OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Namibia only partially ready to govern oil and gas industry, IPPR finds

p. 05



TRADE BARRIERS

Namibia to push for removal of regional trade barriers

p. 08



NEW DEGREES

NUST plans two new degrees by 2028 to boost Namibia's creative industry

p. 22



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News Worth Knowing



140 Chery vehicles in Namibia face recall over major safety concerns

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY



140 Chery vehicles in Namibia face recall over major safety concerns

At least 140 Chery vehicles distributed to Namibia are among those covered by a safety recall announced in South Africa over defects that could cause rear suspension collapse or brake failure, according to South Africa's National Consumer Commission (NCC).

The vehicles comprise 107 Chery Tiggo 4 units and 33 Chery Tiggo 8 Pro Max 2.0 units, forming part of a wider recall involving 23,667 Chery and Omoda vehicles distributed across South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Crucial Dates

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

THE BR/EF

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However, Namibian dealerships have disputed or are yet to confirm whether vehicles sold through their local operations are affected, despite the NCC confirming that vehicles covered by the recall were distributed to Namibia.

NCC spokesperson Phetho Ntaba confirmed to The Brief that the affected models had also been distributed to Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Lesotho.

The recall involves two safety defects affecting the rear suspension and braking systems of different vehicle models.

In the Chery Tiggo 4 and Omoda C5, welding irregularities on the rear axle sleeve could cause the axle to dislodge, potentially resulting in rear suspension collapse.

The Chery Tiggo 8 Pro Max 2.0 has a separate defect involving the front brake pipe, which may come into contact with the turbocharger assembly, causing wear and possible brake-fluid leakage.

According to the NCC, the defect could reduce braking performance, increase stopping distances and potentially result in collisions, serious injuries or fatalities.

Ntaba said suppliers could be required to notify consumers who purchased affected vehicles, as well as the relevant authorities in countries where the vehicles were distributed.

She confirmed that the Commission regularly exchanges recall information with consumer protection authorities in neighbouring countries to alert them to potential safety risks.

“The NCC regularly shares the information with consumer protection authorities in the affected neighbouring countries,” Ntaba told The Brief.

Despite the NCC's confirmation, Chery M+Z Namibia New Vehicle Sales Representative Tiaan Snyman said the dealership was aware of the recall but maintained that vehicles supplied through its local operation were not affected.

Snyman said the Tiggo 4 recall involved older Tiggo 4 Pro models manufactured between 2018 and 2022 or 2023, rather than the newer models currently sold by the dealership.

“We only sell new vehicles, so it's all 2026 models,” the dealership said, adding that it entered the Namibian market in 2022.

However, the dealership's explanation differs from the NCC's recall notice, which identifies affected Tiggo 4 vehicles as those made available for sale between 17 October 2023 and 27 March 2024.

Regarding the Tiggo 8, Snyman said vehicles involved in an earlier recall had already been recalled, inspected and returned to the road.

He maintained that the latest South African recall was unrelated to vehicles supplied through the dealership's Namibian



operation.

Meanwhile, Omoda Noval Namibia said it was awaiting formal communication from Omoda South Africa before confirming whether vehicles sold locally were affected.

The dealership said it had not received confirmation that Namibian customers were affected and could not establish how many Omoda C5 vehicles had been sold in the country.

It also indicated that "there's been no internal discussion" about assessing whether locally sold vehicles could have similar defects.

On whether the defects had resulted in accidents or injuries, Ntaba said the NCC had not received any reports or complaints directly linked to the rear axle welding and brake-pipe defects.

However, she confirmed that Chery had informed the Commission of two incidents, although details were being treated as confidential.

Consumers have been advised to check their vehicle identification numbers (VINs) through Chery's website or contact authorised dealerships to establish whether their vehicles are included in the recall.

Owners of affected vehicles should arrange inspections and repairs through authorised dealerships, with all remedial work to be carried out free of charge.

Where a vehicle is considered unsafe to drive, consumers should contact their dealership or Chery's contact centre to arrange towing.

Separately, the NCC is investigating Chery over allegations that certain vehicles were recalled without the Commission being formally notified.

The investigation, initiated in October 2026, is examining whether the manufacturer complied with its obligations to report safety-related recalls.

Ntaba said that if the investigation established that Chery had failed to notify the Commission promptly, potentially exposing consumers to further risks, the matter could be referred to South Africa's National Consumer Tribunal.





Namibia only partially ready to govern oil and gas industry, IPPR finds

Namibia remains inadequately prepared to govern its emerging oil and gas industry, with weaknesses in institutional capacity, revenue management, transparency and corruption prevention posing risks ahead of commercial production, according to a new assessment by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

The IPPR's November 2026 Namibia Oil and Gas Governance Readiness Index, titled Before the First Barrel, found that although Namibia has established a legal and regulatory framework for petroleum activities, significant gaps remain in implementing and enforcing governance requirements.

The assessment evaluated eight areas of



petroleum governance using a five-point scoring system, based on publicly available evidence reviewed up to 31 October 2026.

Legal and regulatory frameworks received the highest average score of 3.27 out of five, while corruption prevention and integrity recorded the lowest score of 2.00.

Institutional capacity scored 2.29, licensing transparency and contract governance 2.40, revenue management and fiscal accountability 2.22, and environmental and social safeguards 2.53.

Local content and economic inclusion scored 2.10, while public oversight, participation and transparency received 2.11.

The IPPR identified the gap between existing legislation and its implementation as a major challenge, warning that Namibia's petroleum governance systems require strengthening before commercial oil production begins.

Despite the existence of petroleum legislation, taxation arrangements and environmental regulations, the report found that information on petroleum agreements, licensing decisions and beneficial ownership remains fragmented and insufficiently accessible to the public.

The assessment also raised concerns about regulatory independence, funding, enforcement capacity and institutional coordination as the government restructures upstream petroleum governance around the Upstream Petroleum Unit (UPU).

According to the report, the Petroleum Affairs Directorate received N$9.6 million in operational funding during the 2025/26 financial year, while the UPU was allocated N$20 million in the 2026/27 national budget.

However, the UPU's statutory framework had not been finalised by the assessment's cut-off date of 31 October 2026.

Revenue management was identified as another area requiring urgent attention, with the IPPR calling for petroleum-specific financial controls covering company payments, state participation, borrowing and contingent liabilities.

The report also recommended binding rules governing deposits, withdrawals, investment oversight and auditing for the proposed Welwitschia Sovereign Wealth Fund.

It warned that petroleum-related borrowing and state guarantees could expose public finances to additional risks if adequate transparency and parliamentary oversight mechanisms were not established.

The assessment cited projections from the 2026/27 Mid-Year Budget Review showing that Namibia's public debt was expected to reach N$201.7 billion, equivalent to 68.7% of gross domestic product, by the end of the financial year.

The IPPR recommended that petroleum-related borrowing and guarantees be publicly disclosed and subjected to parliamentary scrutiny.

Environmental and social safeguards received an average score of 2.53, with offshore oil-spill response capacity identified as a significant concern.

The report cited a November 2024 assessment prepared for the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa, which found that government oil-spill response equipment was largely obsolete, while Tier 2 response capacity was very limited and national Tier 3 capacity was insufficient.

The IPPR also identified weaknesses in cumulative environmental impact assessments, monitoring and enforcement.

On local content, the report acknowledged Cabinet's approval of the National Upstream Petroleum Local Content Policy

on 4 August 2026 as a positive development.

However, it said the policy needed to be supported by enforceable requirements, measurable employment and procurement targets, skills development programmes and transparent company-level reporting.

The assessment found that public oversight remained constrained by fragmented access to petroleum information and delays in implementing the Access to Information Act, which had not commenced by 31 October 2026.

It also identified gaps in petroleum-specific anti-corruption measures, including verified asset declarations, disclosure requirements for politically exposed persons and controls to prevent conflicts of interest.

To address these weaknesses, the IPPR recommended the publication of signed petroleum agreements and beneficial ownership information, alongside the establishment of a publicly accessible petroleum information portal.

The institute also called for stronger regulatory independence, improved revenue management controls and increased investment in offshore emergency response capabilities.

It further recommended that Namibia join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to strengthen public disclosure, accountability and multi-stakeholder oversight of the petroleum sector. The IPPR warned that governance reforms should be implemented before commercial production begins, as rising petroleum revenues and increased financial and political pressures could make existing weaknesses more difficult to address.



Namibia to push for removal of regional trade barriers



Namibia plans to push for the removal of unnecessary trade barriers, harmonisation of customs procedures and improved cross-border infrastructure as it prepares to assume the chairmanship of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) for Southern Africa.

Minister of Finance Ericah Shafudah said the country would prioritise measures aimed at facilitating the movement of goods and services, expanding regional trade and strengthening economic integration across Southern Africa.

Speaking at the 2026 joint session of the Intergovernmental Committees of Senior Officials and Experts for Eastern and Southern Africa in Windhoek, Shafudah said regional countries needed to translate economic integration commitments into practical measures that stimulate investment, industrial development and employment creation.

She identified the removal of unnecessary trade barriers, harmonised customs procedures, improved transport networks and stronger energy and digital connectivity as key areas requiring regional cooperation.

"As Namibia looks forward to assuming the chairmanship of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for Southern Africa, we seek your continued cooperation and support throughout our tenure in advancing our shared regional priorities," Shafudah said.

Namibia is set to take over the chairmanship from Eswatini, which has led the Southern African bureau during the outgoing term.

Outgoing chairperson and Eswatini representative Mluleki Dlamini said regional countries needed to address differences in trade regulations and documentation requirements that

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complicate cross-border commerce.

He called for greater harmonisation of trade procedures among regional economic communities, alongside increased investment in transport corridors, electricity transmission networks and digital infrastructure.

"Secondly, we need to expand cross-border interconnections, terrestrial power networks and regional data hubs that allow e-commerce, financial technology and digital services to scale rapidly across jurisdictions in Africa. We must also harmonise regulations and trade documents among regional blocs such as COMESA and the EAC," Dlamini said.

He said Eswatini's chairmanship had supported several initiatives aimed at strengthening regional trade and industrial development.

These included assistance in developing Angola's African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) strategy and implementation plan, support for leather-sector enterprises in Eswatini and capacity-building programmes for small businesses in Lesotho.

Dlamini also highlighted work on green value chains aimed at supporting cleaner and more inclusive industrialisation across Southern Africa.

Meanwhile, Uganda's representative Cissy Mulondo, speaking as the outgoing chair of the Eastern African bureau, called for stronger trade and investment cooperation between Eastern and Southern Africa.

She said improved connectivity, economic diversification and increased intra-regional trade were necessary to stimulate economic growth and address socioeconomic challenges affecting both regions.

"It is important to examine the issue of bridging the gap between Eastern and Southern Africa through connectivity, trade and investment, as well as economic diversification in our countries to stimulate economic growth. We need to critically introspect on how we can realise these areas to promote intra-regional trade," Mulondo

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said. The joint session brought together senior government officials and economic experts from Eastern and Southern Africa to discuss regional integration, infrastructure development and measures to expand trade and investment.

Namibia's upcoming chairmanship will provide an opportunity to advance regional discussions on reducing trade barriers, improving customs cooperation and strengthening infrastructure links between Southern African economies.

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TAX ACCOUNTANT (X1) Permanent (Whk Based)	• Grade 12 • Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field. • Postgraduate qualification in tax. • A minimum of 7 years of experience in tax accounting, with extensive tax preparation background. • Proficiency in Microsoft applications such as Excel, Word, and PowerPoint • Ability to meet multiple deadlines in a high-pressure, fast-paced environment	• Prepare monthly reconciliations submit tax returns for all Osino group entities to NAMRA. • Generate and reconcile VAT-related reports with general ledger accounts. • Coordinate with external and internal audit teams, ensuring comprehensive documentation for tax audits and assisting in resolving audit findings. • Keep the business informed of tax legislation developments, assessing the impact thereof. • Manage tax liabilities effectively, minimizing tax risks and exposures. • Streamline the preparation of Customs Clearing documentation. • Comply with all safety and environmental requirements.
SUPERINTENDENT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) (X1) Permanent	• Grade 12 • Bachelor's degree in relevant field • Five (5) to Seven (7) years' experience of which three should be in supervisory role. • IT experience in a mining or fast paced environment is an added advantage • Ability to maintain confidentiality is a pre-requisite • Good interpersonal skills • Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment • Valid Namibian driver's licence	• Lead the team to operate the on-site IT service desk and organize the handling of hardware, software, network, system and communication faults to ensure timely and effective user support. • Organize the team to implement information security requirements, carry out data backup, antivirus, access control, vulnerability checks and emergency drills, and promptly report security incidents. • Organize the team to carry out the day-to-day operation and maintenance of IT infrastructure, including networks, servers, server rooms, wireless systems, communications, monitoring and terminal devices • Maintain IT asset records, allocation, maintenance, inventory and disposal execution. • Responsible for day-to-day technical guidance, training organization and on-site coaching, and provide input for performance appraisal
SUPERINTENDENT: ADMINISTRATION (X1) Permanent	• Grade 12 • Bachelor's degree in relevant field • Five (5) to Seven (7) years' experience of which three should be in supervisory role. • Ability to maintain confidentiality is a pre-requisite • Good interpersonal skills • Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment • Valid Namibian driver's licence • Proficient computer and Microsoft package skills	• Execute the company's administrative management systems and processes, and supervise the day-to-day administrative work of offices, dormitories, canteens, vehicles, security coordination amongst others to ensure compliance with standards • Responsible for the day-to-day scheduling of site logistics support • Supervise vehicle dispatch, driver management, commuting arrangements, and the day-to-day coordination of travel, accommodation and flights • Responsible for administrative staff scheduling, day-to-day guidance, attendance, training organization, and provide input for performance appraisal • Coordinate external administrative matters with local government, communities, landlords and service providers • Consolidate administrative expenses and budget execution data, monitor day-to-day spending, and propose cost-reduction and efficiency-improvement recommendations • Complete other tasks assigned by superiors
MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR: PLANT (X1) Permanent	• Valid competency certificates for a front-end loader (CAT 966 or larger), forklift, and HIAB / truck-mounted loader crane – required. • Minimum five (5) years' experience operating heavy or industrial mobile equipment in mining, construction, or process-plant environments. • Trained or experience in hazardous chemical / dangerous goods handling; cyanide awareness or ICMC-related training is highly advantageous. • Residents of Otjimbingwe, Karibib, Omaruru or Usakos will be given preference.	• Receive and offload reagent and consumable deliveries using forklifts, the telescopic handler, or the HIAB truck. • · Carry out machine-assisted housekeeping with the front-end loader and skid-steer loader: spillage clean-up at crushing, conveyor transfer points, stockpiles, drive-in sumps, bunded areas, and plant roads. • Conduct and document pre-start inspections for every machine before each shift or handover; immediately isolate and report defects or unsafe conditions. • · Maintain cleanliness and basic operator care of assigned equipment, and keep accurate equipment-utilisation, delivery, and defect records.
PROJECT SECURITY MANAGER (12 MONTHS) FIXED TERM CONTRACT	• Proven experience in managing security projects and functions (minimum 10 years preferred). • In-depth knowledge of the design, implementation and commissioning of integrated electronic security systems, physical security controls, and related technologies. • Strong project management skills with the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously. • Relevant qualifications in Project Management and Security Management, or Security Risk Management are compulsory. • Relevant Tertiary Qualification at NQF level 6 (Degree or National Higher Diploma or equivalent) in Project Management and Security Management or recognized equivalent.	• Plan, execute, and manage security projects from inception to completion. • Lead the design and implementation of integrated electronic security systems (CCTV, access control, intrusion detection, etc.). • Manage the security systems integrator to ensure the project is aligned with the overall project schedule. • Develop and manage project budgets, schedules, and resources. • Proactively lead and advise the project leadership team on the implementation of security strategies during construction. • Providing assurance to the project leadership team and other stakeholders on the adequacy of the protective measures in place during construction.

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Elderwood, Shangsheng awarded N$174m Windhoek District Hospital infrastructure contract

Elderwood Trading CC, in a joint venture with Shangsheng Construction, has been awarded a N$174 million contract for bulk infrastructure development at the planned Windhoek District Hospital in Havana, with the works expected to be completed within 12 months.

The Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) awarded the contract following an open national bidding process, paving the way for the development of essential infrastructure ahead of the hospital's construction.

The contract covers bulk earthworks, the construction of a water reservoir and access roads, as well as the installation of stormwater drainage systems, water supply and sewerage networks, and electricity infrastructure.

The works will prepare the site for the subsequent construction of the district hospital, which is expected to ease pressure on existing public healthcare facilities in Windhoek.

Ministry of Health and Social Services Executive Director Penda Ithindi said the project marked a significant step towards the construction of Windhoek's first district hospital since Namibia gained independence in 1990.

He said the capital's population had surpassed 500,000, increasing demand for healthcare services and placing additional



> The contract signing was attended by Itope, Ithindi and representatives of the joint venture, Kenneth Shikongo of Elderwood Trading CC and Huang Heng Wan of Shangsheng Construction.

pressure on existing public hospitals.

"Once operational, the hospital is expected to reduce pressure on Windhoek Central Hospital and Katutura Intermediate Hospital, both of which serve patients from the capital and receive referrals from all 14 regions," Ithindi said. The planned district hospital will provide district-level healthcare services, allowing Windhoek Central Hospital and Katutura Intermediate Hospital to focus more on specialised medical treatment and referral cases.

CPBN Chief Executive Officer Idi Itope said the signing of the N$174 million contract marked the conclusion of the procurement process and the beginning of the implementation phase.

He said the contractors were expected to deliver the infrastructure within the agreed 12-month period while complying with construction standards and contractual requirements.

Itope stressed that the investment must result in completed public infrastructure, warning that delays in healthcare projects would prolong pressure on existing facilities and postpone access to essential medical services.

He urged the joint venture to complete the project on schedule and ensure that all works met the required quality standards.

The contract signing was attended by Itope, Ithindi and representatives of the joint venture, Kenneth Shikongo of Elderwood Trading CC and Huang Heng Wan of Shangsheng Construction.

The N$174 million contract covers the initial infrastructure development phase and does not include the construction of the hospital buildings, which will be undertaken in a subsequent phase.

A gift with conditions is a slow invoice

By Junias Erastus



Not every gift comes with a price tag, but some come with expectations that may cost you more than money.

A person may offer you financial assistance, open a door for you, give you an opportunity or support you during a difficult time.

At first, the gesture may appear to be an act of kindness. However, when the giver later demands loyalty, control, silence or favours in return, what seemed like a gift begins to look like an invoice that was simply delayed.

A genuine gift is given freely, without the expectation that the receiver must surrender their independence or dignity.

It comes from a willingness to help, not from a desire to control. Unfortunately, some people use generosity to create a sense of obligation.

They give today, but keep a record in their minds. When they need something tomorrow, they remind you of what they did for you. Suddenly, their kindness becomes a tool for influencing your decisions.

This is why we must learn to distinguish between genuine support and assistance that comes with hidden conditions. Not everyone who helps you has bad intentions, and it is important to appreciate people who stand by us.

However, gratitude should never be confused with permanent indebtedness. You can appreciate someone's kindness without allowing them to own your choices.

You can respect a person who helped you without agreeing to everything they demand. Being thankful does not mean surrendering your right to think independently.

> **“The danger is that people sometimes accept these conditions because they fear losing the support they have come to depend on.**

In relationships, this lesson is particularly important. A person may buy you gifts, pay your bills or support your ambitions, only to use those actions against you during disagreements.

They may say, "After everything I have done for you, this is how you treat me?" Such words can make you feel guilty, even when you have done nothing wrong.

The intention may be to remind you that you owe them more than appreciation. It may be an attempt to make you feel that you have no right to disagree, set boundaries or walk away.

The same behaviour can occur in workplaces, friendships and business relationships. Someone may offer you an opportunity and later expect you to compromise your principles.

Another person may assist you financially and then demand that you support decisions you know are wrong. In such situations, the original act of generosity becomes a means of control.

The danger is that people sometimes

accept these conditions because they fear losing the support they have come to depend on.

Therefore, before accepting a significant gift or favour, understand the expectations attached to it. If the arrangement involves repayment, specific responsibilities or agreed conditions, those terms should be discussed openly.

There is nothing wrong with a clearly defined agreement. The problem arises when expectations are hidden, introduced later or used to manipulate the recipient. Clear communication protects both the giver and the receiver from misunderstandings.

It is equally important to build a life in which you do not depend entirely on the goodwill of others. Work towards financial independence, develop your skills and make responsible decisions about your future.

You may still need help from time to time, and there is no shame in accepting support. However, the more capable you become of standing on your own, the less vulnerable you may be to people who use their generosity to gain control over you.

At the same time, examine your own intentions when helping others. Give because you genuinely want to help, not because you expect to control the recipient later. If you cannot offer something without demanding personal loyalty, obedience or special treatment in return, be honest about your expectations from the beginning. True generosity respects the freedom and dignity of the person receiving it.

Ultimately, a gift with conditions is a slow invoice because its real cost may only become clear when the giver comes to collect.

Appreciate kindness, honour genuine agreements and remain grateful to those who help you. But never allow gratitude to become a chain around your freedom.

The best gifts strengthen people without controlling them, and the best relationships allow kindness to exist without turning it into a weapon.

Give with a sincere heart, receive with wisdom and remember that no gift should cost you your dignity, integrity or independence.

**** 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.***





!Gawaxab identifies power costs, regulatory uncertainty as barriers to Namibia's mineral beneficiation

Namibia's ambitions to beneficiate its mineral resources and develop downstream industries will depend on access to competitively priced electricity, predictable regulations and long-term investment capital, former Bank of Namibia Governor Johannes !Gawaxab has said.

Speaking at the CEO Dialogue in Johannesburg, during a panel discussion on mining and energy sector constraints, !Gawaxab said resource-rich African countries, including Namibia, needed to address structural barriers preventing mineral wealth from translating into industrial development.

He identified electricity costs, regulatory uncertainty, infrastructure gaps and limited access to patient capital as the main constraints affecting the development of mineral processing facilities.

“Africa is endowed with resources and doesn't have a minerals problem. It has an electrons problem, a rules problem, a competitiveness, and a patient-capital problem. Solve those four and value addition and development follow,” !Gawaxab said.

For Namibia, he said developing mineral value chains required more than

restrictions on the export of unprocessed minerals, arguing that governments needed to create conditions that would make local processing commercially viable.

His remarks come after Namibia introduced restrictions on the export of unprocessed lithium, cobalt, manganese, graphite and rare earths in 2023 as part of efforts to encourage domestic value addition.

However, !Gawaxab cautioned that export restrictions alone would not attract investment in processing facilities, particularly where electricity costs, infrastructure gaps and financing constraints remained significant.

“These moves show we have leverage. But leverage on its own does not build a refinery. Bans tell capital where it may not go. They don't tell it where it should go,” he said.

He said electricity affordability and reliability were particularly important for Namibia's mineral processing ambitions because smelting and refining require substantial and consistent power supplies.

“If we want the refinery here and not in Asia or Europe, our electricity has to compete with theirs. Today, in too many places, it doesn't,” !Gawaxab said.

He added that access to renewable electricity was becoming increasingly important for export competitiveness as international markets placed greater emphasis on the carbon intensity of industrial products.

!Gawaxab also identified regulatory predictability as a key factor influencing investment decisions, noting that mining and beneficiation projects typically require long-term commitments and substantial upfront capital.

“Investors can live with tough rules. What we cannot price is rules that change,” he said.

He argued that Namibia and other mineral-producing countries needed clearly defined and phased beneficiation requirements that would provide investors with sufficient certainty to plan infrastructure and processing investments.

On financing, !Gawaxab said African institutional investors, including pension funds and insurers, could play a greater role in financing mineral processing facilities and supporting infrastructure.

He noted that beneficiation facilities require significant upfront investment and can take several years to generate returns, making access to long-term capital essential.

“The capital to build Africa's mineral value chains partly already sits in African balance sheets. We have not built the bridges to deploy it,” !Gawaxab said.

He proposed establishing co-investment platforms bringing together pension funds, insurers and development finance institutions, with development financiers providing guarantees or first-loss capital to reduce investment risks.

He also called for long-term offtake agreements between international buyers and African producers to help secure financing for local processing facilities.

!Gawaxab further argued that Namibia should pursue mineral beneficiation through regional value chains rather than attempting to develop every processing activity independently.

He proposed linking lithium production in Namibia and Zimbabwe with manganese and platinum group metals from South Africa, as well as copper and cobalt from Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, supported by shared electricity infrastructure and efficient transport corridors.

> Developing mineral value chains required more than restrictions on the export of unprocessed minerals, arguing that governments needed to create conditions that would make local processing commercially viable.

"The battery doesn't care which border the cathode crossed. Investors care whether the corridor works," he said.

He said regional electricity cooperation could also support industrial competitiveness, with Namibia's and Botswana's solar and wind resources contributing to broader regional energy security through the Southern African Power Pool.

!Gawaxab said energy security, decarbonisation and industrial development needed to be pursued together, adding that reliable electricity remained essential for attracting manufacturing and mineral processing investments.

He also called for greater private-sector participation in electricity transmission infrastructure and the development of open electricity markets that would allow industrial users to access competitively priced power.

On the social impact of mining and energy developments, he proposed giving communities ownership stakes in mines, renewable energy projects and processing facilities rather than relying exclusively on corporate social responsibility programmes.

He said governments needed to provide stable regulations and open electricity markets, while international partners should move beyond purchasing raw minerals towards co-financing processing facilities.

He also urged African institutional investors to direct more long-term savings towards domestic and regional industrial development, arguing that progress should be measured by capital invested, infrastructure commissioned, competitive local businesses established and sustainable employment created.



500 000 Jobs: How a country operates against that deliverable!

By Hilda Basson-Namundjebo



> **“To create 500 000 jobs in five years means we must think differently. And fundamentally so!**

My current read, or at least one of them is by Bonang Mohale entitled “Lift as you rise”. In this book Mohale, who boasts an illustrious career as a marketing professional and who also served as a business leader at Shell Downstream South Africa as Chairman, sets out to challenge South African businesses to rethink entrepreneurship by being very intentional in their approach about the value chain and to plot it in such a way that one seeks to add value to the supply chain.

To create 500 000 jobs in five years means we must think differently. And fundamentally so!

This urgency demands a new mindset and a completely new approach. Jobs are not a byproduct of growth; they are the measure of success.

That means that every Office, Ministry, and Agency (OMA) must align to this score, with employment creation as our national obsession. The World Bank’s Namibia Country Partnership Framework makes a clear point: traditional sectors cannot absorb the scale of employment Namibia needs.

Renewable energy, digital transformation, and private sector diversification are not optional; they are the engines of employment growth.

However, it is worth noting that economic growth is the foundation of job creation, because without growth, jobs stagnate or vanish. India’s trajectory illustrates this truth: by sustaining high GDP growth rates over two decades, India unlocked millions of jobs across technology, services, and manufacturing.

The lesson is clear for Namibia: if the economy does not expand, the promise of 500 000 jobs collapses under its own weight. Growth is thus not optional; it is the precondition.

Distinct Mandates: Government vs. Private Sector

Namibia’s employment landscape makes the distinction clear. The public service employs almost 120 000 people, but the majority of Namibians work in the private sector.

Government’s mandate is not to absorb the unemployed directly but to create a conducive environment through infrastructure, policy, and financial discipline. That allows the private sector to thrive. The private sector, in turn, carries the responsibility of running businesses, innovating, and creating jobs.

The Matrix in Motion

Agriculture can absorb youth through agroprocessing, irrigation, and land reform, while Mines and Energy must drive local

beneficiation and renewable energy projects that create jobs in mining services and green hydrogen. Trade must integrate SMEs into supply chains, and Tourism can expand ecotourism and conservation employment.

ICT and Education reforms will unlock digital platforms and innovation hubs, while Works can generate labourintensive construction jobs. Finance must provide credit guarantees and blended finance to unlock SME growth, while Labour must enforce apprenticeships and fair practices.

Home Affairs can attract rare skills and capital, and Youth & Sport must channel entrepreneurship funds into startup hubs.

Together, these levers form a coherent pathway: jobs distributed across Namibia's 14 regions, anchored in SMEs as the backbone, with government enabling rather than employing, and youth absorbed into structured opportunities.

I remain seized with a question posed by a friend recently – what is possible here? That frame should align every seat we occupy while every role in which we serve must be tuned to creating employment and protecting the existing jobs.

Youth as CoCreators

Cocreation is not a passive assignment. Namibia's youth must move beyond receiving grants and funding. They must design enterprises, master new skills, and claim their role in shaping industries. Entrepreneurship and innovation must be encouraged through startups, digital platforms, and solutions for both local and global markets.

Skills ownership is critical; young Namibians must actively pursue expertise in digital technologies, renewable energy, and entrepreneurship to become indispensable in new industries.

Partnerships and networks will integrate youth into value chains, while the policy voice ensures that employment strategies reflect their realities and ambitions. Social enterprises can solve pressing problems; from climate resilience to community health while creating jobs.

Digital leadership can expand Namibia's reach beyond borders through ecommerce, fin-tech and online services. Youth are not just beneficiaries of the future economy; they should be the architects of it.

Confronting Inertia

Remember that rocking chair; the one that shifts from side to side but never actually goes anywhere? That is inertia. Meetings and speeches are not work. If we tracked government activity, how much time would be spent in meetings, driving to venues, and delivering speeches versus actual implementation? Meetings for the sake of meetings are inertia.

Speeches without followthrough are inertia. Real work is measured in jobs created, businesses registered, SMEs financed, and skills transferred.

Re-imagine your contribution

To reach 500 000 jobs, Namibia must move from silo operations to jobs thinking and that everyone has a role to play. Government must act as the jobs architect, orchestrating OMAs, policies, and partnerships toward employment outcomes.

The private sector must step into its role as the jobs engine, innovating and expanding across new industries. Citizens, especially the youth, must be empowered as cocreators of the future economy.

This is not incremental reform; it is a reimagining of Namibia's development path. The Prime Minister's warning about silos must be heeded. The orchestra must be attuned. And the conductor's baton must point to one score only: 500 000 jobs.

**** 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***



NUST plans two new degrees by 2028 to boost Namibia's creative industry

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) plans to introduce two new bachelor's degree programmes in digital arts and animation, and film and television by 2028, as the institution expands its training programmes to support Namibia's growing creative industry.

NUST Vice-Chancellor Frednard Gideon said the university was developing a Bachelor of Digital Arts and Animation and a separate degree programme in film and television to equip students with skills in animation, filmmaking and digital content production.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony for animation and scriptwriting students, Gideon said the proposed qualifications would build on the university's existing short courses and expand opportunities for Namibians seeking careers in the creative sector.

"We are developing two new... programmes. So one is a Bachelor of Digital Arts and Animation, and then the other one for Film and Television. Ladies and gentlemen, here is an opportunity. Come 2028, you should definitely give up your business and come full time," Gideon said.

The planned programmes form part of NUST's efforts to expand academic training in creative disciplines and develop qualifications aligned with industry requirements.

Since launching its animation and scriptwriting short courses in September 2025, NUST has graduated 82 students across three cohorts.

The latest graduation ceremony recognised

30 students, comprising 10 graduates from a 2D animation programme and 20 from a scriptwriting course.

Gideon said the 2D animation graduates were among the first students from a Namibian higher education institution to receive internationally recognised qualifications in the field.

"We are especially proud to recognise 10 graduates from the 2D animation programme. To the best of our knowledge, these students are among the first graduates from a Namibian higher education institution to receive an international qualification," he said.

He said the qualifications could open opportunities for graduates in animation studios, creative agencies, film production companies and digital content development.

Gideon also highlighted the economic potential of the animation industry, encouraging graduates to establish their own creative businesses rather than relying exclusively on formal employment.

He said Namibia needed to increase the production of locally developed animation and television programmes, particularly content aimed at children.

According to Gideon, much of the television and animation content consumed by Namibian children is imported and does not adequately reflect the country's cultures, languages and experiences.

"Namibia has a rich culture, ladies and gentlemen. We have many languages, unique landscapes, and talented storytellers. Yet we still have very little local children's television content. Many of the programmes our children watch are imported and often do not reflect our own lives, communities, and experiences," he said.

Meanwhile, NUST is pursuing partnerships with industry stakeholders to strengthen practical training and provide opportunities for students to develop and commercialise creative content.

Under an existing collaboration, scriptwriting students are expected to participate in an advanced writing workshop in 2027, while selected student concepts will be developed further through production initiatives involving scriptwriting, animation and filmmaking students.

Gideon also expressed interest in strengthening collaboration with the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC).

He said such partnerships could help students protect their intellectual property, develop locally produced content and gain access to industry networks and potential audiences. The proposed degree programmes are expected to expand NUST's role in training professionals for Namibia's animation, film, television and digital content industries.



Evidence before concrete: Fixing Windhoek's transport problem

By Juno Angula



Every morning in Windhoek, thousands of people stand in queues. Workers want to reach their jobs. Students want to reach class. Job seekers want to reach interviews.

For them, transport is not a convenience. It is a daily obstacle, and an expensive one.

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) confirms it. In June 2026, transport recorded the highest annual inflation of any spending category, 12.9% against a national average of 4.4%. Khomas had the highest regional inflation, at 5.8%. For a low earner, the fare can decide what is left for food and rent.

Demand is only rising. The 2023 census shows our urban population grew from 903,434 in 2011 to 1,512,685, about 67% more, and urban areas grew far faster than rural ones. Windhoek alone has 486,186 people.

A 2025 study of 1,000 Windhoek households found that nearby stops and frequent services drive public transport use. Buses on paper are not enough.

Namibia has built roads. But a road helps vehicles move. A transport system helps people move.

The speed hump lesson

In June, humps went onto the B1 Western Bypass. Transport Minister Veikko Nekundi ordered them to protect pedestrians after crashes. They cost about N$704,000 and are meant to be temporary, until pedestrian bridges, reported at nearly N$100 million, can be funded.

> **"TransNamib runs 2,687 kilometres of railway, yet only about 48% meets the minimum regional standard for axle load.**

The goal is right. Pedestrians have died. But motorists and road experts point to jams and rear-end crashes, and it was reported that Roads Authority engineers rejected humps on this road in 2021.

The High Court dismissed an activist's bid to remove them, yet the judge noted the state had not explained what led to the decision. In Parliament, Dawid Eigub asked whether traffic studies came first. Nelson Kalangula called the move "reactive and short-sighted."

Both sides want safer roads. What is missing is public evidence.

The rail that could help

TransNamib runs 2,687 kilometres of

railway, yet only about 48% meets the minimum regional standard for axle load.

On an average day, just 23 to 26 of its 78 locomotives ran. Its 2022/23 report said passenger service was largely limited to the festive season. In 2024, the African Development Bank sought a study on commuter rail from Windhoek to Rehoboth and Katutura. The public deserves to know what it found.

New chiefs, same cycle

Part of the answer lies in how TransNamib is governed. Johny Smith became CEO in 2018 and left in March 2023, declining a five-year extension. Webster Gonzo acted for about thirteen months.

Desmond van Jaarsveld took over in April 2024, after a recruitment drive that ran for over a year. Before all that, in August 2022, the chairperson and deputy chairperson resigned, one saying directors were not meeting their fiduciary duties.

Meanwhile, the hard questions stayed put. An Ernst & Young forensic report flagged irregular property contracts and recommended action against four executives who shared N$700,000 in bonuses. In 2023, the board found nothing that required discipline. In February 2026, two executives were suspended over property allegations.

By May, a new board was inaugurated and the minister told it to bring them back. Analysts warn that disciplinary power belongs with boards, not ministers.

Chief executives come and go. The appointment model, the oversight and the unanswered findings do not. A fresh CEO who inherits the same arrangement inherits the same problem, and the commuter in the queue pays for it.

Where Welwitchia University comes in

Welwitchia University (WU) is known for health, social sciences, business, education and law. It does not need to pour concrete. It can supply what this debate lacks: facts, voices and fresh ideas.

• Data. With the NSA, WU can measure how far residents travel, what it costs and how long it takes.

• Health. Public health researchers can study road injuries.

• Money. Commerce researchers can show what poor transport costs families and employers.

• Law. The minister argued that Namibia has no gazetted freeway. Law researchers can review how roads are classified and who must be consulted, and how boards are held to account.

• People. Social work and education students can listen to commuters, taxi operators and pedestrians.

WU could also convene the ministry, the City, parliament, TransNamib and commuters at one table.

The rule is simple: evidence before concrete. A fast-growing Namibia cannot afford to think small about how its people move, or about who is steering the institutions that should move them.

Sources: Namibia Statistics Agency (2023 census; June 2026 consumer price index); The Namibian; New Era; The Brief; Windhoek Observer.

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