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THE

# BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## Namibia's aquatic exports rise to N\$4.1 billion in Q1

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## MAIN STORY



# Namibia's aquatic exports rise to N\$4.1 billion in Q1

Namibia's export earnings for fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates reached N\$4.1 billion in the first quarter of 2024, up from N\$4 billion in the same period last year, latest data shows.

According to High Economic Intelligence (HEI), total landings of quota species during the first quarter of 2024 amounted to 97,077 metric tons, a decline of 16.7% compared to 116,471 metric tonnes recorded in the first quarter of 2023.

"Horse mackerel had the highest landings with 49,592 metric tonnes, followed by hake with 44,630 metric tonnes. In third place

## 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)
- Namibia Oil & Gas Conference 2024  
20-22 August 2024  
Mercure Hotel , Windhoek
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)  
Windhoek, Namibia from 03 - 05 September 2024

was monkfish, with 2,119 metric tonnes," said the firm in a sector report.

Spain was the top destination, making up 29.7% of exports, mainly for frozen hake fillets. Zambia (16.1%) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (14.1%) were the next largest destinations, both receiving horse mackerel.

In the first quarter of 2024, imports of fish and crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates totalled N\$154.9 million, down from N\$167.9 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2023.

"South Africa was the biggest supplier, providing 35.0% of the imports, mainly hake. The United States followed with 32.6%, mainly sole, and Spain was third with 9.7%, mainly cuttlefish and squid," said HEI.

The export of horticultural products was valued at N\$276.1 million in the first quarter of 2024, up from N\$181.9 million in the corresponding quarter of 2023.

"Grapes were the top exported products, amounting to N\$196.3 million, followed by dates at N\$68.9 million, and pumpkins, squash, and gourds in third place, valued at N\$4.4 million," said HEI.

In terms of markets, the United Kingdom was the main export destination for horticultural products, accounting for 27.2% of exports.

"The Netherlands, South Africa, and

Germany followed as the second, third, and fourth largest destinations, accounting for 21.1%, 14.0%, and 10.1%, respectively. The main products exported to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Germany were grapes and dates," said HEI.

For the period under review, the import bill for horticultural products was valued at N\$305.1 million, compared to N\$276.9 million recorded in the same quarter of 2023.

"Potatoes were the highest imported products, amounting to N\$64.2 million, followed by stimulants, spices, and aromatic crops at N\$58.2 million, apples at N\$26.7 million, vegetable seeds (excluding beet seeds) at N\$15.5 million, and tea leaves at N\$12.8 million," HEI noted.

The firm said that horticultural products were primarily sourced from South Africa, which accounted for 97.0% of the imports during the period under review.

Moreover, locally purchased controlled fresh produce was estimated at 5,154 tonnes, compared to 5,145 tonnes recorded in the same quarter of 2023.

"Onions were the most purchased item, with 975 tonnes, followed by potatoes at 692 tonnes, and cabbage in third place with 470 tonnes. Carrots (469 tonnes) and tomatoes (338 tonnes) were also among the top six locally purchased produce," said HEI.



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# NaCC to develop auto industry reform guidelines

**T**he Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) says it plans to develop industry guidelines aimed at addressing anti-competitive practices within the automotive sector.

The proposed guidelines are aimed at improving market conditions by promoting fair competition, transparency and consumer protection.

This follows a comprehensive investigation launched in 2018 into the conduct of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), vehicle dealerships, and panel beaters.

During the investigation, the NaCC identified restrictive practices that have stifled competition and potentially harmed consumers.

“Given that the issues of concern appear to be structural and need to be addressed at an industry-wide level, the Commission finds it

rather prudent that guidelines be developed to address the identified issues on the state of the competition in the automotive industry,” said NaCC Corporate Communications Practitioner, Dina //Gowases.

She further explained that the commission found that car makers and car dealers worked together to limit competition. This made it harder for people to buy cars. The commission also found problems with how car makers chose repair shops and parts sellers. “Stringent approval requirements and lack of transparency with regards to the selection criteria of approving dealerships and service providers by OEMs, results in detrimental effects in the relevant market in as far as competition across various levels of the supply chain and consumers are concerned,” she said.

Furthermore, the NaCC acknowledged



the structural nature of these issues, and believes that industry-wide guidelines can effectively address the challenges faced by the automotive sector.

“Therefore, the Commission is looking at establishing guidelines in the automotive

industry in the future, in order to improve market conditions. Relevant stakeholders will be consulted once draft guidelines are in place,” she said.

No timeline for the completion of the guidelines has been provided as yet.

**Standard Bank**



**Standard Bank set to host its first Annual Anti-Financial Crime Conference on 8 August 2024**

**Roxzaan Witbooi**  
Head of Compliance

Geopolitical tensions and economic instability, coupled with significant regulatory changes, continue to pose serious challenges for financial institutions.

Businesses anticipate an increase in financial crime risks in the current environment, with evolving fraud and investment scams remaining top concerns for institutions' compliance and investigation teams. As money laundering techniques have become more sophisticated and the global sanctions landscape continues to change rapidly, regulators are moving to require more vigilance from institutions and imposing new obligations on them. There is therefore a need to evolve strategies to combat financial crime effectively, as well as to continue serving clients.

Standard Bank Namibia is planning the first edition of an Annual Anti-Financial Crime Conference to start a dialogue amongst regulators and industry leaders and to learn from experts about financial crime trends, emerging threats, and our response to it.

Standard Bank Namibia hereby extends an invitation to industry players to purchase tickets for their institutions, and to interested individuals who are working within the financial sector. The event will host regional and local industry leaders and experts, who will share their knowledge and insights in the fight against financial crime.

Proceeds from the tickets sold will be donated to the Buy-a-Brick initiative. This is Standard Bank's flagship corporate social responsibility project since 2015, that has been investing in the eradication of shacks and the empowering of Namibians to have brick houses.

For more information and ticket purchases contact [Rajesh.Rajgopal@standardbank.com.na](mailto:Rajesh.Rajgopal@standardbank.com.na)



# Paratus inks deal to access Demshi's open-access fibre network

Paratus Namibia has entered into a Master Lease Agreement with Demshi Investment Holdings (Pty) aimed at expanding its network reach across crucial Namibian regions.

Demshi Investment Holdings (Pty) Managing Director Werner Shilunga told The Brief the agreement , which was signed on Monday, allows Paratus exclusive access to Demshi's open-access fibre network at Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Windhoek (Khomasdal).

This will enhance the company’s ability to



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The mandate of NamWater is to provide quality water and related services to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, taking cognizance of the environment, scarcity and dependence of all on water.

provide high-speed internet services to customers. He said the lease period has no fixed value.

However, "based on the number of home passes, if Paratus occupies 30% of the total home passes, this would equate to approximately N\$24 million annually".

"Demshi and Paratus undertook network testing in Walvis Bay which were very successful and demonstrated the reliability of the Demshi Fibre network. At the moment, the Walvis Bay Fibre network is live and covering 3500 house passes, the largest fibre network in Walvis Bay," he said.

Meanwhile, the Swakopmund fibre network will go live in mid-August with a comprehensive investment of N\$38 million covering Matutura, Tamariskia, and Mondesa.

"We have built a 12 rack two tier mini-data centre in Swakopmund that will be our POP in Swakopmund and also used for colocating other ISP on the Demshi fibre network. The Swakopmund fibre network has 6800 house passes which makes it the largest fibre network in Swakopmund," said Shilunga.

This comes as Demshi has deployed a fibre network in the entire Khomasdal area with 6000 house passes in Windhoek.

"The Windhoek network is still under construction with the team on the ground busy with fibre blowing and splicing. We have commissioned a POP in Windhoek in the B1 area next to Paratus and Multichoice POP at the Hosiana Church. The Windhoek network is anticipated to go live end of August," he said.

Shilunga highlighted that the signing of the Master lease agreement with Paratus marks a momentous occasion for Demshi and demonstrates the confidence that Paratus, who is a major ISP player in Namibia, has in their network.

This comes as Demshi aims to connect 100,000 Namibian households to its fibre optic network by 2027.

To achieve this, the company plans to invest approximately N\$104 million in expanding its infrastructure across the country.

Demshi Telco has signed two Master Service Agreements, one with Echo Telecommunications and a second with Information Technology Guru Solutions which have prominence in the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

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# NAMCOR considers gradual increase in oil & gas partnership stake

The National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) says it is looking to gradually increase its stake within oil and gas partnerships from the current 10%. This comes as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources in 2022 called for the government to hold a 51% shareholding

in companies investing in the petroleum sector through NAMCOR. The country's national oil company's Head of Sustainable Energy, Frans Kalenga, said while a larger stake in exploratory efforts would provide NAMCOR with a greater share of potential profits, a large upfront investment is required, particularly

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for exploratory drilling.

"We believe increasing our stake in the partnership is the right path forward. However, this needs to be done gradually. Because in this industry, there's no guarantee of success when drilling a well. Let's say we ask GIPF, the government's investment arm, for N\$100 million to fund drilling under our 80% operatorship. If the well comes up dry, that money is lost. That's why we advocate for a measured approach," he said.

He further emphasized the importance of the company developing its operational expertise before taking on a larger role. This would involve acquiring the skills and experience necessary to become a successful operator.

"So we are saying we want to develop competencies while having a plan in motion, to make sure that over the years NAMCOR gains those skills that we have learnt and fully have enough equity in those licenses to be able to operate because our balance sheet is now strong," Kalenga said.

National Planning Commission (NPC) Director General Obeth Kandjoze has, however, warned that Namibia risks bankruptcy if the government ups its current

shareholding in ongoing exploration activities through NAMCOR, highlighting the capital-intensive nature of ventures, and cautioning that such pursuits could strain the country's economic stability.

Namibia has made notable discoveries including the Graff-1X, Venus-1X, Jonker-1X, and Lesedi-1X, which are the product of partnerships involving major industry players such as Shell, Qatar Energy, Total, and Impact, in conjunction with NAMCOR.

Namibia is projected to register a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$37 billion at peak production level from the discovered oil reserves, with some quarters arguing the country's biggest benefits will come from royalties and taxes, and additional corporate taxes.

- [miningandenergy.com.na](https://miningandenergy.com.na)



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## Puma Energy Namibia introduces free Wi-Fi at 10 Windhoek sites

Puma Energy Namibia says it has completed free Wi-Fi installation at 10 of its Windhoek service stations, with the remaining three set to be operational this week.

While offering this modern convenience, the company is emphasising strict safety rules regarding cellphone usage on the premises.

To ensure the safety of both customers and employees, Puma Energy Namibia has implemented a policy aligned with Namibia's Petroleum Act. Cellphone use is strictly prohibited within two metres of fuel pumps and 15 metres during fuel tanker operations. Signs have been erected at all stations to remind customers of this crucial safety measure.

"The company is planning to extend free Wi-Fi service to about 90% of Puma Energy Namibia sites throughout the country. Free Wi-Fi is another service offered to customers in addition to the convenience shops, and

quick service restaurants at certain filling stations," said Puma's General Manager Adell Samuelson.

She further explained that customers are advised to exit their vehicles and move away from the forecourt during the fuelling process. "Signs prohibiting the use of cell phones near filling pumps have been put up at all filling stations," she said

While the risk of mobile phones directly igniting petrol fumes is low, potential hazards include static electricity, overheating batteries, and interference with fuel pump equipment. To mitigate these risks, customers are urged to refrain from using cellphones during the fuelling process and to utilise the Wi-Fi service in designated areas.

Puma has also announced plans to construct five service stations in the country's rural regions earlier this year. The company aimed to expand its operations while providing greater accessibility to its services for the local population.



## Never stop learning: The key to success and a fulfilling life

By Esther Akweenda

**F**orget about reaching a learning finish line. Lifelong learning is a continuous journey of growth and adaptation. Especially in today's rapidly changing world, staying relevant requires ongoing development and skill enhancement. This is where lifelong learning becomes crucial for both personal and professional success.

Imagine this: The knowledge you gained years ago might not be enough to keep you competitive today. New information emerges constantly, and technology advances at a rapid pace. Lifelong learning helps you stay up-to-date and informed. By actively seeking new knowledge, you'll be in sync with the latest developments in your field. This makes you a valuable asset to your company and allows you to contribute meaningfully to industry discussions.

The benefits of lifelong learning extend far beyond your career. It equips you with the tools to adapt and thrive in a changing world. Whether it's mastering new software or developing communication skills, lifelong learning keeps your skillset sharp and relevant. This ongoing education allows you to confidently take on new challenges and prepares you for the next steps in your life.

But perhaps the most exciting aspect

of lifelong learning is its ability to spark innovation. When you expose yourself to new ideas and perspectives, you create a fertile ground for creativity. Lifelong learners are more likely to come up with groundbreaking solutions because they draw on a diverse knowledge base and experiences. By continually expanding your horizons, you can connect ideas in unique ways, leading to innovative thinking that drives personal and professional growth. Lifelong learning isn't just about work; it enriches your life in countless ways. Learning new things can be incredibly fulfilling, boosting your confidence, and igniting your curiosity. It keeps your mind active and engaged, which is essential for overall mental health and well-being. In essence, lifelong learning is an investment in yourself. It helps you stay relevant, enhances your skills, and fosters innovation. By embracing a mindset of continuous learning, you ensure you can adapt and thrive in a fast-paced world. Lifelong learning opens doors to new opportunities, drives success, and enriches your life in many ways. So, commit to the journey, and discover the vast benefits that extend far beyond what you could ever imagine.

***\*Esther Akweenda is a Broker Consultant, Broker Distribution at Old Mutual Namibia***





# SRIMEX Metals and Minerals plans N\$300m Namibia copper processing plant

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SRIMEX Metals and Minerals intends to establish a N\$300 million copper processing plant east of Khorixas in the Kunene Region.

The project is expected to significantly boost the local economy and employ around 250 people, including machine operators, engineers, administration, and technical support staff.

The project's lifespan will depend on the continuous supply of copper ore to the processing facility.

"The project is estimated to cost around N\$300 million. The proponent will also enter into a long-term agreement with the Vocational Training Centre, which is anticipated to open at Khorixas, to offer internship opportunities to apprentices in relevant courses," said a report seen by M&E.

The plant will process over five tonnes of copper per hour, sourcing raw materials

from small-scale miners with valid mining claims in the region.

Efforts will be made to enter into commercial agreements with exclusive prospecting licence (EPL) holders to develop some assets into commercial ventures.

"SRIMEX Metals and Minerals (Pty) Ltd will source funding and technical capacity from its partners in India to develop such assets," the report states.

The company has agreed with the owner of Farm Esau Somaeb to lease Portion A of Farm Voluteer 106, with an option to purchase.

"Thereafter, the company will purchase the farm as per the conditions of the agreement. The company intends to establish and operate a copper processing facility that employs the copper ore beneficiation process, including gravity separation and flotation separation," the report said.

The process will involve crushing, grinding, sieving, flotation separation, and dewatering. The project will use limited energy and water, with about 100 cubic metres of water used to produce one ton of copper.

Water will be reused and recycled, and electricity will be sourced from existing infrastructure.

"Water will come from

existing boreholes on the farm, which will be rehabilitated and retrofitted. To support small-scale miners, copper ore will be sourced from local miners with valid claims near Khorixas and Kamanjab. If demand increases, areas such as Opuwo will be considered," the report noted.

This comes as the region has a high concentration of copper, and many small-scale miners with valid claims are involved in copper mining.

However, they lack facilities to process the mined raw materials locally, despite government emphasis on local processing.

"The demand for copper is anticipated to continue escalating due to its wide utilisation. Copper is extensively used in manufacturing electric cables and other electric appliances because it conducts heat and electricity very well and can also be drawn into wires," said the report.

Copper can also be used in construction for roofing and plumbing, as well as in industrial machinery for heat exchange purposes.

The project has received certification from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

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

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## Augmented reality in election: Yes or No

By Morna Ikosa

Looking at the low voter registration numbers around the country, can one say the right communication channels and mediums are being used to attract potential voters? Are the traditional means of communication really working?

Have the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) and political parties taken time to study the recent census results to understand the demographics and psychological aspects of those who are eligible to vote? Surely, with the proliferation of various technologies and platforms entering the market, the ECN could have leveraged the benefits those

platforms offer and incorporated them into the election's communication strategy.

Namibia has several startups and businesses that have created impressive gaming and augmented reality technologies. These innovations are designed to engage with the youth. For example, Maerua Mall has augmented reality (AR) technology, where visitors can select a simulation that interests them and experience a virtual environment for five to six minutes. ECN can partner with AR entrepreneurs to create awareness and persuade the youth who use those technologies to register to vote.

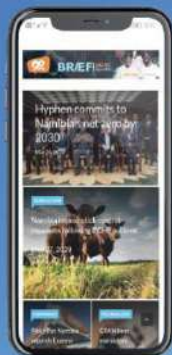
AR has the potential to transform the voting process. By integrating computer-

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generated content into the real world, AR significantly enhances the transparency and integrity of voting. AR provides real-time updates on ballot counting, vote tallies, and other electoral data, thereby boosting public trust and confidence in the electoral system. Moreover, AR revolutionises the polling experience by creating interactive polling stations. These stations would overlay digital information onto the physical environment, providing voters a more engaging and interactive experience.

AR allows for remote voting and enables voters to access digital ballots using mobile devices or wearable technology. This offers a more accessible and secure option for participating in elections, especially for those facing physical disabilities or geographical barriers. Interactive simulations of the voting process could help voters better understand and navigate the complexities of the electoral system, benefitting first-time or younger voters.

ABC News in America, for example, used AR to provide real-time election results and analysis. South Korea, during its 2017 presidential election, used AR to provide real-time election information and candidate profiles to the public. Karnataka, in India, used AR during its 2018 state elections in a voter awareness

campaign to educate citizens on the voting process and encourage higher voter turnout. South Africa used AR applications to provide information about the electoral process and the importance of voting, particularly targeting younger voters to increase their participation. Namibia would also set a trend in this area.

AR has the potential to provide electors with inaccurate or biased information, which could potentially affect their decisions and distort election results. Additionally, the availability and inclusiveness of AR-based voting systems must be thoroughly assessed. Certain population segments may be excluded, and barriers to participation may be created since not all voters have access to the required devices or technological literacy to use AR technologies.

To conclude, AR is both complex and beneficial. However, ECN and political parties should consider using it as a supplementary communication platform, as it has proven to enhance the voter's experience, improve accessibility, increase voter participation in the electoral process, and increase transparency.

**\*Morna Ikosa is a columnist and communications strategist.**

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## Project Never Walk Alone reaches 12,200 shoe donations across nine regions

**P**roject Never Walk Alone has now handed over 12,200 pairs of shoes in 9 regions. This follows the recent distribution of 1,700 pairs of shoes in the Zambezi region, jointly sponsored by Arrechanab Community Trust with N\$500,000, Unity Trust with N\$150,000, Momentum Metropolitan Empowerment Trust with N\$140,000, and Breakwater Marine Industries with N\$100,000.

The handover, according to the initiative, started at Katima Mulilo Combined School in Katima Mulilo on Friday and continued at Caprivi Senior Secondary School in Katima on Saturday.

The event was attended by Zambezi

Region Governor Lawrence Sampofu, the Regional Education Director, various school principals, teachers, parents, and community members.

The Zambezi handover came at a total cost of N\$890,000, with N\$700,000 allocated for the shoes and N\$190,000 for handover and logistics costs. The project is now planning to visit the Kharas and Oshana regions in the next few months and is calling upon like-minded partners to come on board to make this possible.

Project Never Walk Alone is a non-profit initiative that raises funds to give needy Namibian children a brand-new pair of shoes.



# What Are deepfakes and what to look out for

By Cornelia Shipindo

Deepfakes are digital manipulations of individuals, making them appear to say things they have not actually said, with seamless voices and facial features.

These deceptive creations are intentionally designed to mislead and deceive, posing a targeted threat against truth. Utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI), deepfakes produce convincing audio, video, and image forgeries, in contrast to cheapfakes which involve manual or digital manipulation of existing recordings.

Through the use of AI, media can automatically be created or altered, allowing for changes in faces, speech, gestures, and even the invention of entire speeches purportedly delivered by individuals.

Furthermore, the realistic appearance of these creations prompts us to doubt their

authenticity and reliability. Deepfakes pose a serious threat to organisations as their lifelike quality can lead to detrimental outcomes.

Instances of audio and visual deepfakes have been utilised for fraudulent activities, financial theft from organisations, personal harassment, and dissemination of misinformation.

Various methods, such as non-algorithmic techniques, automated tools, and cryptographic or blockchain-based solutions, have been developed to identify and combat deepfakes.

On the contrary, financial institutions are facing a major challenge as criminals are exploiting personal engagement techniques, like phone calls and video calls, used to prevent fraud to commit fraud through deepfakes.

The rise in deepfake-assisted financial crimes includes impersonating account

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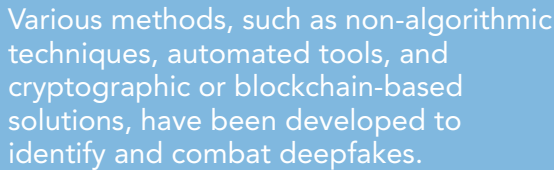
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Various methods, such as non-algorithmic techniques, automated tools, and cryptographic or blockchain-based solutions, have been developed to identify and combat deepfakes.

holders for unauthorised withdrawals and manipulating transactions through voice scams, indicating the quick evolution of tactics used by fraudsters.

Additionally, bad actors leverage deepfakes to take advantage of the fast-paced, widespread nature of social media platforms in order to undermine public trust and interfere with democratic processes.

This is facilitated through the use of automated bots, which are software agents created to imitate real users on social media.

Furthermore, micro-targeting is employed to strategically utilise individuals' online information to personalise and distribute tailored misinformation to specific, often small, audience groups. These tactics have increased the scope, efficiency, and accuracy of disinformation campaigns, which pose a threat to elections and can influence public perception negatively.

Moreover, it is important for individuals to be aware of the signs of deepfakes, as they may be used for malicious purposes such as harassment, intimidation, and

spreading misinformation.

To avoid falling victim to deepfakes, individuals should carefully scrutinise emails and other communications, question suspicious audio and video content, report any suspicious activities, verify the authenticity of information through questioning and cross-referencing with reputable sources.

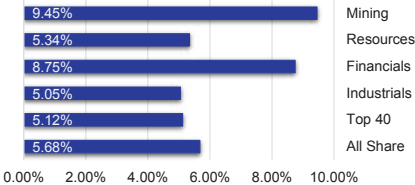
On a national and regulatory level, strategies to combat deepfakes involve the development of laws aimed at preventing the harmful use of AI and deepfake technology, the establishment of frameworks to minimise the potential risks of these technologies, collaboration among various stakeholders such as governments, tech companies, and civil society, and multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on combating synthetic disinformation while preserving the balance between combatting misinformation and upholding freedom of expression.

**\*Cornelia Shipindo is  
Manager: Cyber Security at the  
Communications Regulatory  
Authority of Namibia (CRAN)**

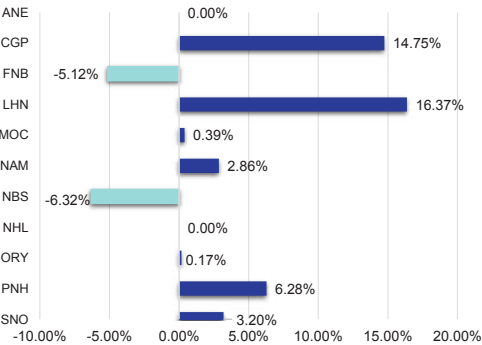


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| Silver      | 27.81   | USD/CNY    | 7.2610  |
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| Brent Crude | 80.72   | GBP/USD    | 1.2835  |
| Iron Ore    | 95.36   | USD/RUB    | 86.4233 |
| Copper      | 9031.71 | CPI        | 4.60%   |
| Natural Gas | 1.97    | Repo Rate  | 7.75%   |
| Lithium     | 11.95   | Prime Rate | 11.50%  |

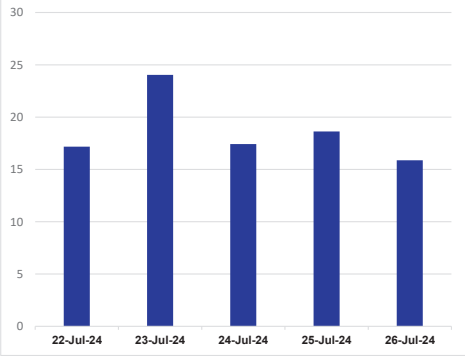
JSE Indices: Year to date movement %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to date price movement %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %

