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BRIEF

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE FISCUS BUILDING



Namibia records N\$67.8bn in potential illicit financial flows over three years

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

MAIN STORY



Namibia records N\$67.8bn in potential illicit financial flows over three years

Namibia recorded an estimated N\$67.8 billion in potential illicit financial flows over three years, averaging N\$22.6 billion annually, according to a national assessment conducted by the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC).

Minister of Finance Ericah Shafudah said

Crucial Dates

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

the scale of the suspected financial flows raised serious concerns about unlawful financial activities, tax evasion and money laundering, which undermine domestic revenue mobilisation and economic development.

Speaking at the recent Institute of Chartered Accountants of Namibia (ICAN) National Accounting Summit, Shafudah warned that illicit financial activities could deprive the country of resources needed to finance essential public services and infrastructure.

“The magnitude of illicit financial flows in our country is deeply concerning. A national assessment conducted by the Financial Intelligence Centre estimated potential financial flows of about \$67.8 billion over the three years, equivalent to \$22.6 billion annually,” she said.

Shafudah said the potential diversion of financial resources through unlawful practices was particularly concerning given Namibia's substantial development and public spending needs.

“For a country like ours, where development needs remain significant, the loss of public revenue through unlawful financial practises and suspicious tax-related transactions is a matter of serious concern. We cannot allow the wealth generated within our country to be unlawfully diverted away from the development needs of our people,” she said.

She said resources lost through illicit financial activities could otherwise support investment in education, healthcare, infrastructure and employment creation.

The Minister called on accountants and auditors to strengthen their role in detecting suspicious transactions, promoting tax compliance and reporting suspected financial misconduct in accordance with

their legal obligations.

She warned that professional confidentiality should not be used to conceal financial crimes or protect individuals and businesses involved in unlawful activities.

“Professional confidentiality must never be misused as a shield for unlawful conduct,” Shafudah said.

She urged accounting professionals to strengthen cooperation with the Namibia Revenue Agency, the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Ministry of Finance and other regulatory authorities to combat illicit financial flows.

Shafudah said the government remained committed to improving domestic revenue collection, strengthening financial oversight and ensuring compliance with tax laws.

She said legislative reforms were underway to improve accountability and transparency in the management of public finances.

These include the proposed Public Finance Management Bill, which seeks to strengthen fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.

“The government is also working on legislation to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Office of the Auditor-General, while the Accountants and Auditors Regulatory Authority Bill seeks to modernise regulation of the accounting and auditing profession,” she said.

Shafudah said the reforms were intended to strengthen professional standards, ethical conduct, quality assurance and public confidence in financial reporting.

She also called on accountants and auditors to play a greater role in economic policy discussions and advise public and private institutions on financial

management and resource allocation.

The Minister said strong financial governance would be increasingly important as Namibia seeks to attract investment into emerging sectors, particularly oil and gas.

She said reliable financial disclosures, regulatory certainty and sound corporate

governance were essential to maintaining investor confidence and ensuring that the country benefited from new investment opportunities.

Shafudah urged accounting professionals to uphold ethical standards and ensure that their expertise was not used to facilitate or legitimise illicit financial activities.



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SECURITY OFFICER (X2) Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Valid driver's license Relevant tertiary qualification in Security and Protection Management 3 to 4 years' experience working in the security field of Successful completion of the National Service Training Good comprehension of English Computer literacy Psychologically fit to handle ammunition Valid code of conduct certificate is a must Monitor and patrol the premises to detect and prevent signs of intrusion. Respond to alarms and investigate disturbances promptly Authorize and monitor the entrance and exit of employees, visitors, and others Guard against theft and ensure premises remain secure Document activities, irregularities, and unusual occurrences, such as equipment damage, theft, or unauthorized presence. Notify relevant external authorities (police or fire department) in cases of emergencies, including fires or intrusions Notify relevant authorities (police or fire department) in cases of emergencies, including fires or intrusions Physically fit to participate in emergency and security drills
SURVEYOR (X1) Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Valid driver's license National Mine Survey/ Land Survey/Geomatics Diploma or Advance Mine Survey Certificate 3 to 4 years experience working in the open-pit surveying Computer literacy, MS office, Survey software packages (Microline, Trimble Business Center, Surpac) Experience and full knowledge of Trimble DGPS, Total Station equipment Understanding of drone operations Drone Pilot Certificate will be an added advantage Conduct, mark out, and surveying of pre-split, production, exploration and grade control drilling holes, ad-drilled collars, drill blocks and pre-split corner pegs Create loading plans and conduct the ore mark out of blasted ore blocks with numbered pegs and joining the pegs with barrier tape as per loading Provide accurate survey information to support production reconciliation Monitor emergency response equipment, facilities and readiness Assist in training junior survey assistants and equipment operators on survey-related matters Work with contractors and consultants during survey projects when required.
COORDINATOR: HEALTH AND EMERGENCY (X1) Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Minimum Code C1 driving license Relevant qualification in Emergency Management, Fire & Rescue, Emergency Response or related field Fire Fighting and First Aid qualifications a pre-requisite Minimum Five (5) years practical experience required Coordinate implementation and maintenance of the site Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Maintain emergency response procedures, contact lists and emergency response arrangements Plan, coordinate and evaluate emergency drills and simulations Monitor emergency response equipment, facilities and readiness Identify emergency response gaps and initiate corrective actions Support Site Clinic function Coordinate communication between site emergency and clinic team with external service providers Liaise with regulators and stakeholders
SUPERINTENDENT: SAFETY (X1) Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Valid driver's license Diploma/Degree in Occupational Health & Safety or related field SAFETAC/NEBOSH advantageous; ISO 45001 knowledge Minimum knowledge added advantage 8 years' experience in mining safety experience, of which three years should be supervisory experience Coordinate mine-wide safety programmes Monitor critical risk controls and field compliance Coordinate inspections, audits and safety observations Review incident investigations and corrective actions Monitor contractor safety performance Support emergency preparedness and response
SUPERINTENDENT: ENVIRONMENT (X1) Permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Valid driver's license Diploma or bachelor's degree in environmental management/science or related discipline Five (5) to Eight (8) years relevant experience Proven record on environmental auditing and reporting Knowledge of environment rehabilitation in a mining space Monitor environmental legal compliance and permit conditions Implement Environmental Management Plan requirements Coordinate environmental monitoring programmes Manage and lead environmental incident investigation and reporting Oversee waste, water, biodiversity, dust and pollution controls Coordinate rehabilitation planning Prepare environmental reports Liaise with regulators and stakeholders
SUPERINTENDENT: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS & COMPLIANCE (X1) PERMANENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Valid driver's license Diploma/Degree in Occupational Health & Safety, Quality/Environmental Management Certified ISO Auditor Training Five (5) to Seven (7) years in IMS or Compliance experience and systems implementation Comprehensive understanding of ISO 45001/14001/9001 Proven experience to implement IMS Coordinate internal and external audits Manage corrective and preventive actions Coordinate management reviews Drive continual system improvements Maintain IMS procedures and standards Drive risk management initiatives and data analysis Responsible for SHE related document control
PLANT SHIFT OPERATORS X 32 (RE-ADVERTISEMENT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Post-secondary training and qualification ideal Valid driver's license is an added advantage At least two (2) to three (3) experience in a mineral-processing environment Physically fit to work in a demanding environment Must be a resident of Otjombingwe, Karibib, Omaruru or Usakos. Confirmation of residence required. Operate assigned processing areas, including crushing, milling, classification, gravity recovery, thickening, pre-oxidation, CIL, Cyanide filtration, filtration and associated services as allocated Monitor process parameters and communicate field conditions promptly to the Process Controller and Shift Supervisor Perform plant start-ups, shutdowns, equipment changeovers and process adjustments in accordance with approved procedures Support process sampling, reagent checks, density measurements, equipment inspections and other routine operating requirements Identify blockages, leaks, spills, abnormal vibrations, unusual noise, excessive wear and other early indicators of equipment or process problems Maintain high housekeeping standards and ensure spills and unsafe conditions are promptly controlled and reported Complete shift logs, inspections and operational records accurately Participate in troubleshooting, operational improvement initiatives and structured operator training

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a resume, all supporting documents and a letter of motivation detailing relevant experience and potential starting date to recruitment@osinoresources.com by 13 November 2026. Please clearly indicate position applied for in the subject matter line. Failure to do so, may result in disqualification of your application. If you have not heard anything from us two weeks after the due date, please consider your application unsuccessful. NO HARD COPY CV'S WILL BE ACCEPTED AT OUR OFFICES.

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BoN directs banks to suspend loan repayments for FMD affected farmers for up to two years

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has directed commercial banks to grant loan repayment moratoriums of between one and 24 months to farmers and agricultural businesses affected by the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak and El Niño-induced climatic conditions.

The directive, issued through Determination BID-42 on 30 October 2026, also allows banks to restructure existing loans and extend additional credit facilities to qualifying borrowers facing financial difficulties.

Bank of Namibia Director of Strategic Communications and International Relations Kazembire Zemburuka said the intervention followed concerns raised during engagements between the banking and agricultural sectors over the financial impact of the outbreak and adverse climatic conditions.

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“The determination seeks to provide relief to borrowers in the agricultural sector affected by the FMD outbreak and El Niño-induced climatic conditions,” the central bank said.

Under the determination, banks are required to provide repayment moratoriums ranging from one to 24 months, with the duration of relief determined by each borrower's financial circumstances and repayment capacity.

Zemburuka said the relief would extend beyond farmers to businesses operating directly or indirectly within the agricultural value chain.

“It also extends to businesses in other sectors whose income, operations or cash flows are materially dependent on agricultural activity and have been adversely affected,” he said.

The central bank said banks must assess individual applications based on the financial position of borrowers and the extent to which their repayment capacity has been affected.

In addition to repayment moratoriums, banks may restructure existing loans to make instalments more manageable and improve borrowers' ability to meet their financial obligations.

However, the central bank clarified that loan restructuring would not automatically suspend interest charges.

“Restructured loans will continue to accrue interest at the contractual interest rate, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the banking institution and the borrower,” the bank said.

Affected borrowers may also qualify for additional credit facilities, subject to their repayment capacity and individual risk profiles.

The determination further provides credit reporting relief for qualifying borrowers, requiring banks to report clients benefiting from the intervention as performing rather than non-performing during the applicable period.

However, this protection is subject to existing prudential requirements under BID-2, particularly where a borrower's credit quality deteriorates materially.

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

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CLOSING DATE

6 November 2026

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psinvestments.com.na/vacancies

Agriculture remains a critical contributor to employment, food security and economic growth.

The central bank said the measure was intended to prevent borrowers from being unfairly penalised through their credit records while receiving financial relief.

Banks that reject applications for relief must provide affected borrowers with written reasons for their decisions.

Borrowers who are dissatisfied with the outcome may lodge complaints through their bank's internal complaints process or other applicable dispute-resolution mechanisms.

"The intervention provides regulatory flexibility to banking institutions to support affected borrowers," the bank said.

Zemburuka said the measures were intended to protect the agricultural sector from further financial distress while limiting the potential impact of the FMD outbreak and adverse weather conditions on the banking system.

"Agriculture remains a critical contributor to employment, food security and economic growth," he said.

The central bank said the intervention was aimed at supporting the continued viability of agricultural businesses, protecting livelihoods and mitigating risks to the broader financial system.



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Govt pushes to make fish affordable despite major fishing industry

The government is pushing to improve access to affordable fish for Namibian households, amid concerns that communities, particularly in rural and inland areas, are not fully benefiting from the country's fishing industry.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Ruthy Masake said the Namibian Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT) must expand its domestic distribution network to ensure that the benefits of Namibia's fisheries resources extend beyond export earnings and investment.

Speaking at the inauguration of the NFCPT Board of Trustees in Windhoek, Masake directed the newly appointed board to prioritise the establishment of at

least three community fish markets in areas where affordable fish remains difficult to access.

The proposed markets are expected to bring fish closer to consumers, create employment opportunities and stimulate economic activity in underserved communities.

“During your tenure, I expect the Board to prioritise the establishment of at least three community fish markets, subject to appropriate feasibility assessments, resource availability and sound implementation planning,” Masake said.

“These markets should be strategically located to serve communities where access to affordable fish remains limited.”

Masake said the board must work with

regional councils, local authorities and communities to identify suitable locations and ensure that the proposed markets address local needs.

She also called for urgent attention to fish transportation, storage and distribution challenges, particularly in communities located far from Namibia's coastal fishing centres.

The Deputy Minister said the NFCPT should develop innovative and cost-effective distribution methods to increase domestic fish consumption and improve access to an important source of protein.

Although Namibia's fishing industry contributes significantly to employment, investment, export earnings and livelihoods, Masake said greater efforts were needed to ensure that its benefits reached ordinary Namibians.

She said increasing fish consumption would help strengthen household food

security, improve nutrition and promote healthier communities.

"Such an initiative would not only bring affordable fish closer to consumers, but could also create employment opportunities, stimulate local economic activity and strengthen the contribution of the fisheries sector to community development," she said.

Masake also directed the board to establish clear targets, implementation timelines and performance indicators to ensure progress towards the proposed markets could be measured.

The NFCPT is expected to strengthen its community-level operations and improve the availability of affordable fish across the country. The newly appointed board will be chaired by Lot Ndamonhata, alongside Charlene Hartung, Olivia Shuuluka, Ndahalomwene Gotlieb and Wilfried Naibab, who was appointed in absentia.

EAN Public Discussion

National Skills and Employment Public Discussion

Understanding Employer Skill Needs Across Sectors

The discussion will bring together policymakers, private-sector leaders, vocational training centres, academic institutions and development partners to examine employer skill needs across key sectors of the Namibian economy.

The event will provide a platform to identify priority skills gaps, strengthen dialogue between employers and training institutions, and generate practical recommendations to support employment creation, productivity and human-capital development.

 Wednesday
4 November 2026

 09h00 - 12h00

 Venue:
Hilton Hotel, Windhoek

economic
association
of namibia

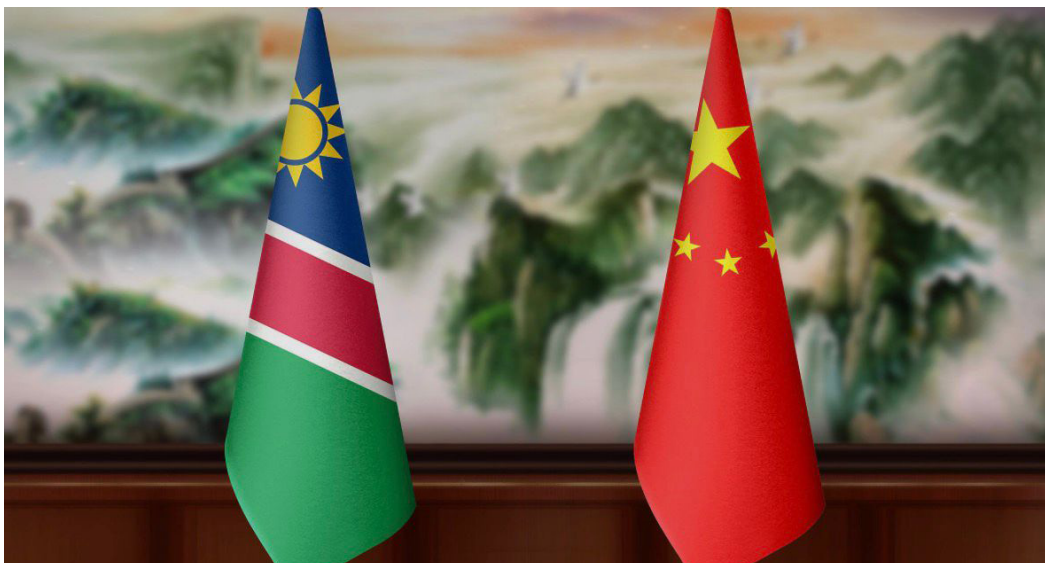


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China-backed agricultural project trains over 2,300 Namibians

More than 2,300 Namibians have benefited from agricultural training and capacity-building programmes under the second phase of the China-FAO-Namibia South-South Cooperation Project, aimed at improving agricultural productivity, food security and rural livelihoods.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Ruthy Masake said the project reached 2,351 beneficiaries through 79 training events conducted over 120 days, focusing on strengthening technical skills in agriculture and fisheries.

Speaking at the official closure of the project in Windhoek, Masake said women accounted for 51.3% of participants, while young people represented 33.6% and farmers made up 79.4%.

An additional 1,022 people participated in 32 practical demonstration activities aimed at transferring agricultural knowledge and

improving farming practices.

The project focused on six priority areas: plant health, seed production, poultry production, animal husbandry, soil fertility and management, and aquaculture.

“The Project Phase II was designed to address critical challenges confronting Namibia’s agriculture and fisheries sectors, including poor soil conditions, limited availability of quality certified seed, low poultry productivity among smallholder farmers, limited technical and vocational skills, and the underdevelopment of the inland aquaculture subsector,” Masake said.

She said the initiative was designed to address constraints affecting agricultural production, particularly among smallholder farmers and rural communities facing poverty, limited economic opportunities and difficult environmental conditions.

The project also sought to strengthen

local technical expertise and improve access to agricultural knowledge and production methods through cooperation between Chinese specialists and Namibian counterparts. Masake said the second phase built on the foundation established during Phase I, which concluded four years ago, and expanded capacity-building efforts across agriculture and fisheries. Implemented from September 2024 to December 2026, the project was supported by China and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with Chinese experts and technicians working alongside Namibian counterparts at six duty stations.

Masake said the initiative demonstrated how international cooperation could be used to address practical challenges affecting agricultural development and rural livelihoods.

“In this regard, the Project has demonstrated how international cooperation can be translated into practical interventions that respond directly to the developmental needs of our people,” she said.

She expressed appreciation to China for its continued support through the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Trust Fund and to the FAO for providing technical guidance and coordinating the initiative.

Masake said Namibia and China should continue using their longstanding partnership to promote agricultural development, technology transfer and sustainable economic growth.

She also highlighted the FAO's

role in supporting Namibia's agriculture, water and land sectors through technical assistance and development programmes.

The Deputy Minister said the closure of Phase II should not mark the end of cooperation but should provide an opportunity to consolidate the knowledge acquired and sustain the technical capacities developed.

She called for continued collaboration between Namibia, China and the FAO to strengthen food security, agricultural productivity, fisheries and aquaculture development, and the resilience of rural communities.



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.

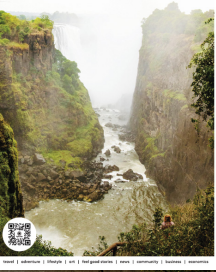
Procurement Reference:	SC/RP/ECB-02/2026/2027
Bid description:	The Review of the Namibia Electricity Supply Industry Distribution Infrastructure Standards
Procurement Category:	Lump - sum consultancy contract Maximum duration 6 months
RFP Issue Date:	Tuesday, 15 September 2026
Clarification Deadline:	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

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Tented safari camps, lodges record highest occupancy rates in August

Tented safari camps and lodges outperformed other accommodation establishments in Namibia during August 2026, recording room occupancy rates of 79% and 70%, respectively, as the country's hospitality sector registered improved performance.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency's (NSA) August 2026 Rooms and Beds Occupancy report, tented camps recorded an increase in occupancy from 66% in July to 79% in August, while lodges improved from 60.9% to 70% over the same period.

Hotels also recorded improved performance, with room occupancy increasing to 67.6% from 61.4% in July.

The increase in occupancy across these accommodation categories contributed to an improvement in the national room occupancy rate, which rose to 69.5% in August from 62.6% in July.

The NSA reported that 53,538 rooms were occupied out of 76,997 available rooms nationwide during August, compared with 40,086 occupied rooms out of 64,003 available rooms in July.

"This was an improvement from July, when 40,086 of the 64,003 available rooms were occupied, representing an occupancy rate of 62.6%," the agency said.

The national Rooms Occupancy Rate Index increased by 11% month-

on-month, compared with growth of 7% recorded in July.

On an annual basis, the index increased by 2.9% in August, compared with 7.2% growth recorded during the corresponding month in 2025.

However, guest farms and guest houses recorded declining occupancy rates during the month.

Guest farm occupancy fell from 61.9% in July to 53.7% in August, while guest houses recorded a decline from 63.6% to 52.5%.

Regionally, northern Namibia recorded the strongest month-on-month growth in room occupancy at 14.8%, followed by the coastal region at 9.9%. The central region registered growth of 7.5%, while the southern region recorded an increase of 6.7%.

In the northern region, 24,145 rooms were occupied out of 31,651 available rooms during August, compared with 15,971 occupied

rooms out of 24,043 available rooms in July.

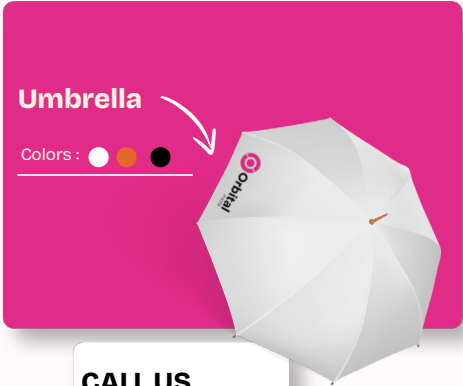
The southern region recorded 15,625 occupied rooms out of 24,297 available rooms, leaving 8,672 rooms unoccupied, the highest number among the four regions.

Meanwhile, the national Bed Occupancy Rate Index increased by 6.6% month-on-month in August, following a 34.3% increase in July.

Despite the monthly improvement, the index declined by 1.8% year-on-year, compared with a 0.3% contraction recorded in August 2025.

The NSA reported that 102,749 beds were occupied out of 172,680 available beds nationwide during August.

The figures indicate stronger occupancy performance in tented camps, lodges and hotels, while guest farms and guest houses experienced lower room occupancy rates during the review period.



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Never let your emotions make decisions your future will regret

By Junias Erastus

Life will bring moments when you feel angry, disappointed, rejected, betrayed or misunderstood.

In those moments, it is easy to say things you do not mean, make decisions you have not thought through or walk away from something that matters to you.

However, the emotions you experience today should never be allowed to destroy the future you are working to build. Feelings are part of being human, but they should not be allowed to control every decision you make.

One of the most important lessons in life is learning to pause before reacting. When you are angry, you may want to hurt someone with your words.

When you feel rejected, you may want to prove your worth to people who do not appreciate you.

When you are disappointed, you may feel like giving up on your goals. Yet, when the emotions settle, you may realise that your reaction has created a problem far greater than the one you were trying to solve.

A few seconds of anger can damage a relationship that took years to build. One careless message can affect your reputation. One rushed decision can cost you an opportunity you may never get again.

Emotional maturity does not mean that



“

Emotional maturity does not mean that you must hide your feelings or pretend that nothing hurts

you.

you must hide your feelings or pretend that nothing hurts you.

It means understanding what you feel without allowing those feelings to make decisions on your behalf. You can be angry without becoming disrespectful. You can be disappointed without becoming bitter.

You can feel rejected without questioning your worth. You can disagree with someone without destroying the relationship. The strength lies in choosing how to respond, even when you cannot control what has happened to you.

Many people make decisions based on how they feel in a particular moment. They resign from jobs without considering their responsibilities, end relationships without proper reflection, spend money to comfort themselves or engage in unnecessary arguments to protect their pride.

Later, when they have had time to think, they begin to see the consequences of their actions. Unfortunately, regret often

comes after the opportunity to make a better choice has passed.

This is why wisdom requires us to consider not only how a decision makes us feel today, but also how it may affect us tomorrow.

Before making an important decision, give yourself time to think. If a message makes you angry, do not rush to respond.

If someone provokes you, remember that you do not have to accept every invitation to argue. If you are facing disappointment, allow yourself to process it before deciding what to do next.

Sometimes, walking away from an argument is wiser than trying to win it. Silence can protect your peace, and patience can save you from unnecessary consequences. Not every situation requires an immediate answer.

It is also important to understand that other people may try to use your emotions against you. They may provoke you until you react, then use your reaction to make you appear unreasonable.

They may know what hurts you and use it to influence your decisions.

If you allow every insult, criticism or act of disrespect to determine your behaviour, you give other people too much control over your life.

Learn to recognise when someone is trying to provoke you, and refuse to surrender your judgement to their actions.

Your future deserves better than decisions made in anger, fear or desperation. Think about your career, your family, your relationships, your finances and the person you are trying to become.

Ask yourself whether your next action will bring you closer to your goals or create another problem you will have to

solve.

You may not always make the perfect decision, but taking time to think can help you avoid mistakes that could have been prevented.

Remember that you cannot always control what people say about you, how they treat you or the challenges you face.

However, you can work on controlling your response. You can choose dignity over revenge, patience over impulsiveness and thoughtful action over temporary satisfaction.

These choices may not always be easy, but they protect your peace and help you build a future you can be proud of.

Ultimately, never let a temporary emotion create a permanent problem in your life.

Feel your emotions, understand them and learn from them, but do not allow them to make decisions your future will regret.

The person who learns to pause, think and respond wisely gains an important advantage in life.

Your emotions deserve to be heard, but your future deserves to be protected. Before you react, take a moment to remember the life you are building and make sure that your next decision serves the person you want to become.

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



New 21-room boutique hotel opens in Windhoek CBD

Windhoek's hospitality sector has attracted a new 21-room boutique hotel following the opening of Gracious Whisp Boutique Hotel in September 2026, adding accommodation capacity in the capital's central business district.

The hotel, opened after a year of construction and redevelopment involving three buildings, including a historic residence dating to before 1901.

The value of the investment has not been disclosed.

Gracious Whisp Boutique Hotel Marketing Manager Welda Mouten said the development was aimed at meeting demand for accommodation that combines the facilities required by business travellers

with personalised hospitality services.

"Travellers to Windhoek have mostly had to choose between large hotels, which offer scale but can feel impersonal, and guesthouses, which are warm but not always suited to business or international guests," Mouten said.

The property consists of three houses arranged around an open courtyard, comprising the historic residence, a rebuilt 1970s home and a newly constructed building.

The establishment includes the Earth & Salt restaurant, Ember Bar and !Nara Wellness Centre, which offers wellness treatments, a sauna and gym facilities. It also features a swimming pool and artwork by Namibian artists.

Mouten said the hotel was targeting corporate travellers, diplomats, non-governmental organisations, tour operators and leisure visitors, taking advantage of its proximity to government offices, businesses, restaurants and the Namibia Craft Centre.

Despite entering the market with 21 rooms, the hotel has no immediate plans to increase its accommodation capacity.

“Our priority is not size. It is consistency and exceptional hospitality standards,” Mouten said.

She said the hotel's immediate focus would be on strengthening its services, establishing partnerships with corporate and tourism clients and developing experiences that encourage visitors to extend their stays in Windhoek.

The investment comes as Namibia's tourism industry continues to contribute to economic activity, despite fluctuations in

international visitor arrivals.

According to Tourism Satellite Account figures cited by the hotel, tourism contributes approximately 6.9% to Namibia's gross domestic product, equivalent to about N\$14.3 billion, and supports more than 57,000 jobs.

Mouten identified business events, domestic tourism and longer corporate stays as potential growth opportunities for Windhoek's accommodation sector.

She said the capital could also benefit from encouraging international tourists to spend additional nights in the city before travelling to other destinations across Namibia.

Mouten said the establishment would prioritise developing local hospitality skills and creating career opportunities for Namibians as it builds its presence in Windhoek's accommodation market.



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THE BRIEF

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Founder of Slowtown Coffee Roasters

**THE STORY OF
SLOWTOWN: 15 YEARS ON**
COMING SOON

Brand national assembly: A brand in decay!

By Hilda Basson-Namundjebo

On 25 February 2026, I wrote in The Brief that Parliament needed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), drawing on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's benchmarks for effective legislatures.

At the time, my concern was declining legislative output and weakening oversight. Eight months later, the issue is no longer only slow performance.

It is also the deterioration of the very brand of the National Assembly. What we are witnessing is not political drama. This is institutional regression.

Understanding Brands: Functional and Emotional Propositions

The National Assembly is not a commercial product, but it is a public institution that carries a public identity, a public reputation, and a public promise.

In governance, these three elements form what is known as an institutional brand. Citizens interact with Parliament not through transactions, but through expectations.

We expect seriousness, stability, dignity, and delivery. We expect leadership. We expect national purpose.

This is why the National Assembly can and must be evaluated as a brand.

Muhtar Kent, former CEO of The Coca Cola Company, is widely quoted as saying: "A brand is a promise. A good brand is a promise kept."

Put differently, it is a set of expectations that people hold about an institution, shaped by what it does and how it makes



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Every member of the National Assembly begins their service by making a solemn pledge.

people feel. Every credible brand rests on two propositions. A functional proposition and an emotional proposition.

Parliament has both.

The Parliamentary pledge as a brand promise

Every member of the National Assembly begins their service by making a solemn pledge. They commit to uphold the Constitution, to serve the Republic faithfully, and to perform their duties with dignity and honour. This pledge is not ceremonial. It is the foundation of the institution's brand promise.

A pledge is a declaration of intent, a public commitment to responsibility, and to service. When members take this pledge, they bind themselves to the functional and emotional propositions that define Brand National Assembly.

The Functional Promise in the Pledge

The pledge commits members to uphold the Constitution, respect the laws of the Republic, perform their duties faithfully, and protect the integrity of the institution.

These commitments align directly with the functional proposition of the National Assembly. Passing laws, conducting

oversight, debating national issues with seriousness, and respecting procedure are not optional tasks.

They are constitutional obligations. They are the measurable delivery of the pledge.

When Parliament fails to pass laws, when committees stall, when oversight weakens, and when proceedings descend into disorder, the functional promise of the pledge is broken.

The institution's brand loses credibility because its own members fail to deliver what they promised.

The Emotional Promise in the Pledge

The pledge also carries an emotional dimension. It is a commitment to dignity, honour, seriousness, and service to the people. These values form the emotional proposition of Brand National Assembly.

Citizens expect Parliament to embody stability, maturity, and national purpose. They expect leadership that inspires confidence.

The interruptions, insults, near violence, and performative outrage violate this emotional promise. They make the institution feel unserious. They erode trust and diminish national pride. They betray the dignity members pledged to uphold.

When the pledge and performance conflict

A brand collapses when its promise and its performance diverge. The National Assembly is now in that dangerous space. The pledge says one thing. The behaviour says another. The institution's

identity, reputation, and promise are being weakened from within.

This is why the theatrics matter. They are not simply moments of political drama. They are breaches of the pledge. They are violations of the brand promise members make to the Republic.

The Theatrics

Every Parliament in the world has its moments of grandstanding. However, the National Assembly has elevated theatrics to a level that undermines institutional efficiency and public confidence. The walkouts, the insults, the disregard for rules, the constant banging of the gavel and the performative outrage are not isolated incidents. They are cumulative blows to the brand.

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The atmosphere of the House is shaped by every element of its environment, including sound. The Speaker's gavel is a traditional instrument used to open proceedings, mark transitions, and restore order when absolutely necessary. In most parliamentary systems it is used sparingly, because its sharp tone can unsettle the chamber when repeated too often. A calm and orderly Assembly depends on signals that support focus and dignity. When authority is expressed through clear procedure rather than constant drumming, the House is better able to maintain a stable and respectful environment.

Leaders as brokers of hope

Leaders are brokers of hope. Citizens place their confidence in Parliament through the act of voting, and look to the House for steadiness, dignity, and progress. When Parliamentarians struggle to reach consensus, to debate with composure, or to advance legislation, the impact is not only procedural; it is emotional.

It unsettles the public. Consensus is not weakness; it is democratic maturity. Disagreement is normal; disorder is not. The conduct of Parliament shapes the national mood, and when the institution appears fractured or unsettled, citizens feel the same.

And the opposite is true also: when Parliament models calm, discipline, and seriousness of

purpose, it strengthens public trust and restores a sense of collective confidence. That is the atmosphere a national legislature should aspire to create.

Brand Restoration: An urgent imperative

Brand National Assembly can still be restored. Restoration requires discipline, decorum, and a recommitment to the constitutional mandate. Parliament is not a stage for performance. It is the engine room of democracy. Namibia deserves a legislature that legislates, debates, and leads with dignity.

The regression of the past few years must be confronted honestly. The theatrics must give way to seriousness. The insults must give way to debate. The walkouts must give way to responsibility. The institution must remember that its duty is not to perform, but to serve.

Brand National Assembly is a national asset. It must be protected, strengthened, and restored for the sake of our democracy and for the hope citizens place in those they elect.

*** 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

Presumed innocent, publicly convicted: The constitutional cost of trial by social media in Namibia

By Steven L. Mukwena

An allegation is made. A name and photograph appear on social media. Within hours, screenshots are circulating, commentators are reconstructing events, and strangers who have neither seen the evidence nor heard the other side are expressing certainty about what happened.

Sometimes the person concerned has not yet been charged and in some instances an investigation is still underway.

Yet, for many observers, the case has already been decided.

The law may still regard that person as innocent however the public may already regard that person as guilty.

This tension raises a constitutional question that deserves greater attention in Namibia: what is the practical value of the presumption of innocence when an accused person can be publicly convicted long before a court determines guilt?

The question has become increasingly important in an age in which Facebook, X, TikTok, WhatsApp and other digital platforms have fundamentally changed the speed at which allegations enter the public domain.

Social media has democratised access to information and created important platforms for exposing wrongdoing.

But it has also created something our constitutional framework was not designed to encounter in its present form: a permanent, instantaneous and largely unregulated court of public opinion.



Social media has democratised access to information and created important platforms for exposing wrongdoing.

Presumed innocent according to law

The starting point is the Namibian Constitution.

Article 12(1)(d) provides that all persons charged with an offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law, after having had the opportunity to call witnesses and cross-examine those called against them.

Those words matter.

They recognise that guilt is not established by accusation, arrest, suspicion or public opinion. It is established through a legal process in which evidence is produced and tested and the prosecution bears the responsibility of proving the charge.

The Supreme Court dealt directly with the constitutional importance of this principle in *Attorney-General of Namibia v Minister of Justice and Others*. The case concerned statutory provisions that shifted aspects of the burden of proof onto an accused person.

The Court reaffirmed the presumption of innocence as a fundamental part of the right to a fair trial in ruling that the

impugned reverse-onus provisions were constitutionally impermissible.

The Court's recognition that a criminal charge has consequences well beyond the courtroom was particularly relevant in today's digital environment.

A person accused of criminal conduct may face loss of liberty, social stigma, ostracism and other social, psychological and economic harm.

Social media has magnified those consequences. Today, stigma does not necessarily wait for conviction. It may begin with the first post.

Innocent in court, guilty online

This exposes an uncomfortable gap between constitutional principle and social reality.

A court can insist that the prosecution prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt. It can exclude inadmissible evidence. It can hear both sides. It can permit cross-examination. It can ultimately acquit an accused person.

But a court cannot easily restore a reputation destroyed months earlier.

A person may therefore remain presumed innocent before the law while simultaneously being treated as guilty by employers, colleagues, neighbours, clients and the wider community.

That is the constitutional cost of trial by social media.

The presumption of innocence protects the accused within the criminal process. It does not mean that every citizen commenting on Facebook assumes the constitutional duties of a judge. Nor should Article 12(1)(d) be stretched beyond its proper legal meaning.

But the values underlying the presumption, fairness, dignity and restraint before judgment should matter to a constitutional society beyond the physical walls of a courtroom.

This is also where the work of Ronald

Dworkin, a leading legal philosopher and scholar of constitutional rights, becomes relevant.

Dworkin famously argued that individual rights operate as "trumps" against claims based simply on what the majority considers desirable. In other words, fundamental rights should not be set aside merely because their protection is unpopular or inconvenient.

The point becomes particularly important when an accused person has already become deeply unpopular. Constitutional rights would mean very little if they protected only those whom society was willing to protect.

The presumption of innocence must therefore do its work precisely when public opinion is moving in the opposite direction. A serious allegation, widespread anger or even an overwhelming public belief in a person's guilt cannot substitute for proof.

The accused may be unpopular, and the accusation may be disturbing, but neither circumstance changes the constitutional starting point: guilt must still be established according to law.

If we accept that criminal accusation can cause serious reputational and social consequences, then we should also ask whether those consequences ought to be imposed before the allegation has been tested.

An accusation is not evidence

One of the dangers of social media is the ease with which the burden of proof becomes reversed.

The question quickly changes from "Has this allegation been proved?" to "Why does the accused not prove that he or she is innocent?"

Constitutionally, that is the wrong starting point.

The State accuses; the State must prove.

The same principle has received strong

recognition in South Africa. In *S v Zuma and Others*, the Constitutional Court dealt with a provision that effectively required an accused person to disprove part of the case against him.

The Court found this difficult to reconcile with the presumption of innocence. The starting point in a criminal trial remains that it is for the prosecution to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

There is a simple reason for this. Being accused of a crime and being proved guilty of it are two very different things. Social media has made it increasingly easy to forget that distinction.

Social media, however, does not operate according to rules of evidence. A screenshot may be accepted without knowing its origin.

A short video may circulate without what happened immediately before or afterwards. A voice note from an unidentified person may suddenly be treated as corroboration. Repetition can then create the impression of verification.

After a few hundred shares, the question of whether the original allegation was ever established may almost disappear.

But popularity is not proof. Neither is virality.

Freedom of expression also matters

There is another side to the constitutional equation.

Article 21(1)(a) of the Namibian Constitution protects freedom of speech and expression, which includes freedom of the press and other media.

Any serious discussion of social media trials must therefore resist the temptation to suggest that criminal allegations should not be discussed publicly. That would go too far.

The media has an indispensable role in a constitutional democracy. Investigative journalism can expose corruption and abuse. Social media has enabled victims and

whistle-blowers to speak when established institutions have failed them. Public scrutiny can itself strengthen accountability.

The constitutional question is therefore not whether people should be allowed to speak. It is how freedom of expression coexists with fairness, dignity and the proper administration of justice.

Namibian courts have also cautioned against allowing public opinion to influence the judicial determination of criminal proceedings.

In *S v Gustavo*, a bail matter arising from the Fishrot case, Oosthuizen J made it clear that social media opinions, public gatherings and demonstrations should not become the measure of public interest for purposes of a court's decision.

He accepted that people are entitled to express their views and demonstrate under Article 21 of the Constitution. But that public reaction is not what should decide the case before a court.

I think that distinction has become even more important today. There is nothing wrong with the public being angry about an alleged crime, particularly where the allegations are serious. People are entitled to speak, protest and demand accountability.

But a large crowd, a trending hashtag or thousands of angry comments cannot prove a criminal charge. Public outrage may tell us how people feel about a case. It does not tell a court whether the accused is guilty.

This does not diminish freedom of expression. It simply recognises that public opinion and judicial determination serve different purposes.

Comparative jurisprudence provides useful guidance.

In the South African case of *Multichoice (Pty) Ltd and Others v National Prosecuting Authority and Another*, arising from applications to broadcast the Oscar Pistorius

trial, the High Court had to balance media freedom, open justice and the accused's right to a fair trial.

The Court recognised the legitimate public interest in following criminal proceedings and permitted significant media access. But it also issued an important warning. There remained only one court entrusted with analysing the evidence and passing judgment. The Court cautioned that tendencies towards “trial by media” could undermine both the proceedings and the administration of justice.

That distinction is crucial.

Open justice is not the same thing as parallel justice.

The public has every right to observe, report on, discuss and criticise criminal proceedings. But the authority to determine criminal guilt remains with the court.

Taking victims seriously without declaring guilt

The presumption of innocence must also never become a slogan used to silence victims. That is particularly important in cases involving gender-based violence, sexual offences and other crimes where complainants may already face enormous barriers to reporting. To say that an accused person is presumed innocent is not to say that a complainant is lying. These are different propositions.

A complainant deserves to be heard, treated with dignity and protected from intimidation. An accused person is entitled to have guilt determined according to the law. A mature constitutional system should be capable of protecting both interests at the same time.

We therefore do not have to choose between “believing victims” and “presuming innocence” as though one necessarily destroys the other. An allegation can be treated seriously without being treated as

judicially established fact.

Indeed, social media trials can also harm complainants. Their identities and private information may be circulated. Their statements may be dissected by strangers. They may be subjected to harassment or counter-accusations. Witnesses may encounter versions of events online before giving evidence.

Responsible restraint therefore protects more than the accused. It can protect victims, witnesses and ultimately the integrity of the criminal process itself.

But can social media actually prejudice a court?

There is an important counterargument.

Namibia's criminal trials are generally determined by trained judicial officers, not juries. Judges and magistrates are expected to decide cases on the evidence presented in court, irrespective of public commentary.

Kenyan courts have confronted a similar question. In *Tom Odhiambo Ojienda SC v Director of Public Prosecutions & 3 others*, Ojienda challenged, among other things, the publicity that surrounded his arrest and intended prosecution. He argued that it had implications for his presumption of innocence and his right to a fair trial.

The High Court did not agree with him on this point. It referred to earlier Kenyan decisions and made the point that criminal cases in Kenya are not decided by juries, but by judicial officers who are trained to decide cases on the evidence presented in court. The publicity surrounding a case would therefore not, without more, mean that an accused person could no longer receive a fair trial. On the facts before it, the Court was not satisfied that Ojienda's rights had been violated in this respect.

I find this distinction very important. The fact that a case is being discussed all over social media does not necessarily mean

that the judge or magistrate hearing it will be influenced by that discussion. Judicial officers are expected to put such commentary aside and decide the case before them.

But my concern goes beyond what happens to the judicial officer.

What happens to the accused person while all of this is taking place? The judge may not have been influenced at all, yet the person's name, photograph and the allegations against him or her may already have circulated thousands of times. Colleagues may have formed their conclusions. An employer may have reacted. Friends and family may have been affected. The person's reputation may already have suffered.

A later acquittal does not necessarily undo any of that. This is where I believe the real difficulty with trial by social media lies. A person can receive a perfectly fair trial in court and still have been tried, convicted and, in a very real sense, punished in public long before that trial is concluded. The constitutional cost of a social media trial may arise without influencing the judge at all.

A judicial officer may conduct an impeccable trial and ultimately acquit the accused. Yet by then the accused may have lost employment, business relationships, friendships and standing in the community.

A court can return a verdict of not guilty. It cannot order the internet to forget.

When the court disagrees with the public This creates another difficulty.

What happens when social media has already convicted someone, but the court subsequently acquits that person? Increasingly, the immediate assumption may be that the justice system has failed. Courts are not beyond criticism. Judgments should be scrutinised, debated and, where appropriate, strongly criticised. That is part of constitutional democracy.

But criticism should engage with what the court actually decided and why. The public may have watched a thirty-second video. The court may have heard weeks of evidence. The public may have read an accusation. The court may have heard the complainant cross-examined, considered forensic evidence, examined documents and heard the defence.

An acquittal does not necessarily mean that nothing happened. It means that criminal guilt was not established to the standard required by law. That distinction is sometimes difficult, but it is fundamental.

If we reach the point where a court judgment is regarded as legitimate only when it confirms the verdict already reached on social media, then the constitutional process has effectively been reversed. The court becomes an appeal tribunal from the court of public opinion. That cannot be what constitutional justice means.

The language we use matters

Perhaps one of the simplest responses lies in how allegations are communicated.

There is a reason responsible reporting uses words such as “alleged”, “accused”, “suspected” and “charged”. They are not meaningless legal qualifications. They distinguish accusation from adjudication.

There is a significant difference between saying that “a person has been charged with fraud” and saying that “the person stole the money”. The first reports a fact about legal proceedings. The second declares the very conclusion the criminal trial may still have to determine.

The same responsibility should increasingly inform how ordinary users communicate online. Every person with a smartphone now possesses something previous generations largely associated with newspapers and broadcasters: the ability to publish instantly to a potentially enormous

audience. With that power should come some appreciation of consequence.

A constitutional culture beyond the courtroom

The Namibian Constitution cannot prevent every irresponsible post. Nor should constitutional rights become an excuse for policing every opinion expressed online.

The deeper question is about constitutional culture. The presumption of innocence is legally enforceable within the criminal justice system. But the principle also expresses an idea worth carrying into public life: judgment should follow evidence, not precede it.

Freedom of expression deserves protection. So does human dignity. Victims deserve to be heard. Accused persons deserve a fair trial. The media must be able to scrutinise the justice system. And courts must remain open to criticism.

These principles are not mutually exclusive. Constitutionalism requires us to hold them together even when doing so is uncomfortable. The danger of trial by social media is therefore not that citizens have opinions about criminal cases. An engaged public is indispensable to democracy. The danger begins when opinion assumes the authority of judgment;

when allegation becomes proof through repetition; and when punishment begins before guilt has been established.

The Constitution may continue to presume an accused person innocent. The judge may continue to approach the evidence with an open mind. The prosecution may still carry the burden of proving guilt. But outside the courtroom, the accused may already have lost a career, reputation, relationships and standing in the community.

And therein lies the constitutional paradox of the digital age: presumed innocent according to law, but publicly convicted long before judgment.

** Steven L. Mukwena holds an LLB (Honours) degree and is currently pursuing an LLM by Research at the University of Namibia. He writes in his personal capacity.*

THE RESTORATION Concert 4.0

Bus Pick Up Points:

The Restoration Concert 4.0 will provide free transport from the following pick up points to the Dr Gage Geingob stadium. Only ticket holders will be allowed to board the bus. All busses will depart from these designated points at 15h00 and return from the stadium at 23h00.

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BUS 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Havana Four Way Coresgala - Wommann Brock Greenwell Matango - Maspiri Bus Stop 	BUS 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khomasdaal Spar Khomasdaal Star Hotel 	BUS 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ombili (Creater Love Ministry - Jesus Centre) Hakahana Service Station
BUS 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orijomuisse - Ramatex Entrance Rocky Crest - Prayer Model Church Rienetspark (Barnes Shopping Centre) 	BUS 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miami Service Dumara Bus Stop Vambo Location Bus Stop 	