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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



NamPower's biomass plant to contribute over N\$200m annually to Oshikoto economy

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

MAIN STORY

NamPower's biomass plant to contribute over N\$200m annually to Oshikoto economy

The Namibia Power Corporation's (NamPower) 40MW Otjikoto Biomass Power Station is set to inject between N\$200 million and N\$245 million annually into the Oshikoto region's economy.

The investment will come from the procurement of wood chips from local farmers and contractors, contributing to the economic growth of the area.

"From an electricity perspective, it will provide grid stability as a base load power plant, running 24 hours a day and meeting nearly 7% of the national power demand. Economically, we anticipate annual fuel purchases of approximately N\$245 million, with escalation," said NamPower's Project Manager Titus Haihambo.

NamPower has signed a loan agreement, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract, and woodchip fuel supply contracts for the 40MW Otjikoto Biomass Power Station.

"Ground-breaking is planned for November. Construction is estimated to take 24 months, with system start-up and commissioning around the second quarter of 2026 and commercial operations commencing in early 2027," Haihambo said.

Furthermore, NamPower has signed agreements with the four fuel harvesters with a seven-year term, ensuring a stable supply of wood chips.

"One harvester is allocated 30,000 tons per year, while the other three are each allotted



50,000 tons," Haihambo explained.

Haihambo further explained that the short-term fuel supply strategy, still under development, will include contributions

Crucial Dates

- Global African Hydrogen Summit (GAh2S)
Windhoek, Namibia from 03 – 05 September 2024
- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
16 October 2024
4 December 2024
- Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises,
Ipumbu Shiimi to deliver 2024/25 Mid-Year
Budget Review on October 28, 2024.

From an electricity perspective, it will provide grid stability as a base load power plant, running 24 hours a day and meeting nearly 7% of the national power demand.

from communal areas and small to medium enterprises.

"The 180,000 tons we've allocated are designated for long-term fuel supplies, while the remainder will go to short-term suppliers. Additionally, we have secured grant funding of €4 million to support harvesting activities in compliance with FSC standards," he said.

He added that allocations for these suppliers will vary between 2,000 and 7,000 tons, pending final strategy approval.

"To ease the investment load for smaller enterprises, NamPower will manage on-site chipping," Haihambo said.

The 40 megawatts biomass power station aims to yield around N\$21 billion in microeconomic and macroeconomic benefits.

"The Otjikoto Biomass Power Station offers significant social and economic benefits. It will create jobs, support resettlement farms, and contribute to local and national economic growth," said Haihambo.

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Namibia's grape production registers highest growth globally

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS: PENETRATION TESTING, INCIDENT RESPONSE SIMULATION, AND THREAT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Letshego Holdings Namibia is seeking proposals from technology partners for Penetration Testing, Incident Response Simulation Exercises, and Threat Intelligence services.

Interested parties can obtain the detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) document, which outlines the project requirements and expectations, by contacting Letshego's Security Team at itsupportna@letshego.com. Please address your inquiries to Naky Naris, by **Tuesday, 24 September 2024**.



Namibia's table grape production increased 1,550% to 37,927.67 tonnes in 2024 from 2,298 tonnes in 1995, attributed to the country's favourable climate, an official has revealed.

According to Bank of Namibia's Director of Research and Financial Sector Development, Emma Haiyambo, the growth is the highest growth rate in the world in the last three decades despite logistical hurdles that exist in the export of the commodity.

She said the growth is supported by Namibia's favourable climate, particularly in southern regions, which has positioned it as a prime producer of high-quality table grapes—a significant agricultural commodity that contributes notably to economic output and foreign currency earnings.

“So according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the data actually shows that Namibia has had the highest growth in grape

The grape industry is the largest employer in the region, with another key production area located north of the Orange River at the Hardap Irrigation Scheme in South Central Namibia.

production in the world over the past three decades,” she said.

She further explained that despite Walvis Bay’s potential as a strategic export hub for Namibian and South African table grape growers, the significant distance to major markets remains a substantial logistical challenge

“However, distance poses a significant challenge. For instance, the distance from Walvis Bay is 911 kilometers, compared to just 734 kilometres from Aussenkehr to Cape Town. This distance issue needs to be addressed to enhance export efficiency,” she said.

She added that currently, approximately 2,270 hectares of land in Namibia is dedicated to table grape cultivation, making the industry a crucial employer in the region.

The Hardap Irrigation Scheme, located north of the Orange River in South Central Namibia, is one of the key areas for grape production, showcasing the country’s agricultural potential.

“The grape industry is the

largest employer in the region, with another key production area located north of the Orange River at the Hardap Irrigation Scheme in South Central Namibia. Table grapes are a significant agricultural commodity, playing a vital role in the country’s economy,” she said.

This comes as in June, the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) reported a 19% increase in table grape exports, totalling N\$1.7 billion in value during the last harvest season.

NAB CEO Fidelis Mwazi highlighted that the board inspected 9.3 million cartons to ensure quality control and uphold Namibia’s strong position in the international market.

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Namibia rises to 8th position in Africa’s startup ecosystem rankings



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The vacancy below is now available at Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter

Position: IT Service Desk Specialist

The incumbent will report to the **Manager: Service Desk & Delivery** and will be accountable for:

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Ensure all Legal, Health, Safety and Environment standards and policies are adhered to.
- Lead by example through compliance with the company purpose and values.
- Record all incoming calls and requests, ensuring capturing of all required information into the help Desk Incident Management Database.
- Monitor user calls in progress and provide resolution.
- Identify, diagnose and troubleshoot computer and software issues to either solve directly or identify the appropriate IT solution.
- Resolve problems using electronic tools, manuals and technical support documentation.
- Perform industrial systems and applications administration and ongoing maintenance.
- Drive infrastructure hardware lifecycle management – hardware maintenance, capacity management and timely replacement.
- Identify problems with IT services requests, categorizes and describe user requests and ensure processes and procedures are adhered to.
- Identify and suggest areas of improvement to the supervisor.
- Supply second level technology support to end users and contractors.
- Provide training and information to end users to ensure understanding and compliance with safety protocols.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- A Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (IT) or related.
- Knowledge of IT frameworks such as ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) and COBIT.
- A minimum of 3 years of working experience in IT field.
- Working knowledge of helpdesk tools, database infrastructure and mobile devices.
- Proven experience in computer networks, information systems and Cyber Security.
- Experience in operating main types of technical, software and network tools.
- A valid Driver's license: Code B.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2024, AT 16H00

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Applicants, who are not contacted within two weeks after the closing date, should consider their application unsuccessful. The recruitment process will be administered as prescribed by Namibian Affirmative Action Act. Women and person with disability are encouraged to apply. Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All applications meeting the minimum requirements must be accompanied by a non-returnable detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of qualifications and identification documents. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for and should be sent as one PDF attachment. Applications not adhering to these rules will not be considered. Please forward application to the email: strecruitment3@sinomine.na

Namibia's startup ecosystem has continued to thrive, securing the 8th position in Africa on the 2024 Startup Blink Global Startup Ecosystem Index.

This marks a significant improvement over the previous year, surpassing Ghana and Tunisia, which rank 9th and 10th, respectively.

The annual index evaluates startup ecosystems worldwide, considering factors such as the number of startups, their growth, and the overall infrastructure supporting entrepreneurship.

"Namibia maintains its positive trend over the last three years. Namibia's positive trend continues for the third consecutive year, with a total climb of 12 places since first joining the Index in 2021," said the Index.

Furthermore, Windhoek, surged by 35 spots to rank at 616th, extending its positive

trend over the last three years, totalling a climb of 240 spots within the global top 1,000.

"Windhoek dropped one place in Africa, now ranking 23rd, above Zambia's Lusaka and Cape Verde's Praia, which are ranked 24th and 25th, respectively," it said.

In terms of the start-ups, the index looked, at Jabu Logistics, based in Windhoek leads the rankings with a 332 SB Score in the e-commerce and retail sector.

Lynkwise, a fintech company also located in Windhoek, follows with a 212 SB Score. Another fintech company, FundRoof, holds a 133 SB Score.

In the marketing and sales sector, Dollar from Windhoek has a 73 SB Score, while Paratus, specializing in Hardware & IoT, rounds out the list with a 71 SB Score.

The index highlights that the Namibian startup ecosystem offers local entrepreneurs a secure and stable environment that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in the region.

The main challenges for Namibian startup ecosystems are the lack of physical infrastructure, heavy bureaucracy, low access to market, and low levels of funding for startups.

"There is also work to be done in developing sufficient entrepreneurial talent in Namibia, especially given the country's small population. Yet, the country achieved a milestone in 2022 with YC-backed JabuPay, a startup that became the first in the country to raise Series A investment," the index noted.

The index commended the Namibia



5th Women

Road Safety Conference

**Theme: "Women at the wheel
- Bridging the gender gap in Road Safety"**

Date: 23th - 24th September 2024 | **Venue:** NIPAM, Windhoek- Namibia

Join us for the 5th Edition of the Women in Road Safety Conference

Be part of this transformative event where innovative leaders and passionate advocates come together to drive road safety forward.



Rosalia Martins-Hausiku,
Chief Executive Officer,
MVA Fund

"Safety is the bridge between life and loss. And with more women at the forefront of road safety, that bridge is getting stronger every day."



Hileni Tjivikua,
Managing Director,
Automobile Association of Namibia

"Embrace every journey with safety in mind – let every moment be safe for you and others."



Tuhafeni Shilongo,
Chairperson,
Women in Road Safety Forum

"Women leading the way in road safety can inspire a culture of responsibility and protection for all."

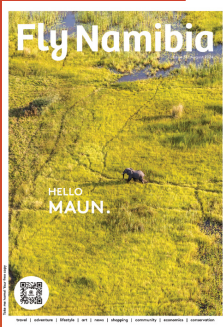


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Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), highlighting that it plays a key role in advancing Namibian startup ecosystems through initiatives and partnerships, such as with Sanlam, to support local entrepreneurs.

"Similarly, Startup Namibia aims to improve the conditions for the establishment and growth of startups in selected regions of Namibia, runs an incubation and innovation center called Basecamp, and works with the Digital Transformation Center on challenges for digital startups and enhancing digital skills," the index added.

Meanwhile, another public sector organization that helps the growth of the startup ecosystem is the

Namibia Investment Center which provides assistance and information to foreign investors.

Private sector organizations are also active in the ecosystem. For instance, Impact Tank, Namibia's first social impact venture builder, promotes social entrepreneurship to create sustainable impact.

"The organisations we mentioned above are critical players to develop the startup ecosystem in the country, but the Namibian startup ecosystem is still in its very early stages. However, its seed activity is promising. More success stories and a stronger entrepreneurship network can help Namibia become a regional innovation hub in the future," said the index.

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2024

REGISTRATION

Ticket Information

- Conference Only: N\$ 2500
- Gala Dinner Only: N\$ 1000
- Conference & Gala Dinner: N\$ 3200
- Exhibitors: N\$ 1500 (includes access to the summit)
- Early Bird Special:

Register before 15 September 2024 for a combined ticket at N\$ 3000

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Namibia needs to locally produce fertiliser for agriculture self-reliance

The Bank of Namibia's Director of Research and Financial Sector Development, Emma Haiyambo, says the country needs a national fertiliser production strategy to reduce production costs and compete globally.

She said by producing fertilisers domestically, Namibia could not only reduce its reliance on costly imports but also strengthen its agricultural value chain.

Haiyambo said this would enable farmers to access affordable, high-quality inputs, thereby improving productivity across various agricultural industries.

According to Haiyambo, the global market for agricultural products has become more competitive and Namibia's dependence on foreign fertilisers continues to hinder its progress towards agricultural self-reliance.

"And there are significant input costs, such as seeds and fertilisers. It may be time for Namibia to seriously consider producing its own fertilisers. These challenges must be addressed if the agricultural sector is to meet its full potential and deliver the results expected," she said.

She further explained that Namibia's agricultural sector is burdened by high manufacturing and transportation costs, as well as import tariffs on electricity and water. These factors further weaken the competitiveness of Namibian agriculture on the global stage.

"There is also the issue of high manufacturing costs compared to neighbouring countries, compounded by the rising import costs of electricity and water. Additionally, high transportation expenses to markets and inadequate



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There are other challenges affecting the agricultural sector, such as delays in the implementation of key regulations and bills.

storage facilities, particularly along the agro-processing supply chain, further burden the sector," she said.

However, addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reform. She said that delays in implementing crucial bills, such as the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill and the Special Economic Zone Bill, have deterred potential investors.



2025/26 NAMIBIA HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY: PILOT SURVEY

30 September - 20 October 2024

Selected areas for Pilot Survey

Regions:	Constituency	Specific areas
Erongo	Swakopmund	Ocean view (Streets are Sandpaper, Goswk, Sharewater, Plover, Emerald, Stick and Onyx).
Hardap	Mariental urban	Commercial Farms behind the Hardap Green Schemas
Zambezi	Kabbe South	Kasika area
Kavango West	Ncamangoro	Ncamangoro: Farms and Kaukuvisa West, Kulimina, Sihova and Mukuta
Kunene	Epupa	Otjihende, Oukavatye, Ombitisaori, Oruyombo, Oozonduuombe, Otjite, Okomukandi and Owakapaue
Khomas	Windhoek East	Ludwigsdorp (streets: Maria, Karin, Lanie, Gloudina, Qenta and Lyona Street).
Omusati	Oshikuku	Outapi
Omaheke	Kalahari	Commercial farms on the road to Drimopsis

Without swift action, she said the sector risks falling further behind, especially as other countries advance their agricultural technologies and policies.

"There are other challenges affecting the agricultural sector, such as delays in the implementation of key regulations and bills. These delays make it difficult to attract investors to the country and the sector. For example, the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill and the Special Economic Zone Bill are crucial pieces of legislation that have yet to be fully implemented. We hope to see efforts to expedite the adoption of these and other important measures," she said.



WFP seeks N\$228 million to tackle Namibia’s escalating hunger crisis

The World Food Programme (WFP) has launched an urgent appeal for N\$228 million (US\$13 million) to address Namibia’s growing food insecurity crisis. According to a release by the WFP, while N\$17.57 million (US\$1 million) has already

been secured, it still requires 93% of the total N\$228 million to fully implement the program and alleviate the escalating hunger crisis. Without urgent support, Namibia’s most vulnerable populations will face dire

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conditions in the months ahead.

“WFP Namibia requires US\$14 million to support affected populations, of which US\$1 million has been secured. An additional US\$13 million (93% of the total need) is still required to fully meet the urgent needs,” the WFP said.

An estimated 1.26 million Namibians—41% of the population—are expected to face severe hunger during the October 2024 to March 2025 lean season.

Among these, 100,000 people will be in IPC4, the emergency phase of food insecurity.

This alarming figure is nearly double the number recorded the previous year, with 695,000 people affected at that time.

WFP Namibia plans to support 274,000 people through nutrition assistance, using value and commodity vouchers to reach those most in need.

INVITATION TO BIDS

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) was established to provide retirement benefits to employees in the services of the Namibian Government and other participating public institutions. The Fund's membership includes active members and a variety of annuitants. The Government Institutions Pension Fund's mission is to safeguard and grow the Fund for the benefit of its stakeholders and Namibia.

GIPF hereby invites qualified, competent, and registered companies to submit bids for the under-mentioned:



GIPF
Government Institutions
Pension Fund

To guard, and to grow.

Bid Number	Bid Description	Non-refundable Document Fee	Enquiries	Closing Date
CS/EOI/GIPF-03/2024	Audit Assignment – Investment Management Process Review	Free	Elton Job E: ejob@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1210	08 October 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
G/ONB/GIPF-03/2024	NetApp Malware Protection	N\$300	Julia Shipanga E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1745	09 October 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
G/ONB/GIPF-04/2024	Upgrading of Executive Boardroom Technology	N\$300	Julia Shipanga E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1745	10 October 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
G/ONB/GIPF-05/2024	Re-advertisement: Artificial Intelligence Intrusion Detection and Prevention Software	N\$300	Gisela Naris E: gnaris@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1746	11 October 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Details of Bid Submission:
Sealed bids citing the bid number and detailing the services to be rendered should be posted or hand delivered to:

The Chairperson: GIPF Procurement Committee
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PENSION FUND
GIPF House, Ground Floor, Reception
Corner of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda and Goethe Street
P.O. Box 23500
Windhoek, Namibia

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Visit: www.gipf.com.na Email: info@gipf.com.na



Our mental health ebbs and flows like the oceans

By Dr. John Steytler

October is World Mental Health Month; the United Nations believes our mental health is important enough to dedicate a whole month to. The moment you mention mental health, people feel uneasy or have preconceived misconceptions.

The UN wants to combat this, and it sees it as an opportunity to have conversations about mental health. I am wholeheartedly in support of this. We should discuss this topic in Namibia, not just in October but every month. However, starting with a dedicated month is a good starting point. I am certainly not a mental healthcare provider; this is just how I approach my mental health.

When I think about mental health and how it affects people, I like to think of our mental health as an ocean. Our mental health is constantly in flux, much like our oceans. There is an ebb and flow to the oceans because of the tide and the moon. The lunar aspect has always been connected to mental health in some way. Often not in a positive manner. Just look at the words for lunatic and lunacy. People for centuries believed that the Moon impacted some people's mental health. Those theories have, of course, been debunked. This does, however, not change the comparison I like to make between oceans and mental health.

Our oceans are vast and connected, impacting each other through their currents, weather patterns, climate, and the ebb and flow of their tides. Our mental health has vast depths, we as humans have periods of tranquility and calmness. This peace and serenity can be disturbed by outside forces that impact our mental health; they



When I think about mental health and how it affects people, I like to think of our mental health as an ocean.

can trigger waves of grief, angst, anger, or depression. Storms on the ocean can be ferocious, cause massive container ships to be tossed around like matchsticks, and require the crew to batten down the hatches and ride out the storm. Once the storm has passed, the ocean is often as smooth as a snooker table, and one would never know the havoc the storm caused just a few hours before.

I firmly believe we can compare our mental health to the oceans and the seas. We usually go with the flow; our mental health is in balance, and there seems to be no great disturbance in the tidal pattern of our mental health. However, sometimes a storm appears, the tide changes, and our mental health is off balance. The disturbance inside our brain's equilibrium can feel like a storm raging that seems endless. Having the tools to batten down the hatches inside your mind is essential. You need a support system that helps you through the eye of the storm and lets you get safely to the other side, where peace, calmness, and tranquility once again rule your mind.

This is easier said than done. It means asking for assistance or knowing who to turn to when your mind is in this state. It requires trust in those around you. Companies should

Stay informed about Energy sector in Namibia




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have wellness professionals who are trained to recognize and deal with mental health issues. Just as an employer gives time off for physical health issues, mental health issues should be given the same consideration.

The oceans are a force of nature and must be given the respect they deserve; otherwise, they will cause unimaginable damage in one moment and be smooth and serene the next. If we don't address and treat our mental health with the respect it deserves, we will cause lasting damage to ourselves and possibly those around us. The ebb and flow of oceans mirrors the ebb and flow of our mental health. Let's keep that in mind this October and find the 'Sea of Tranquility' within us with the help of those around us.

****Written by Dr. John Steytler in his personal capacity***



Reconnaissance Energy Namibia (REN), a subsidiary of ReconAfrica – a Canadian oil and gas company, specializes in oil & gas and currently exploring for conventional oil and gas in the Kavango East and West Regions of Namibia.

REN is expanding and has an opportunity for a **Supply Chain Manager – Rundu based Position**. Reporting to the REN Vice President Country General Manager ("VP & CGM") and the Company man.

Job Title: Supply Chain Manager

Job Overview:
The Supply Chain Manager will be responsible for developing and managing the supply chain strategy to ensure the efficient and cost-effective delivery of materials and services required for our operations. This role involves coordinating with various departments, suppliers, and logistics partners to optimize the supply chain process, improve operational efficiency, and ensure timely delivery of goods and services.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Supply Chain Strategy:** Develop and implement supply chain strategies and processes to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance overall performance. Align supply chain activities with company goals and objectives.
- **Vendor Management:** Identify, evaluate, and manage relationships with suppliers and contractors. Negotiate contracts, terms, and pricing to ensure favorable conditions and quality standards.
- **Inventory Management:** Oversee inventory levels to ensure optimal stock levels are maintained. Implement inventory control practices to minimize excess inventory and reduce carrying costs.
- **Logistics Coordination:** Manage logistics operations, including transportation, warehousing, and distribution. Ensure timely and accurate delivery of materials and equipment to support operational needs.
- **Procurement:** Oversee the procurement process, including sourcing, purchasing, and managing supply orders. Ensure that procurement activities are conducted in compliance with company policies and industry regulations.
- **Process Improvement:** Analyze supply chain performance and identify areas for improvement. Implement best practices and process enhancements to streamline operations and improve overall efficiency.
- **Budget Management:** Develop and manage the supply chain budget. Monitor expenditures and financial performance, ensuring cost-effective practices while meeting operational requirements.
- **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Work closely with other departments, including Operations, Engineering, and Finance, to ensure alignment of supply chain activities with overall business objectives. Provide support and coordination for project-specific supply chain needs.
- **Risk Management:** Identify potential risks in the supply chain and develop mitigation strategies. Monitor and address supply chain disruptions and challenges to minimize impact on operations.

Qualifications:

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in supply chain management, Business Administration, Engineering, or a related field. Professional certifications (e.g., APICS, CPM) are highly desirable.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 7-10 years of experience in supply chain management, with at least 3-5 years in a managerial role within the oil and gas industry or a similar sector.
- **Skills:** Strong knowledge of supply chain processes, logistics, procurement, and inventory management. Excellent negotiation, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Proficiency in supply chain management software and ERP systems.
- **Leadership:** Proven leadership abilities with experience in managing teams and cross-functional projects. Strong communication and interpersonal skills to effectively interact with internal and external stakeholders.
- **Technical Aptitude:** Ability to analyze complex data and make informed decisions. Familiarity with industry regulations and standards related to supply chain operations.

ReconAMIBIA offers a market-related total cost to company package based on work experience and qualification. Please note that certified copies of qualifications and identification documents should be attached to your application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and no documents will be returned.

As per Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, Act 29 of 1998, Namibian Citizens from disadvantaged groups and persons with disabilities will receive preferential treatment and are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV and application letter to Florencia.s@ReconAfrica.com

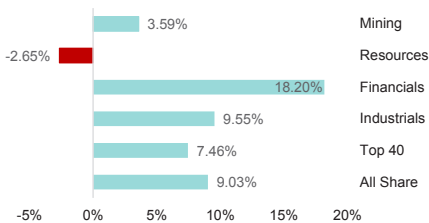
Closing date: 02 October 2024



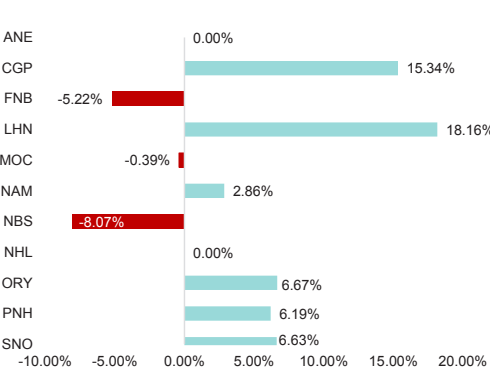
Commodities	
Spot Gold	2615.88
Platinum	980.42
Palladium	1077.80
Silver	31.12
Uranium	79.50
Brent Crude	74.50
Iron Ore	88.31
Copper	9429.22
Natural Gas	2.36
Lithium	11.15

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	17.5170
EUR/ZAR	19.5197
GBP/ZAR	23.2611
USD/CNY	7.0527
EUR/USD	1.1144
GBP/USD	1.3283
USD/RUB	92.6117
CPI	4.40%
Repo Rate	7.50%
Prime Rate	11.25%

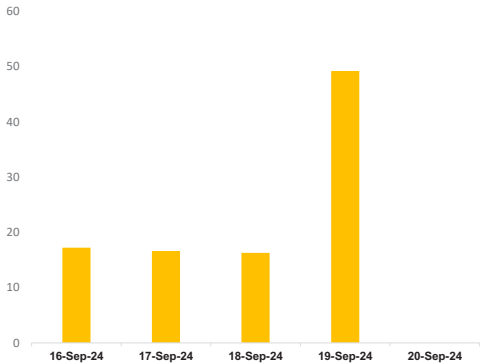
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

