

APP-006939

**LAND RECLAMATION AND BERTH 9 MODIFICATION  
PROJECT IN THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY, ERONGO  
REGION**

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March 2026

NEWS IN SHORT

**Robbers snatch N\$380 000 in broad daylight**

City Police spokesperson Superintendent Marcelline Murapo yesterday confirmed that a cash-in-transit robbery occurred in Windhoek on Saturday afternoon at Werahill shopping centre, during which an estimated N\$380 000 was stolen, although the final amount may be higher. Murapo also confirmed that footage that had circulated on social media was authentic and showed the five suspects fleeing the scene of the crime. She said investigations are ongoing, and police are appealing to members of the public to assist with information that could help trace the suspects.

- ELIOT IPINGE



**UNHCR Osire employee arrested for alleged cash fraud**

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) employee in Namibia, aged 36, employed as a community-based protection associate, has been arrested in connection with alleged fraud linked to the agency's cash-based initiative, which provides financial assistance to families at the Osire refugee camp. Police sources have confirmed the arrest. The suspect is expected to appear in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court today. In October, Namibian Sun reported that more than 100 refugees at Osire had not received payments under the cash-based initiative. The report cited alleged irregularities in the system, including cases where beneficiaries were recorded as having received funds despite having relocated from the camp. At the time, UNHCR acknowledged a funding shortfall, stating that assistance is prioritised for families "most in need."

- ELIOT IPINGE

● MAN SUSTAINED 14 STAB WOUNDS

**Autopsy casts doubt on initial police account of Rehoboth stabbing, suicide**

The family of the late George Haubab (26) say the police account of his death lacks credibility, citing post-mortem findings they claim indicate he was possibly assaulted and murdered.

ELIZABETH KHEIBES WINDHOEK



DOUBT CAST: The late George Haubab. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A** Rehoboth family is strongly disputing an initial police account of a fatal stabbing earlier this month after a forensic post-mortem report appeared to contradict claims that their relative died from self-inflicted stab wounds.

The police's initial report, issued shortly after the 5 December incident, said that 26-year-old George Haubab had allegedly stabbed his former girlfriend and her companion before turning the knife on himself.

The alleged victims survived the incident, police said, and were reported to be in critical condition.

However, the Haubab family have since released the post-mortem findings on social media, saying the report suggests their relative was assaulted and murdered.

The report raises questions about whether the 14 stab wounds sustained by Haubab were self-inflicted and appears to indicate Haubab suffered several defensive wounds.

This has triggered a public outcry.

The incident occurred on 2nd Street, Block E, Rehoboth, left Haubab dead.

"It is alleged that the deceased arrived at his then girlfriend's home, found her with another man, and immediately launched a violent attack," the initial police report had stated. "The male victim managed to escape but sustained serious injuries. The woman was also stabbed multiple

times. Both remain in critical condition in a Windhoek hospital."

Neighbours at the time told police they fled after Haubab allegedly threatened them with an okapi knife. He reportedly collapsed nearby and died before paramedics arrived.

**Initial findings not final**  
On Friday, amid growing public outcry, police spokesperson Deputy Commissioner Kauna Shikwambi urged restraint, stressing that initial police reports are not conclusive while investigations are ongoing.

She also criticised the circulation of the confidential autopsy report on social media.

"First and foremost, I strongly condemn the circulation of sensitive and confidential autopsy results on social media.

While the distress and outcry are noted, the dissemination of such information, especially that forming part of an ongoing investigation, is not encouraged."

The deputy commissioner explained that crime reports are based on real-time information available at the time, often provided quickly to respond to media queries.

"These are preliminary reports. Such information is subject to change. This is why we often state: 'Police investigation continues,' indicating that the situation may evolve as new evidence is gathered."

Shikwambi stressed that investigations are gradual processes, involving evidence collection and witness statements.

"Suggesting that our updates are contradictory somehow undermines our

diligent efforts to respond, share, update and keep the public informed," she noted. "In the end, the truth will always be known."

**Forensic findings**

The autopsy report issued by the Namibian Police Force's Forensic Pathology Division and seen by Namibian Sun confirmed that Haubab sustained 14 stab wounds, including four fatal injuries to the heart, chest and neck.

The medical certificate concluded that Haubab died from a major laceration of the heart accompanied by haemopericardium, as well as a lacerated internal jugular vein and significant bleeding in the chest cavity. These injuries were described as the result of an assault involving a knife.

A detailed medico-legal examination conducted by forensic pathologist Dr Soraya Cher Podewiltz documented deep chest wounds penetrating the thoracic cavity, including two that pierced the right ventricle of the heart and another that entered the upper lobe of the right lung.

Sharp-force injuries to the neck were also confirmed.

**Suicide disputed, petition launched**

The Haubab family has since submitted a petition to the acting police commissioner in Marien- tal, arguing that the initial police report "lacked credibility" and failed to reflect the true circumstances of Haubab's death.

They further argued that law enforcement failed to collect statements from all relevant parties before releasing the initial report, undermining confidence in the early investigative process.

Responding to the family's concerns, Shikwambi said

once an investigation is launched, the facts surrounding a matter may change. She said added that the police will continue to investigate the incident thoroughly. The two surviving victims remain in critical condition in a Windhoek hospital, while the probe into Haubab's death, now under heightened scrutiny, continues.

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**WE'RE FOR NAMBIANS**

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NEWS IN SHORT

**Police set record straight on fake news bakkie claims**

Police have dismissed social media claims that officers used an official police bakkie to tow a private trailer for a wedding in the Oshikango area and fuelled it with so-called 'Ngungula' - illegal fuel. Police Inspector Joseph Shikongo said the allegations are false and misrepresent an incident that occurred more than a year ago. He said the matter referred to in the circulating audio clips took place in May 2024 in Fransfontein, not Oshikango, and was connected to an active stock theft investigation. He said a Toyota Hilux, registration number POL 9451, was deployed to recover three stolen donkeys following a report to the police. The complainant provided a private trailer to assist with transporting the animals, which were recovered during the operation. Two suspects were arrested. Shikongo stressed that the police vehicle was not used for any private purpose and that the operation was unrelated to a wedding. He urged the public to avoid sharing misleading or defamatory content on social media and encouraged people to verify information with the police or other relevant authorities before circulating it. - ELIOT IPINGE

**Namport signs MoU with Suez Canal Authority**

Namport signed an MoU with the Suez Canal Authority last week to strengthen Namibia's position within the global maritime and logistics network. The agreement focuses on cooperation in key strategic areas, including capacity building, port infrastructure development, marine asset management, dredging expertise and the exchange of technical and operational information. Namport said the partnership supports its broader ambition to position Namibia as a leading regional logistics hub and transhipment centre on Africa's western seaboard, leveraging the country's ports to improve connectivity between southern Africa and international shipping routes. The collaboration also builds on the longstanding bilateral relationship between Namibia and Egypt. Namport noted that cooperation with the Suez Canal Authority, one of the world's most strategically important maritime institutions, is expected to contribute to improved port operations, skills development and long-term infrastructure planning in Namibia. - STAFF REPORTER

**Geingob's top economic team exits - did they deliver?**

• REFLECTIONS

As Geingob's dream team departs, Namibia faces a pressing question: did those empowered to wield real influence generate tangible improvements for ordinary citizens?

STAFF REPORTER  
WINDHOEK

Johannes !Gawaxab and Nangula Uaandja will both leave office at the end of the month, drawing the curtain on a quiet but powerful chapter in Namibia's recent economic history. Their departures signal more than routine leadership changes. They mark the fading presence of the technocratic core that once formed the intellectual backbone of the late former president Hage Geingob's economic recovery agenda.

Both !Gawaxab and Uaandja were central figures on the high-level economic panel appointed by Geingob in 2019 - a panel born from his 2018 pledge to establish a presidential economic advisory council to help steer the country out of stagnation.

As the figures Geingob once entrusted to conceive, design and implement economic recovery now depart, Namibia confronts an unavoidable question: did the team empowered by the country's top leader to wield economic influence deliver real changes that improved the lives of ordinary Namibians?

!Gawaxab chaired the high-level panel and quickly emerged as one of Geingob's most influential economic thinkers.

In June 2020, he officially assumed office as governor of the Bank of Namibia, initially on an 18-month term. His mandate was later extended, and he was reappointed for a full five-year term from 1 January 2022 - a term that was supposed to run until January 2027.

Instead, he is stepping down earlier, bringing to a close a tenure that coincided with some of Namibia's most difficult economic moments.

**Similar path**

Serving as !Gawaxab's deputy on the panel was Nangula Uaandja. Her rise followed a similar trajectory from adviser to executive authority.

Uaandja subsequently became the founding chief executive officer of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), an institution created directly on the panel's recommendation.

Under Geingob, the NIPDB reported directly to State House and operated as an autonomous body, reflecting the former president's belief that investment promotion needs insulation from bureaucratic inertia.

That changed under the new administration, when the NIPDB was placed under the trade ministry.

On Thursday, the board announced that Uaandja would also bow out at the end of December.

Another prominent panel member, James Mnyupe, exited earlier than his counterparts.



Johannes !Gawaxab. PHOTOS: FILE



James Mnyupe.



Nangula Uaandja.

After about a year on the panel, he was appointed Geingob's presidential economic adviser, a role that placed him at the centre of financial decision-making.

He later became Namibia's green hydrogen commissioner, again reporting directly to Geingob. Like Uaandja, his authority flowed from the Presidency rather than a line ministry.

Mnyupe has since also left that role. Viewed together, these departures tell a coherent story. Geingob did not simply convene a panel to advise him. He elevated its members into positions of real power, expecting ideas to move swiftly from institutions into outcomes.

The former head of state gave these technocrats proximity to power, political cover and the authority to act.

**A more complex question**

That is why the focus should not rest on Geingob himself. He kept his promise. He created the panel. He trusted and empowered its members. The more complex question - the one that now hangs in the air - is whether those given the jobs delivered what the country needed.

Under !Gawaxab, the Bank of Namibia remained stable through the Covid-19 shock, global inflation and tightening monetary conditions. Institutional credibility was preserved, and the financial system was held. But for many Namibians, stability did not translate into opportunity.

Unemployment, particularly among the youth, remained stubbornly high. Living costs rose faster than incomes. Poverty and informality deepened.

Uaandja's NIPDB was billed as a game-changer: a one-stop investment body designed to unlock capital, cut red tape and drive industrialisation.

Yet investment outcomes remained uneven and the promised wave of transformative projects has been slow to materialise.

Mnyupe's green hydrogen drive positioned Namibia boldly on the global energy map, but its benefits remain largely in the future, still far removed from households struggling to meet daily needs.

None of this ignores the context in which they served. Covid-19 disrupted economies everywhere. Fiscal space was tight. Structural problems were inherited. But

leadership is ultimately measured by translation - by whether ideas move beyond policy boardrooms and into people's lives.

As Geingob's economic chosen thinkers now leave the stage, Namibia is left with reflection rather than accusation.

Did the country feel the work of its brightest technocrats? Did economic expertise translate into dignity, jobs and opportunity for the majority? Or did too much remain confined to strategy documents, institutions and elite conversations?

Geingob believed deeply in expertise. He believed Namibia could think its way out of a crisis. The people he appointed were given the platform to prove that belief right.

Their departure now shifts the burden of judgement to the only place it truly belongs: the lived experience of ordinary Namibians.

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» **Vrou ly** onder jare van pyn en ongemak

# Chirurgiese naald 20 jaar later 'ontdek'

Dit is na bewering in 2002 in die vrou agter gelaat ná die geboorte van haar kind.

Rita Kakelo

'n Vrou van Windhoek eis meer as 'n miljoen in skadevergoeding, nadat 'n chirurgiese naald meer as twee dekades later in haar ontdeken verwyder is.

Die chirurgiese naald is na bewering in 2002 tydens die geboorte van haar kind agtergelaat, met N\$1,5 miljoen wat van die ministerie van gesondheid en maatskaplike dienste geëis word.

Die vrou wie se identiteit weerhou word om haar privaatheid te beskerm, het die eis ingedien 'n jaar nadat 'n ginekoloog by die Katutura-staats-hospitaal die naald tydens opvolg-ondersoek ontdek het.

Volgens hofdokumente het mediese personeel by die staats-hospitaal

op Otjiwarongo versuim om die chirurgiese naald na die uitvoer van 'n keisersnee en die herstel van 'n perineale skeur op 1 Junie 2002 te verwyder.

"Op 1 Junie 2002, terwyl die klaer kraampyne ervaar het, is sy in die Okakarara-staatsklinik opgeneem. Nadat sy ondersoek is, is sy na die bevallingskamer oorgeplaas. 'n Senior verpleegster het opgemerk dat sy nog nie voldoende ontsluit het nie en het vir haar gesê om te stap in 'n poging om die kraamproses te versnel," lui die hofdokumente.

Die vrou is gevolglik per ambulans na die staats-hospitaal op Otjiwarongo vervoer, omdat die klinik net een dokter beskikbaar gehad het wat op hierdie tyd stip na ongelukslagoffers omsien het.

Tydens die oordrag na die staats-hospitaal het die vrou na bewering haar bewussyn verloor en eers met haar aankoms van haar omgewing bewus geword. Sy was toe 29 jaar oud.

Sedertdien het sy volgehoue pyn, ongemak en herhaalde infeksies oor die jare ervaar saam met 'n vrees vir seksuele intimiteit.

Sy het by verskeie staatsgeriewe vir behandeling gaan aanklop waaronder die Robert Mugabe-kliniek, asook die Khomasdal- en Katutura-gesondheidsentrums in Windhoek. Volgens die besonderhede van haar eis is sy herhaaldelik huis toe gestuur met pynmedikasie, antibiotika en verwysings – sonder voldoende ondersoek na die oorsaak van haar simptome.

Die chirurgiese naald is eers op 26 September verlede jaar in haar linkerlabia ontdek en is later in die Katutura-staats-hospitaal verwyder.

Die daervooraan dat die ministerie se mediese personeel versuim het om, ten spyte van haar voortdurende klages oor meer as 20 jaar, die verwagte standaard van sorg toe te pas of om haar na 'n spesialis te verwys.

Sy beweer die voortdurende lyding het emosionele trauma, vrees vir

seksuele intimiteit, fisieke pyn en 'n beduidende verlies aan lewensgehalte veroorsaak. Haar skadevergoedingseis sluit in N\$500 000 vir emosionele lyding, N\$500 000 vir trauma en ang, N\$250 000 vir fisiese beserings, N\$250 000 ongemak en pyn en N\$50 000 vir verwagte sielkundige berading. Die ministerie wat deur die regering se regsverteenwoordiger verteenwoordig word, moet nog sy pleit indien.

Volgens die senior regsbeampte, Deon Ndana, sukkel die ministerie ten spyte van herhaalde versoeke om instruksies van die staats-hospitaal op Otjiwarongo te kry. Die ministerie beplan om aansoek om uitstel te doen om sy pleit

en teëns in te dien.

Die saak is tot 4 Februarie aanstaande jaar vir 'n verwysing vir mediasieverhoor uitgestel.

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# Botswana-terugkerendes trek na hervestigingsplase

Jacques du Toit

Honderde Namibiese afstammelinge wat vanaf Botswana na Gam in die Otjozondjupa-streek vir hervestiging terugkeer het, het begin verhuis na hul permanente nedersettings by Otjipahewa.

Dit is deur die minister van landbou, visserye, water en grondhervorming, Inge Zaamwani, tydens haar besoek aan Gam einde verlede week bevestig.

Zaamwani het die families opdrag gegee oor die hervestigingsproses: "Elke gesin wat op 20 September deur die regering ontvang is, sowel as diegene wat daarna aangekom het, moet voorberei om na Otjipahewa te verhuis vir die toekenning van landbougrond. Julle samewerking om hierdie proses te begin, sal hoogs waardeer word en moet ideaal gesproke teen die einde van Januarie 2026 voltooi wees."



Terugkerendes van Botswana vergader by Gam en berei voor vir hul hervestiging na permanente by Otjipahewa. FOTO'S MAFWLR

Sy het bygevoeg dat "die regering vervoerbystand sal verskaf en alle kwalifiserende individue word aangemoedig om hierdie ondersteuning te gebruik". Zaamwani het bevestig sommige vragmotors wat aangewys is vir die reis na Otjipahewa het aangekom, terwyl ander op pad is.

Die minister het ook aangekondig dat die ministerie in samewerking

met die Kambazembi tradisionele owerheid van hierdie gebied binnekort agt boerdery-eenhede van plase wat deur die regering gekoop is, aan agt families uit die groep sal toeken. Na aanleiding van hierdie aankondiging word verwag dat daardie families binne 30 dae na hul boerdery-eenhede sal trek.

Zaamwani het die regering se belegging in infra-

struktuur by Gam vir die hervestiging uitgelig en gesê: "Tot op hede het die regering meer as N\$115 miljoen in hierdie inisiatief belê." Dit is gebruik vir onder meer die bou van moderne waterinfrastruktuur sowel as 'n veeldoelige kraal.

Die regering se aankoop van ses plase van 23 000 hektaar ter waarde van N\$60 miljoen sal in Noordery-eenhede in die streke van Otjozondjupa, Hardap en Omaheke vir kwalifiserende families onderverdeel word.

Sy het die gemeenskap aangespoor om saam te staan tydens die oorgangsfase en beklemtoon: "Die handhawing van saameenhede sal julle in staat stel om interne en eksterne uitdagings wat tydens julle hervestiging mag ontstaan."

Zaamwani het inwoners ook herinner aan die regering se verbintenisse tot integrasie en gesê: "Die regering is daartoe verbind



om julle volle integrasie in die Namibiese samelewing te ondersteun."

Sy het 'n beroep gedoen op samewerking in die vestiging van produktiewe huishoudings: "Ek vra julle mede-Namibiërs om verenig te bly en met julle regering saam te werk om te verseker dat die hervestigingsproses lei tot die vestiging van produktiewe huishoudings wat uiteindelik sal bydra tot selfstandigheid en veerkragtigheid."

Die minister het afgesluit met die woorde: "Jul besluit om na jul land terug te keer is beide prysenswaardig en betekenisvol. Jul liefde vir jul land word met respek deur die huidige en toekomstige geslagte geag. Ons dank die Almagtige God wat dit vir ons moontlik gemaak het om vandag hier te wees, byna 15 maande sedert jul aankoms in jul Moederland vanuit Botswana."

-jacques@nmh-hub.com.na

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**WEER**

**WEERWAAK:** Swaar reënval met kitsvloede op plekke is heel waarskynlik in die streke van Omusati, Oshana, Kavango-Oos, Otjozondjupa en Khomas.  
**BINNELAND:** Gedeeltelik bewolk en warm tot baie warm met gelsoleerde donderdrie in //Kharas, maar verspreid tot wydverspreid in die noordweslike en sentrale gedeeltes.  
**KUS:** Gedeeltelik bewolk en matig tot warm met miskolle.  
**GETYE BY WALVISBAAI:** L:10:33 H:16:47 L:22:45

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Meer as 10 000 eenhede sal versprei word oor Omusati, Oshana en Khomas, die streke wat geïdentifiseer is as die gebiede met die hoogste las van dierewervante padsterftes.

Dierewelsynorganisasies se soortgelyke maatreëls is reeds as doeltreffend bewys. Janine van Rooyen van die Namibiese Vereniging vir Dierewelsyn (Nawa) het aan Network Media Hub (NMH) gesê haar organisasie gebruik reeds die afgelope drie jaar weerkaatsers op werkende donkies, perde en donkiekarretjies, eerder as op vrylopende diere.

Volgens Van Rooyen het die ministerie Nawa sowat agt maande gelede gekontak, nadat hulle die weerkaatsers gesien het wat in die organisasie se plasing op sosiale media was.

"Hulle het in ons foto's op sosiale media gesien waar ons weerkaatsers

in klein dorpie gebruik waar motoriste teen 'n hoë spoed ry. Die ministerie het ons toe genader vir idees en ons het van ons voorbeelde vir hulle gegee. Ons gebruik wit elastiese weerkaatsers, wat hulle nie gebruik het nie," het Van Rooyen gesê.

Volgens haar het Nawa tot dusver weerkaatsers op meer as 350 donkies en perde aangebring. Sy het egter die omvang van die ministerie se benadering bevestig en voorgestel dat die loodsprojek op 'n kleiner skaal begin en op minder kategorieë diere fokus.

Sylvia Breitenstein, direkteur van bedrywighede van die Windhoek SPCA, het voorgestel dat die projek meer doeltreffend sou wees as weerkaatsers eerder as oorplaatjies aangebring word. "Mense sorg nie vir hul diere nie, en as 'n diere met die nekweerkaatsers vassit en dit word nie gevind nie, is dit iets anders," het sy gesê.

Ten spyte van verskillende sienings oor implementering, stem dierewelsynsgroepe en regeringsamp-tenare saam dat die vermindering van

dierewervante ongelukke 'n dringende veiligheidskwesie op Namibiese paale bly.

Namibië is nie die eerste land wat donkie-weerkaatsers as 'n padveiligheidsmaatreël gebruik nie. In Noord-Botswana het dierewelsynorganisasies en liefdadighedsorganisasies jare lank weerkaatsende oorplaatjies op vrylopende donkies aangebring om nagtelike ongelukke op swak beligte landelike paale te verminder.

Soortgelyke reflektorkonsepte is ook in ander dele van Afrika ondersoek, insluitend Somalië, waar dit vir donkiekarre voorgestel is.

**KRITIKI**

Nekundi het die projek verdedig as 'n noodsaaklike, kostedoeltreffende ingryping vir padveiligheid.

"Dit is hartverskeurend om die verlies van soveel ekonomies aktiewe Namibiërs te aanskou, wat gesinne in hartseer en ontbering laat," het Nekundi gesê. "Padveiligheid is 'n persoonlike verantwoordelijkheid, en hierdie

reflektors is 'n belangrike stap in die vermindering van die voorkombare slagting op ons paale."

Hy het aangevoer dat die uitgawes beskeie is in vergelyking met die koste van grootskaalse infrastruktuur soos uitgebreide heining langs paale en het beklemtoon dat padveiligheid politieke debat moet oorskry.

Statistieke wys dat beeste, donkies en honde verantwoordelik is vir die meerderheid van dierewervante ongelukke, met die drie proefgebiede wat verantwoordelik is vir meer as 40% van die verwante sterftes.

Teryll die reflektors bedoel is om motoriste te help om gevare vroeër te identifiseer, het Nekundi gewaarsku dat tegnologie alleen nie die probleem sou oplos nie.

"Al wat julle hulle te doen, is om te bestuur teryll julle ngters is sodat julle die weerkaatsers kan sien," het Nekundi gemaak. Hy het beklemtoon dat sy ministerie volle samewerking van verwante rolspelers insluitend die Nasionale Padveiligheidsraad verwag.

**Low**

**VAN BL. 1**

Sy het haar dank uitgespreek vir die konvooi, die gedenkdiens en die teenwoordigheid van die gemeenskap wat haar man gedien het. Low was 'n stigterslid van LifeLink Emergency Services in Hentiesbaai en het die dorp en omliggende strek vir ongeveer 19 jaar gedien. Sprekers het tydens die gedenkdiens ook talle reddingsaksies onthou waartydens Low betrokke was onder meer 'n voorval waartydens vyf seuns amper verdink het. "Vn enigemand in Hentiesbaai," het die goewerneur gesê.

"Hulle sal sê: Dit is ons Brian. Hy het my pa gered, hy het my broer gered, hy het ons ma gered." Low het verdink nadat hy deur die see meegesleur is tydens die reddingspoging wat drie tieneuseuns gered het. -adam@republieken.com.na

**Hester**

**VAN BL. 1**

Oor die titel van die boek, *Kreef & Kaiings*, vertel sy van die dag toe sy en haar boerman Johnnie, hul oudste dogter se vrieskas vir haar ontries in reg gepak het. Twee sakkies was op die tafel oor: Een met twee kreefsterfte, en een met kaiings. Die kreef het haar dogter by haar skoonouers gekry in die Oos-Kaap, die kaiings was van hul Namibiese plaas af. Dit gaan oor die lewe se beter en slegter dae, verduidelik Hester. Kreefdae is die uitstierdae - wanneer jy jou lippe rooi maak, parfuum aansit en die luuksheid geniet wat soms oor jou pad kom. "Kaiingdae is daardie hartseer dae wanneer jy terug verlang na jou komvandaan," sê sy. Maar, aan die einde van die dag is beide nodig vir 'n gebalanseerde bestaan, beklemtoon Hester. Dit anker jou.

Sy woon tans as gevolg van die droogte in die Kaap. "Ons moes 'n manier kry om die wolf van die deur weg te hou, en ek het die geleentheid gekry om daar te gaan werk." Dis 'n tydelike reëling,



beklemtoon Hester, totdat die reën kom. En sy en boerman Johnnie glo en vertrou dat dit kortstondig sal wees.

Sy is 5 Januarie 2025 weg van die plaas af, en het die 13 de Desember vir die eerste keer weer huis toe gekom en haar hart juig!

"Dit voel soms asof ek nooit weg was nie, en soms voel dit soos 'n ewigheid. Ek het darem my boerman in Maart en November gesien met ons kleinseuntjie se geboorte en doop in Suid-Afrika."

Die Kaap het haar egter wonderlike geleenthede gebied. Sy het mense ontmoet wat haar opgelig het, en die boek

het net gebeur, vertel 'n dankbare Hester. 'n Wildvreemde vrou, Petro Swanepoel, het haar gekontak en gevra of sy kan kom koffie drink. Petro het gekom en sy en Hester het soos ou vriendinne gesels.

"Sy het gesê sy voel my stories moet in 'n boek vrygestel word sodat dit meer mense kan bereik, want dit het baie vir haar beteken. Ek het gesê ek sal daaroor dink."

Sy was heeltemal oorweldig en het nie geweet hoe om dit te hanteer nie, erken Hester, want Petro het aangebied om die geld voor te skiet.

"Ek was uit die veld geslaan toe 'n uitgewer

my twee dae later kontak en sê dat Petro vir haar van my skrywes gewys het, en sy dink ons moet 'n boek maak. Toe gebeur dit!"

Hester het ook die wonderlike geleentheid gehad dat van haar gedigte in verskeie bundels opgeneem is. Sy was ook die wenner van die Ink in Afrikaans-kompetisie, verower die goue kategorie met haar gedig "Leonardville", asook die groot landwyd kompetisie met die gedig "Weerkaatsings".

Daarby stap Hester weg met twee ATKV Veertjies in Namibië. Een vir *Kreef & Kaiings*, asook 'n ongepubliseerde manuskrip, *Stof en Sterre*, 'n digbundel. Hester is ook met die Herman van Wyk Prosa- en die Oswald Rall Theat-rys beloon.

"Hierdie was vir my 'n ongelooflike groot voorreg. Afrikaans is vir my die mooiste taal denkbaar, en ek voel bevoorreg dat ek my gedagtes en gevoelens kan uitdruk in die taal van my hart!"

*Kreef & Kaiings* kan per whatsapp by Hester bestel word - die sein is te swak op die plaas vir bel! Haar nommer is 081 124 5467 en die prys is N\$280, plus N\$70

posgeld. "Ons laat lewer af. My dogter, Sandri Coetzer, sal die versendings hanteer." As jy Hester se hartsboek wil bestel, is haar rekeningbesonderhede soos volg:

Hester Steenkamp, FNB Mariental, tjekrekening 62085588576, takkode: 280471; verwysing: Jou naam en van.

Hester laat weet van die plaas die week hulle het reën gehad en by die huis en Kortpomp is 22 mm uitgegoed, by Sleepwapos 17 mm.

"Groot dele van die plaas is nog baie droë, ander het 'n mooi lewetjie. Ons is dankbaar. Vir Desember is dit wonderlik!"

Dis verstommend hoe gewillig die veld steeds is, al is dit deur groot trauma die laaste klompie jare, en al is die reën min en ver uit mekaar, skryf sy. Die lieue Vader het hulle bederf met veld wat veerkragtig is.

Die natuur sal nooit ophou om haar asem wegte slaan nie, erkensy. "Dit het gisteraand laat gereën, en vanmiddag begroet nege rooibeenlesies ons in 'n klein pannetjie staande water. Wie hulle vertel

het en waarvandaan hulle kom, kan ek nie sê nie. Maar hulle weet. En hulle kom. Daaroor is ons ook dankbaar."

Hester en haar boerman Johnnie bid vir opvolg, sodat elke plant en dier en mens vir 'n slag diep kan asemhaal. "Ons glo," sê sy.

-henriette@republieken.com.na

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: BERTH 9 MODIFICATION PROJECT IN THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY, ERONGO REGION**

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) to undertake an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed modification of Berth 9 in the Port of Walvis Bay. The project will entail reclamation of the water area between Berth 9 and the container terminal, reconfiguration and extension of the existing berth interface, and creation of approximately 4.7 ha of additional backup land with associated berthing areas. This will allow for the berthing of additional vessels and increased cargo handling and storage capacity within the existing port footprint, without the need for expanding the port inland. Additional and location information pertaining to the project and proposed operations can be obtained at:

<http://www.thenamib.com/projects/projects.html>

The environmental assessment is conducted according to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and its regulations as published in 2012.

Interested and affected parties are invited to register with the environmental consultant to be provided with the opportunity to share comments, issues or concerns related to the project, for consideration in the EA. Registration, requests for additional information, and comments and concerns should be submitted to Geo Pollution Technologies by 05 January 2026.

André Faul  
Geo Pollution Technologies  
Tel: +264-81-1491092  
E-Mail: berth9@thenamib.com

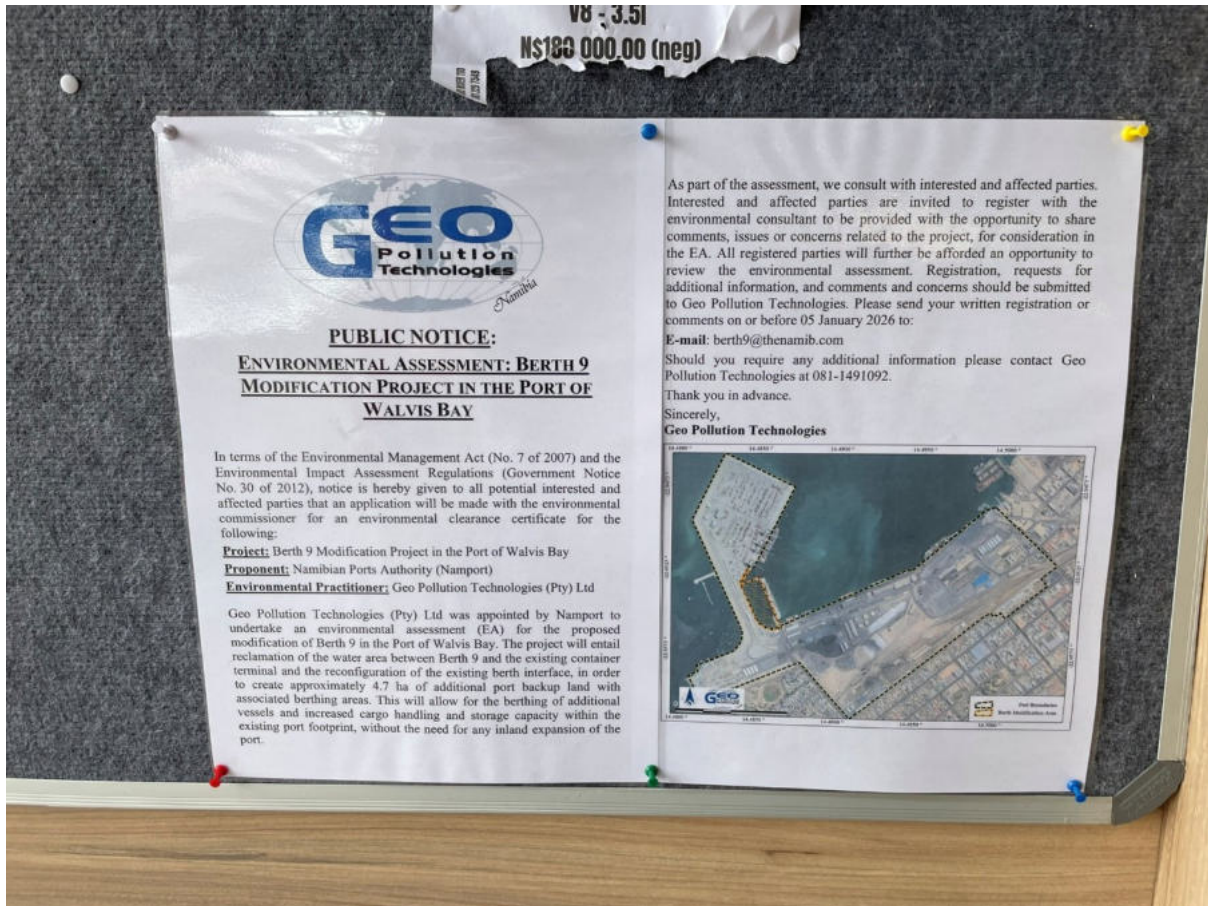
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**PUBLIC NOTICE:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: BERTH 9**  
**MODIFICATION PROJECT IN THE PORT OF**  
**WALVIS BAY**

In terms of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice No. 30 of 2012), notice is hereby given to all potential interested and affected parties that an application will be made with the environmental commissioner for an environmental clearance certificate for the following:

**Project:** Berth 9 Modification Project in the Port of Walvis Bay

**Proponent:** Namibian Ports Authority (Namport)

**Environmental Practitioner:** Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Namport to undertake an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed modification of Berth 9 in the Port of Walvis Bay. The project will entail reclamation of the water area between Berth 9 and the existing container terminal and the reconfiguration of the existing berth interface, in order to create approximately 4.7 ha of additional port backup land with associated berthing areas. This will allow for the berthing of additional vessels and increased cargo handling and storage capacity within the existing port footprint, without the need for any inland expansion of the port.

As part of the assessment, we consult with interested and affected parties. Interested and affected parties are invited to register with the environmental consultant to be provided with the opportunity to share comments, issues or concerns related to the project, for consideration in the EA. All registered parties will further be afforded an opportunity to review the environmental assessment. Registration, requests for additional information, and comments and concerns should be submitted to Geo Pollution Technologies. Please send your written registration or comments on or before 05 January 2026 to:

**E-mail:** berth9@thenamib.com

Should you require any additional information please contact Geo Pollution Technologies at 081-1491092.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

**Geo Pollution Technologies**

