

NAMIBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Where Business meets ideas

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Namibia fuel price shock: how much really goes into your tank?

• STAFF WRITER

Fuel prices are set to rise sharply this April, and many Namibians will feel the pinch at the pumps.




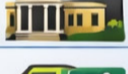


But beyond the headline increase, a key question emerges: how much of what you pay actually goes into your tank? The answer may surprise you, because not all of what you pay for actually goes into your tank.

This is because institutions such as the Ministry of Finance, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA) and Roads Authority amongst others take a share of the money you pay for fuel at the service station.

THE PRICE YOU SEE

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy last week announced that fuel prices will increase from 1 April 2026. Petrol will go up by N\$2.50 per litre, while both grades of diesel will rise by N\$4.00 per litre.

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FUEL PRICE BREAKDOWN BEFORE AND AFTER GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION			
COMPONENT	BEFORE LEVY CUT	AFTER LEVY CUT	WHO GETS YOUR MONEY
Actual Fuel & Import Costs	N\$14–N\$15	N\$19–N\$21	 Fuel Suppliers & Importers
Levies Total	N\$5	N\$2.50	Roads Authority, MVA Fund, National Energy Fund & Treasury
Road Maintenance	N\$2	N\$1	 Roads Authority
Motor Vehicle Accident Fund	N\$1	N\$0.50	 MVA
Government Revenue	N\$1	N\$0.50	 Treasury
National Energy Fund	N\$1	N\$0.50	 NEF
Total Pump Price	N\$19–N\$20	N\$21–N\$23	

Hunting association open to work with black hunters

• TIRI MASAWI

Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA) says they are open to working with black people in a bid to grow the industry.

In a statement released this week, NAPHA president Hannes du Plessis said there is a need for dialogue from all stakeholders to find a solution to creating an all inclusive industry.

His sentiments come after Namibia Association of Trophy Hunting Operators, (NATHO) chairperson Corrie Mensah told *Namibia Business Review* last week that the hunting industry does not benefit black hunters-three decades after independence.

"NAPHA is an institution open to anyone with interest in the hunting community. Membership is available at various levels, from camp attendant through to spon-



> Hannes du Plessis

soring and ordinary members and we welcome new members who wish to be part of contribute to the association," du Plessis said.

He added that, "It is a pity that this conversation is now happening through headlines rather than across the table because the willingness to work together has always been there."

Du Plessis said any Namibian willing to join the hunting industry must feel to do so through the

exams.

"NAPHA remains committed to expanding opportunities for training and development. Including hosting further courses for the previously disadvantaged. The aim is to lower barriers while maintaining the professional standards that underpin Namibia's reputation in conservation hunting," du Plessis said.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2



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FUEL FROM PAGE 1

In Walvis Bay, petrol will cost N\$22.08 per litre, Diesel 50ppm N\$23.63, and Diesel 10ppm N\$23.73, with prices across the rest of the country adjusted accordingly. To help soften the blow, the ministry confirmed that the remaining under-recovery, amounting to approximately N\$500 million, will be absorbed by the National Energy Fund. This means that the taxes and levies on the fuel will be reduced by 50%.

WHO GETS YOUR CASH?

After the levy reduction, of the N\$2.50 per litre in levies, about N\$1.00 goes to road maintenance, N\$0.50 to the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, N\$0.50 to general government revenue, and N\$0.50 is allocated to the National Energy Fund.

The remaining N\$19 to N\$21 per litre covers the actual fuel.

Motorists are now paying more for the fuel itself but temporarily less in levies, offering households some relief amid the increase.

"All levies are cut by 50% for the next three months. These levies are also quoted

in the petroleum products act," ministry of industries, mines and energy Ten Hasheela told *Namibia Business Review* yesterday.

BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S HELPING HAND

Before the levy cut, motorists were paying about N\$5 per litre in levies and taxes. Of this, roughly N\$2.00 went to road maintenance, N\$1.00 to the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, N\$1.00 to general government revenue, and N\$1.00 to the National Energy Fund, which helps stabilise fuel prices. Out of every litre bought, around N\$14 to N\$15 went to actual fuel and import costs, meaning roughly a quarter of the pump price was for levies rather than fuel itself.

CABINET STEPS IN TO CUSHION CONSUMERS

To provide further relief, the Cabinet deliberated on the situation and resolved to temporarily cut all fuel levies by 50 percent for the next three months, from April to June 2026.

This reduces levies from about N\$5 per litre to roughly N\$2.50 per litre, giving motorists some respite while ensuring fuel

supply remains secure.

Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Modestus Amutse said this measure is necessitated due to the high price volatility of petroleum products, which resulted from the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

"Based on the outcomes of the preceding input factors and other parameters considered within the fuel pricing model, the pricing model the Cabinet has resolved to temporarily reduce the number of levies imposed on fuel by 50% for three (3) months, with effect from April to June 2026," he said.

WHY PRICES ARE RISING

The ministry said the increase is driven by global factors beyond Namibia's control. International oil prices surged in March due to rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. Concerns over supply disruptions and key shipping routes pushed up oil prices and transport costs.

The weakening of the Namibia dollar has also made imported fuel more expensive. Because Namibia imports all its refined

petroleum products, local prices are directly exposed to global shocks.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MOTORISTS

Even with the levy cut and National Energy Fund support, consumers will still pay more at the pump this month. Without the intervention, the increase could have been significantly higher.

Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) member of parliament and shadow minister of International Relations and Trade Rodney Cloete said Namibia's fuel prices are controlled by a network.

"Namibians are being asked to pay N\$4.00 more per litre of diesel while the fuel supply chain is controlled by a convinced bribery entity paying N\$0.4 per litre for state storage," he said.

He added "The government absorbs N\$500 million from the National Energy Fund while N\$660 million per year in the National Oil Storage Facility levy goes un-audited. Every litre Namibians buy enriches the same network that is capturing our oil future." Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare questioned why Cloete did not make reference to the war in the Middle East as cause for fuel price escalation. **NBR**

HUNTING FROM PAGE 1

According to du Plessis, issues where Namibian black hunters have been sidelined or stopped from canvassing for business at the Dallas Safari Club are within the guidelines of the organisers of such events.

"Participation at such shows is strictly governed by international rules. Only registered exhibitors who have paid booth space may market or sell services. This is not about exclusion but about fairness towards those who invest significantly in building their presence over time," du Plessis said.

Last week, Mensah from Namibia Association of Trophy Hunting Operators, (NATHO) said efforts have been made to empower members and collaborate with NAPHA, but opportunities remain scarce.

"Obviously this might come out as a sensitive issue, but it is something that we need to tackle and find ways of dealing with," he said.

Even when Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) organises joint trips to tackle the problem, Mensah says inequalities still persist during these engagements.

"We have gone for a few trips outside the country, including our counterparts at NAPHA. But while we are at these exhibitions, we are told we are not allowed to give out our business cards or canvass for business like our counterparts at NAPHA, as we are not recognised," he said.

Mensah cited a specific example.

"A good example is a trip we went on to Dallas in the United States a few years back. While we were both hosted by the NTB, we were not allowed to engage clients. This never made sense to me because others in the same tent were doing the same," he said.

He added that even those who manage to enter the industry face structural barriers.

"Even if most of the black hunters or potential hunters are trained and given all

the knowledge, they still do not have anywhere to build these businesses because they do not have farms. One needs a good game farm to venture into this business," he said.

Mensah said land access remains a key issue that the government needs to address.

"It is something that we have always asked from the government – that they also need to consider game farms when dealing with land distribution," he said.

He added that legal requirements further disadvantage black hunters.

"In some cases, even if one has a farm and the resources, we are still required by law to work with professional hunters," he said.

Mensah said it's difficult to conduct business in this current setting.

"Imagine if I get a foreign client that wants to come and hunt, for example a leopard. I still cannot execute the hunt myself. I must go to colleagues who have always been privileged to execute the hunt at my farm because there are not many professional black hunters in the country."

He added "at the end of the day, most of our members are left with nothing, as they have to pay all the earnings to the professional hunters," he said.

According to figures released last month by environment, forestry and tourism minister Indileni Daniel, Namibia generated about N\$292.5 million from trophy hunting between 2013 and 2024.

Daniel said the industry has provided significant income to communal conservancies.

"From 2013 to 2024, communal conservancies earned about N\$166 million through joint venture tourism, while hunting earned about N\$292 million," she said.

This means trophy hunting generated N\$166.3 million more than joint venture tourism over the same period.

Daniel said conservation hunting is part

of Namibia's broader sustainable development strategy. She explained that it involves selective, high-value hunts where international clients pay to hunt older animals.

Environment, forestry and tourism ministry spokesperson Vilho Hangula last week said the industry is governed by law and should benefit all Namibians.

"The hunting industry in Namibia is governed by the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975 and makes provision for hunting of specific wildlife for conservation purposes and rural economic development," he said.

He said all people, including the previously disadvantaged, can participate in the industry provided they are registered, licensed with all required permits and adhere to all outlined rules and regulations.

Hangula acknowledged that barriers to entry exist but said organisation within the sector could help.

"Entry in any industry is always a challenge. One way to address this problem is through proper organisation, such as forming hunting associations and support groups to foster rapport with experienced professionals," he said.

He added "the ministry proffers its ironclad resolve to develop the Namibian

hunting industry further and promote socio-economic development for all Namibians."

NTB Spokesperson Flora Quest said they continue to create platforms that promote participation of previously disadvantaged Namibians across the tourism value chain.

"Through trade shows, stakeholder engagements, and capacity-building initiatives, we actively encourage broader representation and visibility.

"Regarding concerns about canvassing for business during NTB-organised marketing activities, it is important to note that such platforms are often structured to promote Namibia as a destination collectively, rather than individual businesses exclusively. However, participants are encouraged to network, build relationships, and position their services within agreed guidelines. NTB remains open to engaging stakeholders to refine these approaches to ensure equitable benefit while maintaining the integrity and objectives of national marketing efforts," Quest said.

She said inclusivity in the hunting industry is critical for sustainable tourism development and national economic growth. **NBR**





Namibia to accelerate nuclear energy development

• TIRI MASAWI

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy says it will fast-track the development of nuclear energy as part of its strategy to diversify the country's energy mix.

The government also plans to accelerate electrification in underserved rural and peri-urban areas through grid extension, off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy solutions, as well as infrastructure upgrades.

According to the ministry's strategic plan for 2025/26 to 2029/30, released last week, it will drive the electrification programme targeting beneficiaries in informal settlements, schools and health facilities.

"Implementation will be coordinated with Regional Electricity Distributors, local authorities, and development partners to improve energy access, support productive use, and promote inclusive socio-economic development," the plan states.

The plan further outlines efforts to increase domestic generation capacity through utility-scale solar photovoltaic, wind and biomass projects, alongside the advancement of the Baynes Hydro Power Project.

"This includes supporting Independent

Power Producers (IPPs), promoting public-private partnerships, and prioritising enabling infrastructure such as grid integration and energy storage. The initiative aims to reduce import dependence, enhance grid reliability, and support green industrialisation," the ministry said.

The government is aiming to significantly reduce carbon emissions.

"The production, transport and processing of oil and gas result in carbon emissions that are detrimental to the climate. To reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate climate change in oil and gas operations, the ministry is committed to incorporating low-carbon emission initiatives in oil and gas production," the plan said.

Such an approach, the ministry said, will reduce the environmental footprint of oil and gas operations, help the oil and gas sector comply with emissions regulations and sustainability goals, and improve the industry's reputation and access to green financing.

The plan notes that this will require the development and enforcement of regulations that mandate or incentivise emission reductions, as well as the adoption of low-carbon technologies in oil and gas operations. It also calls for closer collaboration with companies to integrate sustainable practices.

The ministry further highlights that energy commodity prices in Namibia remain high and are subject to fluctuations

driven by inflation and global market dynamics.

"Compounding this challenge is the country's limited power generation capacity, which results in heavy reliance on energy imports, undermining national aspirations for energy security.

"This situation is further worsened by limited access to energy in rural and peri-urban areas, coupled with the high cost of electricity," the plan said.

To promote sustainable energy access, the ministry says it is committed to measures that improve affordability and reliability of supply.

"Key interventions include stabilising energy prices, consolidating fuel imports to leverage collective bargaining power and reduce storage and transportation costs, and accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions," the plan states. **NBR**

GIPF announces 5% pension increase



> Martin Inkumbi

• STAFF WRITER

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has announced a 5% increase in monthly pension benefits, effective 1 April 2026, for all pensioners, as well as qualifying spouses and child beneficiaries.

In a statement released on Monday, GIPF said pensions that have been in payment or deferment for less than a year as of 31 March 2025 will receive the increase on a pro-rata basis.

Chief executive officer Martin Inkumbi said the decision was taken by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on 26 March 2026, following a recommendation from the Fund's actuary.

The recommendation, he said, was based on the Fund's sustainability and local inflation of 4%.

Inkumbi said the 5% increase is intended to provide financial relief and stability

to members, while protecting their purchasing power against the rising cost of living. "The GIPF took this decision as the Fund is in a favourable financial position to adequately cover its liabilities," he said.

He added that the fund remains committed to protecting retirees and beneficiaries.

Inkumbi said the Board of Trustees has consistently matched or exceeded inflation-linked increases in line with the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), reflecting prudent investment management, strong governance, and sound risk management practices.

According to GIPF, the increase follows a thorough actuarial assessment, which considered the Fund's average annual returns over the past five years, as well as its current and future liabilities and asset base.

The fund said it will continue to prioritise the needs of its members to reduce their dependency on government, family, and broader society. **NBR**



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For any enquiries, please contact Mr. Lazarus Shangano on +264614317000 or email: pmu@ncrst.na

• IMELDAAMBONDO

Namibia is stepping up efforts to improve its universities by attracting more international students.

Education minister Sanet Steenkamp last week launched the Sustainable Strategies in Higher Education Internationalisation Towards Excellence in Namibia (SHINE) project, which aims to ensure that at least 5% of students at local tertiary institutions are from other countries.

The target aligns with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) education protocol.

Currently, international students make up only about 3% of Namibia's total higher education enrolment but the government says this is an opportunity for growth, not a setback.

"By strengthening our internationalisation frameworks, we are ensuring that Namibian graduates are not just locally employable, but globally mobile and continentally relevant," she said.

Steenkamp said the SHINE project is a major step towards improving both the academic quality and economic prospects of the country, while also helping Namibia meet its regional commitments.

She said the initiative treats the SADC region as a shared "talent pool", where

Namibia pushes for more international students to boost universities



countries are encouraged to reserve at least 5% of university spaces for regional students, while also easing immigration processes for academic purposes.

The project brings together local universities and international partners from Europe, including institutions in Spain and Germany, with funding from the European Union.

Steenkamp stressed that SHINE is about more than just education – it is about positioning Namibia in a rapidly changing global economy.

"In a global economy driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, knowledge is our most valuable currency. For Namibia to thrive, our higher education system must move from the periphery of global discourse to its very centre." She said

A key focus of the project is ensuring that even students who never leave Namibia still benefit from global standards through "internationalisation at home".

"We are ensuring that the 97 percent of our students who may never leave our borders still receive a globally-benchmarked education," she said.

She added that the benefits must reach all parts of the country, from Windhoek to towns like Katima Mulilo, Nkurenkuru and Lüderitz.

"The SHINE project is expected to be the precursor to a formal National Internationalisation of Higher Education Strategy or Roadmap. We want to build a permanent legacy, not a three-year project," she said.

Steenkamp also welcomed the involvement of the Namibia National Students Organisation (NANSO), saying it ensures students help shape the future of higher education.

"Internationalisation is not about a simple movement of people; it is about the integration of a global dimension into the very soul of our institutions," she said.

She said Namibia should be transformed into a "Global Academic Destination", a hub where the world comes to learn about sustainable initiatives, conservation, governance, etc.

"Our goal is Reciprocal Internationalisation so that while we are adopting global



> Education minister Sanet Steenkamp

standards, we are also sharing Namibian indigenous knowledge and research excellence with the world," she said.

European Union ambassador to Namibia Ana Beatriz Martins said the SHINE project will strengthen ties between Namibian and European universities.

"By strengthening networks between universities and encouraging innovation in teaching and research, this project will contribute to the long-term development of Namibia's higher education sector," she said.

She added that such partnerships help prepare future leaders to tackle global challenges like climate change, digital transformation and sustainable development.

"Through the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, Namibia also benefits from other EU funded initiatives such as Horizon Europe, the Intra-African Academic Mobility Scheme and the ARISE Programme, which together provide a wide range of opportunities supporting universities," she said. **NBR**



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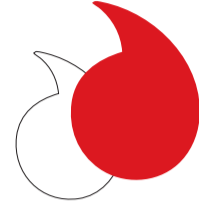
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New payment strategy aims to bring more Namibians into banking system



• IMELDAAMBONDO

Finance minister Ericah Shafudah says Namibia's new National Payment System (NPS) Vision and Strategy 2030 will make it easier for all Namibians to access banking services.

Launched last week, the plan focuses on building a secure digital system that allows faster and safer movement of money.

It will introduce instant payments, digital IDs, and platforms that allow secure sharing of financial data, all aimed at boosting financial inclusion.

Shafudah described the system as:

"The bloodstream of any modern economy, enabling the seamless flow of money, trust, and economic activity across households, businesses, and govern-

ment,"

The government has already started rolling out pilot programmes to shift selected payments, including social grants, onto the new system.

Shafudah said the NPS will strengthen the resilience and global competitiveness of Namibia's financial system, while also giving clear direction to grow the country's digital financial ecosystem.

"Fast, affordable, and secure payments are no longer a convenience, but a necessity for full participation in the economy," she said.

Acting director for National Payment System and Financial Surveillance at the Bank of Namibia, Irene Venter, said the strategy is a major step forward in expanding access to financial services.

"This speaks to the testament of our enabling laws and the growth of our national payment system," she said, adding that the expansion reflects stronger

oversight and broader participation in the financial sector.

Payments Association of Namibia acting CEO Mbapeua Kauuova said the plan shows a shared push towards a modern and secure payment system.

He said such a system is "fundamental to financial stability" and a key driver of economic growth, financial inclusion and digital transformation in Namibia.

Kauuova said success will depend on all stakeholders playing their part.

"The vision must not only inspire but also equally commit to action and translate the vision into a tangible outcome that will benefit businesses, consumers and the Namibian economy at large," he said.

He added that the Payments Association of Namibia remains committed to supporting the rollout of the strategy together with the Bank of Namibia and other stakeholders. **NBR**



EDITORIAL

Plans to deal with power shortages commendable

The government has announced plans to accelerate the development of a nuclear energy facility in Namibia to deal with the country's long standing power deficiency. At peak, Namibia imports between 60 to 70% of its energy -making it difficult for the country to drive any meaningful industrialisation plans.

Energy is an important matrix in industrialisation and countries without power supply security have struggled to industrialise.

The fact that the government is planning on creating a sustainable energy mix including renewables, hydro, and nuclear shows seriousness in driving the country's industrialisation agenda.

The plans to fast track the establishment of nuclear power are contained in the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy's strategic plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 released last week.

According to the plan, the government will fast-track the development of nuclear energy as part of its strategy to diversify the country's energy mix.

The government also plans to accelerate electrification in underserved rural and peri-urban areas through grid extension, off-grid and mini-grid renewable energy solutions, as well as infrastructure upgrades.

According to the plan, the government will also drive the electrification programme targeting beneficiaries in informal settlements, schools and health facilities.

This is commendable and one hopes these do not just remain plans.



Namibia imports between 60 to 70% of its energy"

The Quality Question: Integrating ISO 9001 for MSME Success



DUMISANI NTINI

Across emerging markets, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are widely recognised as engines of economic growth, employment, and innovation. Despite their importance however, MSMEs have been known to struggle in their transitions from survival-driven operations into structured, scalable businesses. While access to finance, market conditions, and regulatory environments are often cited as constraints, a quieter but more fundamental issue persists beneath the surface. We are of the staunch view that the absence of consistent and strongly embedded quality systems is a lurking limitation that stifles MSME sustainability. This then raises what we term 'the quality question' - not whether quality matters, but whether quality has been systematically integrated into the way MSMEs operate.

For a large number of businesses, quality is understood informally. It is associated with effort, customer satisfaction, as well as the avoidance of mistakes. While these elements are crucial, they are insufficient when regarded in isolation. Without robust MSME structures, quality remains dependent on individuals rather than systems. Furthermore, as businesses grow, this reliance on individuals becomes increasingly fragile, leading to inconsistencies, rework, customer dissatisfaction, and operational inefficiencies.

It is within this context that the International Organization for Standardisation's ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems (QMS) standard becomes particularly relevant. ISO 9001 is often misunderstood as a documentation-heavy certification that is reserved for large corporations. In reality, it is a management system framework designed to assist organisations of all sizes to establish consistent processes, to improve performance, and to enhance customer confidence. At its core, ISO 9001 is not about paperwork. It is about discipline as well as how work is defined, executed, monitored, and improved.

For MSMEs, the challenge is not simply the adoption of ISO 9001, but the integration of its varied principles into daily operations. A significant number of organisations the world over approach the standard as a compliance exercise, often driven by tender requirements or external expectations. It can however be argued that this approach typically results in superficial implementation, where documents exist but do not actually reflect how the organisation truly operates. The outcome in this instance is a system that satisfies auditors but fails to deliver real business value.

The integration of quality management principles, by contrast, requires

a shift in mindset. It involves embedding quality into leadership decisions, operational workflows, customer interactions, as well as performance monitoring. It requires business owners and managers to shift from reactive problem-solving to active and structured process management. When ISO 9001 is meaningfully integrated, the benefits for MSMEs are both practical and measurable. Operational processes become clearer and more repeatable, consequently reducing reliance on individuals (whilst simultaneously minimising errors). Customer requirements are better understood and can therefore be consistently met, which in turn strengthens trust and reputation. Internal accountability improves, resulting in easier delegation of responsibilities and scaling of operations. Over time, businesses become more resilient, more efficient, and better positioned to compete in both local and international markets when quality perspectives are considered.

The relevance of quality management systems is undoubtedly amplified in emerging markets. In environments where regulatory enforcement may be inconsistent and informal practices are widespread, internal systems become a critical source of stability. A well-implemented quality management system provides structure where external conditions may be uncertain. It allows businesses to create their own standards of consistency, rather than relying solely on external oversight.

As global supply chains increasingly demand traceability, reliability, and compliance, MSMEs that lack structured quality systems risk exclusion from higher-value opportunities. ISO 9001, when properly integrated, signals not only compliance, but operational maturity. It demonstrates that a business is capable of delivering consistent outcomes, managing risk, and continuously improving. These are essential qualities for long-term partnerships and for investment. It is however important to recognise that ISO 9001 is not a guarantee of success. It is a framework. It does not stand as a substitute for leadership. The effectiveness of ISO 9001 depends entirely on how it is applied. For MSMEs, the goal should not be certification for its own sake, the goal should be development of a system that genuinely supports the way the business operates and grows. This distinction is profoundly critical. Certification may open doors, but it is integration that sustains performance.

The views expressed are of the author, Dumisani F. Ntini, Governance & Strategy Practitioner, ISO 9001 Lead Auditor, and Founder of Global Governance Group, a cross-jurisdictional governance, risk and systems advisory operating across Australia and Southern Africa. Contact: operations@governancegroup.org.



... the figure marks the lowest growth rate since the height of the Covid-19 pandemic"

> Alex Shimuafeni



Namibia records weakest economic growth since Covid-19



• TIRI MASAWI

Namibia has recorded its weakest economic performance in five years, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slowing to 1.7%, according to the latest national accounts released by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

Statistician General Alex Shimuafeni said the figure marks the lowest growth rate since the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In nominal terms, GDP rose to N\$269.8 billion during the period under review, up from N\$250.0 billion in 2024 – an increase of N\$19.7 billion. However, in real terms, which account for inflation, growth slowed to 1.7%, down from 3.8% recorded in 2024.

Shimuafeni attributed the slowdown largely to weak performance in primary industries, which contracted by 7.2% in real value added, compared to a 3.2% decline the previous year.

The NSA said the downturn was driven mainly by the 'Mining and quarrying' and 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' sectors, which recorded declines of 9.4% and 3.3%, respectively.

The contraction in agriculture was largely due to a sharp drop of 21.7% in the livestock farming subsector, while the decline in mining was linked to a 19.4% contraction in diamond mining.

Secondary industries recorded slower growth of 2.1%, down from 3.6% in 2024, weighed down by a 2.9% decline in the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, tertiary industries remained the strongest performers, growing by 4.2%, although this was also lower than the 5.2% recorded in 2024. Growth in this category was supported by sectors such as information and communication (10.7%), wholesale and retail trade (7.8%), health (6.6%), education (4.7%), and public administration and defence (3.8%).

CALL FOR DIVERSIFICATION

Independent economist Indileni Nangonga said the figures highlight the urgent need for Namibia to diversify its economy and reduce reliance on a narrow set of industries.

"A look at the figures shows there is a need to diversify the economy to grow faster and create employment.

If we focus on sectors that create jobs, like agriculture, we can expand the economic base," she said.

Nangonga warned that continued dependence on the same industries is unsustainable and limits long-term growth.

NBR

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