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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

End of SA supply deal cuts NBL beer exports 38.2%, hits profit

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY

End of SA supply deal cuts NBL beer exports 38.2%, hits profit

. . . Bernini drives 15% growth in NBL cider volumes

The termination of Namibia Breweries Limited's (NBL) minimum-volume supply arrangement with HEINEKEN Beverages South Africa contributed to a 38.2% decline in beer exports to South Africa in the six months ended June 2026, weighing on the brewer's revenue and profitability.

The minimum-volume commitment formally ended in April 2026, after which NBL moved to a standard forecast-based intercompany supply model with HEINEKEN Beverages South Africa.

The sharp decline in export volumes contributed to a 21% fall in operating profit to N$221.8 million, while net revenue declined 3.9% to N$2.02 billion from N$2.10 billion in the corresponding period.

Profit attributable to shareholders fell to N$153.8 million from N$198.9 million, while headline earnings per share declined 24.3% to 74 cents.

NBL Managing Director Waldemar von Lieres said the change in the South African supply arrangement had been anticipated, but its impact was reflected in the company's first-half financial performance.

Crucial Dates

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

"The South African supply change was planned and disclosed to the market at the time and we have prepared for it. It reduced our export volume and our profit as a result. We have been transparent that the change would have an impact, and today we want to be equally clear about what happens and how we will respond in the future," von Lieres said.

NBL said lower South African exports, together with reorganisation and realignment costs, were the main drivers of the weaker earnings performance.

The decline in exports came as NBL also faced pressure in its domestic market, where beer volumes fell 3.3% amid weaker consumer conditions.

However, von Lieres said the company gained overall portfolio market share while keeping prices broadly flat and continuing to invest in its brands.

"Domestic beer declined by about 3.3%. At the same time, we gained total portfolio market share. We kept pricing broadly flat and continued to invest behind our brands, because remaining relevant and accessible to consumers matters, particularly in a difficult moment," he said.

Other product categories provided some support, with cider volumes increasing 15%, driven by Bernini, while the non-alcoholic portfolio also recorded strong growth.

NBL said its new Red Bull distribution agreement contributed positively to volumes and revenue, while wine volumes declined and spirits remained broadly flat.

Von Lieres said the company was not relying on South African export volumes returning to previous levels and was instead adjusting its operations to the lower export base.

"Our response is not to wait for the old volumes to return. We are working on making NBL productive and competitive at the volumes that we can design around while retaining the ability to pursue growth," he said.

Total costs declined 1% during the period, although savings from lower production volumes were largely offset by higher employee-related expenses, increased marketing investment and restructuring costs.

Despite the weaker profit performance, cash generated from operations increased 12% to N$482 million, from N$430.5 million in the corresponding period.

Finance Director Willem Bierens de Haan said NBL would focus on improving productivity, operational flexibility and cost competitiveness during the second half of 2026 while continuing to invest in its brands.

Standard Bank raises Namibia's 2026 growth forecast to 2.2%-2.9%

Standard Bank has raised its forecast for Namibia's real GDP growth in 2026 to between 2.2% and 2.9%, from an initial projection of 1.2%, following stronger-than-expected economic activity in the second quarter.

Standard Bank Group Economist Helena Mboti said stronger second-quarter growth, coupled with an upward revision to first-quarter performance, had shifted the bank's outlook away from a weaker growth trajectory.

"The stronger 2Q26 print and upward revision to 1Q26 shift our outlook away from a structurally weaker growth path towards growth broadly in line with 2025. We now expect real GDP growth of 2.2%-2.9% in 2026, up from our initial 1.2% forecast, conditional on the persistence of consumption and investment activity," Mboti said.

The revised outlook follows real GDP growth of 4.8% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, up from a revised 3.1% in the first quarter and 1.7% in the second quarter of 2025.

Standard Bank said the second-quarter performance was supported by stronger domestic demand and investment, although structural weaknesses persisted in sectors including mining and construction.

Mboti said the improved near-term outlook remains dependent on sustained private consumption and investment activity.

She said whether the stronger performance develops into a sustained growth cycle will depend largely on how investment spending filters through the domestic economy and the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate-related shocks.

“Overall, the near-term outlook has improved, but whether this develops into a sustained growth cycle will depend on the domestic transmission of investment spending and the resilience of the agriculture sector to climate shocks. Risks remain tilted to the downside,” she said.

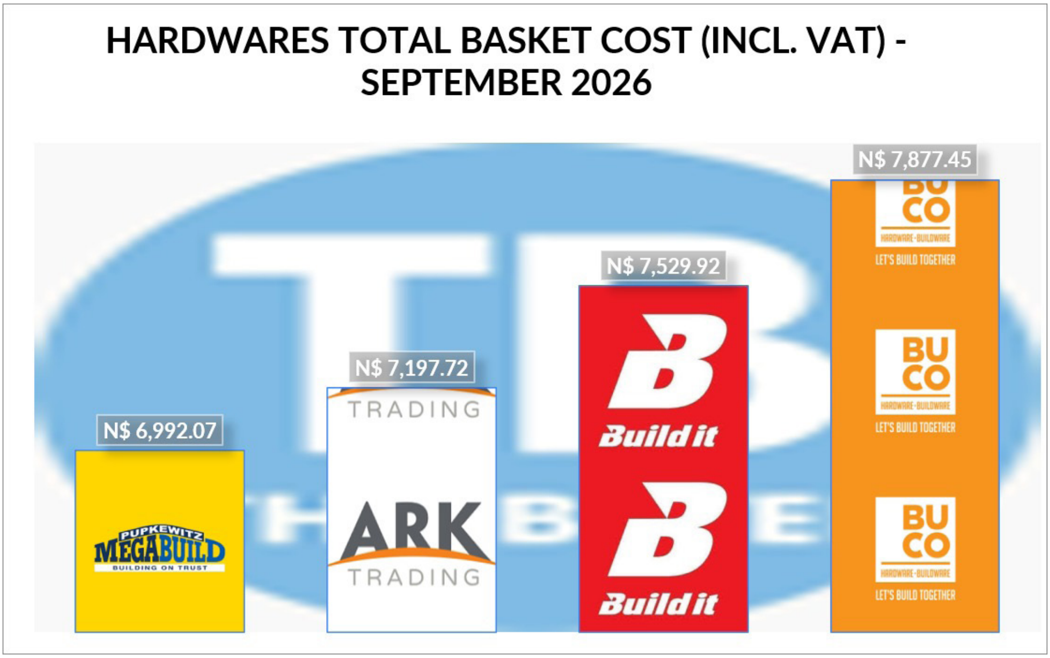
Standard Bank warned that higher inflation and interest rates, together with rising global oil prices, could weaken consumer spending and increase Namibia’s import bill during the second half of 2026, potentially pushing growth towards the lower end of its forecast range.

Agricultural growth also faces risks heading into 2027, with the bank warning that momentum could weaken as El Niño conditions intensify.

The bank further identified delays in final investment decisions (FIDs) and a slowdown in foreign investment-related spending as risks to domestic economic activity.

“Higher inflation and interest rates, compounded by rising global oil prices, could weigh on consumption and increase the import bill in 2H26, pulling growth towards the lower end of our range. Agricultural momentum could also weaken into 2027 as El Niño intensifies, while further delays in final investment decisions or a slowdown in foreign investment-related spending would soften domestic activity,” Mboti said.

Standard Bank said the sustainability of the improved growth outlook will ultimately depend on whether investment activity continues to support domestic production, consumption and broader economic activity.



Pupkewitz Megabuild takes top spot as most affordable hardware store in September 2026

Pupkewitz Megabuild emerged as the most affordable hardware store in September 2026, reclaiming the top position from Ark Trading, which led the August survey.

Pupkewitz Megabuild recorded the lowest overall basket cost among the four stores surveyed at N$6,992.07, followed by Ark Trading at N$7,197.72. Build It ranked third with a basket cost of N$7,529.92, while BUCO remained the most expensive hardware store at N$7,877.45.

The difference between the cheapest and most expensive baskets stood at N$885.38 in September, compared with N$833.35 in August.

Key Observations

Roofing, structural materials and masonry

Pupkewitz Megabuild was particularly competitive across the construction materials surveyed, recording the lowest price on most of the products in this category.

- Pupkewitz offered the lowest price for Galvanized IBR Roofing at N$584.99, narrowly ahead of Build It at N$586.18.
- For Copper Tube 460 Class 0, Pupkewitz Megabuild again recorded the lowest price at N$598.99, compared with N$625.23 at Build It and N$625.82 at BUCO.
- Ark Trading offered the lowest price for 7MPA Bricks at N$2.79, compared with N$2.94 at Pupkewitz Megabuild.
- Pupkewitz recorded the lowest prices for both the 150mm and 75mm Brickforce

Hardware	August	September	Change (m/m)
Pupkewitz Megabuild	N$7,106.62	**N$6,992.07**	↓ N$114.55 (1.6%)
Ark Trading	N$7,036.94	**N$7,197.72**	↑ N$160.78 (2.3%)
Build It	N$7,553.50	**N$7,529.92**	↓ N$23.58 (0.3%)
BUCO	N$7,870.29	**N$7,877.45**	↑ N$7.16 (0.1%)

rolls, at N$16.94 each.

- Pupkewitz also offered the lowest prices for all three concrete lintels surveyed. The 1.2m, 1.8m and 0.9m lintels were priced at N$46.45, N$72.90 and N$36.95, respectively.

Windows and doors

Pupkewitz Megabuild maintained its competitive position across windows and doors.

- The hardware store offered the lowest price for the Bronze Aluminium Window at N$858.99, while its Bronze Aluminium Sliding Door was priced at N$2,599.00, marginally below Build It's N$2,599.26.
- Pupkewitz also recorded the lowest prices for the Steel Door Frame and Two-Lever Lockset, at N$534.99 and N$78.99, respectively.
- It was also marginally cheaper for the Hardboard Interior Door, priced at N$269.00, compared with N$269.91 at Build It.

Cement and finishing materials

- Cement prices remained relatively close across the four hardware stores, with Pupkewitz Megabuild recording the lowest prices for both grades of Ohorongo cement surveyed.
- The 32.5 Ohorongo cement was priced at N$106.00 at Pupkewitz, compared with N$106.10 at Build It. The 42.5 Ohorongo cement was also cheapest at Pupkewitz at N$114.00.
- Pupkewitz further recorded the lowest price for Ceiling Board, at N$159.00.
- Ark Trading, however, remained the most affordable option for Paint, at N$641.96. This was the only other product, besides 7MPA bricks, for which Ark Trading recorded the lowest price.
- Paint also recorded one of the largest price differences in the September basket, with Build It charging N$1,166.64, or N$524.68 more than Ark Trading.

Conclusion & Consumer Takeaway

The September 2026 hardware price survey places Pupkewitz Megabuild at the top of the affordability ranking, with an overall basket cost of N$6,992.07.

The store's position was supported by its broad price competitiveness, recording the lowest price on 15 of the 17 products surveyed. Ark Trading followed with the lowest prices on 7MPA bricks and paint.

The results represent a reversal from August, when Ark Trading recorded the lowest overall basket despite Pupkewitz having the lowest prices on the largest number of individual products.

While Pupkewitz offered the lowest overall basket in September, the variation in individual product prices shows that consumers purchasing specific materials may still benefit from comparing prices across stores.

The largest price difference in the September survey was recorded for paint, whereas Ark Trading's price was N$524.68 lower than Build It's.

Survival today, business tomorrow: Rethinking Namibia's informal economy

By Frieda Nangolo

"We often speak about entrepreneurship as though it always begins with a brilliant idea, a carefully written business plan and a lifelong dream of owning a business.

Imagine spending years preparing yourself for the world of work. You study, graduate, prepare your CV, send out applications and wait for the opportunity that will finally allow you to begin building your life.

But the opportunity does not come. The bills, however, do. Transport still costs money, food still needs to be bought, families still need support, and life does not pause simply because employment has not arrived.

So, what do you do when the job you prepared for is simply not available?

I have been thinking about this question differently lately, particularly when looking at the number of young people finding ways to earn an income outside formal employment.

Some sell food or clothes. Others braid hair, bake, repair phones, design posters, photograph events, do nails or turn whatever skill they have into something that can generate an income.

We place all these activities under the broad label of the informal economy, but I think that term sometimes prevents us from seeing the individual stories behind it.

Behind every small business is a person, and behind that person is a reason for starting. For some, it is survival. For others, it is opportunity. For many, it may be both.

We often speak about entrepreneurship as though it always begins with a brilliant idea, a carefully written business plan and a lifelong dream of owning a business.

But sometimes entrepreneurship begins because somebody needs money for transport next week. Sometimes it begins because another job application has gone unanswered. Sometimes it begins because sitting at home waiting for employment is no longer financially possible.

Research on unemployed young Namibians has shown how young people develop different survival strategies when employment and stable income are unavailable.

Research into Windhoek's informal food sector has similarly demonstrated that limited livelihood opportunities can influence people's participation in informal economic activities.

This is why I believe we need to be more careful about how we interpret youth entrepreneurship. Not every young person selling something on the side necessarily started because they dreamed of becoming an entrepreneur. Sometimes people create work because they cannot find work.

A young person selling food from home may simply be trying to make enough money to get through the month.

Yet somewhere between buying ingredients, calculating costs, setting prices, attracting customers and convincing those customers to return, that young person is also learning how to run a business. Survival may unexpectedly become their first lesson in entrepreneurship.

At the same time, I do not think it would be fair to describe every young person in the informal economy as someone desperately waiting to be rescued by formal employment.

There are young people who genuinely see self-employment as an opportunity. One of the attractions of informal economic activity is that, depending on the type of business, a person may be able to start with the skills and resources already available to them.

There is no interview panel deciding whether you are qualified enough to sell your product. There is no rejection email informing you that another candidate had more experience. Sometimes you simply identify a need, find customers and start.

Of course, being able to start does not mean it is easy to succeed. Informal businesses can face unstable income, limited access to finance, inadequate resources and difficulty expanding beyond survival level.

We should therefore be careful not to romanticise informal work simply because it demonstrates resilience.

There is nothing glamorous about being forced to create an income because you have no other option. At the same time, we should not dismiss the potential that exists within these activities.

A young person operating a small business today may be doing much more than surviving. They may be building tomorrow's enterprise.

Perhaps the simplest way I have come to understand this is through two forces: what pushes young people into the informal economy and what pulls them towards it. Limited formal employment opportunities, difficulties entering the labour market and financial pressure can push a young person towards informal work.

On the other hand, accessibility, independence and entrepreneurial opportunity can pull them towards it. The interesting part is that real life does not always separate these two forces neatly.

Someone may begin selling lunch because they desperately need an income. Months later, customers are returning and orders are increasing.

Eventually, another person may be brought in to help. What began as a survival strategy is slowly becoming a business opportunity.

At what point do we stop seeing that young person simply as unemployed and begin recognising them as an entrepreneur? I think this is part of the conversation Namibia needs to have.

However, there is another side to this conversation that concerns me. When youth unemployment is high, it becomes very easy to tell young people to simply “start businesses” or “create jobs instead of looking for jobs”.

It sounds empowering, but it can also shift responsibility for a much larger economic problem onto individuals. Entrepreneurship should be an opportunity, not an excuse for an economy that cannot generate enough decent employment.

Not everyone wants to become an entrepreneur, and not everyone has the resources, skills or circumstances required to build a successful business.

A young person should not be made to feel that unemployment is a personal failure simply because they have not managed to create a company for themselves.

Namibia still needs decent formal employment opportunities. But I also believe we need to become better at recognising what young people are already creating outside formal employment.

If a young person has already found a way to generate an income, perhaps our question should not always be how quickly we can move them into a formal job.

Sometimes the better question might be: what would it take to help what they have already created become sustainable?

Imagine what could happen if a young street vendor received practical financial-management training. What could a talented young baker build with affordable equipment and access to finance?

What could happen if someone running a small service business from home received mentorship, digital skills and access to a larger market?

How many promising young businesses disappear before we ever recognise their potential because the person behind them simply did not have the capital, knowledge or support required to move beyond survival?

For me, this is where Namibia's response needs to become more balanced. We absolutely need formal job creation, but we also need stronger pathways for skills development, access to finance, mentorship and practical business support for young people who are already creating livelihoods for themselves. Supporting informal enterprise should not replace the responsibility to create decent jobs. The two should exist alongside each other.

The informal economy should therefore not only be viewed as evidence of unemployment. It is also evidence of what people do when conventional opportunities are unavailable.

There is resilience there. There is creativity there. There is entrepreneurship there. But there is vulnerability too, and we should never confuse resilience with the absence of struggle.

Perhaps this is also something we need to consider when we talk about the future of work in Namibia.

The future of work may not exist only inside offices, factories, mines and established organisations. Part of it may already be taking shape at market stalls, inside home kitchens, behind laptops and through small businesses that have never appeared on an organisational chart.

Some of these businesses may not have begun with investors, offices or carefully prepared business plans. Some may simply have begun with somebody asking themselves, “How am I going to survive this month?”

And that is why I think our conversation about youth unemployment needs to go beyond asking, “Where will we find jobs for our young people?”

We should also be asking:

“How do we help the work they are already creating become sustainable?”

Because for some young Namibians, today's survival strategy may just be tomorrow's business.

FMD restrictions do not affect UHT, pasteurised milk supply

Government has not banned the importation or sale of UHT and pasteurised milk under measures introduced to contain the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Kenneth Shoombe has clarified.

The clarification comes amid reports of consumers hoarding milk and other dairy products over fears of possible shortages following restrictions on the movement of livestock and animal products.

Shoombe told The Brief , UHT milk imports remain open, while pasteurised milk and other processed dairy products can continue to be traded and moved subject to veterinary requirements.

"We have not closed that. We still allow it on condition that they have a permit from Veterinary Services. The imports of UHT are not closed," Shoombe said.

"What we have banned is the movement of non-pasteurised milk moving from farm to farm or from farms to the cities."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform confirmed in Veterinary Public Notification No. 16 of 2026 issued on Sunday that the movement and trade of pasteurised milk and its products is allowed countrywide.

The Ministry said restrictions apply to unpasteurised milk in certain movements as part of measures aimed at limiting the risk of FMD transmission. The clarification is expected to ease concerns over the availability of milk and dairy products, which have prompted some consumers to stock up amid uncertainty over the scope of the restrictions.

The Ministry has meanwhile partially lifted some of the initial FMD restrictions after

preliminary tracing and livestock inspections indicated that the disease remains localised in the //Kharas Region.

Livestock that moved from the infected farm to the Otjozondjupa Region before the outbreak was detected were traced and tested negative for FMD, with the herd subsequently cleared of infection. The Ministry said its traceability system had also found no evidence suggesting a risk of transmission to areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

Restrictions on the movement of cloven-hoofed animals and their products within areas north of the fence have therefore been lifted with immediate effect.

However, the movement of cloven-hoofed animals and products including meat, skins, unpasteurised milk and butter from south to north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence remains restricted.

Deep Yellow
NAMIBIA

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SUPPLIERS - DEEP YELLOW NAMIBIA: e-PROCUREMENT PORTAL

As part of **Deep Yellow Namibia's** commitment to modern, transparent and digitally governed procurement practices, we are pleased to announce the launch of our web-based e-Procurement system for our Namibia operations.
This initiative applies to all procurement activities conducted by:

- **Reptile Mineral Resources and Exploration (Pty) Ltd**
- **Reptile Uranium Namibia (Pty) Ltd**

The system is accessible via the approved trade portal ***www.webportunities.net*** or scan the QR code below:

This platform provides suppliers with access to:

- Current Tenders and Requests for Quotations (RFQs)
- Smart Online Catalogue (SOC) opportunities
- Electronic Purchase Orders
- Contracts and supplier performance records

To participate in procurement opportunities issued by these entities, prospective suppliers are required to register on the platform. Registration is provided **free of charge**. Suppliers are strongly encouraged to complete registration promptly to ensure uninterrupted access to upcoming sourcing opportunities. Please note that the manual issuance of RFQs, Tenders and Purchase Orders will be progressively phased out as procurement activities transition to the new platform.

Implementation & Support

The system has been implemented in collaboration with Tara Nawa Computer Software Solutions. Should you experience any challenges during registration or navigation, assistance is available via the "Contact Us" function on the website ***www.webportunities.net***

Important Registration Requirements

During registration, suppliers must ensure the following:

1. **Linking to Material Groups, Services and Brand Names**

   Suppliers must link their company profile with relevant material categories, service offerings and applicable brands. This ensures visibility within the platform's supplier search functionality and enables accurate sourcing alignment.

2. **Document and Certificate Uploads**

   Suppliers must upload all relevant corporate and statutory documentation required to conduct business. Timely uploading of mandatory documents is essential to maintain compliance status.

3. **Ownership Distribution and Employment Information**

   All suppliers must capture and maintain updated ownership distribution and employment demographic information on their WebPortunities profile. This data supports regulatory reporting requirements within Namibia and ensures accurate representation in procurement processes.

Deep Yellow Namibia looks forward to strengthening supplier partnerships through this enhanced and transparent digital procurement platform and appreciates your cooperation during this transition.

Yours sincerely,

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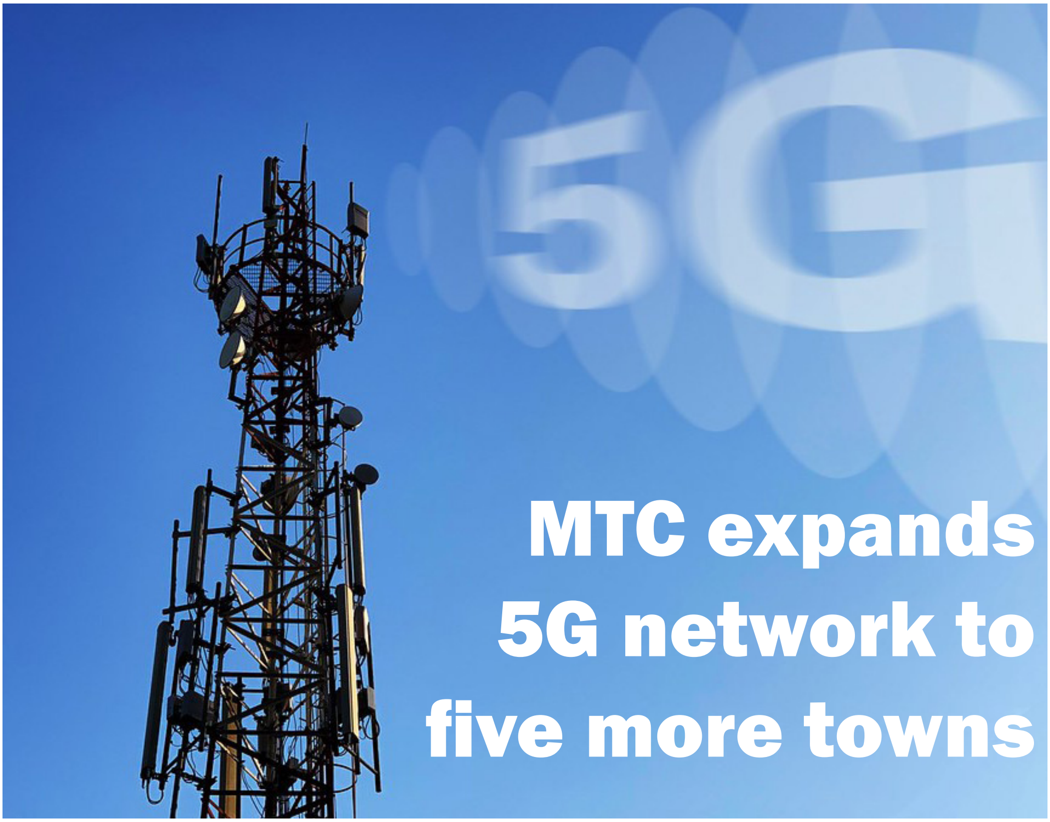

MTC expands 5G network to five more towns

MTC has expanded its 5G network to Grootfontein, Mariental, Okahandja, Otjiwarongo and Tsumeb as part of the second phase of its rollout, extending the technology beyond the areas covered during its initial commercial deployment in 2025.

The telecommunications operator is also rolling out 19 new network sites across nine regions to expand coverage and accommodate growing data traffic.

The new sites comprise eight in Erongo, four in Kavango West, and one each in //Kharas, Kavango East, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa. The expansion has also strengthened MTC's existing 5G coverage in Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

MTC General Manager for Networks Ludwig Heinrich Tjitandi said the investment is aimed at improving network reliability, capacity and coverage as demand for connectivity increases.

"Our network investment is ultimately about ensuring that Namibians have access to reliable, high-quality connectivity as demand continues to grow. While expanding our 5G footprint is an important part of that journey, we are equally focused on strengthening our existing network, expanding coverage and modernising our infrastructure," Tjitandi said.

"These investments are about building a network that meets the needs of our customers today while preparing Namibia for the connectivity demands of tomorrow."

The latest expansion follows MTC's first public 5G trial in 2024, conducted in partnership with Huawei, which achieved speeds of approximately 1.4 gigabits per second (Gbps).

MTC commercially launched 5G in 2025, with the first phase comprising 40 sites across Windhoek, Hosea Kutako, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Ongwediva, Rundu, Keetmanshoop, Lüderitz, Oranjemund and Karibib.

Alongside the 5G expansion, MTC said it has carried out 4G/LTE capacity upgrades at 20 sites during 2026 to accommodate increased network demand and improve user experience.

The company has also replaced end-of-life equipment at 25 sites as part of its network modernisation programme, aimed at reducing operational risks and preparing its infrastructure for future technologies.

MTC is separately expanding connectivity in underserved areas after securing N$32.3 million under Phase 2 of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia's Universal Service Fund programme.

The funding is being used to deploy nine network solutions comprising 10 towers across //Kharas, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena and Oshikoto.

MTC said it is also replacing eight existing towers, mainly in Erongo, as well as in Khomas, Omusati and Zambezi. The replacements are aimed at addressing deteriorating infrastructure, particularly in coastal areas, while improving network coverage.

Meatco prepares to resume slaughter as FMD restrictions ease

The Meat Corporation of Namibia (Meatco) is preparing to gradually resume livestock procurement and slaughter activities following the partial easing of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) restrictions, days after the outbreak forced it to suspend slaughter and further beef exports.

Meatco Board Chairperson Stephanie De Klerk said the company would align its procurement, slaughter and market activities with revised requirements issued by the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS).

"Meatco will continue to cooperate fully with the DVS and other stakeholders and will align its procurement, slaughter and market activities with the applicable veterinary requirements," De Klerk said.

The revised measures allow slaughter at registered abattoirs under prescribed veterinary and biosecurity conditions in areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, excluding the //Kharas Region, where the FMD outbreak remains localised.

The easing follows intensified surveillance, livestock inspections and tracing after FMD was detected in the

Livestock that had been moved from the infected farm to the Otjozondjupa Region before the outbreak was detected were subsequently traced and tested negative for FMD.

Karasburg Veterinary District.

Livestock that had been moved from the infected farm to the Otjozondjupa Region before the outbreak was detected were subsequently traced and tested negative for FMD.

De Klerk said the developments demonstrated Namibia's ability to respond to animal disease outbreaks while progressively restoring parts of the livestock value chain.

"As an export-oriented beef industry, Namibia depends on the continued credibility of these systems. They are essential not only for disease control but also for protecting producer and employee livelihoods, safeguarding our national herd and sustaining confidence in Namibian beef in domestic and international markets," she said.

Meatco urged producers and other livestock industry stakeholders to remain vigilant and comply with veterinary measures as authorities continue surveillance and containment efforts.

The partial reopening comes after Meatco suspended slaughter operations and further beef exports following confirmation of the outbreak last week.

At the time, Meatco said it was complying with the national restrictions while assessing their operational and financial implications.



Skeleton Basin appoints Mertens, Shikongo and Venner to board

Skeleton Basin Investments has appointed Debmarine Namibia CEO Willy Mertens, former Debmarine CEO Otto Nakasole Shikongo and oil and gas specialist Bridget Venner to its board, a month after listing on the Development Capital Board (DevX) of the Namibia Securities Exchange (NSX).

The appointments took effect on 25 September 2026 and add experience across mining, petroleum, financial services and corporate governance to the recently listed Capital Pool Company (CPC).

Mertens has been appointed independent non-executive chairman, while Shikongo and Venner join as independent non-executive directors.

Mertens has served as CEO of Debmarine Namibia since November 2022, overseeing the company's offshore diamond recovery and exploration operations.

He previously served as Chief Financial Officer of Debmarine Namibia, Namdeb Holdings and De Beers Namibia Holdings between 2013 and 2022. He is also deputy chairperson of the Development Bank of Namibia and serves on the boards of Old Mutual Investment Group Namibia and Namibia Energy Transition Fund Managers.

Shikongo brings more than three decades of experience in Namibia's diamond mining industry. He served as managing director and later CEO of Debmarine Namibia from 2003 until his retirement in 2022, having started his career with Namdeb, Debswana and Debmarine Namibia in 1988.

He is currently chairman of FirstRand Namibia and a non-executive director of First National Bank of Namibia. He has also previously served on the boards of the Namibia Stock Exchange, Namibian Ports Authority, National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia and Sanlam Namibia Holdings.

Venner brings more than 40 years of international oil and gas and geoscience experience, having held senior positions with Imperial Oil and ExxonMobil across Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Middle East and Africa.

From 2019 to 2024, she served as vice president and general manager of ExxonMobil Namibia, where she led the company's offshore frontier exploration business and advised the Namibian government on petroleum legislation and regulatory frameworks.

The appointments come after Skeleton Basin listed on the NSX's DevX board as a Capital Pool Company on 28 August 2026, under the share code RIG and ISIN NA000A42LSF7.

As a CPC, Skeleton Basin provides a listed vehicle through which it can identify and pursue an investment opportunity, including the potential acquisition of an operating business or assets, subject to applicable listing requirements.

Cirrus Securities acted as sponsor for the listing.

Following the latest appointments, Skeleton Basin's board comprises Mertens as independent non-executive chairman, Shikongo and Venner as independent non-executive directors, Romé Mostert and Chastin Bassingthwaighte as non-executive directors, and Rowland Brown and Taimi Nangula Itembu as executive directors.

The case for compliance: Safeguarding Namibia's livestock economy through good agricultural practice

By Charles Mambadzo

Namibia's confirmed foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in the Karasburg district has done more than trigger a nationwide suspension on the movement of cloven-hoofed animals and their products.

It has exposed how quickly years of hard-won market access can be placed at risk when biosecurity and compliance systems are not embedded into everyday farm practice.

The stakes are significant. Namibia's red meat industry contributes an estimated N$8 billion annually to the economy, supporting farmers, feedlots, abattoirs such as Meatco, Beefco, and Savanna, transporters, and thousands of rural livelihoods.

Beef exports had grown by more than 50 percent in the first half of this year alone. That growth was built on our internationally recognised FMD-free status, and it can unravel in days without systems in place to demonstrate control, not merely claim it.

This is where Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification becomes essential. Frameworks such as GlobalG.A.P. are not administrative formalities; they are structured, auditable evidence that a farm meets recognised standards for biosecurity, animal health, and traceability.

In normal times, certification opens export markets. During an outbreak, it becomes the deciding factor between a farm or facility that can prove containment

> **"Producers and processors who maintain their compliance records throughout the crisis, rather than rebuilding them afterward, will be first to recover market access.**

and one that cannot.

Regular farm audits reinforce this discipline. An audit should not be viewed as punitive but as an early-warning mechanism. Weaknesses such as inconsistent disinfection protocols, uncontrolled vehicle and personnel movement, or incomplete record-keeping are precisely the vulnerabilities that allow diseases like FMD to spread before they are detected. Farms and facilities with consistent audit histories are better placed to identify and close these gaps early.

Recertification deserves equal weight. Once a zone or facility is cleared following containment, re-entry into regional and international markets depends on current, continuous proof of compliance, not a certificate issued years earlier.

Buyers will require up-to-date evidence of biosecurity and health status before resuming trade. Producers and processors who maintain their compliance records throughout the crisis, rather than rebuilding them afterward, will be first to recover market access.

None of this is achievable without training. Biosecurity protocols are only as effective as the people applying them daily.

Farmworkers and handlers need to understand why disinfection points matter, why unauthorised vehicle access must be restricted, and why unusual symptoms in livestock must be reported immediately.

Trainer-led programmes that build this awareness at farm and facility level are as critical to disease control as any regulatory directive.

The broader economic exposure extends well beyond the farm gate. Feed suppliers, transport operators, processing plants, and rural households dependent on livestock income all absorb the impact of a prolonged trade suspension.

Viewed in this light, investment in GAP certification, routine audits, and biosecurity training is not a cost to be minimised. It is insurance for an entire value chain.

As Namibia works to contain this outbreak and restore its disease-free status, the producers, processors, and institutions that treat compliance as a continuous discipline, rather than a seasonal obligation, will be best positioned to recover quickly and protect the livelihoods that depend on this industry.

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Govt establishes FMD Support Fund as outbreak response intensifies

The government has established a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Support Fund to mobilise additional resources to contain the outbreak in the //Kharas Region, as surveillance confirms that all positive cases detected so far remain confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District.

Acting Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Charles Mubita said the fund was established with support from the livestock industry and appealed to the public, private sector and development partners to contribute.

The funding will support intensified disease-control measures, including surveillance, livestock traceability, clinical examinations, sample collection and laboratory testing.

"The Ministry, with the support of the industry, has established the FMD Support Fund, which is aimed at mobilising funds against the fight of FMD. We are therefore appealing to the general public, public/private sector and the development partners to contribute to the FMD Support Fund, as this will help Government to intensify measures necessary to deal effectively with the outbreak of the FMD," Mubita said.

The fund comes after Namibia detected clinical cases of FMD in the //Kharas Region on 22 September 2026. Laboratory tests on 11 samples collected from a herd of 65 cattle subsequently confirmed 10 positive cases.

Namibia's FMD positive cases rise to 17, remain confined to Karasburg

The number of samples testing positive for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Namibia has increased from 10 to 17, although all positive cases remain confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District in the //Kharas Region, the government has said.

Acting Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform Charles Mubita said the latest results followed an expanded surveillance exercise conducted between 22 and 25 September 2026 across five regions.

A total of 199 samples were collected from animals in //Kharas, Khomas, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Oshana, of which 17 tested positive. All the positive samples were from the

> For precautionary measures, a total of 199 samples were collected from animals during a routine surveillance exercise, which commenced on 22 to 25 September 2026.

Karasburg State Veterinary District.

"For precautionary measures, a total of 199 samples were collected from animals during a routine surveillance exercise, which commenced on 22 to 25 September 2026," Mubita said.

"So far, all positive cases remain confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District."

The samples comprised 117 from Karasburg in //Kharas, 50 from Gobabis in Omaheke, 30 from Otjiwarongo in Otjozondjupa, and one each from Windhoek in Khomas and Ondangwa in Oshana.

The latest results follow the initial detection of clinical FMD cases in //Kharas on 22 September. Laboratory tests on 11 samples collected from a herd of 65 cattle initially returned 10 positive results.


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