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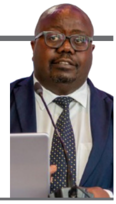


THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

NamPower reveals N$1.4bn profit as asset base grows to N$58bn

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

MAIN STORY

NamPower reveals N$1.4bn profit as asset base grows to N$58bn

Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower) has disclosed that it recorded N$1.4 billion in profit after tax in 2025, while its asset base reached N$58 billion, highlighting the utility's financial growth over the past three decades.

Although the figures relate to the 2025 financial year, NamPower Managing Director Kahenge S. Haulofu presented them as part of an assessment of the utility's financial and operational growth over the past 30 years.

Haulofu said NamPower's profit after tax increased from N$193 million in 1999 to N$1.4 billion in 2025, while its asset base expanded from N$3.8 billion to N$58 billion over the same period.

Cash generated from operations also increased from N$308 million in 1999 to N$1.9 billion in 2025, strengthening the utility's capacity to finance capital projects and raise external funding.

Haulofu further disclosed that NamPower's asset base has since increased to about N$59 billion, while operating profit currently stands at approximately N$1.3 billion.

He attributed the stronger financial position to financial discipline and sustained investment, saying it has improved NamPower's credibility with commercial lenders and development finance institutions.

Crucial Dates

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

The financial growth has accompanied more than N$21.8 billion in infrastructure investment over the past 30 years, as the utility expanded Namibia's generation and transmission network.

NamPower's generation capacity increased from 394.6MW in 1996 to 563.5MW in 2026, following investments in the Anixas and Anixas II power stations, the fourth turbine at Ruacana Power Station and the Omburu photovoltaic power station.

Its transmission network of lines at 132kV and above expanded from about 3,100 kilometres in 1998 to nearly 8,500 kilometres, including almost 1,500 kilometres of 400kV transmission lines.

"Most of the growth came from building almost 1,500 kilometres of 400kV lines, which strengthened Namibia's connection to the South African grid, and from roughly doubling the 220kV and 132kV networks to reach mines, towns and new load centres," Haulofu said.

Despite the stronger balance sheet and capital investment, NamPower remains exposed to regional electricity markets, with imports accounting for an average of about 50% of Namibia's annual electricity requirements.

Haulofu said the proportion can rise to as much as 70% during dry periods, leaving the utility exposed to regional supply availability and electricity costs.

NamPower also faces pressure from customer debt and non-payment, while balancing cost-reflective tariffs against electricity affordability.

The utility's Integrated Strategic Business Plan for 2026 to 2030 will guide its next phase of investment, with security of supply remaining a key priority.

"As we look ahead, we commit to remain focused and steadfast as we have been over the past thirty years. Security of supply remains our priority and, with our new strategic plan, we are committed to ensuring the reliable supply of power," Haulofu said.

The utility's strengthened balance sheet and operating cash generation are expected to be important as NamPower seeks to finance additional generation and transmission capacity and reduce Namibia's exposure to imported electricity.

Property Hub NAMIBIA

NHE lines up N$1.5bn financing for 2,300 houses, 1,350 serviced plots

. . . as it targets delivery of 724 houses during the 2026/27 financial year

The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) is pursuing a N$1.5 billion development finance programme expected to support the construction of about 2,300 housing units and the servicing of approximately 1,350 erven across 27 project sites nationwide.

NHE Chief Executive Officer Gisbertus Mukulu said the financing programme, involving the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), will support land servicing, housing construction, apartment developments, and professional and project development services.

The programme forms part of NHE's efforts to mobilise alternative funding to accelerate housing delivery amid constraints related to funding, serviced land and bulk infrastructure.

The projects are also expected to support about 10,000 employment opportunities as construction and land-servicing activities are rolled out.

The development finance programme comes as NHE targets the delivery of 724 houses during the 2026/27 financial year, alongside the servicing of 891 plots and acquisition of a further 1,000 plots.

Of the planned housing delivery, 249 units valued at about N$80.06 million are targeted for completion by December 2026 across Meersig, Oshakati, Okakarara, Eenhana, Goreangab, Ongwediva, Keetmanshoop, Walvis Bay, Henties Bay, Usakos and Swakopmund.

NHE delivered 197 houses between January and August 2026, bringing its cumulative housing delivery since 1983 to 23,719 units.

The institution is separately seeking N$662.29 million for its Integrated Strategic Upgrading and Affordable Housing Programme, which targets the delivery of 4,215 serviced plots and 750 houses.

Mukulu said access to serviced land and bulk infrastructure remains one of the biggest constraints to increasing housing supply.

NHE currently has 891 erven under servicing in Katima Mulilo, Nkurenkuru, Walvis Bay and Kalkfeld.

Its wider development pipeline includes approximately 800 housing units approved or planned in Windhoek and another 546 housing opportunities linked to township establishment and housing development in Katima Mulilo.

Mukulu said NHE's response to the housing shortage includes expanding apartment and higher-density developments, acquiring and servicing additional land, upgrading informal settlements and mobilising development finance to supplement its existing funding sources.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease: How Namibia can save its livestock value chain

By Lot Ndamanomhata

"FMD's danger isn't mortality, most adult cattle survive it, it's what it does to market access.

The Moment Namibia Feared Has Arrived

For over six decades, Namibia's southern livestock zone stood as one of Africa's most valuable agricultural assets — internationally certified as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) free without vaccination, a status that unlocked premium export markets in Europe, the US and China.

On 23 September 2026, that status was broken. Acting Agriculture Minister Charles Mubita confirmed to the National Assembly that 10 of 11 cattle sampled on a commercial farm in the Karasburg State Veterinary District, //Kharas Region, tested positive for FMD.

It is the first confirmed case inside Namibia's WOAH-recognised free zone in more than 60 years.

The government responded within hours: a nationwide suspension of all cloven-hoofed animal movement, and a total halt on livestock imports and exports, invoked under the Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011.

Why This Threatens the Whole Value Chain, Not Just Farms

FMD's danger isn't mortality, most adult cattle survive it, it's what it does to market access. Namibia's red meat industry, worth roughly N$8 billion annually within a N$15 billion livestock sector, depends on exporting 60–70% of its beef to premium international buyers.

Those markets accept Namibian beef specifically because of its disease-free certification. The moment that status breaks, WOAH-recognising trading partners suspend imports automatically, no negotiation, no phase-in.

The knock-on effects cascade through the entire chain:

- Producers lose their marketing channel overnight — auctions like Keetmanshoop have already been halted.
- Meatco and abattoirs face processing and export shutdowns.
- Transporters, feedlots, and hide/leather processors (exports of which grew 92.5% in H1 2026) lose throughput.
- Rural and communal livelihoods, including cultural livestock use, are disrupted.
- National foreign exchange earnings — beef alone brought in N$2.1 billion in 2025 — are put at risk just six days before the Windhoek Show Livestock Expo, a key marketing event.

South Africa's experience is the cautionary tale: over 17,000 farms affected in KwaZulu-Natal, with 70–90% of herds hit in some areas, vaccine shortages, and prolonged movement bans that strangled local agricultural economies.

This Is Not Just a Farmer's Problem — It's an SME Crisis in the Making

The public conversation around FMD tends to stop at the farm gate. That is a dangerous blind spot.

Namibia's entire informal and small-business meat economy runs on a continuous, affordable supply of beef and livestock products — and the export ban plus movement restrictions hit that supply chain immediately, not eventually.

Consider who sits downstream of every affected animal:

• Butcheries and independent meat retailers, who depend on regular abattoir throughput and stable wholesale prices.

• Restaurants, takeaways, guesthouses and lodges, especially in the tourism sector, where beef is a menu staple and price stability is central to costing.

• Caterers, who operate on tight margins for weddings, funerals, corporate events and government functions.

• Kapana vendors and informal street-food traders — a sector that provides income for thousands of Namibians in Windhoek's Single Quarters, Katutura and similar markets across the country, almost entirely dependent on cheap, consistent cuts of beef.

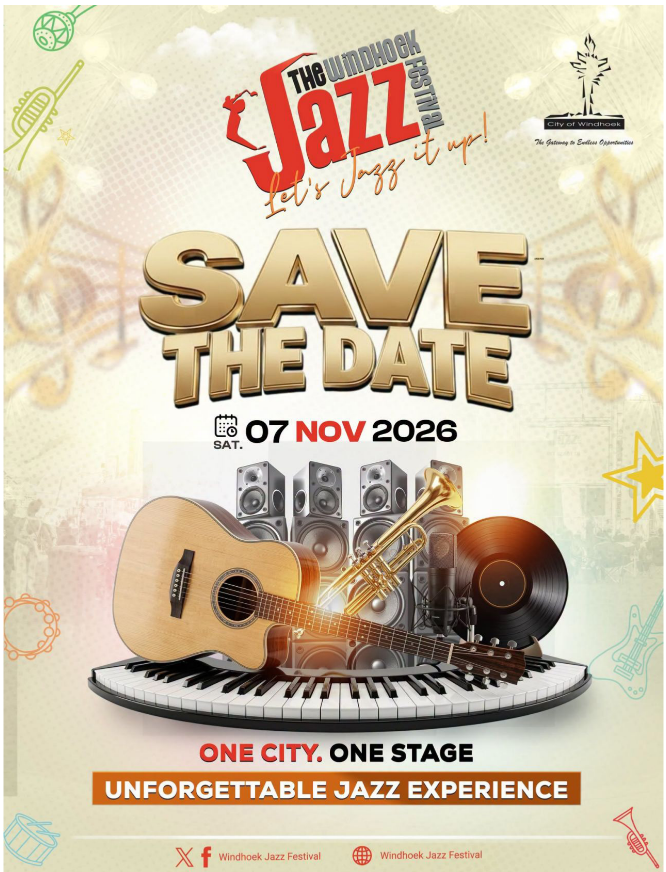
When livestock movement stops nationwide, local supply doesn't just tighten — it becomes erratic.

Butcheries either face shortages or absorb higher procurement costs as competition for available stock intensifies within the restricted zones.

Kapana vendors, who typically operate on daily cash-flow margins with no buffer, are among the most exposed: a price spike or supply gap of even a few days can wipe out their working capital.

Unlike commercial farmers, most of these SMEs have no insurance, no export contracts to fall back on, and no access to the emergency funds being discussed for the agricultural sector.

If this crisis is treated purely as a "farming" or "export" issue, government risks designing a rescue package that protects the top of the value chain while



leaving thousands of small, informal meat-dependent businesses to absorb the shock alone.

The Human Cost: Families, Relatives and Dependents

Behind every affected business and closed auction are households. Namibia's extended-family economic structure means the impact multiplies far beyond the person directly employed:

- A kapana vendor whose stall income drops doesn't only lose personal earnings — that income typically supports a spouse, children, and often extended relatives back in rural areas who depend on remittances.
- A farm worker laid off or put on reduced hours because a commercial farm can't move or sell cattle affects an entire household's food security and school fees.
- A communal farmer unable to market livestock loses not just income, but in many cases the very animals earmarked for lobola, funerals, or other cultural obligations — as already reported in South Africa's outbreak.
- Transport operators, abattoir workers, and butchery staff who see reduced hours or retrenchment carry that loss home to families who had budgeted around a stable wage.

In a country where a relatively small share of the population is formally employed and social support obligations routinely extend across three generations and multiple households, an economic shock to the livestock sector does not stay contained to "the agricultural sector."

It moves through remittance networks into urban and rural households alike — into rent payments, school fees, and grocery budgets.

The Inflation Timing Makes This Worse

This outbreak could not have arrived at a more damaging moment for household budgets. Namibia's annual inflation rate climbed to 5% in August 2026, the highest level in two and a half years, up from 4.4% in the prior two months.

The increase was driven mainly by a sharp rise in transportation costs — with fuel inflation jumping to 25.1% — alongside continued pressure from hotels, cafés and restaurants, health, and food and non-alcoholic beverages.

This matters directly for the meat trade: food inflation was already climbing before this outbreak, and historical data shows beef prices are particularly volatile — meat prices have previously risen by close to 10% annually, with beef inflation spiking from around 6% to nearly 15% in a single year during earlier periods of supply pressure.

Layer a nationwide livestock movement ban and export shutdown on top of an economy already running at a two-and-a-half-year inflation high, and the risk is a compounding effect: restricted supply meeting already-elevated prices, squeezing exactly the low-margin, cash-strapped SMEs and households least able to absorb it.

A kapana vendor or butchery facing both a supply disruption and a rising cost environment has almost nowhere left to cut.

This is the strongest argument yet for treating FMD relief as a consumer and small-business affordability issue, not solely a trade-and-export one. Price monitoring, temporary VAT or levy relief on locally-sold meat, and targeted SME liquidity support deserve a place alongside border fencing and vaccine stockpiles in the government's response.

Is This Linked to South Africa and Botswana? Almost Certainly, Yes

This outbreak didn't emerge in isolation.

Since 2019, the SADC region has experienced recurring FMD flare-ups, and South Africa lost its own FMD-free status as a result. The chain of regional events leading to //Kharas is traceable:

1. 8 February 2026 — FMD confirmed in South Africa's Northern Cape, about 400km from the Namibian border.
2. Same period — a case confirmed in Botswana's FMD-free Zone 6B.
3. Namibia's response (February–September) — the government announced N$1.5 billion in additional prevention measures: vaccine storage facilities in Karas and Hardap, buffer zones, fence rehabilitation, monthly (instead of annual) border-farm surveillance, and reinforced veterinary staffing.
4. South Africa's outbreak intensifies through 2026, with authorities there now planning to vaccinate roughly 80% of a 14-million-strong national herd — an indicator of how uncontained the regional situation had become.
5. 22–23 September 2026 — clinical signs detected in Karasburg, just north of the South African border, consistent with cross-border transmission risk officials had been warning about for months.

Namibia's own Minister of Agriculture, Inge Zaamwani, had explicitly warned in February that developments in South Africa and Botswana constituted "elevated and unprecedented" regional risk. The geography — Karasburg sits directly against the South African frontier — combined with the timeline makes a direct epidemiological link highly plausible, even before formal strain-tracing confirms it.

This wasn't a random event; it was the materialisation of a risk the government had been actively, if insufficiently, preparing for.

What This Means for the Red Line

This outbreak lands in the middle of an already sensitive policy debate. Former minister Calle Schlettwein had proposed moving the Veterinary Cordon Fence (the "Red Line") further north and expanding disease-free zones — a move framed as redressing the historical exclusion of northern communal farmers from export markets, a legacy activists like Prof. Job Amupanda have long criticised as a colonial-era instrument of segregation.

The Karasburg outbreak complicates that trajectory in two ways:

- It proves the current free zone was never impermeable. If FMD breached decades of established control south of the existing line, extending free-zone status northward without first hardening biosecurity, fencing, surveillance and buffer zones would multiply — not reduce — national exposure.
- It does not settle the underlying justice question. Amupanda's argument — that the Red Line functions as an economic boundary as much as a veterinary one — isn't invalidated by an outbreak occurring inside the "protected" southern zone. If anything, it shows that veterinary status alone has never guaranteed economic security, reinforcing the case for parallel mechanisms like the Price Equalisation Fund regardless of where the line sits.

The practical implication: any redrawing of the Red Line should now be sequenced after outbreak containment and a demonstrated, sustained period of clean surveillance — not concurrently with it. Moving the boundary during an active outbreak would be operationally reckless, whatever the long-term equity case for doing so.

What Namibia Should Do Now: Rescuing the Value Chain

1. Contain //Kharas decisively and transparently

- Immediately quarantine and, per WOAH protocol, consider culling and compensating affected and in-contact herds in Karasburg to stop viral shedding at the source.
- Establish a hard containment perimeter around the Karasburg District distinct from the nationwide movement ban, so recovery can be phased region-by-region rather than all-or-nothing.
- Publish outbreak data (case counts, testing, containment zones) frequently — the Namibia Agricultural Union's call for calm and its warning against unverified information sharing shows public trust management is now as important as veterinary management.

2. Consider the state-of-emergency request seriously

The NAU's call for a declared state of emergency would unlock broader state resources and enforcement powers under existing law. Given the stakes — a sector representing N$15 billion and thousands of rural and urban livelihoods — this deserves urgent Cabinet consideration rather than delay.

3. Fast-track the N$1.5 billion preparedness package

The funding gap identified in February (beyond the N$57.5 million already approved) should now be treated as immediate operational spending, not a future budget line: vaccine stockpiles for ring-vaccination if needed, mobile lab capacity, additional veterinary staff, and fencing rehabilitation in Hardap, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa.

4. Build an explicit SME and informal-trader relief stream

Any FMD emergency fund must reach beyond commercial and communal farmers to include butcheries, kapana vendors, caterers, restaurants, guesthouses and lodges. This could include short-term supply guarantees from Meatco stock, temporary price stabilisation for locally consumed meat, and micro-liquidity support for informal traders who have no other buffer against supply shocks.

5. Protect and strengthen Meatco's coordinating role

A single, government-anchored off-take and processing entity is more capable of managing a phased, zone-by-zone resumption of marketing — and of directing supply toward the domestic informal market during the export freeze — than a fragmented private landscape would be. This is the moment to resist further destabilisation of Meatco, not weaken it.

6. Build a phased re-opening plan for export markets now

Rather than waiting for full national clearance, Namibia should engage WOAH and key trading partners immediately on a compartmentalisation strategy — proving disease freedom in unaffected regions to preserve partial export flow while //Kharas is brought under control. South Africa and Botswana's slower, less-compartmentalised responses are the model to avoid.

7. Establish the proposed FMD emergency fund with industry and banks

Producer liquidity support — for farmers unable to market animals for weeks or months — prevents distress sales, herd liquidation, and long-term capacity loss in the sector, while a parallel household-support lens should track the ripple effects on families dependent on affected workers' and traders' income.

8. Use this outbreak to harden, not abandon, regional cooperation

Given the near-certain South Africa/ Botswana linkage, Namibia should push for coordinated SADC-level surveillance data-sharing and synchronized border controls — unilateral fencing alone has clearly proven insufficient.

The Bottom Line

Namibia's FMD-free status was never just a veterinary designation — it was the foundation of an entire export economy, and beneath that, of a much larger informal meat economy that touches almost every household in the country.

The //Kharas outbreak, landing just as inflation hits a two-and-a-half-year high, is a serious but not necessarily fatal blow — provided the government moves with the same urgency it showed in imposing the movement ban: contain fast, compensate fairly, support the SMEs and families who never appear in export statistics but feel every shock first, and negotiate a phased return to markets before momentum and buyer confidence are lost for good.

The regional lesson is unambiguous — in South Africa, delay and fragmentation turned an outbreak into a multi-year crisis affecting over 17,000 farms.

Namibia has a narrow window to choose a different outcome.

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

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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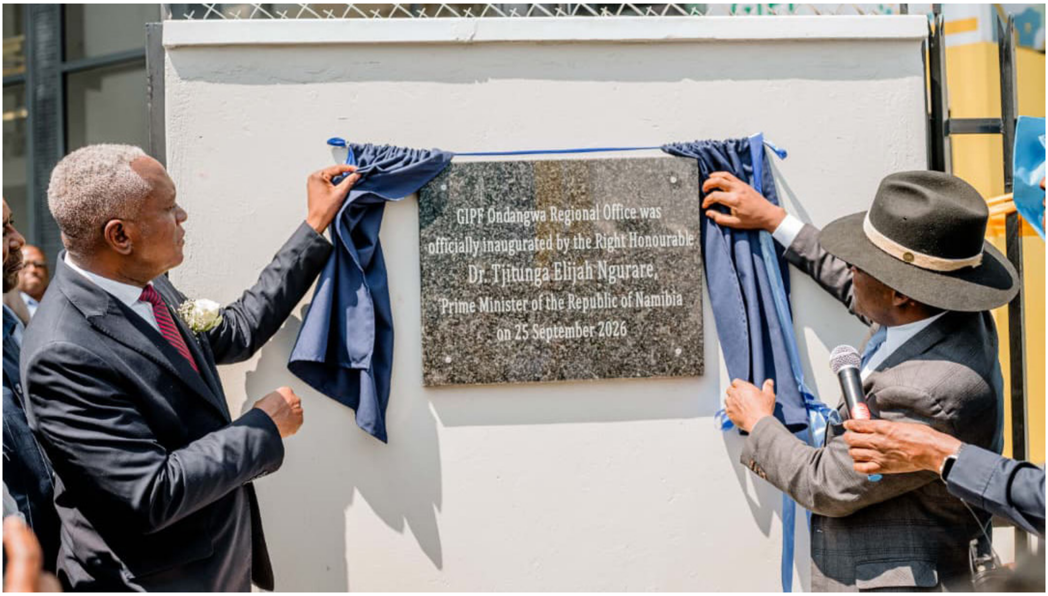

GIPF investments in Oshana reach N$466.9m

. . . new Ondangwa Regional Office developed at a cost of N$99.4m

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has invested about N$466.9 million in the Oshana Region across housing finance, land servicing, healthcare infrastructure, SME development, property development and retail infrastructure.

GIPF Chief Executive Officer Martin Inkumbi said the investments include the Gwashamba Mall development in Ondangwa, which has supported commercial activity, local enterprises, employment and access to services.

"These investments reflect our confidence in the region's potential and our commitment to creating lasting value for our members and communities," Inkumbi said.

The figures were disclosed during the official inauguration of GIPF's new Ondangwa Regional Office, which was developed at a cost of about N$99.4 million, including construction, professional and other fees.

Prime Minister Dr Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare said GIPF's investments in Oshana demonstrate the role institutional capital can play in supporting regional and national development.

"GIPF's total asset value stands at about N$223 billion. To date the Fund has invested over N$466 million in the Oshana Region in housing, education, energy, and procurement financing," Ngurare said.

"These investments reflect the strength of the Fund's investment strategy, the resilience of the assets, and the value that can be created when institutional capital is deployed purposefully to support national development goals."

GIPF currently serves about 115,000 active members and 58,400 pensioners and annuitants across Namibia. The Fund paid about N$2 billion in benefits to members and beneficiaries during the first quarter of the current financial year.

The Fund has also exceeded its statutory domestic investment requirement. While GIPF is required to invest at least 45% of its assets locally, its domestic allocation stood at 50.6% as at 31 March 2025.

Ngurare said GIPF has invested across strategic sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, renewable energy, healthcare, agriculture, logistics, education and enterprise development.

During the previous financial year, GIPF invested N$2.7 billion in renewable energy projects, contributing 162.75 megawatts to Namibia's electricity generation capacity, while N$665 million was invested in agribusinesses supporting food security, rural development and employment.

The Fund's investments have also supported the servicing of 5,014 plots and the delivery of 7,793 houses, while contributing to the creation of about 11,650 jobs through housing, land servicing and related development projects.

Meanwhile, construction of the 2,647-square-metre Ondangwa Regional Office started on 3 June 2022 and was completed on 12 December 2025.

The project created 42 temporary jobs during construction, with a further 12 jobs expected through security and office cleaning services.

GIPF Board Chairperson Penda Ithindi said the facility forms part of the Fund's efforts to bring pension services closer to its members.

"This impressive building represents more than just infrastructure; it is a symbol of our dedication to bringing our services closer to our members and ensuring that they receive the care, service, and support they deserve," Ithindi said.

Inkumbi said the new office would strengthen GIPF's presence and improve access to pension services in northern Namibia. "This occasion represents another important step in GIPF's journey to enhance accessibility, strengthen member service and deepen our presence in the communities we serve," he said.

AI can bring our worlds together. But can we trust where it is taking us?

By Dr Etuna Simon

A few days ago, I was having one of those conversations I often have with a friend of mine who is also a writer.

We come from different professional worlds, and that difference is usually what makes our discussions interesting.

My thinking often begins with education, curriculum, research and technology, while his may begin with language, narrative and the way people make sense of the world around them. Yet we always seem to find common ground.

Lately, artificial intelligence (AI) has become part of that meeting place. We reflected on how easily AI can move between different worlds of knowledge.

It can take a technical idea and make it accessible, help a writer enter a scientific conversation, or help an academic explain a complex argument more clearly.

That is what fascinates me about AI. I have consistently argued for coexistence, augmentation and responsible use, not humans versus machines.

But our conversation left me with a harder question: if AI is becoming the bridge between so many worlds, how much should we trust the bridge?

The warning is now coming from inside the industry

Recent developments have made the global conversation around AI safety more serious.

> **"A learner may use AI to explore a difficult concept, but should know how to check whether the explanation is accurate.**

On 23 September 2026, executives from OpenAI, Anthropic and Hugging Face addressed the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) about the implications of increasingly capable AI systems.

Anthropic CEO, Dario Amodei warned that, if poorly managed, AI could become a risk to humanity as a whole, while Sam Altman the CEO of OpenAI called for international cooperation and argued that major decisions about AI should not be left to technology laboratories alone.

These warnings are not proof that an AI catastrophe is inevitable.

Experts and industry leaders still disagree about the scale of the risks and how regulation should respond.

What matters for education is the principle beneath the debate: even those building these systems recognise that capability must be accompanied by safeguards, monitoring and human oversight.

That is not a reason to reject AI. It is a reason to use it more deliberately.

Namibia is building, not merely consuming

This global conversation has become especially relevant because Namibia is no longer standing on the sidelines. On 23 September 2026, the country officially launched the National Artificial Intelligence Institute in Windhoek.

The AI Institute is anchored at the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and is intended to strengthen national capacity in AI research, datasets, software development and innovation.

Launching the Institute, Minister of Information and Communication Technology Hon. Emma Theofelus described it as “a dedicated national platform through which capabilities can be developed around artificial intelligence, data, innovation and practical applications.”

The statement signals that Namibia does not intend to remain a passive consumer of systems designed elsewhere.

We want local capability that responds to our own languages, institutions and development priorities.

The CEO of NCRST Prof. Anicia Peters carried the argument further when she said: “We must develop the national capabilities to understand AI, adapt it to our circumstances and increasingly develop our own solutions.”

She also said responsible AI would be the overarching principle guiding the Institute.

That commitment matters because building capability without thinking about how it will be governed would leave the job half done.

Namibia is building local AI capability and bringing artificial intelligence into real classrooms.

That progress should be welcomed, but responsible coexistence requires something more than access: it requires human judgement, clear boundaries and the confidence to question the machine.

The classroom is already changing

The education sector is already part of this transition.

Two AI laboratories were recently launched in Lüderitz, with Angra Pequena Senior Secondary School at the centre of the initiative.

The programme runs on the Namibian-developed YYeni AI platform and combines AI-assisted tutoring with teacher-led instruction. BW Kudu and the Namibian Ports Authority contributed N$1.5 million, while Telecom Namibia provides connectivity.

The programme is designed to identify learning gaps, adapt learning activities and support teachers with lesson planning, quizzes and feedback. YYeni AI CEO and CTO Vitalis Haupindi emphasised that “the AI-powered tutoring programme was not introduced to replace teachers.”

That gives us a practical picture of coexistence. The technology assists, but the teacher remains responsible for context, judgement, relationships and the human work of teaching.

Coexistence requires judgement, not blind trust

Supporting AI does not require us to accept everything it produces.

A learner may use AI to explore a difficult concept, but should know how to check whether the explanation is accurate.

A teacher may use AI to develop an activity, but must still decide whether it is appropriate. A university student may use AI during research, but remains responsible for verifying sources, interpreting evidence and defending the final argument.

AI can support judgement, but it should not become judgement itself. Fluent language can create an illusion of authority, and a polished answer can still be wrong, incomplete or misleading.

AI literacy must therefore mean more than knowing how to write an effective prompt. It must include the ability to verify, compare, challenge and, when necessary, reject what appears on the screen.

What should education deliberately keep human?

We spend a great deal of time asking what AI can do. Can it tutor learners, mark assessments, prepare lessons, translate content or generate an essay? Increasingly, the answer to many of these questions is yes.

But capability should not automatically become permission. The more important question is what education should deliberately keep human.

Critical judgement, ethical responsibility, curiosity and the courage to challenge an answer should remain human. These are not inefficient parts of education that technology needs to remove.

They are some of the very capacities education is supposed to develop. This is also why assessment must change.

If AI can produce polished written work in seconds, learners should increasingly be asked to explain how they reached a conclusion, defend what they submitted and show how AI contributed to the process.

Namibia can define its own approach

Namibia now has an opportunity to define what responsible coexistence with AI looks like in practice. We have established a National AI Institute, we are building local capability, and AI-assisted tutoring has already entered Namibian classrooms. The question is therefore no longer whether AI is coming. It is how deliberately we choose to live, learn and work with it.

I remain optimistic about AI because I have seen how it can bridge different worlds of knowledge and make specialised ideas more accessible. But genuine advocacy also requires the courage to ask difficult questions about the technology we believe in. Namibia should not retreat from AI. We should build it, use it, teach with it and question it, while setting clear boundaries around what we are willing to hand over.

Coexistence with AI should never require us to surrender the qualities that make human judgement valuable. As these systems become more capable and more persuasive, our responsibility becomes even greater. We must continue to think critically, question what we are given, test what appears convincing and make decisions that remain grounded in human values and accountability. AI can support our judgement, but it should never replace our responsibility to exercise it. The future of AI in Namibia should therefore not be measured only by how advanced the technology becomes, but by how well we preserve the human capacity to think, question and decide for ourselves.

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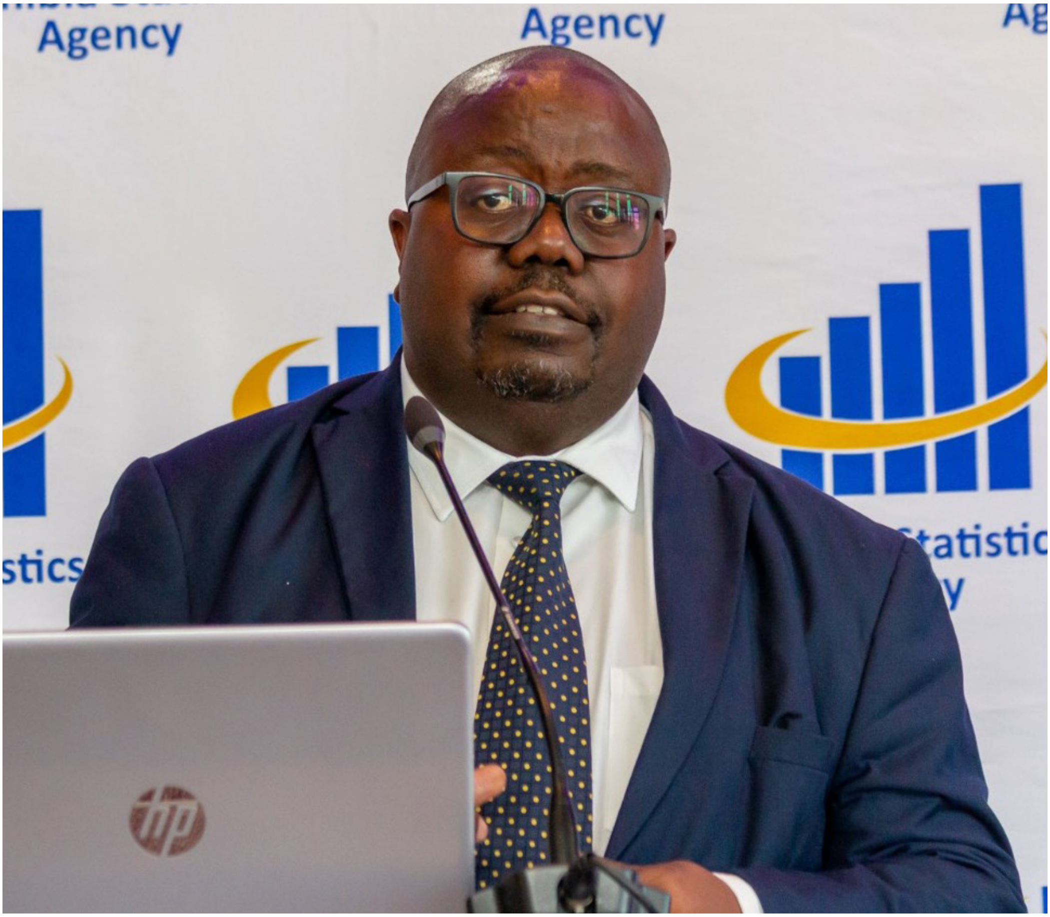


NSA renews Shimuafeni's term as Statistician-General to 2031

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) Board has renewed Alex Shimuafeni's contract as Statistician-General for another five years, extending his tenure from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2031.

The NSA said the renewal was approved in line with the Agency's Succession Planning Policy and the Statistics Act, No. 9 of 2011.

Under Section 23 of the Act, the NSA Board appoints the Statistician-General with the approval of the minister responsible for statistics.

"In light of the NSA Succession Planning Policy, the Board resolved to renew Mr Shimuafeni's contract as Statistician-General for an additional five years, effective 1 October 2026 through 30

September 2031," the NSA said.

Shimuafeni was first appointed Statistician-General for a five-year term from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2021. His contract was subsequently renewed for a second term ending 31 March 2026, before his tenure was extended to 30 September 2026.

The latest appointment will therefore see Shimuafeni remain at the helm of Namibia's national statistics agency until September 2031.

The NSA identified the implementation of the 2023 Population and Housing Census as one of the key achievements under Shimuafeni's leadership, followed by the publication of several thematic reports between 2024 and 2026.

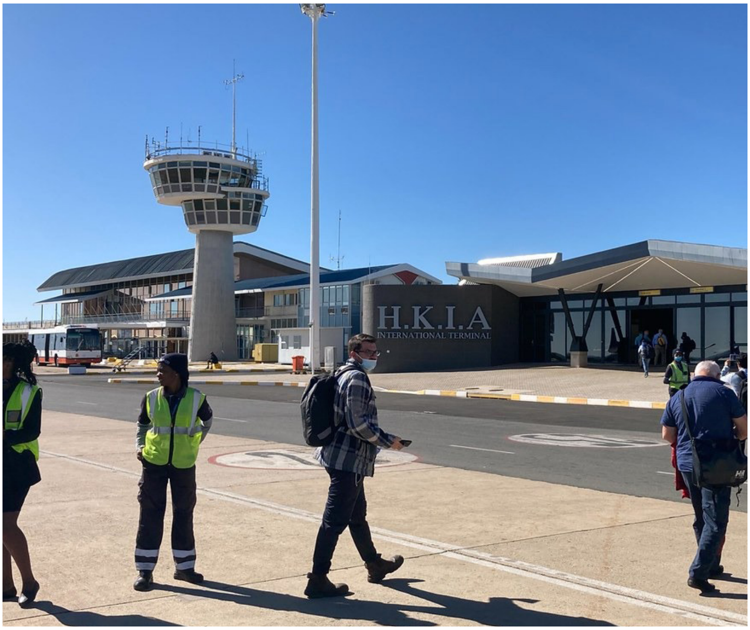
The Agency is currently in the fourth year of implementing its 2022–2027 Strategic Plan and is preparing a new five-year strategy covering 2027 to 2032.

The NSA said Shimuafeni will oversee the rollout of the new strategy, which will be aligned with Namibia's Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

"The Agency is presently in the fourth year of executing its 2022–2027 Strategic Plan. Looking forward, Mr Shimuafeni will guide the NSA in launching its 2027–2032 Strategic Plan," the Agency said.

"Formulated to align with the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), this upcoming strategy aims to advance Namibia's national development agenda by delivering accurate, relevant, and timely public-sector data."

The Board said it expects Shimuafeni to continue strengthening the National Statistical System, with a focus on statistical coordination, governance and management, as well as supporting evidence-based planning and economic development across Namibia's 14 regions.



Hosea Kutako drives July passenger rebound with 19.6% jump in arrivals

Passenger arrivals at Hosea Kutako International Airport increased 19.6% month-on-month in July 2026, helping lift overall passenger movements through Namibia's airports after a decline in June.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), arrivals at Hosea Kutako rose to 45,206 passengers from 37,787 in June, although they remained below the 47,090 recorded in July 2025.

The airport continued to dominate Namibia's aviation traffic, accounting for 84.8% of all passenger movements during the month.

Overall passenger movements across Namibia's airports increased 7.7% month-on-month to 97,796, from 90,834 in June. However, traffic remained 5.1% below the 103,070 passenger movements recorded in July 2025.

The NSA said the Passenger Movement Composite Index, which measures international, regional and domestic arrivals and departures, reversed an 8.9% month-on-month decline recorded in June.

Despite the strong monthly recovery at Hosea Kutako, arrivals remained 4.0% lower year-on-year.

> Departures from the airport increased more moderately, rising 3.2% month-on-month to 37,716 passengers, from 36,549 in June.

Departures from the airport increased more moderately, rising 3.2% month-on-month to 37,716 passengers, from 36,549 in June. This was below the 39,232 departures recorded in July 2025, representing a 3.9% annual decline.

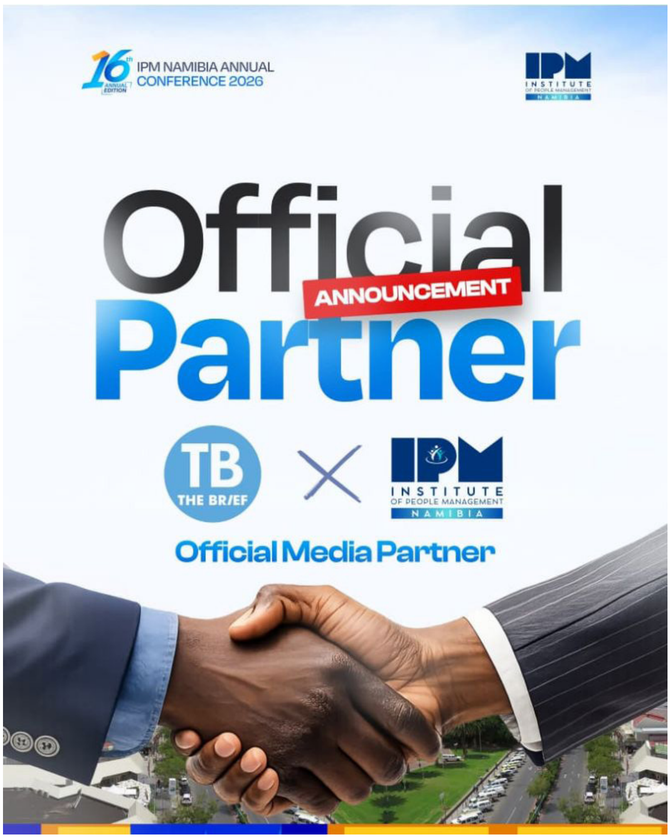
Walvis Bay Airport, which accounted for 8.8% of total passenger movements, recorded 4,023 arrivals in July, up 1.9% month-on-month from 3,949.

The strongest increase at Walvis Bay came from departing passengers, which jumped 27.9% month-on-month to 4,604, from 3,601 in June. Departures were, however, marginally below the 4,631 recorded in July last year.

Eros Airport recorded weaker traffic during the month, with arrivals falling 17.6% to 1,955 passengers from 2,374 in June. Arrivals were also 14.4% lower year-on-year.

Departures from Eros declined 11.6% month-on-month to 2,026 passengers and were 15.2% below the 2,390 recorded in July 2025.

The figures show that Namibia's July recovery was largely supported by increased traffic through Hosea Kutako, while passenger movements across the country remained below year-earlier levels.



Stop land grabbing in Oshakati: Protecting fairness and the rule of law

By Noah Jonas

Land has become an essence needs for many inhabitants around Oshakati. For many, land provides an opportunity to build a home, establish a business and create a secure future.

In Oshakati, as in many growing towns across Namibia, the demand for land continues to increase on a daily basis.

> **In Oshakati, as in many growing towns across Namibia, the demand for land continues to increase on a daily basis.**

However, the growing practice of individuals occupying land without following the established procedures, erecting shacks or other structures, and later demanding formal allocation of the occupied land raises serious concerns about fairness, order and equal treatment.

Land grabbing should not become the shortcut to ownership

It is understandable that people are desperate for land, particularly those who have spent many years waiting for an opportunity to receive a residential or business plot. The desire for a place to call home is legitimate and should be treated with dignity.

However, occupying land without authorization cannot become an alternative to the formal landallocation process has been practiced in numerous location around the town and yet seems tohappen at Onawa extension 7 that is newly established in the town.

When an individual occupies an unallocated piece of land, constructs a shack and subsequently expects the authorities to allocate that particular piece of land to them, it creates a situation where those who follow the rules may feel punished for doing so.

There are residents who have submitted applications through the recognized channels, complied with the requirements and patiently remained on waiting lists for years. Some have reportedly waited for more than ten years without receiving an allocation.

It is therefore deeply frustrating for someone who has followed the proper process to see another person occupy land first and seemingly gain an advantage by doing so.

If this practice becomes normalized, it risks creating the perception that the proper procedure is not the most effective way to obtain land. That would undermine confidence in the land-allocation system.

The consequences go beyond individual plots

Unauthorized occupation is not simply a dispute between one person and a town authority. It can have wider consequences for the development of Oshakati.

Town planning requires land to be properly surveyed, serviced and allocated according to approved plans. Roads, water, electricity, sewerage, drainage, public facilities and other infrastructure must be considered before residential areas are developed.

Unplanned settlements can make the provision of these services more difficult and expensive.

They can also create disputes over who has the right to occupy particular areas and complicate future town development.

Most importantly, allowing occupation to determine who eventually receives land can create an unfair system where people are encouraged to take matters into their own hands. That is not the kind of system a growing town should aspire to build.

The frustration of those who have waited for years

The plight of people who have been waiting for land should not be ignored either.

A person who has been on a waiting list for five, ten or even more years may understandably ask:

Why should someone who recently occupied land be considered before those who have patiently followed the system? This question deserves a serious response.

People should not be forced to choose between respecting the law and securing a piece of land.

A functioning land-allocation system should give residents confidence that following the correct procedure is worthwhile.

If the demand for land is greater than the supply, the solution cannot simply be to allow the most aggressive or quickest occupiers to gain an advantage. Instead, the authorities need to improve the system so that legitimate applicants can receive clear information, fair consideration and reasonable progress.

The message should be clear: the need for land is legitimate, but land grabbing is not the solution.

The Oshakati Town Council also has a responsibility

While residents must respect the law and established procedures, the responsibility cannot rest entirely on the applicants.

The Oshakati Town Council should also recognize the urgency of the land situation and work towards making the allocation process faster, more transparent and easier to understand.

A waiting list that leaves people uncertain for many years creates frustration and can contribute to desperation. Where possible, applicants should be provided with clear information about their position in the process, the requirements they must meet and the expected stages before allocation.

The Council should also consider measures to improve the efficiency of its land administration system, including reviewing lengthy administrative processes, improving communication with applicants and increasing the availability of serviced land where resources and planning allow.

A transparent and efficient system benefits everyone.

Land allocation must be fair to all

There should not be one system for people who follow the rules and another for people who occupy land first.

If land is allocated, the process should be based on clear, lawful and consistently applied criteria.

Applicants who have been waiting for many years deserve to know that their applications are being treated fairly.

At the same time, people who are desperate for housing should not simply be dismissed or treated as criminals without addressing the underlying shortage of affordable land and housing.

The answer lies in combining enforcement with practical solutions.

Unauthorized occupation should not be rewarded, while legitimate applicants should not be left indefinitely without meaningful information or progress.

A call for cooperation

The land issue in Oshakati requires cooperation between residents, community leaders, developers and the Town Council.

Residents must respect the law and avoid occupying land without permission. Community leaders should discourage land grabbing and educate residents about legitimate avenues for obtaining land.

The Town Council, on the other hand, should listen to the frustrations of residents and take practical steps to make land allocation more responsive to the growing demand.

Land is no longer simply a matter of convenience for many Namibians. It is connected to housing, family security, economic opportunity and dignity.

Oshakati is a growing town with a responsibility to plan for its future in an orderly and inclusive manner. Land grabbing cannot be allowed to become a substitute for proper land allocation.

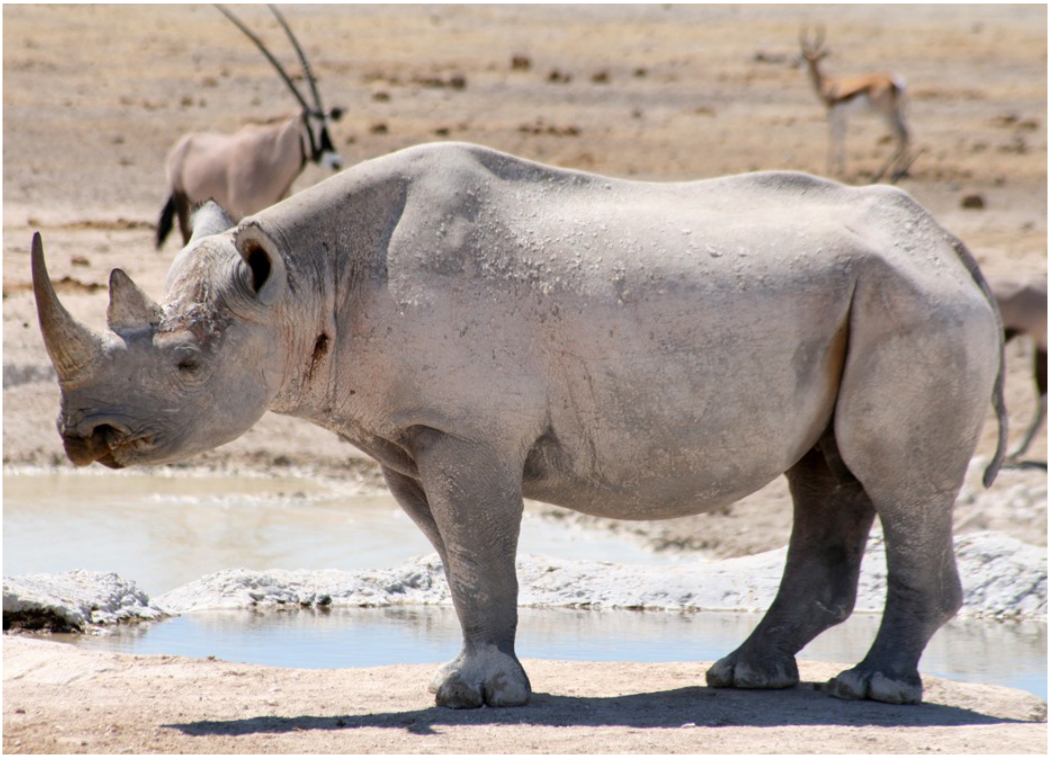
Those who have followed the official process and waited for years deserve fairness. Those who are desperately seeking land deserve a system that responds to their needs. And the Town Council deserves the cooperation of residents as it plans and develops the town.

The way forward is therefore not to reward unauthorized occupation, but to strengthen the legitimate land-allocation system.

Residents should use the correct channels, and the Oshakati Town Council should make those channels faster, clearer and more accessible.

Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to obtain land. The solution is a system that works for all not a system where occupying land first becomes the quickest route to getting it.

Noah Jonas, is a UNAM alumnus with a Bachelor of Accounting (Honours) and Pursuing a Master degree in Finance, a Revenue Clerk of Court at the Office of the Judiciary, a business professional, and an advocate for career, youth and development. His interests include education-industry linkages, financial management, governance, and youth opportunity and socio economic development.



Namibia records 24 rhino poaching cases in 2026

Namibia has recorded 24 rhinos poached so far in 2026, as wildlife crime continues to pose a threat despite a significant decline in rhino poaching last year.

Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Indileni Daniel said the latest figures show that the threat remains active, although anti-poaching interventions are producing results.

Namibia recorded 43 rhinos poached in 2025, down from 91 in 2024, marking the lowest number recorded in more than a decade.

"Yet, our concerted efforts are bearing fruit. Our findings show that wildlife crime is declining. Notably, Namibia achieved a historic conservation milestone in 2025 by having recorded 43 rhinos poached, compared to the 91 recorded in 2024. This marks our lowest poaching levels in over a decade," Daniel said.

"Thus far, figures from 2026 show us that the threat remains active, with 24 rhinos poached to date. Nonetheless, this is proving that our strategies are working."

Speaking at the Third National Stakeholder Forum on Wildlife and Environmental Protection in Windhoek on Monday, Daniel also warned that illegal plant trafficking is emerging as a lucrative criminal enterprise in Namibia. She said the country needs to strengthen efforts to combat environmental crimes, including the illegal trade in plants and forestry resources.

Daniel warned that wildlife and environmental crimes threaten Namibia's natural resources, economy and livelihoods while placing additional pressure on government, the private sector and international partners to fund enforcement and conservation efforts.

"We must be entirely honest with ourselves about the real cost of these environmental crimes. When we lose our natural resources to criminal syndicates, we threaten our own capacity for survival," she said.

"These crimes bleed our economy dry. They directly erode our tourism vitality and compromise the vast chain of cognate economic benefits that contribute so immensely to our Gross Domestic Product."

Daniel said international cooperation remains critical because criminal syndicates continue to adapt their methods. She called for stronger cross-border cooperation and efforts to reduce international demand for illegally traded wildlife and plant products.

She said Namibia has strengthened legislation and penalties and established specialised structures, including the Wildlife Protection Services Division and the Environmental Crime Unit within the Office of the Prosecutor General.

Daniel said the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations was also making progress towards finalising the long-awaited Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill, which is expected to further strengthen the country's wildlife conservation and protection framework once enacted.

She urged stakeholders to translate discussions at the forum into concrete measures to combat wildlife and environmental crime and protect Namibia's natural resources.