

# NAMIBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Where Business meets ideas

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## Govt faces medicine shortage despite cutting out middlemen



• TIRI MASAWI

Namibia is facing a severe medicine shortage, with the Central Medical Store able to supply only 57% of essential drugs, far below the required 80%.

The shortage persists despite the government having taken a position last year to bypass local middlemen to buy directly from international suppliers.

A letter dated 24 February 2026 from Thomas Mbeeli, director of

**57%**  
*medicines on the shelves,*  
**80%**  
*needed*

health technology and infrastructure management, to the ministerial procurement committee said the shortages persist due to low stock levels, frequent stock-outs, and weak storage and inventory systems across the country.

To tackle the crisis, Mbeeli said the Ministry of Health and Social Services has been procuring medicines directly from international manufacturers and wholesalers under emergency rules.

This approach aims to save time, reduce costs, and secure enough supplies for hospitals and clinics.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

## N\$292 million hunting industry leaves black hunters behind

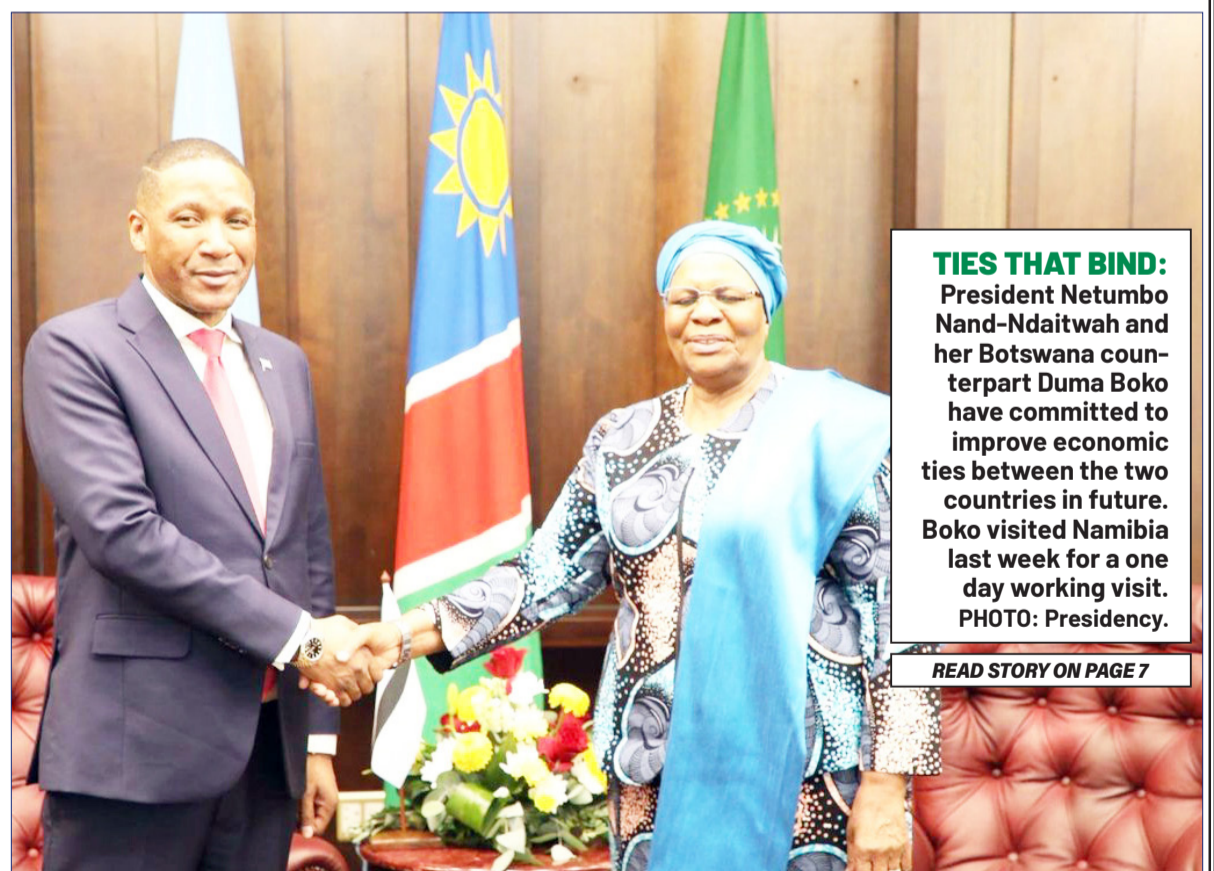
"We have gone for a few trips outside the country with the NTB, including our counterparts at NAPHA. But while we are at these exhibitions, we are told we are not allowed to give out our business cards or canvass for business like our counterparts at NAPHA, as we are not recognised," - black hunter.

• TIRI MASAWI

Namibia marked 36 years of independence last weekend, but its lucrative hunting industry remains deeply divided, with black hunters still struggling to access opportunities while their white counterparts dominate the field.

The divide is reflected in the country's two main hunting bodies - the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA), largely dominated by previously advantaged white members, and the Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NATHO), which represents many previously disadvantaged black hunters.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2



**TIES THAT BIND:** President Netumbo Nand-Ndaitwah and her Botswana counterpart Duma Boko have committed to improve economic ties between the two countries in future. Boko visited Namibia last week for a one day working visit. PHOTO: Presidency.

READ STORY ON PAGE 7

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Despite going directly to the suppliers, information indicates that the Central Medical Store has only been able to service medicine to the country with 57% way below the required minimum target of 80%.

Ministry of health and social services spokesperson Walters Kamaya confirmed on Monday that the Central Medical Store has been facing viability challenges.

"We acknowledge the pressures on stock levels at the Central Medical Store (CMS) and continue to prioritise the availability of essential medicines. Procurement is undertaken proactively per item, guided by consumption trends, existing stock levels, and projected needs," he told **Namibia Business Review**.

He added: "Measures implemented include strengthening forecasting and quantification, improving stock monitoring systems, and transitioning to longer-term procurement arrangements through Open International Bidding to ensure more stable and predictable supply."

**BIG SAVINGS, BIGGER STAKES**

The development comes after minister of health and social services Esperance Luvindao announced last year that the government could potentially save more than N\$221 million by buying medicines and clinical supplies directly from international manufacturers.

The Namibian reported that the decision was seen as Luvindao heeding the call of president Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah to buy pharmaceuticals directly from suppliers.

"To ensure continued access to life-saving medication, the ministry is now procuring directly from international manufacturers and wholesalers under emergency provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2015," Luvindao said last year.

"By going directly to the source, we can ensure that we are obtaining the best possible prices, quality, and quantities, thus stabilising the stock of our medicines and essential clinical supplies over a long duration," she added. Despite this proclamation, stock levels at the Central Medical Store remain low.

**BUDGET BOOST FOR MEDICINES**

Health ministry spokesperson Kamaya said the government has prioritised funding for the Central Medical Store in the current budget to address supply gaps experienced over the past two years.

"Approximately 14.5% of the Ministry of Health and Social Services budget has been allocated to Pharmaceutical Services for the procurement of medicines and related supplies. This allocation reflects the Ministry's continued prioritisation of essential medicines, including antiretroviral therapies, within the available national resources," he said. The 14.5% represents N\$1.7 billion of the 2025/26 health ministry budget. Kamaya said the key challenges affecting stock levels include limited storage capacity at CMS, insufficient budget allocation relative to increasing demand, and procurement-related bottlenecks.

"The Ministry is actively addressing these constraints through ongoing improvements in planning, procurement, and supply chain management to ensure more consistent availability of medicines," he said.

**HONEST MIDDLEMEN ONLY, SAYS PRESIDENT**

Speaking to Network Television's The Agenda on Sunday, President Nandi-Ndaitwah said that the government will only work with honest middlemen.

She warned that inflated pricing in public procurement delays projects and erodes essential services.

"You cannot, for example, buy Panado for N\$2 and sell it to the government for N\$10. Your mark-up is just too big," she said. "If you are buying it at N\$2, then sell it for N\$4 or N\$5, then we can do business."

She added: "Don't exploit the government to the point where we are unable to generate savings to invest in social sectors," citing education, health, and housing as key priorities.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said the government will not hesitate to intervene if the practice continues.

"If that cannot be stopped... I can disrupt. I will have no choice, because I have a responsibility to take care of the Namibian people." **NBR**

HUNTING FROM PAGE 1

**WHO GETS THE SHOT?**

Black hunters under NATHO say they continue to be sidelined from meaningful participation in the industry.

NATHO chairperson Corrie Mensah told **Namibia Business Review** last week that the sector remains racially divided, despite more than three decades of independence.

Mensah 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.

**BIG MONEY, UNEVEN SHARE**

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.

The practice is strictly regulated through permits, trained professional hunters and scientific quotas.

According to Daniel, hunting removes less than 1% of Namibia's wildlife population annually, while most species grow by 25% to 35% each year. For slower-breeding species like elephants, the offtake is just 0.2%.

**BRIDGING THE DIVIDE?**

NAPHA president Hannes du Plessis acknowledged the concerns but said efforts are underway to unify the sector.

"What is more important is that when we are out there marketing our products and Namibia, we must market Namibia as one," he said. He added "we need to be robust on this and realise that our neighbours: Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa are going out of their way to market themselves as one. We need to realise that everyone wants what we have."

On allegations that some hunters were prevented from marketing themselves, du Plessis said he was unaware of such incidents.

"In instances where colleagues were stopped from giving out business cards, it is something that I am not aware of. We are working to train all Namibians interested in this because capacity is important," he said.

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," she said.

She added "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," she said.

However, Quest said 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 hunting industry is critical for sustainable tourism development and national economic growth.

"Broad-based participation enhances social equity, strengthens industry resilience, and ensures that tourism benefits are shared more widely among Namibians. It also contributes to a more authentic and representative national tourism offering," she said.

Quest said NTB supports previously disadvantaged participants through various initiatives, including subsidised participation in trade fairs participation at regional and international fairs, networking engagement with international travel agencies, training and capacity development programmes, and collaborative partnerships (Ethiopian Airlines and FNB) aimed at industry growth.

"We remain committed to working with all stakeholders to advance an inclusive and competitive tourism sector," she said.

**POLICY VERSUS REALITY**

Environment, forestry and tourism ministry spokesperson Vilho Hangula 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."

**WHERE THE MONEY ROARS**

Despite the tensions, the sector continues to generate significant revenue.

Last month, Namibia set new benchmarks in the wildlife auction market when a hybrid game auction in Windhoek shattered previous records.

A kudu bull from the Gobabis area, with a horn size of 68 inches, sold for a record N\$4.5 million. An oryx followed at N\$3.1 million. "I got N\$4.5 million... here is the hammer... are we sure... all through, N\$4.5 million done," auctioneer Brandon Leer said as the sale closed to applause.

Leer described the event as "very exciting and just great all round."

The auction, hosted by Blaauwberg Auctioneers with online bidding facilitated by Meerkat, featured 74 lots including white rhino, waterbuck, zebra, springbok, sable and kudu.

"If I am not mistaken, this was probably the second-highest turnover of a game auction in this country," Leer said.

"I think we raised just over N\$26 million for 74 lots of animals, which is quite spectacular."

He added that the auction has become "an elite auction," focusing on animals with high-quality genetics and pedigrees, rewarding breeders who invest in premium wildlife. **NBR**

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# New NamPost CEO on hold as minister delays appointment

• Tiri Masawi

**The appointment of NamPost's new chief executive officer, originally planned for early March, has been delayed after minister of information and communication technology Emma Theofelus has yet to recommend a candidate to Cabinet.**

**T**he delay comes even though the board has already finished the recruitment process and forwarded its recommended candidate to the minister in February.

Sources told *Namibia Business Review* that Theofelus may restart the chief executive officers' appointment process after appointing a new board at the end of March. The current board's tenure, led by Simeone Amunkete, ends on 31 March.

"Thank you for your questions. The process is still ongoing in confirming the appointment of a CEO of NamPost," Theofelus told *Namibia Business Review* last week.

The new chief executive officer is set to replace Festus Hangula, who led NamPost for 15 years before retiring in 2025.

Eldorette Harmse is currently the acting chief executive officer.

NamPost board chairperson Amunkete said the appointment was initially expected in February or early March.

"As a person with a background in Human Resources myself, I do not think I am privy to saying the names of the successful candidate until the minister is done. If the minister says the process is still ongoing, then we must wait," Amunkete said.



> Minister of information and communication technology Emma Theofelus

## WAITING GAME

Sources are accusing minister Theofelus of delaying the appointment until the current board's term expires at the end of this month. The outgoing board includes Amunkete as chairperson, Leezhel Sartorius Von Bach as deputy chairperson, and directors Ndangi Katoma, James Cumming, and Martha Shingenge.

"The board interviews were concluded on Monday and therefore the process of appointing a new board is in its final stages," Theofelus said.

## COO OR ACTING BOSS?

NamPost's chief operating officer, Willem Mouton, was initially the board's preferred candidate, but sources say Theofelus is more inclined toward acting CEO Eldorette Harmse.

Amunkete last week refused to be drawn into speculations and favourite tags. He said the board has completed its part of the process and hopes for a swift conclusion.

"At this point, we have done our part and I know the process went well. We did our recommendation submission to the minister and that is as far as I can tell. I also thought by now we would have wrapped up the process and appointed the ceo but we must wait for the processes to be completed," he said.

## HIGH-PROFILE HOPEFULS

Other applicants include City of Windhoek strategic executive for finance Jennifer Comalie and former Namibia Wildlife Resorts CEO Matthias Ngwangwama.

Comalie confirmed she applied and was interviewed, but has not received further communication.

"I did apply for the job and I was interviewed for the position. However, after the interview I have not heard anything from NamPost. They have not called me or said anything since then," she said.

Ngwangwama said he also did not receive any response after applying.

Independent Patriots for Change member of parliament and shadow minister of information communications and technology Johan Louw expressed concern about the delay.

"What is deeply concerning is the fact that such a major transition to facilitate grant disbursement happened without

having the substantive leadership in place to guide that transition and ensure effective implementation," he said.

He added that continuity in leadership is critical.

"When decisions of this magnitude are made, it is crucial that there is continuity in leadership from the very onset. Being on 'autopilot' creates an inability to solve problems or take responsibility when things go wrong.

It is a major concern that the administration would make such a crucial shift without having a permanent leadership system in place to oversee it," Louw said.

The NamPost CEO role carries a salary of over N\$2 million a year.

Theofelus attended the NamPost Annual General Meeting (AGM) this month where the company reported on its performance, particularly on progress made in key projects and its intended strategic direction for the year.

Theofelus commended NamPost for the progress made in strengthening its operations and expanding access to postal and financial services across the country.

She said that while the organisation has achieved significant milestones, there remains an opportunity for the organisation to further improve and outperform itself in the years ahead.

With 148 service points across Namibia, NamPost provides essential postal and financial services nationwide, often serving as the only financial service provider in many rural communities.

NamPost further highlighted progress in its digital transformation programme, "Project Sky," launched in 2023 to modernise operations.

Key initiatives include the introduction of digital money transfer services, digital registered mail, and the automation of customer account opening processes. NamPost further reported upgrades to its ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity systems, and banking platforms, aimed at improving operational efficiency and strengthening digital service delivery.

As part of expanding financial services, the organisation is piloting the roll-out of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at selected post office locations and participating in Namibia's Instant Payment Platform (IPP) to enable faster and more accessible digital payments.

NamPost offers several services, including the Biometric SmartCard, automated mail sorting, prepaid courier products, insurance offerings, an interoperable VISA SmartCard, the Post-Pay Money Transfer Service, a banking app, and internet-based services.

In 2024, NamPost says it employed 699 workers, operated 102 vehicles, handled 1.8 million mail items, and served 251 455 VISA SmartCard to customers.

Each post office served around 22 100 customers, with an 85% customer satisfaction rate. **NBR**

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# FNB announces N\$60 000 boost for tourism entrepreneurs

• IMELDA AMBONDO

**First National Bank of Namibia has announced a N\$60 000 sponsorship towards a national tourism entrepreneurship training programme, aimed at strengthening small businesses in the sector.**

The funding, unveiled during an entrepreneurship and compliance training session hosted with the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) in Windhoek yesterday will support financial literacy and business skills development for emerging tourism operators.

Speaking at the event, FNB Namibia treasury executive Selma Kapeng said the contribution is part of the bank's broader focus on empowering small and medium enterprises.

"It gives me great pleasure to officially announce that FNB Namibia will be sponsoring an amount of N\$60 000 towards this programme. This contribution will specifically support the financial literacy and entrepreneurship components of the



programme, aligned to our broader focus on SME development and financial inclusion."

Kapeng said tourism remains a key pillar of Namibia's economy, but many small operators struggle due to limited business skills and access to opportunities.

"We recognise that many emerging tourism operators face real and pressing challenges, including limited access to entrepreneurship and financial manage-

ment skills, gaps in market access, as well as a lack of knowledge around compliance and insurance requirements," she said.

She added that the bank's support goes beyond financial contributions.

"Supporting an industry goes far beyond sponsorship. It requires a deliberate and sustained effort to uplift the entire value chain, to ensure that growth is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable,"

Kapeng said.

The programme, implemented in partnership with NTB, will be rolled out nationally and targets entrepreneurs at grassroots level, including tour operators, guides and shuttle service providers.

NTB chief executive officer Sebulon Chicalu welcomed the support, saying it comes at a critical time when many small businesses are failing.

"A significant proportion of start-ups fail within the first three to five years, often due to cash flow constraints, lack of financial management skills, and limited market access," he said.

He said that the training is designed to address these gaps and improve business sustainability.

"This training is not just about starting a business, it is about building financial discipline and sustainability," Chicalu said.

Both partners expressed confidence that the programme will help build a more resilient and competitive tourism sector.

"We are confident that this sponsorship will contribute to building a more resilient, sustainable and competitive tourism sector," Kapeng said. **NBR**



# CONNECTING DREAMS CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE



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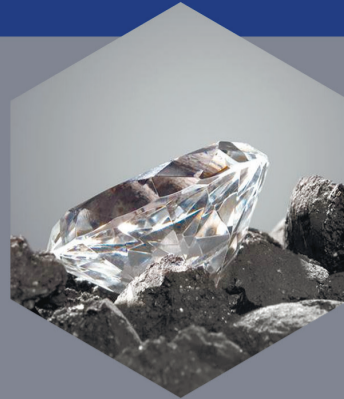
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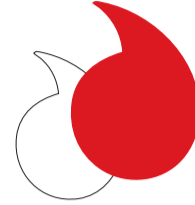
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**“The country’s global ranking also dropped from 30th out of 82 jurisdictions to 51st out of 68.**



> Natangwe Ithete

• STAFF WRITER

**The Chamber of Mines said a proposed policy to increase local ownership in mining ventures to 51% has reduced investor interest in Namibia’s mining sector.**

**T**his follows findings by the Fraser Institute released last week showing that investor interest in Namibia’s mining industry dropped by 10%.

According to the 2025 Fraser Survey Report, Namibia’s Investment Attractiveness Index (IAI) fell from 66 in 2024 to 56 in 2025. The country’s global ranking also dropped from 30th out of 82 jurisdictions to 51st out of 68.

Before Natangwe Ithete was fired as minister of industries, mines and energy last year, he repeatedly advocated for Namibia to introduce a mandatory 51% local ownership in mining companies.

He then reiterated the message after he was fired.

In a statement issued as part of his festive season message, Ithete said Namibia’s natural resources must be vested in Namibians and used to drive local beneficiation, industrialisation and value addition.

“We must stand firm in our demand of a minimum of 51% ownership of all mines, with natural resources vested in Namibians, and diligently

advocate for local beneficiation, industrialisation and value addition to take place on Namibian soil,” he said.

Ithete said that greater local ownership is key to meaningful economic growth, skills transfer and the creation of sustainable employment, particularly for women and the country’s rapidly growing youth population. “Only then can Namibians grow the economy meaningfully, transfer skills and create sustainable employment,” he said.

## PROBLEMATIC

The Chamber of Mines last week said the comments made by the former minister contributed to reduced investor interest.

“It is evident from these comments that investor perceptions were significantly influenced by the previous (minister of industries, mines and energy) statements during the 2025 Mining Expo and Conference, where he announced a policy proposal to introduce a mandatory 51% local ownership shareholding in mining companies,” the chamber said.

As a result of the decline, Namibia’s competitiveness as a mining investment destination has weakened. Within Africa, the country dropped from 4th place out of 20 jurisdictions in 2024 to 7th out of 14 in 2025.

The Chamber of Mines said the announce-

ment created uncertainty among international investors and contributed to Namibia’s poor performance in the survey.

Chamber president George Botshiwe said the drop in the index reflects weakening investor confidence in Namibia’s mining policies and regulatory environment.

He warned that this comes at a time when high mineral prices are attracting global investment, and Namibia risks losing out if it is not seen as competitive and predictable.

Survey participants also raised concerns about policy direction, including references in the National Development Plan 6 to a possible 51% Namibian ownership requirement for new mining projects.

The Investment Attractiveness Index combines the Policy Perception Index and the Best Practices Mineral Potential Index, which measure policy conditions and geological potential respectively.

Both components declined in 2025. The Policy Perception Index dropped from 78 to 68, while the Mineral Potential Index fell from 58 to 47.

The chamber, however, noted that recent engagements with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah have helped clarify the government’s position on local ownership.

In December 2025, the National Planning Commission said the government has not set a fixed threshold for local ownership and will continue consulting stakeholders on the issue. **NBR**

# Nandi-Ndaitwah promises growth and jobs

• IMELDAAMBONDO

**President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said economic development and creation of opportunities are the country's key priorities as the country marked 36 years of self rule over the weekend.**

In her independence speech on Saturday, the president said, "the expectations of our people, especially our youth, call on us to accelerate inclusive development, create opportunities, and ensure that the benefits of independence are shared by all."

She said the government remains committed to a people-centered development agenda, focused on key prior-

ities such as agriculture, sports, youth empowerment, education, health, creative industries, and access to land and housing.

"These efforts are supported by critical enablers namely, energy, mining, oil and gas, tourism, water, fisheries, and logistics, all aimed at building a resilient and inclusive economy. On the international front, Namibia remains guided by the principles of solidarity, peaceful coexistence, and respect for international law," Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah called for stronger private investment.

"As we mark this important landmark, we look forward to deepening our cooperation in trade, investment, skills development, and sustainable development for the mutual benefit of our peoples," she said.



> President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

She also expressed the need for stronger links between businesses.

"We would like to see a strong people to people contact, as well as, business to business partnership," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said a stronger local private sector is key to economic development. "We would like to see a strong Namibia private sector contributing to the economic development of our country," she said.

She added that Namibia must ensure its natural resources benefit its people.

"And most importantly to ensure that Namibia's natural resources benefit Namibians," she said.

The remarks underline the government's focus on investment, private sector growth and business partnerships as Namibia marks 36 years of independence. **NBR**

## Trade to dominate Namibia - Botswana relations in future

• IMELDAAMBONDO

**Namibia and Botswana have made a commitment to enhance trade cooperation between the two neighbours going forward.**

This followed a one day working visit by Botswana President Duma Boko to Namibia last week.

Boko said the two countries will hold regular meetings to strengthen economic cooperation and improve trade between the two countries.

"We will meet as regularly as required to drive our agenda of deep economics raising the volume and the quality of trade, intra-Africa trade," he said.

He said the two countries want to improve trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area and through regional agreements.

"This requires opening up channels of engagement, infrastructure, trade corridors, facilitating movement, ease of movement of goods and persons between our countries," Boko said.

He added that leaders must lead by example, saying movement between the two countries should become even smoother.

"We will deploy technology. The language now is 'no stop border post'. We will ensure that goods move freely, they move seamlessly, and they move our economies," he said.

The Botswana leader said the two countries are happy with the progress made so far but want more results.

"You will see more of these meetings. You will see progress, you will see infrastructure, you will see efficiency, you will see spectacular results," he said.

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said the two countries have agreed to regular consultations to check progress and ensure agreements are implemented. "We have agreed that we should have regular consultation to make sure that what we have agreed is being implemented in order to serve our people," she said.



> Botswana President Duma Boko

Nandi-Ndaitwah said Namibia and Botswana will work together in areas such as trade, infrastructure, tourism, natural resources and logistics.

"Namibia and Botswana have committed ourselves to collaborate on many areas, including trade, infrastructure development, tourism, and natural resources management," she said.

She said Walvis Bay will continue to serve as a key gateway for the region.

"Namibia has made Walvis Bay as our strategic gateway in the region, open to all our neighbours," she said.

She added that the Trans-Kalahari Rail Project is being looked at to unlock regional trade.

"We are looking into unlocking this value chain using the Trans-Kalahari Rail project and we are looking forward to its successful implementation," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah also said the two countries must work together to deal with global challenges that may affect trade.

"As neighbouring countries, we need to see how we can secure ourselves, particularly on commodities that could be easily affected," she said.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said ministers and technical teams have been directed to ensure agreements made at the bi-national commission are fully implemented. **NBR**

## ANALYSIS & OPINION



EDITORIAL

## Not yet Uhuru

South African Afropop musician, Leta Mbulu is a legend. She is revered not just for her melodious voice but for her piercing lyrics as well.

When she sings, her message resonates with many Africans who love some sort of Afrofusion.

She also has nimble feet for an old timer who many of us got to know of at a very late stage in her life.

In 1996, she released a masterpiece of an Album titled Not yet Uhuru.

Uhuru is a word synonymous with independence in most nguni languages in Southern Africa.

It's also used to refer to the same in east Africa where Kiswahili is prominent.

Generally, Uhuru is a Swahili word meaning "freedom" or "independence", largely popularised in the 1960s during African independence movements, particularly in Kenya.

Aside from its classical nature the song, Not Yet Uhuru has a well arranged sound of instruments that will leave humming birds green with envy.

The song is popular for its repeated chorus that says Not Yet Uhuru. It's a song that simply talks about how far economic independence is still far from many African folks despite gaining political independence decades ago.

Uhuru is not reminiscent of the unequal society in South Africa, but its lyrics also relate to many Namibian black people who still yearn for economic opportunities - 36 years after

independence. Quite a few influential industries in Namibia are still in the hands of the very few affluent white people - the ones still referred to as previously advantaged.

To get a glimpse of the genius that Leta Mbulu is in her art, one doesn't have to look further than the hunting industry in Namibia.

Raking in millions and attracting all kinds of tourists to the country but certainly feeding very few privileged mouths.

The fact that the industry is still visibly divided into two organisations 36 years after independence speaks volumes.

More so, the fact that the black people in that industry still feel they are kept away from the major opportunities that could change their lives is a sad tale of affairs.

Hunting is a very lucrative, yet privileged industry that should work towards uniting the different people in the population.

The cake is quite vast enough to fit everyone - hence the need for those in the representation of the previously advantaged and disadvantaged sections of the industry to find ways of working together.

It is important that such an industry markets the opportunities offered in Namibia as one instead of showing a divided kingdom.

One wishes that the spirit of independence will engulf all the players in that industry to work together and reap more than work in silos.



**In 1996, she released a masterpiece of an Album titled Not yet Uhuru"**

# BUSINESS

## Yango Group promises to comply with Nekundi's directives

• Imelda Ambondo

**Yango Group says it expects full compliance from its drivers and partners following a government directive giving e-hailing operators 56 days to meet Namibia's road transport regulations.**

The company's head of policy for Africa, Zanyiwe Asare, said all drivers must adhere to the requirements, which include vehicle road-worthiness tests and obtaining a valid public driving permit (PDP), along with mandatory medical checks.

Speaking at the press conference last week, Asare last said Yango works with 25 local SMEs that manage their own fleets and noted that the number of drivers changes regularly under the gig economy model.

"The safest thing for me to tell you is that thousands of drivers, both drivers and SMEs will be affected by the new requirements."

Asare, says the company is supporting partners with applications, documentation and progress tracking.

She adds that meeting the deadline will depend on coordination between regulators, operators and the platform, while taking into account drivers who have already begun complying.

E-hailing is a service that allows users to book transport, such as taxis or private cars, via smartphone apps or websites, connecting them directly with drivers but wants stronger cooperation with operators.

The government said it recognises the value of e-hailing services, but wants stronger collaboration and compliance with the law.

Speaking at a meeting with e-hailing companies last week, minister of information and communication technology Emma Theofelus said, "the Ministry of ICT and the Ministry of Works and Transport have a very concerted interest in the work of e-hailing services in the country."

She said the service is important and has helped improve transport. "The ser-



< Minister of works and transport Veikko Nekundi

vice that you offer is very much important. We welcome it. It has contributed greatly to the transportation sector in the country," she said.

Theofelus highlighted the role of technology, saying e-hailing has helped connect public demand with service supply through innovation.

Minister of works and transport Veikko Nekundi said that all operators must follow the law.

"As Minister of Works and Transport and a lawmaker, I expect anybody who wants to do any business in Namibia must comply with the laws of the Republic of Namibia," he said.

He warned that those who do not want to comply should not enter the market. "If you do not want to do that, you do not enter into the Namibian market or do not enter that business that is regulated," he said.

Nekundi explained that transport operators must have proper documents before operating. "The law prescribes that for a person to transport passengers, before you start, you must have certain documents issued to you by the Ministry of Works and Transport," he said.

He added that vehicles must pass required tests and drivers must have a public driving permit (PDP), including passing medical checks.

Reflecting on progress made last year, Nekundi said some e-hailing operators have started complying. "Yango deregistered 1500 operators who were using the platform without having the necessary documentation," he said.

He added that about 400 drivers have

applied to get the required permits by the end of September 2025.

"What is paramount is for us to appreciate the compliance by the e-hailing service providers. They were very, very much forthcoming," Nekundi said.

He said the government is confident of continued cooperation. "We are very positive that the Ministry of Works and Transport and these e-hailing services will continue to work together and reshape the public transport services in this country," he said.

E-hailing operators raised concerns about delays in the permit application process, saying it negatively affects drivers who depend on the sector for income, and called for a review of the system as well as the road transportation laws that are currently outdated. **NBR**



> Zanyiwe Asare

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