BON cuts repo rate to 7.00% to boost economic growth p. 05



APPOINTMENT Shiimi appoints new DBN board p. 07



CONTRACT MTC extends Licky Erastus' contract as MD



BR/EF

- News Worth Knowing



EU invests N\$12.7 billion into Namibia's economy

WEDNESDAY 04 DECEMBER 2024

MAIN STORY



EU invests N\$12.7 billion into Namibia's economy

he European Union (EU) was Namibia's top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2023, contributing N\$12.7 billion to the country's economy.

Economist Robin Sherbourne said the EU continues to be one of Namibia's top trade partners, maintaining the position since 2004.

"The EU has been a stable and significant trading partner for Namibia, contributing not only through exports but also through substantial FDI across various sectors," Sherbourne said.

Within this period the region came in third

place behind China and South Africa with an injection of N\$70 billion and N\$36 billion respectively.

This comes as the EU has accounted for a major portion of Namibia's merchandise exports, with the bloc, along with South Africa, Botswana, China, and other top ten markets, making up over 80% of exports since 2004.

"In the past five years, this share has risen to over 90%. Diamonds, uranium, and gold remain the dominant exports to the EU, with countries such as Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Germany, and Portugal making up 95% of Namibia's exports to the region in 2023," he said.

In 2023, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, France, Poland, Greece, and Ireland accounted for 75% of imports from the EU.

Sherbourne also noted, "that EU-based companies have been active investors in Namibia across various sectors, including agriculture, fishing, mining, oil and gas, manufacturing, green hydrogen, renewable energy, and hospitality".

He added that Namibia's export mix to the EU is notably more diversified compared to other trading partners, signalling a growing range of goods being traded, which includes renewable energy projects like charcoal.

On the import side, Namibia's reliance on South Africa has decreased since 2004, attributed largely to the growth in diamond imports and increased diversification in petroleum products.

However, the EU remained a key source of imports in 2023, with 19 product categories accounting for more than 1% of the total import value.

This comes as the EU Delegation to Namibia today hosted a stakeholder workshop focused on EU-Namibia trade and investment relations.

The event served as a platform to discuss the draft key findings from an independent study on the EU - Namibian trade data and foreign direct investment, with particular emphasis on the European Union.

The study was conducted by Sherbourne, a highly regarded independent economist and long-time observer of Namibia's economic landscape.

EU Ambassador to Namibia, Ana Beatriz

Martins, said the purpose of commissioning the study and sharing its findings was to gain a more precise understanding of trade and investment flows between Namibia and the EU27 European Union over the past decade.

"This will help us better understand the evolution of Namibia's exports to Europe, trends by destination, sectors and investments," she said.

Ambassador Martins further highlighted that such data strengthens policy analysis, identifies growth opportunities, and supports economic planning.

"It can also underpin more efficient resource allocation, for instance, identifying where investment in infrastructure, such as ports and logistics, is most needed. This is particularly important within the context of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the strategic Partnership on Raw Materials Value Chains and Renewable Hydrogen between the EU and Namibia," she added.

Ambassador Martins emphasised that EU-Namibia relations have evolved significantly over the years, transitioning from traditional development cooperation to a partnership of equals based on trade, investment and sustainable development.

The draft findings of this study underscore the importance of the EU-Namibia partnership in fostering sustainable economic growth and exploring new opportunities for trade and investment.

Following the stakeholder workshop, the researcher will submit his final results to the EU Delegation to Namibia. A final report will be transmitted to the Minister of Trade and Industrialisation.







CONGRATULATIONS

B2Gold Namibia proudly congratulates
Her Excellency **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** on her
election as the first female president-elect of Namibia.

We look forward to partnering with your administration to contribute to the continued progress of our beloved country.

Best wishes for a successful and impactful tenure. Together, let us build a brighter tomorrow.





The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.00%, citing lower inflation and moderate growth in private sector credit extension.

The move, backed by sufficient foreign reserves, aims to stimulate economic activity while maintaining the Namibia Dollar's peg to the South African Rand.

Commercial banks are expected to lower their prime rate to 10.75%.

BoN Governor Johannes! Gawaxab said the

stock of international reserves rose to N\$60.9 billion as of 31 October 2024, compared to N\$57.1 billion at the end of September 2024, primarily attributed to SACU inflows.

"This level of reserves translates to an estimated import cover of 4.1 months, which remains adequate to sustain the currency peg between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand and meet the country's international financial obligations. Excluding hydrocarbon exploration and appraisal-related activities, the import cover stood







higher at 4.9 months," he said.

added that domestic inflation decelerated further since the last MPC meeting. Inflation averaged 4.5% in the first ten months of 2024, a notable deceleration compared to 6.0% during the same period in 2023.

Similarly, inflation slowed from 3.4% in September to 3.0% in October 2024. The inflation rate registered in October 2024 is the lowest since February 2021.

"The disinflationary trend is attributed to the sustained lower average food inflation and. most recently, the deceleration in transport inflation. Looking ahead. the medium-term inflation projection remains unchanged from the previous MPC meeting, with forecasts of 4.3% for 2024 and 4.0% for 2025," !Gawaxab said.

Despite the relatively stable domestic economic conditions compared to the previous MPC meeting, the increasing prominence of external risks to the domestic outlook remains a concern.

"External risks include the escalation of geopolitical tensions. geoeconomic fragmentation, and weaker global demand. Other risks are sovereign debt distress. fluctuations renewed in commodity prices, and the contraction in the Chinese property market," the governor explained.

He added that internally,

drought conditions and water supply interruptions continue to pose downside risks to the growth outlook, particularly in coastal towns.

Moreover, the BoN revised upwards the expected real GDP growth attributed to a strongerthan-anticipated performance the primary industry, especially gold mining.

"From 4.2% in 2023, real GDP growth for 2024 as a whole is projected to moderate to 3.5%, 0.4 percentage point higher relative to the projection at the previous MPC meeting," he said

!Gawaxab said the growth projection for 2025 has been marginally revised upward by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0%.

Analysts were divided on whether the repo rate would be reduced from 7.25% ahead of the Bank of Namibia's final MPC meeting for 2024.

Head of Investments at Simonis Storm, Max Rix. predicted a 25-basis-point cut, citing moderating inflation and strong international reserves.

However, High Economic Intelligence expected the rate to remain unchanged, aligning with South Africa's recent cut and maintaining inflation stability. Meanwhile, Feris from IJG Research and FNB's Helena Mboti supported a rate reduction, noting stable banking liquidity and positive short-term inflation trends, but cautioned about medium-term inflationary risks.









Shiimi appoints new DBN board

Inanceand Public Enterprises Minister Ipumbu Shiimi has appointed a new board for the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), naming Evangelina Nailenge as Chairperson and Debmarine CEO Willy Mertens as Deputy Chairperson.

The newly appointed Board also includes MTC Executive Patience Kanalelo, Bank of Namibia Director of Information Technology Marsorry Ickua, and Dr. John Steytler, who serves as an ex-officio member in his capacity as DBN CEO. Their term will run until December 31, 2027.

In response to her appointment, Nailenge expressed gratitude and commitment to leading the Bank's mission over the next three years.

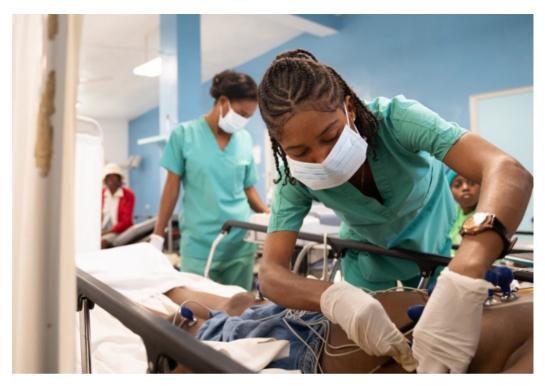
"I am deeply honoured by the confidence bestowed in me to chair the Board of the Development Bank of Namibia. Together with my fellow Board members, we will ensure that DBN's Five-Year Strategic Plan translates into impactful results that benefit the Namibian economy and its people," she said.

The appointments bring together a diverse team of professionals with extensive expertise across various industries, which is expected to strengthen DBN's strategic vision and its role in driving economic development.

DBN CEO Dr. John Steytler praised the new Board, expressing optimism about its potential to drive significant change.

"With the Board's continued stewardship, I am confident that DBN will expand its reach and deepen its impact, driving transformational change in Namibia's economic landscape. Their appointment ensures continuity in our efforts to support economic growth and create opportunities for all Namibians," he said.

The Development Bank of Namibia plays a critical role in financing projects that foster economic growth and improve livelihoods.



87.1% of Namibians live within 10km of health facilities

he Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) reveals that 87.1% of the country's population resides within 10 kilometres of a health facility.

While urban areas exhibit near-universal coverage of 99%, rural areas demonstrate a lower level of access, with only 75.3% of the

population residing within this proximity.

This comes as Namibia's National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) hosts 530 mapped health facilities, including 49 hospitals, 60 health centres, and 421 clinics.

These are distributed across 38 digitally



Are you looking to stay informed about the latest development: In the Namibian business, finance, and economic sectors?

Subscribe to The Brief today and gain access to exclusive content, expert analysis, and in-depth reporting on the issues that matter most to your business.

Scan to subscribe





t f @thebrieflive www.thebrief.com.na mapped health districts.

Windhoek Health District leads with the highest percentage of health facilities (11.1%), followed by Katima Mulilo (7.2%) and Engela (4.5%). Tsumkwe ranks lowest, with only 0.8% of the facilities.

"At regional level Khomas had the highest proportion of the population within a 10-kilometre radius at 96.8%, followed by Oshana at 96.7% and Kavango East at 95.0% respectively. Omaheke and Kunene regions had the lowest population within the 10-kilometre radius at 59.4% and 59.8% respectively," said NSA's Executive for GIS and NSDI Coordination Alex Mudabeti.

He further explained that population

proximity to health facilities varies significantly across the country.

Communities of the Hardap face the greatest challenges, with some traveling as far as 119.9 kilometres to access care.

This highlights the vast, sparsely populated nature of areas such as //Kharas, Hardap, and Kunene. In contrast, population-dense districts like Windhoek and Engela have higher accessibility.

The health facility-to-population ratio further underscores these disparities. Oshana has the highest ratio of 1 health facility for every 9,617 persons, followed by Khomas at 1:8,383.

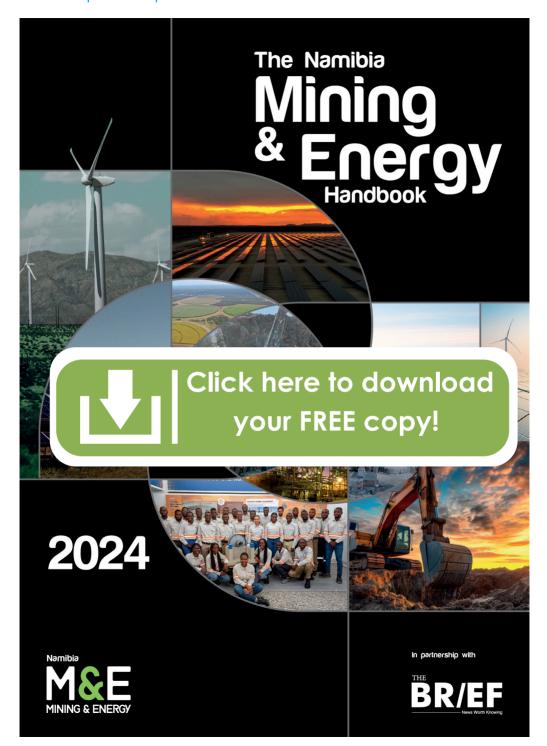
Regions such as // Kharas and Kunene have better ratios, with one health facility for every 3,330 and 3,552 persons, respectively.

Overall, Namibia's health infrastructure aligns well with population distribution, as indicated by the geographic centers of both population and health facilities being in the Otjozondjupa Region.

Etunda Clinic is identified as the most centrally located health facility nationally.

"Generally, Namibia's health facilities are well planned around the population distribution. At national level, both health facilities and population had their geographic mean centers of their distribution in Otjozondjupa Region, Etunda Clinic being the most central health facility in the country," he said.





MTC extends Licky Erastus' contract as MD

The Board of MTC Namibia has renewed Dr. Licky Richard Erastus' fixed-term contract as Managing Director for an additional five years.

His new term will run from December 1, 2024, to November 30, 2029.

The board attributed the decision to Erastus' exceptional leadership, which has propelled the listed telecoms company to achieve remarkable milestones.

"This decision was taken on the basis of MTC's overall exceptional performance under his leadership, and the renewal demonstrates the Board's confidence in Dr. Erastus' ability to lead MTC into the digital age," the board said.

Highlighting his tenure, the board noted significant achievements, including MTC's historic listing on the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX), strong financial performance, and consistent delivery of shareholder value. Under his guidance, MTC also retained its position as Namibia's most innovative and most admired brand.

Erastus has been with MTC in various leadership roles since 2011, including serving as Chief Technical Officer.

He became the Chief Executive Officer on December 1, 2019, before being appointed Managing Director on March 8, 2021.

 $MTC\,made\,history\,as\,the\,first\,state-owned$



enterprise in Namibia to transition to a publicly listed company. The company fully complied with NSX listing requirements and underwent a successful public offering.

Erastus will remain an Executive Director on the company's board.





Namibia's private sector access over N\$3.8 billion in credit in past year

amibia's private sector received over N\$3.80 billion in credit over the last 12 months, nearly double



the amount expended during the same period the previous year, data from IJG Securities shows.

Of this, the firm noted that individuals accounted for N\$1.82 billion, while corporations absorbed N\$1.98 billion.

"Private sector credit extension (PSCE) increased by 0.7% m/m, equivalent to N\$791.7 million, bringing the annual growth rate to 3.4% as of the end of October 2024," said IJG.

This comes after adjusting for interbank swaps recorded by the Bank of Namibia (BoN) in non-resident private sector claims, the normalised cumulative credit outstanding reached N\$115.41 billion.

According to Simonis Storm Securities

(SSS), as of October 2024, Namibia's corporate debt stock reached N\$47.1 billion, reflecting an increase of N\$410.5 million from September.

"Corporate credit growth rose to 4.4% y/y, signalling increased investments in infrastructure, technology, and capacity expansion. This broad-based growth suggests a positive outlook for the corporate sector," said SSS.

Key corporate credit categories experienced notable growth, instalment and leasing credit demand surged to N\$6.2 billion, up significantly from N\$4.9 billion in October 2023.

This robust growth highlights increased business interest in leasing arrangements.

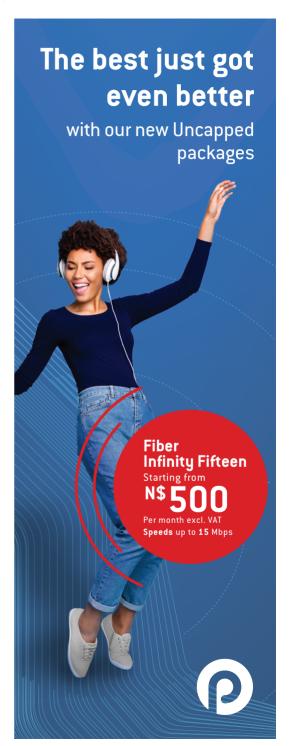
"Corporate mortgage borrowing improved, rising from N\$13.807 billion in September (0.9%) to N\$13.847 billion in October (1.4%). This growth indicates renewed interest in real estate investment, likely spurred by lower interest rates," Simonis added.

While overdraft facilities contracted by -10.4%, the value rose marginally from N\$8.960 billion to N\$8.968 billion, representing an improvement from -11.8% recorded in September 2024.

"This may reflect businesses managing cash flows more efficiently or turning to alternative financing options," said SSS.

Meanwhile, Namibia's household (individual) debt stock rose slightly to N\$68.2 billion in October 2024, up from N\$67.8 billion in the prior month, reflecting an annual increase of N\$1.8 billion.

Despite this growth, Simonis Storm noted that household credit expansion remains subdued, highlighting cautious borrowing behaviour amid a dynamic economic environment.



"Mortgage lending grew modestly from N\$45.6 billion to N\$45.7 billion, representing a y/y growth rate of 0.9%. This marks a significant slowdown compared to the 3.0% y/y growth recorded in October 2023," said Simonis Storm.

According to IJG, credit extended to individuals increased by 2.7% y/y in October as overdraft facilities for individuals saw a 9.3% y/y decline, marking the first annual decrease in this category since June 2023.

"Mortgage loans to individuals grew modestly by 0.9% y/y. Meanwhile, other loans and advances—including credit cards, personal loans, and term loans—rose by 7.3% y/y, and instalment credit expanded significantly by 12.3% y/y," said IJG.

This comes as the Bank of Namibia Governor Johannes !Gawaxab today noted that PSCE growth averaged 2.2% during the first ten months of 2024, lower than the 2.5 % recorded during the same period in 2023. "The sluggish growth has

been attributed to weak demand, reinforced by the high-interest rate environment. Since the last MPC meeting, however, annual growth in PSCE improved to 3.4% at the end of October 2024 from 2.1% at the end of August 2024, driven by both businesses and households," he said.

IJG noted that Namibia's PSCE is poised for gradual improvement in the coming months, supported by the ongoing interest rate-cutting cycle, which is likely to stimulate borrowing demand.

This comes as the BoN's Monetary Policy Committee reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.00% during its final bi-monthly meeting for 2024 to support the domestic economy and maintain the Namibia Dollar's peg to the South African Rand.



EPCM contractors interested in responding to this request are required to provide a comprehensive set of documents demonstrating their

CLOSING DATE: Registered businesses interested in providing these services are requested to submit their interest by sending the documentation reference nu

Debarraine Namibia shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this Expression of Interest and furthermore reserves the right not to extend this Expression of Interest into any future tenders, negotiations and/or engagements. Debarraine Namibaw lint pot accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.

DFBM ARINF

Subject line: DBMNE0518 - CONCEPT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT AND STORAGE FACILITY.

Bidders must register on our electronic platform to participate in this EOI.

qualifications, experience, capabilities and approach to achieving the project's objectives.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED :

Technical Proposal Capabilities and Capacity Indicative Rates and Personnel Deployment Plan

ENQUIRIES: The Commercial Officer

Tel: +264 61 297 8450

Relevant Project Experience

DBMNE0518 by 20 December 2024 at 12:00.

Asite Marketplace: https://za.marketplace.asite.com/



Namibia showcases investment opportunities at Global Investor Forum

amibia this week took center stage at the Global Investor Forum held in Cape Town, South Africa, co-hosted by the Investor Leadership Network and Ninety One Asset Management.

The forum, a premier gathering of the world's largest asset allocators—collectively representing more than US\$20 trillion in assets under management—explored emerging market opportunities spanning listed equities and infrastructure projects across the Global South.

Namibia's delegation included GIPF CEO Martin Inkumbi, Helvi Fillipus, Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, and Green Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnyupe.

During the opening session, Mnyupe underscored Namibia's potential as a hub for green industrialization, positioning the country as a key player in the global energy transition.

Forum discussions covered critical topics, including emerging political dynamics, asset allocation strategies, and the transformative role of artificial intelligence in evaluating company valuations. These conversations aimed to equip investors with the insights needed to navigate and capitalize on opportunities in emerging markets.

For Namibia, the forum provided an invaluable platform to align global investment trends with the country's developmental ambitions. It highlighted opportunities to attract sustainable investments, particularly in green energy and infrastructure, as the nation positions itself for long-term economic growth over the next decade.

The event reinforced Namibia's vision of becoming a destination of choice for investors seeking high-impact opportunities in the evolving global economy.



O&L Leisure and Avis launch exclusive travel perks in Namibia

&L Leisure has entered a partnership with Avis Car Rental, offering exclusive benefits for travellers looking to explore Namibia.

Guests staving O&L Leisure's at

destinations can now enjoy a 10% discount on Avis's Super Cover rate, which includes unlimited mileage.

The discount applies to Avis's best available rate of the day, ensuring affordability without

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! For Credible Economic Data And Latest Namibian Business and Finance News.











The partnership aims to provide travellers with greater value and a more immersive experience in Namibia.

compromising quality.

In return, Avis clients will receive a 15% discount on stays at O&L Leisure properties, making the collaboration a seamless blend of luxury accommodation and travel convenience.

The partnership aims to provide travellers with greater value and a more immersive experience in Namibia.

"We are excited to partner with O&L Leisure in this exciting initiative," said Litha Nkombisa, Avis Southern Africa's Chief Sales Executive.

"By combining the expertise of two industry leaders, we are confident this partnership will not only deliver exceptional value to our customers but also drive innovation within the Namibian tourism sector."

For O&L Leisure, the collaboration represents an opportunity to redefine how visitors experience Namibia.

"O&L Leisure invites you to experience Namibia through our eyes," said Franziska Rueeck, O&L Group's Chief Experience Officer.

"This partnership is our way of extending a heartfelt welcome to every traveler, ensuring their journey through Namibia is as unique and unforgettable as the destination itself."

Travelers can now create self-curated itineraries that include breathtaking routes, carefully selected accommodations, and the freedom of unlimited mileage.

O&L Leisure is a subsidiary of the Ohlthaver & List (O&L) Group, Namibia's largest privately held business enterprise.





Commodities Spot Gold 2651.17 Platinum 942 29 Palladium 976.78 Silver 31.17 Uranium 77.50 Brent Crude 73.95 Iron Ore 97.26 9021.88 Copper Natural Gas 3.03 Lithium 9.95



2.61% Mining -1.86% Resources 18.31% Financials Industrials 16 65% 10.18% Top 40 12.23% All Share -5% 0% 10% 15% 20%

NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



