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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Slowtown eyes South African expansion as it marks 15 years in business

FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER 2026



Slowtown eyes South African expansion as it marks 15 years in business

Namibian coffee company Slowtown is considering expanding into South Africa, with Cape Town identified as a potential destination, as the business marks 15 years of operations and seeks to grow its wholesale and retail presence.

Slowtown founder Dennis de Wet told The Brief that expansion into South Africa was part of the company's long-term plans, although no investment decision or timeline had been finalised.

He said Cape Town was a natural market for the company to consider as it explored opportunities beyond Namibia.

"We're actually in Cape Town at the moment, and we're not Slowtown, us as a family. And so the obvious kind of route would be to go that side," de Wet said.

"But it's also being, if the time's right, it's not something that we have to do, it's not something that we're running to do."

De Wet said the company was not under pressure to expand internationally, with its focus remaining on building a sustainable business capable of operating for generations.

"I want to build it to become 100 years old. So that means it's a generational business. I

Crucial Dates

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

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don't have to do all the work now, my kids can take over," he said.

"So whether we do it in the short term or the long term, yes, eventually, that's the obvious way to kind of grow. But it's not something that we were chasing at the moment."

He said entering South Africa would also provide an opportunity to assess Slowtown's competitiveness outside its home market.

"And, you know, if we do go across the border, that would be exciting. Again, not because we're chasing money, we're chasing growth, it's more just we want to test ourselves in a different market," he said.

Meanwhile, Slowtown is expanding its operations in Namibia, with plans to strengthen its wholesale business and develop a new flagship coffee shop in Olympia, Windhoek.

De Wet said the Olympia development would provide additional space for the company's operations, including a proposed barista academy aimed at developing skills in the hospitality and coffee industry.

"Obviously, within Namibia, we would still like to expand our wholesale reach and open a couple more shops. We are also looking at establishing a barista academy where we can educate more people and, again, invest in our people. We are busy developing a new shop in Olympia, which will be our flagship store, where we will have the space and capacity to do these types of things," he said.

He identified wholesale distribution as Slowtown's biggest growth opportunity in Namibia, citing the country's relatively small population as a limiting factor for large-scale retail expansion.

"Growth-wise, shops, I wouldn't say there's that much more that I'd want to do, maybe one or two smaller versions of what we're up to," de Wet said.

"But I think the growth is in wholesale, and just being smart about how we grow."

Slowtown currently supplies coffee products and equipment to nearly 300 corporate clients across Namibia, including hotels, lodges, spas, retailers and offices.

Its wholesale operations cover roasted coffee beans, compatible coffee pods, drip bags, coffee equipment and consulting services.

"We have close to 300 corporate clients, ranging from large lodges and hotels to small offices. Whatever their coffee needs, we supply the equipment and everything else required. A significant part of our business is not always visible because people primarily see our coffee shops," he said.

De Wet said the company was also investing in product development and



packaging to strengthen its position in the local market.

"We are also constantly developing new products and striving to stay ahead of the curve in terms of what we produce, including the packaging we use and how we do it."

Founded in Swakopmund in 2011, Slowtown has grown from a local coffee business into a brand serving both retail customers and corporate clients across Namibia.

De Wet, who studied finance before entering the coffee industry, said the company had expanded gradually while maintaining its focus on product quality and customer relationships.

He said Namibia's coffee market had changed significantly over the past 15 years, with growing consumer interest in speciality coffee, roasting techniques and professional coffee preparation. When Slowtown entered the market, coffee consumption was largely centred on traditional filter coffee, with limited investment in specialised equipment and preparation methods.

De Wet said the company had contributed to developing the local coffee market through its roasting operations and retail outlets. He also welcomed growing competition in the sector, saying the entry of additional coffee brands encouraged businesses to improve their products and services.

"In terms of competition, it honestly does not bother us at all. In fact, we welcome it. We like the variety, and it keeps everyone on their toes. We also have a different kind of positioning in the market. We do not want to rely solely on being a Namibian brand and expect people to support us just because we are local," he said.

Looking ahead, de Wet said Slowtown would prioritise wholesale expansion, the completion of its Olympia flagship store, employee training and new product development.

He said international expansion remained a possibility, but the company would pursue opportunities at a pace that supported its long-term sustainability rather than rapid growth.

GENDEV GROUP

VACANCY

Managing Director

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Enquiries: Hilma Simon, 081 729 9623

Foreign qualifications will be verified for validity and recognition, and background checks will be conducted on shortlisted candidates.

Gendev Fishing is an equal opportunity employer. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. If you have not been contacted within four weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.



Namibia Poultry Industries, Maranatha account for over 86% of chicken slaughter

. . . Waldschmidt dominates egg market with 89.2% share

Namibia Poultry Industries (NPI) maintained its dominance of the local poultry market in September 2026, accounting for 71.42% of chickens slaughtered nationwide, as total chicken marketing increased by 23.48% year-on-year to 2.18 million birds.

According to the Livestock and Livestock Products Board, NPI slaughtered 1,556,242 chickens during September, followed by Maranatha Abattoir with 325,450 birds, representing 14.93% of the national total.

KADILA ranked third with 229,203 birds, accounting for 10.52%, while Hochland Farms contributed 61,953 birds, equivalent to 2.84% of total slaughter.

Together, NPI and Maranatha accounted for more than 86% of Namibia's chicken slaughter during the month.

The report showed that total chicken



marketing increased from 1,764,841 birds in September 2025 to 2,179,148 birds in September 2026, the highest monthly volume recorded during the 2025–2026 period.

"Chicken marketing in September 2026 was 23.48% higher than in September 2025, at 2,179,148 birds compared with 1,764,841 birds, and was the highest monthly total recorded in 2025–2026. Compared with August (1,987,896 birds), marketing rose by 9.62%. All birds were slaughtered at B&C class abattoirs, with no live exports recorded during the month," the report stated.

Total chicken marketing for the first nine months of 2026 reached 17.88 million birds, up 24.47% from the 14.36 million birds recorded during the corresponding period in 2025.

Maranatha Abattoir was a major contributor to the increase, having slaughtered 2,083,347 birds between January and September 2026 after recording no slaughter activity in 2025.

According to the report, Maranatha accounted for 59.28% of the year-on-year increase in chicken marketing during the nine-month period.

Excluding Maranatha's contribution, national chicken marketing still increased by 9.96% compared with the same period last year.

Meanwhile, local poultry meat production increased by 4.75% month-on-month to approximately 3.83 million kilograms in September.



Other chicken cuts, including individually quick-frozen products, accounted for 62.4% of total production, while chicken breast production increased by 35.25%, thighs by 33.13% and drumsticks by 28.82%.

Despite increased production, local poultry producers faced rising feed costs, with soybean prices increasing by 8.75% month-on-month to N$8,823.95 per tonne.

Yellow maize prices also increased by 8.88% to N$3,990.15 per tonne, with both feed ingredients recording annual price increases.

The average chicken carcass price, however, declined by 0.35% month-on-month to N$31.70 per kilogram, representing a 5.29% decrease from N$33.47 recorded in September 2025.

The expansion in domestic

poultry production coincided with a decline in chicken imports, which fell by 5.4% year-on-year during the first nine months of 2026 to 15.1 million kilograms.

South Africa remained Namibia's largest supplier of imported chicken products, accounting for 48.2% of imports, followed by Poland at 23.4%.

In the egg market, Waldschmidt maintained its position as the country's largest producer, accounting for 89.2% of the 11.14 million eggs marketed locally during September.

The company marketed 9,938,256 eggs, followed by Wentscher with 1,047,000 eggs, while other producers contributed 156,240 eggs.

Total egg marketing increased by 10.49% month-on-month from 10.08 million eggs in August and rose by 4.49% compared with the 10.66 million eggs recorded in September 2025.

Namibia also exported 108,000 eggs to Botswana during the month.

For the first nine months of 2026, total egg marketing reached 94.01 million eggs, representing a 13.09% increase from the 83.13 million eggs marketed during the corresponding period last year.

The average egg price remained unchanged at N$2.42 per egg.

The figures show continued growth in Namibia's domestic poultry industry, with NPI retaining the largest share of chicken slaughter, Maranatha contributing significantly to increased production volumes and Waldschmidt dominating the local egg market.

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VACANCY

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- 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.





Standard Bank warns rising fuel costs could push food prices higher

Rising fuel and transport costs could drive further increases in food prices in Namibia over the coming months, as higher distribution expenses spread across the economy, according to Standard Bank Namibia.

Standard Bank Group Economist Helena Mboti said transport costs had become the largest contributor to the country's inflation rate, raising concerns about their impact on the prices of essential goods and services.

In her October 2026 Consumer Price Index (CPI) review, Mboti said transport inflation accelerated to 16.5% year-on-year in October, compared with 14.9% in September and 2.1% in October 2025.

Transport contributed 2.5 percentage points to Namibia's headline inflation rate of 5.6%, compared with just 0.3 percentage points during the corresponding period last year.

The increase was driven primarily by higher fuel prices and public transport costs, with the operation of personal transport recording inflation of 22.7%, while the public transport equipment category increased by 15%.

Mboti said the significance of transport as an input cost across the economy meant that higher fuel and transport

prices were likely to affect other consumer goods, particularly food.

Food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation increased to 4.8% in October from 4.0% in September, reflecting growing pressure on household food expenditure.

The review identified dairy products as one of the main contributors, with milk, cheese and eggs recording annual inflation of 8.8% following foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) disruptions affecting livestock and dairy production.

Although meat prices remained 1.8% below their levels a year earlier, Mboti said inflationary pressures within the category had increased, indicating that supply constraints associated with FMD were beginning to affect consumer prices.

Fruit and vegetable inflation also accelerated to 2.3% and 4.8%, respectively, with rising transport costs likely contributing to the increases.

Mboti warned that the combination of elevated transport costs, FMD-related supply disruptions and potential El Niño-related agricultural challenges could sustain food inflation into 2027.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed 1.0 percentage point to headline inflation in October, up from 0.8 percentage points in September and 0.9 percentage points in October 2025.

The economist said much of the increase in fuel prices during 2026 had been driven by geopolitical risk premiums in international oil markets rather than significant disruptions to physical oil supplies.

Brent crude oil prices rose above US$110 per barrel for approximately two weeks, reaching a peak of US$117 before declining



to around US$94 per barrel on 5 November 2026.

According to Mboti, the decline in global oil prices could provide some near-term relief, although renewed geopolitical tensions could reverse the trend and place further pressure on domestic inflation.

She warned that another escalation in geopolitical tensions could push Brent crude prices back above US$110 per barrel, increasing transport and distribution costs across the economy.

Meanwhile, housing inflation eased to 3.9% in October from 4.2% in September, although utility costs continued to rise.

Water supply inflation reached 6.1%, while electricity, gas and other fuels recorded inflation of 4.6%, reflecting continued pressure on utility prices amid dry weather conditions.

Core inflation declined to 3.7% in October from 4.0% in September, indicating that price pressures remained concentrated in transport and food rather than being widespread across the economy.

Standard Bank maintained its forecast for average headline inflation of approximately 4.35% in 2026, rising to around 5.2% in 2027.

Mboti said food inflation was expected to begin easing during the second quarter of 2027, provided rainfall conditions improved and agricultural production recovered.

Transport inflation is also expected to moderate during the second half of 2027 as the effects of earlier fuel price increases diminish.

However, she cautioned that continued FMD disruptions, unfavourable weather conditions and renewed increases in international oil prices could delay the expected easing of inflationary pressures.



PENSION & INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM 2026

Investment Ready: Positioning Namibia for Institutional Capital

11 & 12 November 2026
WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB

CLOSED EVENT | BY INVITATION ONLY **The Symposium will be livestreamed on the GIPF Facebook page.**

GIPF is convening its annual Investment Symposium, bringing together invited leaders from finance, government, regulation and infrastructure to examine what Namibia needs to attract institutional capital with confidence and at scale.

More than a platform for discussion, the symposium is designed to develop a shared and practical Environmental Readiness Framework to strengthen investment decision-making, project preparation and sustainable national development.

DAY 1 SPEAKERS & TOPICS 11 Nov 2026



Martin Inkumbi
CEO and Principal Officer, GIPF

The Readiness Agenda: GIPF's opening, from willingness to readiness



Admassu Tadesse
Group President & CEO, Eastern & Southern Africa's Trade and Development Bank

Where Capital Meets the Gap: Exploring the conditions for capital to build infrastructure, industry and jobs



Amb. Dr. Kaire Mbuende
Director-General, National Planning Commission, Republic of Namibia

The Namibian Landscape: National context for growth, jobs and capital



Lovisa Indongo-Namandje
General Manager, Pension Funds & Societies, Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority

The Regulatory Architecture: What the law resolves and what it leaves open



Dr Johannes !Gawaxab
Independent

Before We Say Yes: What a fiduciary investor needs in order to commit



Ben Bertolini
CEO, M&G Investments

Closing the Gap: What makes projects investable and how blended finance bridges the gap



Ebson Uanguta
Governor, Bank of Namibia



Marten Ashikoto
Director: Asset, Cash and Debt Management, Ministry of Finance



Dr Fidelis Mwazi
CEO, Agronomic Board

Conditions for Confidence: The monetary, fiscal and sectoral conditions that give capital the confidence to commit



Michelle Umurungi
Deputy CEO, Rwanda Social Security Board

Regional Evidence: When institutional capital has worked in the region



Stephanie de Lesseps
Development Impact Advisory, J.P. Morgan

The Value of Impact: A perspective on responsible-investment impact

DAY 2 SPEAKERS & TOPICS 12 Nov 2026



Penda Ithindi
Chairperson, GIPF Board of Trustees

Proven Ground: GIPF's record and raising the bar



Frans Nghifikua
Divisional Manager: Network Planning, Roads Authority of Namibia

Transport Infrastructure: Is the case ready for institutional capital?



Indileni Set-Sam Iipinge
Manager: Infrastructure Development, National Housing Enterprise

Housing: Is the case ready for institutional capital?



Clement Kaukuetu
Country Director, Namibian Atlantic Salmon Holding and African Aquaculture Company



Helge Krøgenes
CEO, African Aquaculture Company

Blue Economy: Is the case ready for institutional capital?



Reedewann van Wyk
GM: Water, Waste and Environmental Management, Walvis Bay Municipality

Local Authority Infrastructure: Is the case ready for institutional capital? The enabling conditions



Moses Matyayi
CEO, City of Windhoek

Local Authority Infrastructure: Is the case ready for institutional capital? The enabling conditions



Beatus Amadhila
CEO, PowerCom

Telecommunications Readiness: Is the case ready for institutional capital?



Martin Inkumbi
CEO and Principal Officer, GIPF

The Close

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To guard, and to grow.

Beware of the person with nothing to lose

By Junias Erasmus



There is a saying that we should be careful around a person who has nothing to lose.

Such a person may have reached a point in life where fear no longer controls their decisions.

However, this does not mean that everyone who has lost everything is dangerous. It means that when people feel they have nothing left to protect, they may act in ways others do not expect.

Understanding this reminds us of the importance of treating people with respect, fairness and wisdom.

In life, people often underestimate others because of their financial position, background, silence or current circumstances. They assume that someone who has little power today will always remain powerless.

Yet life can change quickly. A person who is struggling today may become successful tomorrow, while someone who enjoys power today may lose it.

Therefore, never measure a person's worth by what they currently possess.

When people are repeatedly humiliated, mistreated or pushed into a corner, they may eventually stop seeking approval.

They may lose interest in pleasing others or protecting relationships that have caused them pain. At that point, they may begin making decisions that they previously avoided.

This is why leaders, employers, friends and family members should never use their power to intimidate or exploit others.

“In life, people often underestimate others because of their financial position, background, silence or current circumstances.

Respect should not depend on a person's status or usefulness to us.

However, having nothing to lose should never be confused with having nothing to live for. A difficult situation is not an excuse to become reckless, violent or destructive.

Even when life becomes painful, a person still has the responsibility to protect their future, their dignity and the lives of others. True strength is not found in revenge, but in the ability to rise above disappointment without losing one's character.

The lesson is simple: treat people well, even when you hold the advantage. Do not use someone's weakness as an opportunity to humiliate them.

Do not assume that silence means acceptance or that kindness means weakness.

The way you treat people when you have power reveals more about your character than the way you behave when you need something from them.

At the same time, if you find yourself at a point where you feel you have nothing left to lose, pause before making decisions that

> Do not assume that silence means acceptance or that kindness means weakness.

could destroy your future.

Your circumstances may be difficult, but your story is not over. You can rebuild, learn, seek support and begin again. Never allow temporary pain to push you into permanent consequences.

Ultimately, beware of the person with nothing to lose, but never forget the person who still has the wisdom to protect what matters most.

Life can take away money, position and opportunities, but it does not have to take away your values, your self-respect or your hope.

Treat others with dignity, exercise power responsibly and remember that the strongest person is not the one who has nothing to lose, but the one who refuses to lose themselves in the process.

**** Junias Erasmus is an Interdisciplinary Scholar, Philosopher, and Legal Researcher, with recognised expertise in Artificial Intelligence grounded in a Multidisciplinary foundation in Management Science. He is also a Motivational Speaker. This article is authored in his personal capacity. For enquiries, he may be contacted at Junias99@gmail.com.***

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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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City of Windhoek owed N$932.7 million in unpaid municipal bills

The City of Windhoek is owed N$932.7 million in outstanding municipal bills and is conducting a mass disconnection exercise targeting accounts that have been in arrears for at least 30 days.

The disconnection exercise forms part of the municipality's approved credit control policy and is aimed at recovering outstanding revenue needed to finance municipal operations and maintain essential services.

The exercise comes amid calls for residents to boycott municipal payments, raising concerns about the City's ability to meet financial obligations to bulk water and electricity suppliers, contractors and infrastructure maintenance providers.

"The mass disconnection exercise is not an attempt to punish residents, nor is it evidence of governance failure. It is a lawful credit control measure, applied in accordance with the approved Credit Control Policy, to recover outstanding municipal debt that currently stands at N$932.7 million," the City said.

Revenue collected from municipal accounts finances bulk water and electricity purchases, refuse removal, maintenance of water and electricity distribution networks and other infrastructure operations.

Widespread non-payment could result in delays in repairing water, sewerage and electricity infrastructure, postponement of capital projects and increased pressure on the reliability of essential municipal services.

Residents who fail to settle their accounts face formal arrears notices, interest and administrative charges, service restrictions or disconnections, and possible legal recovery proceedings.

Property owners also remain responsible for outstanding municipal bills linked to their properties, including cases where tenants or other occupants have defaulted

on payments, in accordance with Section 78 of the Local Authorities Act.

Between 2023 and 2025, the City Council approved debt relief measures totalling N$724 million to assist pensioners, orphan-led households and other qualifying residents.

Of this amount, approximately N$383.9 million has already been written off under the programme.

The debt relief initiative remains open, allowing qualifying residents to apply for assistance with outstanding municipal accounts.

Meanwhile, the municipality has rejected allegations that its billing system is defective, maintaining that an anomaly identified in 2024 affected only a limited number of accounts and was detected and corrected through internal processes.

The billing and revenue management system continues to process thousands of customer accounts, subject to ongoing monitoring and improvements.

Residents experiencing financial difficulties have been encouraged to approach the City's debt management division to negotiate payment arrangements or determine their eligibility for debt relief before enforcement measures are implemented.

The municipality has also warned that tampering with meters, bypassing metering equipment or illegally reconnecting discontinued services could result in criminal prosecution.

The recovery of outstanding municipal debt remains a priority for the City as it seeks to meet its financial commitments and maintain service delivery across Windhoek.





Govt warns anti-competitive practices could limit benefits of major investments

The Namibian government has warned that collusion, exclusionary business practices and barriers to market entry could prevent local businesses from benefiting from major investments in the mining, energy and other productive sectors.

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Trade Jenelly Matundu said stronger competition policies were necessary to prevent economic opportunities from being concentrated among a limited number of businesses and to ensure smaller enterprises could compete for contracts.

Speaking during the 2026 African Competition Forum (ACF) Biennial Conference in Namibia, Matundu said major investments presented opportunities for local suppliers and service providers, but their participation depended on fair market conditions.

“For Namibia, this question has particular significance as we pursue industrial development and opportunities in mining, energy and other productive sectors. Major investments can create opportunities for local suppliers, service providers and smaller enterprises. Turning those opportunities into lasting economic participation requires attention to how markets are structured and how businesses gain access to them,” she said.

Matundu, who delivered a statement on behalf of the Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, said policymakers needed to address market structures and practices that prevented capable businesses from competing for investment opportunities.

"We must consider whether capable

firms can compete for contracts, whether access to essential services is fair and whether market conditions allow new businesses to grow," she said.

She warned that anti-competitive conduct could restrict business participation, increase the cost of goods and services and undermine efforts to expand employment and industrial development.

According to Matundu, competition policies directly influence the affordability and quality of essential services, including food, transport and telecommunications, while determining whether new businesses can enter markets and expand their operations.

She said government decisions on procurement, licensing, industrial development, trade, investment and state support needed to be assessed to ensure they did not create unnecessary barriers to competition.

“Competition can support these ambitions by keeping markets open to participation and helping economic growth create opportunities across our economies. As policymakers, we must consider how our decisions affect those opportunities. Policies on industrial development, trade, investment, licensing, procurement and state support all influence how markets function,” Matundu said.

She added that competition policy should support Namibia's efforts to expand productive capacity, attract investment and increase the economic value derived from its natural resources.

"As governments across Africa, our ambitions include expanding productive capacity, creating employment, attracting investment and increasing the value we derive from our resources," she said.

Matundu also called for stronger cooperation among African competition authorities to address emerging challenges in digital markets and technological innovation.

She said competition regulators needed sufficient technical expertise and resources to investigate anti-competitive conduct, enforce competition laws and respond to changing market conditions.

The two-day conference, held under the theme Advancing Competition in Africa: Shared Experiences, Emerging Challenges and Evolving Approaches, brings together competition authorities, policymakers, regulators and development partners to exchange experiences and discuss competition policy developments across Africa.

The conference will also elect the ACF Steering Committee for the 2027–2029 term, which will oversee the forum's activities and strengthen regional cooperation on competition matters.

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GIPF to host 300 delegates at Pension and Investment Symposium

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) is expected to host approximately 300 delegates at its Pension and Investment Symposium on 11 and 12 November 2026 at the Windhoek Country Club and Resort.

The two-day event, held under the theme Investment Ready: Positioning Namibia for Institutional Capital, will bring together institutional investors, policymakers, regulators, project developers and local and international experts to discuss ways of mobilising investment for Namibia's economic development.

GIPF Chief Executive Officer Martin Inkumbi said the symposium would focus on addressing barriers preventing institutional capital from being invested in infrastructure, businesses and other development projects.

"The whole idea is to create a platform where institutional investors, in particular pension funds, and other players in the market, especially promoters of big projects, can come together to have a conversation," Inkumbi said.

He said discussions would examine policy and regulatory constraints affecting investment, as well as measures needed to improve project readiness and attract funding from pension funds and other institutional investors.

The symposium will feature Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta, National Planning Commission Director-General Dr Kaire Mbuende and Trade and Development Bank Group President and Chief Executive Officer Admassu Tadesse.

Other speakers scheduled for the first day include Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority General Manager Lovisa Indongo-Namandje, independent expert Dr Johannes !Gawaxab, Ministry of Finance Director Marten Ashikoto, Rwanda Social Security Board Deputy Chief Executive Officer Michelle Umurungi and J.P. Morgan Development Impact Advisory representative Stephanie de Lesseps.

Discussions will cover investment

regulations, economic conditions, infrastructure financing and the role of institutional investors in supporting economic growth.

The second day will focus on investment opportunities in transport infrastructure, housing, telecommunications, aquaculture and local authority infrastructure.

Speakers will include GIPF Board of Trustees Chairperson Penda Ithindi, City of Windhoek Chief Executive Officer Moses Matyayi, M&G Investments Chief Executive Officer Ben Bertolini, Roads Authority Divisional Manager Frans Nghifikua, PowerCom Chief Executive Officer Beatus Amadhila and Namibian Agronomic Board Chief Executive Officer Dr Fidelis Mwazi.

Other participants will include National Housing Enterprise Infrastructure Development Manager Indileni Set-Sam Lipinge, African Aquaculture Company Chief Executive Officer Helge Krøgenes, Clement Kaukuetu of Namibian Atlantic Salmon Holding and African Aquaculture Company, and Walvis Bay Municipality General Manager Reedewann van Wyk.

Inkumbi said the symposium would also provide a platform for corporations and public institutions to pitch investment projects planned for implementation over the next 12 to 24 months.

The project presentations will target potential financiers, including pension funds, insurance companies, development finance institutions and commercial banks.

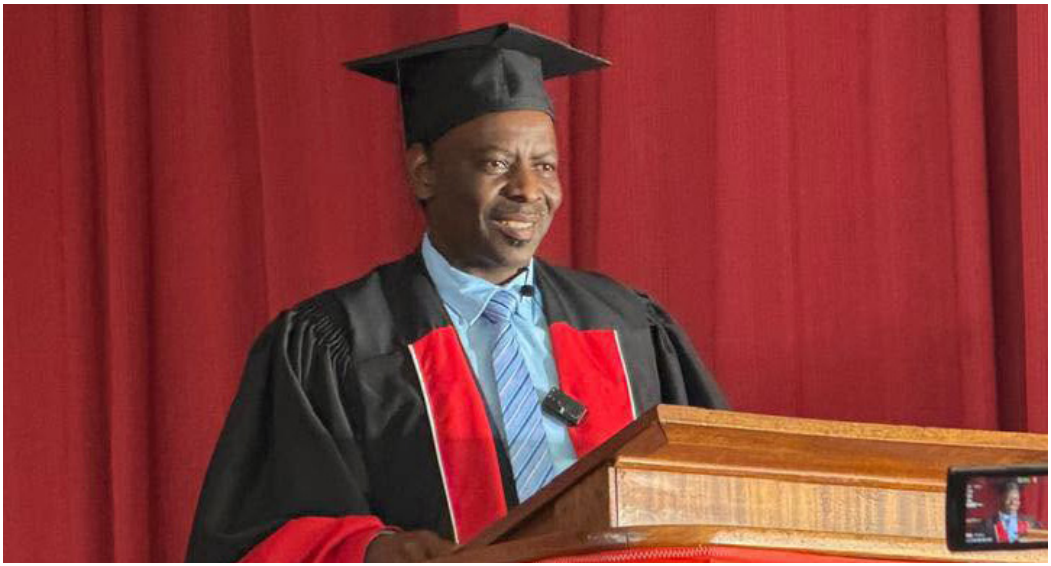
"The whole idea is to create a connection so that those looking for capital and those that wish to make investments can meet and have a conversation around how they can work together to realise those projects," Inkumbi said.

He said the engagement was intended to connect project developers directly with potential investors and identify the requirements for securing financing.

The symposium is also expected to contribute to the development of a practical Environmental Readiness Framework aimed at improving investment decision-making, project preparation and sustainable economic development.

Attendance will be by invitation only, while proceedings will be livestreamed on GIPF's official Facebook page.





Vocational graduates challenged to become job creators, not job seekers

The Namibian government has challenged technical and vocational education and training (TVET) graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers by using their acquired skills to establish businesses and generate employment opportunities.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Phillipus Wido Katamelo said vocational graduates should not rely solely on formal employment but should use their technical qualifications to establish enterprises, provide services and contribute to economic development.

Speaking at the second Gobabis Vocational Training Centre (GVTC) graduation ceremony on Thursday, Katamelo, who delivered remarks on behalf of Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture Sanet Steenkamp, urged graduates to take advantage of available support programmes to pursue entrepreneurship.

"Be employable, and be an employer. Do not only look for a job. Create a job. Start small. Repair, build, serve. The NTA, the National Energy Fund and Youth Credit Schemes are there to support you. Understand your customers, know your costs, and use the support available to you," he said.

Katamelo said vocational graduates had opportunities to establish businesses in areas such as construction, manufacturing, hospitality and technical services, particularly in communities where skilled services were needed.

He encouraged graduates to identify business opportunities within the Omaheke Region rather than assuming that employment and commercial opportunities were available only in larger urban centres.

"Omaheke needs you. Namibia needs you. Do not despise humble beginnings here in Gobabis," he said.

Katamelo highlighted the Gobabis Vocational Training Centre's school-shoe production project as an example of how practical training could be used to support local manufacturing and small business development.

"Look at the school-shoe project. Our trainees did not just learn theory. They designed, they cut, they stitched, they finished. That is what industry-relevant training means - quality, discipline, and understanding what a customer needs," he said.

He said the project demonstrated how technical skills could be converted into income-generating activities and local enterprises.

"That is how a skill becomes a livelihood, and a livelihood becomes a local enterprise," Katamelo said.

He further stressed that Namibia's industrialisation ambitions depended on developing skilled artisans capable of supporting manufacturing, infrastructure development and service delivery.

"That is why Government has placed Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at the centre of our national development agenda. As Vision 2030 and our National Development Plans remind us: we cannot industrialise this country without artisans," he said.

Katamelo also called on businesses to strengthen partnerships with vocational training institutions by providing workplace placements and practical experience to graduates.

He said workplace training would help graduates gain industry experience, develop professional confidence and improve their prospects of securing employment or establishing businesses.

"To our industry partners: I call on you to walk with these graduates beyond today. A well-supervised workplace placement gives a young person more than experience. It gives them confidence, responsibility, and a first reference. Let us strengthen that bridge between training and work," he said.

Katamelo further called for equal access to vocational education, particularly for young people from disadvantaged households and rural communities.

He said access to quality training should not be determined by gender, geographical location or household income, stressing that young people across Omaheke should have opportunities to acquire practical skills.

He also warned against discrimination and exploitation of skilled artisans, particularly women entering technical trades, saying employment opportunities should be based on qualifications and competence rather than personal connections.

"Namibia cannot build a just economy if artisans are exploited, if women in trades are discriminated against, or if opportunity goes only to those with connections. In a fair Namibia, your skill, not your surname, determines your success," he said.

The graduation ceremony also marked the 10th anniversary of the Gobabis Vocational Training Centre, which was established in 2016.

Held under the theme A Legacy of Excellence, Future of Possibilities: Skills for Employability, Innovation and Nation Building, the ceremony recognised graduates who completed their training between 2022 and June 2026.

Katamelo urged graduates to maintain professional standards and use their qualifications to establish businesses, create employment and contribute to Namibia's economic development.