or rejecting investment proposals, and a foundation for regional co-investment and capital pooling among pension funds.

Discussions will also examine the regulatory environment under the Financial Institutions and Markets Act (FIMA), with particular attention to conditions affecting institutional investment decisions.

Inkumbi said the initiative supports GIPF's new strategic pillar on socio-economic impact and the Board of Trustees' mandate to establish a practical approach to impact investing without compromising fiduciary standards.

The programme will draw on experiences from pension funds and development finance institutions across Africa, particularly the successes and challenges associated with deploying long-term capital into development projects.

Keynote speakers will include Trade and Development Bank Group President and Chief Executive Officer Admassu Tadesse and Rwanda Social Security Board Deputy Chief Executive Officer Michelle Umurungi.

Other speakers will include National Planning Commission Director General Dr Kaire Mbuende, Bank of Namibia Governor Epson Uanguta and former Bank of Namibia Governor Dr Johannes !Gawaxab.

Participating institutions will include regional pension funds, the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), the Bank of Namibia, the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission.

GIPF said the symposium was intended to move beyond discussions and produce a documented institutional position that could guide future investment decisions, strengthen market readiness and support collaboration between pension funds and other institutional investors.



Standard Bank warns of rising AI-driven fraud threats in Namibia

Standard Bank Namibia has warned that artificial intelligence (AI) is making financial fraud increasingly difficult to detect, with criminals using voice cloning, impersonation and fraudulent investment schemes to target individuals and businesses.

The bank said fraudsters are increasingly using AI-powered tools to create convincing scams, including phishing attacks and social engineering tactics designed to obtain personal information and financial details. The warning comes as Standard Bank Namibia partnered with the Business Breakfast Club (BBC) this week to host a fraud awareness discussion under the theme “Trust Under Attack”, bringing together business leaders, technology experts and risk specialists to examine emerging fraud threats.

Standard Bank Namibia Executive Officer for Marketing and Brand, Elzita Beukes, said financial fraud had become a broader economic and social concern as criminals adopted increasingly sophisticated technologies.

“Fraud is no longer just a banking issue. It is a societal issue that affects individuals, families, businesses and the broader economy,” Beukes said.

“As technology evolves, so do criminal tactics. Our responsibility extends beyond safeguarding our clients' assets. We also have a duty to educate, inform and empower

> Fraud is no longer just a banking issue. It is a societal issue that affects individuals, families, businesses and the broader economy.

the public to recognise threats before they become victims. This is why awareness remains one of the most effective forms of protection."

The discussion highlighted how AI-driven scams are becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish from legitimate communications, with criminals able to impersonate trusted individuals and organisations.

Standard Bank Namibia Fraud Risk Manager, Colane Esterhuizen-Andreas, warned that fraudsters frequently exploit urgency and pressure to persuade victims to authorise payments or disclose sensitive information without proper verification.

"Fraudsters often create a false sense of urgency to pressure people into making quick decisions. Whether it is a payment request, an investment opportunity or a request for personal information, we encourage people to pause, verify and authenticate before taking action," Esterhuizen-Andreas said.

The bank said the increasing use of AI in fraudulent activities underscored the need for individuals and businesses to verify payment instructions, investment offers and requests for confidential information before responding.

The discussion was held ahead of International Fraud Awareness Week, during which Standard Bank Namibia plans to introduce a series of public education initiatives focused on identifying, preventing and reporting financial fraud.

The planned activities will target individuals and businesses as part of the bank's efforts to strengthen fraud awareness and encourage safer financial transactions.

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Govt launches Namibia's first state-owned air ambulance service

The Namibian government has launched its first state-owned air ambulance service to improve emergency medical response and reduce the time taken to transport critically ill and injured patients to specialised healthcare facilities.

The service, officially launched by Vice President Lucia Witbooi in Windhoek on Wednesday, includes a fully equipped Learjet air ambulance capable of providing intensive care during flights, as well as helicopter evacuation services supported by the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) and the Namibian Defence Force (NDF).

Speaking at the launch, Witbooi said the service would address longstanding challenges in accessing emergency medical care, particularly in remote areas where patients often face lengthy journeys to referral hospitals.

"For a long time, our vast geography and the great distances between our remote communities and referral hospitals have

> The service will be supported by dedicated pilots and air emergency units provided by Government Air Transport Services (GATS), alongside specialised medical personnel responsible for providing emergency care during patient transfers.

posed a significant challenge. When a critical injury occurs or a medical complication arises in a far-remote corner of our beautiful country, time is the absolute boundary between life and death," she said.

Witbooi said the introduction of air ambulance services would significantly reduce patient transfer times, improving access to specialised medical treatment.

"For many patients, a gruelling, hours-long journey by road will now be reduced to a matter of minutes or a few short hours by air, ensuring they reach the specialised care they need on time," she said.

The service will be supported by dedicated pilots and air emergency units provided by Government Air Transport Services (GATS), alongside specialised medical personnel responsible for providing emergency care during patient transfers.

Emergency service centres at national referral hospitals will also coordinate transfers and facilitate access to specialised treatment.

Witbooi said the air ambulance service would complement the existing ground ambulance fleet and strengthen patient referral systems between district, intermediate and national referral hospitals.

The launch follows concerns raised by Health Minister Esperance Luvindao in September over patients dying while being transferred between healthcare facilities.

At the time, the Ministry of Health and Social Services indicated that it was reviewing records of deaths during patient transfers over the preceding 24 months.

The new service is expected to improve emergency medical evacuation capacity, particularly for patients in remote areas who require urgent treatment at specialised healthcare facilities.