

BON FORECASTS

BoN forecasts 2.1% economic growth in 2026 amid FMD outbreak, rising fuel costs

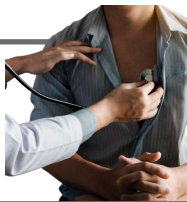
p. 08



TARIFF INCREASE

Namaf sets 4.67% benchmark tariff increase for 2027

p. 17



TRIBUTE

Tribute to Madam Penhupifo Pohamba

p. 27



THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



CoW overwhelmed by Windhoek's growing population

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026

MAIN STORY

CoW overwhelmed by Windhoek's growing population



... seeks government intervention

The City of Windhoek (CoW) has admitted that it is struggling to cope with an influx of approximately 12,000 new residents annually, warning that its limited financial resources can no longer keep pace with growing demand for housing, jobs and basic services.

City of Windhoek Chief Executive Officer

Crucial Dates

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

Moses Matyayi has appealed to central government for urgent financial support, saying the municipality cannot shoulder the growing cost of urbanisation alone as the capital’s population approaches 540,000.

“The city grows at about 12,000 residents that come to Windhoek and stay every year,” Matyayi told members of a parliamentary committee.

The rapid population increase has placed the municipality under growing pressure to expand housing, roads, water, sanitation and other essential infrastructure, while its revenue base remains largely dependent on approximately 70,000 ratepayers.

“Managing a local authority at this level has about 70,000 residents who are ratepayers. These are the ones who actually make up the budget that we speak about,” Matyayi said.

He warned that the widening gap between population growth and the municipality’s ability to finance infrastructure was making it increasingly difficult to meet residents’ needs.

According to Matyayi, Windhoek’s population has more than doubled over the past two decades, rising from just over 200,000 to an estimated 540,000 residents.

The Namibia Statistics Agency’s 2023 population figures placed Windhoek’s population at approximately 486,000, while the municipality’s projections indicate continued annual growth of between 3.3% and 3.6%.

This means the city must accommodate thousands of additional residents every year while simultaneously addressing existing infrastructure and service delivery demands.

Matyayi said the scale of the challenge had outgrown the municipality’s financial capacity, particularly when it came to social

investments that do not generate sufficient revenue to recover their costs.

He called on central government to provide additional funding to help the municipality expand infrastructure and deliver essential services to rapidly growing communities.

The financial pressure comes as the municipality operates on an annual budget of approximately N\$6 billion, against an asset base valued at N\$30 billion.

Of the N\$6 billion budget for the 2025/26 financial year, only about N\$1 billion was allocated to capital development projects, leaving the municipality with limited resources to expand infrastructure amid rising demand. The city’s financial position has also come under strain, with the municipality recording a deficit of approximately N\$221 million in 2025 after accounting for depreciation, compared with a reported surplus of N\$66 million in 2024.

19  19

LEISURE

MIDGARD OTJIHAVERA WINDHOEK



Two year-end experiences.
One magical destination.

Choose an outdoor day of great food, games and connection, or treat them to a gala dinner under the stars and an overnight stay.

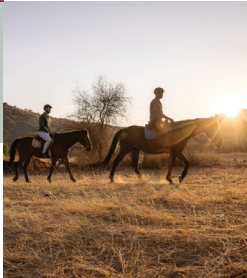
Both experiences include:

- Private bowling
- Private tennis

Confirm your booking before
31 October 2026 for **complimentary venue hire and welcoming drink**.

REWARD
YOUR TEAM

AT MIDGARD





BOOK YOUR
YEAR-END
CELEBRATION
Sales@ol.na
+264 61 431 8111
ol-leisure.com

Ts & Cs apply

Although liquidity has improved, Matyayi acknowledged that maintaining financial sustainability remains a major challenge.

The situation is particularly pressing in Windhoek's informal settlements, where rapid population growth continues to increase demand for land, housing, water, sanitation and other basic services.

Matyayi disclosed that the municipality had issued approximately 29,000 occupation certificates to informal settlement residents in an effort to improve tenure security and facilitate future development. The city is also considering introducing a N\$100 charge linked to occupation certificates, with the revenue intended to support infrastructure investment in informal settlements.

However, Matyayi indicated that such measures would not be enough to close the

growing infrastructure financing gap.

He maintained that central government intervention was necessary to help local authorities fund essential social infrastructure that could not be financed sustainably through municipal revenue alone.

Matyayi warned that the municipality could no longer operate under the same financial and administrative conditions that existed a decade or two ago, given the sharp increase in population and the scale of its responsibilities.

The appeal highlights the growing financial burden facing Windhoek, where a relatively small ratepayer base is expected to sustain municipal services for a population exceeding half a million people, while thousands more continue to settle in the capital each year.



Standard Bank

"My dream car is..."

Everyone's answer is different: Some start with the colour, others start with the brand, and some just say "as long as I own my own set of wheels, I am fine."

Our **VAF summer special**, running until **31 January 2027**, wants to turn your dream car into your reality car:

-  Prime less 0.50% on all new and used vehicles
-  3-month payment holiday on vehicle instalment
-  3-month payment holiday on insurance
-  Up to 35% RV on New vehicles

And when your dream car becomes your reality car, there's the matter of keeping it covered, too.

Our insurance offering includes:

-  No motor excess*
-  Flat excess from **N\$2,500**
-  1x premium cashback for claim-free clients aged 18–30

So, what's your dream car?

standardbank.com.na

Ts & Cs Apply



BoN hikes repo rate to 7%, pushing prime lending rate to 10.5%

The Bank of Namibia has increased the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.00%, pushing the prime lending rate to 10.50%, in a move expected to raise borrowing costs for households and businesses amid mounting inflationary pressures.

The decision, announced on Wednesday, follows the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) fifth meeting of the year, held on 26 and 27 October, during which members unanimously agreed to tighten monetary policy to protect the Namibia Dollar's peg to the South African Rand.

Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta said the decision was necessary to contain inflationary pressures caused by rising fuel prices and reduce the interest rate gap between Namibia and South

Africa. "This policy stance is deemed appropriate to safeguard the one-to-one link between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand and mitigate against second-round effects induced by high fuel prices," Uanguta said.

He added that the central bank had considered "the need to reduce the interest rate gap between Namibia and the anchor country to stem potential capital outflows and safeguard the stock of international reserves."

The latest adjustment means borrowers with variable-rate home loans, vehicle finance and other credit facilities linked to the prime lending rate could face higher monthly repayments.

The decision comes as Namibia's annual inflation rate accelerated to 5.4%

Inflationary pressures have persisted domestically, thereby disrupting the disinflation trend observed up to March this year.

in September 2026, up one percentage point from June, largely driven by rising transport costs. "Inflationary pressures have persisted domestically, thereby

disrupting the disinflation trend observed up to March this year," Uanguta said in the monetary policy statement.

The central bank has revised its inflation forecast upwards, projecting average inflation of 4.2% in 2026 compared with 3.5% in 2025, before easing slightly to 4.0% in 2027.

The revised projections represent increases of 0.2 percentage points for 2026 and 0.1 percentage points for 2027, reflecting expectations that elevated global energy prices will persist.

According to Uanguta, Brent crude oil prices recently surged to approximately US\$116 per barrel, their highest level in more than six months, as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East disrupted energy markets.

"Crude oil prices surged above US\$100 per barrel most recently, mainly due to elevated tensions in the Middle East," he said.

The higher oil prices are expected to continue placing pressure on domestic transport costs and consumer prices.

JOB PURPOSE

To lead the company's tendering and business development function: identify strategic opportunities, manage competitive bids and build sustainable client relationships, particularly in the government, defence and security sectors.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 01 Identify and track tender and business opportunities in the public and private sectors, including the Central Procurement Board of Namibia, ministries, state-owned enterprises and regional bodies.
- 02 Lead the full bid process: reading and analysing tender documents, preparing technical and financial proposals, ensuring compliance and meeting every submission deadline.
- 03 Manage supplier and partner engagement for quotations, pricing, specifications and local and international partnerships.
- 04 Build and maintain client relationships, and represent the company in meetings, site visits and briefing sessions.
- 05 Keep the tender register, compliance documents and company registrations current, including tax and social security good standing, BIPA and procurement portal registrations.
- 06 Supervise, guide and develop the Principal Dealer.
- 07 Report regularly to the Directors on the pipeline, bids submitted, outcomes and lessons learned.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Degree or diploma in Business, Procurement, Supply Chain or Commerce
- 5 years' tender or business development experience, including 2 years in a supervisory role
- Knowledge of the Public Procurement Act, 2015
- Excellent proposal writing and negotiation skills
- Namibian citizen with a valid driver's licence, able to undergo security screening

HITO HR Recruitment managed by HITO HR & Training Consultants · Enquiries: Hilma Simon, +264 81 729 9625 · Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CLOSING DATE

6 November 2026

Full details and online application

psinvestments.com.na/vacancies



... as double social grant payments are scrapped

The Namibian government spends approximately N\$633 million monthly on social grants, with expenditure estimated at N\$7.3 billion for the 2026/27 financial year, as it continues to provide financial assistance to older persons, children and vulnerable citizens.

Ministry of Finance Chief Public Relations Officer Wilson Shikoto said the expenditure covers several social assistance programmes aimed at supporting qualifying beneficiaries across the country. "The expenditure covers old-age pensions, disability grants for children and adults, vulnerable grants, foster care grants and maintenance grants," Shikoto said. The ministry has meanwhile announced changes to the social grant payment schedule, with all beneficiaries set to receive monthly payments from November 2026.

The revised arrangement will end the practice of making double payments to certain beneficiaries in November and January. Under the new system, beneficiaries who previously received their November and

December grants together in November will instead receive separate payments in the respective months.

Similarly, recipients of children's grants who previously received double payments in January will now receive their grants separately each month.

Shikoto said the Ministry of Finance was working closely with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to ensure that the changes were implemented without disrupting payments to beneficiaries.

He explained that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare remains responsible for receiving grant applications and conducting the attestation process, while the Ministry of Finance handles payments to approved beneficiaries.

The grants are disbursed through NamPost and commercial banks.

The revised payment arrangement changes the timing of disbursements but does not alter the monthly grant entitlements of qualifying beneficiaries.



BoN forecasts 2.1% economic growth in 2026 amid FMD outbreak, rising fuel costs

The Bank of Namibia has warned that the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak and weakening global economic conditions pose significant risks to Namibia's economic recovery, with growth projected at just 2.1% in 2026 before improving to 2.8% in 2027.

Bank of Namibia Governor Ebson Uanguta said the domestic economy was expected to remain under pressure despite projections showing a modest recovery from the 1.7% growth recorded in 2025.

"The Namibian economy is expected to remain under pressure as previously identified risks materialised, specifically the

outbreak of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)," Uanguta said in the central bank's monetary policy statement released on Wednesday.

He said the anticipated recovery would largely depend on improved performance in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, although subdued global growth and potential El Niño weather conditions could undermine economic activity.

The warning comes as Namibia's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to N\$33.5 billion during the first eight months of 2026, compared with N\$17.8 billion over the corresponding period in 2025.

The deterioration was driven by a surge in imports, particularly mineral fuels, as rising international energy prices increased the country's import bill.

According to Uanguta, continued geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and disruptions to global energy supplies are expected to place further pressure on Namibia's trade balance.

Meanwhile, private sector credit extension increased by 5.4% year-on-year in August 2026, reflecting stronger borrowing by households and businesses.

However, the central bank noted that average credit growth during the first eight months of 2026 remained below levels recorded during the corresponding period last year, pointing to continued weakness in overall credit demand.

Despite the widening trade deficit and subdued economic outlook, Namibia's international reserves increased to N\$59.3

billion at the end of September 2026, compared with N\$58 billion at the end of July.

"The rise was mainly ascribed to monetary gold reserve holdings and customer foreign currency placements," Uanguta said.

He said the country's foreign reserves remained adequate to maintain the Namibia Dollar's one-to-one peg to the South African Rand and meet international financial obligations.

The reserves currently provide an estimated 3.6 months of import cover.

The economic outlook was presented as the Bank of Namibia increased its repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.00%, pushing the prime lending rate to 10.50%, amid rising inflationary pressures and concerns over potential capital outflows.

The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to meet again on 7 and 8 December 2026.



Conversation with Dennis de Wet,
Founder of Slowtown Coffee Roasters

THE STORY OF SLOWTOWN: 15 YEARS ON

COMING SOON

Keeping the grid in public hands: The case against privatising Namibia's electricity transmission and distribution

By Lot Ndamanomhata

In October 2026 the Minister of Mines and Energy, Modestus Amutse, told the National Assembly that government will not privatise Namibia's electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure. This paper argues that the position is sound.

Transmission and distribution are natural monopolies; whoever owns them controls who may connect, at what price and by which route. Public ownership allows tariffs to be regulated, protects a strategic national asset and keeps grid capacity aligned with generation.

The paper also argues that retaining the network is not an argument against private investment or against reform.

The cheapest route to lower energy costs is to expand low-cost renewable generation, storage and regional interconnection on a publicly controlled grid. NamPower's current project pipeline and the Namibia–Angola Baynes Hydropower Project show how that can be done.

Electricity is the input to every other economic activity: mining, fishing, agriculture, manufacturing, water pumping and the digital economy. How a country owns and governs the wires that carry electricity therefore shapes the cost of living and the cost of doing business.

Addressing the National Assembly, Minister Amutse stated that government must retain control over the network in order to regulate tariffs, protect national security and ensure that transmission capacity is



Electricity is the input to every other economic activity: mining, fishing, agriculture, manufacturing, water pumping and the digital economy.

aligned with electricity generation (The Brief, 15 October 2026).

He described electricity as a national security asset and warned that if it were left entirely in private hands, prices could become expensive and “uncontrollable”, including in decisions on distribution routes.

This article does three things. It explains the economic and strategic reasoning behind the minister's position. It shows that retaining public control is compatible with, and in fact enables, private investment in new generation and the Electricity Control Board's (ECB) regulatory work.

And it sets out how alternative energy can bring electricity costs down, drawing on NamPower's 30-year institutional record, its present projects and the Baynes partnership with Angola.

2. Why the Network Is Different from Generation

Electricity supply has three stages: generation, transmission (high-voltage lines moving power over long distances)

and distribution (lower-voltage delivery to towns, farms and households).

Economists generally treat the first as potentially competitive and the latter two as natural monopolies. Building a second, parallel national grid next to the first would be wasteful, so one network serves everybody.

That has a practical consequence. A generator, however efficient, has no value unless it can reach customers.

The grid owner therefore holds a gatekeeping position. Where the gatekeeper is a private, profit-seeking entity, it can set connection terms, charge access fees and decide which routes to build.

Without very strong regulation, that power can be used to extract monopoly rents. Where the gatekeeper is a public utility accountable to Parliament and a regulator, the same power can be directed at national objectives such as affordability and universal access.

The minister's concern about tariffs follows directly from this logic. Tariffs are informed by production costs, and he warned that private control would make prices harder to regulate (The Brief, 2026).

3.Three Arguments for Public Control

3.1 Tariff regulation and affordability

A private network owner must earn a return for shareholders. In a small market of roughly three million people spread over a vast territory, much of the network serves sparsely populated areas where costs per customer are high and revenues low.

Private operators have an incentive to prioritise profitable corridors and large industrial users. A public utility can cross-subsidise rural connection, which is why Namibia's rural electrification programme matters.

The Ministry reported that 1,956

households were connected through an investment of N\$75.5 million in the 2024/25 financial year, and that the programme targets schools, public institutions and households with a N\$308.5 million investment (Kangumine, 15 April 2025).

Programmes of this kind are driven by development objectives, not by commercial returns, and are hard to sustain on a purely private model.

3.2 National security and resilience

A national grid is critical infrastructure. It supports hospitals, water supply, defence, communications and the mines that earn foreign exchange. Control over how the grid is operated, where it is extended and who can connect is a sovereign responsibility.

This is the sense in which the minister calls electricity a security asset. Foreign or concentrated private ownership of the system's backbone would make decisions about outages, priorities and expansion subject to commercial or external considerations.

3.3 Aligning transmission with generation

The minister also stressed that carriage capacity has to be aligned with energy production (The Brief, 2026). This is a system-planning point. Generation built in the wrong place, or without lines to carry it, is stranded. Lines built without generation sit idle.

A single planner with a national view can sequence new power plants, substations and interconnectors together. Fragmented ownership makes that coordination harder and more costly.

4.The ECB, BW Kudu and the Independent Transmission Company Framework

Public control of the grid does not mean closing the door on private capital. The ECB's handling of the BW Kudu application

illustrates a careful middle path.

BW Kudu applied for a transmission licence to build a 400 kV line connecting its proposed 420 MW gas-to-power plant near Lüderitz to NamPower's Obib substation. NamPower, which currently holds the transmission monopoly, objected after the ECB advertised the application in May 2024, and a public hearing followed.

ECB Chief Executive Robert Kahimise has said the board recommended to the minister that the proposed investment was justified. The minister nevertheless determined that the application should remain pending until a regulatory framework for private participation in transmission exists (The Brief, 2026).

The ECB has since begun developing an Independent Transmission Company (ITC) framework and issued a request for proposals for consultancy services in August 2026.

The framework is expected to define the conditions under which private investors may build and operate transmission infrastructure and how such networks connect to NamPower's grid.

Kahimise has noted that the issue is increasingly important because private investors are pursuing large generation projects that need substantial transmission capacity.

The minister's remarks that the ECB is a regulator that can look at different forms of regulating, and that government and the ECB are working to avoid diluting the government's position on public control, show that regulation and ownership are being deliberately reconciled (The Brief, 2026).

The sound sequence is rules first, licences second. Approving individual private lines before a framework exists would set precedents by accident. A framework can

specify tariff-setting, open access, technical standards and, if needed, handover or step-in rights, so that any private line operates within the national system and not outside it.

5. Cheaper Energy Through Alternative Sources

The strongest answer to concerns about electricity prices is not a change of ownership but a change of generation mix. Namibia has among the best solar resources in the world and substantial wind potential, and the cost of solar and battery storage has fallen sharply over the past decade.

Domestic renewable generation reduces dependence on imports, which expose consumers to foreign price changes and supply shortfalls. Baynes is expected to reduce reliance on imported electricity from neighbouring countries (Ndamanomhata, 2025).

NamPower's Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP 2026–2030) sets targets of 80% self-sufficiency and 70% renewable energy by 2030. The utility's pipeline includes:

- **Generation:** the 100 MW Sores|Gaib solar PV station near Rosh Pinah (groundbreaking 19 June 2025, N\$1.6 billion, planned completion in Q4 2026, battery-storage ready); the 80 MW Omburu Solar PV II; and the 40 MW Otjikoto biomass station at Tsumeb, described as the country's first of its kind and designed to provide consistent baseload renewable power.

- **Storage:** a 54 MW battery energy storage system at Omaruru (listed on NamPower's project page as the 51 MW/51 MWh Omburu BESS) and a 45 MW/90 MWh Lithops BESS. Storage lets midday solar be used in the evening peak and reduces reliance on costly imports and peaking plant. The two project descriptions differ in capacity figures, and readers should confirm the final specification with NamPower.

- **Transmission:** the 400 kV Obib–Oranjemond interconnector (about N\$1.2 billion), the 400 kV Auas–Kokerboom line (expected in the second half of 2028), the Khomas 220/66 kV substation (N\$340 million, co-funded with the City of Windhoek), the Erongo 220/66 kV substation (N\$170 million with Erongo RED), the Otjikoto–Masivi 220 kV line, the Otjikoto–Omatando 400 kV line and the Angola–Namibia (ANNA) interconnection. (Sources: NamPower Projects page; ISBP 2026–2030 summary.)

Three cost mechanisms are at work. First, solar and wind have no fuel costs, so once built they cap the portion of tariffs that depends on fuel or imports. Second, storage and biomass firm up variable renewable supply, reducing the need for expensive emergency power.

Third, interconnectors let Namibia export surplus and import when it is cheaper to do so, a benefit that depends on a strong, nationally planned grid.

There is also a role for private capital here. Independent power producers can finance generation, and households and businesses can install rooftop solar.

The point is that these contributions are most valuable when connected to a grid whose rules protect the public interest.

6. NamPower at 30: Institutional Record

NamPower is celebrating 30 years of operation as a corporatised national utility. Its story is one of building the backbone of the national economy: a transmission network spanning the country, the Ruacana hydropower station on the Kunene River, links to the Southern African Power Pool and, now, a shift towards solar, storage and biomass.

Its project list shows an institution that is investing for the next generation, not

only maintaining legacy assets. Co-funding arrangements with the City of Windhoek and Erongo RED also show a model of public partnership at local level.

An important lesson is that a publicly owned utility can deliver modernisation while remaining answerable. The 30-year milestone is a reasonable moment to ask NamPower to match its record with transparent performance reporting on losses, reliability and cost per unit, so that public ownership keeps earning public trust.

7. Namibia and Angola: Baynes as a Public-Partnership Model

The Baynes Hydropower Project is the largest example of cross-border public cooperation in Namibia’s energy sector. Namibia and Angola signed the Baynes Implementation Agreement on 18 November 2024.

The 600 MW station on the Kunene River will share output equally, with 300 MW to each country, at an estimated cost of N\$22 billion (about US\$1.2–1.3 billion, depending on the source) over a six-year construction period. Financial close was targeted for the end of 2026, with dam construction to start in the first quarter of 2027 (Ndamanomhata, 2025; Kangumine, 2025).

Several features support the public-control thesis. Namibia has chosen a public funding model for the hydropower station and the regulating dam, with the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises mobilising funds.

A Binational Implementation Unit and a Joint Project Office will coordinate with the Permanent Joint Technical Commission on the Cunene Basin. NamPower will integrate the generated energy into the national grid, and the ANNA interconnection will link Angola to the Southern African Power Pool.

The regulating dam also strengthens bulk water supply in the arid north, which shows the multi-purpose value of publicly

directed infrastructure that a purely commercial investor might not prioritise (Ndamanomhata, 2025).

Hydropower is also low-cost power once built, with long asset lives and no fuel expense. Delivering 300 MW into the grid would materially reduce import dependence and stabilise long-term tariffs.

The risks need attention: funding delays, environmental concerns and cross-border coordination were all identified as challenges. Sources also differ on completion timing; one commentary refers to 2031, while a six-year build from a 2027 start implies a later date, so timelines should be monitored against official updates.

8. Policy Recommendations

1. Keep transmission and distribution under public control, as the minister has affirmed, and entrench it in law and licensing conditions.

2. Complete the ECB's ITC framework before any private transmission licence is granted, with mandatory open access, tariff oversight, technical compliance with the national grid code and clear connection to NamPower's network.

3. Accelerate renewables and storage by fast-tracking the Sores/Gaib, Omburu, Otjikoto and BESS projects and encouraging independent power producers to sell power through transparent, competitively priced procurement.

4. Make Baynes a financing and delivery priority and publish regular progress and cost reports.

5. Pass the savings on. Report how each new renewable project changes the cost of supply and ensures ECB tariff determinations reflect those reductions.

6. Invest in demand-side measures such as rooftop solar, efficiency and rural mini-grids, so households and small enterprises benefit directly.

9. Counterarguments and Limits

The case for public ownership is not without critics. Advocates of private participation argue that state utilities can be slow, indebted or inefficient, that private capital can fund grid expansion the state cannot afford, and that competition can lower costs. These concerns are real: NamPower's capital programme is large, and public financing is finite.

The evidence from other countries is mixed. Some unbundled or privatised systems have delivered efficiency gains; others have produced higher tariffs and weaker investment in rural areas. The ECB's ITC framework is, in effect, an attempt to capture the benefits of private capital without surrendering control, and its design will determine whether that balance works.

This paper's position is that, given Namibia's size, geography and development objectives, retaining public ownership of the network while opening generation to private and renewable investment carries the lower risk.

10. Conclusion

Minister Amutse's decision rests on sound reasoning: a national grid is a natural monopoly, a strategic asset and the platform on which cheaper energy depends. Namibia's route to lower electricity costs runs through solar, wind, biomass, storage, interconnection and hydropower, built on a grid that remains accountable to the public. With NamPower marking 30 years, a strong project pipeline and the Baynes partnership with Angola, the foundations are in place. The task now is disciplined delivery and transparent regulation.

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



Namibia vaccinates over 61,000 cattle against FMD

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform has vaccinated 61,315 cattle against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the //Kharas and Zambezi regions as authorities intensify efforts to contain outbreaks and prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of the country.

According to the ministry's latest update, 7,402 cattle have been vaccinated across 81 farms in the //Kharas Region, while 53,913 cattle have received vaccinations at 37 crush pens in the Zambezi Region.

In the //Kharas Region, where FMD serotype SAT 1 was confirmed on 23 September 2026, the outbreak has affected

18 farms, with 131 positive cases recorded.

The ministry said the outbreak remains confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District, where 19 vaccination teams have been deployed to vaccinate approximately 13,000 cattle.

"The FMD vaccination campaign commenced on 17 October 2026 in the //Kharas Region, with 19 vaccination teams deployed to vaccinate approximately 13,000 heads of cattle. As of 28 October 2026, 7,402 cattle had been vaccinated across 81 farms," the ministry said.

"The vaccination campaign will target all farms and establishments situated south of the B3 road (Ariamsvlei to Grünau) and

the C10 road leading to Ai-Ais, extending southwards to the Orange River. The target area will also include a buffer band of two farms north of the B3 road.”

Meanwhile, in the Zambezi Region, where FMD was confirmed on Kalala Island on 6 October, vaccination teams have covered 37 crush pens within a 30-kilometre radius of the affected area.

The ministry reported that no new cases had been detected outside the designated Disease Management Area, with the outbreak remaining confined to Kalala Island.

“The outbreak remains confined to Kalala Island in the Zambezi Region, with active surveillance ongoing to monitor the disease situation and detect any potential spread,” the ministry said.

Authorities have also maintained livestock movement restrictions and veterinary checkpoints to prevent the disease from spreading beyond the affected areas.

A total of 18 stationary roadblocks and veterinary checkpoints remain operational across the //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas and Otjozondjupa regions.

“The roadblocks at Luhonono and Nakabolelwa are operational and jointly manned by DVS officials and the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) to enforce livestock movement restrictions,” the ministry said.

Veterinary officials continue to conduct disease surveillance, trace livestock movements and monitor farms within the affected areas.

The ministry further clarified that certain processed meat products, including commercially produced cooked meat, biltong and dried sausages from registered facilities, may still be transported and traded, provided they comply with applicable veterinary requirements.

The vaccination campaigns and movement restrictions form part of the government's efforts to contain the outbreaks and protect Namibia's livestock industry from further disruptions.

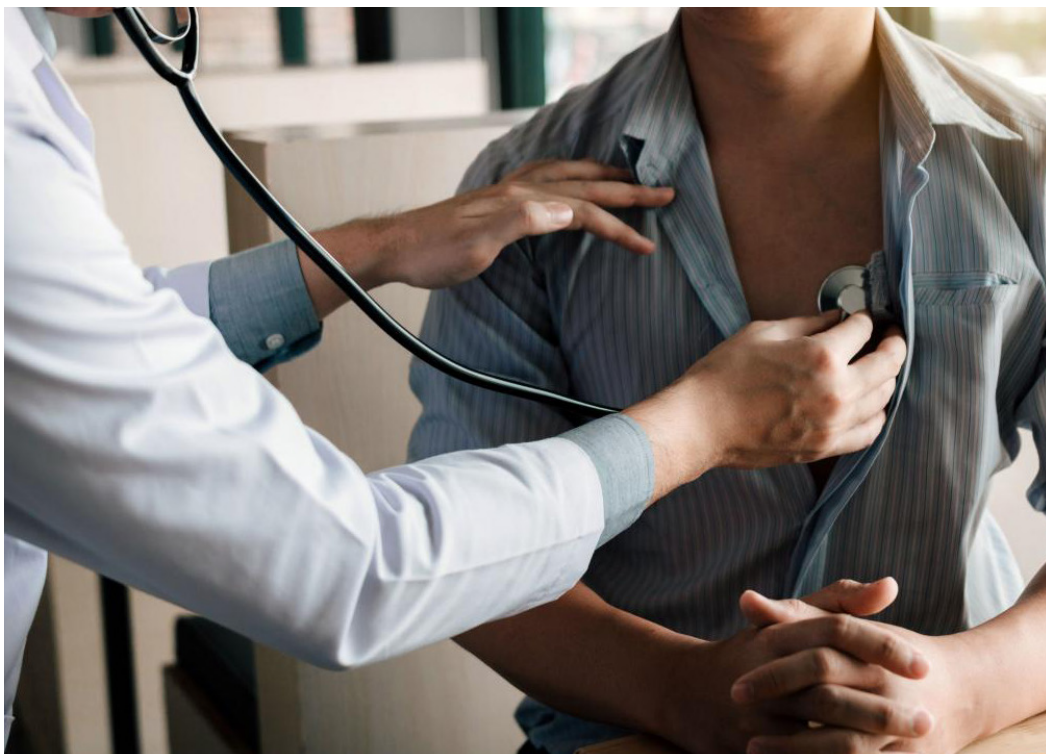


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Electricity Control Board (ECB) in accordance with Public Procurement Act (Act 15 of 2025). As amended, section 42 hereby invites qualified, competent and registered Suppliers / Service providers to submit bids for the following procurement.

Procurement Reference:	SC/RP/ECB-02/2026/2027
Bid description:	The Review of the Namibia Electricity Supply Industry Distribution Infrastructure Standards
Procurement Category:	Lump - sum consultancy contract Maximum duration 6 months
RFP Issue Date:	Tuesday, 15 September 2026
Clarification Deadline:	Friday, 25 September 2026 at 12:00
Proposal Closing:	Thursday, 05 November 2026 at 11:00
Technical Opening:	Thursday, 05 November 2026 at 11:15
Proposal Validity:	90 calendar days from the closing date
Tender fee / bid security:	None
Bid Documents Availability:	The documents for this bid can be requested on email at procure@ecb.org.na
Two-Envelope Submission:	The Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal must be sealed separately and placed in one sealed outer envelope. The Technical Proposal must contain no price information.

All requests for information of any kind relating to this RFP should be channelled in writing to:
Mrs. Melissa Kahimise procure@ecb.org.na or tel: +264 61 374 300



Namaf sets 4.67% benchmark tariff increase for 2027

The Namibia Association of Medical Aid Funds (Namaf) has announced a 4.67% weighted average increase in benchmark tariffs for 2027, a move that could affect medical aid reimbursements and out-of-pocket healthcare costs for members.

According to Namaf, the adjustment, announced on 27 October 2026, follows a review of submissions from healthcare providers and professional associations as part of the annual Coding and Benchmark Tariff Review process.

The benchmark tariffs serve as reference

rates used in Namibia's private healthcare funding industry to guide payments for medical services.

The 4.67% increase means that, on average, the benchmark amounts for healthcare services will rise by 4.67% in 2027. For example, a medical procedure with a benchmark tariff of N\$1,000 would increase to approximately N\$1,046.70 if the full adjustment applied to that service.

However, the increase does not automatically mean that medical aid monthly contributions will rise by 4.67%, nor does it guarantee that medical aid

funds will reimburse healthcare providers at the revised benchmark rates.

The actual financial impact on members will depend on individual medical aid fund rules, benefit structures, reimbursement arrangements and the fees charged by healthcare providers.

Namaf Stakeholder Relationship and Communication Manager Uatavi Mbai said the adjustment was intended to balance rising healthcare costs against the financial pressures facing medical aid members, employers and medical aid funds.

“The benchmark tariff review requires us to consider several realities at once: the cost of providing quality healthcare, the affordability of medical aid cover, the sustainability of medical aid funds and the broader economic environment in which our industry operates. The 4.67% weighted average increase reflects our considered approach to balancing these competing but interconnected priorities,” Mbai said.

According to Namaf, healthcare providers continue to face rising operating expenses, including staff remuneration, medical consumables, equipment, professional indemnity and other essential costs.

At the same time, medical aid members and employers are experiencing cost-of-living pressures that could affect their ability to maintain medical aid cover.

The association said medical aid funds must also remain financially sustainable while meeting their obligations to members and complying with regulatory requirements.

The 2027 review attracted a significant number of submissions from healthcare providers and professional associations following a stakeholder engagement campaign.

Namaf said the submissions were assessed against established criteria,

including supporting cost data, clinical considerations and the potential financial implications for medical aid funds and their members.

The association stressed that benchmark tariffs should not be interpreted as fixed prices or guaranteed reimbursement amounts.

“A benchmark tariff serves as a reference point to promote consistency in the private healthcare funding industry. It is not a guarantee of reimbursement at a particular rate, nor does it replace the need for responsible engagement between the parties,” Namaf said.

This means healthcare providers may charge fees above the benchmark tariff, potentially leaving medical aid members responsible for paying the difference where their medical aid funds do not cover the full amount.

Similarly, medical aid funds may apply reimbursement rates based on their own rules and arrangements, meaning the revised benchmark tariffs will not necessarily translate into identical increases across all medical aid schemes.

Namaf has called on healthcare providers to maintain accurate billing and coding practices, while urging medical aid funds and administrators to ensure timely claims processing and protect members' interests.

The association said it would continue working with industry stakeholders to improve the transparency of tariff reviews, strengthen the use of industry data and address fraud, waste and abuse within the private healthcare funding system.

The new benchmark tariffs are intended to apply in 2027, although Namaf's announcement did not specify how individual medical aid funds would adjust their reimbursement rates or monthly contributions.

The interview panel can make or break your recruitment process

By Lisa Matomola

Organisations spend a great deal of energy attracting candidates, advertising vacancies and shortlisting applicants. Far less attention goes to the people who make the final call: the interview panel. That is a mistake.

An excellent strategy and a strong pool of applicants can still be lost in an interview room that is poorly prepared, disorganised or biased.

Through my work in executive recruitment, I have learned that the quality of the panel shapes the quality of the appointment. A good process does not happen by accident. It takes preparation and sound judgement.

Know the weight of the decision

Appointing a Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer is not about filling a vacancy. It is about choosing someone who may steward substantial resources, lead hundreds of employees and shape culture for years.

The strongest panels understand this. They do not treat interviews as a chore. Before the first interview, they can answer one question: what kind of leader does this organisation need, not only today, but five years from now? Without that answer, panels default to qualifications and impressive career histories.

Prepare, because candidates do

Candidates usually arrive thoroughly prepared. It is only fair that the panel puts



“

Through my work in executive recruitment, I have learned that the quality of the panel shapes the quality of the appointment.

in the same effort.

A prepared panel knows the job description and assessment criteria. Members have read the applications, agreed on the competencies to be assessed and know what a strong, average and weak answer looks like.

For executive roles, I strongly advocate structured, competency-based and scenario-based interviews. Instead of asking a candidate to describe their leadership style, ask how they handled a high-performing but disruptive senior manager. That reveals judgement and maturity in a way a rehearsed answer cannot.

An unprepared panel does more than weaken the assessment. It says something about the organisation's professionalism.

Efficiency is not rushing

An efficient panel is not one that finishes quickly. It is organised, consistent and respectful of everyone's time. When a panel starts late, overruns, or leaves candidates waiting without a word, it creates an

impression of disorganisation. Many senior candidates take leave, travel long distances and rearrange demanding schedules to be there. Respecting their time is part of respecting their professional standing. But efficiency must never come at the expense of fairness or thoroughness.

The panel is being interviewed too

Candidates are assessing the organisation too. They notice when panel members interrupt one another, contradict each other or seem unfamiliar with the role. From these small signals, they draw conclusions about leadership culture and governance.

A disorganised panel can lose an excellent candidate before an offer is made. The interview room is an extension of your employer brand.

Fairness means evidence, not impressions

Panel members must apply consistent criteria and separate evidence from personal impression. An impressive personality does not automatically mean effective leadership, and a less polished candidate may have exceptional strategic insight.

Members should score candidates independently before deliberating. This limits groupthink, where people drift towards the most dominant voice in the room.

Conflicts of interest must also be declared. In a small professional community like Namibia, panel members will often know candidates. Knowing someone is not automatically a conflict. But any relationship that could compromise, or reasonably appear to compromise, impartiality must be disclosed and assessed.

Probe, but do not interrogate

The most revealing moments in an executive interview come in the follow-up questions. A candidate describes an impressive transformation. A skilled panel asks: what was your specific contribution? What resistance did you meet? What would you do differently?

But panels must challenge without intimidating or embarrassing. An interview is not an interrogation. The purpose is not to prove that the panel knows more than the candidate. It is to establish whether the candidate can

succeed in the role.

Get the composition and the deliberation right

Panel membership should not be decided by seniority or availability alone. Choose people whose expertise matches the role, then be clear about who does what. The chairperson manages the process and stops any one voice from dominating. The HR representative or facilitator safeguards consistency and documentation.

The interview does not end when the candidate leaves the room. That is when the most important stage begins. "I liked this candidate" or "I think they will fit in" is not enough. Members must link their views to specific evidence against the criteria. Disagreement is healthy when it is grounded in evidence. Ultimately, the panel must defend its recommendation with documented facts, not personal preference.

Why this matters

Even unsuccessful candidates should leave feeling treated with dignity. They may become future applicants, partners or advocates. Candidates may forget the questions they were asked, but they rarely forget how they were treated.

For organisations, a poor executive appointment is costly: low morale, leadership instability, reputational damage and the expense of starting again. A well-run process supports

merit-based appointments and leaves a clear audit trail, which matters in publicly accountable environments. Interview panels belong within an organisation's governance and risk framework, not in the administrative corner.

Train your panels

Seniority does not make someone a good interviewer. Panel members need to understand competency-based interviewing, unconscious bias, evidence-based scoring and how to document a decision. Having sat on several panels does not mean someone has mastered assessment. Interviewing is a professional skill, and like any other skill, it needs development.

A final reflection

We spend considerable time assessing whether candidates are ready for the job. Perhaps we should spend equal time asking whether our interview panels are ready to assess them. In the end, the quality of the people we appoint is shaped by the quality of the people making the decision.

** Lisa Matomola is the Founder and Managing Consultant of HITO HR & Training Consultants and CEO of the Institute of People Management (IPM) of Namibia. She specialises in executive recruitment, HR consulting and organisational development.*



WALL BANNERS



TABLE CLOTHS



OUTDOOR DISPLAY



CALL US TODAY

+264 81 434 3154

orbitalmedianam@gmail.com



Windhoek targets to create 55,200 jobs through 24 new informal markets

... N\$8.8m Central Hospital Market and Taxi Rank to accommodate 50 traders

The City of Windhoek plans to develop 24 additional informal markets with the potential to create 55,200 direct and indirect employment opportunities, as the municipality seeks to expand trading infrastructure and support small businesses in the capital.

The proposed developments are expected to accommodate 1,320 additional traders, with the municipality projecting 11,000 direct jobs and 44,200 indirect employment opportunities.

City of Windhoek Chief Executive Officer Moses Matyayi revealed the plans during a briefing to two National Assembly standing committees, outlining the municipality's strategy to expand economic participation through improved informal trading facilities.

"The strategy identifies 24 additional markets that could accommodate 1,320 traders," Matyayi said.

The projected employment opportunities

are dependent on the implementation of the planned developments and have not yet materialised.

Windhoek currently has 18 formal markets accommodating approximately 1,430 registered traders, with demand for trading space continuing to grow.

Among the planned developments is the N\$8.8 million Central Hospital Market and Taxi Rank, which will accommodate 50 traders. Construction is expected to begin following the site's handover in October.

The municipality is also developing a N\$4.7 million market at Erf 7203, opposite Shoprite, with capacity for 46 traders.

The project has secured N\$3.2 million in funding from Debmarine Namibia, while the site has already been handed over to a contractor. Completion is expected by December 2026.

Another development is the N\$15 million Truckport/Woodcarvers Market, where

market designs have been completed and access road designs are underway.

In Havana, the municipality plans to develop a market accommodating approximately 350 traders as it works to relocate informal businesses operating near the four-way stop to allow completion of the Aneas Peter Nanyemba Road.

The number of traders in the area has increased from the initial provision for 88 to approximately 350, highlighting growing demand for designated trading facilities.

“The city is continuing with the relocation of the remaining informal traders to facilitate the completion of the Aneas Peter Nanyemba Road,” the municipality said.

Other projects include the redevelopment of Tukonjani Market at an estimated N\$3.5 million and the refurbishment of Herero Mall in Katutura Central at a projected cost of N\$25 million.

The municipality also operates four industrial trading facilities in northern and southern Windhoek, accommodating approximately 120 registered traders, while the Bokamoso Business Incubation Centre supports around 37 entrepreneurs.

In addition to expanding market infrastructure, the city trained approximately 220 entrepreneurs during 2025 and 2026 in business planning,

financial planning and accessing funding.

The municipality said these interventions were intended to strengthen small business development and improve the sustainability of informal enterprises.

However, Matyayi warned that rapid rural-to-urban migration was increasing demand for municipal infrastructure and services, placing pressure on the city's resources.

“Rapid rural-to-urban migration continues to place pressure on the City's capacity to provide services,” he said.

He called for increased central government support in delivering social services and reiterated the need for a sustainable funding allocation model for local authorities.

The briefing was presented to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning, chaired by Iipumbu Shiimi, and the Standing Committee on Urban, Rural Development and Land Reform, chaired by Clemencia Coetzee.

The proposed market developments are expected to expand trading capacity and support employment creation, although the municipality has not specified when all 24 markets will be completed or the total investment required for the programme.

Fly Namibia

our most recent edition!



> **READ ONLINE**

Your guide to travel inspiration, aviation and proudly Namibian stories.



Namibia's sheep marketing plunges 40%

Namibia's sheep marketing declined by 39.86% month-on-month to 33,565 animals in September 2026, as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) restrictions in the //Kharas Region disrupted livestock movements and trade, according to the Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB).

The Board's October 2026 Mutton and Chevon Market Watch report shows that sheep marketing fell from 55,814 animals in August, although volumes remained 7.91% higher than the 31,104 recorded in September 2025.

The decline followed the confirmation of an FMD outbreak in the //Kharas Region on 23 September, which triggered

restrictions on the movement and trade of cloven-hoofed animals during the final eight days of the month.

Live sheep exports, which accounted for 84.35% of total marketing, fell by 39.45% month-on-month to 28,311 animals. South Africa remained the dominant export destination, accounting for 98.09% of live sheep exports.

Despite the monthly contraction, live exports were 57.34% higher than in September 2025.

"Total sheep marketing in September 2026 was 7.91% higher than in September 2025, at 33,565 head compared with 31,104 head. The increase came from live exports, which were 57.34% higher at 28,311 head,

while export abattoir and B&C slaughter were 68.72% and 54.93% lower, at 1,486 head and 3,768 head,” the report stated.

Export abattoir slaughter increased by 82.56% compared with August but remained 68.72% below September 2025 levels.

B&C abattoir slaughter declined by 54.31% month-on-month and 54.93% year-on-year to 3,768 animals.

Despite the September slowdown, Namibia marketed 611,407 sheep during the first nine months of 2026, representing a 39.15% increase compared with the corresponding period last year.

The year-to-date growth was largely driven by a 55.98% increase in live sheep exports.

Meanwhile, producer prices recorded mixed movements during September, with

the A2 sheep price increasing by 3.37% month-on-month to N\$95.95 per kilogram, up 12.18% year-on-year.

The C2 price declined by 1.07% month-on-month to N\$61.94 per kilogram but remained 21.26% above its September 2025 level.

The average carcass price across all grades fell by 3.63% to N\$65.90 per kilogram, although it was 16.31% higher than a year earlier.

The Board attributed part of the annual price increases to unusually low producer prices recorded in September 2025.

The goat market also came under pressure, with total marketing declining by 13.44% month-on-month and 28.26% year-on-year to 9,975 animals.

Cumulative goat marketing reached 85,476 animals during the first nine months



Polo Shirt

Colors : ● ● ●



Keychain



Umbrella

Colors : ● ● ●



CALL US TODAY!

+264814343154

Orbitalmedianam@gmail.com

Live exports from other parts of Namibia remain permitted, subject to the import requirements of South Africa and other destination markets.

of 2026, representing a 6.48% decline compared with the same period last year.

The Board warned that small-stock marketing was expected to remain below normal levels in October as FMD restrictions continued to affect livestock movements and exports from the //Kharas Region.

As of 15 October, 131 animals had tested positive for FMD across 18 farms in the Karasburg Veterinary District.

“Small-stock marketing is therefore expected to remain below normal levels in October. Live exports from the //Kharas Region, an important small-stock producing area, remain excluded, and export abattoir capacity for sheep is now limited to Natural Namibian Meat Producers following the closure of Farmers

Meat Mariental,” the report stated.

The Board said the extent of the expected decline would depend on South Africa’s import conditions for live sheep and goats, as well as the number of animals meeting slaughter requirements.

Live exports from other parts of Namibia remain permitted, subject to the import requirements of South Africa and other destination markets.

However, the closure of Farmers Meat Mariental has further reduced export slaughter capacity, adding pressure to an industry already facing livestock movement restrictions.

The Board has suspended its usual statistical forecasts because the models assume normal trading conditions, which no longer apply following the outbreak.

SCAN HERE

Daily PDF version sent via email

Finance

Business

for Daily Namibian News

THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

TO FOLLOW OUR
WHATSAPP CHANNEL

@thebrieflive @thebrieflive.nam @TheBriefLive @thebrieflive

Tribute to Madam Penehupifo Pohamba

By Hilda
Basson-Namundjebo

The Pohamba family home sat quietly on a rise in Eros, on Saffier Street, where the hill lifts just enough to give the house a sense of calm separation from the city below. The house felt calm, much like the lady of the manor.

And this is where I made my acquaintance with Mee Penehupifo Pohamba in early 2005, shortly before she became First Lady following President Pohamba's election in November 2004 and subsequent inauguration in March 2005.

The assignment was one of a kind – organise the incoming First Lady's inaugural dinner while simultaneously thanking the outgoing First Lady Mrs Nujoma; a request facilitated by Honourable Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, then serving as Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare.

What began as a professional engagement grew into a relationship defined by trust, purpose, and a shared concern for the wellbeing of Namibian girls.

In those early years, I organised her Christmas outreach programmes and it was during one of these events that we discovered something quietly devastating: that many girls were missing school because they did not have sanitary pads. It was not a policy issue; it was a dignity issue. And it was happening in silence.

Madam Pohamba responded with calm resolve. Her leadership style was never loud, but always firm. She encouraged us to find a practical solution, and



Her leadership style was never loud, but always firm.

that encouragement led to an initiative supported by Pick 'n Pay and delivered through NamPost Courier; a simple, effective system to distribute sanitary pads to schools across the country.

The initiative was formally introduced in mid-2007 at the Ella du Plessis Senior Secondary School in Khomasdal, marking one of Namibia's earliest organised efforts to address menstrual poverty, long before the issue entered national policy debates.

This is the Penehupifo Pohamba I knew: a woman who led without spectacle, who understood that dignity is not an abstract concept but a daily experience. Her influence was quiet, but its impact was lasting - shaping spaces, not headlines.

She strengthened girls, not platforms. And reminded us that leadership is often measured not by what is said, but by what is quietly made possible.

Not so long ago, I visited her and took her flowers. She was frail, yes, but still carried the kind of beauty that does not fade. A beauty made of gentleness, steadiness, and a life lived in service. Even in her frailty, she remained the epitome of grace.

As Namibia reflects on her life and contribution, and we prepare to lay her to rest, I pause to honour her as a First Lady who embodied calm authority, compassion, and deep humanity.

A woman who taught us that national service can be gentle and still powerful; that compassion can be impactful and that protecting the dignity of girls is a form of nation building.

A woman who taught us that national service can be gentle and still powerful; that compassion can be impactful and that protecting the dignity of girls is a form of nation building.

This week, I pay tribute to her legacy and to the countless girls whose futures were strengthened because she cared enough to act.

May God rest your soul in peace !

****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***

17 ARTISTS, 6 CHOIRS, 1 NIGHT. AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.

THE RESTORATION
Concert 4.0

SATURDAY
31 OCTOBER 2026

DR. HAGE GEINGOB STADIUM
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Never Walk Alone

 MINISTER GUC	 MIN. MICHAEL MAHEMWEHERE	 DEEA	 LISA
 BENJAMIN DUBE	 IPINCHE KIDS	 ASHI	 MINISTER BOBBY RICHTER
 BR CLARENCE	 JAEI MIK	 ERIC MAHUA	 ESME SONGBIRD
 RUTH	 LENTINA GRACE	 MIN ADOLPHE AMANI	 MINISTER MOSES

 GRACE NOTES CHOIR	 JOSM CHOIR	 ADORATION CHOIR	 HALLELUJAH SINGOUT CREW	 VOCAL DYNAMIX	 JMM WORSHIP TEAM
-----------------------	----------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------	----------------------

TICKET PRICES:

VIP BOOTH 25 PERSONS	NS50,000
VIP SINGLE	NS2,000

GOLDEN CIRCLE	NS300
STANDARD	NS100

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

webtickets

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
NEVERWALKALONE359@GMAIL.COM
+264813496234

NNTC
Namibia Tourism Board
Silver Partner

NDC
A NAMIBIA DE BEER PARTNERSHIP
Bronze Partner

BRIEF
Media Partner

nbc
Broadcast Partner