

DROUGHT
Agribank announces
N\$104.6m drought
intervention
p. 04



VALUE
Impact & Return:
A symbiosis
of value
p. 08



CHINA
Strategic
Engagement
with China
p. 12



THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

**Kandjoze criticizes IMF's
demand for greater transparency
in oil and gas agreements**



WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024

MAIN STORY



Kandjoze criticizes IMF's demand for greater transparency in oil and gas agreements

The National Planning Commission (NPC) Director General, Obeth Kandjoze, has criticised the International Monetary Fund (IMF), accusing the institution of double standards in its demands for increased transparency in Namibia's oil and gas agreements.

Kandjoze emphasised that no foreign entity, including international organisations like the IMF, should have the authority to dictate transparency and disclosure policies to sovereign nations.

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
14 August 2024
23 October 2024
4 December 2024
- Mining Expo and Conference (07 - 08 August 2024)
- Namibia Oil and Gas Conference (20 - 22 August 2024)
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
Windhoek, Namibia from 03 - 05 September 2024

He highlighted the unfairness of imposing stringent disclosure requirements on third-world countries while allowing more powerful nations to evade similar scrutiny.

This comes as the IMF High-Level Summary Technical Assistance Report on Namibia's Petroleum Fiscal Regime said fiscal transparency can be enhanced by publishing petroleum agreements while the costs and benefits of state participation should be considered.

"To ensure sustained benefits for its population, Namibia should preempt such challenges by adhering to the highest standards for transparency and governance. An immediate downpayment on this effort could be realised by making publicly available in an easily accessible manner all petroleum agreements concluded by the government," the report noted.

Kandjoze argued that this selective transparency creates geopolitical imbalances, as seen in regions like the Middle East.

"In the policy space, as long as we adhere to a good government structure that addresses corrupt politicians, we can make progress. We have a framework against corruption. However, they still demand that third-world countries disclose their financial records while they fund their budgets, and not rely on external dollar funds for budgeted programmes," he said at the Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking Event on Tuesday.

Kandjoze underscored the importance of each nation maintaining control over its governance structures and anti-corruption measures, asserting that decisions about

financial disclosures should be made independently by each country's government.

"Why should any other sovereign entity dictate to us what to disclose or not disclose, especially when people initially formed governments internationally? This exercise remains solely in the hands of our government structure and should not be subject to the prescriptions of any foreign entity," he said.

At the same event, following the IMF's recent call for increased transparency in Namibia's oil sector agreements, Ebson Uanguta, NAMCOR Interim Managing Director, emphasised the critical need for openness and accountability in the industry.

He highlighted the essential role of transparency in the oil and gas sector, stating: "In oil and gas, transparency is not just important but essential. All activities and potential risks must be disclosed promptly."

Explaining the complexity of the agreements under scrutiny, he noted that there are two primary agreements at play.

"The petroleum agreement dictates the relationship between international operators and the Namibian government. Meanwhile, the joint operating agreement governs relationships among operators, including NAMCOR's substantial interests in various discoveries," he said.

He further emphasised the delicate balance required between transparency and confidentiality. "We must find a middle ground. While certain confidential details need protection, critical information such as taxes, royalties, and economic benefits accruing to the government must be made public," Uanguta said.

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Agribank announces N\$104.6m drought intervention

Agribank announced N\$104.6 million in instalment relief and N\$83 million in waived penalty interest as part of interventions to provide relief to its clients impacted by the effects of the drought.

The decision by the agriculture-focused bank, which is expected to benefit 1,134 out of its 2,634 clients, comes after Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises Iipumbu Shiimi in his budget speech in February 2024 had announced the interventions.

“The drought relief will be implemented effective today (10 July 2024), and it will be in the form of an instalment relief and a penalty interest waiver for clients. We are facing challenging times for both our clients and the bank. We want both to survive, and we are trying to balance many considerations to ensure our clients receive some scope to make it through this difficult period,” Agribank Chief Executive Officer Raphael Karuaihe said on Wednesday.

Conversely, the bank revealed it is grappling with N\$1.2 billion in outstanding client debts.

The subsidies are divided into two interventions, instalment relief to Agribank clients and waiving penalty interest.

“There are two interventions to curb the effect drought has on agricultural clients: the instalment relief and a penalty interest waiver for clients. Based on the criteria agreed with the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, this intervention of instalment relief is limited to Agribank clients with farmland and livestock loan accounts,” Karuaihe said.

He further highlighted that clients who landed in arrears in the financial period of 1



April 2023 and 31 March 2024 will be eligible for the instalment relief intervention.

“Clients who fell into arrears between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 will also be considered,” he noted.

Qualifying clients will receive full payments for their instalments on time, and overdue accounts will be settled immediately.

“Accounts of qualifying clients will be credited in full as and when instalments fall due, and past-due accounts will be credited with immediate effect. The total commitment for this intervention is N\$104.6 million,” he noted.

Moreover, the second intervention for Agribank clients that meet the subsidy loan requirement notes the cancellation of penalty interest amounts on overdue accounts for the financial period of April 2024-March 2025.

“As a gesture of goodwill, Agribank offers to waive penalty interest amounting to approximately N\$83 million for this financial year (April 2024-March 2025) for all our clients that are in arrears,” he said.



Green Scheme projects forecast to increase maize, wheat production

The country's Green Scheme projects are anticipated to achieve gains in agricultural output this season, with maize production expected to increase by 24% to reach 13,100 metric tonnes (MT) from last season's yield of 10,600MT.

The projection, based on recent data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) country report by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, underscores the projects' role in enhancing food security through improved crop yields.

Additionally, wheat production within the Green Scheme projects is estimated to rise to 3,100MT this season, a 63% increase compared to the 1,900MT harvested last season.

Despite these optimistic projections within the Green Scheme projects, Namibia faces substantial agricultural hurdles.

According to the IPC report, the country anticipates a 53% reduction in overall crop production due to erratic rainfall patterns

and prolonged dry spells caused by El Niño earlier in the year.

"Namibia is dependent on rain-fed agriculture and the impact on El Niño has already shown that production has declined and will therefore not provide any tangible opportunities for agricultural labour even for



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The MVA Fund is a statutory body established to design, develop, promote, and implement motor vehicle accident and injury prevention measures. The Fund provides assistance and benefits to all people injured and dependants of those killed in motor vehicle accidents in accordance with MVA Fund Act, Act 10 of 2007.

PROVISION OF ACTUARIAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE SCOPING, DESIGNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF ACTUARIAL CALCULATOR - REF: SC/OAB/MVA FUND-02/2024/2025

The Motor Vehicle Accident Fund of Namibia (MVA Fund) hereby invites suitable qualified and competent Namibian companies to submit proposals for the Provision of Actuarial Consultancy Service for the Scoping, Designing, Development and Installation of Actuarial Calculator.

Bid documents with detailed information are available at MVA Fund Windhoek Service Center at a cost of N\$300.00. Proposals must be addressed to the Procurement Management Unit, MVA Fund Service Centre, Church Street, Erf No. 8730, Windhoek. Proposals should be submitted in the bid box at the MVA Fund Windhoek Service Centre.

A compulsory clarification Meeting will be held on Friday, 28 June 2024 @10h00 at the Windhoek Service Centre. Meaning only bidders who attend the clarification meeting will be allowed to submit bids.

Closing Date: Friday, 12 July 2024 @ 12h00

Contact Person: Kleopas Bonfasius
Procurement Manager
Tel: +264 61 289 7000
Enquiries: bonfasius@mvalfund.com.na



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www.mvalfund.com.na

the coming season hence agricultural production is projected to be negatively affected," said the report.

These adverse weather conditions have particularly affected communal farming regions, resulting in widespread crop stress and reduced yields.

"This resulted in crop stress and mass wilting of crops during the critical stages of germination, flowering and grain formation," the report reads.

Furthermore, IPC noted that Namibia is experiencing severe water shortages with dam levels averaging just 55.0% of total capacity, down from 69.7% last year.

"The water quality is poor due to the catchment running dry. In communal areas, damaged boreholes and vandalised or stolen pumps in the northern areas will further complicate the situation,"

said the IPC.

The report notes that this could be an indicator of other underlying causes.

"It is expected that water availability, in general, will have a 40-60% decrease in water tables. This is likely to increase the price of water for consumers in urban and peri-urban areas. There is a likelihood of conflicts on water usage for livestock communal areas due to management of the funds collected from the usage of the pumps," said IPC.

This comes as between April and June 2024, when approximately 1.2 million people, accounting for 40% of the population, were already experiencing acute food insecurity and requiring immediate intervention.

"Between April and June 2024, approximately 1.2 million people in Namibia (40% of the population analysed) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and require urgent humanitarian assistance," the report highlights.

INVITATION TO BIDS



GIPF
Government Institutions Pension Fund
To guard, and to grow.

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) was established to provide retirement benefits to employees in the services of the Namibian Government and other participating public institutions. The Fund's membership includes active members and a variety of annuitants. The Government Institutions Pension Fund's mission is to safeguard and grow the Fund for the benefit of its stakeholders and Namibia.

GIPF hereby invites qualified, competent, and registered companies to submit bids for the under-mentioned:

Bid Number	Bid Description	Non-refundable Document Fee	Enquiries	Closing Date
CS/EOI/GIPF-01/2024	Strategy Implementation (Portfolio Construction and Manager Selection)	Free	Elton Job E: ejob@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1210	29 July 2024 at 12:00 p.m
CS/RFP/GIPF-01/2024	Provision of Consultancy Services for the development and implementation of business process and mapping project	N\$100	Gisela Naris E: gnaris@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1746	30 July 2024 at 12:00 p.m
G/ONB/GIPF-02/2024	Supply and Delivery of ICT Hardware to GIPF	N\$300	Julia Shipanga E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1745	31 July 2024 at 12:00 p.m

Details of Bid Submission:
Sealed bids citing the bid number and detailing the services to be rendered should be posted or hand delivered to:

The Chairperson: GIPF Procurement Committee
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PENSION FUND
GIPF House, Ground Floor, Reception
Corner of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda and Goethe Street
P.O. Box 23500
Windhoek, Namibia

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Visit: www.gipf.com.na Email: info@gipf.com.na





Shell Plc to explore new offshore oil block near Namibia

Shell Plc plans to explore an offshore South African oil block located across the maritime border with Namibia, where a number of discoveries have been made.

The company expects to drill as many as five wells within the Northern Cape Ultra Deep license block, according to an online notice by SLR Consulting, which a Shell spokesperson confirmed by email.

The block is about 300 km offshore the west coast of South Africa in depths up to 3,200 meters.

Shell and TotalEnergies SE made oil and gas discoveries in Namibian waters north of the block starting in 2022. Additional finds have companies jostling for more acreage in and around the area.

Shell is the operator of the Northern Cape Ultra Deep block with 40.5%, Qatar Energy has 40.5%, Umbono 10%, and OK Energy with a 9% stake.

Some oil and gas exploration activity in South Africa by Shell and other companies has been blocked in recent years by environmental groups.

This comes as TotalEnergies SE reportedly plans to exit its discoveries of gas-condensate offshore South Africa to prioritize exploration in other areas closer to Namibia.

TotalEnergies plans to relinquish the license for Block 11B/12B because it doubts whether the complex deepwater finds can be made commercially viable, given South Africa's small gas market.

- *miningandenergy/bloomberg*



THE

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MOOKS & ADORA In the Morning



Impact & Return: A symbiosis of value

The primordial function of business has been to make profit, so when a company speaks about doing good, the assumption is that they're doing so at an irretrievable cost. That can be true, but it doesn't have to be.

Namibian investment expert, Eino Emvula, addressed this succinctly at the recent GIPF Responsible Investment Symposium – “You don’t have to give up return to make an impact.” This thinking sums up Shared Value, which is birthed from the idea that the long-term success of a business is dependent on the conditions of the society it serves. It moves businesses from battling profit against purpose and instead unites the two for profit & purpose.

Steps towards Shared Value require bravery. Bravery from the C-Suite to create an internal culture around it, and bravery from those guarding the coffers to view related business risks as opportunities for scalable



in the Strategic realm include Kenya’s Safaricom with M-PESA, Unilever’s Sustainable Living Plan, Nando’s Peri-Peri farming initiative, and IBM’s Corporate Service Corps. These initiatives have created various forms of impact for society and positive returns for the corporates including increased demand for products, deeper insights into new markets, heightened productivity along value chains, and over \$314 billion in transactions per year.

Shared Value strategies amplify ESG frameworks. They bridge impact investing and measurable results. For Namibia, they can aid an acceleration towards targets of Vision 2030 and all subsets within.

At Advantage Advertising, we shift the lens through which CSI and ESG are seen, creating the symbiosis between impact and returns to amplify the good business that corporates want to do in Namibia.

Consequently, we have created a dedicated department at Advantage Advertising called The Alliance, which focuses specifically on developing data-driven impact solutions for our clients. With a foundational principle of Shared Value, The Alliance guides corporates on the path away from profit vs purpose and towards profit & purpose. Housing a researcher and strategist, The Alliance is equipped to amplify the CSR and ESG efforts of businesses looking to go beyond business as usual.

True to its name, The Alliance is about working together for desired impact and returns, and we would love to collaborate with you. Please get in touch on info@advantage.com.na

Traditional	Reputation-led	Leveraged	Strategic
It's not a problem	It is a problem	Let's solve the problem	It's an opportunity to create shared value
Let's ignore or understate the problem	Let's minimise the problem and throw some money at it, to show we're contributing	We need to add costs to fix the problem	We can lower costs, grow revenues, create our value proposition by addressing social problems
Let's minimise our responsibility	CSR & Philanthropy are about corporate reputation	We need to use our core business capabilities to find solutions	Even social problems we don't usually affect can pose opportunities

impact. In the table below, social impact firm, FSG, unpacks the evolution of how businesses have chosen to engage with opportunities to create Shared Value – from distant to brave.

Examples of global businesses thriving



DBN, Green Hydrogen Council ink agreement to advance Namibia’s green industrialisation

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) and the Green Hydrogen Council (GHC) of Namibia have signed

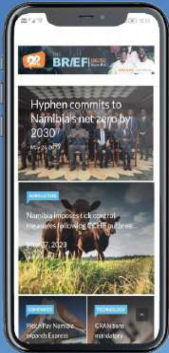
a five-year agreement to formalize a working arrangement aimed at advancing Namibia’s green industrialization efforts.

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The partnership, according to the DBN and GHC, aligns with Namibia's national focus on leveraging its world-class solar and wind resources to produce green hydrogen and green ammonia, driving sustainable economic growth and social development.

"This partnership signifies a bold step towards a sustainable and prosperous future for our country. By harnessing Namibia's potential in green hydrogen energy and related solutions, we can drive Namibia's green industrialization agenda and create a legacy of innovation and sustainability for current and future generations," DBN CEO John Steytler said.

Key areas of cooperation under the agreement include jointly raising green funding, with a particular focus on securing grant funding for Namibian projects, developing and implementing a comprehensive agenda for Namibia's green industrialization, and collaborating on the necessary capacity building to support green industrialization in Namibia.

"This MoU represents a shared commitment to harnessing Namibia's vast renewable energy potential. We are charting a course towards a greener, more prosperous future, ensuring that Namibia remains at the forefront of sustainable development in our quest to attain Vision 2030 and beyond," GHC Chairperson Obeth Kandjoze said.

Namibia is looking at leveraging its abundant renewable energy resources to provide a significant competitive advantage in the global green energy sector.

The MoU according to the DBN and GHC, represents a crucial step towards harnessing these resources to create sustainable economic opportunities and enhance the welfare of all Namibians.

The DBN is a public company established to contribute to economic growth and social development in Namibia. It promotes the welfare of Namibians by mobilizing financial and other resources from the private and public sectors, both nationally and internationally.



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Sanlam expands branch network

Sanlam Namibia has expanded its branch network to 18, after opening two new branches in Eenhana and Omuthiya, in northern Namibia on Wednesday.

Sanlam Group CEO, Tertius Stears, said residents in the two towns will have access to dedicated client service representatives, claims processing assistance, the ability to collect their Sanlam Extra Reward cards, and the opportunity to receive personalised financial planning advice.

“At Sanlam, we pride ourselves on delivering excellence in all aspects of our service. The opening of these new branches reaffirms our dedication to collaboration, integrity, care, innovation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. We are committed to providing

you with exceptional support throughout the entire process, guaranteeing that you obtain the most suitable insurance coverage tailored to your specific needs,” he said.

He emphasised Sanlam’s focus on customer satisfaction by guaranteeing a welcoming environment with modern technology and knowledgeable staff to ensure residents receive the most fitting insurance coverage and tailored financial guidance.

“These new branches are equipped with advanced technology and designed to provide a welcoming environment for all our clients. Our knowledgeable staff is ready to assist with all your insurance and financial needs, ensuring you receive the highest level of service,” he said.

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Strategic Engagement with China: A Blueprint for Namibia's Success at FOCAC 2024

By Dr. Penny Uukunde

Namibia's engagement with China through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) presents a unique opportunity to strengthen bilateral ties, foster economic growth, and enhance social development.

The upcoming FOCAC 2024 summit in Beijing offers a strategic platform for Namibia to leverage Chinese support and expertise across various sectors. This comprehensive blueprint outlines a strategic, targeted approach for Namibia, reflecting the collaborative spirit of both nations and emphasizing mutually beneficial outcomes.

The Role of CIDCA

The China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) is pivotal in facilitating development cooperation projects. Established in 2018, CIDCA aims to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of China's international development efforts. Namibia should engage with CIDCA to ensure that development projects align with Namibia's strategic goals and provide mutual benefits. CIDCA's involvement can ensure that projects are effectively monitored, transparent, and accountable.

- CIDCA plays a crucial role in

implementing China's international development strategy, ensuring that projects are aligned with the broader goals of the Belt and Road Initiative and other international development frameworks. It is essential for Namibian policymakers to engage with CIDCA to ensure that selected projects align with Namibia's national priorities and to actively participate in the project selection and design process.

Understanding the Pillars of FOCAC

FOCAC operates on eight key pillars, each representing a critical area for cooperation and development:

1. Industrial Promotion: Advancing industrialization and economic diversification.
2. Infrastructure Connectivity: Enhancing infrastructure and connectivity.
3. Trade Facilitation: Promoting trade and investment.
4. Green Development: Focusing on sustainable and green development.
5. Capacity Building: Enhancing education and vocational training.
6. Health Cooperation: Improving healthcare systems.
7. People-to-People Exchange: Strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties.

8. Peace and Security: Collaborating on peace, security, and cybersecurity issues.

Understanding these pillars is essential for Namibia to engage effectively with China. Each pillar aligns with Namibia's national priorities and provides specific opportunities for mutual benefit.

Strategic Priorities for Namibia

Namibia must leverage its inherent strengths, including political stability, strategic geographical location, and a longstanding relationship with China. These advantages, combined with focused economic and developmental priorities, will ensure a balanced, mutually beneficial engagement with China.

1. Economic Cooperation and Infrastructure Development

Namibia should prioritize economic cooperation, focusing on sectors where China has shown significant expertise and investment potential. Aviation infrastructure is a key area, aligning with Namibia's goal of becoming a regional hub for trade and tourism. Developing a comprehensive aviation strategy will enhance connectivity and facilitate greater economic exchanges with China and other regional markets.

- China has successfully developed extensive aviation infrastructure to support its economic growth and connectivity. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) emphasizes infrastructure development, including aviation, as a critical component for enhancing trade and connectivity between China and its partner countries.

2. Agricultural Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Given Namibia's current challenges with drought and food security, agricultural cooperation with China is crucial. China has a wealth of experience in agricultural innovation and technology. Namibia should seek to establish partnerships focusing on knowledge transfer, sustainable farming practices, and food production technologies. This collaboration can help Namibia improve its agricultural output and resilience against climate challenges.

- China has increased its agricultural productivity



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through technological advancements and sustainable practices, making it a valuable partner for Namibia. The FOCAC framework includes initiatives to support African agriculture, emphasizing technological transfer and innovation.

3. People-to-People Engagement and Youth Empowerment

People-to-people exchanges are at the heart of the Namibia-China relationship. Namibia can learn from China's success in lifting millions of its citizens out of poverty. Programs that focus on youth empowerment, vocational training, and educational exchanges can play a significant role in addressing Namibia's high youth unemployment rate. By investing in these

initiatives, Namibia can build a more skilled and competitive workforce.

- The China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035 highlights people-to-people exchanges as a pillar of mutual understanding and development. China has implemented numerous programs to support vocational training and educational exchanges with African countries.

4. Political Collaboration and Global Platforms


Namibia supports the reform of the United Nations Security Council to ensure better representation for developing countries. This stance aligns with broader African aspirations for more equitable global governance. Namibia seeks to clarify and strengthen its position while engaging China as a partner in advocating for these reforms.

Namibia's Stance: Namibia aligns with the African Union's Ezulwini Consensus, which calls for at least two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats for African countries on the Security Council.

- China has consistently supported the call for greater representation of developing countries in global governance institutions. China's White Paper on International Development Cooperation emphasizes the need for reforming global governance to better reflect the interests of developing nations.

5. Green Energy and Sustainable Development

Green energy is another critical area where Namibia can benefit from Chinese cooperation. With a focus on hydro and renewable energy projects, Namibia can tap into Chinese expertise and funding to develop sustainable energy solutions. This not only addresses environmental concerns but also supports Namibia's long-term energy security and economic development.



Environmental Investment Fund
of Namibia | ensuring sustainability

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) invites local reputable service providers to submit bids for the below mentioned:

Reference Number	Description	Non-Refundable document levy
SC/RP/EIF-03/2024	Provision of Consultancy Services for the ICT Infrastructure Internal Audit for the EIF	Free
NCS/ONB/EIF-02/2024	Provision of Outsourcing of IT Support and Consulting Services to the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia for a period of 36 months	Free

☐ Bidding document can be requested from procurement@eif.org.na as from Friday, 05 July 2024.

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:

Bids are to be hand delivered at:
Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Head Office,
1st Floor, Heinritzburg Heights
c/o Heinritzburg & Dr. Theo Ben-Gurrah Street, Klein Windhoek

General queries can be addressed to:
Procurement Management Unit
Tel: +264 61 431 7733/38
Email: procurement@eif.org.na

Take Note:
☐ Late submissions will not be considered
☐ Electronic submitted bids will not be considered

Closing Date and Time for Submission:
Friday, 16 August 2024 at 12H:00 AM

- China leads the world in renewable energy capacity and has integrated green development into its national policies. The FOCAC framework includes green development as a core pillar, highlighting China's commitment to sustainable energy projects in Africa.

6. Health Cooperation

Improving healthcare systems is essential for Namibia's development. Through FOCAC, Namibia can collaborate with China on enhancing healthcare infrastructure, training medical professionals, and combating diseases. Learning from China's extensive experience in healthcare can significantly benefit Namibia's public health sector.

- China's Health Silk Road initiative under the BRI aims to enhance global health cooperation. China has provided extensive medical assistance to African countries, including infrastructure development and capacity building in the healthcare sector.

7. Peace, Security, and Cybersecurity

Collaborating on peace and security issues is crucial for regional stability. Namibia can work with China to enhance its security capabilities, participate in peacekeeping missions, and develop strategies to combat regional threats. Additionally, as technology advances, addressing cybersecurity threats becomes increasingly important. Namibia should seek China's expertise and cooperation in building robust cybersecurity measures to combat cybercrime and cyber fraud, ensuring the safety and security of its digital infrastructure.

- China has emphasized the importance of peace and security in its foreign policy and has been an active participant in UN peacekeeping missions. Additionally, cybersecurity has become a critical area of focus for China, with significant investments

in developing robust cybersecurity frameworks.

8. Capacity Building

Enhancing education and vocational training is vital for Namibia's growth. By collaborating with China, Namibia can improve its educational institutions, offer more vocational training programs, and build a workforce capable of supporting its industrial and economic ambitions.

- China's emphasis on capacity building is reflected in its numerous educational exchange programs and vocational training initiatives under FOCAC, aimed at fostering skills development and human resource capacity in African countries.

Namibia's Foreign Policy and Geopolitical Strategy

Namibia's foreign policy emphasizes non-alignment and pragmatic partnerships, focusing on mutual respect and benefit. In its relations with China, Namibia should articulate its competitive advantages: strategic geographical positioning, political stability, and a longstanding friendship with China. Highlighting these strengths can attract Chinese investments and partnerships, particularly in logistics and regional trade hubs, enhancing Namibia's role in southern Africa.

- China's diplomatic approach under FOCAC and the BRI emphasizes mutual respect and win-win cooperation, aligning well with Namibia's foreign policy stance. Additionally, both nations place a high value on cultural traditions and ethical beliefs. Namibia's emphasis on Ubuntu, a concept embodying communal values and mutual respect, aligns with Chinese cultural values. Demonstrating Namibia's commitment to its cultural and ethical beliefs will foster deeper respect and collaboration with China.

Actionable Recommendations for Policymakers

1. Prepare Detailed Proposals Aligned with FOCAC Pillars

- Develop sector-specific proposals that align with the FOCAC pillars, highlighting Namibia's strategic priorities and potential projects.
- Ensure these proposals are well-researched and present clear benefits for both Namibia and China.

2. Engage in High-Level Diplomatic Discussions

- Engage in proactive diplomatic discussions with Chinese counterparts, focusing on Namibia's key priorities and areas for collaboration.
- Utilize existing diplomatic channels to advocate for Namibia's interests and secure commitments from Chinese partners.

3. Leverage Existing Platforms and Mechanisms

- Utilize platforms like the Global South-South Cooperation and FOCAC sub-forums to build partnerships and secure funding for development projects.
- Engage with the Chinese Follow-up Committee to ensure continuous support and follow-through on agreed initiatives.

4. Mobilize a Strong Delegation

- Assemble a delegation that includes key policymakers, sector experts, and representatives from the business community.
- Ensure the delegation is well-prepared with a clear understanding of Namibia's goals and the strategic importance of each agenda item.
- Emphasize the importance of respecting seniority and experience in Chinese business culture by ensuring that the delegation includes seasoned executives and decision-

makers to facilitate effective negotiations and foster mutual respect.

5. Foster Interpersonal Relationships and Cultural Understanding

- Recognize that Chinese business culture is deeply rooted in interpersonal relationships and mutual respect. Encourage Namibian representatives to engage in people-to-people exchanges that build trust and understanding.
- Highlight Namibia's cultural values and ethical beliefs, demonstrating a commitment to mutual respect and understanding.

Conclusion

As Namibia prepares for the FOCAC 2024 summit, it is crucial to adopt a strategic and well-prepared approach. By leveraging the pillars of FOCAC, engaging in high-level diplomatic discussions, and focusing on key areas like economic cooperation, agricultural innovation, and youth empowerment, Namibia can maximize its benefits from this important partnership. An adoption of such a blueprint can prove to be successful, guiding Namibia to achieve meaningful and sustainable development outcomes through its engagement with China.

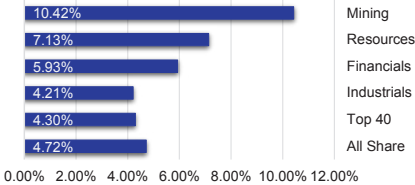
** Dr. Penny TM Uukunde is a regional development economist and Namibia's NTB (Namibia Tourism Board) representative in China. She is committed to fostering regional development, particularly among the youth, and aims to become an expert in China Africa relations. Dr. Penny focuses on attracting tourism investment and developing tourism infrastructure believing that tourism is a significant contributor to employment in opportunities amongst Namibians.*



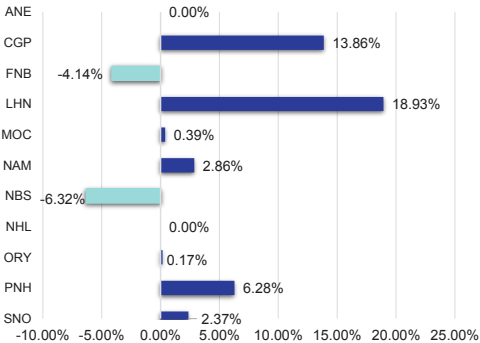
Commodities	
Spot Gold	2377.25
Platinum	992.67
Palladium	994.54
Silver	30.86
Uranium	85.50
Brent Crude	84.89
Iron Ore	102.87
Copper	9723.25
Natural Gas	2.33
Lithium	13.05

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	18.1277
EUR/ZAR	19.6136
GBP/ZAR	23.2524
USD/CNY	7.2761
EUR/USD	1.0822
GBP/USD	1.2828
USD/RUB	88.4500
CPI	4.60%
Repo Rate	7.75%
Prime Rate	11.50%

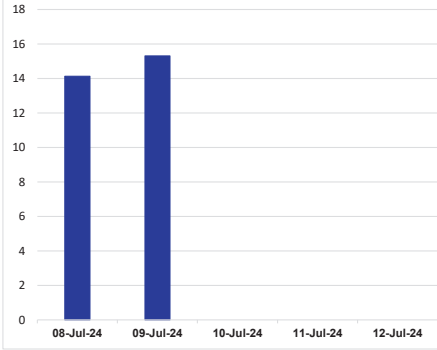
JSE Indices: Year to date movement %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to date price movement %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %

