

*New world... The advent of AI is fast transforming the world and the future of humanity.*

# AI can improve SOEs performance - **Shanapinda**

■ **Maihapa Ndjavera**

**A**rtificial Intelligence (AI) can be used as a tool to increase productivity and efficiency, particularly in Namibia where State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and public service in general are perceived as both inefficient and unproductive. This is according to Telecom Namibia CEO, Stanley Shanapinda, who believes AI-based systems can help turn around the perceived poor performance of the public sector.

Over the years, SOEs have been criticised for apparent roles in corruption, nepotism, mismanagement of public funds and abuse of power.

Speaking on the future of the AI landscape in Namibia, Shanapinda added there is real fear in Namibian employees that foreign and imported AI based solutions will risk local jobs.

“We must first invest in workers and their skills, bringing to bear the full weight of modern teaching methods and training technology, as well as new institutions, to help them drive the jobs of the future,” the Telecom CEO advised yesterday during a stakeholder engagement. The event at a local hotel specifically focussed on the implementation of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) recommendations on the ethics of AI.

The advent of AI is fast transforming the world and the future of humanity. Rapid technological advancements are key drivers of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. These technologies are blurring traditional boundaries of the physical, digital and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies and industries, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human.

Together with Unesco, Namibia took the lead to host the Southern Africa Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (SARFAI) last year. Following SARFAI, Unesco, in conjunction with the Namibian government, is striving to implement the recommendations on the ethics of AI and to embark on the development of a national

AI strategy for Namibia.

Meanwhile, Shanapinda advised that Namibia must improve employment systems, including laws that protect and support employees and the jobs they are trained to do. “And, there is a need to continue innovating, both in the institutional structures of local labour markets and in the technologies and new industries that create new jobs,” said Shanapinda.

According to him, there is a difficult balance to be struck between incentivising AI deployment versus ensuring job security, particularly due to a lack of skills to develop AI-based solutions and the skills to use AI-based systems.

“This is so given the threat of losing our jobs to machines, which machines will be deployed to make companies more efficient, profitable and increase national economic output which is clearly a benefit.

However, mass AI deployment may not necessarily translate into new jobs, especially for the youth, if the youth or existing employees are not trained in AI, to develop AI-systems that are Namibian-centric,” Shanapinda cautioned.

Furthermore, he noted that AI-based systems will make workers more productive if deployed, and if there is a huge rate of adoption and use thereof. This, he said, will have significant economic gains and achieve business efficiencies, and profitability. As a CEO, for business, he added this is a game changer which is good for business.

Moreover, CEO of the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Prof Anicia Peters said while there are a lot of good things about AI applications, there is also a risk if AI is not properly utilised. One of the risks is that AI can infringe on

human rights.

While AI has the potential to transform many aspects of our lives, it is important to ensure that its development and deployment are guided by respect for human rights.

“One of the most significant concerns related to AI and human rights is the right to privacy. AI has the ability to collect, analyse and use vast amounts of personal data, which can lead to the violation of privacy. For example, facial recognition technology has been used in some countries to track and monitor individuals, raising concerns about government surveillance and the infringement of privacy rights,” Peters pointed out.

Therefore, she advised that Namibia needs to ensure that while AI can be a good scientific development, it must be monitored to ensure it is correctly used.

Christophina Shilongo, a national AI

expert, said the right set of circumstances will lead to increased economic welfare gains from the expansion of big tech through the fair distribution of employment and business opportunities.

She said AI will further lead to digital policy initiatives which support inclusive and trustworthy access to digital technologies and services, including broadband connectivity.

“Prioritise enactment of rights-based data protection legislation in all jurisdictions. Ensure those harmed by the use of AI technologies are able to pursue legal action or have access to a fair trial of wronged through the use of data or an AI system. Develop partnership frameworks such as data sharing agreements or key professions and industries,” said Shilongo as part of her AI recommendations for Namibia.

– mndjavera@nepc.com.na

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

Notice is hereby given to all potentially Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) that application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER:** Urban Green cc

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**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS IS 27 SEPTEMBER 2023.**

Contact Brand van Zyl  
Tel: +264 – 61 – 300 820 / Fax: +264 – 61 – 401 294 /Email: [urbangreen@iway.na](mailto:urbangreen@iway.na)  
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**Let's work together...** Participants during Nampol's Training of Trainers workshop on the safety of journalists.

Photo: Paheja Siririka

## Fostering bond between police and media

■ Paheja Siririka

The Namibian Police have reminded journalists to be extra careful when covering volatile events, especially those that involve the presence of the police.

Speaking during Nampol's Training of Trainers workshop on the safety of journalists, Special Reserve Force inspector Shaun Cassidy Vries said sometimes media professionals tend to be part of the demonstrators which puts them in vulnerable positions.

"All we can advise journalists is for them to have their media jackets on, identify themselves, and always stay on the safe side because you do not know what we are going to do at these demonstrations... There are a lot of incidences like the one in Chinatown where journalists were part of the demonstrators. The same goes for #ShutItAllDown, where journalists were part of the demonstrators," he said.

Vries said once they go active, they use tear gas and rubber bullets, adding that these interventions do not kill people but rubber bullets are harmful while tear gas will have an effect on a person's breathing.

He urged journalists to always be on the safe side or on the rear of the police, adding, "Once that command comes, we concentrate

on the demonstrators, and we do not differentiate between media and demonstrators."

Some of the issues raised by the police include the non-identification by journalists at events, lack of cooperation/arrogance, sensational reporting or publishing unverified information, or impatience when waiting for information from the police, as well as provoking the law enforcers among others.

One Africa Television multimedia journalist Josia Shigwedha pleaded for speedy communication from the police.

"As journalists, we are supposed to inform society on some of the most delicate matters of public interest and create an important platform for public debate, scrutiny and reflection but that does not happen due to the law-enforcement not doing their part. Information is always provided late," he told New Era.

Shigwedha, who is a camera operator, highlighted that Vries' suggestion of the media staying behind the police during demonstrations for their own safety, compromises the quality of his work as he needs various shots from different angles.

He added that when one is in the moment and needs specific shots, safety hardly comes to mind. He, however, said the workshop came in

handy, saying it has provided them with an opportunity to learn and understand that journalists should be protected by law enforcement at all times.

The Namibian newspaper journalist Shelleygan Petersen said the media industry is small and there is no excuse for the police to not easily recognise a journalist who is on duty. She referenced cases where due diligence was done by the journalists but ended up getting hurt by the police.

"They must stop hiding behind that 'wear your media jacket and identify yourself'. Some of us have done that and we were still manhandled. During the #ShutItAllDown protest, I identified myself and was still pushed down the stairs by a law enforcer," said the disappointed Petersen.

Last year, an NBC radio producer Elphas Bonifatius laid a charge of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm after he was hit with rubber bullets by the police.

The Namibian Police have said they treat every gathering with seriousness, thoroughly preparing for anything that can happen, advising journalists to remain alert at such gatherings and follow the necessary rules and regulations expected of them.

psiririka@nepc.com.na

## Search for missing Omaruru man intensifies

■ Eveline de Klerk

**S**WAKOPMUND - The police have escalated their efforts in the search for Robby Michael, a resident of Omaruru, who went missing during a fishing trip to Henties Bay.

Michael's mysterious disappearance has left authorities puzzled and his loved ones deeply concerned.

The incident came to light when fishermen and residents travelling from Swakopmund to Henties Bay stumbled upon Michael's abandoned vehicle in the sea.

Police spokesperson

area at the time," Shapumba said.

The vehicle exhibited signs of significant damage, and, notably, the key was still in the ignition.

This has led investigators to suspect that Michael may have parked close to the sea to relax, inadvertently exposing his vehicle to the rising tide, which could have caused it to be engulfed by the sea.

"We have been searching for him since Sunday with no success. We have searched everywhere and [now] appealing to residents to report any information that could help us in tracing him," Shapumba appealed.

The Namibia



in Erongo, inspector Ileni Shapumba indicated that Michael went on a fishing trip with his friends but remained at the fishing site when his friends went to overnight at Henties Bay.

"His vehicle, a white extended cab Toyota D4D with registration number N 2426 OM was found in the ocean at Mile 72 camping area, approximately 40 kilometres north of Henties Bay. There was no one in the car or seen in the

Wildlife Resorts is also aware of the incident and has also issued a warning to the public about the dangers of parking vehicles too close to the water, especially during high tide.

"At the moment, we cannot confirm whether Michael was in the car when it was taken by the tide, as nobody has been retrieved," the NWR indicated yesterday. - edeklerk@nepc.com.na

**Missing... Robby Michael, a resident of Omaruru who went missing during a fishing trip to Henties Bay.** Photo: Contributed

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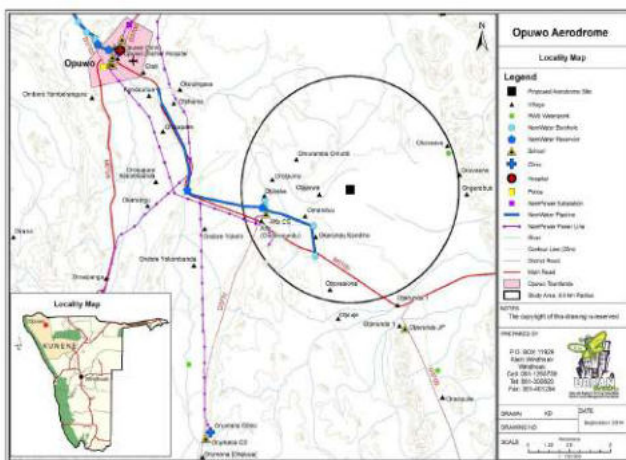
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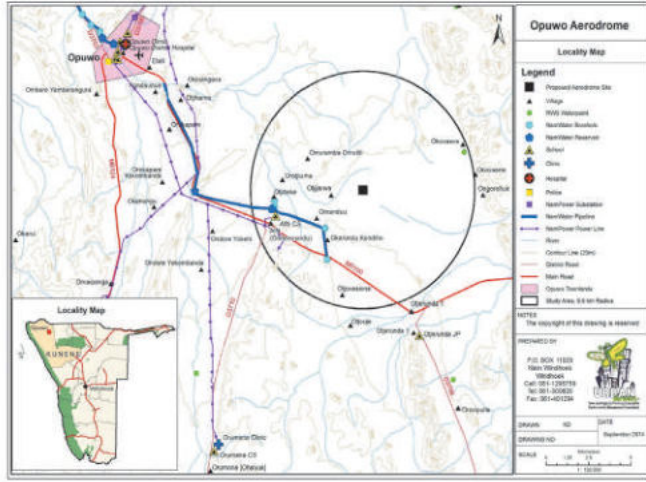




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Erongo RED Head Office, 91 Hage Geingob Street  
P. O. Box 2925, Walvis Bay, Namibia

Tel: +264 64 201 9000 | Fax: +264 64 201 9001  
Email: [support@erongored.com.na](mailto:support@erongored.com.na)



**TENDERS**

Erongo RED invites bidders to bid for the following Tender:

**TENDER NUMBER: 10/2023  
DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, AND HOST WEBSITE FOR ERONGO RED ON A SECURE PLATFORM FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The onus is upon the tenderer to ensure that tenders are deposited in the stipulated tender box before the closing date and time. No tender or quotation received by e-mail or fax will be considered unless the tender document specifically provides for it. Erongo RED is under no obligation to accept any tender whether the lowest or not. Erongo RED reserves the right to accept the full tender or only part thereof. Erongo RED is not under obligation to assign any reason for acceptance or rejection of a tender.

The Tender document will be available at the Erongo RED Headquarters, 91 Hage Geingob street. Documents in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the tender number: **E.g. Tender 10/2023** addressed to the Chairperson of the Tender Committee must be placed in the tender box at the Enquiries Desk at: Erongo RED Headquarters, 91 Hage Geingob Street, Ground Floor, Walvis Bay or be posted to the Chairperson of the Tender Committee, P.O. Box 2925, Walvis Bay, to reach him at the latest by: **Friday, 29 September 2023 @10h00 am.**

**MANDATORY DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

Company Registration documents, ID of owners or shareholders, and directors. Valid good standing Certificates with the Receiver of Revenue and the Social Security Commission. Further mandatory documents and requirements will be stipulated in the Tender Document.

All copies must be certified by the Namibian Police or Commissioner of Oath. Please note that no faxed or e-mailed documents, nor documents received after the specified closing date and time will be considered for evaluation.

**ENQUIRIES**

Enquiries: **Mrs. Anna S. David**  
Document Fees: **N\$ 367,00 (Non-refundable)**  
Email Address: [adavid@erongored.com.na](mailto:adavid@erongored.com.na)  
Telephone: **+264(0)64-201 9066**  
Tender Briefing: **Friday, 15 September via Microsoft Teams @10h00 am**

Tenderers can request the link to attend the meeting @ [adavid@erongored.com.na](mailto:adavid@erongored.com.na)

**CLOSING DATE:  
10h00 am on Friday, 29 September 2023.**

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**ENQUIRY NO. E102-ND-2023  
THE PROVISION OF SEWAGE REMOVAL SERVICES**

**SCOPE OF WORKS**

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd hereby invites reputable and suitably qualified service providers to submit their proposals to provide Sewage Removal Services in Southern Coastal Mines.

The Scope of Services shall primarily consist of:

- ❖ Collection and Disposal of Sewage Effluent; and
- ❖ Cleaning of sludge build-up inside septic tanks.

**COMPULSORY PHYSICAL SITE INSPECTION**

A compulsory Physical Site Inspection (PSI) shall be conducted on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at 09h00. Only Tenderers who attend the Site Inspection shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.**

**ENQUIRY DOCUMENTS**

Interested parties may contact Renee Strauss, at the below listed details, to register and obtain a copy of the enquiry documents:

Email: [renee.strauss@namdeb.com](mailto:renee.strauss@namdeb.com)  
Tel.: +264 (63) 238 502

**SUBMISSIONS**

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to [tender@namdeb.com](mailto:tender@namdeb.com)  
The closing date and time for submissions is: **11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 14h00.**

[www.namdeb.com](http://www.namdeb.com)



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**Duty Station:** Katima Mulilo, Onandjokwe, Oshakati, and Windhoek

**VACANCY: Senior Site Coordinator X33**

**Duty Station:** Eenhana, Engela, Katima Mulilo, Okahao, Okongo, Omuthiya, Onandjokwe, Oshakati, Oshikuku, Outapi, Tsandi, Tsumeb, & Windhoek

**VACANCY: SASA! Together Coordinator X3**

**Duty Station:** Windhoek

**VACANCY: Social Worker X12**

**Duty Station:** Eenhana, Engela, Katima Mulilo, Okongo, Omuthiya, Onandjokwe, Oshakati, Tsumeb, & Windhoek

**VACANCY: District Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer X9**

**Duty Station:** Windhoek, Oshakati, Katima Mulilo, Oshikuku/Okahao, Omuthiya, Onandjokwe/Tsumeb, Eenhana, and Engela/Okongo

**VACANCY: Data Clerk X49**

**Duty Station:** Windhoek, Oshakati, Omuthiya, Tsumeb, Onandjokwe, Eenhana, Engela, Okongo, Oshikuku, Okahao, Tsandi, Outapi and Katima Mulilo.

To apply please submit your application, CV, qualifications and ID through: <https://nieis.namibiaatwork.gov.na/> OR <https://www.projecthope.org/careers/> OR [hnamibia@projecthope.org](mailto:hnamibia@projecthope.org)  
NB: PLEASE SCAN ALL DOCUMENTS AS ONE PDF FILE

We encourage members from previously disadvantaged groups to apply. Please note only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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# Project Mukorob premiere met with mixed reactions

## ...filmmakers, artists express discontent over exclusion



MultiChoice managing director Roger Gertze

THE premiere celebration of Project Mukorob, a collection of 13 highly anticipated local film projects organised by MultiChoice Namibia, has sparked mixed reactions within Namibia's artistic community.

While the evening was originally envisioned as a grand showcase of local talent, it has left many filmmakers, actors, crew members and directors feeling excluded and disheartened.

Jenny Kandenge, an acclaimed theatre practitioner, filmmaker, author, scriptwriter and director, questioned the decision to exclude certain actors, writers, directors and entire crew members, pointing out that filmmaking involves a diverse team of individuals, from actors to writers and crew members.

"Why exclude the people who came up with the ideas for those films? And I have every right to question this because I not only wrote two of these films but also worked on three of them," Kandenge said.

Kandenge said everyone who contributed to these 13 films, in any capacity, had a right to be part of the celebration and their exclu-

sion appeared to favour certain individuals.

This sentiment is widely shared within the industry, with many believing that every individual who played a role, whether in front of or behind the camera, should have been included in the premiere celebration.

In response, MultiChoice managing director Roger Gertze acknowledged the challenge of accommodating all members of the 13 productions due to resource limitations.

"Following the premiere celebration event of the 13 local film projects known as Project Mukorob, MultiChoice Namibia would like to clarify that while we made efforts to include as many cast and crew members as possible, we were unable to accommodate everyone involved in the 13 productions. Like any event, we had to make concessions due to resource constraints and could only invite a select number of individuals," Gertze said.

MultiChoice Namibia reiterated its commitment to the local film and television industry, pledging increased investment in local productions through its hyper-localisation strategy.

"MultiChoice Namibia remains devoted to nurturing the Namibian film and television industry, benefiting both our industry and all the cast and crew involved in our projects and productions," Gertze said.

MultiChoice Namibia's collaboration with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) has enabled 13 local film production houses to showcase top-quality and unique Namibian stories.

The partnership aims not only to provide Namibian filmmakers with a platform but also to contribute to the local content creation industry and launch new talent into the field, a goal that some believe has not been fully achieved.

The 13 films are now available on platforms such as DStv, GOtv and Showmax, ensuring diverse access for viewers.

Additionally, five of the 13 films, produced in Afrikaans and other Namibian vernaculars, will be featured on KykNET & Kie, airing on Sundays at 20h00.

The broadcast of these films on NBC is scheduled to begin in December and continue until May 2025. — *unWrap.online*

# Viivi to represent Namibia at Top Model UK 2023

• PINEHAS NAKAZIKO

NAMIBIAN model Viivi Oiva Hamunyela (or Viivi) will represent Namibia at this year's Top Model United Kingdom 2023 beauty pageant.

The model, who is pursuing her education in the UK, says she was discovered for the pageant after participating in London Fashion Week last year.

The Top Model pageant is one of the UK's top

model awards, model searches and fashion events. It has a track record of finding new modelling talent, highlighting amazing designers, establishing careers and making dreams come true.

The main awards are scheduled for Saturday at The Grand Connaught Rooms in London, as part of the 16th season of the model awards, which will be held this year during

London Fashion Week.

"The fact that I have accomplished so much despite my career is definitely a dream come true. I'm motivated by the opportunity to represent Namibia on these global stages," says Viivi.

Viivi, who is overjoyed at the prospect of winning, promises to support and advance the modelling profession with her victory.

"I had plans on train-

ing upcoming models to follow their other passion of being successful models, and having visited so many countries, I do believe that as a country, this too contributes to tourism," she explains.

She adds that one's ability to succeed in their goals cannot be limited by their work or models.

Viivi has spent the last nine years working in the modelling industry.

She competed in Miss Tourism World in Vietnam a year ago, therefore, this is not her first overseas competition.

Viivi says, "I've taken part in many competitions, but I've always wanted to keep my life private. But with what I've accomplished so far

and the competitions I've entered, it's pretty much impossible."

The model, who was born at Walvis Bay, says she has been hosting model shows in her neighbourhood since she was eight years old.

"At one point, my mother used to pay me N\$5 to buy chips for the winner. One of my aunts, who always said I would make the best model in the world, was my inspiration.

"My best accomplishment has been persuading people as a lawyer and an entrepreneur. I constantly aim for the best," Viivi says.

She claims that participating in Top Model this year is a dream come true for her.



**RAMP WALK** ... Viivi will take part in the Top Model UK 2023 pageant slated for Saturday.

**Upcoming Events**

8 September 2023, **Gala Dinner**

18 - 29 September 2023, **School Sports Tournament**  
**Schools Brand Activation**  
**Sales Promotion**

30 September 2023, **Market Day**

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