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THE BRIEF

—New Worth Knowing



Namibia poised for Uranium revenue boom in 2024

WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2024

MAIN STORY

Namibia poised for Uranium revenue boom in 2024

The Chamber of Mines expects Namibia to experience a notable economic boost and upswing in the contribution of the uranium sub-sector in 2024, fuelled by the highest price increase for uranium in over 12 years.

The Chamber's CEO Veston Malango said the upswing will come from higher production levels in existing mines and the commencement of production at the Langer Heinrich uranium mine, expected in the first quarter of this year.

This comes as the Chamber is thrilled to witness a material recovery in the uranium price, which has breached the US\$100/lb mark and is currently trading at US\$106/lb, a price move which market analysts have been predicting since 2013.

"Increased production in 2024, combined with growing output in the medium-term from new uranium mines, will translate into increased foreign exchange earnings for the country and increased government revenue through royalties, corporate tax and export levies," he said.

In terms of job creation, the Chamber expects several hundred jobs to be created through the opening of the Langer Heinrich uranium mine this year, and in the medium term, further job creation is anticipated in the development of new uranium mines.

Malango noted that the creation of new jobs will also have significant multiplier



Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
14 February 2024
17 April 2024
19 June 2024
14 August 2024
23 October 2024
4 December 2024
- Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (Ahif).
25-27 June 2024
Mövenpick Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
Windhoek, Namibia from 03 – 05 September 2024

effects as the newly created incomes are spent in other sectors of the economy.

This anticipation is grounded in Namibia’s status as one of the world’s foremost uranium producers, the Chamber is looking forward to the scaling up and expansion of production at existing facilities like Husab and Rössing, amongst others.

“Bannerman and Deep Yellow were both awarded Mining Licences for their Etango and Tumas projects respectively in December last year. The granting of Mining Licences places both companies in an advantageous position to leverage on the improved uranium market and start raising the required capital that is necessary to progress mine-development,” the CEO said.

Similarly, Orano Mining Namibia is also evaluating the improved market circumstances to potentially restart the operations of its Trekkopje mine.

Malango highlighted that the burgeoning uranium sector in Namibia will not only enhance its position in the global market but will also contribute to the economic growth of the local (Erongo region) and national economy.

“In the Erongo region, the multipliers of

uranium expansion will also be seen in the local supply chain through new business and expansion of existing suppliers that will be required to support the additional demand from the increased production of new mines, restart of mines, and new uranium mines,” he said.

Namibia is well known for its resource endowment of uranium, and from an investment and development perspective, the increase of prices will most certainly make Namibia an even more attractive destination for mining, he emphasised.

In addition to the existing mines and upcoming projects, “we expect that the current high prices of uranium will attract substantial investment into the exploration for further discovery of new orebodies that may lead to new mines”.

This comes as Namibia experiences a significant boom in uranium exports, evidenced by the country exporting N\$2.8 billion worth of uranium in November 2023.

Data released by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) noted that this constituted 23.3% of its total exports for the month, with all shipments destined for China.

- *miningandenergy.com.na*



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SPS plans N\$200m 10MW power plant to supply B2Gold

Sustainable Power Solutions (SPS) says it is spearheading a N\$200-million investment in a 10 megawatts (MW) solar power plant which will generate approximately 26,360MWh of renewable energy per year to supply gold producer,



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CLOSING TIME & DATE: Wednesday, 14 February 2024 at 11H00 PM
PAYABLE FEE: N\$ 300.00
TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES: Mr. J. Kazondovi, Email: jkazondovi@agribank.com.na, Tel: +264 61 207 4302

2. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding document as per the address given below.
3. Qualification requirements can be obtained from the bid document.
4. A compulsory sites inspection will be conducted as referenced in the bid document, ITS 8.2
5. A complete set of Bidding Document in English may be purchased as guided in the bid document.
6. Bids must be delivered to Agribank Head Office, Reception, Ground Floor as per the closing date and time specified. Electronic bidding will not be accepted. Late bids will be rejected.

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B2Gold.

The project will be implemented under NamPower’s Modified Single Buyer framework which allows Independent Power Producers to sell electricity directly to regional distributors, industrial and mining companies, and municipalities.

“The solar plant is being constructed on Maxwell Farm situated in North Central Namibia and is set to be operational by the end of 2024. The energy will be injected into NamPower’s brand-new Eldorado substation from where it will be allocated under the Modified Single Buyer framework to B2Gold’s Otjikoto Mine, located approximately 300 km north of Windhoek,” a statement by SPS read.

The statement further states that the project will be implemented in collaboration with Fortitude, a firm specialising in property development and project management, and the Oelofse family who are both investors and landowners of Maxwell Farm.

“I want to thank NamPower and the ECB for their investor-friendly approach and for their assistance in making this project a reality,” said CEO of SPS Francois van Themaat.



Sven Patzner of Fortitude

said its role in engineering, value engineering, and quality control processes during the construction phase of the power plant further solidifies the partnership’s commitment to the project.

“We are very excited to be involved in the prestigious Maxwell Solar Power Project. Being able to provide solar energy to one of Namibia’s most respected mining operators in B2Gold, together with the Oelofse Family and SPS, is both a remarkable opportunity and an example of what can be achieved through key collaborations and partnerships in the long-term interest of all stakeholders as well as Namibia’s clean energy ambitions moving forward,” he said.

According to the release, further to the first phase 10MW plant, SPS and partners are already looking to expand the project to deliver renewable energy to additional customers in Namibia.

VACANCIES



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Office of the President

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is looking for suitably qualified and experienced Namibian citizens to fill the following positions:

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- **Senior Consultant: Investment Analysis**
- **Brand Namibia Coordinator**

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ABOUT NIPDB

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board ("NIPDB") is a non-profit association incorporated under section 21 of the Companies Act, Act No. 28 of 2004 ("the Companies Act"). The Board was established as an autonomous entity in the office of the Presidency and is declared a Public Enterprise in accordance with section 2 of the Public Enterprise Governance Act, Act No. 1 of 2019. The NIPDB is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSM activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.

Namibia records 158 crashes in January

The Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund says a total of 158 crashes were recorded between 1 January and 28 January 2024 across Namibia.

The latest MVA Fund statistics reveal that the crashes resulted in 335 injuries and 29 fatalities.

Rosalía Martins-Hausiku, the Chief Executive Officer of the MVA Fund, expressed grave concern over the uptick in road accidents, particularly following the conclusion of the festive season.

“The safety of road users is of paramount importance to the MVA Fund. Road crashes not only bring about immeasurable loss and suffering to affected families but also have far-reaching impacts on communities and the nation as a whole,” stated Martins-Hausiku.

Martins-Hausiku emphasised the critical need for drivers to exercise utmost caution and prioritise the safety of all road users to mitigate the occurrence of such tragic incidents as Namibia lost 16 lives with 89 people injured during the past week due to road traffic crashes.

Highlighting the preventable nature of many road accidents, Martins-Hausiku stressed the importance of conscientious driving and strict adherence to traffic laws and regulations.

She emphasised the significance of planning long journeys meticulously and avoiding driving during nighttime when visibility on the roads is significantly reduced.

“The MVA Fund urges the public to remain vigilant and report any accidents promptly, by calling our toll-free accident response number, 9682, individuals can play a crucial role in saving lives and preventing further tragedies on our roads,” urged Martins-Hausiku.



The MVA Fund’s call for heightened awareness and proactive measures comes amid growing concerns over road safety and the need for concerted efforts to curb the rising trend of accidents.

As the nation grapples with the aftermath of these incidents, the collective responsibility to foster a culture of responsible driving and road safety

remains paramount.

This follows the release of statistics by the Namibian Police indicating an upswing in motor accidents during the recent festive season when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Despite the surge in accidents, the police

noted that there was a notable 14% decrease in fatalities, shedding light on the intricate road safety landscape in the country.

From 17 November 2022, to 1 January 2023, the police documented a total of 382 accidents, resulting in 711 injuries and 66 fatalities.



SPS & Partners provide 10 MW Solar Solution to B2Gold’s Otjikoto Mine in Namibia

Sustainable Power Solutions (SPS), together with its Namibian partners, Fortitude and the Oelofse family, are pioneering the latest development in Namibia’s energy and mining sector.

NS200 Million Renewable Energy Flagship Project

SPS is leading the development and funding of a NS200 million investment in a 10MW solar plant, which will generate approximately 26 360 MWh of clean renewable energy per year. This will be the first wheeling project implemented under NamPower’s Modified Single Buyer (MSB) framework, meaning that the solar plant will not be connected behind the customer’s meter, but at a different location on NamPower’s grid, with the clean energy generated by the solar plant being allocated or ‘wheeled’ to the customer.

NamPower’s MSB framework empowers Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to produce and sell electricity directly to regional electricity distributors, large industrial and mining companies, as well as municipalities. This is an improvement to the previous single-buyer model, where electricity output was restricted to being sold only to NamPower.

The solar plant is being constructed on Maxwell Farm situated in North Central Namibia, and is set to be operational by the end of 2024.

The energy will be injected into NamPower’s brand-new Eldorado substation from where it will be allocated under the MSB framework to B2Gold’s Otjikoto Mine, located approximately 300 km north of Windhoek.

B2Gold is Namibia’s leading gold producer, with an estimated gold output of 200,000 ounces in 2023 and a workforce of 976 employees.

Francois van Themaat, CEO of SPS, states, “We are thrilled to be developing this novel project for B2Gold with our Namibian partners - Fortitude and the Oelofse family. I want to thank NamPower and the ECB for their investor-friendly approach and for their assistance in making this project a reality.”

Championing Sustainable Energy

SPS is a leading Sub-Saharan African funder, developer, and asset manager of solar PV and battery storage plants in the commercial & industrial market. The company is partnering with Fortitude, a multi-disciplinary property development and project management firm, as well as the Oelofse family, known for their long-time dedication to Namibian wildlife conservation.

The Oelofse family, who owns Maxwell Farm, is also an investor in the project.

“This partnership exemplifies our commitment to sustainable energy and innovation,” remarked Alex Oelofse of Maxwell Farm. “The solar plant’s development marks a milestone in our collective pursuit of greener, more efficient energy solutions.”

Fortitude will play an integral role in the engineering, value-engineering and quality control processes during the construction phase of the power plant.

SPS is a portfolio company of Gridworks, part of British International Investment (BII), the United Kingdom’s development finance institution, and NewGX, owned by South African entrepreneur Khudusele Pitje.

We are a leading pan-African funder, developer and operator of solar PV and battery storage plants in the commercial & industrial (C&I) market. With the funding provided by our shareholders, we are able to offer finance solutions to businesses and partner with developers and EPC partners across the region.

Fortitude is a multi-disciplinary Property Development and Project Management firm operating throughout Namibia where they typically deliver turn-key development

Sven Patzner of Fortitude says, “We are very excited to be involved in the prestigious Maxwell Solar Power Project. Being able to provide solar energy to one of Namibia’s most respected mining operators in B2Gold, together with the Oelofse Family and SPS, is both a remarkable opportunity and example of what can be achieved through key collaborations and partnerships in the long-term interest of all stakeholders as well as Namibia’s clean energy ambitions moving forward.”

Further to the first phase 10 MW plant, SPS and partners are already looking to expand the project to deliver clean renewable energy to additional customers in Namibia.

Namibia Leading the Way

Namibia’s investor-friendly approach and open regulatory environment provided a conducive backdrop for this project, helping to increase the country’s renewable energy penetration and reducing reliance on imported energy and fossil fuels.

In a broader context, the MSB framework resembles energy wheeling frameworks, wherein electricity is generated at a specific grid point and distributed to other large consumers via the utility’s network. This initiative aims to ensure the effective provision of electricity, foster a competitive environment in the electricity industry, and encourage private sector investments in the industry.

Sustainable Mining Excellence at B2Gold’s Otjikoto Gold Mine

B2Gold’s Otjikoto gold mine will be one of Namibia’s greenest mines, with the aim of offsetting an additional 26 360 tonnes of CO2 annually. This aligns with B2Gold’s climate strategy, to achieve a 30% reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 & progressing towards a net zero operation at the Otjikoto mine.

John Roos, Country Manager of B2Gold Namibia, commented, “We are elated about the prospects of this collaboration with SPS, Fortitude, and the Oelofse Family. This solar project embodies our unwavering commitment to sustainable mining practices.”

SPS and its partners will provide further updates as the Maxwell Solar Power Plant is being constructed and paves the way to a greener and more sustainable energy future.

Visit Sustainable Power Solutions, Fortitude and Mount Etjo Safari Lodge to learn more about the consortium and their pioneering initiatives in the renewable energy sector.



solutions for a number of their valued clients.

Alex Oelofse shared the following reflections on their family’s involvement in the project:

“Embarking on this venture echoes the essence of our family’s legacy—a commitment to sustainability and progress. As a family dedicated to game farming, conservation, and tourism, we’ve always embraced responsible stewardship of our land. This solar power project aligns with our vision for a greener future, where innovation and environmental conscientiousness converge. It’s a privilege to contribute our expertise towards this transformative partnership”



Bannerman makes key appointments ahead of Etango mine development

Bannerman Energy has made significant changes to its board and key executive roles in preparation for the next phase of its flagship project, the Etango Uranium Project in Namibia.

The company has announced changes, effective from early March 2024, as part of its strategic preparations for the development of the Etango mine.

Current Bannerman Energy Managing Director and CEO Brandon Munro will be taking over the reins as Executive Chairman to continue leading the financing efforts for Etango. He will oversee corporate affairs and manage capital markets interactions.

"These changes are designed to set up our business for the next exciting phase of its advancement. Critically, they allow us to further build senior executive capacity as we approach the targeted construction and long-term operation of a world-class uranium mine at Etango," Munro said.

Gavin Chamberlain, who joined Bannerman in 2023 as Chief Operating Officer, will take on the role of Chief Executive Officer. Chamberlain played a crucial role in the development of the Husab Uranium Project,

positioning him well to lead Bannerman through the phases of Etango's development.

"I believe we have a high-performance organization that is a solid platform to transition into future operations. I look forward to further driving our business and the Etango Project to deliver substantial, sustainable benefits for all stakeholders," Chamberlain said.

Alison Terry will step into the role of Lead Independent Director, bringing her extensive experience as a senior resources and corporate affairs executive to the board.

"Her expertise in sustainability, ESG dynamics, and legal affairs will be invaluable as Bannerman progresses towards its development goals," the uranium miner said.

In December, Bannerman Energy announced that it had been granted a mining license (ML) by the Ministry of Mines and Energy for its flagship Etango Uranium Project, leading to the award of two key early works contracts on Etango. These contracts involve a temporary construction water supply and a site access road, with a combined value of approximately N\$36 million. - miningandenergy.com.na



Zambia ratifies Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi development corridor agreement

Zambia has ratified the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor (WBNLDC) Tripartite Agreement, in a move expected to spur economic growth by improving trade and infrastructure.

The WBNLDC serves as a link from the port of Walvis Bay in Namibia to Ndola in Zambia’s Copperbelt and Lubumbashi in the mineral-rich Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

With its strategic location, the corridor presents an alternative trade route for Zambia and the DRC, offering seamless

access to international markets while fostering regional integration.

According to Walvis Bay Corridor Group Manager for Marketing and Communications Maria Paulus, the WBNLDC aims to foster cross-border transit-transport cooperation, enhance transit transport systems for trade facilitation, and provide landlocked countries like Zambia and the DRC with access to the port of Walvis Bay through Namibia.

“In pursuit of these objectives, Namibia has made dry ports available to Botswana,

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Namibia has made dry ports available to Botswana, DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe at the port of Walvis Bay, ensuring mutual economic benefits for all.

DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe at the port of Walvis Bay, ensuring mutual economic benefits for all,” she said.

Similarly, Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) Chief Executive Officer Mbahupu Tjivikua said as the host of the Secretariat, WBCG has played a pivotal role in facilitating collaboration between public and private stakeholders across member states, working towards resolving cross-border challenges affecting the corridor.

“WBCG extends its appreciation to the Zambian Government, Frank Tayali and the Zambian leadership for their dedicated efforts and seamless coordination in expediting the ratification process. This demonstrated

political will and the support from Zambia in this regard is commendable, paving the way for the successful elimination of cross-border challenges among the three member states,” he said.

Meanwhile, Zambia’s Minister of Transport and Logistics Museba Frank Tayali, hailed the ratification as a catalyst for economic growth across member countries.

He emphasised the agreement’s potential to improve infrastructure, encourage private sector participation, and stimulate cross-border trade and investment, ultimately advancing regional development goals.

Originally conceptualised in March 2010, the tripartite agreement was a collaborative effort among the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, and Zambia. The ratification by Zambia, following earlier endorsements by the DRC in 2015 and Namibia in 2021.



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Year in Review

2023

CATALYSING
NAMIBIA'S GROWTH:
THE TRANSFORMATIVE
ROLE OF PRIVATE EQUITY

THE NAMIBIAN
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM
IS FINDING ITS FEET

CAPRICORN GROUP
PROPELS POSITIVE
CHANGE IN 2023

BON DRIVES
MODERNISATION OF
BANKING SECTOR

GIPE:
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INNOVATION, AND
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THE ROAD AHEAD TO 2024

FESTIVE FINANCES:
THE ART AND IMPORTANCE
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HOLIDAY SEASON

CAPELAO:
SHAPING NAMIBIA'S
TAX LANDSCAPE

DBN PIONEERING
PROGRESS IN NATIONAL
ADVANCEMENT

OUTLOOK

2024

Beyond AIDA: Brand salience and resonance

By The Brand Guy

Back in the 90s, I used to ask why we were doing an ad? The answer was inevitable 'awareness'.

After the seventh or eighth response I gave up asking and went my own way on the job. The actual correct answer should probably have been 'for money'. Those were the days when media planning was dominated by the idea that consumers needed 3.5 opportunities to see an ad for the brand and message to sink in.

The idea of awareness was later augmented with the granddaddy of sales funnels, AIDA: awareness, interest, demand, and acquisition. AIDA made it theoretically possible to identify a consumer's position in the funnel, and tailor messages, for instance 'you-know-you-want-it' demand drivers and 'get-it-now' acquisition messages in retail. Unfortunately, awareness messages were comfortable territory so in-store stuck with simple signage and product logos.

Enter social media and a new paradigm, a collusion between the brand and the consumer. The brand is expected to transform the consumer through product attributes, emotional and socio-cultural relevance. Simple creativity is no longer enough. The consumer has a vested interest in their own transformation and will use digital media to optimize that transformation.

This is the first stage, brand salience. In the AIDA scheme of things, it overlays awareness and interest. The communication must identify the target



audience in an accurate niche and develop relevance to the consumer in the context of the consideration set, the range of choices.

The relevance will have to be backed up by a strong differential matrix, which not only references the product attributes and benefits, but is also explicit on the emotional and socio-cultural benefits.

What also becomes important here is that the audience will have asymmetric social media choices, so the message must be repeated in different formats.

The medium gives impact to the message, particularly given the broad socio-cultural or 'tribal' considerations of 'belonging' to a

particular platform. For instance, many of the millennials may hover between Tiktok and Instagram, using both mediums. That millennial may however completely dismiss the relevance of Facebook.

The messages will need different formats according to the medium. They will also need variance in their presentation. The audience is rewarded with different content containing the same core messages. The net effect will be development of salience. It is obviously also important that the messages be varied within the mediums. Content will age and lose its appeal.

The second stage, resonance, kicks in once the consumer commits to a purchase. Resonance should be divided into two phases.

The first phase of resonance will pair with demand in the AIDA funnel. When the consumer goes into the hypothetical store to make the purchase. Observing the range of choices in the consideration set, the consumer must recall the elements of salience and make the decision to purchase the specific brand.

The second phase of resonance will pair with acquisition, more specifically post-

acquisition. On acquisition, the consumer will want to immediately experience the emotional and socio-cultural benefit. This will lead firstly to the sort of satisfaction that encourages repeat purchases. Secondly, when the 'tribal' socio-cultural facet kicks in, the consumer will feel the broader sense of belonging. The effect will be compounded by growing the tribe and, potentially, by expanding the tribe with recommendations to the group.

There are multiple sales funnels, each with their own forms and preoccupations, however without the deep and intense overlays of salience and resonance, they become less effective.

****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 pierre.june21@gmail.com if you need help.***

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African Culture crowned Sanlam Bridge 2023 overall winner



African Culture was crowned the overall winner of 2023 edition of the Sanlam Namibia Bridge Programme, walking away with N\$50 000 grand prize, following a rigorous six-month business training, coaching, and mentorship programme.

African Culture competed against five other dynamic businesses such as Rural Power Solutions cc, Namibian Culture Colouring Book, Edu-Game Namibia, Trimazena, and Rise Shine who presented their final pitch and progress report on their businesses. The Sanlam Bridge is the flagship entrepreneurship programme of Sanlam supported by Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board as the implementing agency.

“I am delighted to have undergone this programme, equipping me with the skills to confidently present my business concept and build a sustainable brand. Thanks to Sanlam and NIPDB for investing in our craft through various initiatives like MSME incentives, Branding Masterclasses, Financial Symposiums, Digital Bootcamps, Business Support Weeks, and the Start Improve Your Business Training Programme,” said Risto Kandeke, who received the prize on behalf of African Culture

According to Sanlam’s Marketing and Communication Manager, Laurencia

Prinzonsky, the selection process for the ultimate winner involved a thorough evaluation by panel judges, considering factors such as meeting business milestones, demonstrating growth potential, and overall excellence.

“The Sanlam Bridge serves as a launchpad for Namibian future business leaders, catering to those with registered businesses not older than one year or those with feasible business ideas lacking financial resources. This initiative empowers young Namibians by providing essential skills, seed capital, mentorship, and coaching to turn their business dreams into reality,” said Prinzonsky

Beyond initial funding and mentorship, the Sanlam Bridge programme plays a pivotal role in connecting businesses/MSMEs with financial institutions like banks and equity funders, she said.

“This strategic bridge enhances their attractiveness for future funding, creating a sustainable ecosystem for economic growth. As we celebrate the success of the 2023 cohort, the anticipation for the 2024 intake is building up. Sanlam Bridge remains steadfast in its commitment to shaping the future of Namibian entrepreneurs, reinforcing its position as a catalyst for business innovation and growth” Prinzonsky said.



Farmers need to gain access to agricultural information

By Erastus Ngaruka

Agriculture is by far an economic pillar in Namibia as it directly or indirectly supports all livelihoods in the form of food, employment, and income.

Besides that, agricultural production faces many challenges that are associated with climatic conditions, technology, markets, and knowledge or skills amongst others. For example, potential agricultural production in Namibia is vulnerable to climate change

events such as drought, floods, and extreme temperatures. In addition, inappropriate or absence of technologies, high production costs, unfavorable market shifts in prices, demand and supply patterns, and lack of knowledge and skills also limit potential productivity.

The challenges are commonly experienced by many farmers in the country, more especially the subsistence farmers and those in communal farming areas. As an effort to address these challenges and to



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enhance agricultural production in the country, there are various support services from different stakeholders, which include government institutions, the private sector, farmers' unions, and non-governmental organizations amongst others. These support services are in different forms and are essential as they come with direct or indirect benefits to farmers, and ultimately to the development or advancement of agricultural production in the country.

To begin with, if farmers are to improve their farming practices and productivity levels, it is very important that they create sufficient time for their farming operations, have access to information and capacity building services to gain appropriate knowledge and skills, and put them into practice. Given the current economic activities, climate change, increasing population and demand for agricultural products, the pressure is now exerted on farmers to ensure sustainable productivity and food security. This requires that farmers keep abreast of new information. This means, farmers may have to discover new and appropriate production practices or enhance their current practices for sustainable productivity and to withstand associated challenges to a significant extent. For example, farmers need information about seed varieties, improved livestock breeding practices, sustainable rangeland utilization, livestock fodder production, new technologies, inputs, and accessing new markets to mention but a few.

There are different platforms and sources of information in the country available to all farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform (MAWLR) provides agricultural extension services, including disseminating information, providing training, and offering subsidies for crops and livestock. In addition, the Agricultural Bank of Namibia (AGRIBANK), offers training and mentorship services to farmers, besides advancing agricultural loans. Farmers' unions are there as a link between farmers and service providers. Regulatory bodies, such as the Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB) and the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), are responsible for livestock and crop value chains respectively. They provide information related to markets and production. Inputs suppliers, marketing agents, supermarkets, and abattoirs are also available as sources of information for farmers.

It is therefore important that farmers visit or commit to the various platforms where these institutions share information. These can be websites, newspapers, training events, information days, and forums amongst others. Information is key to decision making processes on the farm when it comes to managing eminent challenges and opportunities. "Being aware is equal to being alert and proactive".

****Erastus Ngaruka is Technical Advisor: Livestock & Rangeland Management at Agribank***

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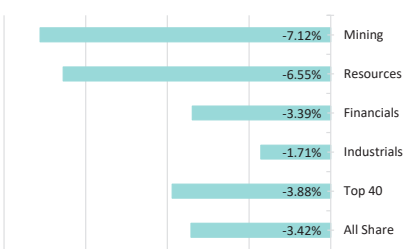
Commodities

Spot Gold	2042.24
Platinum	926.78
Palladium	978.22
Silver	23.16
Uranium	100.00
Brent Crude	82.04
Iron Ore	129.47
Copper	8543.75
Natural Gas	2.11
Lithium	14.25

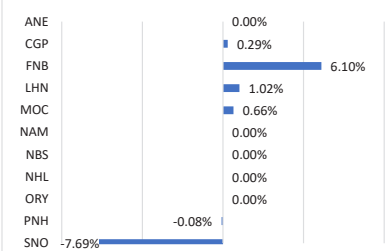
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.6472
EUR/ZAR	20.2513
GBP/ZAR	23.6966
USD/CNY	7.1761
EUR/USD	1.0860
GBP/USD	1.2708
USD/RUB	89.6897
CPI	5.31%
Repo Rate	7.75%
Prime Rate	11.50%

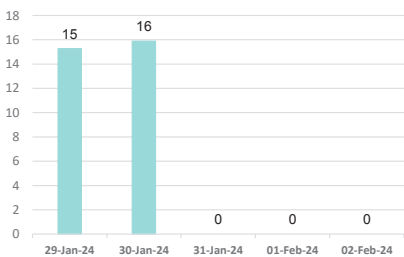
JSE Indices: Year to date movement %



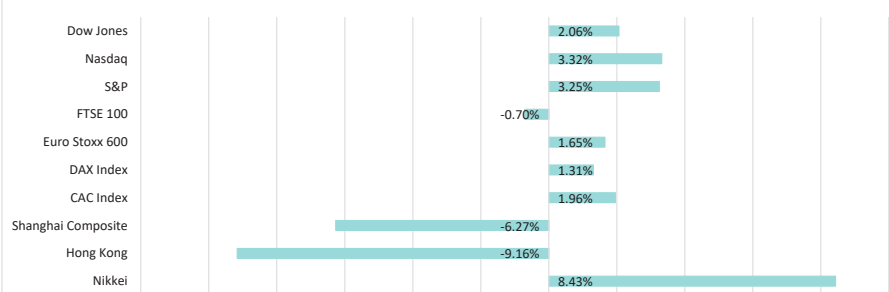
NSX Local Stocks: Year to date price movement %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %



*Prices as at 15:47, 31-Jan-2024