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Parliament seeks suspension of FIMA pension clause implementation

TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2024

MAIN STORY



Parliament has called on Finance Minister Ipumbu Shiimi to suspend implementation of the Financial Institutions and Markets Act (FIMA), specifically the pension preservation clause requiring 75% of pension funds to be held until retirement at age 55.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration recommended that the clause be put on hold and subjected to further scrutiny.

The committee, chaired by Natangwe I thete, raised concerns about the constitutionality of the clause, which has drawn widespread criticism from various sectors of society.

"Following concerns raised by the public over the Act, the committee led by its chairperson, Hon. Natangwe Ithete held extensive consultations including an oversight workshop held at Swakopmund in May this year involving stakeholders

such as the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF), Retirement Fund for Local Authorities and Utility Services in Namibia and Retirement Fund Solutions, among others," said Parliament Chief Information

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date: 14 August 2024
 - 23 October 2024 4 December 2024
- Namibia Oil & Gas Conference 2024 20-22 August 2024 Mercure Hotel, Windhoek
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
 Windhoek, Namibia from 03 05 September 2024

Officer George Sanzila.

The committee's report, recently adopted by the National Assembly, also called for the involvement of the Attorney General to clarify the legal implications of mandatory pension preservation.

The report also recommended that the proposed regulations for FIMA should be tabled in parliament for approval before implementation.

NAMFISA, the financial regulator, has defended the clause, arguing that it is aimed at protecting pensioners from financial hardship in their old age.

However, critics contend that the clause infringes on individuals' rights to access their money, especially in times of financial distress.

"This stipulation is opposed to the common practice of withdrawing retirement savings early to meet short term financial needs, which ultimately, results in many people not having sufficient savings after retirement. Pensioners mostly end up depending on social grants from the state," said Kenneth Matomola, the Chief Executive Officer of NAMFISA.

Matomola further said FIMA has the added advantage of shielding members' retirement savings from bankruptcy or creditors.

On the other hand, the Retirement Fund for Local Authorities and Utility Services in Namibia (RFLAUN) opposed the pension preservation clause in FIMA The RFLAUN argued that the clause unfairly restricts access to pension funds, particularly for those who leave employment without other income sources and have financial commitments like home loans.

RFLAUN believes the clause infringes on individuals' rights and calls for a more thorough investigation into the matter.

The fund also questions the overall suitability of FIMA for Namibia's economic conditions, citing mandatory pension preservation and forced annuitisation as key concerns.

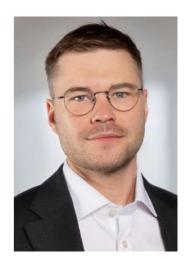
The implementation of FIMA, originally scheduled for October 2022, has been postponed due to the mounting opposition.

The Act is intended to replace the outdated Pension Fund Act of 1956 and align Namibia's financial sector with international standards.









Bank of Namibia to keep repo rate unchanged at 7.75%

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) is expected to keep the repo rate unchanged at 7.75% during its Monetary Policy announcement meeting scheduled for Wednesday, analysts predict.

The decision would mark the third consecutive time the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained the reporate at 7.75%, following similar outcomes in April and June.

"We do not expect the Bank of Namibia to change the repo rate at this MPC meeting. The repo rate differential between Namibia and South Africa remains unchanged at negative 0.5% after the SARB kept the SA repo rate on hold at their last MPC meeting," said Eric van Zyl, Head of Research at IJG Securities.

Van Zyl further explained that the Namibian rate is already more favorable to borrowers compared to South Africa's.

Given South Africa's sluggish growth, the South African Reserve Bank is anticipated to adopt a more accommodative monetary policy stance to stimulate the economy.

"We believe that the BoN is tilted towards more conservative relative policy decisions and will thus keep rates unchanged as well," he added.

FirstRand Namibia Economist Helena Mboti also indicated that she expects the Bank of Namibia to leave the repo rate unchanged.

"We maintain our view that the reporate has peaked at 7.75%, with the first cut



of 25 basis points expected in December 2024," she said.

"This outlook is supported by the SARB's decision to keep interest rates unchanged on 18 July and by the healthy level of international reserves (N\$57.6 million or 3.8 months import cover), which supports the 50 basis points differential with the Rand," Mboti said.

However, she noted that the repo rate outlook could be influenced by emerging challenges such as adverse weather conditions and supply chain disruptions affecting food and oil prices, which may increase inflationary pressures and delay the start of the cutting cycle.

Max Rix, Head of Investments at Simonis Storm, shared similar views, noting that their projection is based on recent inflation data, which has stabilized at 4.6%.

"While inflation remains somewhat elevated, the lack of significant upward pressure in recent months indicates that the situation is gradually under control. The MPC is expected to maintain the current repo rate to ensure that this positive trend continues, allowing for inflation to be managed effectively while providing a stable economic environment," he said.

Rix also highlighted that the decision to keep the repo rate steady is influenced by the need to preserve the fixed exchange rate peg between the Namibian Dollar and the South African Rand.

He acknowledged the presence of external risks, such as volatile

energy prices, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and global food prices affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but noted that these factors do not dominate the current monetary policy outlook.

"Namibia's economy is on a constructive path, with inflationary pressures being managed effectively. The MPC's expected decision to hold the rate reflects a prudent approach aimed at sustaining this momentum," Rix said.

Looking ahead, Rix anticipates the first rate cut towards the end of 2024, assuming continued progress in managing inflation and maintaining economic resilience.

However, he emphasized that the immediate focus remains on maintaining the current stability to ensure the continued trajectory towards controlled inflation and economic recovery.





2025/26 NAMIBIA HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY (NHIES)

17 March 2025 - 17 March 2026

The NHIES will provide data on income and expenditure patterns, and insights into poverty and inequality levels in Namibia.

Pilot Survey:

30 September - 20 October 2024, only in selected areas in selected regions

Main Survey:

17 March 2025 - 17 March 2026, in all 14 regions

Namibia Statistics Agency P.O. Box 2133, FGI House, Post Street Mall, Windhoek, Namibia Tel: +264 61 431 3200 Fax: +264 61 431 3253 Email: info@nsa.org.na www.nsa.org.na





Namibia records N\$1.1bn fish exports in June

amibia's fish exports amounted to N\$1,141 million in June 2024, with fish remaining the country's only non-mineral product among the top five exports, latest data shows.

According to Simonis Storm data, fish exports accounted for a significant 8.8% of the nation's total export earnings, reinforcing the sector's critical role in generating foreign exchange and supporting livelihoods.

Spain, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo emerged as the primary markets for Namibian fish products.

"In June 2024, fish inflation was recorded at 4.6% y/y, marking a deceleration from the 6.7% y/y observed in May 2024 and 11.7%

y/y recorded in June 2023. The inflation within the fish category was primarily driven by rising prices for bottled and tinned fish, as well as fresh, chilled, and frozen fish," said Simonis Storm Researcher Halleluya Ndimulunde.

However, other segments, such as dried, smoked, or salted fish and seafood, experienced deflationary pressures, with prices declining by -6.3% y/y.

"Despite the overall elevated inflation in the fish sector, a downward trend has been evident since the inflation peaked in January 2024," she said.

This comes as the agriculture sector witnessed modest growth in the first quarter



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t f @thebrieflive www.thebrief.com.na of 2024, with a gross domestic product of N\$1.0 billion, translating to 1.6% y/y growth.

"This represents a recovery from the previous quarter's sharp decline of -7.3% y/y, though it falls slightly below the 1.9% y/y growth recorded in the first quarter of 2023," said Ndimulunde.

The sector contributed approximately 3.1% to overall economic growth during this period, the lowest percentage share of GDP since the first quarter of 2017.

"The tepid growth can largely be attributed to challenges in crop farming due to insufficient rainfall and a slowdown in livestock growth, stemming from reduced slaughtering activities," she said.

The fishing sector also experienced a slow pace of growth in the first quarter of 2024, with a 2.2% y/y increase, contributing 3.1% to GDP.

Ndimulunde said this growth was primarily driven by an uptick in hake landings, although this was somewhat offset by a decline in horse mackerel landings.

Meanwhile, livestock marketing continues on a positive trajectory, with the first half of 2024 showing robust performance, particularly in response to ongoing drought conditions.

The cattle, sheep, and goat sectors favoured live exports over slaughtering, while pig slaughtering remained predominant. "In terms of livestock marketing, cattle saw a substantial increase of 40.2%, with 198,712 heads marketed compared to 141,687 in the first half of 2023. Sheep marketing also expanded by 13.0%, reaching 507,456 heads, while goat marketing experienced a modest rise of 2.9%, totalling 60,514 heads," she said.

The pig sector showed an 8.5% increase in marketing during the first half of 2024. Live exports demonstrated remarkable growth, particularly in the cattle sector,





where exports surged by 61.9%, reaching 109,227 heads.

Sheep live exports also rose by 21.5%, largely driven by demand from South Africa, while goat exports increased by 6.2%, maintaining their traditional market in KwaZulu-Natal, as reported by the Livestock and Livestock Products Board.

Pig exports, however, remained minimal, with only 70 heads exported in 2024, a slight change from none in 2023.

Slaughtering trends presented a mixed picture. Cattle slaughtering increased by 20.4%, totalling 89,485 heads.



Air Botswana to commence Windhoek flights in October

ir Botswana has announced that it will commence new flights between Maun, Gaborone, and Kasane to Windhoek in October 2024.

According to Air Botswana Chief Executive Officer Lulu Rasebotsa, the new Windhoek routes will operate three times weekly from each destination, connecting Botswana and Namibia and providing convenient travel options for both business and leisure travelers.

"The new additions popular are destinations for business and tourism, and we are excited to offer convenient air travel between the cities to advance economic activities in all countries, particularly Botswana. We are also excited that this strategic move is directly linked to the

airline's expansion plan and sustainability," she said.

In addition to the Windhoek route, Air Botswana has also revealed plans for new connections to Cape Town, Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA), and Durban, as well as the reinstatement of their Johannesburg to Maun, Gaborone, and Kasane route.

"Furthermore, both these new and reinstated routes, as well as increased frequencies, will strengthen our footprint in the region and simultaneously offer increased flight options to the traveling community in Botswana and beyond," she added.

Air Botswana is the national airline of Botswana, offering domestic and regional flights to key destinations in Southern Africa.



Data And Latest Namibian Business and Finance News.













Beyond approval: How to shift from external validation to internal self-worth

By Junias Erasmus

n a world dominated by social media, constant feedback, and a culture that often measures success by external standards, it's easy to fall into the trap of seeking validation from others. Whether it's the number of likes on a post, praise from a colleague, or approval from a loved one, external validation can feel gratifying in the moment. However, relying too heavily on external sources for self-worth can be a double-edged sword, leading to a fragile sense of self that crumbles in the absence of constant affirmation.

The quest for external validation is rooted in the natural human desire for acceptance and belonging. From an early age, we are conditioned to seek approval from parents, teachers, and peers. As we grow older, this



Building internal selfworth involves cultivating a strong sense of identity and self-

acceptance.

need for validation often extends into our professional lives and personal relationships. While there's nothing inherently wrong with valuing others' opinions, problems arise when external validation becomes the primary source of our self-worth. When our sense of identity is shaped by others, we become vulnerable to the whims of their opinions, leading to insecurity and a lack of

true self-confidence.

Shifting from external validation to internal self-worth is not an easy process, but it is essential for personal growth and lasting self-esteem. The first step is self-awareness. Recognize the moments when you are seeking validation from others and ask yourself why. Are you looking for reassurance because you doubt your abilities, or are you seeking approval because vou rejection? Understanding these underlying motivations can help you begin the journey toward



KCK DIAMONDS NAMIRIA PTY LTD.

: Diamond Polisher

Number of positions : 5 Duty Station : Windhoek

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 3 years Experience as a full diamond polisher Strong attention to details and quality control skills

Position : Diamond Planner

:Windhoek Duty Station

REQUIREMENTS

Number of positions : 4

 Minimum 5 years of experience in diamond planning - Proficiency in various diamond planning software

Interested candidates meeting the above criteria are invited to forward their applications to: hr.namibia@kgkmail.com by 30 August 2024, including a detailed resume, Police clearance certificate is Mandatory. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

internal validation.

Building internal self-worth involves cultivating a strong sense of identity and self-acceptance. This means acknowledging your strengths and achievements without needing external acknowledgment. It also involves embracing your imperfections and understanding that your value is not determined by others' opinions. Practicing self-compassion and positive self-talk can reinforce your internal sense of worth, making you less

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia | ensuring sustainabili **VACANCY** All positions are 2-3 years fixed term basis The office of the Head of the Programme is overall responsible for the conception of and driving the implementation of the strategy for the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme. It acts as a conduit between the line Ministry, the Joint Implementation CommitteeGreen Hydrogen Committee and staff, to inform the achievement of the Programme's priorities. The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) on behalf of the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme (NGHZP) invites application from suitably qualified and experienced Namibian nationals to apply for the positions Project Manager (x2) Patterson D Lower Patterson I Lower
Bachelor's Degree in Project Management, Engineering, Environmental Science, Renewable Resources or related.
Proficiency in Microsoft suite, PMP or Prince II certification as a prerequisite. 7 years' experience in project management, preferably from the renewable resource industries, of which 5 years of this experience should be at specialised/management level. Proven track record of successful management of large scale projects. Project Administrator (x1) Patterson C Lower Patterson C Lower

Bachelor's Degree in Project Management, Engineering, Environmental Science, Renewable Resources or related.

CAPM certification as an prerequisite. 3 years' experience in project management and administration or project office administration preferably from the renewable resource industries. Patterson D. Own.

Masters's Degree in Conference and Sustainable Development or related. 7 years' experience in environmental Management stewardship of which 5 years of this experience should be at specialised/management level Additional technical aspects of environmental and social impact assessments and/or strategic environmental and social assessments needed. Demostrated research. Senior Legal Advisor: Legislative Alignment (x1) Patterson D Lower

Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB). 7 years' experience in legal advisory services environment of which 5 of it is at professional/management level in legislative drafting. A Master of Laws (LLM) will be an advantage. Junior Legal Advisor (x 1) Patterson C Upper Patterson Cupper
Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB) and admission as a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Namibia as per legal
Practitioner Act No 15, 1995 and member of the Law Society of Namibia as added advantage. 3 years' experience in
legal advisory, compliance, governance, drafting of commercial contracts. Receptionist (x1) Patterson B Upper
NQA level 6 Diploma in Secretarial Studies, Office or Business Administration, with 3 years working experience in administration, customer care or reception from a reputable institution. Code B drivers licence will be an advantage. Skills Development Specialist (x1) Patterson D Lower
Bachelor's Degree in Educational Leadership, Training and Development, Human Resources Development, Change
Bachelor's Degree in Educational Leadership, Training and Development, Human Resources Development, Change
Management or Testled A. Master's degree in a related field will be an advantage. 7 years' experience in training and
development, innovation and curriculum research of which 5 years of this experience should be at specialised/management level For inquiries, please contact the Human Resource Department at recruitment@EIF.ORG.NA or +264 61431 7701 or +264 61431 7730 All applications should be directed to: Ms. Lizl Timbo Manager: Human Resources Tel: +264 61 4317730/431 7710 A full Terms of Reference outlining the detailed job description and other requirements can be obtained from the EIF vebsite, www.eif.org.na/documents/vacancies or through email request, recruitment@EIF.ORG.NA NO HAND DELIVERIES Applications with cover letter, recent CV and copies of qualifications should be emailed to recruitment@eif.org.na Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme Due Date: 23 August 2024

reliant on external praise.

Another crucial aspect of developing internal validation is setting personal goals and standards. When you define success on your own terms, you become less influenced by societal pressures or the expectations of others. Focus on your values and what truly matters to you, rather than seeking approval for things that may not align with your authentic self. This shift empowers you to pursue goals that bring genuine fulfillment, rather than those driven by a desire for external recognition.

Ultimately, the journey from external validation to internal self-worth is about reclaiming your sense of self. It requires patience, introspection, and a willingness to challenge deeply ingrained patterns of behavior. As you begin to rely more on your own judgment and less on others' opinions, you'll find that your confidence becomes more resilient, vour decisions more authentic, and your overall sense of well-being more stable. In a world that constantly tells us to seek approval from others, choosing to validate ourselves is a powerful act of self-love and empowerment.

*Junias Erasmus works for NAMFISA. He is a Scholar & a Motivational Speaker. This article is written in his personal capacity. For inquiries, contact him at Junias99@ amail.com

NAMMIC issues over 655,937 shares to 522 shareholders

amibia Mineworkers Investments Holding Company (NAMMIC Holdings) has raised over N\$3.9 million through the issuance of 655,937 Just Transition Investments Namibia Limited shares at N\$6.05 per share.

The deal, sponsored by Stratus Fund Managers, marks the issuance of share certificates to 522 members and former members of the Mine Workers Union of Namibia, including their dependents.

This is facilitated through Just Transition Investments (JTT) Namibia Limited, which was officially launched as a public company and contracted with Transfer Secretaries (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Namibian Stock Exchange as an agent to maintain the register of shareholders.

JTT holds 100% in NAMITVEST Investment Holdings (Proprietary) Limited, which in turn holds 25% of the entire issued share capital of NAMMIC Holdings, a company valued at over N\$700 million.

The Principal Officer of NAMITVEST, Jason Kasuto, said the Company is targeting a minimum of 4,500 shareholders, with monthly issuance of approximately 250 to 500 share certificates over the next 10 months.

"By 30 August 2024, we aim to have further expanded our shareholder base, reinforcing our mission to provide a pathway to long-term prosperity and economic stability for our subscribers and future generations," said Kasuto.

To date over 1,830 subscriptions have been received through this new vehicle as a total number of 10 million shares are



available to the defined Beneficiaries of JTT.

"46% of these shares have already been subscribed for with members busy paying for them, we made it easy as some have a 12-month debit order arrangement and thus over 50% is remaining for uptake," he said.

Kasuto noted that characteristic of the JTT's mission is the empowerment of the MUN members and former members and their dependents through financial literacy, loyalty rewards and investment opportunities.

"By offering members the chance to become shareholders, JTT aims to provide a pathway to long-term prosperity and economic stability for future generations," he said.

NAMMIC Chief Executive Officer Joshua Kaitungwa JTT said aims to create generational wealth for the members and former members of the Mineworkers Union of Namibia and their dependents.

"This initiative is not just about financial growth but about empowering our members with the knowledge, resources, and opportunities to build a brighter and more secure future for themselves and their families," he said.

Meanwhile, the initiative has various packages for various beneficiaries such as one for vulnerable income earners under a certain threshold who would need to show proof of income and receive over 1,000 shares.



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO. 11 OF 2024

SERVICE INTERRUPTION OF THE NAMIBIA LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM, 23-27 AUGUST 2024

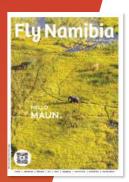
The Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) hereby informs all users of the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS) of the service interruption from 17:00 on 23 August 2024 until 08:00 on 27 August 2024 due to the scheduled maintenance of the NamLITS hardware. The maintenance works will affect services rendered at DVS and Livestock and Livestock Product Board of Namibia (LLPBN) offices countrywide, such as issuing of livestock movement permits, NamLITS Online transactions, processing of Stockbrand related applications as well as the sale of ear tags.

Therefore, all parties in the livestock industry as well as DVS and LLPBN offices are strongly advised to make prior arrangements to ensure operations are not affected as no NamLITS related services will be possible during this time.

Please be assured that the technical team will do everything to keep the services downtime within the indicated period. Any technical issues experienced following this exercise must be reported to the NamLITS offices in Windhoek (+264 61 208 342), Ondangwa (+264 65 240 833) and the LLPBN- FAN Meat Office (+264 61 275 844).



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NAMCOR appoints Mildred Hendricks as board member

ildred Hendricks has been appointed as a board member of the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR).

According to the national petroleum company, Hendricks brings over 20 years of extensive legal experience, having served in various significant roles within state-owned enterprises and development finance institutions.

Currently, she is the Legal Advisor at NamPost, where she provides comprehensive legal services, including contract drafting, legal opinions, and compliance advisory.

"Her previous roles include serving as Manager of Legal and Compliance at NamPost, where she was instrumental in managing the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance program, and as Regional Manager at the National Housing Enterprise (NHE), overseeing strategic objectives and risk management," NAMCOR said.

Hendricks holds a B. Iuris Degree and an LL.B Degree from the University of Western Cape and has completed numerous specialized courses in financial management, compliance, and risk management from renowned institutions such as the University of Stellenbosch Business School and the University of Johannesburg.

She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Law with a focus on Banking from UNISA.

"Hendricks's appointment underscores NAMCOR's commitment to reinforcing its governance framework and enhancing its operational effectiveness through



experienced and highly qualified leadership," said NAMCOR.

This appointment follows the decision by the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Iipumbu Shiimi, who in May appointed a six-member board chaired by Florentia Amuenje and deputized by Tersia Gowases.

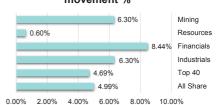
Other board members include Godfrey Ngaisiue, a Geophysicist; Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, Oscar Capelao; Anna Libana; and Trophimus Hiwilepo.

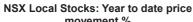


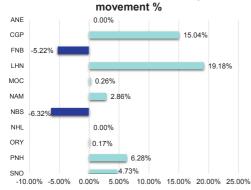
Commodities	
Spot Gold	2464.46
Platinum	935.13
Palladium	934.22
Silver	27.53
Uranium	82.00
Brent Crude	81.03
Iron Ore	95.73
Copper	8921.34
Natural Gas	2.21
Lithium	11.45

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	18.1720
EUR/ZAR	19.9016
GBP/ZAR	23.2974
USD/CNY	7.1546
EUR/USD	1.0952
GBP/USD	1.2822
USD/RUB	91.5193
CPI	4.60%
Repo Rate	7.75%
Prime Rate	11.50%

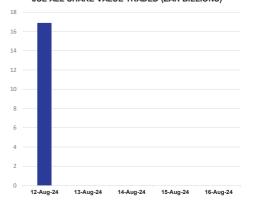
JSE Indices: Year to date







JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %

