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THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

DBN clean energy financing tops N$1.58bn, supports 81.6MW capacity

MONDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY

DBN clean energy financing tops N$1.58bn, supports 81.6MW capacity

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has invested more than N$1.58 billion in clean energy projects since its inception, supporting the development of 81.6 megawatts (MW) of clean energy capacity across Namibia.

The development finance institution disclosed the figures after being named the winner of the Green Financial Services/ Institution category at the fifth Namibia Sustainable Development Awards held on 3 September 2026.

DBN said its investment in renewable energy forms part of efforts to use development finance to support Namibia's transition towards cleaner energy and a more climate-resilient economy.

The awards are hosted by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) in partnership with the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) and recognise institutions and individuals implementing environmentally responsible and sustainable practices.

The Green Financial Services/Institution category specifically recognises financial institutions providing financial and technical solutions that support investment in green technologies, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

DBN Chief Marketing and Corporate Affairs Jerome Mutumba said the bank's role extends beyond providing capital to

Crucial Dates

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

> As Namibia's national development finance institution, our responsibility extends beyond financing projects.

demonstrating the commercial viability of climate-related investments.

"This award affirms DBN's role in using development finance to unlock sustainable investment," Mutumba said.

"As Namibia's national development finance institution, our responsibility extends beyond financing projects. We also help demonstrate that climate-aligned investments can be commercially viable, thereby creating confidence and opportunities for private capital to follow."

He said green finance was becoming increasingly important to Namibia's economic development, particularly in supporting energy security, climate resilience and employment creation.

"Green finance is not separate from development finance. It is becoming increasingly central to how Namibia will achieve sustainable economic growth, energy security, climate resilience and job creation," Mutumba said.

DBN said it plans to continue mobilising and deploying capital towards sustainable investments while working with the government, development partners and the private sector to attract additional investment into climate-aligned projects.

The bank said its financing priorities will continue to include projects that promote cleaner energy and strengthen Namibia's climate resilience.

NedNamibia Holdings Limited (NNH Group)

Condensed Results

for the six months ended June 2026

NEDBANK

Loans & advances	SDG funding	Headline Earnings	Return on equity	Non interest revenue	Paytoday & Avo users	Digitally active clients
▲ 25.4%	▲ 5.2%	▲ 23.7%	▲ 3.5%	▲ 10.7%	▲ 62.5%	▲ 15%
Jun 2026 N$13.5b	Jun 2026 8.5%	Jun 2026 N$239m	Jun 2026 15.1%	Jun 2026 N$285.4m	Jun 2026 16,849	Jun 2026 92%
Jun 2025 N$10.7b	*Jun 2025 3.3%*	*Jun 2025 N$193m*	*Jun 2025 11.6%*	*Jun 2025 N$257.7m*	*Jun 2025 10,366*	*Jun 2025 77%*

We delivered a strong financial performance during the first half of 2026, reflecting the resilience of our business model, disciplined execution of our strategy, and our continued focus on serving our customers while creating sustainable value for shareholders.

Profit after tax increased by 24.4% to N$239.0 million, compared to N$193.3 million in the corresponding period of 2025. This strong earnings growth was driven by solid revenue momentum across our core banking activities, improved credit performance, and effective cost management.

Net interest income increased by 7.6% to N$517.4 million, underpinned by growth in interest-earning assets and sound balance sheet management. Non-interest revenue increased by 10.7% to N$285.4 million, demonstrating the continued diversification and strength of our revenue base.

We are particularly encouraged by the improvement in asset quality, with impairment charges declining by 10.8% compared to the prior period.

Our focus on operational efficiency continued to yield positive results. While we continued to invest in strategic initiatives and customer service enhancements, operating expenses increased by only 1.9%, significantly below income growth. This positive operating leverage resulted in a 25.6% increase in profit before tax, which reached N$287.7 million.

Our balance sheet remains well positioned to support future growth. Loans and advances to customers increased by 25.4% year-on-year to N$13.5 billion, reflecting our commitment to supporting individuals, businesses, and economic development. Deposits grew by 10.8% to N$21.5 billion, providing a stable and diversified funding base. We maintained a strong liquidity position, with the liquidity coverage ratio of 154%, well above the regulatory requirements.

Our capital position remains robust and comfortably above regulatory requirements. Total regulatory capital stood at N$2.6 billion, supporting a Total Risk-Weighted Capital Ratio of 15.9%, a Tier 1 Capital Ratio of 13.4%, and a Tier 2 Capital Ratio of 2.5%.

In 2026, NNH Group continued to create meaningful value for communities through purpose-led initiatives focused on sustainable livelihoods, youth development, entrepreneurship, education, sport and environmental conservation. Through programmes such as the Nedbank for Good Series, the Nedbank Namibian Newspaper Cup and the Nedbank Cycle Challenge, the bank supported agricultural skills and food security, provided young athletes from all 14 regions with development opportunities, promoted healthy lifestyles, and equipped grassroots entrepreneurs with funding, financial literacy and greater market exposure.

NNH Group also strengthened the transition from education to employment by employing 40 graduates through the internship programme, supported business resilience through the Future of Business Conference, and continued contributing to conservation and sustainable development through the Go Green Fund.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on executing our strategic priorities, deepening customer relationships, strengthening our digital capabilities, and driving sustainable growth. The strong performance achieved during the first half of 2026, together with our solid capital and liquidity positions, provides a strong foundation for the remainder of the year and reinforces our confidence in the long-term prospects of the Group.

For and on behalf of the Board

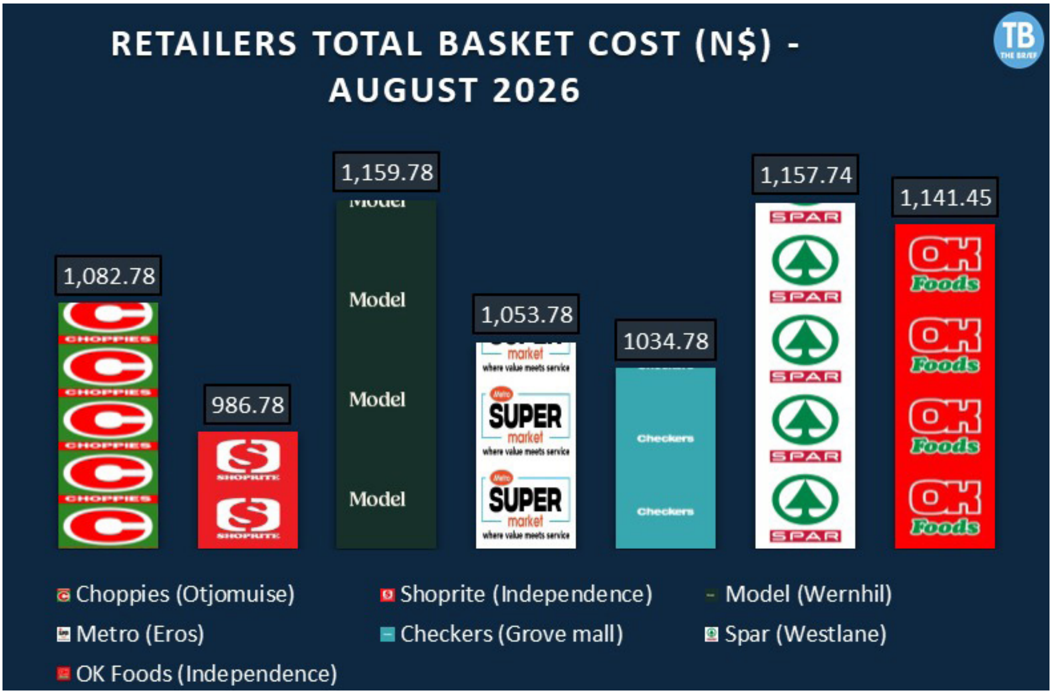
SI Kankondi
Chairperson

M Murorua
Managing Director

Windhoek, 20 August 2026

Financial highlights

	% change YoY	NNH Group 30 Jun 2026 (unaudited) N$'000	30 Jun 2025 (unaudited) N$'000	31 Dec 2025 (audited) N$'000
Consolidated statement of financial position - extract				
Assets				
Cash & cash equivalents	-3.9	4 113 118	4 282 031	4 285 841
Loans & advances	25.4	13 456 438	10 732 124	12 924 808
Government and other securities	-38.3	4 301 426	6 970 881	4 459 193
Other assets	161.2	3 644 792	1 395 137	3 655 088
Total assets	**9.1**	**25 515 774**	**23 380 173**	**25 324 930**
Liabilities & equity				
Deposits	10.8	21 465 033	19 378 727	21 180 714
Insurance contract liabilities	28.0	113 142	88 365	100 299
Other Liabilities	-0.1	735 013	736 107	727 874
Shareholder's equity and non-controlling interest	0.8	3 202 586	3 176 974	3 316 043
Total equity and liabilities	**9.1**	**25 515 774**	**23 380 173**	**25 324 930**
Consolidated statement of comprehensive income - extract				
Net interest income	7.6	517,588	481,151	1,009,330
Impairment of advances	-10.8	(31,106)	(34,878)	(50,927)
Non-interest revenue	10.7	285,383	257,708	590,886
Operating expenditure	1.9	(484,200)	(475,025)	(966,397)
Profit before taxation	**25.6**	**287,665**	**228,956**	**582,892**
Taxation	36.4	(48,660)	(35,674)	(94,942)
Profit after taxation	**23.7**	**239,005**	**193,282**	**487,950**
Other comprehensive income	-100.0	-	(1,169)	28,442
Total comprehensive income	**24.4**	**239,005**	**192,113**	**516,392**
Consolidated statement of cash flow - extract				
Net cash generated from operating activities		461 297	521 816	(71 898)
Net cash utilised in investing activities		(30 336)	(799 662)	(56 763)
Net cash generated from financing activities		(603 684)	(476 829)	(622 203)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**(172 723)**	**(754 675)**	**(750 864)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period / year		4 285 841	5 036 706	5 036 706
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period / year		**4 113 118**	**4 282 031**	**4 285 841**
Nedbank Namibia Limited capital adequacy				
Tier 1 capital		2 174 253	2 117 092	2 360 490
Tier 2 capital		397 705	375 867	397 239
Total regulatory capital		**2 571 958**	**2 492 959**	**2 757 729**
Total risk-weighted assets		**14 044 276**	**14 444 830**	**15 889 601**
Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio		13.4%	14.8%	14.9%
Tier 2 risk-based capital ratio		2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Total risk-weighted capital ratio		**15.9%**	**17.3%**	**17.4%**



Shoprite emerges as most affordable retailer in August 2026

Shoprite emerged as the most affordable retailer among the stores surveyed in August 2026, recording an overall basket cost of N$986.78.

Checkers followed at N$1,034.78, while Metro ranked third at N$1,053.78. Choppies recorded a basket cost of N$1,082.78, followed by OK Foods at N$1,141.45. Spar and Model recorded the highest basket costs at N$1,157.74 and N$1,159.78, respectively.

The difference between the cheapest and most expensive baskets was N$173.00, with Shoprite's basket costing N$48.00 less than Checkers and N$67.00 less than Metro.

Key Observations

- Shoprite's position was supported by competitive pricing across a range of staple food and household products. The retailer recorded the lowest prices for cooking oil 2L (N$69.99), white sugar 2.5kg (N$36.99), Tastic rice 2kg (N$36.99), Pasta grande macaroni 3kg (N$69.99), long-life milk (N$19.99), Surf washing powder 2kg (N$49.99), Rama butter 500g

(N$26.99) and tomatoes 1kg (N$19.99). It also tied for the lowest prices on chicken, tomato sauce and eggs.

- Metro recorded the lowest price for white bread at N$12.99, tied with Choppies, while also offering the cheapest mince (N$99.99), 2-ply toilet paper (N$74.99) and Aquafresh toothpaste (N$20.99). Metro also tied for the lowest prices on chicken, Tastic rice and canned pilchards.
- Choppies offered the lowest prices for Top Score maize meal (N$72.99), onions (N$19.99) and potatoes (N$19.99), while tying for the lowest prices on white bread, chicken, washing powder, potatoes and canned pilchards.
- Checkers recorded the lowest price for soap (N$11.99) and corned meat (N$27.99), while tying for the lowest prices on chicken, tomato sauce and eggs.
- OK Foods, Spar and Model were positioned towards the higher end of the August price comparison, neither retailer recorded the lowest price on any of the products surveyed, contributing to their relatively higher overall basket costs.

Conclusion & Consumer Takeaway

The August results show Shoprite offering the most affordable overall basket, with its total coming in below the N$1,000 mark.

The N$173.00 difference between Shoprite and the most expensive basket at Model highlights a meaningful variation in grocery prices across the retailers surveyed. At the same time, the results show that affordability differs by product, with Metro, Checkers and Choppies offering particularly competitive prices on selected meat, household and fresh-produce items.

For consumers seeking to minimize their overall grocery expenditure, Shoprite offered the strongest value on the full basket in August, although comparing individual products across retailers could provide additional savings.

IDC's Rössing stake attracts 35 potential buyers

The Industrial Development Corporation's (IDC) planned exit from Rössing Uranium has attracted 35 expressions of interest, signalling strong investor appetite for a minority position in Namibia's long-running uranium mine.

The South African state-owned financier is seeking to dispose of its approximately 10.2% equity interest after reaching its investment horizon and determining that its continued shareholding no longer aligns with its compliance requirements.

"This process resulted in the receipt of 35 expressions of interest. As at current moment, the process to dispose IDC's equity interest is still ongoing," the IDC said in its annual financial results report.

The corporation formally opened the disposal process in January 2026, with prospective investors given until 27 February to submit expressions of interest.

Despite attracting 35

potential investors, the IDC has not disclosed their identities or indicated how many have progressed beyond the initial stage.

It has also not announced a preferred bidder, the estimated value of the 10.2% stake or a timetable for completing the transaction.

The disposal comes as uranium assets have gained increased attention amid growing global interest in nuclear energy and Namibia's position as a major uranium-producing jurisdiction.

The IDC has also cited sanctions-related compliance concerns as a reason for exiting Rössing, saying the mine's shareholder base includes entities subject to international sanctions.

"Rössing's current shareholder base includes entities that are subject to international sanctions, resulting in Rössing being classified as a sanctioned entity under the IDC's risk and compliance management programme," the corporation said.

It said maintaining the investment was inconsistent with internal policies and lender requirements governing relationships involving sanctioned parties.

A Namibian parliamentary oversight report recorded China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC) as Rössing's largest shareholder with 68.6%, followed by the Iran Foreign Investment Company with 15.3% and the IDC with 10.2%.

The Namibian government holds a 3.4% equity stake, while other minority shareholders account for 2.5%.

Despite its relatively small equity position, the Namibian government holds 50.06% of Rössing's voting rights, according to the parliamentary report.

The eventual sale will introduce a new shareholder into Rössing's ownership structure, although the size of the IDC stake means CNUC would remain the mine's controlling shareholder if the other shareholdings remain unchanged.

Checkers offers the cheapest grocery basket among premium stores in August 2026

Checkers (Maerua mall) recorded the lowest overall basket cost among the premium retailers surveyed in August 2026, with a basket total of N$1,261.79, followed by Superspar (Grove Mall) at N$1,279.30. Model (Auas Valley) recorded a basket cost of N$1,301.80, while Woermann Fresh (Klein Windhoek) and Food Lovers (Hilltop) recorded higher basket costs of N$1,332.29 and N$1,350.79, respectively.

The difference between the cheapest and most expensive baskets was N$89.00, with Checkers' basket costing N$17.51 less than SuperSpar, the second-most affordable retailer.

Key Observations

Despite recording the highest overall basket among the premium retailers, Woermann Fresh was highly competitive at an individual-product level, recording the lowest or jointly lowest price on eight of the 21 products surveyed.

- Woermann Fresh offered the lowest price for Salted Butter at N$84.99, Salad Dressing at N$29.99, Gel Toothpaste at N$22.99, Toilet Paper at N$139.99 and Dish Washing Liquid at N$32.99. It also tied for the lowest price on Long Life Full Cream Milk (N$24.99), Tomatoes (N$29.99) and Cooking Olive Oil (N$69.99).
- Checkers, meanwhile, recorded the lowest overall basket and was the cheapest premium store for Cucumber at N$26.99, Apples at N$24.99, Sirloin Steak at N$209.99, Tangy Mayonnaise at N$42.99 and White Sugar at N$42.99.

- SuperSpar was particularly competitive on fresh produce and staples, recording the lowest prices for Potatoes at N$24.99, Onions at N$25.99, Chicken Breasts at N$82.99 and Basmati Rice at N$69.99. It shared the lowest price for Long Life Full Cream Milk at N$24.99.
- Model recorded the lowest price for White Bread at N$13.99, while also offering the lowest price for Macaroni Pasta at N$14.99 and tying with Foodlovers and Woermann Fresh on Cooking Olive Oil at N$69.99.
- Foodlovers recorded the lowest prices for Lettuce at N$24.99 and Auto Washing Powder at N$74.99, while sharing the lowest prices for Tomatoes and Cooking Olive Oil.

Conclusion & Consumer Takeaway

The August survey shows that Checkers offered the most affordable overall basket, although the margin over SuperSpar was relatively narrow.

The results also highlight an important difference between overall basket affordability and individual-product competitiveness. While Checkers had the cheapest basket, Woermann Fresh recorded the highest number of lowest or jointly lowest individual prices, demonstrating that a retailer can be highly competitive on selected products without necessarily having the cheapest overall basket.

With just N$89.00 separating the cheapest and most expensive baskets, consumers can potentially benefit from comparing prices across retailers, particularly when purchasing higher-value items such as chicken, sirloin steak, rice and household products.

Namibia must take control of the 'empty country' narrative

Namibia's vast open spaces have become one of its strongest global selling points. Scroll through YouTube, TikTok or Instagram and the description appears repeatedly: Namibia is an "empty country".

For tourism, the narrative is powerful. Endless horizons, uncrowded roads, untouched landscapes and a small population create an image of freedom and wilderness that few destinations can match.

But Namibia should be careful about allowing "empty" to become its defining global identity.

There is a fundamental difference between marketing Namibia as sparsely populated and portraying it as empty.

The first describes a demographic reality. The second risks creating the impression of a country with vast spaces waiting to be occupied, exploited or claimed.

And narratives have consequences.

What sounds harmless when spoken by a travel YouTuber can be amplified millions of times until it becomes accepted as fact.

With Namibia gaining international attention following major oil and gas discoveries, alongside opportunities in mining, green hydrogen and tourism, that distinction has become even more important.

Greater economic opportunity will inevitably attract people. Indeed, that influx may already be under way. Namibia should welcome the skills, investment and expertise needed to develop its economy, but this must happen in a controlled and deliberate manner.

The State must therefore strengthen immigration checks and balances to ensure that those entering and settling in the country do so legally and contribute positively to its development.

Namibia cannot afford uncontrolled mass migration driven purely by perceptions of abundant opportunities. An unmanaged influx of opportunity seekers could place additional pressure on housing, healthcare, education, water, transport and other public infrastructure already required to serve the existing population.

There is another risk that should not be ignored.

A country increasingly portrayed internationally as open, sparsely populated and full of new economic opportunities could also attract criminal elements seeking to exploit that growth.

Money laundering, organised crime, illicit trade, fraud, human trafficking and other vices can follow rapidly expanding economic activity if institutions and enforcement mechanisms do not keep pace.

The answer is not to close Namibia's borders. It is to strengthen immigration controls, law enforcement, financial oversight and other safeguards before economic growth outpaces the State's ability to manage its consequences.

Namibia needs tourists, investors, specialised skills and international partnerships. But openness must be accompanied by vigilance.

Namibia is not empty. Its land has communities, histories, livelihoods, cultural significance and economic value.

So sell the space. Sell the tranquillity. Sell the landscapes and extraordinary sense of freedom.

But stop selling Namibia as empty.

A country that fails to define itself risks being defined by others. And Namibia must ensure that its growing global appeal attracts opportunity without importing problems that could undermine the stability that made the country attractive in the first place.

** Briefly is a weekly column that is opinionated and analytical. It sifts through the noise to make sense of the numbers, trends and headlines shaping business and the economy with insight, wit and just enough scepticism to keep things interesting. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT OUR OWN, we simply relay them as part of the conversation.*

Namibia urged to target high-value, small-scale MICE market

Namibia should avoid competing with larger destinations on the scale of its meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) industry and instead position itself as a high-value, small-scale destination built around distinctive experiences, according to Oxygen Managing Director Hilda Basson-Namundjebo.

Speaking at the Creative Sport Tourism Expo, Basson-Namundjebo said Namibia's competitive advantage lies in developing a clearly defined niche rather than attempting to compete directly with destinations that have significantly larger conference infrastructure.

"Namibia must win through distinction, high level, small scale, high value," she said, identifying safety, serenity, nature-based meeting environments, governance credibility and a strong service culture among areas the country could use to differentiate itself.

She said Namibia cannot compete on scale but could compete on precision by providing reliable logistics, boutique experiences, curated activities and nature-integrated venues.

"Namibia cannot compete on scale, but it can compete on precision," Basson-Namundjebo said.

She said the country needs to assess its actual capacity before aggressively bidding to host major international events, including the quality of available hotels, conference facilities, aviation connectivity, technical skills and regulatory processes.

"There is no point bidding for what you cannot host well. Every city must know its niche and its capacity," Basson-Namundjebo said.

She identified Swakopmund as having potential to develop into a coastal conference hub, while Hosea Kutako International Airport could play a role in supporting scale and technology requirements. She said the country should also assess the availability and cost of event planners, audiovisual technicians, translators and crisis managers.

Basson-Namundjebo said infrastructure alone would not determine Namibia's success in the MICE market, arguing that the entire visitor experience, from online information and visa processes to airport arrivals, transport, accommodation and departure, needs to be deliberately designed.

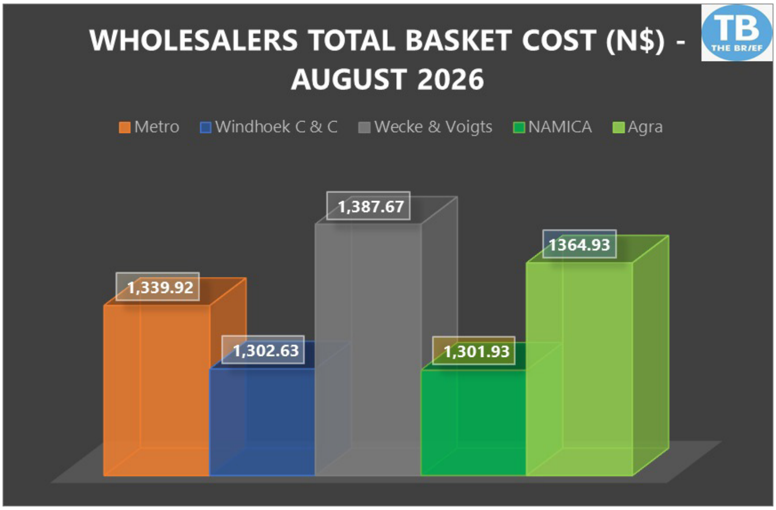
She proposed developing a "Namibia MICE Service Code" focused on calm, warm, attentive, anticipatory and multilingual service for frontline personnel dealing with international delegates.

Basson-Namundjebo said Namibia could further differentiate itself by combining conferences with sectors in which the country has relevant knowledge and experience, including mining, energy, conservation, governance and sport.

Potential signature products could include energy governance field labs, sport integrity dialogues and desert leadership retreats.

She said investment in people would be as important as physical infrastructure, identifying cultural intelligence, professional conference organising, crisis management, storytelling, multilingual hospitality and anticipatory service as skills requiring further development.

"These skills create preference and preference in turn creates repeat business," Basson-Namundjebo said.



NAMICA records lowest wholesaler basket in August 2026

NAMICA recorded the lowest overall basket cost among the wholesalers surveyed in August 2026, marginally outperforming Windhoek Cash & Carry.

NAMICA's basket came in at N$1,301.93, followed closely by Windhoek Cash & Carry at N$1,302.63. Metro ranked third at N$1,339.92, while Agra recorded a basket cost of N$1,364.93. Wecke & Voigts was the most expensive of the five wholesalers surveyed, with a total basket cost of N$1,387.67.

- NAMICA recorded the lowest price for 4kg Chicken at N$199.99 and 10kg Vetkoek Wheat Flour at N$139.99.
- Windhoek Cash & Carry offered the lowest price for 5-litre Cooking Oil at N$160.95, considerably below Metro's N$217.99. It also recorded the lowest price for 10kg Top Score at N$138.99 and 1-litre Six-Pack Long Life Full Cream Milk at N$134.99, followed by Metro at N$136.99.
- Metro was the most affordable wholesaler for 10kg Tastic Rice at N$172.99 and 10kg White Sugar at N$189.99.
- Wecke & Voigts recorded the lowest price for 5kg Polana Macaroni Pasta at N$122.99.
- Although Agra was not the most expensive wholesaler, it also did not record the lowest price for any of the items surveyed in August.

Conclusion & Consumer Takeaway

The August results show

strong competition among wholesalers, with only N$85.74 separating the cheapest and most expensive baskets. NAMICA secured the lowest overall basket, but the margin over Windhoek Cash & Carry was just N$0.70, meaning the two wholesalers were virtually level on the full basket. This also demonstrates the importance of comparing individual products, as the lowest-priced retailer varied considerably across the eight items. For consumers and businesses purchasing in bulk, Windhoek Cash & Carry offered particularly competitive prices on cooking oil, Top Score and long-life milk, while NAMICA's strong pricing on chicken and wheat flour helped it secure the lowest overall basket.

When public healthcare gets it right: A thank you to those who cared for my mother

By Leena Shimpanda

> "Instead of constantly throwing stones at government institutions and speaking only about their shortcomings, perhaps we should also recognise the people who are doing their jobs exceptionally well.

At a time when my family was going through one of the most difficult periods of our lives, I experienced something in Namibia's public healthcare system that deserves to be acknowledged.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and particularly to the staff at the Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital, for the exceptional care they provided to my mother during the final weeks of her life.

My mother was receiving treatment in the gynaecology ward after suffering severe medical complications associated with cancer. It was an extremely difficult and emotional period for our family. Yet, throughout those challenging weeks, the doctors, nurses, counsellors, cleaners and other healthcare workers treated my mother with dignity, compassion and professionalism.

As the person who was constantly by my mother's side, I was also deeply touched by the way the healthcare workers treated me.

I was not made to feel like an inconvenience. I was welcomed as someone who was there to care for her mother. The medical staff understood that, while their responsibility was to provide medical treatment, my responsibility was to provide emotional and personal support to my mother.

That distinction made a significant difference.

The professionalism of the doctors and nurses was evident throughout my mother's treatment. The doctors consistently communicated with me about her condition and explained the available options. Whenever I needed to sit down with a doctor to understand her diagnosis, discuss her condition or consider how we could make her remaining time as comfortable as possible, I was met with patience and empathy.

One doctor whose care deserves particular mention is Dr. Palapala. The compassion and professionalism demonstrated during our consultations will remain with me. At a time when every conversation about my mother's health carried enormous emotional weight, being treated with dignity and understanding mattered tremendously.

Another aspect that genuinely surprised me was the availability of medication and medical supplies.

There is often public criticism about shortages of medicines and resources in public hospitals. However, my personal experience during my mother's treatment was different. The medication and medical supplies she required were available, and she received the treatment and supervision she needed.

This experience reminded me that while challenges undoubtedly exist within the public healthcare system, there are also healthcare professionals working every day under difficult circumstances to ensure that patients receive quality care.

The physical environment also deserves recognition.

The ward was clean and well maintained. The cleaners worked consistently to ensure that the environment remained hygienic, and their contribution should not be overlooked. Cleanliness in a hospital is not simply about appearance. For patients whose health is already compromised, a clean environment is an important part of quality care.

I also appreciated the counselling and emotional support that were made available during this difficult period. Healthcare is not only about medication, procedures and diagnoses. It is also about humanity.

And sometimes, it is the humanity shown by a healthcare worker that a family remembers long after the medical details have faded.

My mother remained under the care and supervision of the doctors and nurses until her final days.

They continued attending to her until she took her last breath.

For that, I will always be grateful.

We often hear stories about what is wrong with government institutions. We hear about what is failing, what is unavailable and what should be improved. These conversations are necessary because accountability matters.

But perhaps we should also learn to acknowledge what is working.

Instead of constantly throwing stones at government institutions and speaking only about their shortcomings, perhaps we should also recognise the people who are doing their jobs exceptionally well.

My experience at the hospital demonstrated to me that public healthcare can provide care that is compassionate, professional and, in many respects, comparable to what one might expect from a private healthcare facility.

For approximately three weeks, my mother received care that I would describe as nothing short of world-class.

No amount of money can compensate a family for losing a loved one.

But when a person is nearing the end of life, knowing that they are being treated with dignity, compassion and professional care provides a measure of comfort that is difficult to put into words.

To the doctors, nurses, counsellors, cleaners and every other member of staff who cared for my mother: thank you.

Thank you for seeing her not merely as another patient, but as a human being.

Thank you for allowing me to be beside my mother and for understanding how important that was to both of us.

Thank you for answering my questions, explaining her condition, providing treatment and making difficult days a little easier.

And thank you for remaining there until the very end.

To the management of the hospital, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and particularly the staff of the gynaecology ward: please know that your work is noticed.

Sometimes, the people working inside our public institutions may not realise the profound difference they make in the lives of ordinary Namibians.

This is my way of saying: we see you.

And, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for taking care of my mother when my family needed you most.

Namibia faces agriculture, water and energy pressure as dry 2026/27 season looms

Namibia's agriculture, water and energy sectors are expected to come under pressure during the 2026/27 rainy season, with the Namibia Meteorological Service (NMS) forecasting below-normal rainfall and above-average temperatures across most of the country.

The outlook raises risks for crop production, livestock grazing, water availability and energy supply as a strengthening El Niño event is expected to drive hotter and drier conditions.

According to NMS, below-normal rainfall is expected across most of Namibia from October to December 2026, with conditions projected to worsen between January and March 2027. Some areas could receive only 70% to 90% of their long-term average rainfall.

"Drier-than-normal rainfall and above-normal maximum temperatures are expected during the 2026/27 season. This is driven largely by firmly established and intensifying El Niño conditions on the backdrop of weakened regional climate drivers," NMS said.

Agriculture faces significant risks, particularly during the January-to-March period, which coincides with critical stages of crop development.

Rainfall deficits are expected to exceed 100 millimetres and reach as much as 150 millimetres in parts of Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Kavango West, Otjozondjupa and Khomas.

"This below-normal rainfall coverage is an indication of an expected drier-than-normal rainfall season," NMS said.

The forecast follows mixed conditions during the 2025/26 season, when parts of northern and north-eastern Namibia received above-normal rainfall. Flooding in the Zambezi Region affected 8,068 households, displaced more than 2,300 families and disrupted farming activities after crops were submerged before reaching maturity.

Water resources are also expected to come under pressure, with lower rainfall potentially reducing inflows into dams and limiting groundwater recharge.

NMS said the combination of a strengthening El Niño and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to weaken the Angola Low and strengthen the Botswana High, reducing the transport of moisture into Southern Africa.

The energy sector could also face pressure, particularly where electricity generation and industrial operations depend on water availability. Higher temperatures could simultaneously increase electricity demand for cooling and place additional strain on water infrastructure.

Maximum temperatures between October and December 2026 are forecast to remain above average across Namibia, with increases of up to 2°C expected in parts of the south-east.

Between January and March 2027, temperatures could rise by as much as 3°C above average in western Ohangwena, northern Hardap, western Erongo and Omaheke.

"This climate intelligence and insights should trigger preparedness and early action in our disaster management and climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, energy and water resources," NMS said.

The forecast is in line with broader regional projections for below-average rainfall and extreme heat across much of Southern Africa during the 2026/27 rainy season as El Niño strengthens.

NMS said it will continue monitoring climate conditions and provide monthly updates through its Climate Watch Bulletin, while the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management is expected to coordinate seasonal preparedness measures.

Another day, another SME fighting for its financial life

By Pecky Nghaamwa

"Namibia's private credit market remains in its early stages, but developments across the continent suggest the asset class could have room to expand.

High taxes, high costs and hello, skyrocketing barriers to entry, says the domestic SME landscape

Private credit has emerged as an increasingly important source of capital as tighter regulation and balance-sheet constraints have made traditional banks more selective in their lending.

This has created space for private credit funds to serve borrowers outside the traditional banking sweet spot. For Namibia's SMEs, this could provide another piece of the financing puzzle.

SMEs! The semiconductor chips of the economy: small in size, but critical to keeping the system running. Accounting for more than 90% of businesses across Africa, they are positioned at the heart of the continent's growth engine.

Yet the very firms expected to drive employment and economic development continue to face a familiar constraint: financing.

In Namibia, the funding squeeze has serious consequences, with around 90% of SMEs failing within their first five years.

For businesses in need of capital, financing options range from traditional commercial banks and family support to non-bank financial institutions.

Yet traditional bank finance remains out of reach for many smaller firms, leaving alternative lenders to fill parts of the gap. Even where financing is available, lengthy approval processes create another problem: timing.

For a business operating on thin margins, capital that arrives too late can be almost as damaging as no capital at all.

By the time some SMEs make it through the seemingly endless stages of approval, the business may have already passed on to the next life. Despite the growing range of financing options, Namibian SMEs continue to disappear from the economic landscape at an uncomfortable pace.

Private credit is not positioned to replace traditional bank lending, but rather to complement it by taking on financing needs and credit risks that banks may be less willing or able to accommodate.

In doing so, private lenders can broaden the pool of available capital and improve the efficiency of the wider financing ecosystem.

The financing gap is not unique to Namibia. Across South Africa and other markets, private credit has emerged as an increasingly important source of capital as tighter regulation and balance-sheet constraints have made traditional banks more selective in their lending.

This has created space for private credit funds to serve borrowers outside the traditional banking sweet spot.

But there is another side to the private-credit equation. Lending is only half the story; the capital being deployed has to come from somewhere.

This is where fund managers enter the picture, channelling investor capital towards private businesses and credit opportunities. For some managers, the mandate extends beyond financial returns, with private credit also viewed as a potential vehicle for broader economic and social impact.

Namibia's private credit market remains in its early stages, but developments across the continent suggest the asset class could have room to expand.

Private credit is gaining traction in African markets as borrowers seek more flexible sources of capital and investors look for attractive risk-adjusted returns. Against a backdrop of tighter global credit conditions and persistent financing gaps, the case for further development of the market is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

For Namibia, the opportunity will ultimately depend on getting the regulatory balance right. A framework calibrated to the size and structure of the domestic market could support the development of private capital while reinforcing the governance and safeguards needed to maintain financial stability. But, as with any regulatory environment, the real test lies in implementation. Without it, we might as well call it a day.

*** Pecky Nghaamwa is an Analyst with a curiosity for economic research.**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