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THE

BR/EF

News Worth Knowing

Namibia achieves 93% telecom coverage



THURSDAY 05 DECEMBER 2024

MAIN STORY

Namibia achieves 93% telecom coverage

Namibia's telecommunications network coverage has grown, with 93% of the population now covered by 2G, 3G or 4G services, data from the Namibia Statistics Agency's National Proximity Atlas of 2024 reveals.

According to the data, approximately 7.0% of the population still lacks access to network coverage in some regions.

Executive: GIS & NSDI Coordination, Alex Mudabeti, said Namibia's total population stands at 3,022,401, with 87.2% of the population covered by 3G and 4G services.

Mudabeti said the remaining 5.8% is only covered by 2G, which offers limited services compared to more modern networks.

"Population Proximity to Network Coverage: 93.0% of the population is covered by 2G, 3G, or 4G telecommunications networks, showcasing Namibia's growing telecommunication reach," he said.

He further explained that in terms of regional population coverage, Oshana leads with 99.8%, closely followed by Khomas at 99%.

Erongo and Ohangwena boast impressive coverage at 97.6% and 97.4%, respectively. Kavango East and Omusati round out the top five with 96.5% coverage, providing nearly full access to network services.



However, several regions still face significant gaps. In Kavango West, for example, 14.1% of the population has only 2G coverage, while 55% lacks any network coverage.

Kunene faces similar challenges, with 19.3% of its population reliant on 2G

According to the data, approximately 7.0% of the population still lacks access to network coverage in some regions.

services and a large portion still without coverage.

Additionally, regions like Otjozondjupa and Zambezi report varying levels of coverage, with gaps in both 2G and 3G/4G services.

“While for the population, the top 5 highest covered regions are: Oshana (99.8%), Khomas (99%), Erongo (97.6%), Ohangwena (97.4%) while the fifth spot is occupied by Kavango East and Omusati (both at 96.5% population coverage for that region),” Mudabeti said.

Additionally, three regions Hardap, Khomas, and Oshana have achieved 100% network coverage for all their health facilities.

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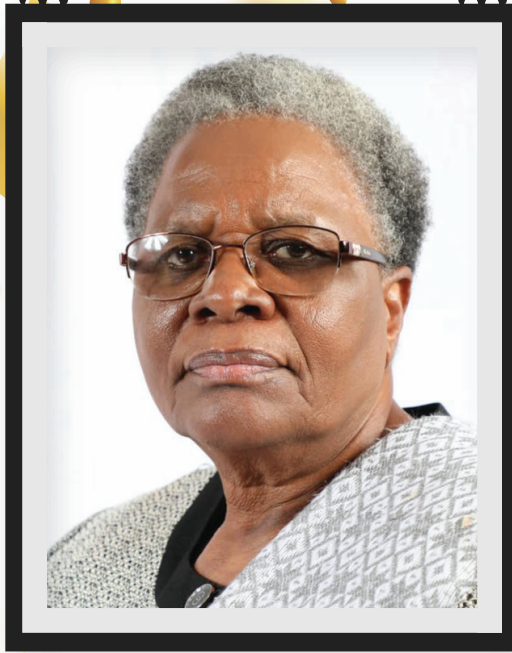
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Wilderness Safaris to develop high-end lodge in Kunene Region

Wilderness Safaris Namibia plans to construct and operate a high-end lodge in the Hobatere Roadside Concession in Kunene Region, according to documents seen by The Brief. The project is designed to enhance

conservation efforts and create jobs within the Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy, and the development will include a 10-room lodge, a staff village and a wildlife hide. Construction was scheduled to begin in September 2024, with the lodge expected



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to open next year.

Wilderness Safaris, in partnership with the Conservancy, aims to use tourism to create jobs, uplift the community and promote the conservation of valuable natural resources in the area.

Under the Concession Operator Contract (COC), Wilderness Safaris will upgrade the Hobatere Roadside Campsite and hand

over the developed campsite and its assets to the Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy for operation.

The lodge will feature 10 rooms (seven twins and three family rooms), a swimming pool, a wildlife viewing hide, a separate research centre and accommodation for approximately 38 staff members.

“Activities at the lodge will include game drives, nature walks, wellness activities and visits to a wildlife hide inside the roadside concession. We will also conduct activities inside Etosha National Park, with permission granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) to build a hide at Miernes. This variety of activities aims to enhance guest experiences while ensuring minimal impact on the environment,” documents reveal.

A private access route will be developed for this facility, designed to meet MEFT standards and include safety and toilet facilities.

The government has granted the head concession of the Hobatere Roadside Concession (HRC) to the Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy.

Namib Wilderness Safaris (Pty) Ltd entered into a Concession Operator Contract with the Conservancy, approved by MEFT. The concession agreement is valid for 25



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Her Excellency

NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH

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years.

“Wilderness Group has been established for 40 years and has a strong Namibian presence for 35 years, operating seven upmarket lodges and engaging in joint ventures with five conservancies. Our long-standing commitment to responsible tourism reflects in our approach to community engagement and environmental conservation,” the report noted.

Wilderness Safaris is recognised as a well-established local and regional tourist operator with access to a vast database of clients eager to visit Namibia.

“Key source markets are from the USA, Canada, Western Europe and to a lesser extent Asia, Eastern Europe and South America with a preference for the high end of the tourism market which includes upmarket amenities and treatment and a unique holiday experience,” the document added.

The new lodge is expected to attract new visitors to the area and enhance its visibility without competing with existing high-end lodges.

The western side of Etosha is popular among tourists due to its less crowded nature compared to areas like Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni.

“The establishment of this lodge will attract new visitors to the area and enhance its visibility. By offering luxurious accommodations and unique experiences with hope to draw more tourists to the region, ultimately benefiting both the local economy and conservation initiatives,” the

report noted.

To meet the electricity demands of the lodge and its supporting infrastructure, Wilderness Safaris plans to install a photovoltaic (PV) solar power plant with storage facilities.

“The onsite PV plant will have a minimum capacity of 500 kW, with all cabling buried underground to minimise visual impact. In case of power failure, there will be a battery backup and a silent generator. A private contractor will manage the PV plant, ensuring that we maintain our commitment to sustainability and reduce our carbon footprint,” the company explained.

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Issued by: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
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Namibia's restriction policy on importation of horticultural products: Part 1

By Roberth Simon

The decision to impose seasonal restrictions on vegetable imports has sparked debate, with some in the SACU region labelling it an act of hostility. However, when considered in the context of national food security, investment and job protection, Namibia's Market Share Promotion (MSP) policy is not only justifiable but highly important.

It is crucial to note that Namibia did not impose a "ban" but rather implemented restrictions on the importation of specific commodities.

Horticulture MSP policy instrument

The scheme is a temporary growth-at-home policy initiative implemented by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) to boost horticultural production within Namibia. It mandates that importers of fresh fruits and vegetables purchase Namibian horticultural products equivalent to at least a minimum percentage of their total procurement in monetary value each quarter, as determined by the NAB Board based on recommendations from the National Horticulture Advisory Committee (NHAC).



“

Recognizing that Namibia is a bona fide member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), this measure is applied based on most favoured nation (MFN) principles and does not target produce from any specific country.

The scheme was initially introduced at 5% in 2005, and this intervention has successfully increased local fruit and vegetable production to the current level of 47%. Over the years, the MSP has shown a steady upward trend: it reached 37.5% in 2012, 39% in 2013, 41.5% in 2014, 44% from 2016 to 2018, and has been maintained at 47% since 2019. As a result, local production now accounts for 47% of Namibia's horticultural demand. The remaining 53% is imported, primarily from South Africa.

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Recognizing that Namibia is a bona fide member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), this measure is applied based on most favoured nation (MFN) principles and does not target produce from any specific country.

National food security is a fundamental right

Food security is a cornerstone of national stability and prosperity, and it is a fundamental right enshrined in the WTO agreement on agriculture. Article 20 of the agreement recognizes the need for member states to protect food security when implementing agricultural policies. Therefore, these temporary restrictions on vegetable imports are in line with this provision, as it is aimed to boost local agricultural production to ensure a stable and sufficient food supply for its citizens.

The WTO also permits countries to implement measures necessary to protect human life or health, and Namibia's actions are well within this framework. The country is reducing its dependence on imported food, thereby addressing the risks of potential disruptions in food supply chains—a concern that has become increasingly relevant due to global challenges such as pandemics, climate change, and geopolitical issues.

Promoting Investment in Local Agriculture

While this policy measure is critical to ensuring food

security, it's also a necessary tool to stimulate and preserve investment in the agricultural sector. It aligns with the broader objective of achieving sustainable development, a priority for many nations in the region. Investment in local agriculture allows building necessary infrastructure and capacity for long-term economic growth.

Job creation and economic stability

A crucial aspect of this policy instrument is its potential to generate sustainable employment. Namibia's agricultural sector employs approximately 23% to 30%

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of Namibia's workforce, making it the largest employer in the country. Therefore, prioritising local production allows the government to safeguard existing jobs while also creating new ones, thereby contributing to the reduction of poverty and inequality. Stability of the agri sector also has a positive multiplier effect on the broader economy.

Regional cooperation and fair trade

Critics suggest that Namibia's actions could strain regional cooperation within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

However, it is crucial to recognize that Namibia is not acting unilaterally. The SACU agreement itself permits member states to implement measures that protect their national interests, including food security. Article 18(2) of the SACU Agreement states:

“Member States shall have the right to impose restrictions on imports or exports in accordance with national laws and regulations for the protection of - (a) health of humans, animals or plants; (b) the environment; (c) treasures of artistic, historic or archeological value; (d) public morals; (e) intellectual property rights; (f) national security; and (g) exhaustible natural resources”.

Namibia's MSP policy is, therefore, a legitimate exercise of its rights under this regional framework. This is no legal loophole but rather a forward-thinking provision of the agreement.

Additionally, in the SACU Strategic Plan 2022/2027, Member States have agreed on principles that public policy interventions, tools, and criteria should be utilised to support the development of regional value chains (RVCs) in the following priority sectors: agro-processing (including leather and leather products, meat and meat products, fruits and vegetables),

textiles and clothing, pharmaceuticals and chemicals (such as cosmetics and essential oils). Other key sectors include automotive and mineral beneficiation.

Moreover, Namibia remains committed to fair trade and regional integration. In building a robust agricultural sector, the country ultimately contributes to a balanced and equitable trade environment in the region.

As the country develops its capacity to produce, it could become a reliable supplier to neighbouring countries, enhancing regional food security and economic cooperation.

Conclusion

The seasonal close border decision is a strategic policy measure to enhance Namibia's own national food security, protect investment and employment in the sector.

The goal is consistent with both SACU and WTO agreement provisions. Rather than being an act of hostility, the policy is a necessary step toward building a resilient and self-sufficient economy that can positively contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Namibia's stance should be seen not as a challenge to regional cooperation, but as an essential component of it.

In part 2 of my views on the topic, I'll unpack the “import ban” versus the so-called “localisation policy” being implemented in the territory South of our orange river and how the two serve same purpose of restricting trade.

**** Roberth Simon is a Manager: Trade & Investment Policy, NIPDB. The views and opinions expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of my employer.***

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At play in the attention economy

By The Brand Guy

Economics 101 taught me about supply and demand. The core idea is that when demand for a product increases and supply is limited, prices rise. When supply exceeds demand, prices drop. This is the balance between what people want and how much is available.

Let's apply that to content, the basic commodity in the customer journey. The market wants to doomscroll, occasionally stopping to look at some other reel. Brand managers want eyeballs. Ease of content development means that every brand can produce large amounts of content. The reality is that with so much brand-specific content, the value of that content is diminishing. At the same time, the brand also competes with other brands, cute kitten videos, fail videos and recipes. This is complicated by fragmentation of channels, particularly split into Instagram, Facebook and Tiktok.

Although there is apparently limitless demand for content only a small part of it will have an impact on the brand. The question becomes how to attract audience by adding value.

The principle of broad salience is in doubt. One size no longer fits all. Given the fragmentation of channels, salience should be exercised on a channel-by-channel basis. This should be a clear pointer towards asymmetric content. Don't use the same content across all social media channels at the same time. Scarcity will have an incremental effect on the value of your messages.

If the budget doesn't extend to different content on your channels, at least stagger the



“

As far as horror or fear is concerned, consider the tension that the audience will have if the solution proposed by the brand is not immediately available. Although superficially contentious, this is a time-honoured ‘what if...’ tradition in communication.

content. Do make sure that your content is optimized for social search. SEO for Google goes without saying, however be aware that paid search will be more effective than organic results.

Channel strategy and SEO are foregone conclusions. The payoff is the content. The quality of your content will draw users back to you and lead new users to the brand. Content will appear on social search and in email but is unlikely to appear in the top google rankings. Unless you are boosting posts, social media content will appear sporadically in feeds, even if the like and subscribe options are used.

Add value to your content and push demand with either factual content or

emotive content.

Factual content will typically present the problem, leading into the brand as a solution. This method often draws on the story brand technique, leading the audience through the narrative of the brand journey and the solution that the customer needs. The story adds value for the audience as it is easier to remember than a set of uncontextualized facts.

It may also present explanations of product usage which can aid the customer journey.

Emotional content consists of three broad types of emotions: humour, horror (call it fear) and heartstrings. The challenge with emotional content is that there is a vast amount of emotional content with which to compete. To see this in action, consider social media reels. The solution to this is to use an email mechanism to direct the message to relevant and interested customers.

As far as horror or fear is concerned, consider the tension that the audience will have if the solution proposed by the brand is not immediately available. Although superficially contentious, this is a time-honoured 'what if...' tradition in communication.

This is a superficial look at the attention economy and how to create utility, yet well worth a more detailed look, particularly from the point of view of the brand. Google or ChatGPT will help you explore it in greater depth.

I also recommend that you read Daniel Kahneman's 'Thinking Fast and Slow' for a look at the biases that the audience brings to the table.

**Pierre Mare has contributed to development of several of Namibia's most successful brands. He believes that analytic management techniques beat unreasoned inspiration any day. He is a fearless adventurer who once made Christmas dinner for a Moslem, a Catholic and a Jew. Reach him at contact@pressoffice7.com if you need thought-leadership, strategy and support.*

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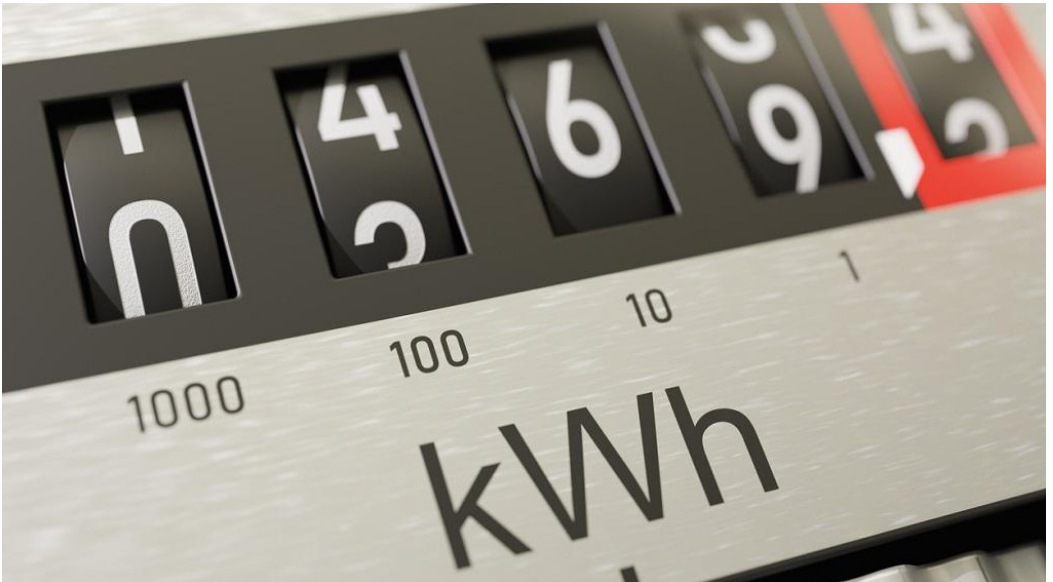
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Housing and utilities drive November inflation

Namibia's annual inflation rate for housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels increased to 4.4% in November 2024, up from 3.2% in the same period last year, latest data shows.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), this category, which accounts for 28.4% of the Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI), remained unchanged month-over-month, with a 0.0% inflation rate compared to 1.0% in October.

"The primary drivers of the annual inflation rate of 3.0% in November 2024 were housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels," the NSA report read.

NSA said the headline annual inflation rate for November 2024 stood at 3.0%, a decrease from the 5.7% recorded in November 2023.

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate was at 0.3 per cent, slightly lower than the 0.4 per

cent registered in the previous month. On the other hand, core inflation stood at 3.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, NSA said the food and non-alcoholic beverages category, which constitutes 16.5% of the consumer basket, registered an annual inflation rate of 5.3% in November 2024, marking a significant decline from 9.2% in November 2023.

However, on a monthly basis, inflation in this category accelerated to 0.7%, up from 0.3% the previous month.

Within this category, the food subcomponent (14.8% of the consumer basket) saw notable changes.

Bread and cereals, which have the highest weight (4.8%), continued to influence food inflation alongside other staples like meat (3.5%) and vegetables (1.2%).

In particular, NSA highlighted that prices

for vegetables, including potatoes and other tubers, saw a moderate annual increase of 4.9% compared to 16.9% in November 2023.

The slowdown was reflected in items such as potatoes (from 44.4% to 3.2%) and pumpkins (from 24.6% to 2.8%).

Similarly, the fish subcomponent experienced a significant reduction in annual inflation, dropping to 2.4% from 16.9% a year ago.

“On a monthly basis, the inflation rate in November 2024 was 0.7 percent, up from 0.3 percent recorded in the previous month,” the report read.

Additionally, the transport category, accounting for 14.3% of the consumer basket, recorded a deflation rate of -3.5% in November 2024, largely due to declining prices for personal transport equipment such as petrol and diesel.

Meanwhile, the alcoholic beverages and tobacco category saw its annual inflation rate slow to 4.8% from 8.0% the previous year.

NSA noted that in Zone 1 (comprising Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi), the year-on-year inflation rate during the review period stood at 2.3 percent, a decline from 6.4 percent in November 2023.

NSA said the slowdown was

observed across most divisions, except for health, which rose from 1.3 percent to 3.2 per cent, and hotels, cafés and restaurants, which increased from 2.0 per cent to 3.0 per cent.

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate remained steady at 0.3 per cent, the same as the preceding month, according to the NSA.

In Zone 2 (Khomas), the year-on-year inflation rate increased by 4.1 per cent, slowing from 5.3 per cent recorded in the same period of 2023.

NSA said the slowdown was seen across all divisions except for housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, which rose significantly from 2.5 per cent to 10.3 per cent, and clothing and footwear, which increased from 1.6 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

Monthly inflation rose by 0.2 per cent, down from 0.6 per cent in the prior month.

For Zone 3 (//Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke), the NSA said the year-on-year inflation rate stood at 2.3 per cent in November 2024, a decline from 5.3 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The decrease was primarily attributed to lower price levels in transport, which dropped from 4.9 per cent to -4.4 per cent, and miscellaneous goods and services, which fell from 8.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent.

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683 | 684 | 685 | 686 | 687 | 688 | 689 | 690 | 691 | 692 | 693 | 694 | 695 | 696 | 697 | 698 | 699 | 700 | 701 | 702 | 703 | 704 | 705 | 706 | 707 | 708 | 709 | 710 | 711 | 712 | 713 | 714 | 715 | 716 | 717 | 718 | 719 | 720 | 721 | 722 | 723 | 724 | 725 | 726 | 727 | 728 | 729 | 730 | 731 | 732 | 733 | 734 | 735 | 736 | 737 | 738 | 739 | 740 | 741 | 742 | 743 | 744 | 745 | 746 | 747 | 748 | 749 | 750 | 751 | 752 | 753 | 754 | 755 | 756 | 757 | 758 | 759 | 760 | 761 | 762 | 763 | 764 | 765 | 766 | 767 | 768 | 769 | 770 | 771 | 772 | 773 | 774 | 775 | 776 | 777 | 778 | 779 | 780 | 781 | 782 | 783 | 784 | 785 | 786 | 787 | 788 | 789 | 790 | 791 | 792 | 793 | 794 | 795 | 796 | 797 | 798 | 799 | 800 | 801 | 802 | 803 | 804 | 805 | 806 | 807 | 808 | 809 | 810 | 811 | 812 | 813 | 814 | 815 | 816 | 817 | 818 | 819 | 820 | 821 | 822 | 823 | 824 | 825 | 826 | 827 | 828 | 829 | 830 | 831 | 832 | 833 | 834 | 835 | 836 | 837 | 838 | 839 | 840 | 841 | 842 | 843 | 844 | 845 | 846 | 847 | 848 | 849 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Beyond compliance: The strategic imperative of sustainability in business

By Laina Likius

Sustainability is rapidly becoming a focal point in global business and policy conversations as companies recognise the necessity of balancing environmental, social, governance (ESG), and economic considerations.

In Namibia, however, the integration of sustainability into business operations remains in its early stages, with varying levels of understanding and commitment. For many, sustainability is still viewed primarily as a compliance or ethical consideration rather than a core strategic tool. Business leaders must work at shifting this perception and embrace sustainability as a driver of long-term commercial value success and a powerful competitive differentiator that positively enhances business reputation.

Why Sustainability Matters to Business

Recent trends in global business seem to focus, to a larger extent, on issues such as climate change. However, by its definition and purpose, sustainability encompasses much more than environmental concerns. It integrates economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship, making it essential for businesses to address various interconnected challenges and opportunities. These factors have become central to regulatory frameworks and corporate strategies. For Namibia, with its reliance on natural resources



A fundamental shift in mindset is crucial for businesses to unlock the true value of sustainability.

and vulnerability to climate change, the question is not whether sustainability matters but how businesses can effectively adopt and implement it while measuring its impact on the triple bottom line.

A Shift in Mindset: From Compliance to Strategy

A fundamental shift in mindset is crucial for businesses to unlock the true value of sustainability. Too often, it is seen merely as a compliance requirement, a "nice to have," or a means to avoid reputational risks. However, this perspective overlooks its role as a strategic tool for innovation, risk management, and long-term value creation. To leverage its potential, companies need leadership that recognises sustainability as a growth driver and is committed to investing in strategies that align with evolving market demands. The integration of sustainability must account for each market's specific challenges and opportunities, considering the materiality and regional dynamics of ESG and economic factors.

Sustainability initiatives: Opportunities and challenges

Sustainability is constantly evolving. Even as political debates about climate change continue, each year brings a growing array of products and services that promote sustainable practices. This shift is evident in the rise of green bonds, renewable energy investments, sustainable consumer choices, and eco-friendly business models—all reflecting a global movement toward responsible, future-focused practices and presenting opportunities for businesses to capitalise on.

Achieving sustainable impact revolves around the concept of "Additionality," which focuses on creating lasting positive outcomes through strategic, long-term investments that preserve resources for future generations. This principle aligns seamlessly with the global shift toward a low-carbon economy, offering early adopters considerable competitive advantages. With its vast natural resources and emerging green hydrogen potential, Namibia's unique position is that of a key player in Africa's green industrialisation efforts.

The potential rewards of sustainability are evident, but significant challenges exist. In Namibia, financial constraints hinder large-scale projects due to small capital markets and developing market readiness. The lack of high-quality ESG data further restricts the ability to measure performance and meet global standards like the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). This gap in data quality extends across Africa and impacts access to foreign investment, which increasingly depends on strong governance and accurate reporting. Closing the data gap is crucial for businesses to demonstrate their sustainability efforts and attract capital effectively, necessitating investment in ESG software for better data management and reporting. What gets measured gets improved, and businesses that do not actively monitor their sustainability performance risk losing out on opportunities for growth and competitiveness.

Local Context with Global Standards

The trend towards Sustainability reporting in recent years is gaining momentum globally and is expected

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to continue. While not mandatory, the recent (ISSB) guidelines—IFRS S1 and S2—are valuable tools for companies to standardise their sustainability reporting. These guidelines offer a structured approach to managing and disclosing climate-related risks and opportunities, enhancing transparency for stakeholders.


Namibia is committed to global sustainability, aiming for a 91% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. However, achieving these targets requires businesses to align

their operations with national goals. This involves setting clear sustainability targets, integrating them into business strategy, and ensuring transparency in reporting. Companies must bridge the gap between policy and action by prioritising sustainability.



Navigating Change: An Industry in Transition

The convergence of environmental challenges, evolving regulations, shifting consumer demands, and rapid technological advancements signals an inevitable global shift towards sustainability. This transition, however, will vary across sectors and regions, requiring businesses to navigate a complex and dynamic landscape. Ultimately, it is evident that sustainability is no longer a “nice-to-have.” It is a strategic imperative for businesses that want to ensure long-term success. Organisations must go beyond compliance and redefine sustainability as a core driver of business value. By setting clear sustainability targets and integrating them into strategic planning, companies can create sustainable growth while contributing to the broader goals of national and global development.

***Laina Likius is a Sustainability and ESG Specialist at Capricorn Group**


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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

First date of publication: 15 November 2024

DBMNE0518 - CONCEPT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT AND STORAGE FACILITY

SCOPE OF WORK:

Debmarnet Namibia is expanding its in-country capability to coordinate the repair and refurbishment of its equipment. This expansion will involve a comprehensive review of current practices, procedures, support services (engineering and logistics), physical infrastructure and equipment.

To this end, EPCM contractors with the necessary capabilities and capacity are invited to respond to this expression of interest. The general scope, to be refined in collaboration with the appointed EPCM contractor, includes a study and assessment of organisational needs and capacity development to achieve the desired future state.

EPCM contractors wishing to respond to this expression of interest should have a proven track record of completing projects on time and within budget. The scope of capability should include the review and development of physical infrastructure, process design and adequacy, skills deployment, and operational readiness/implementation of solutions.

EPCM contractors interested in responding to this request are required to provide a comprehensive set of documents demonstrating their qualifications, experience, capabilities and approach to achieving the project's objectives.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED:


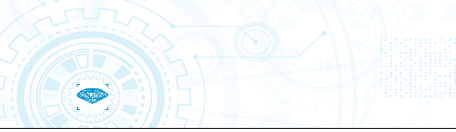
1. Company Profile and Overview
2. Relevant Project Experience
3. Technical Proposal
4. Capabilities and Capacity
5. Indicative Rates and Personnel Deployment Plan


CLOSING DATE: Registered businesses interested in providing these services are requested to submit their interest by sending the documentation reference number DBMNE0518 by 20 December 2024 at 12:00.

ENQUIRIES:
The Commercial Officer
Tel: +264 61 297 8450
Asite Marketplace: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/>
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.

DISCLAIMER:
Debmarnet 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.
Debmarnet Namibia will not accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.



Sam Shivute elected Vice Chairperson of the African Tax Administration Forum



Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) Commissioner Sam Shivute has been elected Vice Chairperson of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) during the organization's General Meetings held on Wednesday.

Shivute, the founding Commissioner of NamRA, will serve alongside South African Revenue Service (SARS) Commissioner, Professor Edward Kieswetter, who was elected Chairperson.

The newly elected Governing Council of ATAF includes eight other Commissioners General from Burkina Faso, Botswana, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Liberia.

The members will serve a two-year term, steering the organization's efforts to strengthen tax administration across the

continent.

ATAF serves as a platform for collaboration and peer learning among African tax administrations.

It aims to improve tax collection capacity, enhance governance and state-building through effective taxation, and provide a unified voice for African tax administrations. The organization also promotes Pan-African collaboration and works closely with development partners.

Namibia, as a fully paid-up ATAF member according to NamRA, has significantly benefited from the forum's technical assistance and training programs, which have bolstered its effectiveness in revenue collection, addressed operational gaps, and strengthened the agency's capacity to serve the public.

A photograph of two people, a man and a woman, smiling. The man is wearing a dark shirt and glasses, and the woman is wearing a colorful patterned top.

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MOOKS & ADORA In the Morning

A logo for 92 FM, featuring the number 92 and the letters FM.

Namibia's green energy revolution: Engineering the Lowest Levelised Cost Of Energy (LCOE)

By Gerson Nasau

In the global push toward renewable energy dominance, the energy sector has zeroed in on a crucial metric: the Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE). For Namibia, with its vast renewable resources and ambitions to become a leader in green energy and its derivatives, cracking the LCOE puzzle is not just a goal—it's an imperative. Achieving the lowest possible LCOE will determine the country's ability to provide affordable green electricity and compete on a regional and global scale, attract investment, and drive sustainable economic transformation.

Namibia's renewable energy ambitions position it as a potential leader in Africa's green transition. With abundant solar irradiance, strong coastal winds, and aspirations to become a hub for green hydrogen and e-fuels, the country is poised for transformation. However, achieving this vision requires addressing a critical technical and economic hurdle: the Levelised Cost of Energy (LCOE). Often seen as a technical metric, LCOE has profound implications for energy affordability, industrial competitiveness, and equitable access to



Namibia's renewable energy ambitions position it as a potential leader in Africa's green transition.

electricity across the continent (International Renewable Energy Agency [IRENA], 2023).

LCOE, the cornerstone of energy economics, is a measure of the total cost of building and operating an energy project over its lifetime, normalized by the energy it generates. A lower LCOE makes renewable energy projects more financially attractive, allowing them to compete directly with fossil fuels and other renewables. Namibia's energy ambitions hinge on this metric, particularly internal generation capacity and for large-scale exports of green hydrogen and e-fuels like e-methanol, which must meet competitive price points to capture global markets.

LCOE is the definitive measure of what it costs to produce one kilowatt-hour of

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electricity over a project's lifetime. It balances the books on capital expenditures (CAPEX), operational costs, and energy output. A lower LCOE means more affordable, competitive energy—a make-or-break factor as the world demands greener, cheaper solutions to combat climate change.

Namibia's energy ambitions are clear. From its vast solar fields bathed in year-round sunshine to the untapped potential of its windswept coastline, and untapped ocean, the country has the resources to lead in renewable energy.

But the success of these projects hinges on one thing: achieving the lowest possible LCOE.

Here's why it matters.

Namibia's green hydrogen, its derivatives and the whole green industry dreams are built on the promise of exporting sustainable energy and fuels to global markets, both regionally and internationally. However, international buyers—won't just pay for the green label; they need these energies to be cost-competitive. A low LCOE ensures Namibia can deliver not just clean energy but affordable energy, unlocking massive economic potential for the region.

Namibia's green energy industries, from hydrogen electrolysis to e-methanol production, are heavily dependent on competitive energy costs. Global markets for green hydrogen and e-fuels demand efficiency and affordability, and Namibia must meet these standards to establish itself as a viable exporter. However, without stable and cost-effective energy inputs, such projects risk being uncompetitive.

The implications of LCOE extend further to the consumer level. For Namibia, lowering LCOE is essential to ensuring that renewable energy is both affordable and scalable. High LCOE leads to elevated electricity tariffs, placing renewable energy out of reach for many consumers and stifling industrial growth. In a country where energy poverty

remains a pressing issue, and on a continent where 600 million people lack access to electricity, affordability is not just a financial concern—it is a matter of justice and development (World Bank, 2024).

From a consumer perspective, lowering LCOE ensures that the benefits of renewable energy are broadly accessible. Affordable electricity tariffs enable households to transition away from fossil fuels, reducing energy poverty and boosting disposable income. For industrial users, low-cost energy is a catalyst for growth, enabling businesses to expand and compete in regional and global markets (World Bank, 2024).

On a broader scale, Namibia's ability to achieve low LCOE has implications for Africa's energy transition. Across the continent, high energy costs and limited infrastructure have hindered access to sustainable power. Namibia's success in developing cost-competitive renewable systems could serve as a model for other African nations, fostering regional collaboration and driving economies of scale.

The stakes are particularly high in the context of global green transitions. International demand for green hydrogen and e-fuels is accelerating, and Namibia must position itself as a reliable and cost-effective supplier. Achieving the lowest LCOE is not merely a technical milestone; it is the foundation of Namibia's competitiveness in regional and global energy markets.

Namibia, blessed with abundant solar irradiance and consistent coastal winds, is well-positioned to harness renewable energy. However, the intermittency of these resources poses a significant challenge. Solar power is unavailable during nighttime and reduced during cloudy periods, while wind energy fluctuates with varying wind speeds. These patterns create gaps in energy supply, making it difficult to meet constant demand, especially for industrial processes like hydrogen electrolysis and e-fuel production

that require uninterrupted power.

The intermittency of solar and wind energy—caused by fluctuating sunlight and wind speeds—directly affects the Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE). These fluctuations reduce the predictability and reliability of power generation, increasing dependency on backup systems like energy storage (batteries or hydrogen) or supplemental power sources, which add capital and operational costs. Additionally, intermittent generation can lead to underutilized grid infrastructure, as transmission systems must be sized for peak output but are not consistently used at capacity. This inefficiency drives up costs per unit of energy produced. For Namibia, where renewable energy underpins green hydrogen and e-fuel industries, intermittency amplifies the challenge of achieving a low LCOE, necessitating investments in hybrid systems or baseload solutions to stabilize supply and reduce overall energy costs.

Addressing this challenge requires Namibia to adopt innovative approaches. Hybrid energy systems that combine solar, wind, and wave energy offer a promising solution. Wave energy, for instance, provides consistent output that complements the variability of solar and wind. Technologies pilot between Swakopmund and Henties Bay like the WaveRoller have the potential to deliver steady baseload power, ensuring that Namibia's renewable energy system remains robust and reliable.

Hybrid renewable energy systems combining solar, wind, and wave energy are game-changers for Namibia. By diversifying energy inputs, these systems reduce intermittency, optimize capacity, and drive down costs.

Technologies like the WaveRoller, already being piloted in Namibia, offer consistent offshore energy, complementing solar and wind to create a 24/7 renewable energy supply.

Electrolyzer technology, a critical

component of green hydrogen production, also plays a pivotal role in lowering LCOE. Innovations such as high-efficiency anion exchange membrane (AEM) electrolyzers can improve energy conversion efficiency and reduce operational costs. Namibia's existing adoption of advanced CRI electrolyzers for its pilot projects showcases the country's commitment to integrating state-of-the-art technology into its green energy value chain.

Localized manufacturing is crucial strategy. Establishing production and assembly facilities for renewable energy components like solar panels, wind turbines, and electrolyzers would drastically cut logistics costs and reduce dependency on imports. Partnerships with global innovators, such as those Namibia has forged with Windcurrent and AW-Energy, can facilitate knowledge transfer and technology localization.

Regional collaboration is also key. A unified SADC energy strategy could pool resources, share technology, and build cross-border transmission networks, spreading the benefits of low LCOE projects across the region. Namibia's ongoing partnerships with international technology providers and neighboring countries are steps in the right direction, paving the way for scalable, integrated solutions.

The path to the lowest LCOE demands not just technological innovation but also systemic alignment.

The global energy sector is watching as Namibia positions itself at the forefront of the green energy transition. Achieving the lowest LCOE is more than a technical challenge—it is a transformative opportunity. By combining its unparalleled natural resources with strategic innovation and global collaboration, Namibia can not only compete but lead in the renewable energy revolution.

****Gerson Nasau is Co-founder at Kaoko Green Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd***



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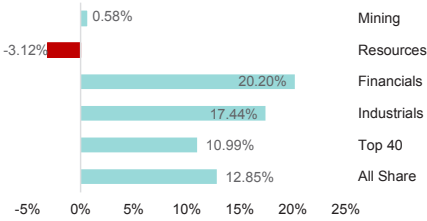
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Platinum	942.75
Palladium	975.16
Silver	31.27
Uranium	77.50
Brent Crude	72.50
Iron Ore	98.21
Copper	8987.12
Natural Gas	3.11
Lithium	9.95

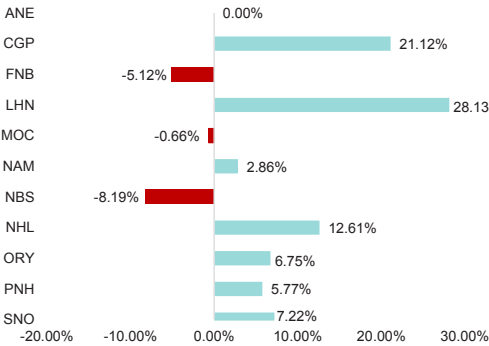
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Repo Rate	7.00%
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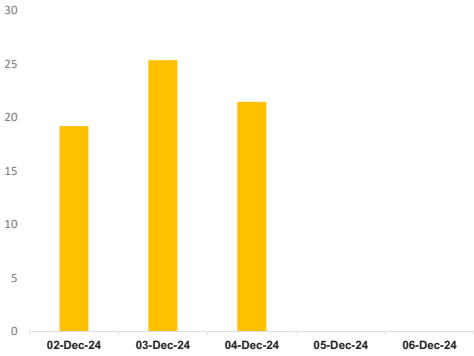
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

