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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

Namibia's property sector set for massive reforms



WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2024

MAIN STORY

Namibia's property sector set for massive reforms

The Property Practitioners Bill has been officially tabled in the Namibian Parliament, aiming to modernise and regulate the country's property industry.

The Bill seeks to replace the Estate Agents Act of 1976, to establish the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority and enhance consumer protection across the property sector.

The Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Lucia Iipumbu, said the legislation intends to widen the scope of agency services, improve governance and safeguard consumer interests in property transactions.

She emphasised that the Bill addresses current limitations and aligns with global standards, ensuring that Namibia's property sector remains competitive and fair.

"The Property Practitioners Bill includes key stakeholders that have a role to play in the property industry, encompassing not only estate agents but also property developers, auctioneers and property managers," Iipumbu explained.

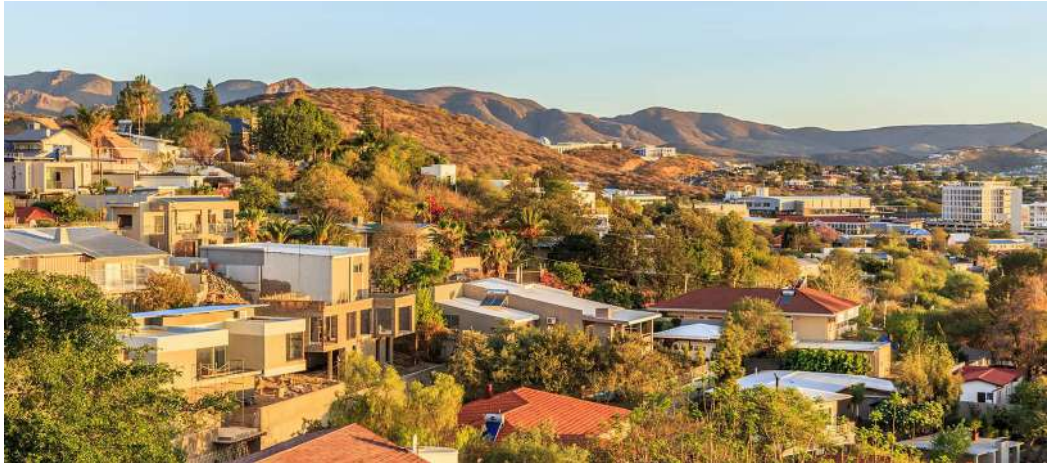
She said this inclusive approach aims to regulate the entire spectrum of property practitioners, thereby enhancing accountability and service quality.

A key feature of the Bill is the establishment of the Property Practitioners



Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
19 June 2024
14 August 2024
23 October 2024
4 December 2024
- AviaDev Aviation Development Summit
19-21 June 2024 at Movenpick, Windhoek
- 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



Regulatory Authority, which will replace the Namibia Estate Agents Board.

"Part 2 establishes the statutory body that will be known as the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority and sets out the duties and functions of the Authority. This new authority is expected to provide high-level oversight and ensure adherence to the regulations," noted Iipumbu.

Furthermore, consumer protection is a central theme of the Bill, particularly through the introduction of the Fidelity Fund Certificate.

"This part of the Bill is key and a welcomed development as it aims to protect the consumers against theft of money that has been entrusted to a Property Practitioner," the Minister highlighted.

She said the Bill mandates that property practitioners must hold a valid Fidelity Fund Certificate, offering a safety net for consumers in case of financial misconduct.

"The proposed Property Practitioners

Bill is intended to transform the landscape of the property market by establishing an appropriate institutional and legal framework responsive to the current realities," she added.

The Minister stressed that the protection of consumers' most valuable assets should be a fundamental guiding principle in regulating and certifying property practitioners.

In addition to covering traditional estate agents, the Bill extends certification to auctioneers, property developers and property managers, collectively known as property practitioners.

"This piece of legislation is consumer-centric and aims to protect the consumer within the property sector," Iipumbu said.

She highlighted the progress made by the Ministry in consumer protection laws and reiterated the importance of safeguarding property transactions under Article 16 of Namibia's Constitution.

THE
BRIEF

06:40
Mon-Fri

MOOKS & ADORA In the Morning



Namibians top African air travel arrivals to Cape Town

Namibia has emerged as the leading top African source market for air travellers visiting Cape Town, contributing 1,917 passengers in April 2024, recent data from the Department of Statistics in South Africa reveals.

Zimbabwe recorded the second highest number of nationals visiting Cape Town via air, followed by nationals from Angola,

Kenya and Mozambique making up the top five positions.

While the total number of Namibians travelling to South Africa dipped slightly to 12,614 in April 2024 compared to 14,065 in April 2023, air travel saw a significant rise.

In April 2024, a total of 12,614 Namibians entered South Africa. Among these, air travel accounted for 4,234 passengers,



The Road Fund Administration (RFA) is a statutory organisation, established under Act 18 of 1999 to manage the Namibian Road User Charging System (RUCS) with a view to secure funding required to achieve a safe and efficient road sector in Namibia.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Road Fund Administration (RFA), in line with the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015), hereby invites suitable and competent **International and Namibian** service providers to submit their best bids for the provision of services listed below:

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR THE ORACLE E-BUSINESS SUITE MODULES

Procurement Reference Number: SC/RP/RFA – 02/2024

Bid Clarification Meeting: Monday, 10 June 2024 at 10H00 via MS Teams

Meeting ID: 375 986 819 743 Passcode: zMgUMG Levy: No Levy

Closing date:
Friday, 12 July 2024
at 11am (local time)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF THE NATIS ONE-STOP CENTRE ON ERF PORTION 320 (A PORTION OF REMAINDER OF PORTION B) WINDHOEK TOWN AND TOWNLANDS NO.31

Procurement Reference Number: SC/RP/RFA – 20/2023

Bid Clarification Meeting: Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 10H00 via MS Teams

Meeting ID: 351 317 795 523 Passcode: 3oAqYB Levy: No Levy

Closing date:
Friday, 12 July 2024
at 11am (local time)

Bid documents are available on request via email: procurement@rfanam.com.na

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked with the appropriate Bid Reference Number & description, addressed to the Procurement Management Unit, Road Fund Administration Head Office, 21 Feld Street, Windhoek – **delivery must be made into the bid box** on the ground floor.

Enquiries: Procurement Management Unit

E-mail: procurement@rfanam.com.na

Telephone: +264 61 433 3049/82

Visit our website for more information
www.rfanam.com.na





While the total number of Namibians travelling to South Africa dipped slightly to 12,614 in April 2024 compared to 14,065 in April 2023, air travel saw a significant rise.

compared to road travel at 8,364 and a minimal number travelling by sea at 16.

Furthermore, the data reveals that holiday travel is the primary driver behind the Namibian movement to South Africa, with 9,033 travellers categorised as such in April 2024 while 3,188 passengers travelled for business and 381 for study purposes.

Looking at the broader picture, between January and April 2024, a total of 51,726 Namibians travelled to South Africa. This represents a slight increase compared to the same period in 2023, which saw 50,357 Namibian travellers visit South Africa.

This comes as total tourist arrivals to Cape Town International Airport via air maintain a positive trend moving into the second quarter of 2024, showing a 13% year-on-year increase between January and April 2024, reaching 405,021 tourists and exceeding the 2019 figure of 350,020.

The United Kingdom led as the top overseas air market to

Cape Town, with Germany a very close second, followed by the United States of America, Netherlands and France in the rest of the top five positions.



Our deepest gratitude goes to Rauha Hangalo as she represented RFS Trust on the board of RFS Fund Administrators. Her exceptional expertise and unwavering commitment have played a pivotal role in the growth and success of RFS Fund Administrators. We equally welcome Victoria Nashongwa as Rauha's successor. Both Rauha and Victoria provided distinguished loyal service to RFS and have been part of the growth story for over 20 years. We look forward to their continued dedicated service to Namibian pension fund members as RFS' ambassadors.



Contact us at:
Tel: 061 - 446 000 or
visit us at www.rfsol.com.na



Namibia has maintained its position among the top 10 performers globally in closing its gender gap, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2024.

The latest data shows Namibia in 8th place out of 146 countries, having closed an impressive 80.5% of its gender gap.

Namibia's performance is notable across all four sub-indexes, consistently placing in the top 25 in each dimension.

According to the report, Namibia also excels in Educational Attainment and Health and Survival, achieving 100% and 98%, respectively.

The country is also ahead of global and regional averages in Economic Participation and Opportunity by nearly 18 and 10 percentage points, respectively.

"Economic gender parity is particularly

high in labour-force participation at 88.4%. Moreover, Namibia has achieved full parity in technical and professional workers, and 77.2% gender parity in senior leadership roles," said the report.

Despite these successes, the overall score of 78.3% indicates a slight decline from last year, mirroring a minor reduction in parity in estimated earned income, which stands at 82.1%, down 0.9 percentage points from 2023.

Additionally, the Forum highlights that Namibia continues to show strong representation of women in ministerial (46.2%) and parliamentary (79.2%) roles.

Meanwhile, globally, European economies dominate the top 10, with seven spots occupied by Iceland (1st, 87.5%), Finland (2nd, 87.5%), Norway (3rd, 87.5%), Sweden (5th, 81.6%), Germany (7th, 81%), Ireland (9th,

80.2%), and Spain (10th, 79.7%).

Other top performers include New Zealand (4th, 83.5%) from Eastern Asia and the Pacific, Nicaragua (6th, 81.1%) from Latin America and the Caribbean, and Namibia (8th, 80.5%) from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lithuania (11th, 79.3%) and Belgium (12th, 79.3%) have dropped out of the top 10, while Spain and Ireland have climbed +8 and +2 ranks, respectively, to join the top performers in 2024.

In the broader context of Sub-Saharan Africa, the region ranks sixth globally with a gender parity score of 68.4%, having advanced by an overall 5.6 percentage points since 2006.

"While 21 out of 35 economies in the region are in the top 100, Namibia stands out as a top 10 performer. More than half

of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have closed over 70% of their gender gap, though there is a 22.8 percentage point divide between the top and bottom ranks," the report revealed.

The region's Economic Participation and Opportunity score is 68.1%, reflecting progress in labour-force participation and positive outcomes in technical and professional roles.

However, Sub-Saharan Africa ranks last in Educational Attainment, scoring 88.9%, indicating the widest gap to close.

Health and survival scores are 97.1%, while political empowerment shows improvement at 22.6%, with significant strides in ministerial and parliamentary representation, particularly in Mozambique and South Africa.



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The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) says 214,851 SIM cards risk permanent deactivation if not registered before the grace period ends on 30 June.

This follows the implementation of mandatory SIM card registration regulations. Following the initial registration deadline of 31 March 2024, a temporary suspension period resulted in the deactivation of 567,298 unregistered SIM cards.

“Following the SIM card registration deadline on 31 March 2024, registration statistics increased from 70.6% in February 2024 to 91% as of 30 April 2024 as revealed by the CRAN. By the end of April 2024, 2,172,379 SIM users had registered their cards out of 2,387,230 active SIM cards,” said MICT Minister Emma Theofilus.

She further explained that mobile network operators like Paratus Telecommunications

and UCOM have achieved 100% registration for their clients.

Telecom Namibia and Mobile Telecommunications (MTC) are nearing completion with 70% and 94% registered SIM cards, respectively.

“Mobile users who have not yet registered have until 30 June 2024 to do so or they risk having their numbers permanently canceled. If a number is canceled, mobile operators will resell it, and the new user will be required to register their SIM card,” the Minister said.

The SIM card registration exercise, initiated in 2021, aims to comply with international practices and regulations outlined in the Communications Act of 2009.

The Ministry says that the exercise aims to combat phone-based fraud, identity theft, and other criminal activities. Additionally, registered SIM cards are crucial for facilitating secure e-commerce and online transactions in the digital world.



Addressing concerns about fiber optic cables installation: Safety, compatibility, and connectivity

By Heskiel Edward

In continuation of our previous discussion on the significant infrastructure project enhancing Namibia's internet connectivity through fiber optic technology, there have been some questions and concerns from the community regarding the safety, compatibility, and practical utilization of these new fiber optic cables. This article aims to address these concerns and provide additional clarity.

Ensuring safety with fiber optic cables

One of the primary concerns raised is the safety of fiber optic cables. Here are key points to consider:

Radiation and health

No radiation emission: One of the primary advantages of fiber optic cables is that they do not emit radiation. Unlike wireless networks that rely on radio waves, fiber optics utilize light pulses to transmit data, ensuring a safe

and radiation-free environment.

Robust installation standards: The installation of fiber optic cables is carried out by highly trained professionals who adhere to stringent safety protocols. These protocols ensure that the cables are securely placed underground or within protective conduits, thereby minimizing any potential hazards to both residents and the environment.

Compatibility with 5G technology

Another common question is whether these fiber optic cables are compatible with 5G technology. The answer is a resounding yes:

Enhanced network backbone: Fiber optic cables provide a robust backbone for 5G networks. While 5G technology enhances wireless connectivity with higher speeds and lower latency, the underlying fiber optic infrastructure ensures that the network can handle the increased data load efficiently.

The combination of fiber optics and 5G

THE
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creates a seamless and powerful internet experience, enabling high-speed connections both indoors and outdoors.

Practical utilization in homes

Residents have also inquired about how these cables can be utilized in their homes and whether they can still use their WiFi modems:

Connecting to ISPs: Service provider information: When fiber optic installers are working in your area, it is important to ask which Internet Service Provider (ISP) they represent. ISPs such as Paratus, Telecom Namibia, MTC, and RocketNet are involved in these projects. Visit their offices or mobile shops to apply for a fiber connection.

In-Home setup

WiFi compatibility: Yes, you can use fiber optic cables in your home while maintaining your WiFi modem. Typically, the fiber optic line runs to your home and connects to a modem or gateway device. This device then distributes the internet connection wirelessly via WiFi, ensuring you benefit from high-speed internet throughout your home.

Advantages of fiber optic internet

The benefits of switching to fiber optic internet are manifold:

Superior speed: Fiber optics provide significantly faster internet speeds than traditional DSL or cable connections. This is ideal for households with multiple users and for activities such as streaming, gaming, and video conferencing.

Enhanced Reliability: Fiber optic internet offers a more stable connection, with fewer interruptions and less signal degradation. This means a more consistent online experience.

Future-proof technology: As more smart home devices become common, a robust and fast internet connection is crucial. Fiber optics ensure your home is ready for future technological advancements.

Improved Work-from-Home Experience: A reliable internet connection is essential for productivity and effective communication in remote work settings.

Increased property value: Homes with high-speed fiber optic internet are often more attractive to buyers, potentially increasing property value.

Economic and educational opportunities: High-speed internet facilitates online learning and remote working, opening new avenues for education and employment.

The ongoing fiber projects in Namibia represent a major leap forward in the country's digital infrastructure. These initiatives by ISPs will not only improve internet speeds and reliability but also prepare Namibia for the future demands of digital connectivity. So, as these projects progress, consider applying for a fiber connection in your home and join the digital revolution.

** Heskiel Edward IT Specialist (Specialization in Systems Administration and Business Systems Analysis) and can be contacted on heskiel.edward@gmail.com*

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**City of Windhoek appoints
Metusalem Nikanor as Strategic
Executive for Human Capital**

The City of Windhoek has appointed Metusalem Nikanor as Strategic Executive: Human Capital and Corporate Services, effective 04 June 2024.

Nikanor’s career, spanning over 20 years, includes various commercial and human capital management roles across diverse industries such as mining, consulting, utilities, and public service, both locally and internationally.

According to the Municipality, Nikanor’s expertise encompasses a broad range of disciplines, with a particular focus on talent, culture, change management, business process re-engineering, and organizational effectiveness.

Nikanor holds a Master's degree in Management, Leadership, and Innovation from the University of York (UK), and a Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) in Human Resources Management from the University of Cape Town (UCT), along with various professional certifications, accreditations, and development programs.

Stay informed about Energy sector in Namibia

A vertical banner image showing a landscape with several wind turbines and rows of solar panels in the foreground. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange and yellow glow over the horizon.

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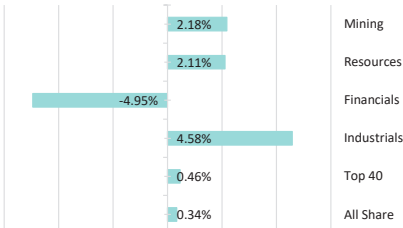
Commodities

Spot Gold	2322.52
Platinum	964.14
Palladium	909.63
Silver	29.77
Uranium	83.40
Brent Crude	83.22
Iron Ore	100.18
Copper	9638.73
Natural Gas	3.12
Lithium	13.85

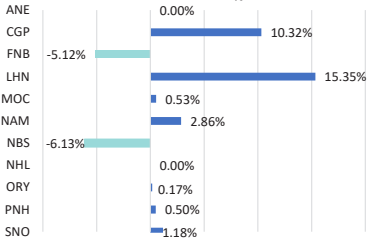
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.4777
EUR/ZAR	20.0428
GBP/ZAR	23.7455
USD/CNY	7.2425
EUR/USD	1.0847
GBP/USD	1.2852
USD/RUB	89.1462
CPI	4.90%
Repo Rate	7.75%
Prime Rate	11.50%

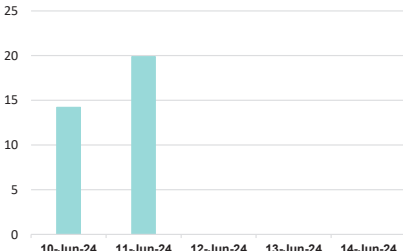
JSE Indices: Year to date movement %



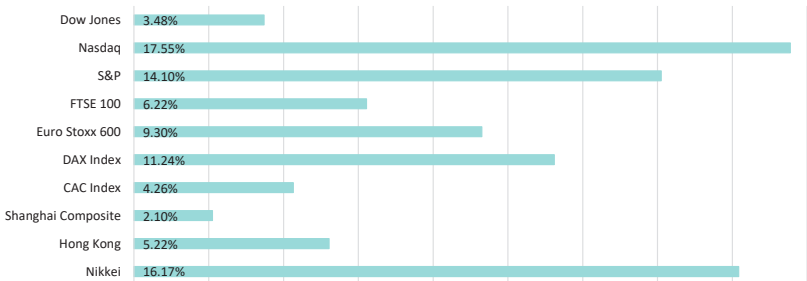
NSX Local Stocks: Year to date price movement %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %



*Prices as at 16:41, 12-Jun-2024