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# THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## Namibia seeks to leverage MICE tourism

MONDAY 27 MAY 2024

MAIN STORY



# Namibia seeks to leverage MICE tourism

## *...as Namibia Oil and Gas Conference is launched*

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) says the country is spearheading efforts to position itself as a one-stop destination for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) business tourism.

NIPDB's CEO, Nangula Uaandja, said with Namibia traditionally known for its breathtaking landscapes and wildlife safaris, NIPDB aims to capitalise on the untapped potential of business tourism to attract visitors year-round and create sustainable economic opportunities for the nation.

"Our partnerships should align with these priority sectors. For example, tourism and oil are significant for us. Tourism, particularly

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

through business events, can drive economic activity throughout the year, not just during the peak season from May to October," she said.

This comes as Namibia is set to host three major conferences scheduled for later this year.

"Regarding events, it's not a question of whether there are too many because each event serves a different purpose. Events bring together industry players across the entire value chain, including investors, exploration companies, and others, to discuss the development of the energy sector, including oil, gas, and renewables," she said.

She said this at the launch of the 2nd Edition of the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 2024, slated from the 20th to the 22 August 2024.

"This particular event aims to ensure inclusivity by involving the private sector, young people, students, academia, civil society, and Namibians, along with our international partners, to have a comprehensive conversation where everyone is included," said Uaandja.

The conference will be hosted by the Economic Association of Namibia (EAN), in partnership with NIPDB, the Hanns Seidel Foundation Namibia, a strategic partnership of the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia and the official endorsement of the Ministry of Mines and Energy Namibia.

EAN Chairperson, Jason Kasuto, highlighted the need for a strategic blueprint to ensure investments create sustainable value chains and uplift living standards in Namibia.

He further called for open discussions on energy transition and climate change, stressing the importance of integrating the oil and gas sector with the rest of the economy.

With over 70 renowned speakers, panel discussions, master classes, and exhibitions, he said this year's conference is set to be the largest and most attended in Namibia!

Meanwhile, Uaandja Namibia has substantial oil potential, and it's crucial to develop it properly.

"We need to ensure we are active participants in these conversations to avoid missing out on opportunities. The government is committed to facilitating these discussions and ensuring Namibia finds its niche in the oil industry," she added.

Namibia's national hotel occupancy rate surged by nearly seven percentage points to 58.1% in April 2024, exceeding pre-pandemic levels recorded in April 2019.

A report by Simonis Storm attributes this growth partly to an increase in conferences and events.

According to the report, conferences like the international energy conference held in April played a key role in filling hotel rooms.



### INVITATION FOR OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING

Provision for the supply and installation of air conditioners at Student Care Centre of NSFAF head office in Windhoek.  
Ref: W/ONB/NSFAF-01/2024

**RELEASE DATE:** 19 April 2024  
**CLOSING DATE:** 3 June 2024 at 12h00  
**DOCUMENT FEE:** Free and downloadable from NSFAF Website

Interested bidders can download the bid document from NSFAF website, [www.nsfaf.na](http://www.nsfaf.na) under - Opportunities, procurement or for further information contact Allenah Matengu at 0614346055/ email: [Allenah.Matengu@nsfaf.na](mailto:Allenah.Matengu@nsfaf.na) and Agnes Dawid on 061 4346070/ Email: [Agnes.Dawid@nsfaf.na](mailto:Agnes.Dawid@nsfaf.na)

Bid documents are to be submitted in a sealed envelope at NSFAF Head Office, Eros Road 746, Windhoek.



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## Namibia plans to transform transport corridors into economic development corridors

**W**alvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) says Namibia plans to transform its transport infrastructure by converting key transport corridors into bustling economic development zones.

WBCG Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mbahupu Tjivikua said the plan, backed by the government, aims to foster diverse activities, from manufacturing and services to value-added industries. He said this will position Namibia as an industrialised nation and a regional logistics hub akin to Singapore.

"Like Singapore, Namibia is a state without natural resources that aims to become one of the world's most efficient logistics hubs. Our goal is to position Namibia as the 'Singapore of the region. To achieve this, we are working closely to attract and support the oil and gas sector, a project endorsed by the Namibian government," he said.

Tjivikua said the plan includes substantial upgrades to road, rail and port facilities, promising a significant boost in trade and economic growth.

"Our strategy focuses on transforming transport corridors into economic development corridors, fostering various activities, services, manufacturing and value addition within Namibia. This will help position Namibia as an industrialised nation," he said.

He highlighted that most of the country's border ports are now operational, enhancing trade connectivity.

"As a corridor group, we also offer corporate social responsibility services, such as free medical clinics for truck drivers at ports and weighing bridges, ensuring they have access to necessary healthcare without needing to visit private clinics," he said.



Tjivikua delivered these remarks at the South African Oil and Gas Alliance conference in Windhoek, where he revealed WBCG's role and involvement in promoting the oil and gas sector including the emerging green hydrogen.

He said these industries are crucial as Namibia endeavours to be an international logistics hub, leveraging from best roads and safety that comes with it, including the timely release of cargo imported and exported through Namibian ports.

In addition, he said there is a need for further expansion of the Lüderitz Port and Walvis Bay Port to cater to oil and gas activities.

"Significant upgrades are underway for our road infrastructure, ensuring connectivity with neighbouring countries. Similarly, our railways are being improved, and although our airports are not large, they are being upgraded to accommodate the opportunities and jobs created by the oil and gas industry," he added.

WBCG is further tasked to implement the Namibia Logistics Master Plan, as such, it is working closely with all stakeholders for this realisation.

# DBN in green financing talks with Japanese financial institutions

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has held talks with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), and Mizuho Financial Group (Mizuho) to explore opportunities for green financing.

According to DBN Chief Executive Officer, John Steytler, the talks centered around areas of green industrialization, including water infrastructure development.

“I engaged in fruitful discussions with executives from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), and Mizuho Financial Group (Mizuho) to explore opportunities for green financing partnership and collaboration, particularly in the areas of green industrialization, including water infrastructure development,” he said.

The visit by the three Japanese entities stems from a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between JBIC and the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises in December 2023, signifying Japan’s combined efforts from both its public and private financing sectors.

The collaborative agreement, signed at COP28, focused on financing carbon-capturing projects.

As part of the MoU, JBIC agreed to support the development of environmental preservation projects in Namibia with



the involvement of Japanese companies through exchanging information between JBIC and the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises of Namibia on the political and economic situations as well as on critical minerals-related and other potential projects committed toward environmental preservation, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

This comes as Japan’s Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, Nishimura Yasutoshi, last year, committed to invest N\$28 billion (US\$1.5 billion) in Namibia’s mining sector, subject to participation of Japanese companies.





**E**rongo Petroleum CC (EPC) plans to develop a bulk liquid fuel storage facility with a design capacity to store and handle 24 million litres of fuel in Namibia's bustling industrial town of Walvis Bay.

An investment of around N\$250 million is projected for the development of the facility, with no plans for decommissioning in the near to medium future.

The Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry recently approved the application for the project's Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) to permit the construction and operation of the bulk liquid fuel storage and handling facility.

According to the scoping assessment to support the application the facility is anticipated to remain operational for over 30 years.

EPC had appointed Ekwao Consulting (Ekwao) to attend to its authorisation process for the ECC.

"The proposed facility has a designed capacity of 24,000 m<sup>3</sup> of automobile diesel

oil (ADO) only, stored in six aboveground storage tanks. Erf 5022 measures about 30 250 m<sup>2</sup> and is fully developed, accommodating a fishing factory which has been in operation for 50 years," said the report.

The facility is set to function as a one-stop fuel service station for fishing vessels operating from the Walvis Bay harbour.

"Instead of road tankers making multiple trips into fishing factories delivering fuel required by fishing vessels, fishing vessels will simply dock at a 'fuel service station' operated from a jetty terminal in the same way that cars in a town pull up at a filling station," the report noted.

At the proposed one-stop fuel service station, fishing vessels will be refueled and replenished with potable water and fresh supply for the crew.

This comes as there are over 200 commercial fishing vessels catching fish in Namibia waters that dock at various jetty terminals in the harbour.

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

# Mbumba to headline Africa Hospitality Investment Forum



President Nangolo Mbumba will headline the 2024 Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) set to be hosted in Windhoek next month.

Other confirmed prominent speakers, according to AHIF, include Namibia's Environment, Forestry and Tourism Minister Pohamba Shifeta, Artur Gerber, Managing Director for TUI Blue, Olivier Granet, Managing Partner & CEO, Kasada Capital Management, Fahad Kazim, CEO, Millennium Hotels & Resorts & Lakhraim Group, Haitham Mattar, Managing Director, Middle East, Africa & Southwest Asia, IHG Hotels & Resorts and Paul Stevens, Chief Operating Officer ME & Africa among others.

Nangula Uaandja, Chairperson and CEO of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, which is a host partner in Namibia said: "We are looking forward to showcasing some of these opportunities

which hold immense economic potential at AHIF 2024. Our team at NIPDB is always ready to help investors to have a seamless entry and ensure a soft landing in Namibia."

Matthew Weihs, Founder of the Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF), said "Namibia's confirmation that its President will headline the AHIF agenda leaves me feeling optimistic about the country's commitment to its tourism and hospitality sector. His presence not only signals that Namibia values the international hospitality investment community, but it also reinforces everything we have heard from our hosts about wanting to create a thriving visitor economy."

AHIF is the premier hotel investment conference in Africa, attracting many prominent international hotel owners, investors, financiers, management companies and their advisers.



# EAN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

## Optimizing Economic Returns: The Role of Critical Minerals





## Cattle marketing surges by 31.2% in April

Namibia's beef market witnessed a robust 31.2% growth in April, driven by increased live exports, with 32,795 cattle marketed compared to the previous year, official figures reveal.

Livestock Board Statistician of Trade & Strategic Marketing, Fransina Angola, attributed the growth to enhanced throughput at export and local abattoirs.

"The livestock and meat industry

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registered relatively good results during April 2024 with all sectors recording growth. Month-on-month, beef producer prices and weaner producer prices improved during April 2024 from the March 2024 levels while sheep carcass producer prices dropped," she said.

Angula highlighted positive trends across sectors, noting improved beef and weaner producer prices. She emphasised the significance of weaner exports to South Africa amid drought conditions.

"The growth is partly attributed to increased exports of weaners, predominantly to South African feedlots as drought takes its effect. This stream remains a significant marketing segment for Namibian weaner farmers due to the poor financial viability of large-scale feedlots in Namibia which results in costly importation of animal feed from South Africa," she said.

This comes as beef exports surged to 4,735,663kg by April 2024, up from 2,304,263kg in 2023. Reduced beef imports were attributed to increased local availability of beef offal.

Year-on-year, beef imports decreased by 26.6%, with a 21.3% decline year-to-date.

"The year-to-date beef exports stood at 4,735,663 kg by the end of April 2024 in comparison to 2,304,263kg


recorded during the same period in 2023," said Angula.

During the period under review, 101,209 sheep were marketed, with a 5.1% increase in slaughtering at export abattoirs. However, throughput at B&C class abattoirs declined by 39.4%.


"Year-to-date slaughtering by export-approved abattoirs stood at 32,765 heads by the end of April. Throughput at B & C class abattoirs declined by 39.4 % during April 2024 as only 5 368 animals were marketed relative to 8,861 animals marketed during April 2023," she noted.

In the goat sector, 8,690 goats were marketed, with 8,684 exported live to South Africa. Angula pointed out a drop in goat lamb prices.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME & YOUTH TAX INCENTIVE**



The Ministry of Finance & Public Enterprises



**NIPDB**  
Namibia Investment Promotion & Development Board

The Ministry of Finance & Public Enterprises (MoFPE), with support from the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), invites interested bodies and organisations to serve as designated bodies for the National Internship Programme & Youth Tax Incentive.

This government initiative aims to increase internship opportunities for young Namibians in the education system. Through this project, employers are incentivised to enrol interns for periods ranging from 3 months to 3 years.

MoFPE is in the process of amending the Income Tax Act, 1981, to appoint designated bodies to oversee the Youth Tax Incentive, **which will be responsible for amongst others:**

- Create awareness about internships
- Certify eligible employers
- Ensure programme compliance
- Provide oversight and reporting

**Eligible institution/s must meet the following criteria:**


- Industry-specific oversight body
- Good standing in the industry
- Capacity for additional responsibilities
- Commitment to youth development

All nominations/ expressions of interest should be sent electronically to [leevi.indombo@nipdb.com](mailto:leevi.indombo@nipdb.com) by **21 June 2024**. MoFPE reserves the right not to make appointments of interested organisations.


Organisations to be appointed as designated bodies will be duly informed before being gazetted in the national gazette.

For more information, please scan the QR code below:






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**ABOUT NIPDB**

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSME activities across all levels of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.





## Bank Windhoek finances 142 northern properties worth N\$188m in 2023

**B**ank Windhoek sold 142 properties valued at N\$188 million through estate agents in northern Namibia last year, a significant increase compared to N\$88 million worth of properties sold in 2021, according to official figures.

Speaking at the Bank Windhoek Annual Northern Estate Agent Awards, the financial institution's Executive Officer of Retail Banking Services and Specialist Finance, James Chapman, commended northern Namibia's real estate agents for their achievements in the property finance market.

"Bank Windhoek is excited to continue partnerships with those who share the same vision: to uplift our communities and the Namibian economy, including estate agents. Bank Windhoek aims to invest in

the country and become a global economic powerhouse. Additionally, we aim to be a supporting partner for all Namibians of all walks of life," he said.

The awards recognise residential and commercial estate agents, agencies and developers from the northern, central and coastal regions for their commitment, loyalty, and support to Bank Windhoek and its customers.

Georgina Tjingaete of Jolly T Real Estate from Rundu was awarded as the top estate agent with the highest volume of transactions in the north.

Menethe Nikodemus of Nikodemus Real Estate CC was awarded third place as the top estate agent with the highest volume of transactions in the north, with Simeon Iita of Hippo Real Estate in third place.



# Alweendo challenges conventional focus on resource ownership

Namibia's Minister of Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo says value addition for the country's resources is more critical than simply owning them.

Alweendo challenged the conventional focus on ownership and profit-sharing in mineral resource extraction, advocating for a broader perspective on maximising national benefits.

"I do agree there's a time when we need to have the shareholding so that we can also benefit not only in other ways, but we can also manage to benefit from the equity shareholding and via dividends when it's declared. But I think if we focus on that. We're going to miss the point," he told an Economic Association of Namibia Public Discussion.

He further questioned the effectiveness of equity shareholding as the sole means of benefiting from resources, suggesting a focus more on how much of the mineral's value remains in the country.

"Maybe we need to reverse the question to say whatever minerals that we have got,



what is the value of that when it is taken out? How much of that remains in the country? The value of that mineral, and how much

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remains in the country? And how much should it belong to the investor?" he quizzed.

Meanwhile, the Minister cautioned against overly prioritising investor interests, highlighting the risk of exploitation and unequal returns.

He underscored the importance of investment policies in Africa, stressing the need for policies that benefit both investors and host countries.

The Minister noted that investors come with the perception of Africa as a high-risk investment destination and the implications this has on negotiating investment terms.

"And sometimes, for example, the investors who normally come from the global north, they always come with an idea that investing in Africa is high risk. It doesn't matter where it is. Because in Africa it's high risk and therefore what I'm going to ask and therefore the return of my investment needs to be much higher than anywhere else," he said.

In terms of the importance of balanced regulation to create a favourable investment environment. He questions whom such regulations should favour and advocates for policies that benefit both investors and host countries.

He said the challenge lies in striking a balance between creating an attractive environment for investors and ensuring that investments contribute to the host country's development.

This comes after Namibia's global mining ranking dropped in the 2023 Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies, with the Chamber of Mines urging urgent policy reforms.

The country's ranking on the Investment Attractiveness Index (IAI) fell by 3 points, prompting the Chamber to stress the critical need for improved mining policies and regulatory frameworks to enhance investor confidence and competitiveness globally.

"While Namibia remains one of Africa's more favourable destinations, ranking 4th, it's troubling to see our score deteriorate by three points on the absolute scale and in our global rankings. This underscores the necessity for Namibia to improve its mining policies and regulatory landscape," said Zebra Kasete, President of the Chamber of Mines.

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



## AHIF secures O&L backing with over 300 industry leaders expected

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) has secured a N\$500,000 sponsorship from O&L Leisure towards the hosting of the Africa Hospitality Investment Forum (AHIF) 2024.

Announcing the sponsorship, O&L Executive Chairman and Managing Director of O&L Leisure, Sven Thieme, congratulated the NIPDB for facilitating the winning bid for Namibia, an achievement which he said highlights a collective commitment to

showcase Namibia's unique tourism potential on the international stage.

"The NIPDB shares O&L Leisure's vision of positioning and marketing Namibia as a premium destination, offering world-class experiences. Together, we strive to bring Namibia's rich culture, stunning landscapes, and exceptional hospitality to the forefront of the international tourism industry," said Thieme.

In just five weeks, Namibia is expected to host over 300 hospitality industry investors,

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business leaders, government officials, and expert advisors from across the African continent, after the country won the bid last year, facilitated by the NIPDB, which also serves as the host partner in Namibia.

“As part of our diversification strategy, geared towards expanding the Namibian economy, tourism has been identified as a potential key driver for economic growth. With the high caliber of investors, hoteliers, and financiers coming to Namibia, we are very deliberate in leveraging the convening power of AHIF to showcase the investment opportunities in this sector, with a clear end goal of securing investments that enable a sustainable future for Namibians,” said NIPDB Chief Executive Officer, Nangula Uaandja. She said the long-term benefits of successfully hosting the AHIF conference will contribute towards achieving Namibia’s strategic goal of becoming a business tourism destination, supported by the establishment of the Namibia

Convention Bureau, which aims at branding and promoting Namibia as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination.

“We therefore welcome the support of our partners O&L Leisure, which is a demonstration of our shared goals to grow the economy sustainably and to unlock opportunities that make prosperity a reality for our people. It is also a pivotal example of public and private collaboration to support the government’s economic development agenda,” said Uaandja.

AHIF is known to be a premier investment forum that gathers the highest caliber of international hotel investors, making it the most influential conference of its kind in Africa.

It also plays a crucial role in driving investment into tourism projects, infrastructure, and hospitality development on the continent, thus having the potential to contribute towards reshaping Namibia’s tourism industry.



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## Namibia's oil and gas sector set for major overhaul to attract global investors

Namibia is making significant strides in its oil and gas sector, with a legal overhaul underway to create a more attractive environment for international investors.

This was the key takeaway from a presentation delivered by Shakwa Nyambe, Managing Partner of SNC Incorporated, at the recent Africa Energies Summit 2024 in London.

Nyambe highlighted the government's review of the current petroleum legal framework, aimed at fostering investment and growth within the sector.

The review according to Nyambe, encompasses the potential introduction of new regulations for exploration and production activities, alongside amendments

to the fiscal terms governing petroleum exploration and production in Namibia.

“We're looking at potentially introducing detailed regulations for oil and gas exploration and production. These regulations would cover everything from development plans and work programs to drilling operations, surveys, and more. There's also a chance we'll see changes to the tax and royalty structure for the oil industry, especially considering Namibia's first oil production is expected by the end of the decade,” Nyambe said.

While the specific details of these potential changes are yet to be finalized, Nyambe also highlighted that the Petroleum Act in its current form does not have specific provisions for the development of natural gas fields. This is more definitively covered in the

Model Petroleum Agreement.

He emphasized that as a potential gas-producing region, the Model Petroleum Agreement also ought to undergo reviews and amendments.

He however, advised that it would be beneficial to legislate some of the provisions for the development of gas fields rather than leaving these to be fully negotiated under a contractual regime.

“I strongly believe we should include stabilization clauses. These clauses are essential to give international companies and investors the confidence and security they need. Especially in developing countries, there's always the risk of political upheaval or sudden changes in laws. Stabilization clauses would shield them from such risks. These clauses also work hand-in-hand with other established investment law concepts, like fair and equitable treatment, full protection and security, and protection against expropriation,” he said.

Nyambe also recommended the establishment of an independent regulator for the upstream oil and gas sector.

According to him, the establishment of an independent upstream oil and gas regulator would greatly benefit the country as it would ensure impartiality and transparency in decision-making processes, thereby reducing the potential for conflicts of interest or direct political interference.

“An upstream regulator will oversee the licensing and permitting process for oil and gas exploration and production activities. These will include evaluating applications, setting criteria for qualification and granting licenses. An independent upstream oil and gas regulator will also carry out other functions, which will include monitoring petroleum activities, technical and safety compliance with laws, environmental protection, and issuing guidelines or notices,” Nyambe said.

suggested a focus on streamlining the exploration process and potentially introducing a bidding system for certain oil and gas licenses.

“I propose we move towards license bid rounds. These would be announced publicly at regular intervals, giving companies a fair shot at competing for licenses. This system allows the government to carefully assess the financial muscle and technical expertise of potential investors. By making the process highly structured with clear criteria and timelines, we can ensure only qualified and capable companies get licenses. This transparency also helps reduce the risk of any shady dealings,” he said.

His presentation also covered the importance of local content in Namibia's petroleum industry. He stressed the need for a clear and stable regulatory framework to support local content requirements.

According to Nyambe, this framework should identify specific sectors for developing local capacity, maximize employment and development opportunities for Namibians, enhance local supplier participation across the value chain, and promote Namibian ownership and financing at all levels of the industry.

“We need to make sure this oil and gas industry benefits Namibians too. That's why I'm advocating for in-depth studies to identify exactly where this industry can create the most positive impact for our people. These studies would involve looking at our current industrial base and the vocational skills our workforce already has. With this knowledge, we can then draft a clear regulatory framework, developed through discussions with all the relevant stakeholders. This framework would ensure local companies can participate and Namibians have the chance to develop the skills they need to succeed in this new sector,” Nyambe said.

**- *miningandenergy.com.na***

Moreover, Nyambe's presentation



**SIMONIS STORM**

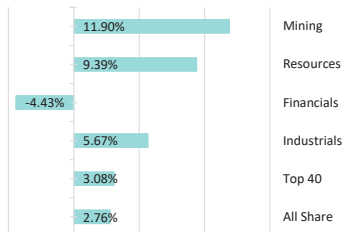
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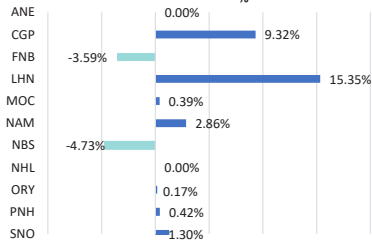
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Brent Crude	82.84	GBP/USD	1.2766
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Copper	10246.51	CPI	4.80%
Natural Gas	2.55	Repo Rate	7.75%
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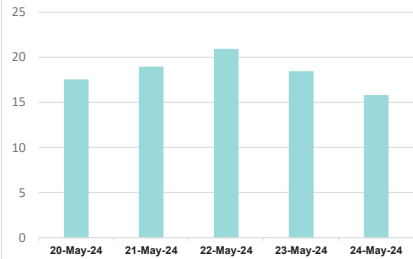
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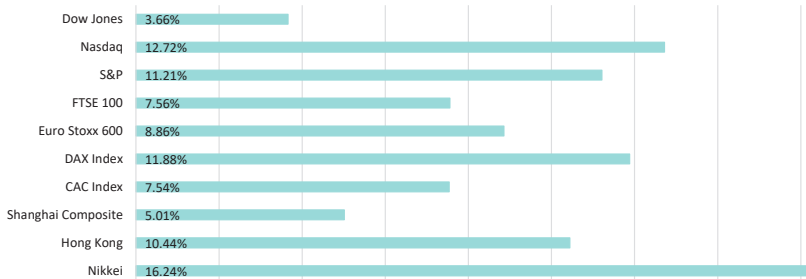
NSX Local Stocks: Year to date price movement %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to date movement %



\*Prices as at 16:16, 27-May-2024