

## CYBERSECURITY

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THE

# BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

## Vivo Energy rolls out LPG distribution points across Shell and Engen service stations



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## MAIN STORY



# Vivo Energy rolls out LPG distribution points across Shell and Engen service stations

**V**ivo Energy Namibia has begun rolling out GasIt distribution points at its Shell and Engen service stations across the country as it works to grow the business while increasing the availability of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Vivo Energy Namibia currently operates 75 Shell and 58 Engen service stations

nationwide.

The move follows Vivo Energy Namibia's acquisition of the GasIt business in 2023, aimed at incorporating LPG into its product portfolio. Managing Director Jaco van Rensburg confirmed the rollout, emphasizing the company's focus on accessibility and convenience for consumers.

“The move follows Vivo Energy Namibia’s acquisition of the GasIt business in 2023, aimed at incorporating LPG into its product portfolio.”

“We’re rolling out the supply of GasIt to all Shell and Engen stations as we speak. It’s about making sure that we can provide it to the consumer at the most convenient location,” van Rensburg told The Brief.

He highlighted ongoing investments in infrastructure, including upgrades to filling plants, to meet growing consumer demand.

“We’re obviously spending a lot of money on upgrading the filling plants. We are looking at around two plants to meet consumer demands,” he noted.

Van Rensburg added that while LPG supply is currently sourced primarily from South Africa, Vivo Energy is exploring international markets to ensure cost-effective supply options.

“We have taken over the marketing and distribution of the products, with the supply mainly coming out of South Africa, but we are also looking into international markets. The main reason for that is always

to make sure that we can supply the most cost-effective solution to the consumer,” he explained.

The expansion aligns with the increasing demand for LPG nationwide and Vivo Energy’s strategy to ensure efficient delivery across Namibia.

The Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC) previously approved the acquisition, noting that the merger would enable Vivo Energy to strengthen its presence in the LPG market, covering both downstream retail sales and upstream bulk supply through Vitas Gas, a GasIt subsidiary.

GasIt, which has been operational since 2012, is a fully Namibian-owned business specializing in the safe and cost-effective supply of LPG to all sectors of the market.

Vivo Energy Namibia currently operates 75 Shell and 58 Engen service stations nationwide.



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## CEO Festive Season Message 2024

# A PLEA TO PRESERVE LIFE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The prize of a good journey is the destination, but the cost of reckless driving is human life. As the festive season beckons us to our various destinations, let us do so with care and due consideration for other road users.

Over the years, the festive season has been characterised by a high number of crashes, but we can change this. The reason for increased crashes in this period is due to congestion on roads by holidaymakers countrywide. It is therefore imperative that all road users take extra precautions and act responsibly while driving during this festive season.

Driving safely with due care for others is not difficult but requires a conscious effort to do so. The first effort should be to abide by the road traffic rules; they are designed to reduce the risk of injury or death in the event of a crash.

This includes driving within the speed limit, always wearing safety belts, overtaking at designated areas, and switching on headlights during the day and at night for increased visibility.

The second effort of driving safely has to do with our attitude on the road, and the state of mind when traveling. This means inspecting the vehicle before traveling, planning the journey well in advance, resting well before taking on a long road. Additionally, avoid the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices while driving and stop regularly to manage fatigue. Following these basic principles prevents road crashes and makes the road safer for everyone.



**Rosalia Martins-Hausiku**  
MVA Fund, Chief Executive Officer

### Notable Points:

1. **Human behaviour accounts for 72% of the high number of crashes** in our country. This means that most crashes are avoidable and preventable.
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*I wish you all a happy, crash free festive season.*





## Deepsea Bollsta rig set to drill Kapana-1X Well in second half of December 2024

**S**intana Energy Inc. has announced that Northern Ocean's Deepsea Bollsta rig is set to carry out its inaugural exploration campaign on Block 2813B,

targeting the highly anticipated Kapana-1X well in the second half of December 2024.

This comes as QatarEnergy has entered the Petroleum Exploration Licence 90 (PEL



### *Festive Season Notice*

As the year comes to a close, The Brief wishes to inform our valued readers and advertisers that our final edition for 2024 will be published on 19 December 2024. We will return with our first edition of 2025 on 6 January 2025.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers and advertisers for your continued support. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Warm regards,  
The Brief Team

THE  
**BRIEF**  
— News Worth Knowing



Banking has existed since the advent of currency, providing secure storage for wealth. Over the years, banks have played a vital role in facilitating trade and collecting taxes. Today, while they continue to serve these essential functions, digital banking is increasingly replacing traditional brick-and-mortar locations.

#### What is Digital Banking?

Digital banking refers to conducting financial transactions entirely online, eliminating the need for paperwork. This transformation is revolutionising financial management and altering customer expectations. Customers can now access their accounts anytime, receive real-time updates, and transfer funds with ease. Consequently, traditional banks must innovate and adopt digital strategies to remain competitive, creating a more dynamic banking environment with greater choice and improved services for consumers.

#### The Growth and Adoption of Digital Banking

In recent years, digital banking has experienced substantial growth, reshaping financial products and services. By providing accessible and convenient solutions, digital banking has opened opportunities for individuals previously underserved by traditional systems. This shift enables people in remote areas or with limited mobility to access financial services.

Digital banking also enhances financial literacy. Users can access educational resources, budgeting tools, and personalised financial advice through various platforms, empowering them to make informed decisions and improve their overall financial well-being. Overall, digital banking is crucial in promoting financial inclusion and literacy, making services more accessible to a wider audience.

#### Advantages of Digital Banking Services

Digital banking platforms offer several key advantages over traditional banking, including:



**Convenience:**  
Access personalised finances anytime, anywhere, catering to busy lifestyles.



**Security:**  
Advanced measures such as encryption, multi-factor authentication, and biometric identification prioritise data protection.



**Personalisation:**  
Leveraging data to customise services, providing tailored financial advice and real-time alerts.

#### Challenges and Considerations

Despite its benefits, digital banking faces challenges, particularly regarding customer privacy. As consumers increasingly embrace online banking, demand will continue to rise, prompting traditional banks to expand their digital services. Innovations like artificial intelligence and contactless payments will enhance efficiency and security, reshaping financial services with greater convenience and personalised experiences. As technology advances, digital banking will keep growing, offering consumers more options and improved banking experiences.

#### The Future of Digital Banking

Digital banking has evolved significantly over the past three decades, and it has a bright future ahead. As consumers increasingly embrace online banking, demand will continue to rise, prompting traditional banks to expand their digital services. Innovations like artificial intelligence and contactless payments will enhance efficiency and security, reshaping financial services with greater convenience and personalised experiences. As technology advances, digital banking will keep growing, offering consumers more options and improved banking experiences.

At Standard Bank Namibia, we are committed to evolving with the digital landscape, providing you with innovative personal banking products and services that meet all your financial needs. Enjoy the convenience of online applications, digital loans, self-help services, and PayPulse, all designed to offer tailored solutions for every requirement. Experience banking at your fingertips!

Guided by our brand promise, 'Namibia is Our Home, We Drive Her Growth', we embrace digital innovation, equipping our clients with the tools and support they need to achieve their financial goals in an ever-changing world.

Join us in setting the standard for digital banking in Namibia. Explore our diverse digital offerings, and let us support you on your journey to financial empowerment and growth!

90) joint venture.

QatarEnergy acquired a 27.5% working interest in the licence and petroleum agreement for Block 2813B, operated by Harmattan Energy Limited, an indirect subsidiary of Chevron Corporation (Chevron Harmattan).

"The entry of QatarEnergy into PEL 90 provides further evidence of the quality and potential of our portfolio at the heart of the Orange Basin. We look forward to the initial drilling campaign on PEL 90 to commence over the next few weeks," said Sintana Chief Executive Officer Robert Bose.

Following the acquisition, the PEL 90 licence ownership structure now comprises Chevron Harmattan with 52.5% as operator, QatarEnergy with 27.5%, National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) holding 10%, and Trago Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Custos Energy, also holding 10%.

Sintana Energy retains a 49% indirect interest in Custos, solidifying its indirect position in the project.

Block 2813B, which falls within PEL 90, spans approximately 5,433 square kilometres in water depths ranging from 2,400 to 3,300 metres.

It is located 200 kilometers offshore in Namibia's Orange Basin and 70 kilometres north of TotalEnergies' significant Venus discovery, where QatarEnergy is also increasing its ownership stake.

This strategic location highlights PEL 90's promising potential, positioned near world-class discoveries such as Venus and Galp's Mopane find.

This development marks a step in unlocking Namibia's offshore oil potential, with the combined expertise of Chevron Harmattan, QatarEnergy, NAMCOR and Custos driving exploration forward.

- [www.miningandenergy.com.na](http://www.miningandenergy.com.na)



## Ministry of Health addresses data vulnerability after cyber-attack

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) plans to redeploy its Pharmaceutical Management Information System (PMIS) dashboard in a more secure environment following a cyber-attack on December 13, 2024.

The Ministry's Executive Director, Ben Nangombe, confirmed that the redeployment will include updated security patches, a reset of all user login credentials, and registration

limited to essential users only. To minimize vulnerabilities, the dashboard will be hosted within the Ministry's internal network, with Internet access restricted. Additionally, strict password policies will be enforced to prevent future compromises.

"The dashboard will be deployed in a new environment with updated security patches, and all user login credentials will be reset. Only essential users will be registered, and

A graphic for a public announcement. It features a black telephone handset on a coiled cord. To the left of the handset is a white speech bubble with the text "PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT" in blue and orange. In the top right corner is the GIPF logo, which consists of a circular pattern of green and blue dots, with the text "GIPF Government Institutions Pension Fund" and the tagline "To guard, and to grow." below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a small text "Visit www.gipf.com.na" and a row of social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram).

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the dashboard will be hosted within the Ministry's internal network, restricting Internet access," said Nangombe.

The cyber-attack targeted the Ministry's servers and dashboards, compromising aggregated stock levels, patient statistics from public health facility pharmacies, and pharmaceutical management performance indicators. Nangombe emphasized that while a full analysis of the dashboard's underlying database is ongoing, there is no evidence that personally identifiable patient records were accessed. However, he confirmed

that the names and email addresses of primary users—mainly healthcare workers in pharmacy departments—were accessed. Additionally, shared website files and database schemas were also compromised.

"The names and email addresses of primary users of the dashboard, such as healthcare workers, primarily pharmacy personnel, were part of the data that was accessed," he said.

"The breach prompted an immediate response from the Ministry's IT team, who manually shut down and isolated the hosting

server to prevent further damage and contain the attack from spreading to other systems within the Ministry's network."

The PMIS dashboard is a web-based platform designed to provide aggregated data on the stock status of essential medicines and patient numbers across public health facilities in Namibia. It plays a critical role in decision-making for pharmaceutical supply planning and health commodity redistribution. The Ministry clarified that the platform does not store personally identifiable patient data.

As the Ministry works to restore the PMIS dashboard in a more secure environment, Nangombe assured the public that all measures are being taken to strengthen cybersecurity and protect sensitive health data.

[www.debmarnamibia.com](http://www.debmarnamibia.com)

# TENDER

First date of publication: 06 December 2024

**TENDER NO: DBMNE0506 PROVISION OF ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE**

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Debmarnamibia is seeking an experienced Service Provider for Security Services.

**SCOPE OF WORK:**

1. The scope of the tender without limitation includes the provision of Security Services.
2. Demonstrate five (5) years' experience of relevant security services considering the scope. A key criteria will be companies of suitable size and dealing with complexities in line with the requirements needed for bigger corporate clients.
3. List three (3) corporate clients relevant to this scope of work - describe the service provided and skills or competency required and number of resourced assigned to the service provided.
4. Training manuals.
5. Number of staff allocated to the scope of work, describing their skill, background and relevant experience and qualification for this scope of work.
6. Show services rendered in other regions in Namibia.

**CLOSING DATE: 17 JANUARY 2025 at 12:00**

**REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC TENDER DOCUMENT:**  
Registered businesses interested in providing such services are requested to register at **Asite Marketplace**: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to obtain a tender document with reference number **DBMNE0506 ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE**

**ENQUIRIES:**  
The Procurement Officer  
Tel: +264 61 297 8481  
Email Address: [e-tender@debmarine.com](mailto:e-tender@debmarine.com)  
Subject line: DBMNE0506 ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE

**Bidders must register on our electronic platform Asite Marketplace: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to participate in this tender.**

**DISCLAIMER:**  
Debmarnamibia shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this tender and furthermore reserves the right not to extend this tender into any future tenders, negotiations and or engagements.

Debmarnamibia shall not accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.



# An open letter to Namibian corporations: Prioritize cybersecurity today

By Leake Ileka

**W**hat if your company became the next headline due to a devastating cyberattack?

In Namibia, this is not just a hypothetical scenario; it's a growing reality.

This year, the nation experienced an alarming rise in cyberattacks targeting multiple corporations, sparking a critical debate on social media about the safety of our personal data in the hands of the institutions we are meant to trust. Recent high-profile incidents, such as the cyberattacks on Standard Bank Namibia and Telecom Namibia, have highlighted the vulnerabilities that both public and private organizations face. These data breaches not only compromise sensitive data but also lead to significant financial losses and reputational damage.

## Current Challenges and the Need for a Stronger Response

There is much work to be done to address the rapid rise of cybercrime on a national level. The Computer and Communications Regulatory Authority (CRAN) plays a vital role in promoting compliance with international cybersecurity standards. However, while Namibia is in the process of developing comprehensive data protection guidelines, progress has been frustratingly slow, leaving businesses and individuals without clear frameworks or strategies to navigate an increasingly digital world. This lack of robust legal infrastructure and precedent worsens the problem, making



**There is much work to be done to address the rapid rise of cybercrime on a national level.**

it challenging to hold cybercriminals accountable and leaving citizens vulnerable to significant risks.

The current national cybersecurity



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strategy, initiated in 2022, outlines plans for a secure cyberspace for Namibians and proposes measures to strengthen critical infrastructure amid rising cyberattacks. Despite the establishment of the Cyber Security Council (CSC) and the formation of the National Security and Cyber Incident Response Team (CSIRT) as part of a national cybersecurity plan, public information about the task force's operations and effectiveness is limited.

Additionally, there are ongoing efforts to establish a legal framework include the Electronic Transactions Act (ETA) and Cybercrime Bill and Data Protection Bill drafts, which aim to enhance investigative powers and align with international standards.

However, until comprehensive laws are enacted, companies will remain vulnerable in an evolving digital economy where cyber threats are on the rise.

### **Finding Strategy Through Expertise and Proactive Measures: Altus ICT**

There is a silver lining. Namibia boasts a growing pool of IT risk experts, legal compliance professionals, and tech advisors ready to guide corporations through this uncharted virtual landscape. As an example,

Altus ICT is a tech Namibian company dedicated to helping businesses tackle complex digital challenges with tailored solutions that mitigate risks and strengthen data protection. Cyber threat assessments are a foundational service, allowing organizations to identify data vulnerabilities within their systems before they can be exploited. By conducting thorough evaluations, Altus ICT helps clients understand their risk exposure and develop strategies to fortify their digital data defences.

Preventative cybersecurity strategies are essential not only for compliance with evolving global regulations but also for safeguarding business continuity and maintaining customer trust. This is particularly relevant for Namibian corporations, which are increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks in an environment where comprehensive legal protections are still being developed.

### **What Namibian Businesses Can Learn from Target's Recovery**

A notable example of a company that successfully navigated the aftermath of a cyberattack is Target Corporation. In 2013, Target suffered a massive data breach that compromised the credit card information of approximately 40 million

customers and personal information of another 70 million.

The breach was attributed to malware installed on point-of-sale systems, highlighting vulnerabilities in their security protocols. In response, Target took decisive action by overhauling its cybersecurity measures.

The company invested U\$200 million in enhanced security systems and technology, including advanced encryption and real-time monitoring capabilities. Additionally, Target implemented a new Chief Information Security Officer position to oversee cybersecurity initiatives and ensure compliance with industry standards.

The recovery process involved not only technical upgrades but also a commitment to transparency and customer communication.

Target publicly acknowledged the breach, provided affected customers with credit monitoring services, and launched an extensive public relations campaign to rebuild trust. As a result of these efforts, Target was able to restore its reputation and regain customer confidence within a relatively short period.

Namibian corporations can learn from Target's experience by recognising that investing in robust cybersecurity is a strategic necessity to protect data and maintain customer loyalty, while adopting transparent crisis communication strategies to foster trust and demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding client information.

As Namibia develops its cybersecurity framework, businesses must proactively align with international best practices, invest further in IT and partner with experienced digital solutions providers like Altus ICT for tailored solutions.

As a nation, we value the confidentiality and respect of our data. Namibian corporations, the call is clear: innovate your digital operations, build unshakable customer trust, and lead the charge in securing our data in an ever-evolving digital world.

***\*Leake Ileka is a Legal Compliance Officer at Altus ICT and a Chevening Alumnus.***

***For more information, connect with him and Altus ICT on LinkedIn.***



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## Trigon Metals secures N\$89m loan from Kombat Mine prospective buyer

**T**rigon Metals Inc. says it has signed a binding loan agreement with Horizon Corporation Ltd for up to N\$89 million (US\$5 million) to fund the development of its Kombat copper mine project in Namibia.

The loan comes as part of Horizon's exclusivity to negotiate the purchase of

Trigon's interest in the Kombat Mine in Namibia, with a proposed valuation of N\$536 million (US\$30 million).

Horizon will provide N\$89.3 million (US\$5 million) in three tranches: an initial N\$8.93 million within seven days of signing, N\$35.72 million post-security approvals, and a final N\$44.65 million



THE

# BR/E/F

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06:40

Mon-Fri



This financing enables Horizon to invest in the Kombat Mine ahead of the proposed acquisition while providing Trigon with essential funding to sustain operations.

within 45 days of the second tranche.

The loan, bearing a 15% annual interest rate, includes a six-month grace period before repayment begins over 18 months.

“This deal is a decisive win for the Company and shareholders. We had been committed to operating and growing the Kombat mine, but this deal offers the Company and shareholders an opportunity to maximise growth for the Company as

a whole,” said Trigon Metals CEO and Executive Chairman Jed Richardson.

This financing enables Horizon to invest in the Kombat Mine ahead of the proposed acquisition while providing Trigon with essential funding to sustain operations.

If the acquisition is completed, the loan will convert into equity; otherwise, it will remain payable with associated break fees.

“The agreement allows us to realise significant value from the Kombat Mine in an expensive and uncertain funding market while ensuring stability and continuity for the workforce at the site,” he said.

Upon completion of the sale, Horizon will acquire up to 100% of the Canadian-domiciled holding company, which indirectly owns 80% of the Kombat Mine.

Additional follow-up payments of N\$178.6 million (US\$10 million) to N\$357.2 million (US\$20 million) may apply based on underground production milestones.

The proposed transaction, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals, reflects a strategic shift for Trigon Metals.

The deal allows Trigon to focus on advancing its Addana, Silver Hill and Kalahari exploration projects while strengthening its financial position.

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# DBN CEO appointed to SADC-DFRC Board of Trustees

The Chief Executive Officer of the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), Dr. John Steytler, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Southern African Development Community's Development Finance Resource Centre (SADC-DFRC).

Steytler's two-year tenure will commence on 1 January 2025 and run until 31 December 2026. His appointment was confirmed at the SADC Development Finance Institutions (DFI) Network meeting held on 29 November 2024 in Mbombela, South Africa.

The SADC-DFRC, a subsidiary institution of SADC, operates under the SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment (FIP) and serves as a collective platform for the region's Development Finance Institutions. The network currently comprises 41 national DFIs.

Mandated to facilitate effective resource mobilisation for investments in key economic sectors, the SADC-DFRC plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation in line with the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030.

"Namibia has an important role to play in advancing development finance within the region. This appointment is an opportunity to contribute to our shared sustainable goals while further strengthening our presence in shaping the future of development finance across Southern Africa," Steytler said on his appointment.

The newly appointed SADC-DFRC Board is comprised of other prominent leaders from various Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) across the region, including Mduduzi Dlamini, CEO of Eswatini Housing Board



and Chairman of the SADC-DFRC Board; Cross Kgosiidiile, Managing Director of the Botswana Development Corporation; Frank Nyabundenge, Managing Director of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank; Obert Ngwenya, CEO of the Small & Medium Enterprises Development Corporation, Zimbabwe; Boitumelo Masako, CEO of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Joao Salvador Quintas, CEO of Banco Desenvolvimento de Angola and Chairman of the SADC DFI Network; and Sadwick Mtonakutha, Director of the SADC Finance, Investment and Customs Directorate, who serves as an Ex Officio member.

# Powering the future, threatening the present: The land dilemma of renewable energy

By Gerson Nasau

As the race to combat climate change accelerates, renewable energy projects are emerging as symbols of progress, delivering clean power to communities and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. However, beneath the glimmer of solar panels and the sweep of wind turbines lies a challenging question: what happens when these solutions collide with the land-dependent livelihoods of rural populations? In regions where land means food security, cultural identity, and a social safety net, the rapid expansion of renewable energy presents a pressing challenge to balance sustainability with survival.

The global energy transition toward renewable sources has accelerated, driven by the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Solar parks and wind farms have emerged as leading technologies in this shift, offering significant potential for sustainable energy production. However, these projects bring a challenge that cannot be overlooked—the vast tracts of land required for their implementation. In countries like Namibia, where land holds deep socio-economic and cultural significance, this issue creates a complex trade-off between achieving sustainability goals and safeguarding social equity.

Large solar parks and wind farms are often defined by their capacity and corresponding land demands. On average, a utility-scale solar park requires between 3.5 and 4 acres per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity.



“

**There is much work to be done to address the rapid rise of cybercrime on a national level.**

For instance, the Noor Abu Dhabi solar park in the United Arab Emirates, one of the largest in the world with a capacity of 1,177 MW, spans over 8 square kilometers (approximately 2,000 acres). Similarly, the Tengger Desert Solar Park in China, with a capacity of 1,547 MW, covers an impressive area of 43 square kilometers (10,625 acres).

Wind farms, although less densely packed with infrastructure, require even more land to accommodate turbine spacing. An onshore wind farm typically requires 40 to 70 acres per MW of capacity, including open spaces needed for optimal wind flow and maintenance access. For example, the Alta Wind Energy Center in California, the United States' largest onshore wind project, has a capacity of 1,550 MW and spans 320 square kilometers (over 79,000 acres). These expansive footprints can pose significant land-use challenges, especially in regions where land serves as a vital means of subsistence or social safety.

While countries with vast deserts and low population densities, such as Namibia, might seem ideal for renewable energy installations, the reality is far more complex.



Land in Namibia is a lifeline for its rural communities, supporting subsistence farming, grazing, and food security. It also holds cultural significance, tied deeply to Namibia's historical and social fabric, and serves as a buffer against economic hardship for vulnerable populations.

In Namibia, these land requirements are particularly consequential. While the country boasts vast deserts seemingly ideal for solar and wind energy projects, its communal lands are central to rural livelihoods. Over half the population relies on agriculture, grazing, and shared land access to meet basic needs. Large renewable energy installations on these lands risk disrupting food production, reducing grazing areas for livestock, and displacing already vulnerable communities. Similar dynamics have played out elsewhere. The Kajiado Solar Plant in Kenya, a 200-acre project, created conflicts with local Maasai communities, whose grazing practices were constrained, adversely affecting their livelihoods.

Balancing this competition for land necessitates a rethinking of how and where renewable energy projects are deployed. Namibia's vast and largely unutilized 1,300-kilometer coastline presents an untapped resource for ocean-based renewable energy technologies. Unlike land-dependent solutions, wave energy technologies such as WaveRoller operate entirely offshore, producing power from ocean waves without occupying valuable

terrestrial resources. For a nation like Namibia, with rich marine potential, this offers a unique pathway to sustainable energy expansion without encroaching on land critical to agriculture and community stability.

In addition to exploring marine renewables, Namibia can leverage innovative land-efficient technologies. Hybrid systems, such as Windcurrent's vertical-axis wind turbines and underwater turbines, significantly reduce the land footprint while delivering high-capacity energy output. By generating electricity using compact setups that combine air and underwater dynamics, these systems achieve competitive Levelized Costs of Energy (LCOE) while sparing large swaths of land. Agrivoltaic systems, which integrate solar panels into agricultural fields, also hold promise for Namibia. These installations allow land to serve dual



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Only hand-delivered applications will be considered. Enquiries in respect of the above position should be send to [ndapewa.lukolo@nacc.com.na](mailto:ndapewa.lukolo@nacc.com.na) or contact (061) 224622.

purposes, producing clean energy while enabling continued food production, an essential model for safeguarding rural livelihoods.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how renewable energy projects are planned and deployed, especially in minimizing land use. By analyzing vast amounts of data, AI tools can identify the most efficient and least disruptive sites for solar and wind projects. These systems use satellite imagery, land use data, and environmental metrics to pinpoint areas with high energy potential while avoiding fertile farmland, grazing areas, or ecologically sensitive zones. Advanced algorithms can assess socio-economic factors, ensuring that project locations do not displace vulnerable communities or disrupt critical livelihoods. For example, specialized tools from startups like Blue Dot enable developers to prioritize degraded or underutilized lands for energy projects. In regions like Namibia, where land is both a socio-economic asset and a means of subsistence, deploying AI to optimize site selection ensures that renewable energy projects align with sustainability goals without exacerbating land-use conflicts.

Beyond technological solutions, Namibia must implement inclusive and forward-looking policies to manage land use equitably. Governments should prioritize renewable energy projects on degraded or arid lands with limited agricultural or communal utility, thereby minimizing competition for fertile land. Equally important are policies that engage and benefit local communities. Inclusive planning processes and public consultations should be non-negotiable in project development, ensuring community voices are heard. Compensation structures, revenue-sharing agreements, and co-ownership models can mitigate the risks of displacement and create new economic opportunities for affected populations.

Investors and developers, too, must take a proactive role by aligning their projects with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. Responsible project designs, emphasizing land efficiency and minimizing environmental disruption, should become industry best practices.

The renewable energy transition is not simply about technology—it is about addressing intersecting challenges of energy, equity, and livelihoods. Namibia's unique context, with its land-based inequalities and untapped ocean energy potential, offers both a cautionary tale and a hopeful roadmap for a sustainable future. Through marine energy adoption, technological innovation, and equitable policies, Namibia can become a global model for balancing land use with renewable energy growth.

The energy sector, policymakers, and innovators must recognize the critical need for such an integrated approach. By safeguarding land as a means of survival while leveraging new energy possibilities, Namibia—and the broader renewable energy community—can ensure a transition that is both sustainable and inclusive.

Namibia stands at a crossroads in its renewable energy development. It has the potential to become a global leader in green energy while simultaneously safeguarding the social and economic well-being of its people. By leveraging AI for precise site selection, adopting marine and hybrid energy technologies, and integrating land-efficient designs, the country can balance sustainability and equity. Policymakers, developers, and global investors must work collectively to ensure that renewable energy does not become a trade-off between progress and survival but rather a driver for inclusive and sustainable development.

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



Enriching  
Generations

# FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

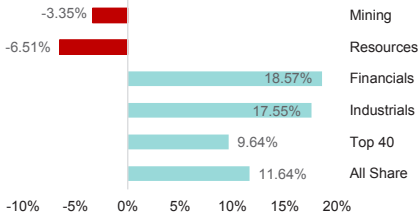
### Commodities

Spot Gold	2636.51
Platinum	932.72
Palladium	933.95
Silver	30.20
Uranium	76.95
Brent Crude	72.79
Iron Ore	97.45
Copper	8985.71
Natural Gas	3.13
Lithium	9.85

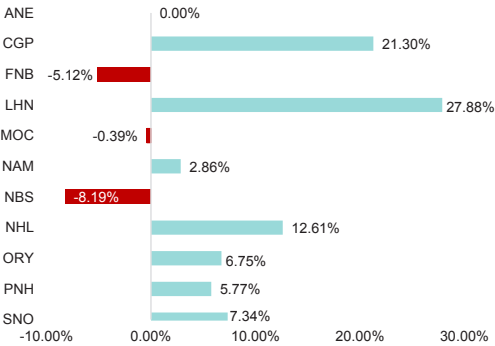
### Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.1565
EUR/ZAR	19.0653
GBP/ZAR	23.0376
USD/CNY	7.2857
EUR/USD	1.0501
GBP/USD	1.2688
USD/RUB	103.5048
CPI	3.00%
Repo Rate	7.00%
Prime Rate	10.75%

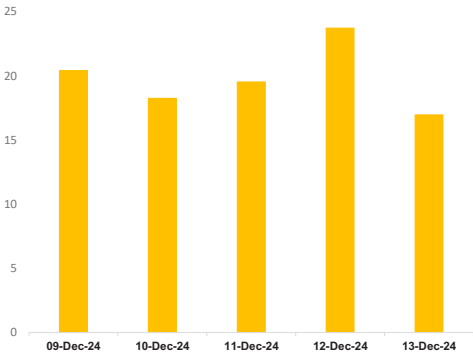
### JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



### NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



### JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



### Global Indices: Year to Date in %

