



When the Season Turns

*A reflection on renewal, resilience
and the promise of a new
Namibian season.*

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Dear readers,

September has arrived, and with it comes our version of spring, which we refer to as summer. Namibians tend to recognise two seasons – summer and winter. Hot weather signifies summer, and cold weather, winter.

It is a beautiful time of renewal, fresh growth and emergence from cold-induced hibernation. As the landscape changes and the days become warmer, we eagerly anticipate the rain, looking forward to the much-needed refreshment it brings to our dry country.

Symbolically, we mimic the extraordinary baobab, often called the Tree of Life.

For much of the year, this ancient African giant is almost completely bare, its massive branches stretching skyward like roots turned upside down. Then, as the season changes and conditions become favourable, something remarkable occurs. A sudden burst of new growth is supported by water stored within its massive trunk. New green leaves emerge, and spectacular white flowers, each blooming for only a short time, appear.

Many of the biggest baobabs are capable of holding huge quantities of water in their trunks, demonstrating an extraordinary adaptation to life in Africa's arid regions. A large baobab can hold up to 120,000 litres of water.

The baobab displays new life after months of silence, much like we do every 1 September. It reminds us that even after a long and difficult season, there is always the possibility of renewal.

In our great country, the signs of a new season do not reveal themselves in quite the same way everywhere. From the rivers and woodlands of the northeast to the central highlands, the coast, the farming regions of the south and the great Namib and Kalahari landscapes, our experiences of the changing seasons are as diverse as our country itself.

Yet one sign is certain: renewed hope.

We begin to shift our gaze towards the horizon, watching hopefully for what is to come. We wait for the clouds, for the rains and for the promise of new life, just like the baobab, knowing that despite being a drought-prone nation, we too have reservoirs of strength that can sustain us through even the harshest seasons.

It is this relationship with nature that makes Namibia – and her people – quite special.

We are a nation of many backgrounds, languages, cultures and experiences. Not all of us see the same landscape, live the same lives or experience the seasons in the same way. But one thing that identifies us all is the resilience we possess to face each season.

We are the people of the Land of the Brave, after all.

Enjoy September. 🌿