

Langstrand Neighbourhood Road Watch Safety Initiative

Eileen van der Schyff

Following the tragic accident at the Langstrand turn-off near the service station last Saturday evening, in which a woman and a young boy sadly lost their lives, the Langstrand community is coming together to strengthen road safety awareness and action.

The Langstrand Neighbourhood Watch is launching the Langstrand Neighbourhood Road Watch Safety Initiative this week. The aim of the campaign is to promote safer driving behaviour, increase awareness at high-risk points, and encourage collective responsibility on our roads.

As part of this effort, the Langstrand Neighbourhood Watch has also engaged with the Roads Authority of Namibia to explore possible long-term safety solutions for the dangerous turn-off area near the service station.

This initiative is a reminder that road safety is a shared responsibility. Small actions; slowing down, staying alert, and respecting road conditions, can save lives. The community stands together in mourning, but also in action, working towards safer roads for everyone.

Namibia Advances Youth and Sports Decentralisation

Rudi Bowe

The Government of Namibia has officially launched the decentralisation and delegation of youth and sports functions to Regional Councils, marking a major milestone in the country's long-running decentralisation agenda.



The official handover ceremony took place in Otjiwarongo and was led by the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. The transition will see youth empowerment and sports development

responsibilities shifted from central government structures to all 14 Regional Councils, with the aim of improving service delivery, strengthening grassroots governance, and ensuring that communities across Namibia have better access to youth and sports programmes. The functions being



transferred include youth development programmes, sports promotion initiatives, and the coordination of sports codes at regional level. The process also includes the relocation of financial resources and administrative functions to support implementation at sub-national level.

The minister of MEIYSAC, Dr Sanet Steenkamp described the initiative as a critical step toward aligning public services with Namibia's national development priorities. She announced that 327 staff members would be seconded to Regional Councils as part of the implementation process.

Dr Steenkamp assured stakeholders that MEIYSAC, together with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, would continue supporting regional authorities during the transition phase. Support measures, she said, would include office accommodation, operational coordination, assets, financial arrangements, and human resource management. "As we advance towards full devolution within the broader decentralisation process, I call for continued close collaboration, mutual commitment, and the strengthening of partnerships among all our institutions," she said.

The Minister further reminded public officials that leadership positions are built on public trust and accountability. "The moment someone begins to derive personal superiority from this delegated mandate, they have inverted the pur-



pose of public service," Dr Steenkamp stated, adding that clear legal frameworks and defined institutional roles remain essential.

Meanwhile, the minister of Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, James Sankwasa emphasised that decentralisation is not simply about transferring responsibilities from central government to regional authorities, but about empowering sub-national governments to effectively deliver services. "As the ministry mandated to facilitate decentralisation in Namibia, decentralisation is not merely the transfer of functions between different levels of government, but also the empowerment of sub-national governments to function effectively like the central government," Sankwasa said. He stressed that the success of the decentralisation process will depend on performance, accountability, management capacity, and operational efficiency within Regional Councils.

Sankwasa also acknowledged that Namibia's decentralisation process has progressed more slowly than anticipated since independence due to various structural and administrative challenges. The Minister called for readiness assessments to determine whether Regional Councils are fully prepared to receive and manage the delegated

functions.

He further stressed the importance of regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability at regional level. MEIYSAC Executive Director Gerard Vries reaffirmed government's commitment to ensuring a smooth transition process. He highlighted the central role young people play in Namibia's development agenda and noted that sports continue to serve as a powerful tool for national unity and social development. "This handover is about improving the lives of young people and strengthening opportunities for participation and development across Namibia," Vries said. "It's about ensuring that every young person, regardless of where they live, has access to programmes and opportunities to realise their potential."

Regional leadership also welcomed the move, with Regional Council representatives describing the decentralisation initiative as a significant step toward grassroots empowerment and more responsive governance. Government officials say the decentralisation initiative is expected to significantly improve access to youth and sports services, particularly in underserved and rural communities across Namibia.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED REZONING OF ERF 3522 WALVIS BAY, FROM SINGLE RESIDENTIAL TO LOCAL BUSINESS WITH A BULK FACTOR OF 2.

Notice is hereby given to all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of February 2012): Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007).

Proposed activity: Rezoning of Erf 3255 Walvis Bay, from "Single Residential" to "Local Business" with a bulk factor of 2.
Location: Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.
Proponent: Mr. Zhouz Jiansheng
EAP: RJ Dynamics Investment CC

Description: The proponent intends to apply for the rezoning of Erf 3522 W, from "Single Residential 1" to Local Business with a bulk factor of 2 for the establishment of 39 residential units, garages and parking bays. In terms of the Environmental Management Act (Act No.07 of 2007), the rezoning of land from Single Residential to commercial use cannot be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate.

I&APs are hereby invited to register, request for Background Information Document (BID), and send their comments to rjdynamics22@gmail.com. **Due Date: 02 June 2026**

The need for a public meeting will be communicated to all registered I&APs.



Walvis Bay Municipality Tables N\$1.6 billion Budget for 2026/2027

Eileen van der Schyff



(Ftr): Ephraim Shozi, Acting Chief Executive Officer Sylvia Schubert, and Walvis Bay Mayor Johannes Shimbilinga during the tabling of the Municipality of Walvis Bay's proposed 2026/2027 budget.

The Municipality of Walvis Bay has tabled a proposed N\$1.6 billion budget for the 2026/2027 financial year, with no increases proposed for water tariffs or property rates and taxes.

The budget was tabled during a Council meeting held on 7 May at the Walvis Bay Council Chambers. Presenting the budget, Ephraim Shozi said the municipality's priorities for the coming financial year include improved service delivery, accelerated land development, and continued investment in critical infrastructure. The proposed budget consists of a Capital Budget of N\$883 million and an Operating Budget of N\$690 million for the year ending June 2027. A significant portion of the Capital Budget, amounting to N\$299 million or 34%, has been allocated to land development projects aimed at addressing housing and serviced land demand in Walvis Bay. Major allocations include N\$25 million for Narraville Extension 11, N\$52 million for Narraville Extension 8, and N\$180 million earmarked for the development of Farm 37. The municipality said the investment in land delivery remains central to Council's strategy to stimulate economic growth and support long-term urban development. The remaining 66% of the Capital Budget has been distributed across several project categories, including infrastructure repair and replacement, service delivery projects, social projects, vehicle replacement, and operational capital-related expenditure. Infrastructure development received the second-largest allocation of N\$249 million. The funds will be used for the upgrading, rehabilitation, and maintenance of roads, water infrastructure, sewer networks, and public facilities.

Shozi acknowledged existing service delivery challenges in areas such as water, sanitation, roads, land delivery, and housing, stating that Council remains committed to strengthening oversight, accountability, and measurable outcomes. To improve refuse collection services, provision has also been made for the purchase of five new refuse removal trucks following repeated breakdowns involving the municipality's aging fleet. In an effort to support residents and local economic recovery, Council proposed only limited tariff adjustments for the new financial year. Refuse removal and sanitation services are expected to increase by 3%, while no increases have been proposed for water sales or property rates and taxes. According to Shozi, the proposed budget was informed by community feedback received during public budget consultation meetings held in March this year. Residents and stakeholders were given the opportunity to raise concerns and identify development priorities within their communities. The municipality noted that the budget aligns with Council's new Strategic Plan, which will run from July 2026 to June 2031, and supports national priorities related to infrastructure development, governance, and inclusive economic growth. Council has encouraged residents and stakeholders to review the detailed Capital Budget and continue participating in engagements regarding municipal development priorities.

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RJ DYNAMICS

Ministry Clarifies Fuel Purchase Measures Amid Hoarding Concerns

Eileen van der Schyff

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy has issued a clarification regarding temporary measures introduced to prevent fuel hoarding and panic buying, following public concern over restrictions affecting the purchase of fuel in drums and jerry cans.

In a media statement issued on 11 May, the ministry said the measures were introduced to address artificial fuel shortages and ensure the security of fuel supply across the country. According to the ministry, Government is aware that many farmers, tourism operators, contractors, businesses, and private citizens regularly purchase fuel in bulk for legitimate operational purposes and not for hoarding. The ministry acknowledged that not all individuals and businesses requiring bulk fuel are in possession of consumer installation certificates. It has therefore instructed all fuel retail outlets and resellers to apply discretion when dealing with customers purchasing fuel in drums or petroleum jerry cans. Fuel station operators have been directed to request satisfactory explanations from customers and assess whether the fuel is intended for genuine farming, business, tourism, or other operational activities

rather than panic buying or stockpiling.

The ministry further called on licensed fuel wholesalers and retailers to assist in controlling panic buying by educating customers about the purpose of the temporary directives, which will remain in effect for the next three months. According to the statement, fuel marketing managers at service stations countrywide are expected to identify legitimate customers by requesting explanations or proof of activities where necessary. The ministry said the measures are intended to ensure that Namibians who genuinely require bulk fuel for operations and essential activities are not unfairly affected while authorities work to prevent artificial shortages in the market. The clarification follows growing public concern after reports emerged of restrictions on the filling of fuel drums and containers at some service stations across the country.

Higher Inflation Rate Causes Surge in Food Prices

Marshallino Beukes

According to the latest report on inflation rates as per the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) the inflation rate for April 2026 stood at 3.1%, up from 2.1% in March. This will see an increase in the main subcategories of Food and non-alcoholic beverages.

This report is an analysis of the performance of the monthly and annual inflation rates as measured by the Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI). Namibia's annual inflation rate increase marks the highest rate in four months, driven largely by surges in transport and housing costs. Monthly inflation also rose significantly by 1.1% compared to a 0.2% increase in March. The food price increases are as follow: Fruit (10.9%), Coffee and Tea (4.6%), Meat (3.8%), Vegetables (3.7%), Dairy and eggs (1.8%), Fish (1%), Oils and fats (0.9%), Sugar and sugar products such as

jam, honey, syrups, chocolate (0.9%), Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices (0.0%), Bread and cereals (-0.8%). "The main contributors to the 3.1 annual inflation rate for April 2026 were housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which contributed 1.1 percentage points, followed by transport contributing 0.7 percentage, Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributing 0.4 percentage points and alcoholic beverages and tobacco, contributed 0.3 percentage points," NSA stated.

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