SMART CITY The Smart City Development Program p. 09



BORDER Piloting of one-stop border post begins at Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno p. 13



Search, small data, AI and the shape of things to come p. 15



3**7/**4



N\$1.74 billion after tax profit

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

MAIN STORY



apricorn Group Limited profit after tax increased by 9.9% to N\$1.74 billion for the year ending 30 June 2024 compared to the previous year's N\$1.58 billion.

The financial services firm listed on the Namibian Stock Exchange's return on equity (ROE) rose to 17.9% during the year, up from 17.6% the previous year.

Group CEO David Nuyoma said the

Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
 16 October 2024

 A December 2024
 - 4 December 2024
- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
 Windhoek, Namibia from 03 05 September 2024

positive financial performance for the period ending 30 June 2024 enabled the Group to create value for its stakeholders, contributing to the socio-economic development of Namibia and Botswana.

The Group increased its value created by 15.9% to N\$5.1 billion compared to the previous financial year.

"Of the total value of N\$5.1 billion created, N\$1.3 billion is represented by staff remuneration and benefits, N\$924 million was paid to suppliers, and N\$1.2 billion was contributed to the government in the form of direct and indirect taxes," he said.

This comes as the Group's net interest income before impairment charges increased by 13.6% to N\$3.1 billion during the year compared to N\$2.7 billion in 2023.

Interest income growth was driven by higher interest rates and a 7.5% year-on-year growth in the loan book.

"Bank Windhoek's net interest income grew by 9.9% in 2024 on the back of 4.6% loan book growth and the endowment effect of the higher interest rate cycle. Bank Gaborone's net interest income increased by 40.8% due to continued loan book growth and an improved net interest margin," said Nujoma.

Meanwhile, non-interest income increased by 14.2%, largely attributable to a 12.6% increase in transaction-based fees on the back of increased transaction volumes, especially on digital channels.

Similarly, asset management fees from Capricorn Asset Management increased by 12.9% due to strong growth in assets under management.

The CEO noted that the Group has well-developed capabilities to protect the quality of its lending assets.

During the financial year, the Group's non-performing loans (NPLs) decreased on the back of some large recoveries.

The Group's NPL ratio, excluding interest in suspense, improved from 4.5% in 2023 to 4.0%.

"Despite these large recoveries, the difficult macroeconomic environment and a prolonged period of higher interest rates negatively impacted credit risk indicators, leading to an increase in impairment charges to N\$328.5 million (2023: N\$235.6 million)," he said.

The Group's loan loss rate increased from 0.51% to 0.67%, still in line with industry norms.

Moreover, gross loans and advances increased by 7.4% to N\$50.7 billion this year, mainly attributable to growth in term loans and article finance.

For the period under review, Capricorn Group declared a final dividend of 64 cents per ordinary share, set to be paid on 18 October 2024.

Together with the interim dividend of 48 cents, this brings the total dividend to 112 cents per share for 2024, a 12% increase from 2023's 100 cents.

The Group attributed the positive results to strong performances across its business portfolio, including Bank Windhoek, Bank Gaborone, Capricorn Asset Management, Entrepo Group, Peo Finance, and associates.





Namport hands over Walvis Bay container terminal operations to MSC subsidiary TiN



Namibian **Ports** Authority (Namport) has the announced handover of the container handling operations at the New Container Terminal at the Port of Walvis Bay to Terminal Investment Limited with the commencement of the concession being effective from the 1st of October 2024.

Terminal Investment Limited (TIL), a subsidiary of the MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, will operate the terminal through its newly incorporated Namibia subsidiary, Terminal Investment Namibia (TiN).

In terms of the concession

agreement, TiN will operate and manage the terminal for 25 years, a move aimed at significantly enhancing operational efficiencies while increasing revenue and cargo throughput.

about

this

"Namport is excited partnership, this and development watershed underscores its commitment to improving port operations, addressing the growing demands of the Namibian and regional markets. It will, without a doubt, entrench Namibia and Namport's competitiveness amongst other coastal states and developing ports in the region and significantly contribute towards the attainment of Namibia's vision to be the logistics hub for the region," the national ports operator said.

The handover will now see the commencement of substantial operational improvements at the New Container Terminal, which include immediate dredging activities aimed at widening and deepening the entrance channel to 16 metres Chart Datum (CD) to accommodate larger vessels.

"TiN is dedicated to expanding the terminal facilities to ensure long-term growth and adaptability, prioritizing increased storage capacities and improved cargo handling processes. This handover not only celebrates the commencement of TiN operations but also sets the

stage for future port developments that will benefit both the local and international shipping communities."

The decision to concession the N\$4.2 billion new container terminal, commissioned in 2019, was driven by



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

PUBLIC NOTICE

SACU DAIRY AND WHEAT REBATE IMPORT QUOTAS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) hereby informs the public regarding the availability of a Tariff Rebate Quota (TRQ) facility for dairy and wheat products to be imported from the world market. The Rebate facility allows limited quantities of dairy and wheat products from the world market to be imported into Namibia duty-free. Therefore, MAWLR hereby invites Namibian registered companies to apply for this facility as listed below, applicable during the period commencing 01 October 2024 until 30 September 2025.

Product Name	HS Code	Quantity in (Tons)
Butter	04.05	400
Cheese	04.06	300
Skimmed Milk Powder	04.02	700
Wheat	10.01	100,000
Whole Milk Powder	04.02	400

- Interested companies should indicate the quantities they intend to import for each product above in their applications. Previous utilization will determine new allocations.
- Applicants for the wheat TRQ must be in possession of a milling license from the Namibian Agronomic Board.

Deadline for applications: Friday, 13 September 2024, 16H30

Contact Persons:

Mr. Sylvester Nauta, Sylvester.Nauta@mawlr.gov.na, 061 208 7674

Mr. Guilherme Sindjenge, Guilherme.Sindjenge@mawlr.gov.na, 061 208 7705

Ms. Emma Shafuda, Emma.Shafuda@mawlr.gov.na, 061 208 7702

Ms. Beatha Muti, Beatha.Muti@mawlr.gov.na, 061 208 7685

DPBD.PERMITS@mawlr.gov.na

All Application letters must be addressed and hand delivered to the: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Fourth Floor, East Wing Building Government Office Park WINDHOEK significant changes in the shipping industry and challenging economic conditions. Namport also aims to recoup its investment and leverage TIL's expertise to enhance the port's efficiency and competitiveness.

TIL, founded in 2000, operates 60

terminals across 31 countries, handling at least 60 million TEUs annually. The company's global reach and experience are expected to bring significant benefits to the Port of Walvis Bay and the Namibian economy.





Retirement fund payouts surge to N\$3.1 billion in Q1 2024

amibia's retirement fund industry continued its upward trajectory, reporting a 2.5% quarter-on-quarter increase and a 10.5% rise year-on-year, reaching a total value of N\$3.1 billion by the end of 31 March 2024.

According to the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority's (NAMFISA) quarterly statistical report, over the past 13 quarters, the total benefits paid have shown considerable fluctuations due to factors such as death, retirement, early withdrawals, and retrenchments.

"During the quarter under review, the industry reported higher instances of withdrawals due to retirement, early withdrawal, disability and death, compared with the previous quarter," said the report.



Are you looking to stay informed about the latest developments in the Namibian business, finance, and economic sectors?

Subscribe to The Brief today and gain access to exclusive content, expert analysis, and in-depth reporting on the issues that matter most to your business.

Scan to subscribe





t f @thebrieflive

The Brief | ISSUE 736 | SEPTEMBER 12 2024

Meanwhile, contributions to the industry also grew by 2.5% quarter-on-quarter and 4.8% year-on-year, amounting to N\$2.7 billion for the quarter ending 31 March 2024.

"The quarterly increase in contributions coincided with salary increments effected by employer groups during the quarter under review," the report noted.

The quick ratio, which measures the proportion of contributions to benefits paid, held steady at 87.6% for the quarter ending 31 March 2024.

"This figure is consistent with the previous

quarter but lower than the 92.4% recorded for the same quarter last year. The quick ratio has remained within the prudential range of 73.5% to 112.1% for 15 of the last 16 quarters," the report highlighted.

Conversely, the current ratio, which compares current assets to current liabilities, fell from 81.0% as of 31 December 2023 to 71.0% by 31 March 2024.

This decline is also below the 74.0% reported a year ago, prompting a need for careful monitoring of liquidity ratios to prevent potential negative impacts.

"The value of retirement fund investment assets saw an increase both quarter-on-

quarter and yearon-year during the first quarter of 2024. This positive trend is attributed to favourable performance in investment markets,"

The geographical allocation of investments shifted during the quarter as investments in the Common Monetary Area (CMA) and Africa collectively made up 17.3% of the total.

"Domestic investments decreased to 48.3%, in line with the 45.0% minimum domestic asset requirement. The remaining of 34.4% investments were held in international markets." said the report.



The Smart City Development Program: A blueprint for urban transformation

By Victor Mutonga

s urban populations continue to grow, cities worldwide are under increasing pressure to improve infrastructure, enhance public services, and promote sustainable development.

In response to this imperative, the Smart City Development Program was established in collaboration with UNDP.

This initiative seeks to transform urban environments into "smart cities" by integrating advanced technologies, datadriven solutions, and innovative practices. The program's ultimate aim is to create urban spaces that are more efficient, sustainable, and liveable, thus enhancing the quality of life for citizens while also fostering economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Definition of a Smart City

A smart city is a city that utilizes technology and data analytics to improve city operations, upgrade urban services, and promote an enhanced quality of life. It intertwines various sectors, including transportation, energy, public services, and waste management, to create an interconnected urban environment that operates more efficiently and sustainably. The Smart City Development Program consolidates diverse projects under a unified strategy, ensuring that all initiatives are aligned with shared goals and that resources are utilized effectively.

Key Objectives of the Smart City Development Program

The Smart City Development Program aims to create a sustainable, efficient, and citizencentric urban environment by focusing on



This initiative seeks to transform urban environments into "smart cities" by

integrating advanced technologies, data-driven solutions, and innovative practices.

the following strategic objectives:

1. Enhancing Urban Mobility:

Improving transportation systems to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance public transit, and promote sustainable mobility solutions, such as electric vehicles and bikesharing schemes.

2. Optimizing Energy Use:

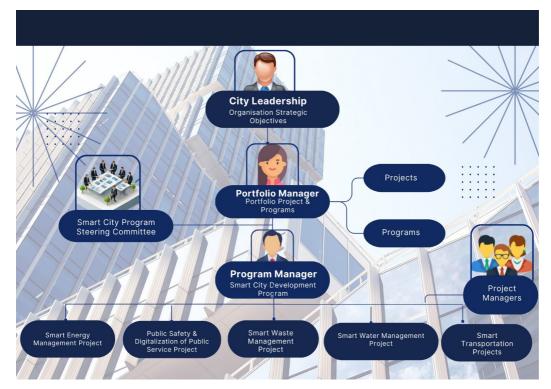
Developing smart energy solutions, including smart grids and renewable energy sources, to establish a more sustainable and resilient urban energy infrastructure.

3. Improving Public Services:

Digitizing public services to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

4. Promoting Environmental Sustainability:

Implementing smart waste management and water conservation systems to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainable practices.



5. Fostering Community Engagement:

Engaging citizens in the development process by leveraging technology to enhance communication, solicit feedback, and encourage participation in city governance.

Program Components (Projects) of the Smart City Development Program

The Smart City Development Program comprises several interconnected projects, each with a specific focus on urban development. These projects have been designed to seamlessly work together in order to achieve the program's overall objectives. Presented below are some of the key projects of the program:

1. Smart Transportation Project:

Objective: Develop an integrated and intelligent transportation system (ITS) that alleviates traffic congestion, enhances public transportation efficiency, and

promotes sustainable mobility. Initiatives include Smart Traffic Management Systems (smart traffic signals), Public Transport Optimization (smart bus stops), and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (charging stations for electric vehicles).

Benefits: Improved mobility, reduced traffic congestion, better air quality, increased utilization of public transportation.

2. Smart Energy Management Project:

Objective: Establish a sustainable and resilient energy system that optimizes energy consumption and integrates renewable energy sources. Initiatives include Smart Grids (deployment of smart grid systems), Renewable Energy Integration (implementation of solar and wind energy solutions), and Energy-Efficient Buildings (retrofitting public buildings with smart energy solutions).

Benefits: Lower energy costs, reduced carbon footprint, enhanced energy security, promotion of renewable energy utilization.

3. Public Safety & Digitalization of Public Services Project:

Objective: Digitize public services to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness to citizens' needs, while also improving public safety within the smart city. Initiatives include E-Governance Platforms, AI-Driven Customer Support, Open Data Portals, Citywide Internet Connectivity, and Public Safety (real-time crime detection and prevention, faster coordinated emergency response, data-driven policing).

Benefits: Increased accessibility and efficiency of public services, improved citizen satisfaction, enhanced transparency

and accountability in government operations, bolstered public safety and security.

4. Smart Waste M a n a g e m e n t Project:

Objective: Improve waste management processes through smart use of technology, thereby enhancing efficiency and sustainability. Initiatives include Smart Waste Bins (bins equipped with sensors that alert waste collection services when full). Waste Management Optimization Software (optimizing waste collection and recycling processes). Recycling Incentive Programs (encouraging recycling and responsible waste disposal).

Benefits: Decreased

waste management costs, increased recycling rates, cleaner urban environment.

5. Smart Water Management Project:

Objective: Enhance water usage and management efficiency in urban areas. Initiatives include Smart Water Meters (realtime water usage monitoring, leak detection, waste reduction), Rainwater Harvesting Systems (rainwater harvesting solutions), and Water Quality Monitoring Systems (ensuring safety and compliance with environmental standards).

Benefits: Reduced water consumption, improved water quality, enhanced resilience in the face of water scarcity.

Each project above will be led and managed by a project manager who then reports to the Program Manager. The



Fly Namibia



with adventure, lifestyle, feel good stories and more.

> READ ONLINE

Manager within Program the Smart City Development Program reports to the Program Governance Board or Program Steering Committee (Same) and primarily the Program Sponsor. The Program Manager is crucial in coordinating and overseeing the successful delivery of multiple projects that contribute to the overall smart city objectives. responsibilities include strategic alignment, stakeholder engagement, resource coordination. coordination project integration management, risk management, change management, cross functional collaboration, and ensuring program benefits are realized.

The role of a Program Management in Smart a City Development Program requiring multifaceted. oversight of diverse projects, engagement with multiple stakeholders. and ensuring that the overarching vision of a smart, connected, and efficient citv is realized. By focusing on strategic alignment, benefits realization, stakeholder coordination, and risk management, Program Management plays a critical role in transforming urban areas into smart, sustainable, and future-ready cities.

The Smart City Development Program exemplifies how program management can effectively be applied to achieve strategic objectives in a complex urban environment. By integrating multiple projects under a unified strategy, cities/organizations can optimize resources, enhance service delivery, and promote development. sustainable The Smart City Development Program is more than just collection of projects-it is a coordinated effort to transform urban spaces into vibrant. sustainable, and technologically advanced environments that improve the quality of life for all citizens. In the Namibian context, the Smart City would be tailored to address local challenges such as energy efficiency, water scarcity, waste management, sustainable housing. digital inclusion. Stay tuned for the next article, where we will dive into how Program Management principles can be applied specifically the Namibian context. We'll explore how structured program management practices can guide the successful implementation of large-scale projects, drive alignment strategic with national goals, and ensure the effective delivery of public services.

*Victor Mutonga is a certified Program and Project Management Professional working for Debmarine Namibia. The views expressed in this article are his own. For inquiries, please contact him at vmutonga@gmail.com

Piloting of one-stop border post begins at Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno

he Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) has implemented a pilot One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno border crossing, which started on 2 September 2024.

The OSBP initiative consolidates border clearance for travellers and goods through a single facility, streamlining procedures between Namibia and Botswana.

According to Tonateni Shidhudhu, Manager of Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagements at NamRA, the OSBP is a major step towards improving border efficiency.

"The OSBP is a border management initiative that streamlines the clearance process for travellers and goods through a single border facility, using harmonised procedures between Namibia and Botswana. This initiative aims to reduce transit time, lower business costs, and improve the efficiency of trade and travel between the two nations," he said.

Shidhudhu also highlighted that this development not only strengthens Namibia's bilateral relations with Botswana but also enhances regional integration.



"This strategic development signifies an important step in strengthening the bilateral relations between Namibia and Botswana while fostering regional integration, enhancing customs operations, and boosting the competitiveness of the Trans-Kalahari



Corridor," he said.

NamRA encouraged all stakeholders, including travellers, transport operators, clearing agents, and businesses, to familiarise themselves with the new procedures.

"We encourage all stakeholders, including

travellers, transport operators, clearing agents, and businesses, to familiarise themselves with the new procedures and take advantage of the improved services available at the Trans-Kalahari One Stop Border Post," he said.





INTRODUCING NEW & RE-APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Their leadership, expertise, and commitment to serve is pivotal in driving our mission forward, and we are excited for this journey of excellence together.

NEW-APPOINTMENT



Loide Shaanika Appointment date: 15 April 2024

Appointing Authority: Namibia National Teachers Union (NANTU)

We are pleased to announce and celebrate Ms. Loide Shaanika's appointment as a Trustee of the GIPF. In her new role, as a Board Member, Shaanika will contribute to the Legal, Governance, Ethics, and Compliance Committee and the Remuneration and Human Resources Committee. This appointment marks an exciting new chapter, and we look forward to the positive impact she brings to GIPF.

RE-APPOINTMENTS



Trustee Appointment Date: 21 January 2024



Nillian Mulemi Trustee

Appointment Date: 14 May 2024



Petrus Nevonga

Appointment Date: 01 July 2024



Search, small data, Al and the shape of things to come

By The Brand Guy

y personal truth is that SEO and search-engine results pages (SERPs) don't influence me much. When I set out for knowledge, the info on a SERP may lead me to click here and there, but the SERP process is slow and I am more likely to actively seek the information I need elsewhere.

SEO is, in my estimation, becoming a low-value standard, a must-have which is necessary but not sufficient. I will only use a SERP to pluck out specifics on a site when I am clear on what I need. If not professional knowledge, I am more likely to head to social media search to find a product that I need.

Use it or lose it... make sure that your social media is on point. Staff and event announcements may bring fleeting awareness and superficial brand engagement but there must be an overt or at least implicit call-to-action (CTA) that has a goal directed result, either in the form of sales, behavioral change or the psychosocial elements of transformation or tribalism.

How am I influenced? The answer lies in small data which is individual to me. It considers my online behavior, the tenor and content of sites I visit, as well as my online purchasing behavior. For instance, I buy e-books that Amazon recommends to me on its site and in emails books based on my previous purchases. Google Cards (swipe left to right on an Android device) knows the type of movies I enjoy that I have interests in cosmology and small-form NUC computing,

The benefit of having relevant content delivered by algorithm, specific to me,

66

SEO is, in my estimation, becoming a low-value standard, a must-have which is necessary but not

sufficient.

outweighs the need for personal privacy. I knowingly train algorithms and use the opportunities that they give me to refine and correct my algorithms.

AI language models (LMs) are currently large language models (LLMs) which use vast data sets to aggregate responses, however there is a shift to the idea of smaller LMs customized to brands or individuals.

The brand / enterprise-specific AI is self-explanatory. Based on prompts these could deliver either brand and product information or in an exclusive instance of AI, internal enterprise information (similar to an intranet) but with the added benefit of productivity support.

An individual AI is more intriguing, the grail of current development. GPT reports (in a response to a query that I gave it), that there is progression towards this goal. The uses would be personal productivity in the workspace, maybe mirroring the internal enterprise AI but, most importantly, pursuits such as personal interests, personal creativity, unique consumption behavior, brands which will earn interest and loyalty and a speculative component of what may or may not become an interest.



Al language models (LMs) are currently large language models (LLMs) which use vast data sets to aggregate responses, however there is a shift to the idea of smaller LMs customized to brands or

The key is 'persistence', the ability of the AI to recognize you and come back with responses that are useful and of interest to you but that also recognize that you evolve and cater to that. For instance, most AI image generators do not recognize and repeat a figure in an image. Characters vary from image to image. The idea of persistence corrects this and will do so on an individual basis for other types of pesonalized information and content.

Persistence is not device specific nor site specific like Android cards or Siri. It will recognize your changing environment, character, personality and biases. Its algorithmic nature will be determined and managed by you.

This is the future of communication and content. It is still unclear how it will roll out and how brands will feed in, but it is the future that faces brand management, one that needs to be prepared for.

*Pierre Mare has contributed to development of several of Namibia's most successful brands. He believes that analytic management techniques beat unreasoned inspiration any day. He is a fearless adventurer who once made Christmas dinner for a Moslem, a Catholic and a Jew. Reach him at contact@pressoffice7.com if you need thought-leadership, strategy and support.



N\$100,000 fine for farm owners without proper fencing proposed

opular Democratic Movement (PDM) Member of Parliament Nico Smit has called for stricter penalties on

farm owners who fail to maintain adequate fencing along public roads.

Smit said poorly maintained fences have

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

For Credible Economic Data And Latest Namibian Business and Finance News.













resulted in numerous accidents, often caused by roaming farm animals.

"There must be a fine for commercial and communal farmers who fail to maintain a proper fence to keep animals away from the roads. The farmer must be held liable for the damage caused to the vehicles and for the lives lost. Therefore, a fine between N\$80,000 and N\$100,000 must be indicated as such in this Bill," Smit said during his contribution on the Roads Bill.

He said farmers must be held liable for the damage caused to vehicles and for the lives lost.

Smit also touched on other critical aspects of the Roads Bill, including the need for clarity regarding the establishment of road boards.

"This Bill needs a series of adjustments that will solve serious issues such as the establishment of road boards, construction works on roads at night, accidents caused by animals of commercial and communal farmers, and issues of 'just' compensation. I therefore call for a review of this Bill," Smit noted.

He proposed that the functions of these boards might be better handled by the Roads Authority rather than creating new, potentially ceremonial bodies.

Smit further highlighted the importance of "just compensation" for landowners whose properties are affected by road construction.

"This Bill must take into consideration the aspect of 'just compensation' because the owners of land where roads are to be constructed deserve fair compensation," he stressed.

In addition to calling for changes in how road construction is managed, Smit advocated for banning construction work on roads during night hours.

He argued that such activities increase the risk of accidents, especially for drivers who may not be aware of ongoing roadwork.

"Construction works on roads at night must be banned as many road users normally get involved in car accidents caused by construction works," Smit said.

Smit further urged the government to reconsider several provisions in the Roads Bill, ensuring that it addresses issues such as road safety and the compensation of landowners.

The Roads Bill remains under consideration as MPs debate potential amendments aimed at improving road safety and ensuring fair compensation for those affected by infrastructure projects.



Commodities Spot Gold 2552.63 Platinum 971.73 Palladium 1029.58 Silver 29.55 Uranium 79.50 Brent Crude 71.77 Iron Ore 85.10 Copper 8974.28 Natural Gas 2.33 Lithium 11.15





NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



13-Sep-24

