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# THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## Otjimbele to launch commercial grape production by 2025

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MAIN STORY

# Otjimbele to launch commercial grape production by 2025



*...injects N\$120 million into local economy*

**T**he Otjimbele Agriculture Project, which has invested N\$120 million into Namibia's economy, is set to start commercial production of ITUM table grapes next year.

With the first commercial harvest of ITUM table grapes set for 2025, the initiative is bringing farming and food production to the country's Omusati Region, historically overlooked for such ventures.

Otjimbele CEO and Founder Carlos Lertxundi Aretxaga said the project aims to establish Northern Namibia as a new hub for high-value crop production, creating jobs and reducing the country's dependence

on imported produce.

"Next year will mark our first commercial harvest, though it will still be relatively

## Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date: 4 December 2024
- Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Ipumbu Shiimi to deliver 2024/25 Mid-Year Budget Review on October 28, 2024.

small. The market response has been very enthusiastic, and our goal for this project is to fill a gap in the supply window. Being in the far north, we aim to supply grapes when they are not available in Namibia or South Africa," he said.

He added that currently grapes are being sold primarily in Namibia, but as production increases, he anticipates exporting to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Angola, as local demand may not be able to keep up.

"Last September, we established a 15-hectare trial plot, and we are currently harvesting and selling the grapes locally and in Namibia. This is our first harvest, achieved within 12 months, which is notable because most grape growers only see a harvest two to three years after planting. Our advanced cultivation methods have allowed us to produce grapes earlier, proving that we can grow grapes in the northern region," he said.

Located on 300 hectares within the Etunda Green Scheme Irrigation Project, the Otjimbele initiative began as a strategic reinvestment in a former asparagus agro-processing site.

The project has since expanded to include table grapes and other high-demand crops like maize, sweet potatoes, and watermelons.

With a joint venture between Namibian and Spanish investors, Otjimbele is leveraging technology from Spain's ITUM Research Institute to cultivate seedless grape varieties specially adapted to withstand the harsh northern climate.

"Our initial harvest within 12 months is a game changer. Typically, grapes take years to produce, but we've made it happen in record time. The first trial plot has shown that we can grow grapes here despite the challenging temperatures," Lertxundi noted.

Currently, the project has created around

150 direct jobs, with plans to increase its workforce to 350-400 employees year-round.

The expansion will include the construction of a fresh produce centre with modular cold rooms, positioning the Omusati Region as a key player in Southern Africa's agricultural supply chain.

"By 2025, we expect to have 200 hectares under grape cultivation. We're not just growing crops; we're growing opportunities for the local community. This project will redefine what's possible for agriculture in Northern Namibia," said Lertxundi.

In addition to table grapes, Otjimbele continues to cultivate green asparagus, which has already been exported to South Africa.

Current distribution points for the asparagus are Woolworths, Pick n Pay, Checkers, Spar and Food Lovers Market.

The CEO shared these remarks during a media engagement facilitated by the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) on ongoing projects in Namibia.

At the event, he noted that Namibia's clear policies and robust legal framework, anchored by a strong rule of law, make it an attractive place for investment.

"Unlike some regions where investors might hesitate due to uncertainties around policy stability and legal protections, Namibia offers peace of mind. Here, investors don't have to worry about losing their projects or businesses due to sudden changes. The dependable legal system ensures that there's a solid judiciary to support and protect investments, which is crucial for building investor confidence," he said.

However, he noted that safety is also a critical factor in attracting investors, and recent events in Etunda have been concerning.



"Over the past two weeks, we've faced several security issues, including theft of irrigation equipment, which has disrupted our ability to water the crops and posed a significant challenge to the project. We are hopeful that the police and regional

authorities will step in soon to address these issues and ease the growing tension. We're also waiting for the Ministry of Agriculture to fence the area, as this would significantly help mitigate the security concerns," he said.



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# Unlisted investments present N\$4-billion opportunity for economic growth

The Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA) says unlisted investments are emerging as a vital avenue for economic growth in the country, particularly through venture capital and development finance.

NAMFISA General Manager for Pension Funds and Friendly Societies, Lovisa Indongo-Namandje, said small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), essential for job creation and innovation, often struggle to access the necessary capital to scale operations.

She said pension funds play a crucial role in this landscape by investing in unlisted assets, fulfilling their fiduciary duties while driving economic development.

"These funds have demonstrated commendable commitment to optimising their overall portfolio by diversifying investments beyond traditional markets and targeting sectors within the real economy," she said during a recent Pension Funds industry engagement.

Indongo-Namandje noted the strategy, which involves significant allocations to unlisted investments, serves two vital objectives, which include generating sustainable returns for pension members and supporting the broader development goals of Namibia.

This comes as of March 2024, NAMFISA

regulates a burgeoning unlisted investment sector valued at N\$4 billion, encompassing 21 special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and 31 unlisted investment managers (UIMs).

NAMFISA hosted the Pension Funds industry engagement, bringing together key stakeholders in the financial industry to explore the role of unlisted investments in bridging funding gaps and fostering economic growth in Namibia.

The event, themed "Unlisted Investments as a Solution for Bridging Funding Gaps in the Economy," aimed to ignite discussions on how unlisted investments can support venture capital financing, development finance, and other key areas that contribute to Namibia's economic development.

The engagement also included presentations from businesses that have benefitted from unlisted investments and highlighted the advantages of these investments to pension funds, their members, and the Namibian economy at large.

The Capital Markets unit recently presented insights into unlisted investments in Namibia, addressing challenges local businesses face in accessing funding and the potential for these investments to create long-term value.

Key outcomes of the discussion included sparking a conversation about the role of unlisted investments in the Namibian economy, hearing from businesses that have benefitted



from them, and raising awareness of their tangible impact on economic development.

According to NAMFISA, the discussion also emphasised the role of pension funds in Namibia's economic growth and shared lessons learned since the introduction of

unlisted investment requirements.

Representatives from Mashare Berries Farming and II-Omburu Sun Energy detailed how unlisted investments have supported their business growth and contributed to the broader economy.



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# Job opportunities in Namibia's Green Hydrogen sector

By Joseph Mukendwa

Namibia's Green Hydrogen sector isn't just about producing energy—it represents a full value chain that involves producing, handling, storing, and transporting hydrogen. More than that, it has the potential to boost local industries, such as producing Green Hot Briquetted Iron and processing critical raw materials, which can drive the country's industrial growth.

According to the Green Industrialisation Blueprint, fully developing Namibia's synthetic fuel strategy could create up to 250,000 jobs. This includes about 185,000 direct jobs from green hydrogen activities, like building wind and solar farms, operating pipelines, and assembling electrolyzers, and around 70,000 jobs related to concrete manufacturing, basic metals production, and outsourced business services. As the public seeks clearer job estimates, efforts to refine these numbers are ongoing. For Namibia to take full advantage of these opportunities,



**According to the Green Industrialisation Blueprint, fully developing Namibia's synthetic fuel strategy could create up to 250,000 jobs.**

developing the right skills is crucial to enabling our people to participate in the hydrogen economy.

## Debunking Myths About Green Hydrogen Jobs

Despite the exciting possibilities, several misconceptions about jobs in the green hydrogen sector persist. Let's clear up a few:

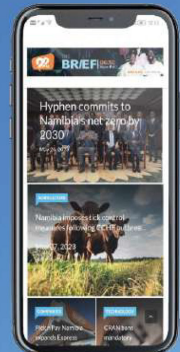
**Myth 1:** Green jobs only require technical skills. While technical skills are important,

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the sector also needs people with management, policy, and safety expertise.

**Myth 2:** Only scientists and engineers can work in green hydrogen. The industry offers opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds, including those with expertise in business, law, and social sciences.

**Myth 3:** Green jobs don't pay well. Many roles in this sector offer competitive salaries, given the specialized skills required.

**Myth 4:** Green hydrogen skills aren't in demand. With the rapid growth of this sector, there is a high demand for skilled professionals. Currently, Namibia has eight green hydrogen projects at various stages of development.

**Myth 5:** Green hydrogen jobs are only relevant in developed countries. Namibia's excellent conditions for renewable energy make it a prime location for green hydrogen, creating local job opportunities.

## Skills Needed for the Green Hydrogen Economy

The study "Enhancing Employability" highlights several key skills required for jobs in this sector, including:

**Technical Skills:** Expertise in renewable energy technologies, hydrogen production, and chemical engineering is essential. Namibia will need thousands of professionals in these technical roles, with qualifications ranging from engineering degrees to TVET certifications for technicians, operators, and maintenance staff.

**Scientific Skills:** Understanding the science behind hydrogen production and storage is critical. Degrees in chemistry, physics, and environmental science will be valuable, especially for research and development roles.

**Managerial Skills:** Strong management and leadership abilities will be needed to oversee large projects and operations. This includes skills in project management, strategic planning, and resource allocation.

**Health and Safety Expertise:** Ensuring safety in hydrogen production and handling is vital. Professionals in this field must be well-versed in safety regulations and risk management.

**Regulatory and Policy Knowledge:** Understanding the laws and policies surrounding the



Namibia will need thousands of professionals in these technical roles, with qualifications ranging from engineering degrees to TVET certifications for technicians, operators, and maintenance staff.

green hydrogen industry is key for those working in government or regulatory roles.

To realize the full potential of the Green Hydrogen sector, a concerted effort from all key stakeholders is essential. To this end, the Ministry of Mines and Energy is establishing a National Task Force on Education, Training and Research for the Green Hydrogen and Derivatives Sector. The Task Force will comprise of government, industry, academia, training providers and private sector Green Hydrogen projects. The Task Force’s core mandate is to develop a comprehensive Skills Development Strategy and Plan. As part of its skills development initiative, the Green Hydrogen Council, through the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme, has awarded approximately 183 scholarships in green hydrogen-related fields. In addition, the Council has allocated €2 million to the //Karas and Hardap regions for vocational skills development. This strategic move aims to ensure that these two regions significantly benefit from the establishment and development of green

hydrogen projects, such as Hyphen Hydrogen Energy.

Namibian youth are encouraged to prepare for the green hydrogen sector by pursuing relevant education, developing soft skills, and staying informed about industry developments. Taking these steps will position them to benefit from the employment and entrepreneurship opportunities the sector will provide. Ultimately, the green hydrogen industry offers a promising pathway for youth to contribute to Namibia’s sustainable economic growth.

***\*Joseph Mukendwa is Head of Policy, Planning, and Strategy at the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme***

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## **Namibia secures N\$191m loan from Germany for urban development initiatives**

**T**he German Government, through its development bank KfW, says it will grant Namibia a N\$191 million (€10 million) loan for the establishment of an Urban Development Fund that will transform informal settlements.

According to the German Embassy, the loan was secured following the 2023 governmental negotiations on development cooperation. The loan aims to bolster

Namibia's sustainable urban development efforts and builds on Germany's prior support, which included a N\$133.7 million (€7 million) grant in 2021.

“The agreement covers a programme to the value of €10 million (approximately N\$190 million). This programme will support the establishment of an Urban Development Fund. It follows a grant provided in 2021 to the amount of €7

million and will be implemented via KfW,” a release by the German Embassy read.

The release further states that the funds will lay the groundwork for a sustainable financing mechanism to drive Namibia’s vision of inclusive urban development.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the programme will develop models for transforming informal settlements, providing a replicable framework to be implemented nationwide.

“Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. The German side appreciates the commitment of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development being the existing executing agency and coordinating body on the Namibian side,” the release read. The project seeks to upgrade and furnish informal settlements with improved transportation systems, better access to clean water, and strengthened community support services.

“These concepts aim to improve numerous challenges of these settlements, including the lack of basic services and infrastructure,” the release read.

Since Namibia’s independence in 1990, German Development

Cooperation has provided approximately N\$32.3 billion (€1.6 billion) in funding through grants and loans.

Currently, the KfW Development Bank is implementing over 40 active projects in Namibia, with a combined funding total of about N\$15.4 billion (€788.6 million).

Additionally, future projects valued at roughly approximately N\$2.4 billion (€123 million) are in the planning stages.

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**COMPULSORY VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION:**

A compulsory virtual information session shall be held at **09h00 on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**EOI CLOSING DATE:**

The closing date for the EOI is **12h00 on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024**, and EOI submissions must only be delivered to the address as specified in the EOI document.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE 2024

## HANDBOOK



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# Young and brave Namibia: Co-facilitator of the United Nations Summit of the Future

By Emma Theofelus

The Summit of the Future held in September 2024 at the UN headquarters to create a new international consensus on how to address current and future challenges, and to reinvigorate multilateralism. Over the years, there has been calls for the reform of the global multilateral system with often times people referring to the discussion held at multilateral platforms as discussions that yield no results. Most of the multilateral organizations particularly the United Nations was formed Seventy Nine years ago and with age comes with a certain deterioration of vigour.

Underachieving institutions, polarization, underrepresentation, inequality and distrust characterize the loss of dynamism of the UN. The world is facing complex, interconnected challenges that require collective action, and the current systems of global governance are not designed for these challenges. This situation created the urgent need for the reform of the multilateral system which is hoped to be achieved through the Pact for the Future that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as consolidated at the Summit of the Future.

The Pact for the Future and its annexures i.e. the Declaration on Future Generations and the Global Digital Compact are new tools to help the world reimagine a better future and help nations solve contemporary challenges with a focus on future generations. This Pact provides for new and improved avenues for multilateral engagements.

In realizing the role that technology will



**Namibia's interest in the Summit of the Future is based on the belief that multilateral institutions need to better respond to today's challenges.**

play in future generations, these forward thinking documents encompasses values that nations should collectively adopt in order to guarantee a better world for all.

Namibia was chosen as a co-facilitator of the United Nations Summit of the Future along with Germany because the United Nations General Assembly President appointed them to the role. Namibia and Germany's co-facilitation role included outlining plans to engage with civil society and other stakeholders to ensure that diverse voices are heard and releasing the zero draft of the Pact for the Future, which served as a starting point for intergovernmental deliberations.

Namibia's interest in the Summit of the Future is based on the belief that multilateral institutions need to better respond to today's challenges. Namibia believes that it is important to be recognized as an equal partner in the fight against global injustice, poverty, war, and inequality.

In His statement during the General Debate

of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba emphasized that “Namibia is a child of international solidarity, midwifed by the United Nations, and therefore remains its firm proponent. The United Nations system can be strengthened if we hold hands and work together as bridge builders as illustrated by the Summit of the Future. By choosing the way of collaboration over enmity, peaceful dialogue over war and conflict, and de-escalation over escalation, we can achieve our shared goal of a more peaceful, just and prosperous world.”

His Excellency President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Nangolo Mbumba therefore led a delegation to the Summit of the Future and the United Nations General Assembly in September, the question then remains, what does this mean for the average Namibian? As you may be aware, Namibia is a Unitary State with clear delegation of powers of

the citizens through a democratic electoral process for the government to represent the interest of its people. The President’s delegation consisted of Political office bearers and experts entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of the needs of Namibians who work directly under the thematic areas of the Pact for the Future. The thematic areas are sustainable development, international peace and security, science and technology, youth and future generations, and transforming global governance.

Upon return H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba has directed the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia to “see how best [Namibia] can align and fit its policies to respond better to the call in the Pact for the Future.”

In line with my duties as Minister of Information and Communication Technology, the Global Digital Compact,



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which is an annexure to the Pact for the Future, speaks to the ethos of the work we are doing at the Ministry and it will provide an avenue to mobilize the necessary support to advance Namibia's digital transformation agenda. It will ensure that Namibia flourishes in a world where digital technologies are dramatically transforming our way of life.

Indeed Namibia needs to close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, which we have begun through efforts bringing solutions to connect the unconnected and educate the digitally illiterate. We need to expand inclusion and the benefits that we may derive from the digital economy for all. Namibia is in the process to foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promote human rights, which we have already initiated with the development of the various legislative instruments to create this desired environment.

The Global Digital Compact also aims to advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches and areas that we need to focus on as a government. As the saying goes: "Data is the new gold," we have begun to ensure that we have sound data governance architecture to protect Namibians but also to empower our citizens to flourish in the era of data systems. Not too long ago Namibia hosted the UNESCO Southern Africa sub-Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence which discussed the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence which demonstrates that efforts from the region are recognized and the Digital Compact is desirous to enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

Therefore these important documents will facilitate avenues for the government to access resources and collaborative avenues

to enable the government to respond to the needs of the people. A particular part of the Pact for the Future speaks to access to financing for governments, development of ICT infrastructure and human capital. All of these comes at a high cost but are fundamental blocks for the development of a robust ICT sector to ensure inclusive digital transformation. Therefore, the international financial architecture must be able to respond to the needs of Namibia to allow for fair access to financing for development of the industry in Namibia.

Governments are the primary source of funding for the United Nations system; therefore, countries have the responsibility that they participate actively in the UN system for it to deliver results for their citizens. Namibia being a child of international solidarity, midwifed by the United Nations, we have benefited tremendously from the UN system and should continue to leverage the UN system to help meet our development goals. Namibians need to leverage our advantage of being the co-facilitators of the Summit of the Future to grab opportunities available in the multilateral systems beginning from employment opportunities to investment and trade. The country is now popular globally and it is a window of opportunity for us to come out bigger and stronger on the global stage, which will require that we exploit Namibia's entire human capital to achieve this.

The challenge is open for Namibians to raise up, lean on the Pact for the Future, and lead the way in advancing how the world will look like in the future. We have a promising story to tell here beautiful Namibia, a story we can all benefit from as we have the correct ingredients to become a world standard.

***\* Emma Theofelus is the Minister of Information and Communication Technology***

# Home Loans

with Victoria Hamukwaya

## Property Buyer's Guide

Episode 3



### How do you know you're ready to purchase a home?

In Episode 3 of The Property Buyers Guide, Justina Hamupembe, also known as YourHomeGirl, welcomes Victoria Hamukwaya, the Growth Manager at FNB Home Loans, to discuss crucial financial aspects of buying a home.

To watch full interview click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aawkfQceVug>

Together, they explore the importance of financial planning, how to build a solid financial profile, and what it takes to secure a mortgage in Namibia.

**Q1: Why is financial planning important when buying property?**

**A:** Financial planning is essential for navigating the complexities of the property

market and ensuring buyers make informed decisions. Here's why it matters:

#### 1. Budgeting:

Planning helps buyers set a realistic budget that includes not just the purchase price but additional costs like rates, taxes, insurance, and maintenance.

#### 2. Understanding Additional Costs:

Buyers must account for transfer duties, legal fees, and registration costs, which can significantly impact the total cost of the property.

#### 3. Mortgage Planning:

Evaluating creditworthiness, understanding mortgage options, and assessing the impact of interest rates help

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buyers make better financial decisions.

#### **4. Long-Term Goals:**

A sound financial plan ensures the property purchase aligns with goals such as retirement savings or children's education.

#### **5. Emergency Fund:**

Buyers should set aside funds for unexpected expenses like repairs or temporary income loss.

#### **6. Risk Management:**

Insurance products can protect buyers against risks and safeguard their financial position.

#### **7. Investment Returns:**

For those buying property as an investment, planning helps assess rental income potential and property value appreciation.

#### **8. Informed Decision-Making:**

A well-structured plan gives buyers confidence and reduces stress throughout the home-buying process.

### **Q2: Why is having a good financial profile important when securing a mortgage?**

**A:** A strong financial profile increases your chances of getting approved for a mortgage and securing favorable loan terms. Here's what matters:

#### **1. Credit Score:**

Banks look at your credit history, including unpaid debit orders and loan repayments, to assess creditworthiness. A solid credit score makes you a more attractive borrower.

#### **2. Down Payment or Deposit:**

Having a substantial deposit reduces the lender's risk and can lead to better loan terms, such as lower interest rates.

#### **3. Income Stability:**

Lenders prefer applicants with stable incomes and employment histories, as this ensures reliable mortgage payments.

#### **4. Savings Reserves:**

Additional savings demonstrate financial

responsibility and the ability to handle unexpected costs, giving you a competitive edge in the application process.

### **Q3: What is ITC, and why is it important in the mortgage process?**

**A:** ITC, now known as TransUnion, is a credit bureau that provides Individual Trace Information Reports (credit reports). When applying for a mortgage, banks conduct a credit check to assess your financial health. This report contains information about previous credit applications, outstanding debt, and payment history.

Here are some tips for managing your credit report:

#### **• Build Your Credit History:**

Regularly using and repaying credit demonstrates good debt management.

#### **• Check for Errors:**

Review your credit report for any inconsistencies or negative entries that could affect your application.

#### **• Stay on Top of Payments:**

Missing payments or paying late can harm your credit score, reducing your chances of securing a mortgage.

A good credit status can result in better loan terms, such as higher borrowing limits or favorable interest rates. On the other hand, lenders may decline additional credit facilities if existing debts are not managed properly.

### **Conclusion**

Justina wrapped up the episode by thanking Victoria for her valuable insights, emphasizing the importance of financial preparation when buying a home. With the right financial planning and a strong financial profile, prospective homeowners can approach the market with confidence.

Stay tuned for the next episode of The Property Buyers Guide, where we'll continue to provide practical tips for making smart property decisions. See you next week!

# Why storytelling and strategy are essential for executives and entrepreneurs in 2024

By Kalistu Ramos Mukoroli

In today's fast-paced digital world, storytelling and content creation are no longer optional, they're essential tools for executives, entrepreneurs, and business professionals to build meaningful connections with their audiences. In Namibia, many business leaders are gaining recognition on both local and international platforms.

However, there is often a missed opportunity when no follow-up content or media strategy is used to extend the impact of their message.

Crafting engaging content involves more than posting a thought here and there. It requires a well-structured plan that considers every element, from when and how you post to what follow-up content is needed and how visuals support your message.

Each piece of content must serve a purpose and contribute to a larger goal, whether that's building brand visibility, increasing sales, or establishing thought leadership.

One person who has mastered the art of storytelling is South African entrepreneur Vusi Thembekwayo. Vusi is not only a highly sought-after speaker, but he also excels in using storytelling to humanize his brand. By sharing personal stories of his failures, rejections, and successes, he connects deeply with his audience.

His vulnerability and openness about his journey resonate because people relate more to stories than to corporate jargon or statistics.

Vusi doesn't just rely on one-off speeches.



**One person who has mastered the art of storytelling is South African entrepreneur Vusi Thembekwayo.**

He follows through with a comprehensive media strategy that includes insightful videos, articles, and interviews, allowing his message to reach far beyond the stage. His ability to blend personal anecdotes with business lessons makes his brand not only memorable but deeply impactful.

Namibian leaders can learn from Vusi's approach by recognizing that posting sporadically on social media isn't a strategy, it's noise. A deliberate, thoughtful content plan is required to keep the conversation going long after an event or speech ends. The takeaway is simple: modern audiences crave authenticity and connection. Sharing not only your successes but also your challenges humanizes your brand and makes you more relatable. Whether you're leading in Namibia or on the global stage, storytelling combined with a strong content strategy is the most powerful way to build lasting relationships with your audience.

***\*Kalistu Ramos Mukoroli is a PR and Branding Strategist at Alvaro Media Group and has worked with local and international brands.***



Standard Bank

Standard Bank and  
the Cancer Association  
of Namibia's Circle  
of Hope

Magreth Mengo - Head: Marketing and  
Branding Standard Bank Namibia



Many people face cancer daily, and for those living in underserved communities, the challenge is often compounded by a lack of access to essential medical care. At Standard Bank, we believe that healthcare should not be a privilege for a few but a right for all. This conviction lies at the heart of our ongoing partnership with the Cancer Association of Namibia, where we have committed N\$700,000.00 this year to support critical initiatives that bring hope to countless Namibians.

**Our partnership is focused on two major areas: psychological support for cancer patients and their families and providing the necessary medical supplies, such as needles, for cancer screenings and treatments.** We recognise the immense toll that cancer takes on both patients and their loved ones, and we believe that psychological support can be a lifeline during such a difficult time. Thus, the Circle of Hope was born. By investing in this support, we aim to lighten the emotional burden and empower families to cope with the journey ahead.

Equally important is ensuring that people have access to essential medical screenings. Early detection can make a life-changing difference in the fight against cancer. The needles we fund are integral to this process, providing the means for accurate screenings and effective treatment. By enabling these critical interventions, we are helping to give Namibians a fighting chance against the disease.

This month, as the world observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we not only celebrate our

partnership with the Cancer Association of Namibia but also champion the importance of regular screenings for early detection. Early-stage cancers can often be treated more successfully, and screening plays a vital role in identifying potential risks before they become life-threatening. We encourage all women to take advantage of the various platforms offering free cancer screenings. Prevention is truly better than cure, and we believe that awareness and consistent action are key to reducing the power cancer holds over our communities.

Our partnership with the Cancer Association of Namibia is a testament to our commitment to supporting initiatives that uplift our communities and provide access to essential healthcare services. But we know that we cannot do this alone. As we continue to empower these platforms, we call upon other corporate entities to join us in supporting organisations that work tirelessly to ensure access to quality healthcare for all Namibians, regardless of their financial situation. Together, we can contribute to a future where cancer loses its power, and our people gain the strength and support they need to overcome it.

As we progress, we remain inspired by the incredible work the Cancer Association of Namibia is doing. Their dedication to providing care, support, and hope is unmatched, and we are proud to be in partnership with such a transformative organisation. We look forward to seeing them reach more Namibians and bring healing and comfort to those who need it most.

**Namibia is Our Home, We Drive Her Growth.**



# Bridging gaps in global health: Women, AI, and Africa’s Digital Transformation – Insights from the World Health Summit

By Tuwilika Nafuka

One of the most significant events in the healthcare industry, the World Health Summit, took place from October 13-15, 2024, in Berlin, Germany. The summit featured over 380 speakers, including government officials from across the globe, and attracted more than 3,500 participants from 140 countries, making it perhaps the largest gathering yet.

This year’s event was particularly notable, with 51% of the speakers being women, a milestone in a field where women, despite being the majority of healthcare workers, are often underrepresented in leadership. Carsten Schicker, CEO of the World Health Summit, emphasized, “The World Health Summit has become a central platform and inclusive forum where the course is set for the future of global healthcare.”

There were 67 sessions in total, with major discussions divided by continent. Attending virtually, I focused on discussions about the Global South, artificial intelligence (AI), and women’s leadership in healthcare.



**The World Health Summit has become a central platform and inclusive forum where the course is set for the future of global healthcare.**

Operating under the theme ‘Building Trust for a Healthier World,’ the 2024 World Health Summit placed significant emphasis on the role of digital technologies, women’s leadership, and trust in healthcare systems. It was an eye-opening experience to see how, despite women forming the bulk of the healthcare workforce, they are still overwhelmingly led by men. On average, women earn 28% less than their male counterparts, yet research shows that trust in healthcare systems increases when women



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are in leadership roles.

A particularly inspiring session on women’s leadership featured influential figures like Dr. Emma Andrews of Pfizer Global Patient Advocacy, Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili, CEO of Human Capital in Nigeria, and Dr. Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin, Executive Director of the Harvard Ministerial Leadership Program and former Minister of Health of Ethiopia. These leaders highlighted the critical need for both men and women in healthcare leadership positions to actively create more space for emerging women leaders. “We need to extend the table to make room for women,” they emphasized. Structured mentorship programs were also discussed as essential tools to cultivate the next generation of female leaders, drawing on examples from the COVID-19 crisis where female-led healthcare systems saw improved outcomes.

One session that stood out focused on the role of AI in healthcare, with an emphasis on the Global South. Dr. Lucy Gilson, a Professor of Health Policy and Systems at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, gave a sobering assessment of the current state of healthcare digitization in Africa, highlighting the continent’s reliance on traditional, paper-based systems. Her presentation sparked important discussions on whether AI can be integrated into these systems. As most healthcare systems in African countries are not yet fully digitized, the question arises: Where exactly will AI be embedded? While integration will be challenging, the potential benefits are substantial, including improved diagnostic accuracy, better resource distribution, and enhanced public trust in healthcare. Dr. Gilson also spoke about the disparity between technological advancements in the Global North and Global South, and the importance of building robust systems in Africa to support the integration of AI. She noted the strides Africa has already made through digital health initiatives like telemedicine, emphasizing that AI has the potential to build on these existing foundations to further transform healthcare delivery across the continent.

As digital technologies continue to revolutionize healthcare at an unprecedented pace, the World Health Summit was a powerful reminder of the work ahead. But it also left me hopeful. The increasing visibility and influence of women in healthcare, coupled with advancements in digital health, point to a future where gender equity and technological innovation drive improved health outcomes globally. Although the summit has ended, the discussions about digital health are far from over, with further conversations set to continue at the upcoming Digital Health Summit hosted by Transform Health the month.

***\*Tuwilika Nafuka is an innovative STEM medical professional, social justice advocate, and Digital Health Transformation champion, passionate about leveraging technology to revolutionize healthcare systems***

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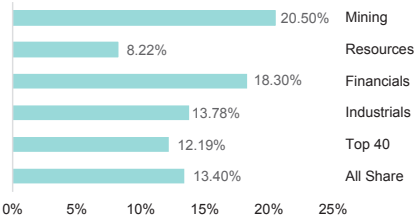
### Commodities

Spot Gold	2739.08
Platinum	1027.17
Palladium	1208.13
Silver	33.91
Uranium	83.00
Brent Crude	75.44
Iron Ore	94.85
Copper	9412.51
Natural Gas	2.51
Lithium	9.95

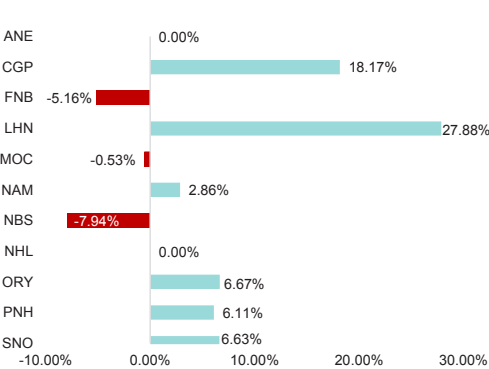
### Currencies

USD/ZAR	17.6308
EUR/ZAR	19.0925
GBP/ZAR	22.8998
USD/CNY	7.1212
EUR/USD	1.0804
GBP/USD	1.2990
USD/RUB	96.9685
CPI	3.40%
Repo Rate	7.25%
Prime Rate	11.00%

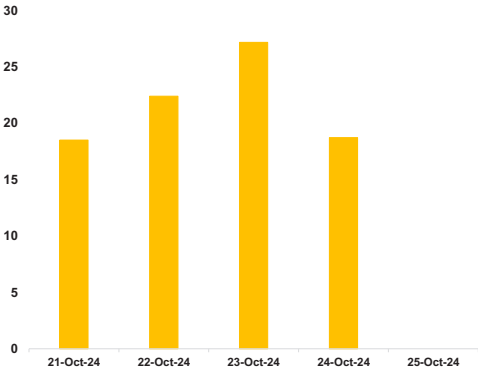
### JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



### NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



### JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



### Global Indices: Year to Date in %

