

MEATCO UK

Meatco UK secures strong financial rating despite FMD export restrictions

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TRADE FORUM

President to lead 95 Namibian businesses to Angola trade forum

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Mobile money and digital data offer new opportunities for lending

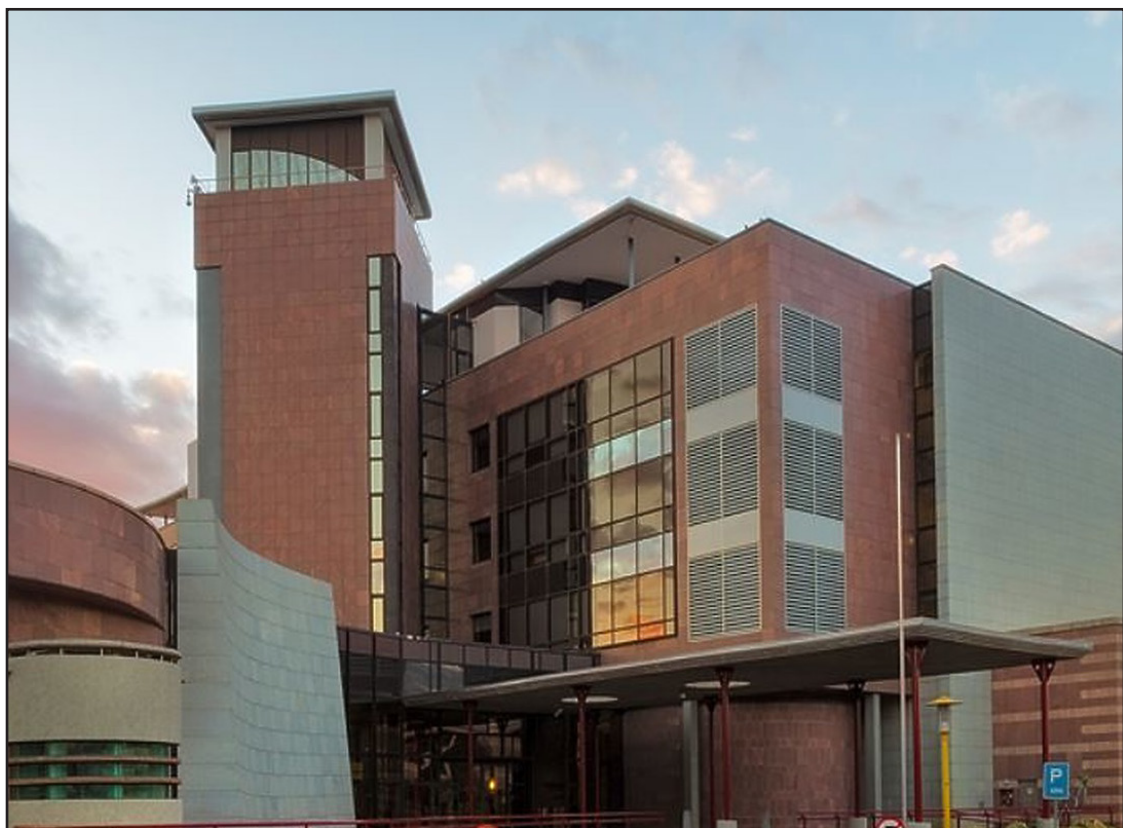
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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



BoN to test transaction-based credit assessments in 2027

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026

MAIN STORY



BoN to test transaction-based credit assessments in 2027

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) plans to test a new system in 2027 that could allow banks to assess loan applications using customers' financial transaction histories, potentially improving access to credit for individuals and businesses with limited or no formal borrowing records.

Crucial Dates

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

Bank of Namibia Deputy Governor Leonie Dunn said the initiative, which forms part of the country's open banking framework, would enable lenders to access a broader range of financial information, including digital payment records, to assess borrowers' ability to repay loans.

Speaking at a conference on credit information sharing and risk reporting, Dunn said the system could help individuals and small businesses that struggle to obtain financing because they lack conventional credit histories.

Under the proposed framework, a small business that regularly receives payments from customers but has never obtained a formal loan could authorise a financial institution to access its transaction records when applying for credit.

This would allow lenders to assess the business's cash flow and financial activity rather than relying solely on previous borrowing records, potentially improving its chances of securing financing.

Dunn said the central bank wanted to enable access to financial information in near real time to support more informed lending decisions.

“Following the Bank of Namibia’s October 2022 position paper on the possibility of open banking, Namibia’s open banking standards were published in March 2025. In January 2026, the Bank of Namibia issued guidance on their operationalisation. The bank has also started preparations

for a pilot scheduled for 2027 to test the standards and inform the implementation approach. Our objective is to enable access to data in near real time, bringing the benefits of credit information sharing to people such as Maria,” she said.

The planned pilot follows the publication of Namibia's open banking standards in March 2025 and operational guidance issued by the central bank in January 2026.

The Bank of Namibia first began exploring open banking in October 2022 through a position paper examining how financial institutions could securely share customer



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VACANCY



Product Support Sales Representative

Keetmanshoop

The Position

This position operates within a dual – reporting structure and reports to both the Product Support Manager-Namibia South and the Sales Manager. The successful incumbent will be responsible for marketing after sales products and services, as well as the Sales of new, used CAT machines, and rental. The individual will be responsible for assisting the technical personnel to maintain machine health for ultimate production at the lowest cost per hour and assisting Customers to practice highest possible technical integrity.

Key Accountabilities

- Builds relationships
- Regular machine inspections
- Prepares and discusses parts and new, rental and used machine options and quotations with the Customers
- Achieve agreed machine sales and parts and profitability targets through the sale of new, used and rental machines, as well as parts
- Establish, develop and maintain strong business relationships with existing and prospective customers to drive customer retention and generate new business opportunities
- Identify, qualify and convert sales opportunities through proactive customer engagement, networking and regular customer visits
- Work closely with internal departments to ensure efficient machine availability, order processing, delivery, commissioning and customer handover
- Maintain accurate customer records for machine sales and parts forecasts and opportunity pipelines to support effective business planning and reporting
- Follow up on quotations, proposals and customer enquiries to maximize quotation conversion rates and achieve sales targets
- Build long-term strategic partnerships with customers through regular engagement, professional service and ongoing account management
- Monitor market trends, competitor activities and developments within the construction and industrial sectors to identify opportunities for business growth
- Attends Customer meetings
- Assists Customers with component forecasting
- Assists Customers with fleet application and equipment forecasting
- Assists Customers with rebuild planning and forecasting
- Monitors component life and assists Customers with failure analysis
- Monitors component turnaround time
- Coordinates repairs on Customer fleets (Manpower and parts availability)
- Communicates Customer needs for new equipment
- Drives parts sales through the different marketing campaigns

Qualifications & Experience

- Grade 12, passed
- Qualified Diesel Mechanic with at least 5 years' post-Apprentice experience
- Experience in Sales, Business Management, Marketing or a related commercial discipline will be an added Advantage
- Proven sales experience in earthmoving equipment, commercial vehicles, agricultural machinery, or related industries
- Mining industry experience and ability to work with Customers
- Experience in sales or customer-facing commercial role, will be an added advantage
- Business and Marketing Acumen
- Ability to interact different levels with the Customer (Chief Engineers, Technical Manager, Purchase Department and internal Field Service, sales, parts and planning)
- Able to build and maintain lasting relationships with Customers
- Self-motivated, with high energy and an engaging level of enthusiasm
- Sound MS Office knowledge (SIS, AMT, ET) Numerical reasoning
- Must be in possession of a Valid Code of Conduct not older than 6 Months
- Must have a Valid Driver's License – manual transmission

Interested candidates that meet the above requirements should send their CV's and certified copies of educational qualifications and relevant documents to: Recruitment@barlworldcat.co.za

Women and persons with disabilities who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply. If you have not been contacted three weeks after the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Closing date: 16 October 2026

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information with authorised third parties.

Dunn said improved access to financial transaction data could help lenders identify creditworthy customers who are currently excluded from traditional lending systems because they lack formal credit records.

However, she stressed that customers would need to retain control over their financial information, with safeguards to prevent unauthorised access and misuse of personal data.

“The bank is considering safeguards around informed and revocable consent, privacy, security, operational resilience and clear accountability for those who access and use data. Consent for somebody like Maria must be understandable in practice. She must know what information she is sharing, with whom she is sharing it, for what purpose, and for how long. This information includes her financial footprint across different institutions and the wider

financial ecosystem,” she said.

Dunn also warned that the growing use of artificial intelligence and alternative financial data in credit assessments could introduce bias into lending decisions if not properly monitored.

She said independent validation and transparent decision-making would be necessary to ensure that automated credit assessments were fair and accountable.

The central bank said the objective of expanding credit information sharing was not simply to increase lending volumes but to improve responsible lending, strengthen household financial resilience and support business expansion and job creation.

The findings of the 2027 pilot will guide the implementation of open banking standards across Namibia's financial sector, with customer consent, data security and consumer protection expected to remain central to the process.



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 **15–16 October, 2026** |  **Windhoek, Namibia**















Property Hub NAMIBIA



N\$200m commercial project drives Windhoek building approvals to N\$403m

The value of building plans approved by the City of Windhoek surged by 149.1% to N\$403.3 million in September 2026, largely driven by a single N\$200 million commercial development that accounted for nearly half of the

month's total approvals.

According to IJG Securities' September Building Plans report, the municipality approved 204 building plans during the month, a 51.1% increase from the 135 recorded in August, while the value of

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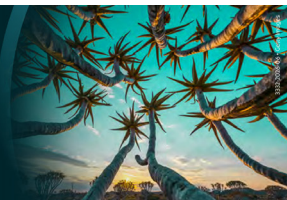
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approvals rose 124% year on year.

The September figure represents the highest monthly approval value since October 2025, although IJG cautioned that the sharp increase was largely attributable to one major commercial project.

“A single commercial plan valued at N\$200.0m accounted for nearly half of the total value approved and 96.0% of commercial and industrial approval value,” IJG said.

Excluding the project, building approvals amounted to N\$203.3 million, broadly in line with the values recorded in June and

July.

The increase comes as Windhoek's construction sector continues to recover from a weaker start to the year, with the value of approved building plans during the first nine months of 2026 reaching N\$1.55 billion, marginally below the N\$1.56 billion recorded during the corresponding period last year.

IJG said the year-to-date shortfall narrowed significantly from 16.7% at the end of August to just 0.5% in September, reflecting improved activity across residential, commercial and property addition developments.

Commercial and industrial building approvals recorded the largest increase in value, rising from N\$29.1 million in August to N\$208.3 million in September, covering eight approved projects.

Despite the monthly increase, the sector remained under pressure on an annual basis, with 58 commercial and industrial plans valued at N\$360.6 million approved between January and September.

This represents a 28.9% decline from the N\$507.2 million approved during the same period in 2025, despite the number of approved plans increasing from 53 to 58.

Residential construction also recorded stronger activity, with approved plans valued at N\$122.6 million in September, the highest monthly figure since December 2024.

The increase was partly supported by a single block of



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENT OF A FUND VALUATOR

Renaissance Health Medical Aid Fund hereby invites suitably qualified and independent persons or firms to submit proposals for appointment as Valuator in accordance with the Financial Institutions and Markets Act, 2021 (FIMA) and the applicable NAMFISA Standards, including Standard No. PRE.S.1.1.

PURPOSE OF THE APPOINTMENT

The appointed Valuator will be responsible for providing the independent valuation, review and professional opinions required under the regulatory framework. This includes the independent assessment and verification of the Fund's financial, actuarial and solvency position, and any additional statutory reporting required by NAMFISA.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Meet the eligibility criteria for a valuator under Standard No. PRE.S.1.1 and be eligible for approval by NAMFISA.
- Be fit and proper, and satisfy all statutory independence requirements.
- Demonstrate appropriate training, knowledge and experience within the Namibian financial services sector, specifically in medical aid/healthcare funding.
- Possess a minimum of five years' relevant

experience working with a similar financial institution/intermediary or with an appointed valuator as contemplated in PRE.S.1.1.

- Disclose all actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest, and demonstrate sufficient professional capacity to undertake the assignment.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must include, at minimum:

- Company/individual profile and relevant experience.
- Qualifications, professional memberships and CVs of key personnel.
- Technical approach and methodology for the valuation and statutory reporting.
- Evidence of fit and proper standing, independence and conflict of interest disclosures.
- References and proposed turnaround times.
- A detailed financial proposal covering:
 - o annual/statutory valuation work;
 - o attendance at Board/Committee meetings;
 - o ad hoc advisory work;
 - o travel and disbursements.

Terms of reference available from:

Laurika George
Principal Officer
po@rhmaf.com.na

CLOSING DATE AND TIME: MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026

SUBMISSION ADDRESS: po@rhmaf.com.na

ENQUIRIES: po@rhmaf.com.na

Renaissance Health Medical Aid Fund reserves the right not to make an appointment, to request clarification or additional information, and to engage shortlisted bidders before a final recommendation is made. The successful appointment remains subject to NAMFISA's approval requirements.



flats valued at N\$40 million.

“Residential building plan approvals increased by two units (+5.7% MoM) to 37 in September. Their combined value rose 33% month on month and 105.8% year on year,” IJG said.

During the first nine months of 2026, the municipality approved 289 residential building plans valued at N\$656 million, representing increases of 17.5% in volume and 19.4% in value compared with the corresponding period last year.

Property additions also strengthened, with 159 plans approved in September, up 69.1% from August.

The value of these approvals increased 78.2% to N\$72.5 million, bringing the year-to-date total to N\$535.8 million, an increase of 6.5% compared with the same period in 2025.

Meanwhile, completed construction projects also recorded a sharp increase during September, with 21 buildings valued at N\$72 million completed, compared with 17 buildings worth N\$21.3 million in August.

IJG said the value of building completions increased 237.6% month on month and 151.5% year on year.

Four commercial and industrial buildings valued at N\$41.5 million were completed during September, ending six consecutive months without a recorded completion in the segment.

“This is the highest monthly number of commercial and industrial completions since March 2024 and the highest

monthly value since May 2023,” IJG said.

The value of completed buildings during the first nine months of the year reached N\$295.6 million, up 2.8% from N\$287.6 million recorded during the corresponding period in 2025.

However, the number of completed buildings remained below last year's levels, indicating that the increase in construction value has not translated into a corresponding rise in completed projects.

IJG said September's figures pointed to improved construction activity in the capital, although the concentration of approvals in one major commercial development highlighted the uneven nature of the recovery.

WE'RE HIRING



Vacancy Chief Operating Officer

Primary Purpose of Position

To support the CEO in translating NamPost's strategy into effective operational execution by providing strategic direction, coordination and oversight across Business Units (BUs), with direct leadership over Functional Support Units (FUs). The role ensures the effective integration of NamPost's diversified business-unit model, drives value-chain thinking, strengthens collaboration between BUs and FUs, and balances business-unit autonomy with Group-wide synergies.

Key Performance Areas

- Strategic & EXCO Engagement
- Business Plan & Budget Coordination
- Functional Policies Coordination & Alignment
- Operational Commercial Effectiveness
- Financial Support & Control Services Effectiveness
- Human Resources Services Effectiveness
- Business Development, Marketing & Communications Effectiveness
- Administration, Communications & Information Effectiveness
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Business Projects Effectiveness
- Security and Investigations Management
- Human Resources Management

Why NamPost?

- Be part of a major transformation as NamPost evolves into a leading digital and financial and logistic services provider.
- Make a national impact by contributing to financial inclusion, e-commerce growth and accessible services across Namibia.
- Lead innovation and operational excellence in an organisation adapting to a rapidly changing business and technology landscape.
- Shape the future of an iconic Namibian institution while strengthening its universal service mandate

Key Competencies

- Strategic planning, business analysis, leadership and cost/value management ability.
- Strong conceptual reasoning, intellectual grasp and interpersonal skills.
- Strong entrepreneurial and analytic skills.
- Exemplary integrity, ethical leadership, accountability and a high-energy, results-oriented approach.

Minimum Education and Work Experience

- A Post Graduate B Degree/ B-Tech in Commerce, Finance, Business Management, Banking or similar.
- A Master's qualification in Business Management, CA or CFA will be a distinct advantage.
- At least 10 years' management experience in a service-oriented business environment, including a minimum of 5 years at executive management level.
- Exposure to the financial services and/or logistics sector will be an advantage.

Application Procedure

Please apply by visiting the HITO HR recruitment site and uploading your CV and certified supporting documents for the position.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. NamPost is an Equal Opportunity Employer and operates in line with affirmative action guidelines.

Kindly take note: Any applications sent to NamPost directly will NOT be considered. No e-mail application will also be accepted.

CLOSING DATE:
15 October 2026 at 17h00 pm

APPLY ONLINE:
<https://recruitment.hitohr.com/jobs>

ENQUIRIES: Lisa Matomola
CONTACT: 0818112812

Wake Up and Smell the AI Coffee: Your Know-How Is Money

By Chisom Obiudo

Scroll through the social media pages of many micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and you'll see finished work: a fresh set of braids, a wedding dress, a restyled lounge, a three-tier cake.

Each post shows the owner can do the job, but it rarely brings in more than the next booking.

Meanwhile, the know-how behind it, which customers would pay to learn, stays in the owner's head. Artificial intelligence (AI) can now help you turn it into content people trust and repurpose your main product or service to earn extra income.

Repurposing what you already sell

Repurposing means turning your main product or service, and the skills behind it, into new offerings that generate extra income from current or new customers.

It doesn't mean giving away all your knowledge for free or starting an unrelated business. A baker who sells birthday cakes can also run school-holiday baking classes for children or sell a short guide to help clients choose a cake design within their budget.

She is building on the skills and equipment she already has. These new offerings could bring in extra income, but she should start small, test whether customers will pay, and ensure the price covers her time and costs.

Why teaching beats gatekeeping

A photo of a finished cake invites one question: how much? When every competitor posts similar photos, price decides.



“

Repurposing means turning your main product or service, and the skills behind it, into new offerings that generate extra income from current or new customers.

Explain how you work and why, and customers start asking different questions: how long will it last, how do I look after it, and can you teach me?

A stylist who explains why braids that are too tight damage the hairline is no longer just another salon. She becomes the person who protects your hair, and people who learn from her often pay to learn more.

Many owners hold back, afraid that teaching will create competitors or encourage customers to do the job themselves.

Basic tips are a quick internet search away, so hiding them protects nothing and just sends curious customers to whoever will explain.

When people learn how a job is done, they see how much skill it takes and value you more. Share the how and why, but keep your signature recipe or technique to yourself. Knowledge you never share earns you nothing.

How AI turns know-how into income

ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini are chat assistants: you type a request in everyday language and they respond.

They can draft captions, write video scripts, plan a month of posts, or turn your voice notes into a neat guide. You supply the knowledge; AI shapes it into something you can post or sell. They don't know your clients or your prices, so give them the details.

You may wonder whether clients will mind that you used AI. The value you offer comes from your knowledge, judgement and how effectively the result solves their problem. AI can help you prepare the result, but you remain responsible for its accuracy and quality.

Some clients may have specific requirements for AI use, so discuss them before starting the work. Be honest if asked. Never present AI-generated images as photographs of your actual products or completed work. Check any AI disclosure requirements that apply to your platform and location.

Post useful tips regularly, and people often ask for more, which is where the money is. Your followers' most common questions can be turned into a digital product, such as a PDF guide or a recorded mini-course, that people buy and download.

The easiest place to start: let AI interview you

Not sure what you could teach or sell? Paste this prompt into any of those tools and answer its questions.

I want to turn my skills and knowledge into extra income through content and new products. Interview me one question at a time and wait for my answer before asking

the next. Ask about: what my business does, what customers ask me most often, what I know that beginners struggle with, what parts of my work I could teach or package, who my customers are, and how much time I have each week. After about ten questions, give me: three topics I could teach through content; two products I could sell, such as a guide, template, class or kit; one way to repurpose my main product or service into a new income stream; and the first step I should take this week. Use plain language and base everything on my answers. Do not invent facts about my business.

The five niches below are hypothetical examples. In each prompt, replace the words in square brackets with your own details.

Niche 1: Hairstylist

A hairstylist's clients keep asking how long braids should stay in and why their scalps itch. Those questions form her content plan: scalp care between appointments, protecting the hairline and keeping a style neat overnight. AI can turn her answers into short video scripts, a week's worth of captions and a printable aftercare guide. That guide can go home with every client, either included in the price or sold as a download. She can also put the products she trusts into a home hair-care kit and run a beginners' braiding class for parents who want to do their children's hair.

Prompt: I am a hairstylist. Using these care tips I give clients [paste your tips], write a one-page aftercare guide for [style, e.g. knotless braids, locs, a silk press] aimed at [audience, e.g. busy mothers, first-time braid wearers, teenagers]. Use a [tone,

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e.g. warm, playful, straight-talking] tone, and do not include any advice I have not given. Before you proceed, ask me clarifying questions and tell me what market research I should do.

Niche 2: Fashion Designer

A fashion designer faces a different problem: orders go wrong when clients measure themselves inaccurately. Teaching clients how to measure properly resolves this, and explaining how to choose fabric for an occasion and why a garment fits the way it does builds trust. AI can turn her method into a step-by-step measurement guide and a video script that shows each measurement, with captions on fabric choices. She can then sell the measurement guide, alter clothes

people already own, and run sewing classes for beginners.

Prompt: I am a fashion designer who makes [garments, e.g. traditional wedding attire, school uniforms, office wear]. Here is how I take measurements [describe your method]. Turn this into a home measurement guide for [audience, e.g. clients ordering from another town, mothers measuring their children] in [format, e.g. numbered steps with a checklist]. Before you proceed, ask me clarifying questions and tell me what market research I should do.

Niche 3: Estate Agent

People moving to a new town rarely know which neighbourhood suits them, which is where an estate agent's local knowledge counts. In Namibia, for example, offshore oil discoveries have attracted international companies seeking land and housing, and more newcomers are expected if the projects go ahead. The agent can explain how to choose a neighbourhood, what makes a home child-friendly, and which areas suit diplomats and international staff who need to be near embassies and international schools. AI can turn this knowledge into neighbourhood guides, viewing checklists and area-tour video scripts. The agent should verify every fact AI includes, such as distances, school options and security, and describe areas by their facilities rather than by the kind of people who live there. The agent can then sell neighbourhood guides to relocating families,



offer relocation packages to embassies and employers bringing in international staff, and manage rentals for busy investors.

Prompt: I am an estate agent in [town or city, e.g. Windhoek]. Using my notes on local areas [paste your notes], write a neighbourhood guide for [audience, e.g. families with young children, diplomats and embassy staff, expatriates relocating for work] comparing areas by [factors, e.g. schools, parks, security, commuting time]. Do not state prices, fees or legal timelines, and mark any fact I must verify. Before you proceed, ask me clarifying questions and tell me what market research I should conduct.

Niche 4: Interior Decorator

Moving from selling homes to styling them, an interior decorator often hears clients say they love her work but can't afford a full makeover. That gap is what she can teach: how to refresh a room on a small budget, choose colours that work together and arrange furniture in a tight space. AI can turn her approach into lesson plans, scripts for before-and-after videos and a month's worth of captions. Those lessons can become a paid mini-course for people who want to do the work themselves. She can also offer virtual consultations to clients in other towns and

source furniture for those who can't find what they want.

Prompt: I am an interior decorator. Using these styling tips [list them], outline a [length, e.g. five-lesson] mini-course for [audience, e.g. renters who cannot paint walls, newlyweds furnishing a first home] to refresh a [room, e.g. living room, bedroom, home office] for under [budget, e.g. N\$2,000]. Include one practical task per lesson. Before you proceed, ask me any clarifying questions and tell me what market research I should conduct.

Niche 5: Baker

Finally, back to the baker. Her customers want an impressive cake but don't know what their budget will buy, so she explains how tiers, decorations and fillings affect the price. AI can draft a cake-design guide organised by price, with captions about her process and plans for kids' baking classes during the school holidays or at birthday parties. The classes, and the guide or a short paid consultation, generate extra income from the same oven and skills. Because children are involved, she must obtain parents' written consent before posting any photo or video of a child, and check for food allergies before anyone bakes or tastes anything.

Prompt: I am a baker. Plan a [length, e.g. two-hour] kids' baking class for [age group, e.g. ages seven to ten] at [setting, e.g.



WALL BANNERS



TABLE CLOTHS



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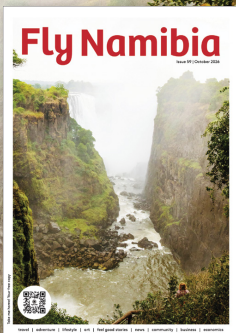
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a school-holiday workshop, a birthday party at home]. Include a simple [recipe, e.g. cupcakes, biscuits], a safety briefing, an allergy check and a parental consent form for photos. Before you proceed, ask me any clarifying questions and advise me on the market research I should conduct.

Rules that protect your income

Your reputation is your income, so protect it. Check everything AI writes, because it can be wrong, and your name is on the result. Never use real people's faces without permission, follow the rules above regarding children, and don't promise results you can't deliver. Never publish fake testimonials, because one exposed fake can undo years of trust. Show products as they really are, keep client information private and out of AI tools, and never copy other brands' logos or designs.

Make AI professional skills part of MSME training

SME development agencies, investment promotion bodies, development finance institutions, business incubators, chambers of commerce and training providers should include AI professional skills alongside bookkeeping, marketing and business planning. Owners need to understand how these tools can support their day-to-

day work and related income opportunities.

Training should help participants create useful marketing content, turn expertise into paid offerings and review every AI draft. They should practise protecting client information, obtaining permission for faces, rejecting fake testimonials, representing products accurately and respecting other brands' work. Each participant should leave with reviewed content and an offer to test with customers.

Your first step today

You don't need a website, a budget or a business plan to get started. Open ChatGPT, Claude or Gemini today, paste the interview prompt and answer each question. By the end, you should have three topics to teach, two products to sell and one step to take this week. Your know-how has worked for free long enough. Now let it pay you.

** Chisom Obiudo is a legal practitioner with specialisation in AI governance and AI professional skills. She trains professionals and small business owners to use AI responsibly and builds customised AI assistants for professional tasks. To arrange training for your business or programme, reach her at chisomokafor11@gmail.com.*

Meatco UK secures strong financial rating despite FMD export restrictions



Meat Corporation of Namibia's (Meatco) United Kingdom business has received a "STRONG" financial rating in an assessment of 47 meat import and export companies, despite mounting pressure on Namibia's beef industry following the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

The rating, issued by UK-based financial analysis firm Plimsoll, comes as restrictions on access to premium beef export markets threaten Meatco's ability to maximise returns from processed cattle and maintain payments to livestock producers.

Meatco Interim Chief Executive Officer Albertus Aochamub said the assessment evaluated companies based on financial performance, valuation, business outlook and takeover risk.

He said the rating demonstrated the company's financial resilience at a time when the FMD outbreak was disrupting Namibia's livestock industry and placing pressure on meat processors and exporters.

"This STRONG rating is important because it confirms that Meatco entered the present crisis from a position of resilience in an international market where many businesses are already under severe financial pressure," Aochamub said.

According to Meatco, the Plimsoll assessment found that eight companies in the UK meat import and export sector had recorded losses for a second consecutive year, while five were classified as being in financial danger.

A further four companies had lost approximately one-third of their value, highlighting financial challenges facing businesses operating in the sector.

Despite the positive assessment, Aochamub warned that restrictions on premium beef export markets were putting Meatco's business model under pressure by limiting its ability to secure higher prices for different cuts of beef.

"Our business model depends on extracting the best possible value from a

carcass across a combination of premium export, regional and domestic markets. When access to higher-value markets is disrupted, that value chain is immediately placed under pressure,” he said.

He said the disruption had implications for producer returns, processing operations and employment across the livestock value chain.

Aochamub said Meatco was prioritising the protection of producer value, sustaining operations and safeguarding livelihoods dependent on the livestock industry while navigating the impact of the outbreak.

The company is working with government, veterinary authorities, livestock producers,

customers and other stakeholders to manage the effects of FMD and support the restoration of access to affected export markets.

Meatco said it was also taking measures to preserve liquidity, retain critical skills, protect employment and maintain relationships with international customers while preparing for the gradual reopening of restricted markets.

Aochamub called for greater cooperation between producers, processors, employees, regulators, organised agriculture and government to limit further disruption to the livestock sector.

“This is a moment for the entire industry to stand together,” he said.

He added that coordinated action would be necessary to preserve export markets, protect businesses and safeguard jobs as the industry responds to the outbreak.

Meatco said the financial assessment provided confidence in the underlying strength of its UK operations, although the restrictions continued to pose challenges to its commercial activities.

“The strength reflected in the Plimsoll assessment gives us confidence that the fundamentals of the business can withstand this period,” Aochamub said.

The company said it remained focused on maintaining product quality, food safety, traceability and customer relationships to protect Namibia’s standing as a supplier of premium beef to international markets.



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Department: Human Capital



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President to lead 95 Namibian businesses to Angola trade forum

Ninety-five Namibian businesses have expressed interest in participating in the Angola-Namibia Business Forum on 19 October 2026, as President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah prepares to undertake a State Visit to Luanda from 18 to 20 October for the inaugural Angola-Namibia Bi-National Commission (BNC), according to the Presidency.

The Presidency said the forum would provide a platform to strengthen economic

ties and promote trade and investment through business-to-business engagements between the two countries.

The inaugural BNC will be co-chaired by Nandi-Ndaitwah and Angolan President João Lourenço, following a decision by the fifth Joint Commission of Cooperation to elevate bilateral cooperation to a mechanism led by the two heads of state.

According to the Presidency, the agreement establishing the BNC was

signed on 14 July 2019, reflecting both countries' commitment to deepening bilateral relations, increasing trade and implementing joint development projects.

The programme includes a ministerial session on 18 October, co-chaired by Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Trade, Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, and Angola's Minister of External Relations, Ambassador Tété António. The Heads of State Summit is scheduled for 19 October.

A senior officials' meeting will take place on 15 and 16 October, co-chaired by the Executive Director of Namibia's Ministry of International Relations and Trade, Ambassador Jerobeam Shaanika, and Angola's Director of Africa, Middle East and International Organisations in the Ministry of External Relations, Domingos Custódio Vieira Lopez.

The Presidency said the commission

would review progress in bilateral cooperation, address outstanding matters of mutual interest and agree on practical measures to advance shared development priorities.

Areas of cooperation include agriculture, trade and investment, transboundary energy and water resources, transport and cross-border infrastructure, defence and security, as well as border and immigration management.

As part of the official programme, Nandi-Ndaitwah is also expected to address Angola's National Assembly and visit the Dr António Agostinho Neto Memorial Park, the Presidency said.

The inaugural commission is intended to strengthen coordination between the two neighbouring countries and advance economic cooperation and people-to-people relations.

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Higher rates next door and FMD reverberations: A national tall order

An economy can run too hot with prospective investors, but in the process, can get hijacked by the morbid status quo of foot and mouth disease restrictions on one end. On the other end, oil price conditions can be dominated by geopolitics and commodity transportation security, with rents rising faster than what the business community can produce and sell those goods and services. What do these new developments really mean for Namibian households, traders and prospective investors?



By Tio Nakasole

September 23rd, 2026, can be a dilemmatic date, either worthy or worthless, cordoning off in the Namibian economic calendar. On that fateful day, two new developments occurred: the acting Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Dr Charles Mubita announced, via a press release, a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) discovered inside Namibia's FMD-free zone, historically recorded in South Africa in the past months.

In tandem, the South African Reserve Bank raised its repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.25%, the second increase this year, taking prime to 10.75%.

Prior to that, the August inflation of 4.4% already sits above its new 3% target, and the bank expects it to surpass 5% in

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What an impossibility of co-presence and a tragedy of imagination of the hefty future cost of living and making business especially in livestock farming.

the last quarter of 2026 and the first of 2027.

What an impossibility of co-presence and a tragedy of imagination of the hefty future cost of living and making business especially in livestock farming.

This is not a one-sided story but a shared concern. The Namibia dollar is pegged one-to-one to the rand. Namibia's repo rate is 6.75% after a June increase, so the gap to Pretoria is now half a point.

In the meantime, inflation in Namibia has been reported at 5.4% in September, up from 2.1% in March. The reverberations to follow are real, and every household and business should understand why.

Economically, the Bank of Namibia has described domestic activity as subdued and has cut its 2026 growth forecast to 2.1%.

The sluggish growth forecast is

down to weakness recorded in mining, manufacturing, power generation and transport in the first half. Against this already weak economic backdrop, the outbreak of foot and mouth diseases in the south, //Kharas, and as of 11 October 2026 could become inconceivable due to its long jump spread to the Zambezi region in the northern part of the country.

Concerningly, the livestock that have never been exposed to the virus are likely to be completely immunologically naive, which could lead to rapid and extensive transmission if containment measures are not maintained.

This may also leave the community divided about the effectiveness of the veterinary cordon fence.

Heavy Lifting

Trade shows expose how we are. In July this year Namibia imported N\$16.5 billion of goods and exported N\$10.7 billion, a deficit of N\$5.9 billion, of which N\$2.6 billion was with South Africa. South Africa supplies about 31% of our imports.

It's not by surprise to vehemently say that Namibia's inflation is largely imported, as driven by fuel and the cost of goods arriving from abroad, rather than a narrative of citizens spending too much.

Interest rates work well against excess demand but are barbaric against fuel shock. If the Bank of Namibia has to raise rates to upkeep the peg, the cost lands on borrowers in an economy.

To rekindle and enter into a new dispensation is to deepen what we can do for ourselves. According to the NSA, Namibia is a net food exporter, with a N\$533 million surplus in July, yet it still imports much of what households eat.

The question is, is it household preference to consume what they should

not produce, or produce what they should not consume? If so, then the consumer's inelastic demand behaviour will continue to confluence the price the supplier wants to charge.

The major differentiator, local made as opposed to a heavy import reliance is that every product made and sold locally is one less exposed to the rand, the fuel price and a neighbour's rate decisions.

Few Taming Tips

Consumers should plan for a higher-for-longer environment. This is what it means: with a prime at 10.25%, each quarter-point increase adds roughly N\$2 500 a year to the interest on a N\$1 million bond.

Even if your bank raises the rate, keep paying your old instalment where you can, because the extra goes straight to capital and shortens the loan.

Borrow for investment and not pure consumption, keep an emergency buffer of a few months of expenses, and compare prices across retail outlets, towns and suppliers, especially for food and transport.

Households on fixed incomes should watch administered prices such as fuel and electricity and budget for them in advance.

Suppliers and small businesses need to safeguard their margins without losing customers. Quote with a short validity period and escalation clauses tied to fuel and the rand.

Agree prices with South African suppliers for a fixed term where possible, and keep inventory lean so that you are not financing stock at higher interest.

Late payment, especially by large buyers and public bodies, is a hidden cost when money is dearer, so tighten credit terms and invoice promptly.

Where inputs can be sourced locally at competitive quality, the saving in currency risk can outweigh a modest price premium.

On the investors' front, they also face a higher hurdle rate, because safe returns on cash and government paper have risen and projects must beat them.

Those advantageous businesses that accumulate foreign currency, substitute imports or have stable local demand, and it penalises those carrying heavy variable-rate debt.

Prudent and patient capital that funds food processing, logistics, energy efficiency and skill will likely yield better results than speculation on property or one-off booms.

Foolproof Planning

From a policy perspective, the lesson is steadiness. Keep the budget credible, clear

arrears to suppliers, stagger increases in administered prices, and target relief at those who are affected.

Future investment should consider serving other industries: ports, roads and rail as a lever so that goods move cheaply, and supply responds to transportation security threats.

The motive behind is not to cool an economy that is not running too hot constantly but to safeguard purchasing power, defend the peg and keep Namibians afloat in hedging risks as opposed to keep rolling the dice.

*** Tio Nakasole, Analyst at Monasa Advisory and Associates, writes on Governance, Public Administration and Investment landscape. The views expressed do not represent those of his employer. -theoerastus@gmail.com**

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Mobile money and digital data offer new opportunities for lending

Mobile money and alternative data could help expand access to credit across Africa by enabling lenders to assess borrowers who are excluded from traditional financial systems, Andrew Njeru, Chief Executive Officer of CIS Kenya, has said.

Speaking at the 3rd Africa Credit and Risk Reporting Conference in Windhoek, Njeru said improved credit reporting systems, digital financial services and artificial intelligence could help financial institutions better assess lending risks and extend financing to underserved groups, including farmers, women and small businesses.

“There is, therefore, a great deal we can do, and credit information systems have an important role to play. The more information credit bureaus have, the better equipped lenders are to differentiate between customers and price loans according to their respective levels of risk. This is a critical missing link,” he said.

He noted that financial inclusion had improved across the continent, with account ownership rising significantly over the past decade. However, access to affordable credit remained uneven, while high borrowing costs continued to constrain economic participation in several African markets.

Njeru said Africa had substantial capital available, but reaching underserved borrowers required reliable data and stronger infrastructure to help lenders identify creditworthy customers.

He highlighted the potential of alternative data from mobile money platforms, telecommunications companies, agricultural activities and satellite technology to improve



credit assessments, particularly for people without formal credit histories.

“The potential of alternative data is enormous, but it also comes with risks. Consumer concerns must be addressed, and safeguards must be established to ensure that data is collected securely, with appropriate consent, and processed responsibly,” Njeru said.

Artificial intelligence could also help process and analyse this information more efficiently, provided the data was accurate, secure and handled responsibly, he said.

Njeru called for stronger partnerships between credit bureaus, lenders, governments and technology providers to improve data collection, verification and sharing.

He also emphasised the need to address gaps in identity documentation and the underrepresentation of women and small businesses in formal financial systems.

He said expanding access to sustainable financing was essential to supporting entrepreneurship, creating jobs and unlocking Africa’s economic potential.

Transport costs push Namibia's inflation to 5.4%, the highest in almost three years

By Lot Ndamanomhata

Fuel and travel costs now account for more than the entire rise in inflation, leaving households, businesses and policymakers to ask how long the pressure will last.

Namibia's annual inflation rate climbed to 5.4% in September 2026, up from 5.0% in August and 3.5% a year earlier, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency's latest Consumer Price Index Bulletin. August's 5.0% was already the highest reading since February 2024, and September's figure matches the January 2024 level.

Transport is the driver

Transport inflation hit 14.9% year on year and contributed 2.2 percentage points to headline inflation, more than any other category. A year ago its contribution was 0.2 points. That jump alone is larger than the 1.9-point rise in headline inflation over the period, meaning the rest of the basket, on balance, became slightly less inflationary.

The main culprit is fuel. Petrol and diesel prices were up 30.4% from September 2025, when they were still falling by 2.1%. The cost of operating personal vehicles rose 20.1%, and licence and registration fees added to the burden, up 8.7%. Public transport rose 15.0%, with air fares up 22.1%, rail 15.7%, taxis 15.4% and buses 12.6%.

Retail prices in September averaged about N\$25.60 to N\$25.80 per litre for petrol and N\$28.35 to N\$28.55 for diesel, depending on the zone.

Other pressures

Housing, water, electricity and fuels, the



“

Transport inflation hit 14.9% year on year and contributed 2.2 percentage points to headline inflation, more than any other category.

largest part of the basket at 28.4%, was the second-biggest contributor at 1.0 percentage point. Its annual inflation rose to 4.2% on higher rentals, maintenance and energy costs. Food, at 4.0%, eased from 4.9% a year ago, helped by slowing meat prices (3.3%, with beef at 2.6%). Communication was the only division in deflation, at -0.9%.

Monthly inflation slowed to 0.4% from 0.6% in August. Monthly transport inflation also cooled, to 1.9% from 3.7%, a sign that the pace of fuel-driven increases may be easing even though annual comparisons remain high.

Windhoek (Zone 2) had the highest annual inflation at 6.2%, with transport up 16.1% there. Zone 3 (the south and coast) recorded 5.8% and the northern Zone 1 recorded 4.3%.

What it means

Households. Transport and housing together make up over 40% of the basket, so higher fuel prices reach commuters, taxi and bus passengers, and eventually shelf prices

as freight costs pass through. Fixed-income earners are hit hardest. Urban households in Windhoek are feeling the pressure most.

Underlying inflation is lower. Core inflation, which excludes most food and energy items, was 4.0%, 1.4 points below the headline rate. That gap suggests the surge is concentrated in fuel and transport rather than broad-based. If fuel prices stabilise, headline inflation could converge toward the core rate, though second-round effects such as higher transport fares and delivery costs could keep prices elevated.

Goods versus services. Goods inflation (5.8%) is running ahead of services (4.7%), consistent with an energy-led shock rather than demand-driven overheating.

Policy and outlook. The 12-month average inflation rate is 3.7%, and the fiscal-year

average (April to September) is 4.4%, so the picture is less severe than the monthly headline suggests. Even so, inflation at its highest in nearly three years will put the central bank's price-stability mandate in focus and complicate decisions on interest rates. Because the shock is largely driven by fuel prices, which are influenced by global oil markets and the exchange rate, policymakers have limited direct levers.

What to watch. The October inflation figures are due on 5 November 2026. Analysts will look for whether monthly transport inflation keeps cooling, whether food prices stay subdued, and whether higher transport costs begin spreading into other categories.

Meat: a new risk the September data does not yet capture

The easing in meat prices noted above predates a major shock. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was confirmed in Namibia's designated FMD-free zone in the southern ||Karas Region in late September, and authorities suspended the movement, import and export of cloven-hoofed animals and their products nationwide. Because the outbreak was detected on 22 September, it falls almost entirely outside September's price survey, so its effects will first show up in the October figures due on 5 November.

The outbreak is still growing. The ministry reports 129 positive samples and 17 infected farms as of 6 October, and a second outbreak has now been confirmed in the Zambezi Region.

The impact on shelf prices could pull in two directions:

- Upward pressure on local

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supply. Slaughtering is barred in the red zone (//Kharas), and butcheries and meat suppliers are running out of stock. Earlier in the outbreak, residents queued at Windhoek butcheries in panic buying, which can lift prices quickly. Shortages and stockpiling are classic short-term price drivers, and substitution toward chicken and fish could push those prices up too.

- Downward pressure on producer prices. Export markets have closed. The EU has temporarily suspended imports of fresh beef, sheep and goat meat from Namibia, and the UK has withdrawn authorisation for fresh beef imports. If export-bound animals and meat are diverted to the domestic market, local supply could rise and partly offset shortage-driven increases. Historically, FMD-related export bans have pushed down livestock prices for producers.

The net effect on consumer meat prices is not yet clear, and there is no post-outbreak price data to confirm either direction. Meat is a small part of the basket, but it is a politically sensitive item, and the cost to the wider economy may be larger than the price effect alone. Simonis Storm estimates the outbreak could cost about 12,000 job years in 2026 and 2027.

The outbreak also has a cross-border dimension. South African industry bodies expect red meat prices there to rise, with lamb and mutton hit hardest because South Africa imports Namibian slaughter lambs, and that could affect prices of Namibian meat sold to or sourced from South Africa.

Possible fuel relief: the US–Russia diesel deal

On the fuel side, there is a potential, though limited, source of relief. President Trump announced that Russia has agreed to supply millions of tons of diesel to the global market over the next several months, and the US Treasury will temporarily waive sanctions on Russia's energy sector to allow it. The

announcement came as a global rise in oil prices, linked to the war with Iran, has pushed diesel to record levels, and diesel prices are also high because Russia and China halted diesel exports to protect domestic supply.

For Namibia, which imports its refined fuel, easing in global diesel markets would eventually feed into the monthly fuel price reviews. Diesel is a key input for freight, mining, agriculture and fishing, so lower prices would benefit transport costs and shelf prices more broadly. It would also help the meat supply chain, which depends on diesel for the transport of livestock and carcasses.

Experts, however, doubt the deal will deliver much. One energy analyst said the extra supply would mostly shuffle oil around without changing prices globally, and another said it is unlikely to make a dent in painfully high prices. The deal is also politically contested and depends on whether Russia delivers.

What it means for the outlook

The two developments push in opposite directions. A global diesel easing, if it materialises, could bring down the fuel-driven transport inflation that currently dominates the headline rate. Meanwhile, the FMD outbreak adds a new and uncertain risk to food prices, which have so far helped keep inflation in check. Even if fuel eases, the headline rate may not fall back toward the 4.0% core rate as quickly as hoped if meat and other food prices rise.

The October CPI release on 5 November will be the first to reflect the outbreak. Analysts will be watching meat and food prices closely, as well as whether the next fuel price reviews show any pass-through from the Russian diesel announcement.

** Lot Ndamanomhata is from Ekoka. This article reflects his views and write entirely in his personal capacity.*



Standard Bank's Buy-a-Brick raises N\$27m, delivers over 740 homes

Standard Bank Namibia's Buy-a-Brick initiative has raised more than N\$27 million and supported the construction of over 740 affordable houses across Namibia since its launch in 2015, as the country continues to grapple with a shortage of affordable housing.

The bank disclosed the figures during the handover of 15 houses in Onandjaba, Omusati Region, which formed part of a larger housing project that delivered 84 homes to low-income families.

The latest houses were funded through proceeds from Standard Bank's annual Corporate and Investment Banking Padel for Purpose event, with financial support from Old Mutual Namibia and Ninety One Namibia.

Established in partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the

Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG), the Buy-a-Brick initiative was launched to mobilise private-sector funding for affordable housing development.

Standard Bank Namibia's Outapi Branch Manager, Emeritha Iita, said the initiative had demonstrated the role of corporate partnerships and community participation in expanding access to housing.

"Housing is about far more than bricks and mortar. It is about dignity, security, stability and opportunity. Every home handed over today represents a family moving from uncertainty to greater security and a stronger foundation for the future," Iita said.

She said the programme brought together businesses, civil society organisations and communities to address housing challenges facing low-income households.

The Onandjaba project involved beneficiaries directly in construction activities, including brickmaking, trench digging, transporting building materials and building work.

According to the bank, the approach enabled communities to participate in developing their own homes while supporting the delivery of affordable housing.

Omusati Governor Immanuel Shishiweni Shikongo, who officiated at the handover, said partnerships between government, the private sector and communities were necessary to accelerate housing delivery.

He said the initiative aligned with the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), which prioritises improved living standards, inclusive development and stronger communities.

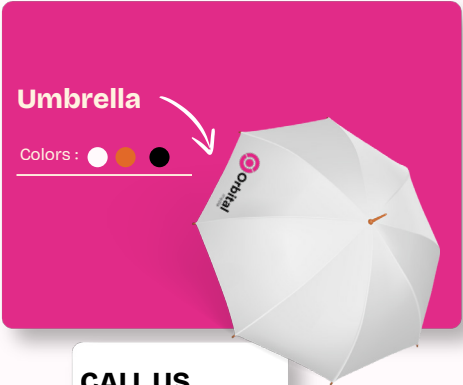
"Projects such as this speak directly

to the objectives of the Sixth National Development Plan, which seeks to improve the quality of life of Namibians through inclusive development, stronger communities and sustainable livelihoods," Shikongo said.

He added that cooperation between government, businesses and communities could help address housing shortages while improving living conditions for low-income families.

Iita said Standard Bank remained committed to supporting housing development through partnerships that mobilise resources and involve communities in construction.

The bank said the latest handover formed part of its continuing efforts to expand access to affordable housing and support national development priorities.





Namibia's FMD outbreaks in //Kharas, Zambezi not linked as 131 cases confirmed

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform has ruled out a direct epidemiological link between the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in the //Kharas and Zambezi regions, as confirmed cases in the Karasburg State Veterinary District have reached 131 across 18 farms.

In an update issued on Wednesday, the ministry said investigations had found no evidence connecting the two outbreaks, which were confirmed in //Kharas on 23 September and in Zambezi in October 2026.

The ministry said the Zambezi Region remained at high risk of FMD transmission due to the presence of buffalo populations

in protected areas and ongoing outbreaks in neighbouring countries.

“Based on the epidemiological investigations conducted to date, there is no evidence to suggest a direct epidemiological link between the FMD outbreak in the Zambezi Region and the outbreak in the //Kharas Region,” the ministry said.

In //Kharas, 131 animals have tested positive for FMD serotype SAT 1 across 18 farms, following veterinary inspections covering 63,011 animals.

The ministry said the outbreak remained confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District, where compulsory vaccination would be conducted in three rounds over three months.

In an update issued on Wednesday, the ministry said investigations had found no evidence connecting the two outbreaks, which were confirmed in //Kharas on 23 September and in Zambezi in October 2026.

Surveillance and livestock movement restrictions remain in force to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, more than 10,800 cattle have been vaccinated in the Zambezi Region as authorities intensify efforts to contain the outbreak confirmed at Kalala Island on 6 October.

According to the ministry, 2,942 cattle were vaccinated at Kalala Island between 7 and 9 October, while another 7,922 cattle received vaccinations at 11 crush pens on 12 and 13 October, bringing the total to 10,864 animals.

The ministry reported that no new clinical cases or additional lesions had been detected as of 13 October, following active surveillance during which six veterinary teams inspected 6,226 cattle at 17 crush pens.

However, authorities cautioned that the absence of new cases did not mean the virus had been eliminated.

A strategic vaccination campaign involving seven teams will continue until 21 October, while five additional roadblocks at Kongola, Selela, Luhonono, Bukalo and Nakabolelwa were scheduled to become operational on 14 October to strengthen livestock movement controls.

The ministry urged farmers and livestock owners to comply with movement restrictions and report suspected illegal movements of livestock, meat and meat products.

The outbreaks have prompted intensified veterinary surveillance and vaccination campaigns in both regions, with authorities seeking to prevent further transmission and protect Namibia's livestock industry.

The banner is a light blue-grey rectangle with a background of faint, stylized icons. It features a central QR code with a black border. To the left of the QR code is a blue circle with a white icon of a building and a bar chart, labeled 'Finance' above and 'Business' below. To the right of the QR code is a blue circle with a white WhatsApp icon, labeled 'for Daily Namibian News' below. On the far left, the text 'SCAN HERE' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it are social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, each followed by the handle '@thebrieflive'. At the bottom left, there is a red Adobe PDF icon with the text 'Daily PDF version sent via email'. On the right side, the text 'THE BRIEF' is in large, bold, blue letters, with 'News Worth Knowing' in smaller text below it. Below this, the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL' is in large, bold, blue letters. A curved blue line connects the 'Finance' icon to the QR code, and another curved blue line connects the QR code to the WhatsApp icon.

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