

OIL AND GAS

Is Namibia ready for the Oil and Gas revolution?

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Energy Minister urges faster electrification efforts in Zambezi Region

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Walvis Bay offers Brazil faster access to southern markets

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THE

BR/EF

News Worth Knowing

Telecom allocates N\$100 million for network upgrades

teleshop

TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 2024



MAIN STORY

Telecom allocates N\$100 million for network upgrades



Telecom Namibia has earmarked between N\$90 million and N\$100 million for improving network quality and expanding coverage in the country.

The telecommunications giant has initiated upgrades of several mobile sites from 2G to 3G and 4G technology as part of this investment.

Telecom Namibia Chief Executive Officer Stanley Shanapinda highlighted that the move is aimed at enhancing network performance and accessibility for customers across the country.

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
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

“We have a budget of roughly N\$90 to N\$100 million for improving the network quality of service.

“We have a budget of roughly N\$90 to N\$100 million for improving the network quality of service. What we have done is upgrade a few mobile sites from 2G to 3G to 4G so that we can also expand the coverage. That's the key thing that we have done,” Shanapinda told The Brief.

He detailed the second initiative focused on decongesting the network. Telecom deployed teams to perform quality testing at several sites.

“The second one is to decongest, so we have sent out our teams to do the quality testing of the sites. We have decongested a lot of the sites, so the services and the coverage have improved,” he noted.


Shanapinda said if one travels to areas such as Swakopmund, Okahao and

Okahandja, notable improvements in service quality and coverage are evident.

“If you drive to Swakopmund, Okahao, for example, and around Okahandja, then you would see that the quality of the services has improved and the pickup has been great, so we look at decongestion at mobile services,” he said.

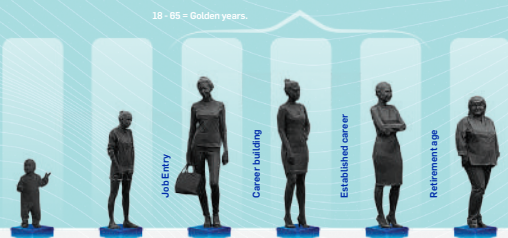
This comes as the telecommunications provider has signed a 5-year agreement with telecommunications giant Huawei that will see Telecom acquiring cutting-edge mobile equipment to expand its mobile network across the country.

The collaborations is part of Telecom Namibia’s Integrated Strategic Business Plan 2027, focusing on network modernisation and wider coverage.



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The Government Institution Pension Fund (GIPF) encourages all former members or beneficiaries who did not claim their pension benefits to visit their nearest GIPF or call the following GIPF staff members to claim their pension benefits.

Owen Sikanda 061 205 1340 | Titus Nakashona 061 205 1208 | Herold Kazavanga 061 205 1279 | Cathleen Hangero 061 205 1222

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
David	Sakaria	03/06/1980
Roline	Van Rensburg	18/08/1987
Anastasia	Joseph	19/06/1991
Ngonde	Shikuzho	06/12/1978
Fabianus	Sitongeni	05/08/1987
Joseph	Kapusa	19/03/1988
K	Katva	11/05/1987
Hans	Karapeke	20/06/1987
Ndapewa	Amadhila	31/03/1972
John	Festus	08/09/1972
Charlton	Kwido	06/06/1986
Anna	Maritz	27/10/1981
Maria	Kamati	10/10/1987
Matheus	Ndahomewa	29/04/1987
Morne	Landsberg	05/12/1978
Waltair	Witbeem	06/10/1989
R	Sunseb	8/29/1972
Mirjam	Shilamba	6/6/1983
J	Maruza	8/12/1975
James	Sitwala	8/3/1984
Frederika	Halla	8/28/1971
P	Thindimba	4/8/1983
Petru	Ndumba	1/15/1995
Dennis	Hibbert	1/19/1967
Jan	Cootzee	05/08/1962
A	Nyambe	02/11/1976
S	Gelta	06/06/1960
S	Venter	17/04/1957
A	Konjore	05/03/1980
A	Shanika	28/12/1968
Obed	Foto	11/09/1970
Elvis	Adams	18/02/1974
Felix	Hamuyera	21/04/1971
Roberts	Nyambe	11/03/1975
P	Kempen	28/10/1971
M	Klaaste	03/12/1962
C	Renton	06/01/1984
Aina	Itlope	27/05/1989
Aina	Shilongo	24/12/1976
Lionel	Van Wyk	27/06/1987
Kanzara	Murjanga	27/03/1974
M	Masule	10/08/1959
Promise	Sakutula	12/08/1977
Andrew	Dwana	20/04/1984
O	Chidunya	06/03/1987
Leonard	Amutenya	30/04/1987
Jan	Cootzee	25/08/1977

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
N	Uagwanga	29/09/1974
Josua	Shigwedha	09/09/1953
Raphael	Katura	05/08/1980
Gottfried	Apollus	26/02/1987

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Jeremiah	Kasinda	29/06/1981
Pleasure	Nguvauva	15/02/1989

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Paulus	Iyambo	18/05/1992

MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY - POLICE

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
J	Dwandano	12/05/1989
John	Eiman	31/03/1987
Rudi	Van Der Westhuizen	28/06/1979
Tate-ali	Haidowah	25/10/1984
Gavin	Humbob	23/01/1977
Gallus	Kanyanga	06/08/1984
Salomo	Shoombe	06/05/1982
Pieter	Manjenga	30/12/1988
Alex	Nysetla	17/07/1985
Dustine	Januarie	13/05/1991
Nafname	Hamuyela	16/08/1982
Vicky-Lee	Hercules	29/03/1989
Maria	Shikambe	07/10/1989
Zenas	Shitula	04/05/1984
B	Johannes	3/21/1961
Petrus	Lukas	6/12/1962
Ukurisa	Mutambo	1/5/1967
H	Pongohoji	11/2/1977
Nikodemus	Nampweya	11/18/1986
Immanuel	Ndadi	1/25/1989
Rakutika	Hamupunda	3/31/1990
Erica	Namases	9/16/1990
Stefanus	Reinhold	2/2/1986
Bonifasius	Kudumo	3/23/1994
Bernhardt	Hoabe	11/28/1991
Obert	Makata	9/20/1991
Shekela	Junias	01/01/1970
M	Josef	02/07/1955
Sean	Nderura	10/08/1988
Abalom	David	26/05/1989
David	Mbida	12/03/1984
Josephine	Shafetango	17/02/1989
Levi	Kapurewa	25/09/1984
Swan	Mbeha	18/09/1985
Malius	Hausiku	04/08/1978
Johannes	Kaushingwa	10/05/1988
Emilia	Nafal	09/01/1985

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
J	Berend	23/07/1972
Ekyking	Johannes	20/06/1994
Sam	Kavila	28/04/1993
Johannes	Herman	18/05/1994
Lazarus	Shimpulu	08/10/1984
Eliaser	Hamukwaya	11/10/1986
Thomas	Nambahu	10/6/1991
Samuel	Amukwa	10/21/1994
Valde	Nekuta	4/5/1992
Cecilie	Hoveka	11/2/1989
Lucas	Khauseb	7/30/1991
Martha	Ananias	5/17/1983
Kapulu	Lusepani	9/18/1982
Paulus	Kandivi	1/18/1995
Andreas	Johannes	06/09/1979
Penevambeko	Gabriel	04/07/1960
Simon	Mweeshininga	26/10/1980
Sylvia	Sebela	18/07/1975

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Isak	Cloete	12/13/1974

MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY - PRISONS

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Ester	Namweita	04/11/1987
Teon	Rongweni	06/06/1989
Immanuel	Sakshona	24/11/1989
Donovan	Rutz	10/6/1992

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Patricia	Mengeta	30/10/1985
Eugene	Murphy	19/05/1979
C	Burger	07/08/1954
D	Kawela	29/09/1968
Herman	Uashona	25/05/1989
Ruben	Levi	15/03/1990
Johannes	Plaajies	13/03/1978
Mbatunga	Tijmuhia	10/34/4010
Benamus	Tjmosha	17/06/1979
Johannes	Loow	01/06/1984
Leonie	Gooses	04/03/1989
Klaudia	Rita	01/04/1991
Jonny	Swartz	13/03/1991
Veltje	Hakaseen	28/05/1986
Liep	Tokoloshi	08/06/1990
Simon	Le Roux	08/12/1986
Elvin	Simulo	2/8/1986
Sedrim	Sepiso	8/16/1990
Silon	Nghitawa	4/14/1972
Nicolas	Hibbert	7/5/1965
J	Naidila	6/14/1976
Pandeni	Ihuhua	1/21/1984
Linda	Lukolo	6/13/1992
Catline	Linka	6/4/1980
Martha	Shigwedha	9/30/1988
J	Chassien	19/08/1972
Samwel	Shoombe	13/04/1978
H	Alli	18/08/1970
Wenzil	Kapitako	03/08/1981
Chiodza	Dale	12/04/1975
F	Mavhunga	18/07/1977
Johannes	George	05/04/1989

MINISTRY OF YOUTH NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT & CULTURE

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
K	Cowley	21/07/1964
S	Goa-Goseb	10/04/1965
Ricardo	Mensah	20/05/1980

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Mary	Chunga	3/18/1973
Elisabeth	Hausiku	4/15/1982

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
M	Fritz	15/11/1968

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
M	Murang	12/12/1978

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Rakkel	Shweda	7/18/1978

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

NAME	SURNAME	DATE OF BIRTH
Brother	Shikukuma	4/26/1992



Capricorn Group's new 13-story Windhoek development to create 250+ local jobs

The Capricorn Group on Tuesday broke ground on the construction of a new 13-story office building in Windhoek's central business district.

The building, being constructed at the corner of Independence Avenue and Kasino Street, is expected to be completed by June

2026, will create more than 250 local jobs and support local businesses that will supply materials and a range of services during the construction phase of the development alone.

Upon completion of the construction, the new building will accommodate more than 200 employees from Capricorn Group and



VACANCY

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Interested candidates are invited to visit the RFA website for more information. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

All applications should be addressed to the Manager: Human Capital, Road Fund Administration, P/Bag 13372, Windhoek, via email to recruitment@rfanam.com.na or hand-delivered to the RFA Head Office at 21 Feld Street, Windhoek, by the date and time shown below:

Closing Date: Thursday, 03 September at 17h00

Enquiries:
Ms. Lydia Mpinge 061 433 3038

Visit our website for more information
www.rfanam.com.na

its subsidiary, Bank Windhoek.

“The Bank Windhoek Main Branch, which has been located in the Bank Windhoek Head Office building next door for 42 years, will be moved to this new building. This move will provide customers with an enhanced and modern banking and customer service experience,” the Group said.

Capricorn Group said the yet-to-be-formally-named building has been meticulously designed to symbolize the Group’s achievements of more than four decades and to accommodate the growing need for office and parking space.

“In line with the Group’s purpose to be Connectors of Positive Change, the building’s design incorporated innovative practices

to minimize environmental impact and maximize energy efficiency. Adhering to world-class Green Building standards, the development is a testament to Capricorn Group’s commitment to promoting sustainable practices,” the financial services group said.

Johan Swanepoel, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Bank Windhoek, said the jobs created during the construction phase will bolster the local economy, enhance the livelihoods of residents, and ultimately contribute to a robust and prosperous community.

“Our Group’s legacy and heritage are deeply rooted in this piece of land. With this development, we are contributing

to a continued legacy of positive change. As part of this commitment to positive change, we are determined to breathe new life into the heart of our community at this intersection of history and progress. We will explore ways to rejuvenate the space around our new building, for the benefit of our employees, customers, and the community,” Swanepoel said.

Bank Windhoek Managing Director, Baronice Hans, said the bank, as the anchor tenant, had been given the opportunity to provide input into the design and layout of the building, ensuring that the needs of its employees and customers have been taken on board.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our future landlord for their vision and collaboration on this project. This new space

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will not only create an enhanced working environment for our employees but also world-class facilities for our customers,” she said.


Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Capricorn Group CEO David Nuyoma said, “Today (Tuesday), we’re not just breaking ground on a new development; we’re laying the foundation for an exciting new chapter in the story of our financial services group. This groundbreaking ceremony symbolizes our progress and relentless pursuit of innovation and positive change while remaining firmly

rooted in our heritage and values. We’re not simply investing in a structure of bricks and mortar; this project represents a significant investment in our beloved city’s economic and cultural fabric. Our commitment is to ensure that this development fosters growth and prosperity for the community, enriching the lives of future generations. As we stand here today, we celebrate the beginnings of what will become a new landmark in the heart of Windhoek—a city that has been our home since 1982 and has borne witness to our growth and evolution.”



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Windhoek receives 233 new plan submissions valued at N\$227.5 million in July

The City of Windhoek in July 2024 received 233 construction plans valued at N\$227.5 million in July 2024, a slight increase from the 195 plans received in July 2023, latest data reveals.

Simonis Storm reports that this is despite a decrease in the number of approved plans, which fell to 189 from 209 during the same period last year.

"Completed projects however saw a significant increase, with 138 projects valued at N\$115.1 million completed in July 2024, compared to only 48 completed in July 2023 at a value of N\$51.3 million," said the firm's Researcher Halleluya Ndimulunde.

This comes as the outlook for the construction sector indicates modest growth with gradual building activity observed in both Windhoek and Swakopmund.

Swakopmund experienced a downturn, with only 39 plans submitted to the municipality in July 2024, valued at N\$50.1 million.

Ndimulunde said this marks a sharp decrease from the 66 plans submitted in July 2023, which were valued at N\$64.7 million.

"The number of completed projects also fell, with 30 projects valued at N\$29.2 million completed in July 2024, down from

the previous year's figures," she said.

Additionally, mortgage credit growth remains sluggish, with a modest increase to 0.6% y/y in June 2024 from 0.3% y/y in May 2024.

"The demand for mortgage credit is still muted, largely due to persistently high interest rates. Despite the Bank of Namibia's earlier-than-expected interest rate cuts, the immediate impact on credit uptake by households and businesses is likely to be limited," she said.

While these cuts have the potential to boost confidence and stimulate economic activity over time, their effects may not be felt immediately.

Meanwhile, further analysis of approved building plans for July 2024 in the City of Windhoek shows that Khomasdal is the most active area, with 23 approved plans primarily for additions and walls.

"This is followed by Katutura and Goreangab, each with 16 approved plans, predominantly for new houses, suggesting a focus on expanding residential infrastructure. Otjomuise follows with 14 plans. In Pionierspark, there are 11 approved plans, which include two swimming pools alongside other construction projects," she noted.

Klein Windhoek and

Wanaheda have 9 and 8 approved plans respectively, reflecting moderate development.

Academia and Olympia each have 7 approved plans, indicating a steady level of activity. Moreover, Hochlandpark and Rocky Crest, with 4 approved plans each, show lower but still significant construction efforts.

"Erospark, Okuryangava, and Prosperita each have 3 approved plans, demonstrating ongoing but minimal development. Brakwater and Cimbebasia have the least activity, with 1 and 3 approved plans, respectively. Notably, all areas, except Auasblik, are seeing additions to existing buildings, while Auasblik specifically has one new commercial building," she added.

This comes as the FNB House Price Index report for the first quarter of 2024 reveals a subdued housing market across Namibia, characterised by modest price growth and declining transaction volumes.

Nationally, house prices recorded a 0.3% growth in 1Q2024, a significant slowdown compared to previous quarters.

Land sales also experienced a sharp decline, contracting by 21.5% y/y, with the central and northern regions being

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the most affected.

"Despite some government interventions, high interest rates and affordability issues continue to suppress buying activity,

leading more consumers to opt for renting. Consequently, the residential property market is expected to remain subdued due to these ongoing challenges," said FNB.



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Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps	10Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
(12-month service duration including installation)	5,119	5,579	5,819	8,059

Speedlink liteplus (Asymmetric)

Package/Contract Period	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	35Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	749	879	1,159	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	679	789	1,039	1,779
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	639	749	979	1,679

Speedlink liteplus (Symmetric)

Package/Contract Period	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	799	989	1,299	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	719	889	1,169	1,779
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	679	849	1,109	1,679

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Multichoice Talent Factory 2025 calls for entries

MultiChoice Talent Factory is thrilled to announce that it's once again calling upon all aspiring Namibian filmmakers, scriptwriters, producers, and storytellers to apply for entry into the 2025 fully funded academic year.

Whether you're a young professional looking to change careers and expand your horizons or a newcomer eager to make your mark in the TV & Film industry, MTF welcomes applicants from all backgrounds across 13 countries in Africa, including Namibia.

“MTF fosters entrepreneurial spirit, giving young people the confidence to start their own projects and businesses,” said MultiChoice Namibia Managing Director, Roger Gertze. “To date, our Namibian alumni have registered production houses, pitched concepts at Talents Durban, and produced films under the Mukorob and Ombura local content project. The knowledge and skills imparted by MTF empowers graduates to be catalysts for economic growth and cultural enrichment in their communities.”

Since its inception in 2018, MTF has welcomed 60 students each year giving them an opportunity to reach their dreams and to unleash their potential by providing a platform that nurtures and develops talent across the continent, providing opportunities for growth, networking and success in the entertainment industry. 11 Namibians have graduated from the MTF programme so far, with two currently completing their training at the MTF Southern campus in Zambia.

Through a series of rigorous training programs, MTF believes in using hands-on approach and mentorship from industry experts. Participants not only get a chance to sharpen their craft but also gain invaluable insights into the business of filmmaking. Imagine being chosen as one of the participants to learn from some of the industry's best minds and gaining practical experience in areas such as cinematography, sound design, editing, and more.

MTF gives you all these opportunities and does not stop there.

At the end of the programme, top performing students from each academy will get further training, mentorship and internship opportunities with MTF global partners, such as the New York Film Academy (NYFA), Indian-based platform

Zee World and will get an opportunity to work on productions in South Africa. Upon completion, students receive accredited and recognised qualification and get a chance to produce and direct short films showcased on MultiChoice platforms.

“All these initiatives are indicative of MTF's commitment to supporting MultiChoice's content selection of delivering exciting local content, which is rich in culture,” continued Gertze. “Africa has many untold stories and by investing in African talent, MultiChoice gets to uncover and showcase these stories by supporting MTF's students, giving them necessary skills and the platform to produce content that resonates with Africans and the global market. Through this support, MTF alumni's have achieved phenomenal success in their productions.”

Just last year, Namibian alumni secured nominations across two categories at the 2023 Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA) for the films ‘The 11th Commandment’ and ‘Mfumukazi’. In addition to this, our MTF alumni occupy significant industry roles such as writers, sound engineers, and co-directors in our local content project ‘Ombura’ which includes 6 films, 1 documentary and 1 lifestyle series.

Applications are now open and will close on 15 September 2024. Interested candidates can visit <https://applications.multichoicetalentfactory.com> to submit their entries and learn more about the program's requirements.

Are you ready to unleash your talent and step into the spotlight as one of the next generation of filmmakers? Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to ignite your career in film and television with MultiChoice Talent Factory.

Take the first step towards realising your dreams and apply now.

Your journey to success starts here!



EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC LECTURE

Title: *“Bridging Continents: The EU history, evolution and partnership with Namibia for a green industrialisation”*

Date: Thursday, 22 August 2024

Time: 16h00

Venue: UNAM Leisure Centre

DESCRIPTION:

In this public lecture, H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins, Ambassador of the European Union to Namibia will shed light the origins of the European Union.

As a multi- and supra-national organisation, the EU is unique in the world as political and economic union among sovereign states. While complex in many aspects, the Ambassador will highlight the main roles of the EU institutions and how they work together concisely.

Finally, the lecture will show how this relates to the EU Foreign Policy in general and with Namibia in specific. Special attention will be given to our Strategic Partnership with Namibia on Green Hydrogen and Critical Raw Materials value chains, and how we believe the Green Industrialisation will

unlock growth and job creation in Namibia and enable us to protect our planet.

TARGET:

Students and faculty – open to all - but special focus on those in Diplomatic Academy, International relations, and media. Also open to diplomatic community and civil society organizations.

Registration link: <https://shorturl.at/Nne6c>



Is Namibia ready for the Oil and Gas revolution? Assessing the role of Vocational Training Centres

By Johannes Kanuku

Namibia's burgeoning oil and gas industry is poised to be a game-changer for the nation's economy. With recent discoveries and growing investments, there's increasing optimism about the sector's potential to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.

However, the success of this industry hinges not just on the resources beneath the ground but also on the skilled workforce available to extract and manage them. This raises a critical question: Are Namibia's Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) ready to meet the demands of this rapidly evolving sector?

Current State of VTCs in Namibia

Namibia's VTCs have long been the backbone of the nation's skills development, offering courses in trades such as welding, electrical work, and mechanical engineering. These are essential skills in the oil and gas sector, yet the industry also demands highly specialized training that may not be fully addressed by the current offerings.

Existing Courses and Infrastructure

While welding and mechanical engineering are key components of the oil and gas industry, the current curricula in many VTCs focus on general skills rather



Namibia's VTCs have long been the backbone of the nation's skills development, offering courses in trades such as welding, electrical work, and mechanical engineering.

than the specialized knowledge required for oil and gas operations. Additionally, the infrastructure in most VTCs, although adequate for traditional vocational training, may lack the advanced equipment and simulated environments necessary for real-world oil and gas training.

Instructor Expertise and Curriculum

The quality of training is closely linked to the expertise of instructors. While Namibian VTCs have competent instructors, there is a need for ongoing professional development to equip them with the latest industry knowledge and techniques. Furthermore, the curriculum itself needs a thorough review to ensure it aligns with the specific demands

THE
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92 FM

of the oil and gas industry, including safety protocols, environmental management, and the use of industry-standard technology.

Industry Requirements vs. VTC Offerings

The oil and gas industry is unique in its requirements for specialized skills and certifications. Offshore survival training, drilling operations, and process technology are just a few examples of the niche areas where expertise is crucial. Unfortunately, these are not typically covered in the traditional VTC offerings.

Specialized Training Needs

For instance, the Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET) is a mandatory certification for anyone working offshore, yet this is not currently offered in most Namibian VTCs. Similarly, advanced courses in drilling operations and process technology, which are essential for the industry, are lacking.

Gaps and Challenges

The gap between the skills required by the industry and what is currently offered by VTCs presents a significant challenge. Without the necessary upgrades in curricula and facilities,

Namibia risks having a workforce that is ill-prepared to meet the demands of its growing oil and gas sector. This could lead to missed opportunities for local employment and a reliance on foreign expertise.

Recommendations for Improvement

To bridge this gap, a strategic overhaul of the vocational training system is needed. This involves not just updating the curriculum but also investing in the infrastructure and human resources necessary to deliver

high-quality, industry-relevant education.

Curriculum Enhancement

The first step is to enhance the curriculum by incorporating specialized courses tailored to the oil and gas industry. These should include offshore safety training, drilling technology, and environmental management practices. Aligning these courses with international standards will also ensure that graduates are competitive on a global scale.

Infrastructure and Equipment Upgrades

Investment in modern training facilities is essential. This could include simulated rigs, safety training centers, and advanced equipment used in oil and gas operations. Such investments would provide students with hands-on experience that closely mirrors the conditions they will face in the field.

Industry Collaboration

Forging stronger partnerships between VTCs and industry players is crucial. These collaborations can provide insights into current industry needs and ensure that training programs are continuously updated. Moreover, industry partnerships can facilitate internships and

apprenticeships, giving students practical experience and improving their employability.

Instructor Training and Development



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Instructors must be equipped with up-to-date knowledge and skills. This can be achieved through continuous professional development programs and exposure to the latest industry practices. Enhancing the capacity of instructors will, in turn, improve the quality of education delivered to students.

International Examples

Countries like Norway and the United Arab Emirates have successfully adapted their vocational training systems to meet the demands of their oil and gas sectors.

These countries have developed specialized training programs and invested in state-of-the-art facilities, creating a workforce that is both skilled and industry-ready. Namibia can learn from these models by adapting best practices to the local context.

Conclusion

Namibia stands on the brink of an economic transformation, with the oil and gas sector offering unprecedented opportunities for growth and employment. However, the success of this transformation hinges on the readiness of the nation's Vocational Training Centres. While there is

a solid foundation in place, significant enhancements are needed to align VTC offerings with the specific demands of the oil and gas industry.

By investing in curriculum development, infrastructure upgrades, and industry collaborations, Namibia can equip its workforce with the skills needed to thrive in this dynamic sector. This is not just about meeting the demands of today's industry but about preparing for the future, ensuring that Namibia's workforce remains competitive and capable of driving the nation's economic growth.

****Johannes Kanuku is an SME owner currently pursuing an LLM in International Energy Law and Policy at the University of Dundee. For further inquiries, you can contact him at kanukufudheni@gmail.com.***



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Energy Minister urges faster electrification efforts in Zambezi Region

The Minister of Mines and Energy, Tom Alweendo, has called on Zambezi regional leaders to expedite the use of funds allocated for electrifying peri-urban communities. During a visit, Alweendo urged

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NamPower, NORED, and the Regional Councils to collaborate effectively to meet the electrification goals.

Alweendo emphasised the importance of efficient resource use and prioritisation within the electrification plan.

"We must ensure that we can do what is necessary. The challenges we face are well known. It is important to evaluate our resources and plan their effective use to achieve our goals," he stated.

He highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to avoid inefficient spending and disruptions in the grid.

"However, within this plan, we must continually assess which areas should be electrified first. Improper prioritisation could lead to inefficient spending. If we address one area and later need to return to another, it could hinder our overall progress, particularly on the grid. Skipping sections of the grid can disrupt our effectiveness in using our resources," he said.

The Minister's visit includes engagements with traditional authorities in the region and will conclude with the inauguration of a power line at Masambo Primary School in Kongola on 21 August 2024.

"This year, we are in a better position to enhance our electrification initiatives due to a significantly larger budget than usual. We have allocated N\$17.8 million to the education sector in the region, and we aim to finalise the implementation plan swiftly," Alweendo added.

He stressed the urgency of completing projects before the onset of floods, which could impede progress.

"I hope we can finalise this plan quickly and begin implementation. We do not want to find ourselves in a situation where, despite having more resources, we fail to utilise them effectively. We aim to execute our plans as swiftly as possible," he said.

Currently, 10 schools in the Zambezi Region are without electricity, underscoring the urgency of addressing these gaps.

Walvis Bay offers Brazil faster access to southern markets

Walvis Bay Corridor Group CEO Hippy Tjivikua says the Walvis Bay Port's shorter shipping times compared to regional alternatives position it as a more efficient and cost-effective choice for Brazilian trade.

He said compared to traditional shipping routes through South Africa's Durban port, Walvis Bay boasts a substantial distance advantage.

The CEO highlighted the reduced sailing time to reach Walvis Bay from Brazilian ports like Rio de Janeiro and Santos.

The time saving translates into faster delivery times, lower transportation costs, and increased competitiveness for Brazilian companies operating in the region.

"If you look at the distances between, let me say, the port of Rio de Janeiro and Walvis Bay and the port of Santos to Walvis Bay, you realise that basically, the distance in the ocean from the port of Rio to Walvis Bay is 582km. The border of Durban is even further, at 8,730km. If you look at the port of Santos Bay and Luanda the distance is 5,878km. I'm deliberately mentioning Luanda and Durban because these are key ports within Southern Africa, especially to Brazil," he said.

Tjivikua further explained that beyond its geographical advantage, Namibia also offers a stable political environment, efficient port operations, and robust infrastructure, making it an attractive destination for businesses.

"We've got a very stable political environment and one of the advantages that I can also share with you is that our safety and security in this country tops.



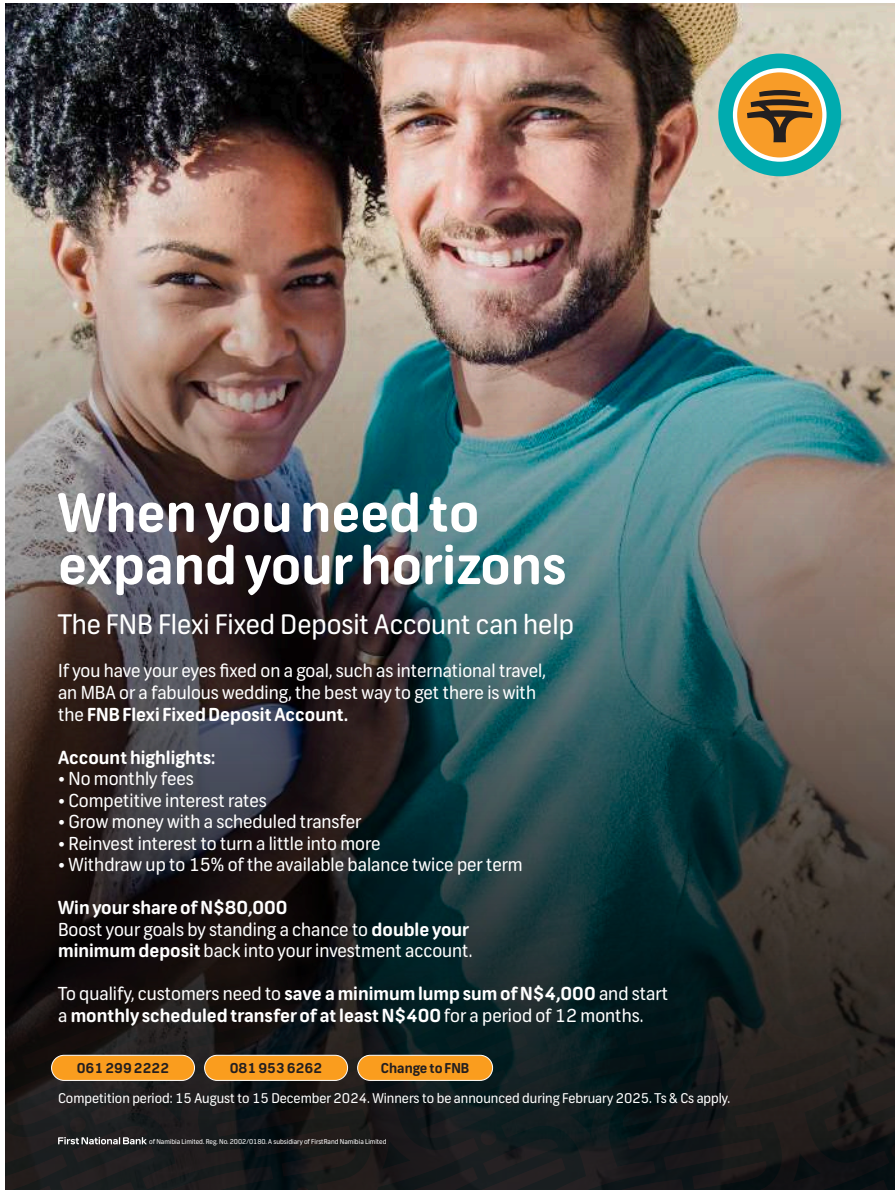
We find trucks that are moving with high-value commodity goods like cobalt, no matter what happens in most operations, a truck, when it leaves the mine, the moving convoys have got armed escorts up to the port. But when they enter Namibia, they relinquish the armed escorts. That's how safe it is," he said.

The country is actively investing in expanding its port facilities, improving

rail and road networks, and enhancing its logistics capabilities to further solidify its position as a regional trade gateway.

“We have been mandated to turn Namibia into a logistics hub we extended in terms of the new container terminal. We are working on basically four important elements:

Efficient ports, storage operations, efficient transport, network, collection and distribution points, and basically our short-term goal is transforming from corridors into economic development corridors and subsequently into the industrialised economy of Namibia,” he said.



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Christy Kotze appointed as BPI Namibia's new Country Manager

Business Partners International Namibia has appointed Christy Kotze as its new Country Manager, effective June 1, 2024.

Kotze, who succeeds Sam Ikela, brings over 19 years of experience in Namibia's banking sector, having worked at Bank Windhoek Ltd for 12 years, most recently as the Manager of Business Banking and Sales.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce with a focus on Risk Management and Human Resources Management from Regent Business School and has recently completed a Management Development Programme at the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

Kotze's appointment comes as BPI Namibia embarks on disbursing the second round of funding for SME businesses in the country.

"With his extensive experience in the banking sector, he is well-positioned to drive growth in Namibia. His focus will be on creating awareness of BPI's offerings and ensuring that established SME segments in Namibia are informed about the company's impact on their business ventures," the small and medium-sized enterprises financing company said.

In the long term, Kotze plans to grow BPI's profitability by increasing the client base and diversifying revenue streams while financing and investing in businesses that contribute significantly to job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development.



"In the medium term, I will be focusing on three areas: market penetration, product diversification, and partnerships," said Kotze.

"We will expand BPI's market presence by targeting underserved but well-established SME segments. We will introduce tailored financial offerings and services that address specific

needs such as working capital loans, trade finance, and risk management, aligning with market conditions and economic cycles. Additionally, we aim to strengthen our network through collaborations with local organizations, industry associations, and government bodies."

BPI has been expanding exponentially and announced the second round of funding worth US\$20 million in 2022 to benefit SME owners in Namibia and Malawi. Kotze will continue the ambitious work already underway in Namibia, ensuring that more small business owners have access to affordable and long-term financing.

Business Partners International is a specialist risk finance company for formal small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, and Uganda, with its headquarters in South Africa. BPI began its operations in Namibia in 2014 through a limited life fund with a five-year investment period.

During that time, BPI approved investments worth US\$12.1 million, with 97% of approvals going to indigenous Namibian entrepreneurs, facilitating the creation of over 2,000 jobs.



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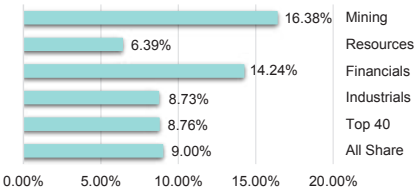
Commodities

Spot Gold	2525.80
Platinum	951.21
Palladium	942.19
Silver	29.61
Uranium	81.50
Brent Crude	78.02
Iron Ore	87.82
Copper	9186.26
Natural Gas	2.20
Lithium	11.25

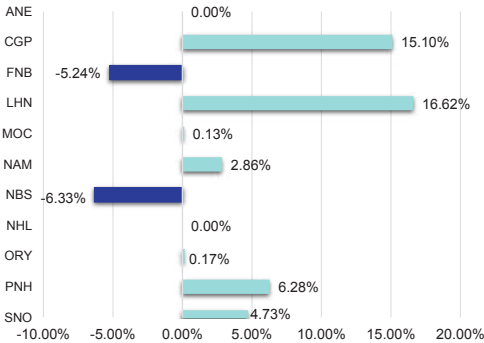
Currencies

USD/ZAR	17.8530
EUR/ZAR	19.8352
GBP/ZAR	23.2729
USD/CNY	7.1325
EUR/USD	1.1109
GBP/USD	1.3035
USD/RUB	91.0094
CPI	4.60%
Repo Rate	7.50%
Prime Rate	11.25%

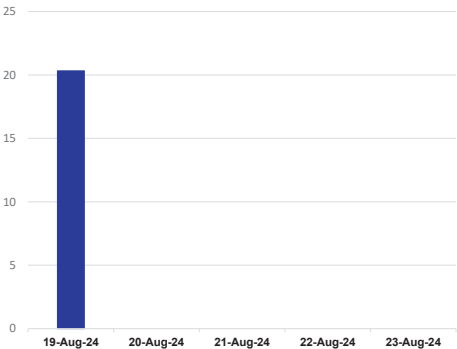
JSE Indices: Year to date
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