MODERNISING NAMIBIA'S FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE FOR A PROSPEROUS NAMIBIA

GOVERNOR J. !GAWAXAB 01 October 2024





DISCLAIMER

The content presented herein is for informational purposes only. For any questions or inquiries regarding the topics discussed, please contact us through our standard communication channel at info@bon.com.na. This information should not be used as a basis for financial or investment decisions.

The Bank of Namibia assumes no responsibility for decisions made based on the content of this presentation.



"A cradle of innovation and the birthplace of transformative ideas"

Without innovation, regulation becomes lifeless tradition. Yet without regulation and stability, innovation lacks the trust needed for lasting impact. Trust is the sine qua non of sustainability. Both are essential, working together to create a sustainable future.

THE ROLE AND CHALLENGES IN THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM



ROLE OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM



FUNCTIONING OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

ENSURES LIQUIDITY IN THE MARKET

MANAGE RISK DIVERSIFICATION FOSTER INNOVATION & COMPETITION

CHALLENGES IN THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM



TECHNOLOGICAL & ECONOMIC CHANGES EXCLUSION OF INFORMAL & URBAN NAMIBIA **POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC** **CLIMATE CHANGE**

LINK BETWEEN MODERNISATION, THE BANK'S STRATEGY AND THE ECONOMY



THE BANK'S STRATEGY ON MODERNISING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM



Build an innovative, agile central bank responsive to an everchanging operating environment.

Build a resilient and inclusive financial sector.



Ensure the financial sector lays the foundation for a diversified and transformed economy.

HOW THE BANK INTENDS TO MODERNISE THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM



MODERNISING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Our modernisation and innovation journey are underpinned by a focus on:





MODERNISING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Ensuring that monetary policy supports the development efforts to transform the Namibian economy and address poverty, inequality, and unemployment



02 CAPITALISE ON GLOBAL FINANCIAL INNOVATIONS



GAZE INTO THE FUTURE MONETARY SYSTEM

CBDCs, STABLECOINS, CRYPTOCURRENCIES & TOKENISATION

A NEW HORIZON FOR CENTRAL BANKS

-		2
$ \square $	/ =	

03

CBDCs: Digital money created by a country's central bank that people can use for buying and selling, just like cash but in electronic form.

STABLECOINS: Digital currency tied to a stable asset, like the US dollar, to keep its value steady. They aim to combine the benefits of cryptocurrencies with the stability of traditional money.

CRYPTOCURRENCIES: Virtual currencies that use cryptography for security and operate on a technology called blockchain. They are decentralized and not controlled by any government or central authority

TOKENISATION: Turning real things, like property or art, into digital assets on a computer system. These tokens show who owns the item and make it easier to buy or sell.



CASH REMAINS KING



02

\$5.2 BILLION

Currency in Circulation (CIC) 2023

BANK OF NAMIBIA

00 NS 20





INSTANT PAYMENT SOLUTION

The Instant Payment Solution enables real-time transfer of funds between bank accounts 24/7 and will be introduced in Namibia with a Go-Live date slated for September 2025.

KEY BENEFITS OF THE INSTANT PAYMENT SOLUTION



APPROVEI

INSTANT PAYMENT SOLUTION VIDEO



WHAT THE BANK HAS DONE THROUGH ADOPTING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA



ADOPTING THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA





EMBRACING AUTOMATION

Creating an Automation Centre of Excellence to enhance operational efficiency and minimise manual interventions.



Freeing staff from cumbersome, manual work that took days to complete.

GOVERNMENT PAYMENT PORTAL

online portal for payments to be uploaded and a robot to automatically process the transactions, reducing the processing time per transaction from 30 to 2 minutes. **CONT'**





ADVANCED DATA ANALYTICS

Greater visibility into operations enabled data-driven decision-making and facilitated a culture of continuous improvement.

MONETARY POLICY MANDATE

Automated the collection of mineral data, offering a significant advantage in speed and data accuracy

Improved data quality and the ability to deliver quick, reliable insights

Enhancing the institution's overall efficiency and analytical capabilities

FUTURE-FIT LEGISLATION







ELEVATE THE USAGE OF ELECTRONIC WALLETS



STANDARDISATION OF QR CODES



ALLOW VIRTUAL ASSET ACTIVITIES TO OPERATE

DIGITAL IDENTITY

Identify individuals for other government services: Authenticating against the eID system and verifying members of the public for Know Your Customer.



VERIFICATION FOR KYC

CENTRAL SECURITIES DEPOSITORY (CSD)

	Financial securities, such as
I	stocks and bonds, in electronic
	form

01

03

Enhance efficiency and transparency in trading Namibian securities

Reducing associated risks and enhancing the user experience

INNOVATION IN THE ECONOMY



TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY

Namibia can accelerate **Total Factor Productivity** growth by encouraging industries to adopt cutting-edge technologies, streamlining operations, and exploring new markets

Investment in research and development

Encouraging industries to adopt cutting-edge technologies

Diversified and sustainable economy, ensuring it remains competitive globally.

03

INNOVATION FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ההרבתרבר

2 Mar

1

CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS

Enhanced regional collaboration within the Common Monetary Area (CMA).

01

02 Namibia reduces transaction costs and time delays associated with international trade.

Foster stronger economic ties with neighbouring countries.

FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (FINTECH)



Testing innovations safely within the financial system through a Regulatory Sandbox

02

03

Manage risks and uphold the financial system's integrity

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)



Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)









MOVING INTO THE NEW ERA

The adoption of digital money can transform the structure of our international monetary system, raising new policy questions, opportunities, and trade-offs.

As digital money gain traction, they may impact traditional mechanisms of seigniorage, affecting central bank revenue and monetary policy.

T n

There is a likelihood of a shift of credit intermediation from banks to non-deposit-taking institutions, particularly BIG Tech, which are poised to assume a more substantial role in the distribution and aggregation of digital money.



Effective policymaking will be crucial, as tomorrow's economy depends on the foresight and wisdom of the decisions we make today, ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation are realised without compromising financial integrity or public trust.

THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM

We have entered an era defined by rapid technological advancements, shifting demographics, and the urgency of climate resilience

A vision of a "Finternet" — a financial system where multiple ecosystems are interconnected, much like the internet— will inevitably shape the future of finance, potentially leading to cheaper, faster, and more accessible payments, seamless cross-border payments, and financial inclusion.



The financial system is more than a mechanism for wealth; it is the backbone of our collective prosperity, a pathway to opportunity for every individual, and a foundation for sustainable growth.



The financial system is more than a mechanism for wealth; it is the backbone of our collective prosperity, a pathway to opportunity for every individual, and a foundation for sustainable growth.

"Transformation ahead is vast, but so is Namibia's potential to emerge more robust, more connected, and better equipped to face the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century."

Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab, Governor