

NAMIBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Where Business meets ideas

EDITION 20 | VOLUME 20 | 16 - 23 FEBRUARY 2026

Govt slashes N\$100m from TransNamib's budget



→ Piles pressure on lossmaking company to reform

→ Parts of railway network still malfunctional

→ N\$1.44 billion in losses over four years

■ 2018/19
LOSS:
-N\$153 MILLION

■ 2019/20
LOSS:
- N\$416 MILLION

■ 2020/21
LOSS:
-N\$397 MILLION



> Ministry of works and transport executive director Jonas Sheelongo

The next frontier?

US hunts for Namibia's minerals and energy

• STAFF WRITER

Namibia has emerged as the next strategic target for the United States as Washington races to secure rare earth minerals and energy resources critical to its industrial and technological future.

Namibia is rapidly emerging as a hotspot after recent discoveries of oil and lithium, boosting its strategic value in the global minerals race.

US Ambassador John Giordano, the first politically appointed envoy to Africa under Donald Trump's current administration, told the British Broadcasting Corporation last week that Namibia offers a strong platform for America to access minerals essential to its economy.

"This is about securing America's future," Giordano said.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2



> John Giordano

• JEANETTE DIERGAARDT

The Ministry of Finance has cut N\$100 million from TransNamib Holdings Ltd's 2025/26 budget, leaving the state-owned railway with just N\$220 million to tackle day-to-day operations and infrastructure upgrades.

In a letter dated 20 October to TransNamib, seen by *Namibia Business Review*, the then Ministry of Finance executive director Michael Humavindu, said the reduction was necessary due to prevailing fiscal constraints

and a downward revision of the national revenue outlook.

"It has become necessary for the government to implement targeted expenditure containment measures across all sectors, including State-Owned Enterprises," Humavindu wrote.

He urged the railway company to "prudently manage its operations within the reduced allocation and realign activities to the available resources and assured the company of continued cooperation to safeguard financial sustainability and effective service delivery."

Despite the budget allocation, TransNamib continues to face a raft of operational challenges.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US

- WIDE NATIONAL COVERAGE
- AFFORDABLE RATES
- TAILORED ADVERTISING PACKAGES



CONTACT US Tel: +264 813 369 483

editor@namibiabusinessreview.com
www.namibiabusinessreview.com

TRANSNAMIB FROM PAGE 1

The company suffers from a shortage of locomotives, aging and substandard rail infrastructure, and a business model that has yet to achieve profitability.

A significant portion of the national railway network is inactive, with 69.328 km of tracks between Otjiwarongo and Outjo currently non-operational, limiting its ability to move cargo efficiently.

The rail transport company made cumulative losses of N\$1.44 billion between 2019 and 2023, with the 2022/23 loss alone at N\$478 million.

Two top executives, Webster Gonzo (Human Capital) and Allynsia Platt (Executive), were suspended last week following an Ernst and Young forensic investigation that revealed irregularities in property management and disposal.

"Disciplinary hearings are to follow," the company said.

TransNamib's total property value declined from N\$2.6 billion to N\$2.3 billion over one year due to depreciation and alienation of certain assets. While revenue grew by 14% to N\$535 million, net profit dropped sharply by N\$547 million, highlighting deep operational and financial inefficiencies.

The then CEO, John Smit, attributed the

decline to substantial penalties incurred during the period.

The Ministry of Works and Transport says TransNamib still faces multiple challenges, including an outdated railway system and a shortage of operational locomotives.

"The national railway network within the country has a total length of 2 687 km, of which 2 617.62 km is still active except the 69.328 km Otjiwarongo-Outjo line that is not operational," ministry of works and transport executive director Jonas Sheelongo told *Namibia Business Review*.

Parts of the railway system are being upgraded to meet Southern African Development Community (SADC) standards. Upgrades have included the 225-km stretch from Kranzberg to Walvis Bay and the 224-km section between Kranzberg and Otjiwarongo, which began last year.

Sheelongo said: "TransNamib, as a railway operator fully owned by the state, requires full capacitation in terms of equipment and rolling stock. Similarly, there is a need to eliminate inefficiencies within its operations supply chain."

Furthermore, Sheelongo said it is critical to ensure that certain economic routes within the network are fully upgraded and well-maintained so that the company can move cargo on routes without hindrance.

"TransNamib as an entity also needs to aggressively promote its offerings in the market. Improved rolling stock and railway infrastructure result in a safe and efficient service delivery, which indeed will help to grow TransNamib's market share, thus improving its competitiveness."

The government continues to assist TransNamib in operating sustainably. The

government provided guarantees to the recent N\$2.6 billion loan agreement that was signed between TransNamib, Development Bank of Southern Africa, and Development Bank of Namibia.

"Part of these funds will be utilised to purchase new rolling stock and re-manufacture old locomotives and wagons. The remanufacturing is being done locally, while new locomotives will be purchased from various manufacturers," Sheelongo said.

TransNamib admits that the suspension of the N\$100 million will put severe financial pressure on the company from an operational perspective, but will not have any direct and immediate impact on infrastructure upgrades or the locomotive remanufacturing project.

Plans to acquire 23 electric and diesel locomotives for N\$2.5 billion remain on hold after works and transport minister Veiko Nekundi cancelled the tender due to concerns about direct procurement from a single supplier.

Questions remain whether the country's decades-old railway lines can accommodate the new fleet.

TransNamib executive for marketing and commercial, Kendall Swartz, said the company has commissioned an independent rail expert to review best practices.

"The study will make recommendations, which will give TransNamib deeper insights into the strategy that they can take going forward for the remake and/or procurement of the locomotives," he said.

A former TransNamib executive told *Namibia Business Review* that the company needs more operational locomotives to move freight and achieve profitability.

"With the government subsidies they are getting, it can, however, cause the state-owned enterprise to become more relaxed about reaching profitability.

The company has received substantial government bailouts to resuscitate operations.

TransNamib received a budget allocation of N\$300 million for 2024/25, with N\$320 million earmarked for day-to-day operations and rolling stock challenges. In January, the company announced plans to spend N\$211 million rebuilding seven locomotives.

Corporate governance expert Ntelamo Ntelamo said TransNamib must demonstrate value to the economy and push for efficiency.

"TransNamib may argue that it is critical for the economy; however, if that comes at a burden to the taxpayer, then it is useless and can be replaced by the private sector. When did TransNamib pay healthy dividends, which were used to build a clinic or a school?"

Simonis Storm Securities economist Almandro Jansen added: "Namibia's logistics corridor depends on low-cost, high-capacity, predictable inland transport for bulk commodities rather than port efficiency alone... The value loss extends well beyond higher transport costs and should be understood as a loss of corridor rents, service-export potential, and fiscal efficiency.

Namibia's economic upside from transit trade lies not in producing commodities, but in monetising movement through port fees, rail tariffs, fuel sales, logistics services, warehousing, insurance, and professional services." **NBR**

THE NEXT FRONTIER? FROM PAGE 1

He added "Namibia sits at the intersection of energy security, critical minerals, and infrastructure required for the artificial intelligence era."

Giordano said that speed and control matter.

"Time matters and outcomes are what matter. This is about building systems that last. The US has to lead. You cannot separate security from capital, and you cannot separate either from energy. The US has to lead in all three," he said.

DRC DEAL SHOWS THE PLAYBOOK

The US has already tightened its grip on the Democratic Republic of the Congo following a Trump-brokered ceasefire with Rwanda.

In return, Trump publicly confirmed that the US would extract minerals from the Congo to support American industrial needs. The agreement includes security guarantees and diplomatic backing in exchange for preferential access to future mining concessions.

The deal reshapes the Congo's mining landscape and makes it harder for competitors such as China to expand further, despite Chinese firms controlling about 80% of global cobalt output from the country.

Last year, Washington also signed a "resources-for-security" mining agreement with Kinshasa to secure minerals

essential to US technology, economic strength, and national security.

While the US pushes raw mineral extraction abroad, Namibia and other African nations are increasingly calling for value addition and local processing.

NOT AN IDEAL PARTNER?

Political analyst Sakaria Johannes warned that Namibia must avoid exploitative deals.

"It is quite interesting that America has a plan for Namibia. Does Namibia have a plan for America?" Johannes told *Namibia Business Review* this week.

He said Namibia must prioritise policies that promote beneficiation.

"In many cases, Americans just want to benefit from the resources of small countries instead of helping those countries develop," he said.

Johannes also warned Namibia to choose partners carefully.

"It is important to choose a trading partner who respects your sovereignty. In this case, I do not think America is that partner," he said.

VALUE ADDITION VS EXTRACTION

Namibia approved its critical raw materials policy in 2023. The strategy shifts focus from exporting raw minerals to domestic processing, local ownership, and industrial development.

The US is intensifying efforts to secure uranium, lithium, and rare earth minerals from African countries to reduce reliance on Chinese-dominated supply chains.

At the same time, the US International Development Finance Corporation is investing more than US\$550 million (N\$7.9 billion) in rail links connecting mineral-rich regions in Zambia and Congo to Angola's Port of Lobito. The project aims to create supply routes aligned with Western strategic interests.

RESOURCE IMPERIALISM FEARS

Analyst Henning Melber described Giordano as a political envoy advancing Trump's protectionist agenda.

He noted that even the Financial Times criticised Washington's approach as a new form of resource imperialism.

"This pushes Africa further into a peripheral status but resources also offer negotiation power. African countries have agency," he said.

Melber said Namibia can negotiate better deals but only with a clear foreign policy strategy.

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah last year at an investor conference urged Namibia and the African continent to abandon a "begging" or "poverty mentality" in international dealings, advocating instead for self-reliance and the leveraging of natural resources to drive development.

Analyst Professor Johan Coetzee said Namibia has already failed to maximise value from its minerals, especially under dominant foreign mining ownership.

"What are they doing for mineral processing?" he asked.

"That is where the real money lies," he added. He said American investment could introduce competition if structured properly.

"The core problem is not foreign exploitation. It is Namibia's own governance shortcomings," Coetzee said.

He called for stronger contract oversight, technical expertise, and joint ventures that ensure skills transfer.

NAMIBIA OPEN – BUT ON ITS TERMS

Deputy minister of industry, mines and energy Gaudentia Kröhne said Namibia remains open to investors but beneficiation is non-negotiable.

"Namibia is open for business, not only for extraction, but for partnership across the entire mining value chain. We are positioning both large-scale investors and small-scale miners within an integrated pipeline for sustainable growth.

From exploration and mine development to processing, beneficiation, and downstream industries, Namibia welcomes partners at every stage. Beneficiation is not an aspiration, it is a national policy direction," **NBR**

• IMELDAAMBONDO

When a drought wiped out her goat herd in 2022, Fransfontein farmer Ingrid Heigan thought she would lose everything.

Four years later, she owns nearly 100 goats, employs her children, and contributes to community projects. This is all thanks to the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF)-supported Improving Rangeland and Ecosystem Management Practices of Smallholder Farmers under Conditions of Climate Change (IREMA) goat scheme.

The IREMA project, implemented in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquelle, provides smallholder farmers with goats and training to improve livestock management, boost food security, and strengthen resilience against climate change.

"It was very helpful to me, because I am a female farmer with no husband to support me. I just had seven goats when I started, then EIF gave me 21 goats which was really helpful because it boosted my kraal," Heigan says.

Her goats have not only multiplied, but she has also returned 21 female goats to EIF to keep the project revolving. "Since



< Ingrid Heigan



21 goats turn single mother into community leader

then I have been standing strong and I have close to 100 goats, all thanks to the EIF goats that I got," she adds.

Heigan auctions her goats at the nearby town of Khorixas, selling big ones for N\$1 500 and smaller ones from N\$1 000 to N\$1 200. The project's success has also inspired her to explore poultry farming, and she has already attended training with Agribank to produce eggs.

Her daughter, Mutagos Heigan (31), has now joined the family business. "I am proud of my mother, a strong woman with no husband and now I'm interested in be-

ing a farmer also, she encourages me to go into the farming industry which I see is beneficial," she says.

Another Sesfontein farmer, 51-year-old Seth Murorua, says he started with seven goats before receiving 21 through the government-funded project, which came after the 2022 drought nearly wiped out his herd.

"My goats died because of the drought, they were starving and there was not enough. These projects are really good for us, they have helped a lot of people with this project," he says, noting that

climate change has drastically affected farming opportunities.

In Warmquelle, Johannes Swanapoel, manager of a Green Scheme Project and IREMA beneficiary, runs a 16-hectare garden that has been operational for over two years. His project employs 35 to 40 community members and supplies food to local hostels and other institutions across Namibia.

Even with scarce water, Swanapoel has kept production going. "We don't have proper access to water here, we get water from Fransfontein. Even in a dry climate we are producing well in a semi-desert hot and warm community, although 30 to 40% of goods get ruined due to problems like pesticides, chemicals and climate changes," he says.

EIF spokesperson Romeo Muyunda said more than 10 000 smallholder farmers have benefited directly from the five-year climate change adaptation project, which improved food security, income generation, and climate resilience.

"The project funded to the tune of N\$164 million significantly improved the resilience of smallholder farmers and rural communities in the drought-prone areas of Sesfontein, Fransfontein and Warmquelle," Muyunda said.

He added that the initiative reached an estimated 68 600 people, far exceeding the original target of 21 000 beneficiaries.

"The project placed strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable households, particularly women and small-scale farmers, to strengthen their ability to cope with recurrent drought," he said.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water & Land Reform technician Anton Joseph confirmed that many farmers benefited from the goat revolving scheme.

"We provide necessary farming training on how to care for the goats and basic aspects of livestock farming to all the beneficiaries before handing over the goats.

We continue this process until everyone benefits from it, and we prioritise farmers who have not more than 10 goats already, strictly farmers who stay on their farms," Joseph said.

Agricultural Minister Inge Zaamwani-Kamwi last year encouraged Namibian farmers to adopt sustainable methods to reduce the effects of climate change.

"Farmers need to adjust their farming methods to avoid incurring losses in instances when the rainfall is not consistent," she said.

"The effects of climate change are realistic in modern day and can have detrimental effects to the farming communities." **NBR**

Public announcement



Applications For MITT 2026

The Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) would like to invite all interested industry partners/NTB registered members to apply.

DATE	11-13 March 2026
VENUE	Crocus Expo, Pavilion 1, Moscow, Russia
COSTS	TBC

AVAILABLE TABLES 6 Tables

For inquiries, please contact Hendrina Kadhikwa at Tel:+264 61 290 6005 or Email: Hendrina.Kadhikwa@nambiatourism.com.na

NB: Visit the NTB website www.visitnamibia.com.na to download the application form.



MEET YOUR FINANCIAL POWER TEAM

Trusted advice, smart moves. Let's get your money right! The dedicated team at NamPost is committed to helping you achieve your financial aspirations. Whether you need guidance on savings, investments, or funeral cover, our team is ready to assist you on your financial journey, turning your goals into reality.



JEROME MOUTON

Acting Executive:
Financial Services &
Head Retail Banking



SAMMELINE FELIX

Portfolio Manager: Funding
and Asset management



RUBEN HAIMBILI

Manager: Bancassurance,
Agency and Sales



ESTHER POMUTI

Portfolio Management
Specialist: Funding and
Asset Management



TANGENI SHIFOTOKA

Savings Bank Business
Promoter



MBAPEWA NJEMBO

Savings Bank Business
Promoter

Financial Services

Customer Contact Centre (toll-free): 0800 010 999

Email: SalesConsultants@nampost.com.na

www.nampost.com.na



We
Deliver
More.



nampost®



China tightens control on Namibia's uranium mines



> Brandon Munro

• TIRI MASAWI

Chinese investors have strengthened their control of Namibia's uranium mining industry after a new deal to develop the Etango Uranium project was agreed last week.

The agreement is to form a joint venture between China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and Bannerman Resources, which runs the Etango project in Namibia.

Under the agreement, CNNC Overseas Limited (CNOL), a subsidiary of China National Uranium Corporation and part of CNNC, will partner with Bannerman Energy Overseas Limited to fund, develop and operate the Etango Uranium project.

The two companies will form a joint venture through Bannerman Energy (UK) Ltd. Bannerman will own 55%, while CNOL will own 45%.

The joint venture holds a 95% interest in the Etango project.

CNOL will make an initial investment of US\$294.5 million (about N\$4.7 billion). In total, CNOL will invest US\$321.5 million (about N\$5.1 billion) into the Etango project.

Commenting on the transaction, Bannerman executive chairman Brandon Munro said: "The execution of this documentation represents the culmination of the extensive Etango funding work-stream we have undertaken over the past two years."

With this transaction, China now tightens control on Namibia's uranium mines.

Chinese companies already have major control of Namibia's other two uranium mines, Rössing Uranium Mine and Husab Mine, which are among the country's top

uranium producers.

At Husab Mine, Taurus Minerals Limited, a Hong Kong-incorporated company and subsidiary of China General Nuclear Power Company and the China-Africa Development Fund, holds 90% through Swakop Uranium. The remaining 10% is owned by Epangelo Mining Company.

Rössing Uranium Mine is majority-owned by China National Uranium Corporation, which bought a 68.6% stake in 2019.

Other shareholders in Rössing include the Iranian Foreign Investment Company (15.29%), South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation (10.22%), which is seeking to sell, and the Namibian government (3.42%).

Munro said the deal provides funding for the project's development and supports Bannerman's plans in the uranium business.

"CNNC is one of the world's largest uranium consumers and is building more nuclear reactors," he said.

Munro said CNNC has experience in uranium mining, including operating the Rössing Mine in Namibia since 2019.

"Investment clears the final key step needed for Etango to move towards production and positions it as a major future uranium project," he said. **NBR**



Bannerman will own 55%, while CNOL will own 45%"



FOOD • PARTY • LIVE

Now Open!

At **Roads Authority Cafeteria**



Open From: **07h00-19h00**



Corner of Mandume Ndemufayo Avenue
David Hosea Meroro Road, Southern Industrial Area

Visit Us Today & Enjoy a Great Meal!

FOR ORDERS |0858092283



Namibia set to escape financial greylist trouble



> Bryan Eiseb

• TIRI MASAWI

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) says the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will soon remove Namibia from the financial grey list following an on-site assessment.

Namibia was grey-listed in February 2024 for failing to meet international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT) standards. In response, the country implemented a series of regulations and legal frameworks to address 13 strategic deficiencies identified by the FATF. The target deadline to remedy these deficiencies was 13 May 2026.

The Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre, Bryan Eiseb, said in a statement on Monday that Namibia's political and institutional commitments yielded positive results at the FATF Plenary meeting held from 9-13 February 2026 in Mexico.

"During its Plenary meeting, the FATF accepted and made the initial determination that Namibia has substantially completed its action plan addressing the 13 strategic deficiencies. The country now warrants an on-site assessment to verify the implementation of AML/CFT framework reforms," Eiseb said.

According to Eiseb, the FATF has noted Namibia's progress in strengthening its AML/CFT framework. He explained that Namibia will undergo risk-based supervision by enhancing human and resource capacities, conducting offsite and onsite inspections informed by supervisory risk assessment tools, and applying effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions for breaches of AML/CFT obligations.

Namibia has also strengthened preventive measures, including inspections and outreach, to ensure financial institutions and other designated businesses implement enhanced due diligence and comply with targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and proliferation financing without delay. The country has increased the filing of beneficial ownership information for legal persons and arrangements.

Eiseb said Namibia has provided the Financial Intelligence Centre with adequate human and financial resources, as well as targeted training, to improve operational and strategic analysis. The country has also enhanced cooperation between the FIC and law enforcement agencies to better integrate financial intelligence into investigations.

"The Financial Intelligence Centre is

Eiseb said Namibia has provided the Financial Intelligence Centre with adequate human and financial resources

now coordinating with all key national stakeholders to ensure the country is ready for the on-site assessment, which is scheduled for April 2026," he said.

The results of the on-site assessment will be presented at the next FATF Plenary in June 2026.

"The FIC acknowledges the support of Namibia and all stakeholders throughout this process. The political support demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening our domestic AML/CFT framework, contributing to global efforts to eradicate financial crime, money laundering, corruption, and illicit financial flows," Eiseb added.

Other areas where Namibia has made progress include enhancing the operational capabilities of authorities involved in money laundering and terrorism financing investigations and prosecutions by providing adequate resources and targeted training. The country has also demonstrated that its law enforcement agencies are capable of effectively investigating and prosecuting ML/TF cases and has approved the amended National Counter-Terrorism Strategy. **NBR**





EDITORIAL

It's time to strike the iron bar while it's still hot

Namibia is sitting on a treasure trove – and the world is starting to notice. US Ambassador John Giordano recently told the BBC that Namibia offers a perfect platform for the US to access the minerals it needs for future industries. He singled out rare earths as a particularly promising opportunity, and his messages on X have been buzzing with the potential Namibia holds.

At the same time, Chinese investors are tightening their grip on Namibia's uranium sector. A new joint venture between China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and Bannerman Resources will develop the Etango Uranium Project, adding to Chinese dominance over the Rössing and Husab mines – Namibia's biggest uranium producers.

These developments are a wake-up call. Namibia, a small nation, now has real leverage. The question is: will we use it?

The Nandi-Ndaitwah administration has talked about value addition in mining. But talking isn't enough. Currently, Namibia can only process uranium to "yellowcake" before exporting it. That's thousands of jobs and billions in potential revenue lost abroad. With the right policies, local processing could keep those jobs at home and turn raw materials into real wealth.

Critics warn about US interest in Namibian minerals. Yet this should be seen as bargaining power. Tie investment to value addition, and Namibia wins. Delay, and the moment slips away.

Other African nations are already acting. Ghana, for example, has announced it will ban the export of raw materials by 2030 to boost local industry. With smart planning and bold moves, Namibia could achieve the same – and faster than anyone expects.

The time for hesitation is over. The iron is hot, and Namibia must strike.

These developments are a wake-up call"

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak

... understanding the potential impact



• Erastus Ngaruka

The agricultural economy of Namibia relies heavily on livestock production, which is valued at more than 6 billion Namibian dollars.

Beef production in particular contributes significantly to the country's GDP. However, livestock production in Namibia faces several challenges, including climatic events such as droughts and floods, as well as the prevalence of livestock diseases, amongst others.

The development and sustainability of Namibia's beef industry has relied on export markets such as the EU, UK, Norway, and South Africa amongst others. Besides the recurrent challenges, the industry has shown resilience and market expansion, where new destinations such as China, the US, the Middle East, and other African markets are targeted.

This growth can be attributed to a well-organized sector in terms of governance and compliance efforts with international trade protocols, and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

Therefore, compliance with animal health regulations serves as a key factor for market access, which enhances consumer confidence in our livestock and associated products.

This compliance also ensures the competitive survival of our meat industry against major global producers.

Despite Namibia's excellent animal health status, the country is surrounded by the imminent threat of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) prevalent in neighbouring countries, mainly South Africa, which has struggled to contain the spread of the disease. It is reported that FMD has been confirmed in the northeast district of Botswana and lately suspected in the Northern Cape of South Africa, which borders Namibia in the south.

This is an indication that the disease is spreading rapidly and Namibia is at risk.

To this end, Namibia's livestock industry players should be on high alert and prepare to manage the consequences of an outbreak. There are concerted efforts from the government through its Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) together with industry players such as the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN) to strengthen inspection and biosecurity measures at all borders.

These include the disinfection of vehicles and people, and movement restrictions on livestock and their by-products from South Africa.

These efforts require every stakeholder, including all GRN institutions and the private sector to collaborate in preventing an outbreak in any possible form, as the consequences would be devastating to every economic sector of the country that employs farmers and consumers. Furthermore, farmers' unions/associations, cooperatives, retail shops, butcheries, lodges, hotels and restaurants, and every individual farmer and consumer need to come on board to protect the industry and the economy from collapsing.

The possible impact of FMD in brief:

1. Loss of export markets and income: the country would be stripped off its longstanding status with its lucrative markets, losing current and potential future markets.
2. Increased GRN spending: the gov-

ernment would be obliged to increase budgetary spending on agriculture, especially towards vaccination campaigns and biosecurity measures against FMD. This may redirect some funds from other developmental needs.

3. Low livestock prices: prices will drastically decline due to lower demand for livestock and the by-products, and from an oversupply of livestock within the country due to the loss of export markets.

Increasing cost of production and food prices: certain costs of production such as veterinary will increase, and thus force price increases for certain products such as milk.

5. Increased debts and poor repayments: the reduced incomes (household or business) could spike borrowing or failures to repay farm business loans due to reduced livestock sales and strains on salaries and disposable incomes to fulfil loan obligations with banks or other lenders.

LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

a. Farm workers: due to loss of farm business and income, the farm workforce would be reduced, retrenched, or face pay cuts. Casual workers are highly vulnerable.

Abattoir workers: with reduced demand for meat or closure of markets, the abattoirs would reduce or close their operations. Thus, the workforce would be reduced or retrenched, thus affecting household disposable income.

c. Truck drivers and load masters: With restricted livestock movement, transport operators could come to a standstill, laying off drivers and loading masters. This could in turn affect fuel suppliers and motor mechanics businesses that provide services to the transportation industry.

4. 6. b. d. Input suppliers: With no or reduced farm production and loss of farm income, the supply of animal feeds, ear tags, fuel, and breeding animals will be reduced. In turn, suppliers would reduce their workforce due to reduced sales and business income.

e. Vendors: restricted movements and consumption of livestock by-products could cripple informal businesses such as the common Kapana vendors who would not be able to buy or move beef for sale.

What can Namibia farmers basically do to assist the government and to safeguard their livelihoods?

6. 1. Adherence and Reporting: Please adhere to the proposed disease control protocols, especially at borders or entry points. Report any suspicious movements of livestock from affected areas or country, and report any suspicious symptoms related to FMD to the relevant authorities.

2. Information updates: Keep updated with relevant information from reliable

sources (e.g. GRN, MAWLR/DVS, LLPBN and farmers' unions).

3. Biosecurity: Implement appropriate internal biosecurity measures at the local level, e.g. auction sites, farm gate, kraal gate.

* Erastus Ngaruka is the Technical Advisor: Livestock and Rangeland Management at Agribank

• STAFF WRITER

Minister of Works and Transport Veikko Nekundi has issued a final warning to all illegal occupants of government houses and flats.

Nekundi orders illegal occupants to vacate Govt houses

Those who do not leave by 1 April 2026 will be forcibly evicted.

The order targets non-civil servants, unauthorised civil servants, people subletting government properties, and retired public servants.

Nekundi said the crackdown is part of efforts to ensure government housing reaches those who are entitled.

The ministry has also increased penalties for illegal occupancy. One-bedroom houses and flats will now cost N\$4 500 per month, while two- and three-bedroom properties will attract N\$10 500 per

month, with an additional 20% monthly interest.

The minister warned that there will be no extensions. All keys must be handed over to the Housing Division by the dead-

line, or evictions will be enforced.

"This is about reclaiming properties for the rightful beneficiaries and ensuring government services are delivered effectively," Nekundi said. **NBR**



Namibia, EU aim to boost economic ties

EU Ambassador to Namibia, Ana Beatriz-Martins, met with Parliamentary Standing Committee chair Tobie Aupindi to discuss partnerships, including value addition of Namibia's rare earth minerals and fishing sector investments. Martins praised Namibia's climate change efforts and transition to green energy.

Aupindi highlighted Namibia's commitment to ethical leadership, socio-economic development, and called on the EU to support resolving Germany's colonial-era issues with Namibia.

BUSINESS WEEK IN BRIEF

COMPILED BY IMELDA AMBOMBO

Namibia seeks nuclear partners at Mining Indaba

Deputy Minister Gaudantia Krohne told the Mining Indaba in Cape Town that Namibia is prioritizing nuclear power to boost uranium value and secure sustainable energy. As the world's third-largest uranium producer, Namibia aims to attract international investors and strengthen its role as an integrated energy and industrial hub.

10,000 farmers benefit from EIF climate project

Over 10,000 smallholder farmers have benefited from the Environmental Investment Fund's five-year climate adaptation project, IREMA, aimed at improving food security, income, and resilience. Funded with N\$164 million, the project provided clean water and restocked livestock, reaching 68,600 people in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquell. It was

implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture and approved by the Green Climate Fund in 2018.

Bank of Namibia appoints new MPC members

The Bank of Namibia has appointed John Steytler and Helvi Fillipus to its Monetary Policy Committee. Steytler joins as the first independent member, bringing over 30 years of national and international experience, including roles at the IMF and Namibia Statistics Agency. Fillipus, the committee's youngest member, brings extensive expertise in central banking, financial markets, and macroeconomic research.



WE ARE HIRING!

SALES CONSULTANT



Namibia Business Review is looking for a dynamic Sales Consultant to drive advertising sales and grow our brand!

WHAT WE NEED:

- 3+ years' experience in the media industry
- Strong knowledge of sales and digital marketing
- Proven, relevant network of contacts
- Ability to work independently and remotely

YOUR MISSION:

- Canvass adverts for NBR special projects
- Canvass adverts for our weekly e-edition

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU: • 30% commission on all sales

APPLY NOW:

Send your CV and application to editor@namibiabusinessreview.com

Follow Us Now

SUBSCRIBE WITH US

Get your subscription of the Namibia Business Review e-edition at

N\$1040 annually.



Send your requests to editor@namibiabusinessreview.com and enjoy the best business news at the palm of your hands.



www.namibiabusinessreview.com

