

GREEN HYDROGEN

Ithete calls for tangible benefits from Namibia's green hydrogen drive

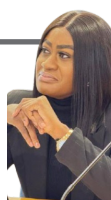
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BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Local, electric and foreign cars may face levies under MVA Fund proposal

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MAIN STORY



Local, electric and foreign cars may face levies under MVA Fund proposal

The Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund has proposed the introduction of new levies on vehicles, including electric and foreign-registered cars, as part of efforts to reduce its dependence on fuel levy income and secure long-term sustainability.

Speaking at a public consultation on legislative amendments, the Fund's Manager for Legal Services, Feni Nashilundo, raised concern that the rising number of road accidents and injuries is straining the Fund's limited revenue base.

"In trying to address that over-reliance, especially for us as an institution, we only have one source, while the number of accidents and injuries is escalating on a daily basis. To try and address that over-reliance on a single source of money, we are proposing additional levies in the form of either foreign-registered

vehicle levies, locally registered vehicle levies, as well as an electric vehicle levy," she said.

Currently, the Fund is financed through a fuel levy system, receiving 47 cents for every litre of fuel consumed nationwide.

Nashilundo explained that this income is shared with other institutions, leaving the Fund with only a portion to cover obligations such as medical treatment, rehabilitation, and benefits for accident victims.

The proposed levy on local vehicles could

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
 - * 15 October 2025
 - * 3 December 2025

be collected during licence disc renewals, with possible rates ranging from N\$5 to N\$50.

Passenger-based fees are also under consideration.

A levy on foreign-registered vehicles has received widespread support, with Nashilundo noting it would be easier to administer without adding pressure on Namibians already contributing through fuel costs.

“For foreign vehicles, I don’t think there is an issue in terms of collecting or proposing such a levy. But usually, when you are an institution imposing levies on the same people over and over again, it may become a problem,” she said.

The Fund has also proposed moving benefit amounts, including medical and funeral cover, from the Act into regulations.

This would allow the Minister, on the recommendation of the MVA Fund Board, to adjust benefits in line with inflation and rising living costs without lengthy legal amendments.

Funeral benefits could increase from N\$30,000 to N\$50,000, while medical cover would also be reviewed.

Other benefits, such as loss of income and loss of support, would remain capped at N\$1.5 million.

“The intention is that even for benefits

that have been in place for a long time, these amounts can be increased without undergoing the lengthy legislative process. Once the amounts are moved from the Act to the regulations, the Fund will be able to increase benefits on a more regular and practical basis,” she said.

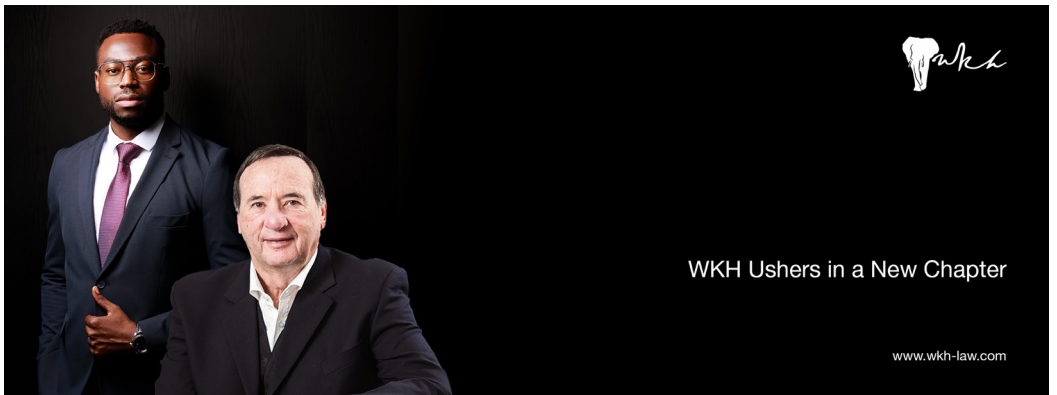
The Fund further proposes the removal of the 50% penalty imposed on passengers transported without seatbelts, such as on the back of bakkies and trucks, citing that in rural areas these vehicles are often the only means of transport.

Employers and transport providers could, however, be held accountable for failing to meet safety obligations.

Additionally, the Fund aims to extend the loss of support benefit to adult dependents of deceased breadwinners who are still in school or university.

Support would continue until the completion of a first undergraduate qualification, capped at age 25, with exceptions for learners with disabilities.

“In such cases, the Fund aims to establish that, since it is covering the costs of treatment, the employer should be held accountable if employees were improperly transported. Essentially, the Fund would seek reimbursement from the employer for the costs incurred in treating the injured employees,” Nashilundo said.



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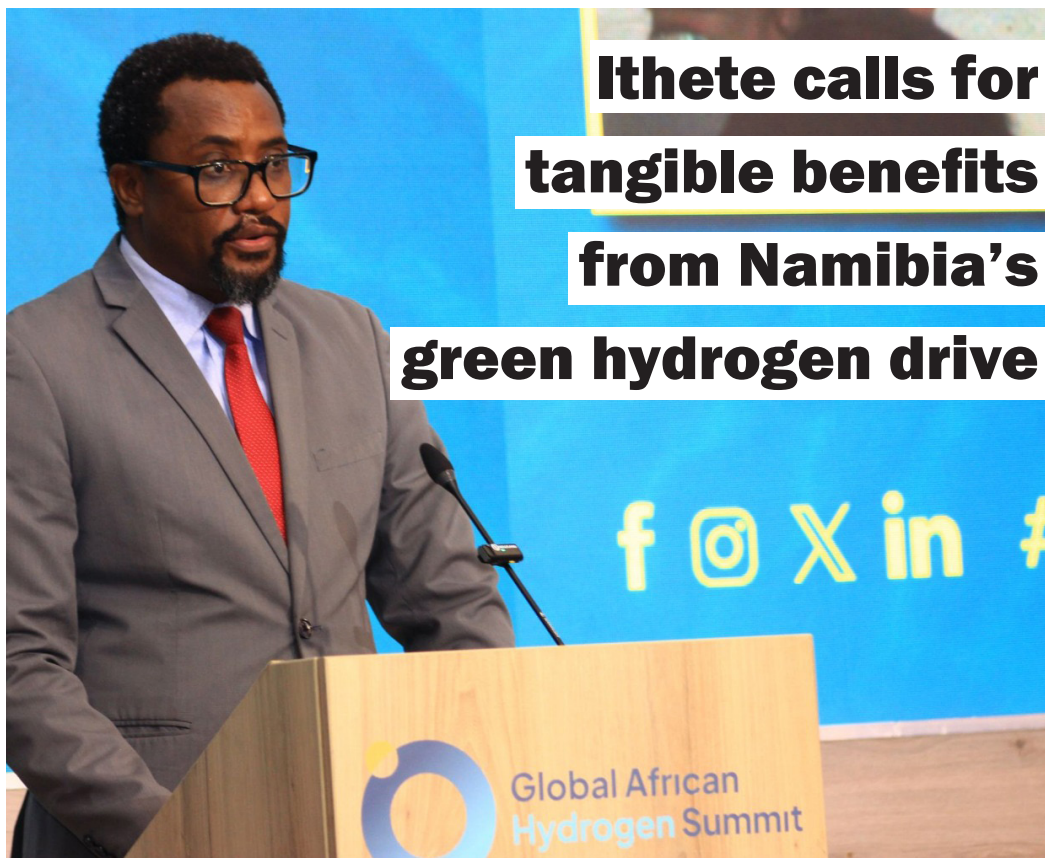


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News Worth Knowing

Ithete calls for tangible benefits from Namibia's green hydrogen drive



Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Natangwe Ithete, has urged greater effort to ensure that the

country's emerging hydrogen economy delivers measurable benefits for citizens, particularly young people, women and workers.

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Business



Speaking at the Global African Hydrogen Summit 2025 in Windhoek, Ithete stressed that projects must translate into real improvements in livelihoods, education, skills development and local empowerment.

“For Namibia, green industrialisation is a catalyst to breaking the cycle of exporting raw materials and import-dependency. Our collective vision must be to process our minerals here in Namibia, and Africa to power our homes and industries with our own renewable resources and build a new economy where Namibian young

people, women, and workers in our towns and villages are direct beneficiaries of this green transition,” he said on Wednesday.

The Minister commended large-scale initiatives such as Hyphen Green Hydrogen, Daures Green Hydrogen, Oshivela HyIron and Cleanergy Solutions for their progress, but cautioned that success must be measured by tangible community impact.

“Our work is not done if the youth in our villages cannot point to the impact of these projects in their lives. Let this conference bear roadmaps to answering

these questions, not through estimations but in practice,” Ithete told delegates.

He reaffirmed Namibia’s commitment to policies outlined in NDP6 and adherence to Environmental, Social and Governance principles, emphasising that “true success lies in visible improvements in citizens’ lives.”

Ithete also called for accountability from both leaders and investors, insisting that projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes. “Each project should show results such as schools built, skills transferred, and families lifted out of poverty,” he said.

He concluded by urging stakeholders to “match ambition with action, policy with impact, and vision with delivery” to advance Africa’s green industrial revolution.

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TENDERS



TENDER ENQUIRY NO. E090-ND-2025
INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CORROSION PROTECTION, CLADDING AND SCAFFOLDING SERVICES

1. OVERVIEW
 Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd (Namdeb) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Namdeb Holdings (Pty) Ltd, and performs land-based prospecting (exploration), mining and rehabilitation operations.

2. SPECIFICATION OF THE SERVICES
 Namdeb hereby invites reputable and qualified service providers to submit tenders for the provision of on-site services, including (but not limited to) the following:-

- The Provision of Sandblasting and Corrosion Protection Services
- The Provision of Cladding Removal, Installation and Replacement Services
- The Provision of Scaffolding Services (Assemble, Inspection and Dismantle)

3. TENDER ENQUIRY DOCUMENT
 Interested parties may contact the following person to obtain a copy of the tender enquiry document. **It is recommended that the tender enquiry document be obtained before 17th of September 2025.**
 Contact: Ms Elizabeth Markowitz
 Email: elizabeth.markowitz@namdeb.com
 Tel.: +264 (63) 238502

4. COMPULSORY PHYSICAL SITE INSPECTION
 A compulsory physical site inspection (as further detailed in the tender enquiry) shall be conducted on **Monday, 13th of October 2025.**
Only Tenderers that attended the compulsory physical site inspection shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.

5. CLOSING DATE
 The closing date for the tender is **16h00 on Tuesday, 04th of November 2025**, and tender submissions must only be delivered as specified in the tender enquiry document.

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Health Ministry directly engages 41 global suppliers to avert medicine shortages

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has turned to direct engagement with 41 international manufacturers and wholesalers in a bid to stabilise the supply of essential medicines.

Health Minister Esperance Luvindao said the emergency procurement measures are expected to restore stock levels for 75% of key medicines and save the government N\$221 million compared to previous intermediary procurement costs.

“Despite this significant investment, we have faced severe challenges in recent years regarding the procurement of pharmaceuticals and clinical supplies, resulting in recurrent stock-outs in our health facilities,” she said.

The Minister explained that the challenges included the absence of long-term procurement contracts, global supply chain disruptions, changing disease patterns, and limited storage capacity. She added that inefficiencies in the procurement system, weak accountability and substandard warehousing had compounded the situation.

For the past two years, service levels at the Central Medical Stores have remained below 57%, well short of the Ministry’s 80% target. Nearly N\$1.9 billion has been allocated for pharmaceutical procurement in the 2025/2026 financial year, yet shortfalls persist.

Luvindao said the Ministry is now shifting to a proactive approach that includes securing long-term supply contracts with manufacturers and consolidating warehousing under a single secure facility.

She added that modern tracking, dispensing and financial management



systems will also be introduced to strengthen accountability and ensure a more reliable supply.

“We are now moving away from a reactive approach to a proactive one, where we anticipate demand and secure long-term contracts with manufacturers and contractors to ensure a steady supply of essential medicines,” Luvindao said.



Namibia warns against export-only hydrogen model

Namibia's National Planning Commission Director General, Kaire Mbuende, has called on African and global leaders to ensure the hydrogen economy delivers real benefits for Namibians rather than repeating the limited gains of past extractive industries.

Opening the Global African Hydrogen

Summit 2025 in Windhoek, Mbuende said the sector must drive industrial growth, job creation and community empowerment.

"The hydrogen revolution must not replicate the extractive models of the past. It must inaugurate a new era of value addition on the Namibian soil. As stated in the beginning, our people have great

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expectations from this summit. With us, we implore the summit to craft concrete resolutions. Actionable strategies and binding commitments,” he said.

Mbuende stressed that Namibia’s newly launched National Development Plan 6 positions green industrialisation as central to economic transformation.

He pointed to the country’s natural endowments and policy framework as a strong base for hydrogen-led development. “We are not content to be exporters of growing molecules. We are committed to building industry, creating jobs and empowering communities,” he said.

Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board CEO, Nangula Uaandja, told delegates that the government is accelerating hydrogen and green industrialisation efforts under President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“As we all know, we are having our first

female president and we are now talking about ambition in action and if you want to see action, welcome to Namibia under the leadership of her excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,” Uaandja said.

She added that the administration is moving from planning to implementation.

“The journey that we started of green hydrogen we are seeing action first tracked through the development of the green industrialisation and everything else that we need to do to support the development of the Namibian economy to create employment opportunities for our people and of course to support their move to decarbonise our planet,” she said.

The summit has drawn African and global heads of government, ministers, policymakers and industry leaders for two days of high-level discussions on the future of hydrogen. - www.miningandenergy.com.na



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From raw to ready: Why manufacturing and value addition must be Namibia's now

By Dr Penny T Uukunde

Every Namibian has seen it. You buy bread, school uniforms, or a packet of tinned fish, and the label says “imported.” Yet the maize, the wheat, the fish, the stone all come from our own land and waters.

We export it raw, then pay more to buy it back processed. That gap is not just a statistic. It explains why jobs are scarce, why skills go unused, and why national wealth keeps leaking away.

The Sixth National Development Plan, NDP6, gives us a map. It calls for manufacturing to rise from about 10.6 percent of GDP today to 18 percent by 2030.

Jobs in the sector must expand from just over 53,000 to 80,000. Manufactured goods must grow from 42 percent of exports to 60 percent. These are not abstract percentages. They are livelihoods.

They are classrooms built, homes roofed, children fed. They are the difference between a fisherman in Walvis Bay selling frozen hake by the tonne, and selling branded Namibian portions in regional supermarkets.

This path demands connection. A farmer cannot succeed if their harvest rots before reaching a mill. A factory cannot survive if power cuts halt production. An exporter cannot compete if certificates take months. A sponsor cannot help if their project is detached from our plan.

Everything depends on the pieces working together farmer to factory, regulator to buyer, port to corridor, investor to framework. When they connect, Namibia moves. When they don't, we stand still.



“

Logistics bottlenecks can wipe out competitiveness, which is why ports and corridors must function as reliably as the production lines they serve.

NDP6 tells us where to start. We cannot industrialise everything at once. But we can build on what we already do well. Agro-processing can take northern harvests and turn them into fortified cereals and tomato paste for schools and hospitals. Fisheries can shift from bulk frozen blocks to retailer-ready products that pass EU and SADC standards.

Construction materials gypsum into boards, stone into tiles, timber into frames can supply housing and public works first, then export into the region. These are quick wins if inputs, utilities, and standards are aligned.

Progress is already visible. New fish lines on the coast are climbing the value chain. Packaging SMEs now supply processors that once depended on imports. Agro-processors in the North are supplying national school meals.

These are not isolated wins. They prove that when the system connects, Namibia delivers.

The risks are real, but they are not excuses.

Power outages and tariff uncertainty can turn an investment into a stranded asset, which is why industrial parks need dedicated feeders and predictable rates. Water shortages can quietly kill a factory, which is why siting and reuse must be disciplined.

Standards delays can close markets, which is why laboratories must be resourced with the same urgency as factories.

Logistics bottlenecks can wipe out competitiveness, which is why ports and corridors must function as reliably as the production lines they serve.

This is also a continental story. Under the African Continental Free Trade Area, tariff-free access depends on value added at home.

Agenda 2063 calls for beneficiation and industrialisation as Africa's path to prosperity. Namibia's corridors and ports give us an advantage, but only if we ship certified, reliable products. Partnerships with China, the EU, and others are real, but they must serve Namibia's plan, not overwrite it.

And this is a citizen's story. For the market woman in Katima Mulilo, it means goods that cost less when more is produced at home. For the student in Keetmanshoop, it means courses that match real

jobs in factories and labs.

For the entrepreneur in Oshakati, it means building a business that plugs into existing value chains instead of scattering energy. For the banker in Windhoek, it means lending into deals that are standards-ready and buyer-led.

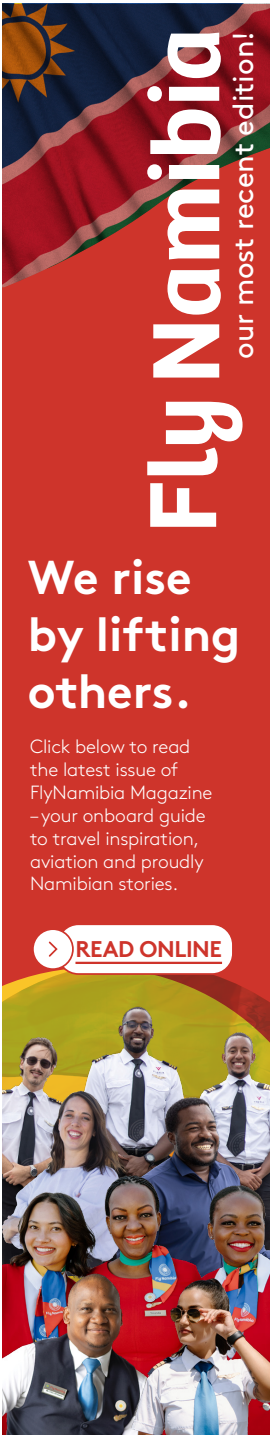
For the sponsor abroad, it means aligning funds with NDP6 priorities and being welcomed into a system that works.

Hope alone is not a strategy. Numbers, plans, and discipline are. The recent assessments remind us that drifting will not deliver Vision 2030.

NDP6 reminds us that alignment can. The question is not whether Namibia can industrialise. The question is whether we are willing to connect the parts we already hold. If the market woman in Katima Mulilo, the fisherman in Walvis Bay, the governor in the South, the student in Keetmanshoop, the banker in Windhoek, and the partner abroad all move in the same direction, then manufacturing and value addition will no longer be jargon. They will be pay slips, factory lights, and national pride.

They will be the heartbeat of a Namibia that captures its own wealth, proud, productive, and prepared for the future.

***Dr Penny Tuna Magdalena Uukunde is a Regional Development Economist.**



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FNB introduces banking services at Osire Refugee Camp

FNB Namibia has launched banking services at the Osire Refugee Camp, giving refugees access to financial systems for the first time.

The camp houses about 5,000 refugees, with more than 3,000 adults previously unbanked despite some having IDs and passports.

Until now, many had to travel over 200

kilometres to Otjiwarongo at a cost of N\$200 for the return trip, often facing the risk of robbery.

FNB partnered with local entrepreneurs Mr Bakari of Raphael Shop and Mr Johnson of Johnson Trading, who are now operating as Cashplus Agents, enabling residents to make deposits and withdrawals through cardless transactions and e-wallet services

This groundbreaking initiative marked a significant milestone in the banking landscape, as it represents the first time a bank has actively sought to serve a refugee camp in Namibia.

within the camp.

“This groundbreaking initiative marked a significant milestone in the banking landscape, as it represents the first time a bank has actively sought to serve a refugee camp in Namibia. The introduction of these services has brought immense relief and joy to the refugees, who come from various regions across Africa in search for a better life. They can now conduct their financial transactions within their own market, eliminating the need for risky and costly trips to Otjiwarongo, and sometimes to Okakarara,” said FNB Namibia eBanker Modestu Ipangelwa.

“Our primary objective has been to ensure that cash remains within their local market, fostering a sense of community and encouraging businesses to support one another. By maintaining liquidity within Osire, we aim to create an environment where residents can thrive economically without the constant threat of losing their money during their travels. This initiative is not merely a business strategy; it is a humanitarian duty that aligns with our commitment to driving financial inclusion and promoting digital banking education.”

FNB said the move has been welcomed by the Osire community, where small businesses already provide goods and services to refugees and surrounding farms.

Refugees can now transact securely using the FNB App, USSD and Cashplus services.

“As FNBERs, we remain committed to expanding our reach and creating stability through the use of Alternative Channels and External Banking opportunities, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey towards financial inclusion,” the bank said.

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!Gawaxab earns PhD in Economics from UCT

Bank of Namibia Governor Johannes !Gawaxab has earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics from the University of Cape Town.

His doctoral thesis, “Assessing the Optimality of the Common Monetary Area in Southern Africa: A Case of Namibia’s Members”, analyses exchange rate regimes and the economic implications of Namibia’s currency peg to the South African Rand.

The research also explores

the benefits and drawbacks of currency unions and assesses prospects for a single African currency.

The central bank described the qualification as a reflection of !Gawaxab’s intellectual discipline, lifelong commitment to learning, and role in advancing Namibia’s economic discourse.

It said the achievement represents an important milestone in his career of service and scholarship.

Coping with grief and loss

By Anselma Kunyanda
Haushiku

Whatever type of loss you've suffered, there's no tailored way to grieve. But by understanding that grieving is not a sign of weakness, you can find healthier ways to cope. Grief is defined as a healthy and natural response to loss.

It's the emotional suffering you feel when something or someone you love is taken away. Often, the pain of loss can be devastating. You may experience all kinds of unexpected emotions from shock or anger to disbelief, guilt and profound sadness.

The pain of grief can also disrupt your physical wellbeing, such as causing sleep or eating disorders, or even ability to think straight. The above reactions will differ depending on the loss you are encountering, hence the more significant the loss, the more intense your grief will be.

Employers are expected to ensure that employees are fully supported during this phase especially after having lost a loved one to continue thriving at the workplace. The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) as an employer of choice ensures that employees are provided with the necessary emotional, financial assistance as well as wreaths during the bereavement period as a sign of good gesture to our employees.

Picking yourself up after the loss of someone or something you love feels like an emotional roller coaster.

Grieving the death of a loved one is often



Picking yourself up after the loss of someone or something you love feels like an emotional roller

coaster.

perceived as one of the most excruciating types of grief, but any loss can cause grief, and this includes divorce or relationship breakups, loss of financial stability, deteriorating health, a job and friendships to mention a few.

The best way to deal with a loss is to acknowledge it and face it head on and if you are experiencing difficulties with coping, seek support immediately to ease emotional hurdle.

Even subtle losses in life can trigger a sense of grief. For example, you might grieve after moving away from home, graduating from the University, or even changing jobs.

Whatever your loss, it's personal to you, so don't feel ashamed about how you feel, or believe that it's somehow only appropriate to grieve for certain things. If the person, animal, relationship, or situation was significant to you, it's normal to grieve the loss you're experiencing.

Whether your grief is caused by losing a parent, child, spouse/partner, close friend, or any other relative, you will encounter the same grief.

How you grieve depends on many factors, including your personality and coping style, your life experience, your faith and how substantial the loss was to you.

It's worth acknowledging that after such a significant loss, life may never seem quite the same again. But they say time heals and you should trust the process to bounce back. In no time, your sorrow will start to look to the future and eventually help you to come to terms with your loss.

Inevitably, the grieving process takes time. Healing happens gradually; it can't be forced or hurried and there is no "normal" schedule for grieving. Some people start to feel better in weeks or months, whereas, for others, the grieving process is measured in years.

Whatever your grief experiences, it's important to be patient with yourself and allow the process to take its natural path.

The five various stages of grief are denial, where you believe "this can't be happening to me", anger "why is this happening? who is to blame?", bargaining "make this not to happen", depression "I am too sad to do anything.", and acceptance "I'm at peace with what happened."

If you are experiencing any of these emotions following a loss, it may help to know that your reaction is natural and that you will heal in time. However, not everyone who grieves goes through all these stages and that's okay.

Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to go through each stage to heal. In fact, some people navigate their grief without going through any of these stages.

And if you go through these stages of grief, you probably won't experience them in a neat, sequential order, so don't worry about what you "should" be feeling or which stage you're supposed to be in. We grieve as individual and not as a collective and this clearly proves that there is no one size fits

all grieving pattern.

Symptoms of Grief

While loss affects people in different ways, many of us encounter feelings like you're going crazy, like you're experiencing a nightmare, or questioning your religious or spiritual beliefs.

Emotional Symptoms of Grief

Profound Sadness is probably the most universally experienced symptom of grief. You may have feelings of emptiness, hopelessness, or deep loneliness. You may also cry a lot or feel emotionally unstable.

Some individuals may feel a sense of guilt, where they may regret or feel guilty about things you did or didn't say or do for the person. You may feel powerless to prevent your loss, even if it was completely beyond your control.

Accepting what happened can be daunting. You may feel numb, have trouble believing that the loss really happened, or be in denial. If someone you love has died, for example, you may keep expecting them to show up anytime, even though you know they're gone.

Fear is another emotion which can trigger a host of worries. If you've lost your partner, your job, or your home, for example, you may feel anxious, helpless, or insecure about the future. You may even have panic attacks or worse fears can trigger your own mortality, when you are trying to uncover possible ways to navigate the dark cloud.

Whereas, some may feel anger, in instances even when the loss was not due to the anyone's fault, you may feel angry and resentful. If you lost a loved one, you may be angry with yourself, God, the doctors, or even the person who died for abandoning you. You may feel the need to blame someone for the injustice that was done to you.

Having collective grieving sessions by spending time with your loved ones can help, do not isolate yourself.

Physical Symptoms of Grief

We often think of grief as a strictly emotional process, but grief can cause physical challenges, aches and pains, insomnia, fatigue, lowered immunity, weight loss or weight gain which is very risky to one's health.

Taking Care of Yourself as You Grieve

While loss is an inevitable part of life, there are ways to help come to terms with your grief and eventually, find a way to pick up the pieces and move on with your life. When you're grieving, it's more important to prioritize your emotional and physical health first. The stress of a major loss can quickly deplete your energy and emotional reserves. Looking after your physical and emotional needs will help you navigate this difficult time.

When grieving, do not suppress your feelings but it's crucial to release the emotions, this means crying, if you must. If need be, seek professional help, or embrace the support of others. Unresolved grief can lead to health complications such as

depression, anxiety, etc. When grieving, don't resort to alcohol or drugs to numb the pain of grief. This substance can only lift your mood artificially and can lead to prolong recovery.

Grief "triggers such as anniversaries, and important milestones can reawaken painful memories and feelings, hence, be prepared for an emotional wallop and know that it's completely normal to grief every now and then.

Moving on with Life

Remember and celebrate the lives of your loved ones. Anniversaries of a lost loved one can be a difficult time for friends and family, but it can also be a time for remembrance and honouring their memories.

Having collective grieving sessions by spending time with your loved ones can help, do not isolate yourself. What you choose is up to you, if it allows you to honour that unique relationship in a way that feels right to you.

** Anselma Kunyanda Haushiku is a General Manager Human Resources at GIPF*

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