

MONDAY 04 DECEMBER 2023

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Oil and gas, Heineken deal drive Namibia to record **N\$19bn FDI in 6 months**

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rice levels of Bread, cake flour (from -2.4% to 21.59

The price levels of Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate, and confectionary increased by 9.7 percent



Oil and gas, Heineken deal drive Namibia to record N\$19bn FDI in 6 months

amibia recorded a surge in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first two quarters of 2023, reaching a record N\$19 billion, a development attributed to mainly oil and gas investments and the acquisition of Namibia Breweries by Heineken.

The figure accounts for 16.83% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), surpassing any annual inflow on record according to Catalyst Investment Managers.

"The surge in FDI is attributed to two pivotal developments—the acquisition of Namibia Breweries by global brewing powerhouse Heineken and the ongoing oil and gas explorations along the Namibian coastline," said Head of Research at Catalyst Investment Managers, Cheryl Emvula.

"The scale of investments in the sector is substantial, with major players like Shell and Total directing significant portions of their exploration budgets into Namibia. These investments, coupled with potential production well establishments, could herald a long-term economic upswing."

According to Emvula, the second quarter of 2023 marked a historic milestone with a record N\$13 billion FDI inflow recorded.



 Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date: 6 December 2023



"The discovery of vast oil and gas reserves offshore played a pivotal role, sparking intense exploration activities. Heineken's investment in Nam breweries also injected considerable capital into our manufacturing sector. While the green hydrogen industry's contribution to FDI at this stage, I believe, has remained modest," he said.

He said the immediate benefits of the investments are visible in the strengthening of Namibia's national reserves, which were previously facing challenges stemming from post-Covid difficulties and the outflows of FDI in 2019 and 2020.

"This strengthening upholds the country's dedication to its currency peg, enabling the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to sustain a comparatively accommodative stance in contrast to its South African counterpart. Consequently, Namibia enjoys a lower repo rate (interest rates) than South Africa, fostering a favourable atmosphere for economic stability and expansion," Emvula said.

Speaking on the long-term effects of the surge, Emvula said an increase in FDI is a sign that the economy is going to grow steadily.

"The recent increase in investments,

especially in the oil and gas industry, suggests that Namibia might be entering an important and positive period," he said.

Emvula highlighted that the increase in FDI in Namibia is mainly focused on the oil and gas sector, despite no major changes in government policies.

"As Namibia navigates this transformative period, addressing uncertainties in policy direction becomes crucial. The FDI slump between 2018 and 2020, attributed to policy uncertainties, underscores the need for clarity and optimisation in policies to unlock even greater and more diverse FDI inflows," he said.

"It is important for Namibia to clarify and enhance its policies to attract a broader range of foreign investments, stating that although focusing on the oil industry is beneficial now, a comprehensive policy approach could lead to stronger and more lasting economic growth."

In terms of job creation, Emvula said deepsea mining, which attracts a lot of foreign investment, usually doesn't create many jobs because it requires a lot of investment.

"However, the positive effects of a successful oil and gas industry could lead to many job opportunities."



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Kelp Blue plans N\$1.4bn raise through Namibia's first-ever blue bonds offering

he Namibian government and Kelp Blue have announced the development of Namibia's first corporate Blue Bonds, aiming to raise N\$1.4 billion (US\$80 million) to fund up to 1,000 hectares of kelp forest off the coastline of Southern Namibia.

Kelp Blue aims to assess interest for the Blue Bonds placement in the first quarter of next year and to place the first of four annual US\$20 million tranches in the fourth quarter of 2024 as it moves to commercially develop the world's first large-scale kelp farm in Namibia.

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The firm is considering a blue bond with the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX).

The startup has secured a 100-hectare kelp forest license with plans to expand to 6,000 hectares in the coming two years.

Kelp Blue has already entered into a N\$350 million multi-year offtake agreement with Kelp Blue Biotech (a sister company) for seaweedbased biostimulant produced in Luderitz.

"Kelp Blue has secured major agreements, global sales and bondholders can expect to investment-grade see returns while relying on Gold Standard certification of Kelp Blue's carbon credits to assure themselves of the transparency and integrity of the environmental and social impacts."

To enhance the commitment to Namibia's oceans, 2.5% of the bond's face value is being committed by Kelp Blue towards drone monitoring of the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) and educational programs.

The NIMPA incorporates almost 10,000 km² and is Africa's second-largest proclaimed Marine Protected Area (MPA), situated along the southwestern coast of Namibia and directly adjacent to two national parks.

Kelp Blue is a sustainable oceanic aquaculture enterprise founded in 2020 with headquarters in The Netherlands and operations in Namibia, planning to harvest kelp canopy year-round to produce sustainable agri-foods and biostimulants.

ke Kelp Blue collects cultivated kelp from the sk seaweed canopy to produce alternative agri-food, bio-stimulant, and textile products, converting them a into a variety of products, including bio-stimulants, the at the new processing plant at Lüderitz.

Kelp Blue is currently developing a range of products based on Macrocystis, such as agri-feed to feed animals to increase productivity and stimulate digestibility.

According to De Beers, which has already provided N\$40 million in funding to the startup, research has shown that kelp forests have carbon sequestration properties exceeding those of terrestrial forests and that they help sustain healthy marine ecosystems, providing food and shelter for countless species.

De Beers is a 50% partner of the Namibian government in marine-based diamond miner Debmarine Namibia and land-based diamond miner Namdeb Diamond Corporation.



Registration No: 98/472 INVITATION FOR BIDS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: EXTENSION OF BID CLOSING DATE

Namibia Airports Company Limited (NAC) hereby invites interested, qualified and experienced companies to submit bids for the following commercial opportunities available at our airports.

					Site Meeting		
			Airport	Cost of	Already Taken	New Closing	New Opening
Bid Nr	Rid Reference Nr	Description		BD	Place	Date and Time	Date and Time
					10 November		
			Hosea Kutako		2023		
			International	NAD	@ 10H00 HKIA	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
1	NAC/HKIA/RC-CS/05/2023	Retail Concession	Airport	100.00	Main Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
				200,00	13 November		C
					2023		
					@ 10H00		
				NAD	Terminal Building	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
2	NAC/HKIA/CS-CS/03/2023	Leasing of Coffee Shop	Lüderitz Airport	100.00	(Lüderitz Airport)	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
	,,,,,			200,00	10 November		C
		Operation and	Hosea Kutako		2023		
	NAC/HKIA/OMF-	Management of Forex	International	NAD	@ 10H00 HKIA	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
3	CS/04/2023	Services	Airport	100.00	Main Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
				200,00	10 November		C
			Hosea Kutako		2023		
		Provision for Baggage	International	NAD	@ 10H00 HKIA	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
4	NAC/HKIA/BW-CS/06/2023	Wrapping Service	Airport	100.00	Main Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
	,,,,,,,			200,00			C
					15 November		
					2023@ 10H00		
					Walvis Bay		
			Walvis Bay		International		
		Provision for Baggage	International	NAD	Airport	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
5	NAC/WBA/BW-CS/06/2023	Wrapping Service	Airport	100.00	Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
				200,00	09 November		C
					2023		
					@ 10H00 Fros		
					Airport Terminal		
	l	Leasing of Car Wash		NAD	Building	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
6	NAC/EROS/CW-CS/01/2023	Facility	Eros Airport	100.00	Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15
-	,, сајолухога	,	port	,-0	09 November		
	l				2023	l	l
	l				@ 10H00 Fros	l	l
					Airport Terminal		
	l	License for Ground		NAD	Building	15 January 2024	15 January 2024
	NAC/EROS/GH-CS/02/2023	Handling Services	Eros Airport	100.00	Boardroom	@ 11H00	@ 11H15

Bidding Documents and banking details are on our website (www.airports.com.ma). Payment can be done via ETF or XTM bank deposit. Send proof of payment to the following email addresses to receive your receipt. Bidders can also include their proof of payment in the bidding document in the absence of a receipt. Bidders can also include their proof of payment in the including the proof of payment in the bidding document in the absence of a receipt.

FriedaH@airports.com.na

Enquiries: All Enquiries should be in Writing to the Procurement Management Unit at email address: shivutetbj@airports.com.na



Namibia signs letter of intent for Green Corridors pre-feasibility study

amibia signed a letter of intent with Maersk McKinney Moller Institute for Zero Carbon Shipping to conduct a pre-feasibility study on green maritime corridors.

The Green Corridor pre-feasibility is a global blueprint carried out in 2022, under the Green Hydrogen Catapult by Maersk McKinney Moller Centre for Zero Carbon Shipping and Rocky Mountain Institute; which advocates for scaling up green hydrogen production capacity by 50 times.

In addition, it calls for the deployment of 80GW new renewable powered electrolisers, of which Catapult members have already committed 4GW.

The agreement was signed by Namibia Green Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnyupe, at an occasion where the Minister of Mines and Energy, Tom Alweendo, said the agreement signifies a key commitment Namibia is making to develop green



shipping corridors while championing sustainable economic development for the country, the Southern African Community and the world.

"Not only will these corridors decarbonise important shipping routes, but they would also ensure investment and development of green bunkering infrastructure that would not otherwise exist in Namibia, helping us enhance our gross fixed capital formation and diversify our exports and economic structure," said Alweendo while speaking on Green Shipping Challenge: Leading the Global Energy Transition, at the ongoing COP28 summit in Dubai.

The Green Shipping intended Challenge is encourage Parties. companies, and other actors in the shipping value chain to come forward with concrete announcements at COP 28 that will help put the shipping sector on a pathway this decade to align with the goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

Alweendo said, Namibia is ready to answer the decarbonisation call, with a bustling port that has seen activities rise from 1,303 vessels in 2021 to 1,592 in 2022 docking at both Lüderitz and Walvis Bay harbours. Whereas the total cargo handled was 5.94 million tons in 2022.

Total cargo handled peaked

in 2012 with 6.522 million tonnes.

"In 2021 154,207 containers were handled at our port container terminal, and in 2022 it increased to 168,278. The terminal has a capacity to handle 750,000 TEUs per annum. These are happening, as Namibia has plans to start manufacturing synthetic fuels with an ambition to produce up to 10 to 15 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2050. To deliver on this ambition. Namibia in concert with its global partners, will need to develop substantial new port infrastructure," said Alweendo.

Adding that, maritime shipping is the lifeblood of the global economy, with the consumption of marine fuels accounting for over 5% of global oil demand and 2.5% of global carbon emissions.

The Minister further said, there are 12 ports around the world accounting for 40% of world-wide ship bunkering, with Singapore alone accounting for 16%.

"We need to grow this portfolio. The introduction of green corridors, specific routes on which stakeholders across the value chain collectively agree to adjust bunkering infrastructure such that vessels along the route are powered by green fuels, will be critical to the bunkering overhaul necessary for the effective adoption of synthetic fuels," he stressed.







Read the December issue online





Opuwo-Okangwati-Epupa Road set for N\$2.5bn upgrade

N\$2.5-billion upgrade is underway for the Opuwo to Okangwati and Epupa road, among others, to enhance regional connectivity and foster infrastructure development in the Kunene Region

Dunamis Consulting Engineers have been appointed to oversee the initiative as consultants and project managers. The project has progressed with the completion of the feasibility study and design.

The road is intended to provide access to the envisaged Orokawe hydroelectric dam.

According to Dunamis, the traditional authority of Orokawe is hesitant to approve

the construction of the dam. Negotiations are ongoing, and the outcome of these negotiations will have a major influence on the construction of the road.

This development follows oversight visits by the National Council's Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Housing to assess the state of roads in Kunene and other regions.

The visits, conducted from 7 to 31 August 2023, shed light on the intricate challenges faced by the region's road infrastructure network.

"The distribution of the road infrastructure network in Kunene is largely



The distribution of the road infrastructure network in Kunene is largely influenced by the vastness and the sparsely distributed inhabitants of the region.

influenced by the vastness and the sparsely distributed inhabitants of the region," the report highlighted.

Notably, the eastern and south-eastern parts of the region boast a more pronounced road infrastructure.

Recent strides in road infrastructure development were highlighted, including the upgrade of Verda to Ruacana and Omakange to Opuwo roads to bitumen standards.

Additionally, substantial investments were made in the Kamanjab Village Council, with N\$670,000 allocated for the blading and re-gravelling of roads.

The report also addresses the meticulous maintenance efforts, such as the rehabilitation of roads and bridges damaged by storm water and the re-gravelling of roads in Fransfontein, Okangwati, and Sesfontein.

"Maintenance of the roads and bridges that were washed away by rain storm water; re-gravelling of roads in the three settlement areas of Fransfontein, Okangwati, and Sesfontein at an average annual budget of N\$600,000," said the committee.

The Committee noted that the construction of roads in the Khorixas informal settlement, coupled with

road maintenance in Khorixas, further exemplifies the commitment to comprehensive infrastructure development.

Meanwhile, the region has faced challenges, including the upgrading of the Opuwo to Sesfontein road, which faced funding shortages during the 2017/18 MTEF.

"The road works were listed under the 2017/18 MTEF; however, due to a shortage of funds, the project was not allocated funding," noted the report.

However, the report remains optimistic about future endeavors, citing the Roads Authority's estimated N\$52 million budget for re-gravelling and maintaining regional gravel roads.

"The Governor, Marius Sheya, has coordinated the identification of priority needs for the road infrastructure, and the regional councillors have submitted their respective needs to that effect," the report added.

Despite challenges such as frequent road washouts, bridge destruction, budget constraints, mountainous terrain, and cultural resistance, the government's commitment to advancing road infrastructure in Kunene remains unwavering.

Windhoek Country Club reports record N\$15 million profit

Indhoek Country Club Resort has notched up a N\$69.2 million revenue surge year-on-year for the fiscal year 2023, culminating in a remarkable profit of N\$15.3 million, the highest recorded since 2014.

Evans Simataa, Chairperson of the Windhoek Country Club and Resort Board of Directors, revealed that this substantial increase underscores the resilience and appeal of the resort's offerings in both the Casino and Hotel operations, despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic.

"Despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic, I am delighted to announce that Windhoek Country Club and Resort has navigated through these turbulent times with great fortitude," said Simataa.

Simataa further expressed delight in the financial turnaround of the resort.

"In 2021, as a consequence of the impact of Covid-19, we recorded losses of N\$17.7 million, and in 2022, we reduced the loss to N\$4.2 Million," he stated.

"The strengthening of our financial position is underscored by the impressive increase in our cash reserves from N\$34 million at the start of the financial year to N\$66.5 million at the end of April 2023," highlighted Simataa.

Simataa attributed the resort's ability



to weather the storm without employee retrenchments during the pandemic to the dedication of the workforce.

"Our business's value has not only been preserved but has also improved tremendously, as a good and exemplary corporate citizen, Windhoek Country Club and Resort has initiated a programme investing in excess of N\$1 million into



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Mon-Fri

various organisations and schools," Simataa announced.

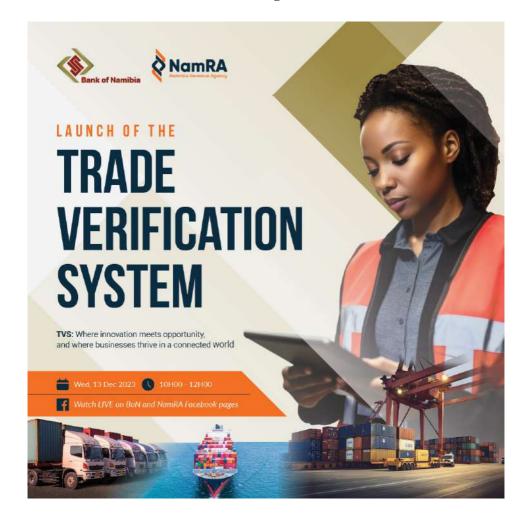
Celebrating the achievements of the dedicated employees, Simataa announced that several employees received study bursaries at tertiary institutions in Windhoek, and some have been recently promoted.

The board expresses confidence that 2024 is set to be the best financial year in the history of the business, "Our collective efforts, resilience, and strategic vision have positioned WCCR for continued success," concluded Simataa.

This comes when the resort has also made a meaningful contribution to the state coffers, totalling N\$20 million, comprising a declared dividend of N\$10 million and an additional payment of N\$10 million through the redemption of preferential shares.

"This amount is just a modest contribution, but every drop counts, and we are honoured to have made a positive impact," Simataa said.

The Windhoek Country Club is a 152 rooms and a casino owned by the government.





Namibia targets to generate 10GW of renewable energy in 20 years

amibia is targeting to generate 10 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy in the next 20 years, 30 times its existing generation capacity.

This was revealed by President Hage Geingob during his speech at the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge at the 28th edition of the Conference Of



Parties (COP28) in Dubai.

"By harnessing the power of renewable energy, Namibia aims to propel a new era of economic growth that is both environmentally conscious and socially inclusive. Our ambition is clear: to position Namibia as a hub for renewable energy innovation, driving green industrialization that creates jobs, fosters economic development, and ensures energy access for all," he said.

Geingob said the feat will be achieved by harnessing the power of various renewable sources, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy, to meet the targeted goal.

"We are currently developing nine different green hydrogen projects that are looking to use renewable energy to produce clean molecules that will decarbonize various sectors of our economies, including transport and agriculture, and create whole new industries such as those emanating from the chemicals and basic materials sectors," he said.

According to Geingob, Namibia's energy generation ambitions will allow the country not only to meet its own renewable energy needs but also diversify its exports.

"Namibia has generous deposits of lithium and light and heavy rare earth elements, critical raw minerals that are needed to engender the energy transition. Today we are exploring ways to use these minerals to manufacture battery precursors within our borders, adding value to our natural endowments before exporting them, and we are aiming to do so by deploying additional renewable energy," he said.

The President, however, said billions in investment will be required for Namibia to meet its plans.

"Significant new infrastructure such as new ports, roads, railways, transmission lines, and pipelines for water and hydrogen will have to be built. Together we will need to move billions of dollars to achieve this feat," he said.

"Namibia stands ready to collaborate, share knowledge, and forge partnerships that will accelerate the adoption of renewable energy technologies across the African continent."

Namibia currently has a generation capacity of approximately 486.5MW out of a demand of an estimated 600MW, with independent power producers contributing an estimated 70MW to

PUBLIC NOTICE



CALL FOR REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL FRUIT FARMERS

In line with the Agronomic Industry Act 20 of 1992, section 10 (1), (J), all producers of controlled agronomic and horticultural crops in Namibia are legally obliged to register with the NAB, to ensure effective and efficient facilitation of the local crop value chain.

The NAB therefore extends an invitation to all fruit farmers who produce fruits for commercial purposes to register with the NAB. The registration process is currently running until the 30th of March 2024. Registration forms are accessible at all NAB offices countrywide. Alternatively, registration forms may also be accessed on the NAB website: https://www.nab.com.na/downloads/ or via email requests.

During the registration process, farmers are required to provide the following information:

- 1. Proof of identification (original or certified copy of ID, Birth Certificate; company registration documents)
- 2. Fruit tree name and variety/cultivar
- 3. Month and year planted
- Total area planted (ha)
- 5. Total number of trees planted
- 6. Expected/Actual harvesting month and or year.
- 7. Expected/Actual total yield per tree per season (in tons or kgs)

Fruit farmers are encouraged to provide accurate data and information during the registration process, as this information enables the NAB to implement various targeted interventions aimed at developing the local fruit sector.

Further inquiries regarding the registration process can be addressed to Mr. Tangeni Hangula, NAB's Fruit Development Officer on Tel: +264 61 379 531/+264 81 4194811or via email at Tangeni.Hangula@nab.com.na.



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Japan to support Namibia's decarbonisation ambitions

amibia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the areas of economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

The collaborative agreement, signed at COP28, focuses on financing carbon-capturing projects.

"We are very impressed by Namibia's ambitions in terms of decarbonising. We want to support Namibia's sustainable development and contribute to the global public good, especially in decarbonising the world and the African continent, ultimately enhancing social well-being for the people of Namibia and the region," said JBIC Governor Nobumitsu Hayashi.

"This marks the beginning of our long-term relationship supporting decarbonising and green ammonia projects, as well as mineral projects. We pledge to work closely with you to realize projects that benefit your country, the Japanese economy, and the global world."

Namibia's Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Iipumbu Shiimi, said the MoU signing demonstrates the strong relationship between Namibia and Japa, and collaboration will enable Namibia to achieve its goals for green industrialisation while contributing to the broader objective of decarbonising the planet.

"We aim to explore collaborative opportunities in technologies that facilitate global decarbonisation, with a particular focus on our two countries. Namibia is committed to decarbonizing its energy sector and assisting the world in reaching net-zero targets," said Minister Shiimi.

He added that the Namibian government will consider working with the Japanese development bank on technologies aimed at decarbonising the world, specifically targeting Japan and Namibia.

"This is an area of focus for our country. Namibia has aspirations to decarbonise its energy sector and, most importantly, to contribute to global net-zero targets. The relationship we are initiating today will significantly contribute to achieving these

objectives," Shiimi emphasized.

This comes as Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Nishimura Yasutoshi, committed in August to invest N\$28 billion (US\$1.5 billion) in Namibia's mining sector, contingent on the participation of Japanese companies.



For Employees

Life Cover: Group life insurance provides a financial safety net. In the event of an employee's passing, it offers support to their family, covering expenses such as funeral costs, ongoing living expenses, and settling their

Critical Illness: Many group plans also include critical illness coverage. If an employee is diagnosed with a serious illness, this benefit provides a lump sum payment to help cover medical bills and other expenses during recovery.

Disability (Permanent or Temporary): In addition to life cover, group life insurance offers protection in case of disability. Whether it's a temporary or permanent disability to diffects your ability to work, this benefit provides income replacement to ease financial burdens.

Spouse Cover: Some group life insurance plans extend coverage to an employee's spouse. This means that your partner can also benefit from financial protection under the same policy.

Accidental Death Cover: Accidents can happen unexpectedly, Group policies often include accidental death coverage, providing an additional payout if an employee's death is due to an accident. This extra layer of protection offers some peace of mind while navigating a difficult time.

Affordability: Group policies are often more affordable than individual ones. Premiums are typically lower because the risk is spread across all employees, making it a cost-effective way to secure coverage for you and your family.

No Medical Examinations: Many group plans don't require a medical exam, making it easier for employees with pre-existing health conditions to obtain coverage.

Convenience: Premiums are deducted directly from your salary, so you don't have to worry about remembering to pay a bill every month.

For Employers

Attract and Retain Talent: Offering comprehensive group life insurance with these additional benefits can help you attract top talent and retain valued employees. It's a valuable benefit that shows you care about your team's well-being.

Peace of Mind in Case of Disability. Employers can rest assured that should one of their employees become disabled, they will be looked ofter. Employers are not obligated to provide additional assistance should the employee be unable to work, as disability benefits within the group insurance plan provide financial support during challenging times.

Tax Benefits: In many cases, the premiums you pay for group life insurance are tax deductible as a business expense, which can lead to potential tax savings.

Employee Morale: Providing this comprehensive safety net can boost employee morale and productivity. When employees feel financially secure, they tend to be happier and more focused at work.

Easy Administration: Group life insurance plans are relatively easy to manage. Insurers handle most of the administrative work, leaving you stress-free and with less agreework

In summary, choosing group life insurance with life cover, critical illness, disability (permanent or temporary), spouse cover, and accidental death cover is a smart move for both employees and employees. It offers a wide range of financial protection, affordability, and peace of mind for employees, while businesses benefit from attracting and retaining talent, potential tax advantages, and a happier, more productive workforce. It's a win-win situation that demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of your team members while safeguarding the future of your business.







Kelp Blue wins N\$11.2m Climate Action Award at COP28

elp Blue has won the Zayed Sustainability Prize in the inaugural Climate Action category, which carries an \$11.2 million (US\$600,000) prize.

The winners were announced at the Zayed Sustainability Prize awards ceremony on Friday, at an event attended by numerous heads of delegations, ministers, senior government officials, at COP28 UAE in the Expo City of Dubai.

"We could not be thrilled more and honored to be recognized for our commitment to and impact we are having on combating climate change by boosting ocean health & sequestering Carbon. We're humbled to stand alongside remarkable finalists like CarbonCure Technologies and the Foundation for Amazon Sustainability. both contributing significantly to sustainable solutions in concrete production and Amazon conservation," the Luderitz-based start-up said.

Kelp Blue, according to the organizers, was awarded the Prize for its ambitious efforts to cultivate large-scale kelp forests in deep waters, contributing to the restoration of ocean biodiversity, capturing 100,000 tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere annually,

while generating job opportunities in coastal communities.

"This project is a demonstration of the potential of Namibia's Blue Economy as articulated by HPPII Goal 3 of the economic advancement pillar. Kelp Blue will now look to use the same innovative financial tools the President advocated for, to raise up to N\$4 billion in blue bonds, a first for the African Continent. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is extremely proud of Kelp Blue for their efforts and for choosing Namibia as a safe destination for their capital," Presidential Economic Advisor James Mnyupe said.

Thid comes as Kelp Blue, in pursuit of its goals, aims to raise capital in equity and debt funding to support the commercial development of the world's first large-scale kelp farm in Namibia.

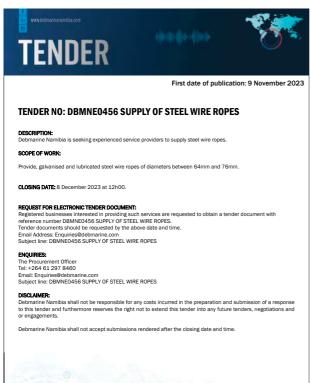
Kelp Blue harvests cultivated kelp from the seaweed canopy, processing it at the new plant in Luderitz to create alternative agrifood, bio-stimulant, and textile products.

The firm is actively developing a range of products based on Macrocystis, including agri-feed designed to enhance animal productivity and digestibility.



The importance of keeping rainfall records

DEBMARINE



By Hanks Saisai

amibia's Central, North Central, Eastern, Southern, and North-Eastern regions received some rain showers marking the beginning of the 2023/2024 rainy season. Oftentimes, farmers get excited and carried away by the occurrence of rainfall as it is an essential resource that enables farmers to cultivate cereal grains like maize, pearl millet (mahangu) and sorghum.

Additionally, rainfall replenishes vegetation (grasses, shrubs, forbs, and bushes) that are utilized by livestock and replenishes the underground water, making it available in boreholes and wells.

As the rainy season continues in Namibia, a lot of farmers are still not keeping track of the amount of rainfall they receive. This lack of recordkeeping leads to poor planning for the dry season and when there is

experience crop failure and livestock mortality due to inadequate preparation.

Keeping accurate rainfall records is crucial, but why? Keeping a record of the amount of rainfall one receives is essential for farming. It serves as a performance indicator and helps farmers prepare for the next season. For instance, if a farmer's area received an annual average rainfall of 350 mm during the past rainy season, the farmer can use this data to identify rainfall patterns for that year, the intensity of the rainfall, and its distribution in each month. This information can assist in planning for the upcoming rainy season and enable farmers to have mitigation strategies in case of low rainfall.

It's also important farmers to stay updated on weather forecasts during the rainy season to maximize the benefits of the rainfall. With the availability of technology, farmers can utilize weather forecasting apps to check the weather outlook for a specific week or month. This will help them to determine when to expect rainfall and its intensity. An example of one of these apps is Microsoft Weather. It can be used to check weather forecasts for each month during the rainy season. It can inform farmers about the expected number of rainy and dry days in a month. This information is essential for

too little rainfall, many farmers crop producers that rely on rainfall to grow their crops. For livestock farmers, it can be helpful in determining whether regrowth will be satisfactory, or the new grass will be scorched by the heat.

> It is therefore important to track and record rainfall as a preparatory strategy for erratic rainfall due to climate change. In the long run, rainfall records can help both farmers and disaster risk management agencies to mitigate the risks associated with above normal and below average rainfall. A farmer who keeps rainfall records has a better chance of making informed decisions regarding which crops to grow and how many livestock can be kept under the traditional extensive grazing production system.

*Hanks Saisai is a Technical Advisor: Crops & Poultry at Agribank





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