

NamPower wants Govt to fund N\$58bn electricity plan

P.3

Zambezi rural households to benefit from N\$10m electricity project

P.6

Can a clay pot find a market online?

P.8

NAMDIA's fixed-price deal with Belgians, UAE costs Namibia millions



» After a N\$314.9 million diamond heist, NAMDIA turned to three foreign companies to provide money to buy diamonds. But the fixed prices under the deal could mean Namibia gets less than its diamonds are worth. The arrangement was approved by NAMDIA's former board of directors.

• TIRI MASAWI

Namibia is losing millions of dollars because state-owned company Namibia Desert Diamonds (NAMDIA) is locked into agreements to sell diamonds to three foreign buyers at fixed prices, even when market prices change.

The buyers are Samir Gems and

SBMH Group from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Belgium-based AC Diam.

They provide money upfront to help NAMDIA pay for diamonds. NAMDIA extended their existing arrangements while in the process of bringing in new buyers, with the decision approved by its former board of directors.

The deal comes as NAMDIA deals

with the aftermath of a deadly diamond heist at its Windhoek headquarters in January 2025. Diamonds worth N\$314.9 million were stolen in the robbery, which claimed the lives of NAMDIA protection officer Francis Eiseb and suspect Max Endjala.

NAMDIA says the heist affected its operations.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

After splashing over N\$70m to construct a stadium, Namibia could host the 2027 Cricket World Cup without playing in it

• VIVASPORT™

In October 2027, the Namibia Cricket Ground in Windhoek will host the opening matches of the Cricket World Cup.

There will be three Super Series games on 2, 4 and 6 October, followed by three group matches, including England against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka against a qualifier and England against Sri Lanka.

Six World Cup matches are guaranteed for Namibia's capi-



» Namibia will host six matches at the 2027 Cricket World Cup, but the co-hosts must still qualify to play in the tournament.

tal. Namibia's team are guaranteed none.

Why Namibia have to qualify for their own World Cup

The 2027 tournament will feature 14 teams. South Africa and Zimbabwe took two places as hosts, while the next eight places went to the highest-ranked teams in the ICC Men's ODI rankings at the 30 September 2026 cut-off.

The final four places will come through the World Cup Qualifier in early 2027.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

Q&A

NAMDIA opens up on diamond deal and nepotism allegations



READ INTERVIEW ON PAGE 4 & 5

Qaurtile
Debt Collection

**Tailored Debt
Collection Solutions**

083 330 2100

www.qaurtile.com

The company has also faced a downturn in the international diamond market and has been operating without its normal infrastructure.

The company has since relied on the three buyers to provide money upfront for diamond purchases. **Namibia Business Review** spoke to at least three diamond industry sources who said the fixed prices could mean Namibia misses out on extra income when diamond prices rise.

"The reality is that both NAMDIA and Namibia in general are losing a lot of money because of this," one source told Namibia Business Review.

NAMDIA receives diamond parcels worth between US\$11 million (about N\$176 million) and US\$15 million (about N\$240 million) from the Namibia Diamond Trading Company (NDTC) each month for sale to its registered buyers.

Industry sources argue that the fixed-price terms leave NAMDIA exposed to changes in market value between the time a purchase price is agreed and the time the diamonds are sold.

Using an example of an agreed price of US\$100 (about N\$1,600) per carat, the source said NAMDIA pays US\$91.50 (about N\$1,464) after an 8.5% discount. If a buyer pays 11% above that amount, NAMDIA would receive about US\$101.57 (about N\$1,625) per carat.

That would leave a difference of only about US\$1.57 (about N\$25) above the original agreed price, according to the example.

The source said the arrangement could prevent NAMDIA from capturing increases in market prices during the six to seven weeks between the initial price agreement and the sale.

"If they are selling at a fixed price, where is the price discovery?

Who knows what the real market value is at the time of sale?" another source asked.

NAMDIA's spokesperson Beverley Coussement, said the company had to balance its commercial mandate with the operational constraints following the January 2025 security incident.

She said NAMDIA had relied on clients to pre-finance purchases because it lacked access to conventional bank financing.

"The opportunity to provide such financing was extended to all eligible clients, and the successful participants were selected on the basis of the most competitive and commercially advantageous offers received," Coussement told Namibia Business Review on Monday.

She said the three-client arrangement was the outcome of that process and not an arbitrary decision to exclude other buyers. She added that a sustainable financing facility would help reduce the company's reliance on client financing.

Coussement also disputed reports that the allocations were split 40%, 40% and 20%.

She said each of the three buyers received approximately one-third of the relevant allocation.

NAMDIA's buyer list, released on 7 July, contains 32 companies. The selection process involved 11 local companies and international applicants from Belgium, the UAE, India, Hong Kong, Israel, Singapore, the United States, Armenia and Zimbabwe. Only five Namibian companies were selected.

Industry sources have questioned the

limited number of local firms on the list and raised allegations about some international buyers' local business links. These allegations have not been independently established.

Coussement said buyers were assessed against predetermined, weighted criteria and that nationality was not the only consideration. She said NAMDIA's Client Registration Policy supports local beneficiation, while the company must also secure the best possible commercial value for Namibia's diamonds.

Former NAMDIA Board chairperson Justice Hausiku declined to comment, saying he was no longer a director and advising the newspaper to contact the company directly.

The key issue is whether NAMDIA's need for financing after the heist is coming at a cost to Namibia's diamond revenue.

The industry source argues that fixed prices could leave the country unable to capture the full market value of its stones, while NAMDIA maintains that the arrangements were commercially justified and approved through its internal processes.

***NBR**

NAMIBIA CRICKET: FROM PAGE 1

Namibia were not in the automatic group.

That leaves them fighting through the same qualification pathway as other Associate nations, even though their own capital is already on the World Cup fixture list.

It is not an entirely new problem for Namibia.

When Africa last hosted the men's World Cup in 2003, South Africa and Zimbabwe were joined by Kenya. Kenya did not need to qualify because it had full ODI status.

Namibia had to earn its place through the 2001 ICC Trophy, where it finished runner-up to the Netherlands.

The difference 24 years later is stark. Namibia are now helping to stage the tournament, but their status as an Associate member means that hosting alone does not give them a place.

They are also not the only big name still outside the tournament. The West Indies, two-time world champions, will have to go through the Qualifier after missing out on a direct place.

Namibia's road to Windhoek

Namibia's immediate problem is Cricket World Cup League 2.

The eight-team competition provides four direct places in the 2027 World Cup Qualifier. The other four teams drop into the Qualifier Play-off, an eight-team repechage involving the bottom four from League 2 and the top two teams from each Challenge League group.

Namibia were fifth in League 2 heading into the final stretch of the competition.

They remained outside the top four after their match against the United Arab Emirates in Dallas on 3 October was abandoned after just two overs. The result gave Namibia a point, but did not change their position.

They still have three League 2 matches to play in October.

Finishing fourth or higher would send



Namibia directly into the World Cup Qualifier. Finishing fifth or lower would make the road considerably longer.

The Qualifier is scheduled for 22 February to 23 March 2027. Ten teams will compete for four World Cup places.

For Namibia, getting there is only half the job.

The winner of the Qualifier goes directly into the group stage. The teams finishing second, third and fourth go to Windhoek for the Super Series, where they will play each other once.

Only the winner of that three-team competition reaches the group stage.

That creates the possibility of an extraordinary scenario: Namibia could fight their way through the qualifying system only to have to return to their own capital and win a mini-tournament to earn the right to play in the World Cup they are helping to host.

Namibia have been here before

There is some uncomfortable history behind that route.

In 2023, Namibia hosted the World Cup Qualifier Play-off in Windhoek. The top two teams would progress to the final Qualifier, and Namibia were in contention until a 28-run defeat by the United Arab Emirates.

They eventually finished third, behind the United States and UAE.

It was another reminder that home advantage does not necessarily make qual-

ification easier.

This time the stakes are even higher.

Namibia are not simply trying to get to another World Cup. They are trying to get to one being staged in their own country.

From 2003 to a World Cup on home soil Namibia have only played at one previous men's 50-over World Cup.

That was in 2003, when they lost all six of their matches. Their tournament included a 256-run defeat by Australia in Potchefstroom.

There were brighter moments.

Rudie van Vuuren took five wickets against England in Port Elizabeth. Later that year, he became the first person to play at both a Cricket World Cup and a Rugby World Cup in the same year.

Van Vuuren has since gone on to become president of Cricket Namibia.

Two decades later, Namibia's cricket has moved a long way from those beginnings.

They have qualified for four successive T20 World Cups, reached the Super 12 stage in 2021 and produced one of the most memorable results in their history by beating Sri Lanka at the 2022 tournament in Geelong.

Their 50-over progress has been slower, which is why the next few months matter so much.

The ground has already witnessed history

The Namibia Cricket Ground provides another link between the past and the

World Cup still to come.

In October 2025, the new stadium hosted its first international match. It was also the first meeting between Namibia and South Africa in any format.

Namibia won by four wickets.

Zane Green hit the winning four from the final ball, finishing unbeaten on 30, as Namibia chased down South Africa's 134 for eight.

It was a remarkable opening to the life of the ground that will stage the 2027 World Cup. But the contrast is revealing.

When South Africa returned to Windhoek for a three-match ODI series last month, the Proteas won all three games.

Namibia are improving.

They are producing competitive T20 sides, hosting major international cricket and building a venue capable of staging a global tournament. But 50-over cricket remains the harder test.

One year out, the question is simple

The 2027 Cricket World Cup is coming to Windhoek.

Namibia know exactly where their matches would be played. They know the dates. They know the teams that will visit their new ground.

What they do not yet know is whether they will be one of them.

Their qualification campaign will continue through the final months of 2026 and into 2027.

First comes the battle to reach the Qualifier.

Then comes the fight for one of four World Cup places.

And if Namibia finish second, third or fourth in that Qualifier, there will be one final chance.

It will be in Windhoek, on home soil, in front of the supporters who have spent years waiting for this tournament.

The 2027 World Cup will definitely begin in Namibia.

The question is whether Namibia will be there when it does.

NamPower wants Govt to fund N\$58bn electricity plan

• TIRI MASAWI

NAMPOWER wants the government to fund most of Namibia's power generation projects to help the country produce more electricity locally.

Outgoing managing director Kahenge Haulofu said the government should provide the bulk of the funding, while NamPower manages the projects.

He made the call at the launch of NamPower's Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) for 2026 to 2030.

The plan requires N\$58 billion in cumulative expenditure for power generation, transmission upgrades and rural electrification.

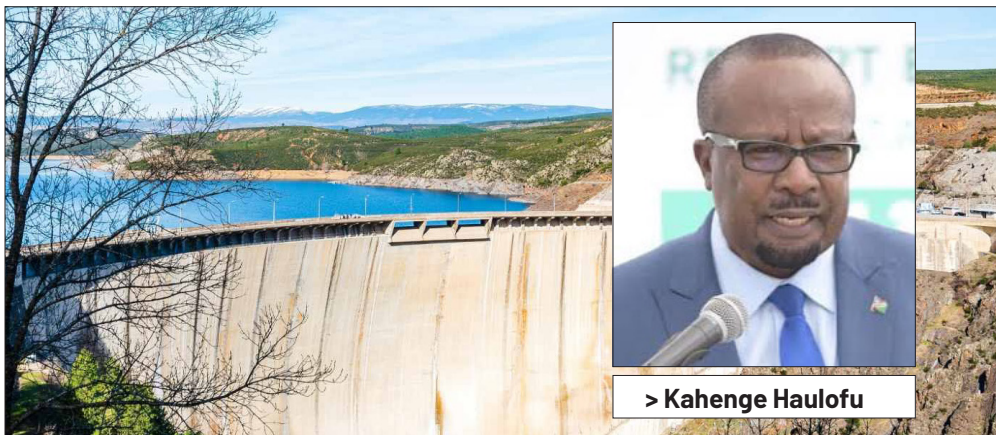
NamPower aims to achieve 80% energy self-sufficiency by 2030, with 70% of the country's power capacity coming from renewable sources.

"The government must fund the bulk of power generation projects and give over the projects to NamPower to manage them.

This is the norm everywhere where power sustenance has been achieved," Haulofu said.

He said politicians control the money and must ensure that generation projects are adequately funded.

Haulofu also identified nuclear power



as a potential option for increasing domestic electricity generation.

However, he said Namibia lacked legislation governing nuclear power.

"We need our policy makers to work on legislation that complies with both local and international statutes to be able to build nuclear power as an option," he said.

He added that Namibia could consider small nuclear reactors capable of generating up to 100 megawatts while the necessary laws are being aligned.

NamPower's plan comes as Namibia remains heavily dependent on electricity imports, sourcing between 50% and 70% of its annual energy needs from neighbouring countries.

Deputy minister of industries, mines

and energy Gaudentia Kröhne said the government's ambition is that every Namibian should have access to modern electricity services by 2040.

"We still have a long road ahead. Nationally, about 59.5% of households have access to electricity, but in rural Namibia the figure is only about 37.9%.

This is why the Government has provided N\$250 million from the Treasury and a further N\$10 million through the National Energy Fund for the 2026/27 electrification programme," she said.

SHORT TERM PLANS

In the short term, the utility plans to complete the 100MW Sores/Gaib Solar PV Project, northwest of Rosh Pinah in the //

Kharas Region.

The project, NamPower's largest solar facility to date, has a capital investment of N\$1.6 billion. It is financed through a N\$1.3 billion loan from Germany's KfW Development Bank, with the balance coming from NamPower's internal reserves.

The utility is also pursuing the 44MW Diaz Wind Project near Lüderitz, estimated to cost N\$1.5 billion.

The project is supported by N\$1.2 billion in funding from Standard Bank and InnoVent SAS.

Other projects include the 20MW Khan Solar PV Plant and the 80MW Omburu PV II Project, which is scheduled for completion by 2029.

Medium-term plans include a 120MW solar PV project, a 40MW biomass project and the 50MW CERIM Wind Project.

NamPower also plans to invest in battery storage to address fluctuations in solar and wind power generation. These projects include the 51MW Omburu Battery Energy Storage System and the 45MW Lithops Battery Energy Storage System.

Long-term projects include the 300MW Mega Wind Project, the 475MW Gas-to-Power Project and the 440MW Baynes Hydropower Project. ***NBR**

School feeding reaches 500 000 learners as education ministry launches plan

• STAFF WRITER

THE government's school feeding programme reached 500 371 learners in 2025, while 30 223 students received financial assistance, according to the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture new strategic plan.

The plan was launched on Monday by Deputy Minister Dino Ballotti. It reviews progress in education, vocational training and youth development, while identifying funding shortages and staff gaps as key challenges facing the ministry.

Ballotti said the plan aims to improve access to quality education, strengthen teaching and learning, empower young people and align education with the country's development needs.

The plan is built around eight pillars, including education access, infrastructure development, research and innovation, sports, arts and culture, good governance and stakeholder engagement.

"This Plan did not come from one office. It was developed through wide consultation, and it builds on a five-year review of previous Strategic Plans and includes a participatory situation

analysis," Ballotti said. He said the ministry had been implementing the plan since the start of the 2025/26 financial year.

One of its key achievements is the Namibia School Feeding Programme, which reached 500,371 learners, exceeding its target of 497,749. Ballotti said school feeding was essential to ensuring that children could learn without hunger.

"No child should have to learn on an empty stomach," he said. He recalled visiting his former school, West Side High School in Swakopmund, where an area had been renovated to provide a dignified space for learners to receive their lunch.

"I was most pleased to first-hand see and experience the programme in Swakopmund recently when I went to visit my alma mater, West Side High. They had renovated an area to provide dignity where learners benefit from the lunch-time feeding," he said.

The plan also highlights progress in student funding. In 2025, the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) received 41,322 applications and awarded financial assistance to 30,223 students, about 34% more than its original target of 22,500 beneficiaries.

Under the subsidised tertiary education funding model, 39,308 new students

received award letters for the 2026 academic year. The ministry also reported improvements in school performance.

The percentage of learners achieving a D grade or better in English at Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) level increased from 28% in 2016 to 62% in 2024, exceeding the target of 50%.

In mathematics, the percentage of learners achieving a C grade or better rose from 11.4% in 2022 to 18.1% in 2024.

Physics results also improved, with the percentage of learners achieving a C grade or better increasing from 23.4% in 2022 to 53.7% in 2024. In chemistry, the figure rose from 17.9% to 28.2% over the same period.

The number of learners obtaining at least three C grades at NSSCO level increased from 21.4% in 2022 to 29.5% in 2024. School enrolment also grew, from 722,248 learners in 2017 to 880,821 in 2024. Beyond schools, the plan highlights efforts to strengthen vocational training and equip young people with practical skills.

New vocational training centres were completed in Okakarara in 2022 and in Keetmanshoop, Nkurenkuru and Khorixas in 2024. The centres were inaugurated

and operationalised during 2024 and 2025.

More than 200 trainers have also graduated through the Namibia University of Science and Technology's vocational instructor training programme, which started in 2021.

The ministry further reported that about 32,000 pocket Wi-Fi devices and laptop computers were provided to qualifying students, alongside upgrades to information technology infrastructure at the University of Namibia and NUST.

Despite the progress, the strategic plan identifies several challenges, including inadequate funding, staff shortages, high staff turnover and limited training opportunities. Shortages of specialised skills have also affected the ministry's operations.

The plan also records progress in youth development. The Youth Development Index rose from 0.49 in 2013 to 0.696 in 2023, exceeding the target of 0.58 set for 2022.

The ministry said its new strategic plan seeks to build on these achievements while addressing gaps in education, skills development and youth empowerment. ***NBR**

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



NAMDIA opens up on diamond deal and nepotism allegations

NBR: NAMDIA's governing statutes dictate clear procurement guidelines for onboarding and extending client purchasing agreements to guarantee equal opportunity and fair competition. Our investigations reveal that the buyer contracts for Samir Gems, SBMH and AC Diam were extended without adhering to these laid-down procurement processes. Can management explain why competitive bidding and open selection rules were bypassed for these specific entities, and who authorised these non-procedural extensions?

BC: The premise of the question is incorrect. NAMDIA's sale of diamonds to its clients is a commercial sales activity and is not subject to public procurement processes applicable to the procurement of goods and services. The Request for Proposal was initially issued to all eligible clients, ensuring that the opportunity was made available on a competitive and transparent basis. The subsequent extension of the existing arrangements was undertaken during the transition to the onboarding of new clients and was approved by the Board. Accordingly, no competitive process was bypassed.

NBR: Standard diamond trading frameworks require dynamic, mar-



> Beverley Coussement

ket-reflective pricing to maximise the value of Namibia's state-owned resource. However, it is alleged that Samir, SBMH and AC Diam were granted exclusive fixed prices to buy under a preferential arrangement not accorded to any other clients on your list. What is the commercial and policy justification for offering a fixed pricing model to these three companies while requiring

Industry players have raised questions about Namibia Desert Diamonds (NAMDIA)'s decision to extend buyer arrangements involving three companies from the United Arab Emirates and Belgium, including concerns about fixed pricing, the concentration of diamond allocations and alleged conflicts of interest. NAMDIA spokesperson Beverley Coussement (BC) responds to questions from Namibia Business Review (NBR), explaining the company's position on the buyer selection process, its commercial decisions and the governance measures in place.

other local and international buyers to operate under variable market rates?

BC: NAMDIA acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the concentration of diamond purchase allocations among three clients and the implications for client diversification and the development of Namibia's diamond beneficiation industry. However, it is important to clarify the circumstances under which the current arrangements were concluded and the commercial considerations underpinning the decisions.

Following the January 2025 security incident, NAMDIA has continued to operate under constrained conditions while navigating a downturn in the international diamond market. These circumstances have affected the company's operational capacity and the manner in which it conducts its sales activities. NAMDIA has had to balance its commercial mandate with the practical limitations arising from the incident, the prevailing market environment and the absence of normal operating infrastructure.

NBR: According to industry disclosures, the total diamond purchase allocation under these extended agreements has been heavily consolidated, with Samir receiving 40%, SBMH receiving 40% and AC Diam receiving the remaining 20% of the specific volume block. What strategic metric or value-addition audit did NAMDIA utilise to justify handing 100% of this specific diamond allocation to just three companies? How does this heavy consolidation align with NAMDIA's mandate to diversify its local client base and support a wider array of domestic cutting and polishing factories?

BC: NAMDIA continues to operate without a dedicated financing facility. Consequently, it has had to rely on clients to pre-finance diamond purchases, thereby enabling NAMDIA to fulfil its purchasing and sales obligations without access to conventional bank financing. The opportunity to provide such financing was extended to all eligible clients, and the successful participants were selected on the basis of the most competitive and commercially advantageous offers received.

The current three-client arrangement is therefore the outcome of this pro-

cess, rather than an arbitrary decision to exclude other participants. Securing a sustainable financing facility remains important to reducing this constraint and broadening NAMDIA's commercial options.

Fourthly, NAMDIA has not yet returned to its own premises and continues to operate from accommodated facilities. This limits the number of clients that can be engaged at any given time and constrains NAMDIA's capacity to conduct its sales activities at the scale and frequency that would otherwise be possible. The current arrangements must therefore be understood in the context of these operational limitations and should not be interpreted as a deliberate departure from the objective of maintaining a diversified client base.

Finally, while NAMDIA supports the Government's beneficiation objectives and recognises the importance of developing Namibia's local cutting and polishing industry, its primary commercial mandate remains price discovery.

This requires NAMDIA to secure the best possible commercial value for Namibian diamonds through a transparent and competitive sales process. Client participation and allocation decisions must therefore be guided by commercial competitiveness, the ability to execute transactions and the prevailing market environment, while remaining consistent with NAMDIA's broader contribution to the development of the domestic diamond industry.

NAMDIA remains committed to broadening client participation and supporting local beneficiation as financing, infrastructure and market conditions improve. The current three-client arrangement reflects the practical and commercial realities under which NAMDIA is operating and should be assessed within that context.

NBR: What specific institutional rules, governance frameworks or corporate board policies does NAMDIA follow when extending a standard buyer's contract outside of normal cycle reviews? Furthermore, given severe concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest involving senior executives whose close relatives may be linked to the direct beneficiaries of these extensions, what internal measures or independent audits have been launched to ensure that these contract extensions were negotiated strictly at arm's length?

BC: The temporary extension of the buyers' contracts was undertaken in accordance with NAMDIA's applicable internal governance and approval processes. Regarding the allegations of potential conflicts of interest involving senior executives and their relatives, NAMDIA has already addressed this matter comprehensively in its response dated 28 September 2026. Our position on this matter remains unchanged, and we refer you to that response for the relevant clarification. NAMDIA remains committed to upholding sound corporate governance, transparency, accountability and the

Continued on page 5

NOTIFICATION AND CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 11 TELECOMMUNICATION BASE TRANSCIVER STATION (BTS) TOWERS ON SELECTED SITES IN THE //KHARAS, HARDAP, ERONGO, KUNENE AND OMUSATI REGIONS, NAMIBIA

D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the proposed development of eleven (11) base transceiver station (BTS) towers.

PowerCom (Pty) Ltd, herein referred to as the proponent, has identified different areas that need improved communication alternatives in Namibia due to growth in population and economic activities. To achieve the objective of improved telecommunication connectivity, PowerCom has been appointed by Telecom Namibia, its sister company, to establish telecommunication towers across the identified locations. In this respect, PowerCom has identified sites to construct and operate eleven (11) telecommunication base transceiver station towers.

PowerCom (the proponent) has appointed D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants to conduct the EIA processes for these proposed BTS tower developments. The EIA is being conducted to satisfy the Namibian environmental legislative requirements. The general public as well as any Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are hereby invited to register their concerns and notify the consultant of any potential environmental and social impacts that may be triggered by the project.

The proposed projects for which the Environmental Clearance Certificates will be applied for, and the public meetings to be held, are as follows:

1. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Noordoewer, //Kharas Region. Site/Location: Noordoewer, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 28°43'2.57"S 17°37'20.48"E Venue: Onsite Date: 26 October 2026 Time: 09:00 am	2. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Ariamsvllei, //Kharas Region. Site/Location: Ariamsvllei, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 28°07'03.4"S 19°49'55.6"E Venue: Onsite Date: 27 October 2026 Time: 10:00 am	3. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Karasburg, //Kharas Region. Site/Location: Karasburg, Karasburg Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 28°00'24.0"S 18°44'48.0"E Venue: Onsite Date: 28 October 2026 Time: 09:00 am	4. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Neckertal Dam, //Kharas Region. Site/Location: Neckertal Dam, Berseba Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 26°37'51.65"S 17°43'16.3"E Venue: Onsite Date: 29 October 2026 Time: 09:30 am
5. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Aranos, Hardap Region. Site/Location: Sonora, Aranos, Mariental Rural Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 24°07'54.4"S 19°06'17.2"E Venue: Onsite Date: 30 October 2026 Time: 10:30 am	6. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Omamas, Hardap Region. Site/Location: Omamas, Rehoboth Rural Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 24°02'57.3"S 17°23'37.9"E Venue: Onsite Date: 02 November 2026 Time: 10:30 am	7. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Rehoboth, Hardap Region. Site/Location: Block H, Rehoboth, Rehoboth Urban East Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 23°18'59.14"S 17°05'54.1"E Venue: Onsite Date: 03 November 2026 Time: 09:00 am	8. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Walvis Bay, Erongo Region. Site/Location: Walvis Bay Ext 6, Walvis Bay Urban Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 22°57'49.74"S 14°30'17.4"E Venue: Onsite Date: 05 November 2026 Time: 09:30 am
9. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Usakos, Erongo Region. Site/Location: Usakos 2nd Site, Karibib Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 22°00'00.3"S 15°35'10.0"E Venue: Onsite Date: 06 November 2026 Time: 10:00 am	10. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Khorixas, Kunene Region. Site/Location: Khorixas Ext 11, Khorixas Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 20°22'57.3"S 14°57'39.6"E Venue: Onsite Date: 10 November 2026 Time: 09:00 am	11. Project Title: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the Proposed Construction of a Telecommunication Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Tower at Eenkhalashe, Omusati Region. Site/Location: Eenkhalashe, Onesi Constituency, Namibia Coordinates: 17°29'24.0"S 14°34'48.0"E Venue: Onsite Date: 12 November 2026 Time: 10:00 am	

Interested & Affected Parties (I&AP) Registration and submission of comments: To comment or receive further information on the project, please register with the consultant (contact details below) as an I&AP before end of business on **26 November 2026**. A Background Information Document (BID) has been compiled for the project and is available upon request from the consultant.

All registered I&APs will be informed throughout the assessment process and provided with further opportunities to review and submit comments. Comments can also be submitted via the online form provided. Please scan the QR code or use the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr9PvEexg7rUGAGfrzgGb9nuMvk41u0HbFGTEVrykAfXk6w/viewform>

Contact Details: D&P Engineers and Environmental Consultants | Attention: Ms. Kristian NN Shwayu
PO Box 8401, Windhoek, Namibia | Email: info@dpe.com.na | Tel: +264 61 302672

Submit your comments online

Scan me!

NAMDIA opens up on diamond deal and nepotism allegations

From page 4

consistent application of its internal policies and procedures in all its commercial dealings.

NBR: Is the NAMDIA Board and management aware of allegations that senior managers who were central to the decision-making process for the 2026-2029 buyer selection had close personal or familial ties to the benefiting companies? Our initial investigations show that some of the companies that were selected as buyers might have close links to the top managers at NAMDIA.

BC: NAMDIA is aware of the allegations raised in your enquiry. However, NAMDIA is not aware of any familial relationships between members of its senior management and the approved clients that would constitute a conflict of interest in the selection process. As would be expected in a specialised industry, professional relationships may exist between NAMDIA representatives and industry participants, particularly clients who have previously conducted business with the company. The existence of a professional relationship does not constitute a conflict of interest.

NBR: Can you put it on record that all senior managers, including the CEO, declared any conflict of interest to any bidders before the selection of buyers was done?

BC: Yes. Declarations of interest formed part of the governance requirements applicable to the client selection process, and the relevant declarations were duly made. It is also important to note that a Client Selection Committee was formally constituted to review and select the clients in accordance with the applicable governance requirements. The Acting CEO was not a member of the



Client Selection Committee and therefore did not participate in the Committee's deliberations or selection decisions.

NBR: Could you also clarify concerns among diamond players that the selection of some of the companies, which are mere middlemen, might compromise the potential earnings that NAMDIA will accrue from certain selected buyers? Please also give details on whether NAMDIA has the capacity to flag companies that act as middlemen and, in instances where such activity is flagged, what the process of remedy is.

BC: NAMDIA's earnings are determined by the value realised from the sale of its diamonds to its clients and not by the subsequent commercial activities of

those clients.

NAMDIA's client portfolio comprises different business models, including vertically integrated companies as well as companies operating primarily within the trading segment of the diamond value chain. These differences do not, in themselves, determine the value NAMDIA achieves from a sale.

NAMDIA's focus is therefore on the commercial capability of its clients and their ability to support the company's mandate of effective price discovery and maximising value from its diamond allocation. Once a legitimate sale has been concluded, the subsequent commercial disposition of those diamonds falls within the business operations of the respective client, subject to applicable laws and regulatory requirements.

NBR: What specific steps is NAMDIA's governance or risk committee currently taking to investigate these specific allegations of nepotism and conflict of interest within senior management?

BC: NAMDIA is not aware of any familial relationship between its senior management and the approved clients that would substantiate an allegation of nepotism in the client selection process.

As previously communicated, the completed selection process was subjected to an independent internal audit review, which confirmed that the process was undertaken in accordance with the approved client selection criteria and procedures.

Should specific and credible information indicating misconduct or an undeclared conflict of interest be presented to NAMDIA, it would be considered through the appropriate governance structures.

NBR: Given that NAMDIA previously stated an independent internal audit reviewed the selection, will NAMDIA consider commissioning an external, forensic investigation to look specifically into these undisclosed links?

BC: NAMDIA would consider any credible information or evidence presented

regarding an alleged undisclosed conflict of interest and determine the appropriate course of action through its established governance structures. At present, the client selection process has already been subjected to an independent internal audit review, which confirmed compliance with the approved selection criteria and procedures. Any decision to commission an additional investigation would therefore need to be informed by specific information or evidence warranting such a process.

NBR: Given NAMDIA's foundational mandate of "price discovery" for the benefit of the Namibian state, how can the public maintain confidence in the integrity of the current sales cycle amidst lingering allegations of insider favour trading?

BC: Public confidence should ultimately be supported by NAMDIA's ability to deliver on its mandate and demonstrate value from Namibia's diamond resources. NAMDIA's responsibility is to secure the best possible commercial outcomes from its diamond allocation. This requires maintaining a client portfolio capable of competing for NAMDIA's diamonds and supporting effective price discovery, irrespective of whether those clients are Namibian or international.

The current sales cycle will therefore be measured by the value NAMDIA is able to realise from its diamonds and the contribution this makes towards delivering value for Namibia.

NAMDIA remains accountable for the way it conducts its business and will continue to address any credible concerns through the appropriate governance channels.

NBR: With 75 global applicants and only five local firms selected, how does NAMDIA ensure that the selection process was not structurally or behaviourally skewed by conflicted managers to disadvantage qualified Namibian diamond dealers?

BC: The nationality of an applicant was not the sole determinant of appointment. All applicants were assessed against predetermined and weighted criteria, and all applicants who achieved the prescribed qualifying threshold and were deemed commercially suitable were included in the final client list. Importantly, NAMDIA's Client Registration Policy specifically provides an advantage for local beneficiation, while maintaining the commercial requirements applicable to the selection process.

Five Namibian companies were appointed from eleven local applicants, compared to two Namibian clients in the previous sales cycle. NAMDIA must balance its support of local beneficiation with its commercial mandate of achieving effective price discovery and maximising value from Namibia's limited diamond allocation.

The independent internal audit review subsequently confirmed that the selection process was conducted in accordance with the approved criteria and procedures. ***NBR**

SUBSCRIBE WITH US

Get your subscription of the Namibia Business Review e-edition at **N\$1040 annually.**

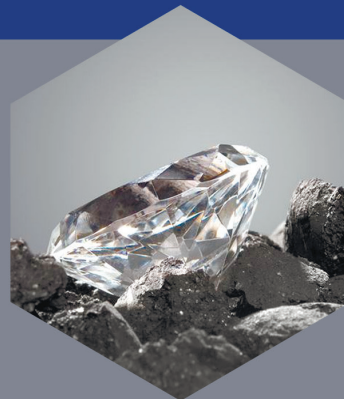
SUBSCRIBE

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

NAMIBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

www.namibiabusinessreview.com





Zambezi rural households to benefit from **N\$10m** electricity project



• STAFF WRITER

RURAL households in the Zambezi Region are expected to benefit from a N\$10 million electricity project, with the government targeting completion by March next year.

Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Gaudentia Kröhne announced this at the 29th Tulikonge Cultural Festival at the Mashi Traditional Authority on Sunday.

Of the N\$10 million allocated for household connections in four conservancy areas in the region during the 2026/27 financial year, N\$2.5 million is earmarked for the Mashi area.

Sachona village has been identified for the project.

Kröhne said the tenders for all four projects had closed and bids were being evaluated.

"The evaluation and appointment process can take up to about two months. I have, however, asked the officials to keep the process moving and to avoid unnecessary delays," she said.

The government aims to have contractors on site in December, with the projects completed by 31 March 2027.

Kröhne said access to electricity remained a challenge in rural areas, where many households were far from the national grid.

Nationally, about 59.5% of households have access to electricity. In rural areas, the figure stands at about 37.9%.

The government aims to ensure that every Namibian has access to modern electricity services by 2040.

To support this goal, Treasury has provided N\$250 million, with a further N\$10 million allocated through the National Energy Fund for the 2026/27 rural electrification programme.

For years, the programme focused on connecting schools, clinics, water points and other public facilities. In the Zambezi Region, several schools and community facilities have been connected in areas including Ingenda, Lizauli, Nfooma, Mukorofu, Nankutwe and Namiyundu.

The Mashi Royal Establishment at Choi has also been connected.

The project covered the palace, administrative centre, the chief's household and surrounding homes. Streetlights were also installed.

Kröhne said the government now wanted to extend electricity access to more households.

She also called for greater consideration of solar power in remote communities where extending the national grid could be costly.

"In some places, extending kilometres of line to a few homes can be extremely expensive and can delay access for many years," she said.

She said solar home systems and community mini-grids could provide lighting, phone charging, refrigeration, internet



> Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Gaudentia Kröhne

access and electricity for small businesses.

However, she acknowledged that some communities had lost confidence in solar systems because of poor batteries and a lack of maintenance.

"Government must learn from that experience," she said, adding that publicly funded systems should have durable batteries, proper warranties and clear maintenance arrangements.

"Solar should not be presented as a second-class solution. In remote areas it can be the most practical way of bringing reliable electricity now, while future grid expansion remains possible," Kröhne said.

She urged the Mashi Traditional Authority to help identify households in need, verify household lists, resolve land access issues and protect electricity infrastructure.

"Your Royal Highness, the Ministry recognises both the progress made and the need that remains. We cannot promise that every household will be connected immediately," she said.

"We can promise that the Mashi people will not be treated as invisible, that the current project will be followed through, and that the wider programme will be developed using both grid and solar solutions according to the needs of each locality."

Kröhne said electricity could support education, improve safety, strengthen cultural preservation and create economic opportunities.

"Culture is protected when knowledge passes from one generation to the next, when young people remain connected to their identity, and when communities have the means to record, teach and celebrate their heritage," she said.

She added that electricity could help communities document and share their cultural knowledge.

The festival was held under the theme "Ku sileleza chizo chetu", meaning "Protecting Our Culture". ***NBR**



EDITORIAL

Importing water, chicken and toothpicks exposes Namibia's industrialisation illusion

FOR decades, Namibia's political speeches and policy documents have been filled with promises of economic emancipation.

Slogans such as "Growth at Home" and "Vision 2030" have presented the vision of a modern, self-sustaining economy.

Yet a walk through any major supermarket in Windhoek tells a different story. From bottled water and packaged chicken to wooden toothpicks, imported goods dominate many everyday consumer markets. This raises a fundamental question: if Namibia is serious about industrialisation, why does it still rely so heavily on other countries for basic consumer goods? The latest trade statistics from the Namibia Statistics Agency point to a persistent trade imbalance. For the first eight months of 2026, Namibia's trade deficit widened to N\$29.6 billion, with imports exceeding exports despite strong mineral earnings. In August alone, the deficit stood at N\$3.9 billion. Namibia spent N\$53.4 million importing chicken in August. This is difficult to reconcile with the country's ambitions to expand domestic production and create jobs. Chicken is one of the most accessible sources of protein for many Namibians. Local producers, including Namib Poultry Industries, have expanded domestic slaughtering capacity. Yet the country continues to import frozen poultry from Brazil, the United States, Poland and South Africa.

The problem extends beyond poultry. Recent agronomy and horticulture assessments indicate that up to 96% of the fruit consumed in Namibia is imported.

A country that struggles to supply its own basic food requirements remains vulnerable to international price shocks, supply chain disruptions and currency fluctuations. It also misses opportunities to create jobs across farming, processing, packaging and distribution. The situation becomes even more troubling when one considers products such as bottled water and toothpicks. These are not sophisticated industrial products that require advanced technology or highly complex manufacturing systems. They represent opportunities to build local production capacity, support entrepreneurs and develop small-scale industries.

Yet foreign brands dominate many retail and hospitality markets, while local entrepreneurs face barriers such as limited access to capital, specialised machinery and high transport costs. Small businesses also struggle to compete with established importers and large wholesalers.

This exposes the gap between Namibia's industrialisation ambitions and the realities facing local enterprises. It is not enough to encourage entrepreneurship in policy documents while businesses struggle to secure the financing, equipment and market access needed to produce competitively.

Industrialisation does not begin only with automobile assembly plants, pharmaceutical factories or other high-tech industries. It also begins with products that Namibians use every day. Building capacity to produce bottled water, poultry products, fruit, toothpicks and packaging materials may appear modest, but these industries can support wider manufacturing and create opportunities for small businesses.

The economic cost of import dependence is particularly serious in a country struggling with high unemployment. Every product that could be made locally but is instead imported represents a potential opportunity for domestic investment, production and employment.

Local poultry production, for example, requires more than slaughtering facilities. It creates demand for animal feed, hatcheries, transport, packaging and distribution. Commercial fruit production can support irrigation, storage, processing and retail supply chains. Even basic manufacturing can create technical and logistical jobs. When Namibia spends heavily on imported consumer goods, it supports production and employment elsewhere while domestic businesses struggle to grow. An economy that exports raw minerals but imports many of its everyday products risks remaining dependent on external producers, with limited opportunities to spread economic benefits across the population.

Reversing this trend requires more than another industrialisation strategy. It requires practical measures that make local production viable and competitive.

The government should use public procurement to support Namibian-produced goods where local supply is available and meets the required standards. Schools, hospitals and other public institutions can provide reliable markets for domestic producers. Financial institutions should also be encouraged to offer affordable, long-term financing to businesses investing in manufacturing, processing and packaging. Existing measures, including the Poultry Market Share Promotion Scheme, show that targeted intervention can be used to encourage local production. Similar efforts should be considered in other sectors where domestic producers have the capacity to supply the market.

However, local production must also be competitive in price, quality and reliability. Industrialisation cannot succeed through slogans or protection alone. It requires investment, skills, efficient infrastructure and policies that help businesses grow without placing an unnecessary burden on consumers.

Ultimately, "Made in Namibia" must become more than a slogan used during trade fairs and political speeches. It must reflect a genuine shift towards producing more of what the country consumes.

Namibia cannot claim meaningful progress towards economic independence while relying so heavily on imports for basic goods that could be produced locally. The country must turn its industrialisation ambitions into measurable results, support domestic enterprises and create the conditions for local industries to thrive. Otherwise, Namibia risks remaining a consumer economy that exports its wealth but imports too much of its future.



A regulator without a minister

• RODNEY CLOETE

LOCAL content will not fail for lack of a policy title. It will fail if nobody who answers to Parliament holds the pen when the contracts start.

Cabinet approved the National Upstream Petroleum Local Content Policy on 4 August 2026. That approval was announced by Cabinet spokesperson Emma Theofelus. The Namibian later reported that the Presidency has appointed the Upstream Petroleum Unit as the local content regulator. The unit is headed by Kornelia Shilunga. Section 7.1 of the policy, as reported, tasks the UPU to coordinate, implement, monitor and enforce the local content requirements, including compliance, reporting and regulatory oversight.

That is a sharp change from the March 2025 draft. That earlier version gave those same powers to the Ministry of Industrialisation, Mines and Energy.

The March draft also promised that the ministry would cause the establishment of an autonomous industry regulatory authority to take over the Local Content Division. The new draft removes that division from the same framing. Its establishment still appears as an action-plan outcome. Paper promises are not the same as a living regulator.

There is a harder problem. The UPU was established by the petroleum amendment bill.

That bill has not yet passed Parliament. So we have a policy approved, a unit named as regulator, and a legal foundation that is still incomplete.

Parliamentarians have already raised concerns about moving powers from the energy ministry into the Presidency.

The concern is not abstract. It is about whether the House can still ask hard questions about a national resource.

Graham Hopwood of the Institute for Public Policy Research put it plainly. Transparency depends on accountability mechanisms.

One example he gave is a minister responsible for petroleum affairs who can report to Parliament.

Marius Kudumo warned that settling who regulates local content is premature while petroleum-in-the-Presidency remains unsettled. He said operational matters put that office in the firing line. Both points matter before first oil contracts lock in.

I speak as Shadow Minister of International Relations and Trade. Trade and investment partners will ask who enforces local content, on what legal footing, and under what oversight. Investors can live with firm rules.

They cannot live with a gap between a policy document and a regulator that Parliament cannot interrogate.

Namibia needs local content with teeth. Teeth require a clear statute, a clear reporting line, and a clear path for parliamentary scrutiny.

Until the bill is passed and the accountability question is settled, the regulator sits on uncertain ground.

A regulator that cannot answer Parliament is not a regulator.

*** The author is an IPC Member of Namibia's National Assembly and Shadow Minister of International Relations and Trade.**



Can a clay pot find a market online?



• STAFF WRITER

A young graduate in Okatyali could use the internet to find work, learn new skills or start a business without leaving home. A clay pot maker in Uuvuthiya could reach more customers by advertising products online.

These are some of the opportunities

the government wants information and communication technology (ICT) to create for ordinary Namibians.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology executive director Linda Nakale said technology must go beyond connecting people and improve their lives by creating jobs and reducing poverty.

Speaking at Ongwediva on Monday during the ninth National ICT Summit, Nakale said the focus should be on using technology to open up economic opportunities, especially for young people and rural communities.

The summit, running under the theme "Harnessing ICT for Inclusive Growth: Digital Pathways to Reduce Unemployment and Eradicate Poverty", aims to find practical ways to make technology work for more Namibians.

"The theme means that ICT should not only advance technology but also improve people's lives, create economic opportunities, reduce inequality, and ensure that all Namibians can participate in and benefit from the digital economy," Nakale said.

She said the summit had to move beyond discussions about infrastructure and software to address the challenges facing ordinary people.

"In the next four days the discussions will go beyond infrastructure and software. It will be centred around people and answer on how ICT can create jobs, empower youth, and uplift communities from poverty," she said.

Nakale said reliable internet access could help small businesses reach customers, compare market prices and sell their products more efficiently.



> Ministry of Information and Communication Technology executive director Linda Nakale

She used the example of a clay pot maker in the Uuvuthiya Constituency who could use the internet to find buyers for traditional clay pots, known as iiyuma.

She also highlighted the opportunities available to young graduates in rural areas.

"With reliable internet access, that graduate can acquire digital skills through online training platforms, apply for employment opportunities across the country, participate in remote work arrangements, or establish a digital en-

terprise serving clients locally and internationally," she said.

The summit is expected to bring together government, businesses, academics and technology innovators to develop practical solutions to Namibia's digital challenges.

Nakale said discussions would focus on reducing data costs, expanding network coverage, improving digital literacy and creating opportunities for young people to develop technology-based businesses.

The programme will also feature a Youth Day Hackathon, which is expected to showcase digital solutions developed by young people to address community problems.

Hosting the summit in Ongwediva, rather than Windhoek, is also intended to promote digital development beyond the capital.

Nakale said the move supported the government's efforts to decentralise digital advancement and involve regional communities in the country's technology development.

She said government, the private sector, academic institutions and development partners needed to work together to ensure that digital opportunities reached rural communities.

"Digital transformation is ultimately about people.

It is about creating opportunities for unemployed graduates, empowering entrepreneurs, supporting clay porters and basket weavers to access wider markets, and ensuring that learners in remote communities have the same access to information and knowledge as those in urban centres," she said.

"The true measure of our success is not the number of technologies deployed, but the number of lives improved."

Nakale said technology alone would not solve unemployment or poverty.

Its impact would depend on how it was used to create opportunities and include more people in the digital economy. ***NBR**

103.5 **NOVA**

THE BUSINESS REPORT

Business moves fast.
We move faster.

Tune in to **Nova 103.5 with Angie Scholtz** every **Tuesday and Thursday at 18:00**, or catch the morning repeat **Wednesday and Friday at 05:20** for expert interviews and key market updates.

Feature stories, interviews with local economists, updates from different sectors of Namibian society, stock analysis with "The Finance Ghost", and of course the Spotlight Feature where we learn about well known Namibians.

Stream full episodes anytime on nova.com.na, Spotify or Apple Podcasts.



Scan here
to find
Nova in
your area



Spotify



Podcasts

