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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



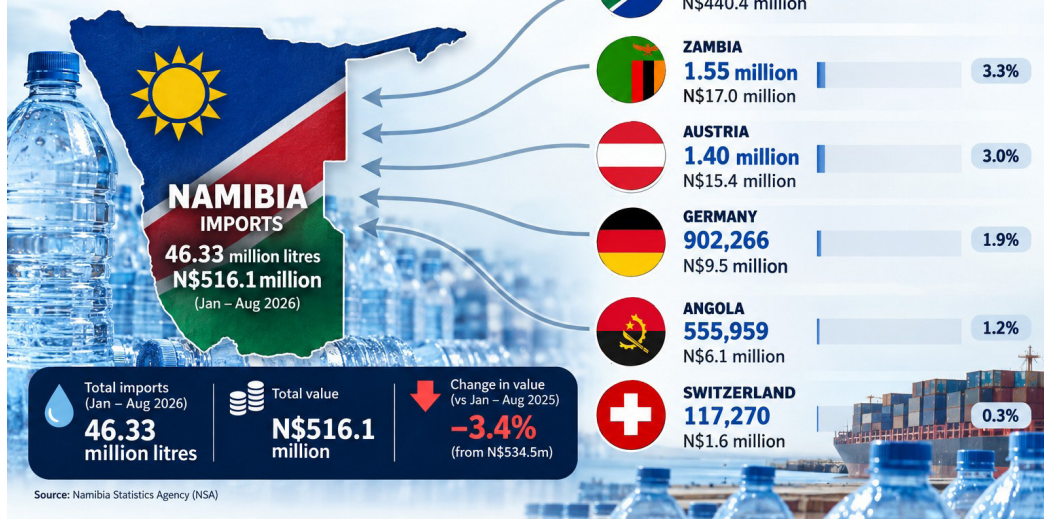
Namibia spends N\$516m on water imports in eight months

WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2026

MAIN STORY

Where Namibia imports its water from

Namibia imported 46.33 million litres of water products valued at N\$516.1 million in the first eight months of 2026.



Namibia spends N\$516m on water imports in eight months

Namibia spent N\$516.1 million importing water products during the first eight months of 2026, with South Africa supplying about 88% of the 46.33 million litres brought into the country.

Data from the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) shows that imports between

Crucial Dates

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

2025, broadly unchanged from N\$390.7 million in 2024.

However, imports classified as other waters, mineral waters and aerated waters increased from 14.60 million litres in 2024 to 22.85 million litres in 2025, while their value rose from N\$127.5 million to N\$161.2 million.

Imports of mineral and aerated waters under HS 22011000 also increased from 10.04 million litres in 2024 to 14.13 million litres in 2025.

!Hoeab said the NTF was engaging local manufacturers to determine their production capacity, market-access challenges and willingness to expand their presence in the domestic market.

“What is it that you need in terms of market access, because we are the custodians of the supply chain? And then we asked also, what are the bottlenecks that you have? What is your production

capacity? What is your willingness to enter the market?” he said.

The NTF is assessing possible concessions and other interventions to support domestic production, employment creation and increased uptake of locally manufactured products.

Namibia's water exports remain significantly below imports.

Reported exports increased from 161,738 litres valued at N\$3.67 million in 2024 to 1.30 million litres worth N\$4.09 million in 2025.

However, the 2025 figure includes a December transaction to the Netherlands recorded as 1.008 million litres despite a net weight of just 1,126 kilogrammes and a value of N\$23,405.

Excluding that transaction, reported exports amounted to about 292,122 litres, underscoring Namibia's continued reliance on imported water products.



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Capricorn Group makes R788m bid for 81.6% stake in South Africa's Centrafin

Capricorn Group Limited has made a binding offer to acquire an initial 81.6% stake in South African specialist asset finance company Centrafin, in a transaction valuing the business at R788.3 million.

The Namibia Securities Exchnage-listed financial services group will acquire the stake from Fonzosys, part of the Alviva Group, and will have the option to increase its ownership to 100% over a five-year period.

The proposed acquisition marks Capricorn Group's planned entry into South Africa through an established operating financial services business, expanding its footprint beyond Namibia and Botswana.

The R788.3 million enterprise value remains subject to the finalisation of Centrafin's audited financial results.



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Centrafin operates in South Africa’s specialist equipment rental and asset financing market and has developed an asset finance book of about R3 billion, spanning a range of asset classes.

Capricorn Group Chief Executive Officer David Nuyoma said the acquisition would support the group’s strategy to diversify its revenue streams and expand its regional financial services operations.

“South Africa is an important market in our growth ambitions, and Centrafin presents us with the opportunity to enter this market through an established operating financial services business,” Nuyoma said.

“It will also introduce specialist asset finance and non-bank lending capabilities to the sectors in which we participate, further

diversifying the interests of our Group.”

Capricorn Group said it conducted due diligence covering Centrafin’s financial, risk, legal, tax, operational, regulatory, human capital, brand and reputational aspects before making the binding offer.

Centrafin Managing Director Jenny Gill said the company had grown from a technology equipment rental business into a diversified asset finance house.

“Over the years, Centrafin has successfully evolved from a technology equipment rental business into a diversified asset finance house with a R3 billion book spanning a broad range of asset classes,” Gill said.

Capricorn Group intends to retain the Centrafin brand following the acquisition, while existing customer teams and service channels will remain in place as the transaction progresses.

The binding offer does not mean the acquisition has been completed.

The transaction remains subject to the negotiation and execution of definitive agreements, approval from the Bank of Namibia and South African Competition Commission, and compliance with applicable Namibia Securities Exchange requirements.

Other conditions precedent must be fulfilled or waived by 31 January 2027, unless the parties agree to extend the deadline.

Capricorn Group currently operates Bank Windhoek, Bank Gaborone, Capricorn Asset Management, Entrepo and Peo Finance, with operations concentrated in Namibia and Botswana.



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How AI-related disputes could reach Namibia's courtrooms

Why Judicial Officers Should Prepare

By Chisom Obiudo

A rejected loan application may seem an unlikely starting point for a court dispute about artificial intelligence (AI). Yet AI's role in that decision could become central to a borrower's complaint.

Picture this hypothetical scenario: a Namibian financial institution uses AI to assess loan applications from micro, small and medium-sized businesses.

The system was trained on historical lending decisions to predict which applications to approve.

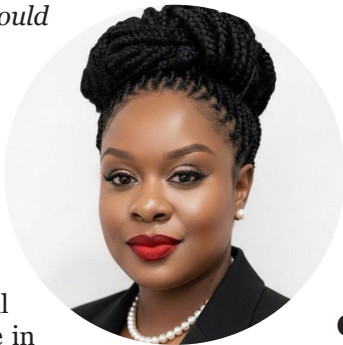
Those records include repeated rejections of applicants from one region, even though their finances are comparable to those of applicants approved elsewhere.

The system learns that regional pattern and recommends similar rejections. AI is reproducing bias in past decisions.

This could raise concerns about unlawful discrimination. A court would need to examine why the applicants were treated differently and whether that treatment breached Namibian law.

Foreign cases show that disputes involving AI could reach our courts through familiar claims, such as those concerning loans, employment or misleading advice.

They could involve an individual professional, a small business, a public institution or a company. Judges and



Foreign cases show that disputes involving AI could reach our courts through familiar claims, such as those concerning loans, employment or misleading advice.

magistrates may need to examine AI-generated decisions, even if their courts never use AI.

From an AI decision to a legal claim

Such a claim requires a recognised legal basis, often called a cause of action. A contract claim asks whether an agreement was broken.

A discrimination claim examines why people were treated differently and whether the law prohibits that treatment.

The person bringing the claim normally has to prove the facts needed to obtain compensation or another remedy, such as an order to stop unlawful conduct.

Negligence requires further explanation. The question is whether someone failed to take precautions that a reasonably careful person in the same situation would have taken to prevent a foreseeable risk of harm.

The court considers what could reasonably

have been expected at the time, rather than judging conduct in hindsight.

For professional work, the standard reflects the care and competence reasonably expected of that profession.

Imagine a lawyer accepting an AI-generated answer about a filing deadline without verifying the legislation or court rules.

The answer is incorrect, the deadline passes, and the client loses the opportunity to pursue a claim.

The court would assess whether a reasonably competent lawyer would have checked the deadline and whether that failure caused the client's loss. The missed check matters; an AI mistake alone does not establish liability.

Lessons from foreign cases

These questions have already arisen abroad. In *Moffatt v Air Canada* (2024), a passenger asked the airline's website chatbot about bereavement fares, which offer reduced fares for travel following a relative's death.

The chatbot incorrectly stated that he could claim the discount after buying his ticket. He relied on that information, but the airline later refused to grant the discount.

British Columbia's Civil Resolution Tribunal found Air Canada liable for negligent misrepresentation: failing to take reasonable care about misleading information the passenger reasonably relied on, causing financial loss.

In *Mata v Avianca* (2023), lawyers submitted court papers citing cases that ChatGPT had invented. A New York federal court penalised the lawyers and their firm

under existing court rules.

The decision addressed failures to verify the cases and subsequent misleading statements to the court. The penalty was not imposed merely for using AI. Professional responsibility required checking the work before presenting it as reliable.

Recruitment also raises questions about suppliers. In a July 2024 ruling in *Mobley v Workday*, a federal court in California allowed certain claims of discriminatory applicant screening to proceed. Derek Mobley alleged that Workday's tools disadvantaged applicants on the basis of race, age and disability.

The court accepted that Workday could be treated as an employer's agent because it performed recruitment tasks on the employer's behalf. However, the ruling did not establish that discrimination had occurred.

Foreign decisions offer useful comparisons, but Namibian courts must apply the law governing the dispute. Differences in legislation or facts may render a foreign court's reasoning unsuitable.

How Namibian law could apply

In Namibia, a chatbot's statement about a discount could form part of a contract if the requirements for an agreement are met.

Refusing to honour it could then constitute a breach of contract. Other harm may fall under delict, the law that allows compensation for certain civil wrongs without relying on a contractual promise.

A delictual claim requires more than proof of an error. The court must examine wrongfulness: whether the law recognises a duty not to cause that kind of harm in those

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circumstances.

It must also consider fault, such as intention or negligence, and whether the conduct caused harm for which compensation can be awarded. These are separate questions; carelessness does not automatically satisfy all requirements.

The Constitution also matters. Article 10 protects equality before the law and prohibits discrimination on grounds such as race or ethnic origin. Article 13 protects privacy, including communications.

Article 5 requires state institutions to respect and uphold these rights. It also binds individuals and companies to whom these rights apply.

In the loan example, a court would need to establish why applicants from one region were rejected while others with similar financial circumstances were approved.

It would then assess whether that treatment violated the right to equality under Article 10. A pattern of rejections could support a discrimination claim, but it would not, on its own, prove unlawful conduct by the institution.

Preparing judicial officers to assess the evidence

Applying these rules requires understanding the evidence. Preparation begins by identifying the role AI played. Did it draft a message, recommend approval of a loan, or automatically reject an application?

If someone reviewed its recommendation, what did that person check? Judicial officers need sufficient understanding to follow the evidence on the information used, the result produced, and the people involved.

The evidence must address the disputed decision. For a loan application, relevant records may include the applicant's financial information, the bank's lending rules, the tool's recommendation and staff checks.

Other applications may show whether

the bank treated comparable businesses differently. A supplier's statement that its system is generally accurate does not explain why this applicant was rejected.

An expert should explain how the tool was tested, what the tests show, and what they cannot establish.

Did the testing include businesses from the regions and with the financial circumstances involved in the dispute?

A chatbot-generated explanation may sound convincing without reflecting the original decision. The court needs evidence linking the explanation to what actually happened.

Human involvement also warrants examination. A signature approving an AI recommendation does not show that anyone properly checked it.

Did the reviewer have the information, time and authority to question the result? Could they correct it, or were they expected to accept it? The answers help a court determine whether a person exercised judgement or merely passed on the tool's recommendation.

Access to records may itself be disputed. A bank might resist providing other applicants' information on confidentiality grounds.

The court would need to apply the rules governing access to documents and consider whether relevant evidence could be provided with identifying details removed where appropriate.

Both sides need a fair opportunity to challenge the evidence. Technical complexity should not be mistaken for reliability.

Courts must also be prepared for evidence created or altered using AI. If an audio recording is challenged, its source, storage history and possible alteration may need to be examined.

The judiciary of England and Wales provides a useful reference in its Artificial

Intelligence (AI): Guidance for Judicial Office Holders, dated 31 October 2025. It warns that AI can fabricate legal cases and quotations and generate fake text, images and videos.

It also emphasises that judges must read the underlying documents themselves: AI cannot replace their direct examination of the evidence.

These lessons could inform Namibian judicial training on verifying legal references and assessing the authenticity of material presented in court, while applying Namibian law and court procedures.

Training could use a hypothetical loan dispute featuring sample applications, a supplier report and competing expert explanations.

Judicial officers could practise identifying missing records, questioning technical conclusions and determining what the evidence proves.

They should assess both sides fairly, without assuming the technology is reliable or the complaint justified and explain their decisions in language the parties understand.

How lawyers and compliance professionals can prepare

Preparation also extends to legal advice and compliance. Lawyers can help clients avoid disputes before adopting a tool.

For recruitment software, ask how the client will detect whether qualified applicants are being rejected for reasons unrelated to the job. For a chatbot, verify answers against actual prices and terms.

Supplier contracts should address access to records, assistance with complaints and responsibility for losses. A supplier's promise to reimburse a business does not necessarily prevent a customer from suing that business.

When a dispute arises, preserve relevant

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instructions, responses, software versions and records of human checks before they are deleted.

Lawyers should verify their own AI-assisted work against judgments, legislation and supporting documents. Before uploading client information, establish who can access it, whether the provider may reuse it and whether sharing it is permitted by professional duties and the client's instructions.

Compliance professionals help organisations follow the law and their internal rules. They should review actual AI use against the organisation's AI usage policy: approved tools, permitted tasks, information staff may enter, and required human checks.

For example, if the policy prohibits uploading customer financial records to a public chatbot, staff need to understand the restriction, and compliance checks should confirm whether they follow it.

Review samples of completed work, record departures from the policy and refer them to the manager responsible for correction. Staff should know who can pause a tool or investigate complaints.

Repeated complaints should prompt investigation even if the tool previously passed its tests. Following an internal policy does not itself establish compliance with the law; the policy must also reflect the organisation's legal obligations.

The role of boards and business owners

Where an organisation has a board, its directors' duties include acting honestly in the company's interests and exercising care and skill.

They should question management about AI uses that could harm customers, employees or the company, request records of testing and complaints, and follow up on

unresolved issues.

AI failure does not automatically render directors personally liable. Any claim must establish what they did or failed to do and why the law makes them liable.

Organisations without boards also need supervision. Owners, partners or senior managers should assign responsibility for approving AI use, monitoring for problems and stopping a tool that is causing harm.

Preparing with international guidance

Preparation need not await dedicated Namibian AI legislation or comprehensive data protection legislation. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence sets out principles for fairness, privacy and human oversight.

ISO/IEC 42001:2023 sets out requirements for how organisations manage AI, including policies, responsibilities and risk controls.

These international standards and guidelines can help organisations use AI responsibly, but they do not automatically become binding Namibian law. Following them does not, by itself, determine whether an organisation is legally responsible for harm.

A dispute over a loan, a job application or professional advice could bring an AI-assisted decision before a Namibian court.

Judicial officers should be prepared to understand how the decision was made, assess the evidence, and apply Namibian law, drawing on relevant international standards and guidance where helpful.

**** Chisom Obiudo is an admitted legal practitioner of the High Court of Namibia specialising in corporate governance and AI governance. She is currently a Chief Legal Officer at the Namibian Law Reform and Development Commission.***



Namibia urged to use oil boom to build wider economy

Namibia risks missing the broader economic benefits of its emerging oil industry if it focuses on crude exports without building domestic supply chains, local businesses and industries that can survive beyond petroleum production, industry experts have warned.

Speaking at the RMB and FNB Strategic Thought Leadership Summit, experts said Namibia should draw lessons from Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire by using anticipated oil investment and revenues to diversify the economy and retain more petroleum spending locally.

Julien Ayippey, Head of Strategy, Research and Data Analytics at First National Bank Ghana, said local content rules should be designed as a long-term economic policy rather than a short-term political intervention.

"Local content shouldn't be seen as a quota. It should be seen as how you keep money within the economy, and that's how your economy grows," Ayippey said.

He said Ghana's experience showed that developing meaningful domestic participation takes time, with the country progressively building local capacity since entering the oil industry.

According to Ayippey, about 22% of contracts in Ghana's petroleum industry are currently classified as local content, while 35% involve joint ventures and about 90% of jobs are held by Ghanaians.

He said Namibia should establish local content rules that extend beyond political cycles and ensure that revenues generated from finite petroleum resources are invested for future generations and into other productive sectors of the economy.

“There should be rules behind it that go beyond a political timeline,” Ayippey said.

The warning comes as Namibia moves closer to potential first oil following major offshore discoveries and the approval of its National Upstream Petroleum Local Content Policy.

The policy seeks to increase Namibian participation in the sector through employment, procurement, enterprise development, ownership, skills and technology transfer, research and innovation.

Ayippey said Namibia should also avoid concentrating solely on upstream exploration and production and instead consider opportunities across the petroleum value chain, including gas development, refining and fuel supply.

He pointed to Ghana's experience of producing crude oil while continuing to import refined petroleum products as an example of the economic value that can be lost when downstream industries remain underdeveloped.

“It's not just about exploration. Yes, we found oil. But can't we look at it from oil to pump, which is more of looking at it from the upstream, going to the gas and industry, going to refining and finally to fuel supply,” he said.

Ayippey said Namibia should identify areas where local companies can compete commercially rather than attempting to immediately localise every segment of the petroleum industry.

He also urged the government

to use future petroleum revenues to develop sectors capable of supporting economic growth after oil reserves are depleted.

“As a finite resource, that means it's going to get there. But how can you get that revenue to ensure that at least you are helping other sectors come out?” he said.

Former mines and energy minister and Alvenco Advisory founder Tom Alweendo said Namibia's local content ambitions should remain commercially viable and should not undermine the country's competitiveness as an investment destination.

He said domestic participation should be based on businesses developing the skills, capacity and financial strength required to

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compete for petroleum contracts rather than depending solely on regulatory requirements. Alweendo also warned Namibian businesses against waiting for oil companies to reach final investment decisions (FID) before preparing to enter the industry.

"I know of Namibians who are already moving, who are building their businesses, who are building capabilities. But that's already happening. Because if you wait until everything is dotted, everybody is agreed, it might be too late for you even to get into the sector anymore," he said.

He said businesses, banks and other stakeholders should begin assessing investment opportunities and risks before projects reach FID.

FNB Namibia Group Economist Cheryl Emvula also raised concerns about the pace at which Namibia is moving from discoveries towards development, arguing that delays

could postpone the wider economic benefits expected from the industry.

Drawing comparisons with Ghana, Emvula said the West African country moved relatively quickly from major discoveries towards investment and production, while Namibia's development process has taken longer.

The economic stakes extend beyond petroleum production itself, with billions of dollars in potential investment expected to create opportunities for local suppliers, financial institutions and service providers if projects proceed.

Speakers said Namibia's challenge will therefore be not only to bring its offshore discoveries into production, but to ensure the resulting investment and revenues create domestic industries, businesses and skills that remain productive long after the country's oil resources decline.

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Windhoek ranked eighth in Africa, 411th globally in Global Cities Index

Windhoek has been ranked the eighth-highest African city in the 2026 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index, placing 411th globally out of 1,000 cities assessed worldwide.

The Namibian capital performed strongest in the Environment category, where it recorded a score of 84.0, while its Governance score stood at 63.4, according to the City of Windhoek.

The index ranks cities across five categories: Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Environment and Governance.

The City said the ranking provides an indication of Windhoek’s competitiveness against other cities globally, while highlighting areas where further improvements are

needed.

“This recognition reflects the City of Windhoek’s continued efforts to build a sustainable, inclusive and caring city,” the municipality said.

“The results also provide valuable insights into areas where we can strengthen our competitiveness, improve service delivery and enhance the overall well-being of our residents.”

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Bank Windhoek appoints Zenaune Kamberipa as Financial Director

Bank Windhoek has appointed Zenaune Kamberipa as Financial Director, effective 25 September 2026.

Kamberipa, who has served as Bank Windhoek's Chief Financial Officer since September 2020, joins the board with experience in auditing, financial management and the financial services sector.

Before joining Bank Windhoek, he served as Group Financial Manager at FirstRand Group.

He began his career at Deloitte in South Africa before moving to the firm's Namibia operations.

Bank Windhoek Board Chairperson Johan Swanepoel said Kamberipa's appointment would strengthen the bank's governance and strategic capabilities.

"Zenaune Kamberipa brings exceptional technical expertise, sound judgement and an invaluable understanding of both the banking sector and Bank Windhoek's operation," Swanepoel said.

"On behalf of the Board and Executive Management, I congratulate him on this well-deserved appointment and thank him for his continued



contribution to the Bank's success."

Kamberipa is a Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and an MBA from Stellenbosch Business School.

Bank Windhoek said the appointment will provide its board with greater financial expertise, institutional knowledge and strategic insight.

Govt moves to shield Namibian industries from cheap, unfair imports

The government is moving to tighten protection for Namibian producers against dumped and subsidised imports, with proposed legislation giving a new trade commission powers to investigate foreign goods that threaten local industries and recommend protective measures.

International Relations and Trade Minister Selma Ashipala-Musavyi tabled the International Trade Management Bill, 2026, in the National Assembly, proposing the establishment of an independent International Trade Management Commission.

The Commission would investigate cases where goods are dumped in Namibia, benefit from foreign subsidies or enter the market in sudden volumes that could harm domestic producers.

It would be empowered to apply or recommend anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures in response.

“The Commission will be empowered to investigate and act on dumping, subsidised imports, and import surges that affect Namibian producers, through anti-dumping, countervailing, and safeguard measures,” Ashipala-Musavyi said.

The proposed institution would also



administer Infant Industry Protection under Article 26 of the Southern African Customs Union Agreement, allowing qualifying emerging industries temporary

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protection from established competitors.

Ashipala-Musavyi said the protection is intended to give emerging Namibian industries time to increase production capacity, create jobs and become competitive.

The Bill also seeks to give Namibia greater control over its tariff policy by allowing the Commission to investigate and recommend changes to customs duties, rebates and refunds.

The recommendations would be based on economic analysis and Namibia's obligations under regional and international trade agreements.

Ashipala-Musavyi said the government wants to use the framework to support

industrialisation, value addition and employment without imposing unnecessary costs on consumers.

The proposed Commission would also strengthen Namibia's ability to negotiate and defend its trade interests within SACU, the Southern African Development Community and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The minister said Namibia has historically relied on regional processes while lacking sufficient domestic capacity to analyse tariff applications and advance its own trade interests.

Under the Bill, trade decisions would be subject to public notice, stakeholder participation and published reasons, with mechanisms for decisions to be reviewed.

"Decisions will follow open, predictable procedures, with public notice, stakeholder participation, published reasons, and provision for review," Ashipala-Musavyi said.

The Commission would also be required to report annually to Parliament and operate under financial management and governance requirements set out in the proposed legislation.

The Bill was developed following consultations with government institutions, the private sector, organised labour and other stakeholders. It was subsequently considered by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and certified by the Office of the Attorney General before being tabled in Parliament.



There is still meaning in the things we do by choice

By Simeon Tuyoleni

Observing the rapid pace of global technological advancement, I find a quiet anxiety shadowing my thoughts about the future.

I see the swift rise of artificial intelligence, and it feels as though the ground is shifting beneath our feet.

For generations, humanity has experienced a gradual displacement of our traditional capabilities.

Where communities once relied entirely on physical endurance and an intimate, inherited knowledge of the natural world to survive, the arrival of heavy industry and mechanisation demonstrated that machinery could easily outmatch human physical labour. Now, artificial intelligence is challenging our final stronghold: our intellect. I share the common fear of becoming economically obsolete, sidelined in a society that has historically valued individuals primarily for their productivity.

But recently, I have begun to realise that this fear rests on a flawed assumption. We have been conditioned to believe that if something is not economically useful, it is worthless. Yet, is the orange glow of a Namibian sunset worthless because it cannot be monetised? Is a piece of handcrafted art or a local melody useless because it does not balance a spreadsheet? We are terrified of AI because we wrongly equate our human dignity with our economic utility.

When I view the future through this lens, that fear gives way to a sense of liberation. If AI eventually manages the heavy lifting of civilisation, if it solves the complex logistical problems of our daily survival, human action will finally be freed from the chains of necessity. We will act based on our own free



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will and agency, rather than the pressures of mere survival.

We already live this way in small fragments. We have industrial agriculture and commercial bakeries, yet many still find deep satisfaction in growing their own vegetables or baking their own bread. We have modern electric stoves, yet we still choose to gather, cook, and converse around an open fire. We have cars, yet we still choose to walk or hike up mountains. We do these things not because we must, but because we choose to.

In the future, we will continue to create, to learn, and to strive, not because we are the most efficient tools for the job, but because there is profound meaning in the effort and the craft itself.

The future is not a self driving car where we are doomed to sit as passive passengers, wasting away. True rebellion in this era is not panicking about the end of the world, it is embracing a rational optimism. We are not losing our purpose to the machines. Instead, we are finally gaining the freedom to discover what our purpose truly is when mere survival is no longer the primary goal.

**** Simeon Tuyoleni, is a software engineer and founder of Asmbly, where we bring together the teachers, learners, and the system to improve the quality of education in Namibia and beyond.***

Agribank considers repayment relief for farmers hit by FMD restrictions

Agribank says it will consider alternative repayment arrangements and other support measures for clients whose farming operations have been affected by Namibia's foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak and related livestock movement restrictions.

Agribank Chief Executive Officer Dr Robert Eiman said affected farmers and agribusinesses should approach the bank to discuss the financial impact of the outbreak, with assistance to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

"The Bank will work with each client to identify appropriate repayment arrangements and support options to protect and preserve the agribusinesses, guided by the policies and procedures," Eiman said.

He said the bank would not apply a blanket relief programme because the impact of the outbreak and restrictions differs across farming and agricultural enterprises.

"Any support to be extended to our clients will not follow a one-size-fits-all approach; each request will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering the client's circumstances," Eiman said.

The intervention follows the confirmation of an FMD outbreak on a commercial farm in the //Kharas Region on 23 September 2026.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform subsequently introduced disease-control measures, including restrictions on the movement and marketing of cloven-hoofed animals and animal products to contain the outbreak.



Eiman said the outbreak and related restrictions have far-reaching implications for the livestock industry, livelihoods and the wider economy.

He urged affected clients to engage the bank early to identify repayment and other support options aimed at protecting their farming and agribusiness operations.

Eiman also called on stakeholders, communities and businesses to comply with the restrictions and other measures introduced to contain the outbreak and restore normal livestock farming and trading conditions.



WFP faces N\$15.3m funding shortfall for Namibia operations

The World Food Programme (WFP) requires N\$15.32 million to sustain its operations in Namibia through February 2027, amid growing concerns that a developing El Niño could worsen food

insecurity during the 2026/27 agricultural season.
WFP’s Namibia country portfolio for 2026 is currently funded at N\$51.62 million against requirements of N\$66.60 million,





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leaving a funding gap of about N\$14.98 million.

The agency warned that forecasts pointing to a developing El Niño could result in below-normal rainfall across Southern Africa, potentially reducing agricultural production and regional cereal supplies.

“Reduced rainfall may adversely affect agricultural production, constrain regional cereal supplies and heighten food security risks,” WFP said.

It warned that Namibia’s dependence on food imports could expose households to higher food prices, particularly those still recovering from the effects of the 2023/24 drought.

The funding requirement comes as WFP continues to support government food

security and nutrition programmes across the country.

In September, the Namibian government distributed more than 4,800 metric tonnes of rice donated by the Republic of Korea through WFP’s on-demand services, reaching 338,966 households across 14 regions. Distribution in Kavango East was still pending.

WFP also reported that more than 51,000 children received meals through Early Childhood Development centres with financial support from the European Union.

The agency is supporting the government in developing a national school feeding strategy that could eventually expand feeding programmes beyond the existing Home-Grown School Feeding pilot to more than 700,000 learners nationwide.

WFP is also working with the government and development partners on Early Childhood Development reforms, including preparations for a Family-Based ECD programme targeting children aged between zero and two years.

Following a review of Namibia’s drought response in September, WFP and its partners identified beneficiary targeting, accountability, coordination, community feedback, disability inclusion and emergency preparedness as areas requiring improvement.

The agency said continued funding will be needed to maintain its interventions and strengthen Namibia’s preparedness for potential climate-related shocks.

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