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THE BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Govt moves to clear Meatco's N\$212 million DBN debt

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MAIN STORY

Govt moves to clear Meatco's N\$212 million DBN debt

The Ministry of Finance has proposed an allocation of N\$212 million in the 2025/26 financial year to settle the Meat Corporation of Namibia's (Meatco) outstanding loan with the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) and to enhance the corporation's operational liquidity.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah, presenting the budget motivation in Parliament, said the funding is aimed at stabilising Meatco's financial position.

"The allocation is intended to fully settle Meatco's obligation with DBN and strengthen its operational liquidity," said Shafudah.

In addition to the loan settlement, Meatco is set to receive a further N\$100 million in direct funding to support its operations.

"Meatco is set to receive N\$100 million, which provides liquidity for operational needs, enhances competitiveness, and improves market access in the meat and agricultural sector," the Minister said.

Shafudah said the government's intervention seeks to improve Meatco's performance in the agricultural value chain. "This support aims to enhance competitiveness and improve market access in the meat and agricultural sector," she added.

The Ministry has earmarked a total of N\$2.5 billion in the upcoming financial year for statutory transfers, capital injections



Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
 - * 18 June 2025
 - * 13 August 2025
 - * 15 October 2025
 - * 3 December 2025

Meatco is set to receive N\$100 million, which provides liquidity for operational needs, enhances competitiveness, and improves market access in the meat and agricultural sector.

to selected public enterprises, and the establishment of a National Youth Fund.

This latest intervention comes after Meatco secured a N\$200 million loan facility from DBN in 2023, backed by a government guarantee.

At the time, Meatco was reportedly unable to pay 245 commercial livestock farmers a combined N\$320 million for cattle supplied to its abattoirs—an issue flagged in an organisational review conducted by consultancy firm Ombu Capital.

Former Finance Minister Iipumbu Shiimi had explained that the loan was intended to allow Meatco to meet its obligations to farmers and contribute to growth in the agriculture sector.

In the 2024/25 budget, government similarly allocated N\$212 million to Meatco to settle contingent liabilities and support its financial stabilisation.

Over the past four years, the state has channelled over N\$1 billion in subsidies to Meatco. However, concerns continue to mount over the viability of the meat processor’s turnaround strategy, developed in 2023.

Shiimi last year voiced government’s dissatisfaction with the strategy, insisting that Meatco must become self-sustaining. “As a commercial entity, Meatco is expected to generate its own revenue and should not rely indefinitely on state subsidies,” he said at the time.



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ORIGINAL THINKING

ens.



SAA adds third daily Johannesburg–Windhoek flight to meet rising demand

South African Airways (SAA) will introduce a third daily flight between Johannesburg and Windhoek from 1 May 2025, in response to growing demand for air connectivity between the two cities.

The airline announced that the new service, Flight SA076, will depart Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) at 15:00, complementing the existing SA070 at 05:45 and SA074 at 09:05. From Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport (WDH), the new

return flight SA077 will depart at 17:45, adding to the current schedule of SA071 at 08:30 and SA075 at 11:55.

The additional frequency has been welcomed by Air Connect Namibia, which described the move as a boost for tourism, business travel, and regional collaboration.

“This is a positive step forward for Namibia, as we continue to pursue increased international connectivity and easy air access,” said Bisey /Uirab, Chairperson of Air Connect Namibia and

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CEO of the Namibia Airports Company (NAC).

“With this new flight, we can expect to see an uptick in both inbound and outbound travel, which is essential for the development of our country’s aviation sector.”

/Uirab added that each new tourist adds approximately N\$4,200 to the Namibian economy, emphasising that the increase in flights could lead to tangible benefits for the country.

“We are really excited to witness strong growth in passenger numbers, which we believe will drive tourism’s contribution to the national economy—not only in monetary terms but in real, tangible jobs, because tourism is everybody’s business,” he said.

“We at the Namibia Airports Company are extremely privileged to be part of such positive change.”

According to Air Connect Namibia, Johannesburg remains Windhoek’s

largest source market for travellers and the expanded schedule is expected to support high demand while unlocking further growth in key sectors such as tourism and aviation.

Air Connect Namibia, which was established in 2024, is a joint initiative led by the Namibia Airports Company in partnership with entities such as Gondwana Collection, the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), Walvis Bay Corridor Group, Namibia Tourism Board (NTB), and the City of Windhoek. The initiative is focused on improving air access to Namibia and supporting international carriers operating within the country.

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- Entities that have 5 years or more experience within the mining and/or dozing environment/s

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Email: elizabeth.markowitz@namdeb.com
Tel.: +264 (63) 238 502

The Tender Enquiry documents will be shared with all entities that meet the above qualifying criteria

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A compulsory Virtual Site Visit shall be conducted on **Monday, 19th May 2025**, at **10H00**. **Only Tenderers who attend the Site Visit shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.**

SUBMISSIONS

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to **tender@namdeb.com**
The closing date and time for submissions is: **Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 14h00**.

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Govt plans to spend N\$7.2 billion on social grants

The Ministry of Finance has proposed an allocation of N\$7.2 billion towards social grants for the 2025-2026 financial year under Vote 09 of the Appropriation Bill.

Presenting the motivation for the budget allocation, Minister of Finance Eriqah Shafudah said the programme aims to improve payment systems for social grants by investing in automation and efficiency.

“The investment supports the delivery of social protection to the most vulnerable, reinforcing the government’s commitment to equity and inclusive growth,” Shafudah stated.

The proposed funding includes N\$3.7 billion for Old-Age Grants, N\$47.8 million for Funeral Benefits, and N\$65.8 million for the Conditional Basic Income Grant.

Other allocations include N\$877 million

for Vulnerable Grants, N\$36.9 million for Foster Care Grants, N\$417 million for

TENDER



Namclear hereby invites qualified vendors to participate in the below Request for Proposal:

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR): NC02/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (“RFP”) FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT TO FACILITATE NAMCLEAR’S STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS & DRAFTING OF A 3-YEAR PLAN

The complete Terms of Reference (TOR) can be requested via email and must also be submitted electronically to the same address.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, 09 MAY 2025 AT 12H00 PM

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Maintenance Grants, N\$955 million for Disability Grants for Adults, and N\$152 million for Disability Grants for Minors.

Turning to youth development, Shafudah announced a proposed N\$257 million allocation for the establishment and operationalisation of the National Youth Fund.

“This initiative reflects government’s commitment to creating sustainable economic opportunities for the youth and driving inclusive growth through strategic public investment,” she said.

The Fund, still under policy development,

will outline eligibility criteria, governance structures, and funding modalities before the end of the current financial year.

On infrastructure, the Ministry’s Development Budget for 2025/26 proposed N\$87.7 million. Of this, N\$59 million will be used to finalise the establishment of a One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Trans-Kalahari Border Post. Feasibility studies for OSBPs at Katima Mulilo and Oshikango are also planned.

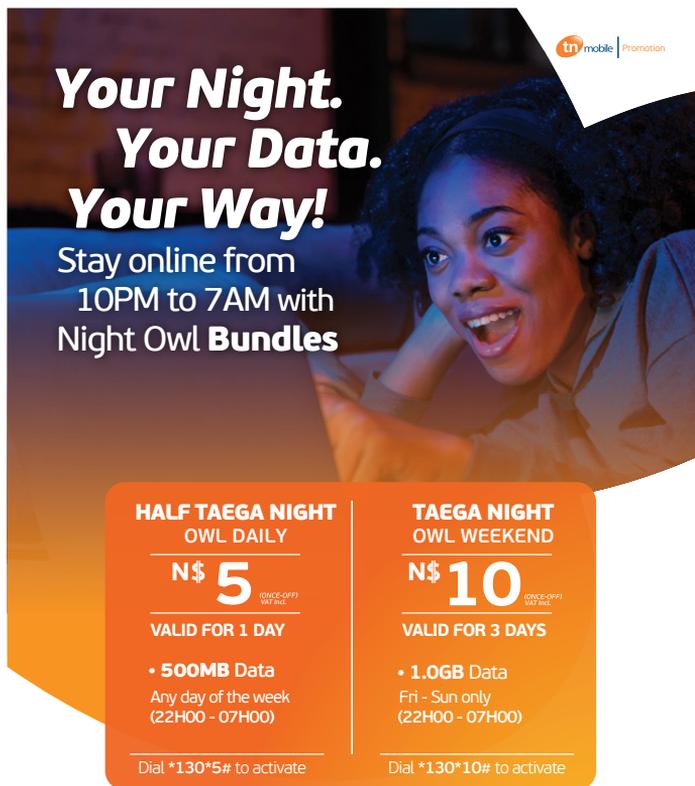
“In addition, an amount of N\$28.8 million has been proposed to support feasibility studies for the renovation and upgrading of strategic airports across the country,” Shafudah noted.

The airports targeted include Lüderitz and Walvis Bay, aiming to position Namibia to capitalise on opportunities from the growing green hydrogen industry.

She noted that further studies will assess the development needs at Rundu and Katima Mulilo airports to boost regional air connectivity and tourism.

Shafudah also announced that a feasibility study will be conducted for the development of a second passenger terminal at Hosea Kutako International Airport.

“This will ensure that we are adequately prepared to meet increasing passenger volumes and to enhance the efficiency and quality of service at our primary international gateway,” she said.



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Macroeconomic innovation and creative industries to be the centre holder

By Tio Nakasole

The year 2025 is inscribed as a watershed moment in history not only for Namibia but for the world at large. It kickstarts with superpowers, the United States and China, at loggerheads due to new tariff arrangements. Presently, both reports released in April by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund cautioned of future tighter financial conditions and heightened economic policy uncertainty.

Admittedly, these elevated risks and uncertainty stem from the recent geopolitical tensions, particularly larger-than-expected tariffs by the United States and retaliatory measures by other nations.

As the saying goes, "When two elephants fight, only the grass will suffer." The AGOA alliances are feeling the pinch as they do not only rely on America for export, but to make the matter worse, the exportation of these resources is in raw form, which in return adds little value to the upliftment of domestic economies.

Lessons learned: no nation can sustain itself and its civilization without a right national innovation blueprint focused



As a country with a national budget of 106.3 billion, how do we steadily get ready to capitalize on some of our tools in our toolbox to recalibrate and offset these predicaments?

on guiding us to manage the vicissitudes and paradoxes of internal and external notoriety.

Due to this great argumentation and economic rancor, it reveals that many states will be susceptible to stifling economic growth in the year 2025.

As a country with a national budget of 106.3 billion, how do we steadily get ready to capitalize on some of our tools in our toolbox to recalibrate and offset these predicaments? Among others, macroeconomic innovation and creative industries can be one of our grand



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strategies.

CONSTELLATION OF LEADING ECONOMIES

As a frame of reference, Singapore embarked on a journey of digital economy, smart cities, and sustainable infrastructure; South Korea dove into the space of advanced manufacturing, AI, and robotics; Germany has been the guarantor of the fourth industrialization and green energy; and the United States has championed the aerospace industry.

Over the past years, economists have indicated that fifty percent of the United States' annual economic growth has been attributed to increases in innovation. With a skyrocketing number of youth unemployed, doing nothing in the creative and innovative industry will be a monumental mistake in a small population country like Namibia.

One may think that “we will never be able to produce better automobiles than Germany or better electronics than Japan” and then give up there, but with the right attitude of the great economist David Ricardo, there will always be something that each country can make that people within the nation and even people in other countries will want to buy.

As a matter of principle, no person and no country can make everything, and additionally, human beings have limited needs, but they have unlimited wants, so they will always be seeking additional products. The question will be who will service this untapped market. Definitely, there will always be some goods or services of value that a country like Namibia can create profitably, and that is what is needed momentarily to boost the national economy of a country like Namibia, whose main drivers of the economy are the mining industries, which are risky due to commodity price volatility.

STONE AGE

The evolution of innovation in Namibia began in the precolonial era of the nineteenth century. During that time, innovation and creativity were mainly expressed through indigenous technologies, craftsmanship, leatherwork, pottery, traditional medicine, and leatherwork and clothing. This creative and innovative group was hugely respected for their survival and for barter trade to individuals in affording what they can produce or make.

Thereafter, Namibia takes another center stage of dominating in beautiful stones, which Zackarias Lewala discovered on 14 April 1908, known as diamonds.

Little did we know about him is about “a man who entered history but not much more; the man had nothing of his find, no one paid him for it or showed any kind of gratitude.”

From an elementary stage, the question is how the government, through the Ministry of Education, Sport, Youth, and Culture, can instill good teaching through a school curriculum in order to maximize both production capacity and innovation.

In the pre- and post-twentieth century, China embarked on what is called production management, which catapulted production, and as a result, China is now among the global leaders in the economy. As much as we had Vision 2030, which is a few years from now, scaling up on innovation and creative industries may be comparatively more arduous if lately taken seriously. Namibia needs to craft a long-term vision that is not only wild-sounding but also a journey and a dream to be lived by all.

DELUSIONAL

Most of the developing countries made peace with the fact that the many

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traditional products, such as arts and crafts, that they have produced and sold through the centuries have not been able to sustain their need for economic growth. Even if people in these countries already know how to make these things, if these traditional products were going to bring the country from the drift of poverty to the high height of prosperity, we could have already done so already.

One would argue that there was not a sufficient demand for these products on the world market. However, lack of demand strongly suggests that as a country, you must change what you are doing and pursue other opportunities. It is time to find other products for which people in other countries will be able to pay a good price.

A good example is Japan. The people of Japan had not “traditionally” worked in automobile manufacturing plants producing high-precision products using modern technology. Given its past geographical nature, many of them had been rural farmers.

However, they abandoned their traditional occupations and learned to work in automobile factories. The same thing happened with electronics manufacturing in Taiwan.

This nation began to thrive.

The question is not what a country has traditionally made, but what value addition to a product it can make for the local and world market. Since no two trees will ever be the same, we as a country do not need to drop the ball on certain sectors, but the government needs to have an agency that explores the nascent field of innovation and creative industries, in tandem ensuring the capacitation of local content in the emerging industries in the country.

In conclusion, in order for us to weather the storm of global economic fracturing, Namibia need to activate national innovation blueprint and its precepts to play its reliable part as the kingpin of the emerging industries. As a result, this will create an environment where economies can grow sustainably, reduce inequality, and adapt to changing global conditions.

In organic terms, Namibia needs to become mature in the area of innovation, creative space, and value addition to drive growth from within to sustain itself in perpetuity.

****Tio Nakasole is an analyst at MONASA Advisory and Associates. The views expressed do not represent those of his employer. - theorastus@gmail.com.***



Namibia to create 3,600 jobs through global accelerator project

Namibia is set to roll out the Global Accelerator project during the current financial year, aiming to generate over 3,600 jobs through the biomass sector and other sustainable industries.

This was revealed on Tuesday by Minister of Justice and Labour, Fillemon Wise Immanuel, as part of the Ministry’s strategic priority to expand labour market services and enhance skills development.

“Our work through the Department is to ensure that every Namibian, regardless of their background, can access decent work, fair compensation, and safe working conditions—while simultaneously fostering an environment where businesses can

thrive, innovate, and create more jobs,” Immanuel said.

In 2023, Namibia was selected by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a pathfinder country under the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. It was also identified as a pilot country for the ILO’s initiative to minimise disparities in the workplace.

This comes as Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare announced that 630 youth, selected from all 14 regions, have undergone and completed the three mandatory training phases of the National Youth Service’s (NYS) national service training crash course.

Ngurare noted that 345 of these recruits

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About 255 have already completed the training and are currently in production at NYS Germsbok Farm, situated approximately 60 kilometres from Rietfontein.

received training in charcoal and biomass production at the Henties Bay Training Centre in the Erongo Region, one of the NYS training centres. They will be deployed to various government farms identified for biomass production.

“About 255 have already completed the training and are currently in production at NYS Germsbok Farm, situated approximately 60 kilometres from Rietfontein,” Ngurare said at the launch of the government’s charcoal youth self-employment project.

Namibia is currently the world’s fifth-largest exporter of charcoal, primarily targeting recreational uses such as barbeque and restaurant-grade charcoal.

“Over the past thirty years, charcoal production has significantly expanded in Namibia. The number of charcoal producers has increased to over 1,300, compared to approximately 350 recorded in 2014,” the Prime Minister said.

He highlighted this growth as a major contributor to the sharp rise in Namibia’s charcoal exports, which reached approximately 270,000 tonnes in 2023.

“This significant export volume highlights the growing importance of the charcoal industry in Namibia’s economy, earning it the nickname ‘the black diamond of Namibia’,” Ngurare said.



PM calls for greater inclusion of women in green hydrogen sector

Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare has called for greater inclusion of women and enhanced skills development in Namibia's emerging green hydrogen sector and broader green industrialisation efforts.

The remarks were delivered on his behalf by Moses Pakote, Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister, during the Women in Green Hydrogen (WiGH) Namibia event held this week.

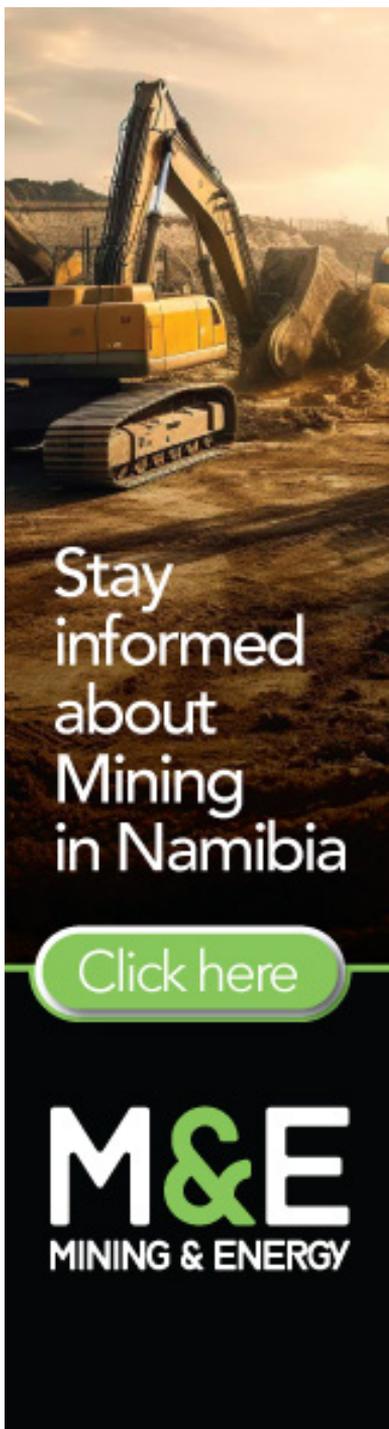
Ngurare underscored the importance of inclusive participation in the country's green transition, emphasising the need to empower women through training, education, and access to economic

opportunities.

"There will be many opportunities ensuing from green industrialisation, and the best way for women to benefit from such opportunities will be through skills upgrading, training and education, financing, inclusive procurement, and as part of affirmative economic empowerment and exploring strategies to connect and empower our Namibian women," he said.

The Prime Minister also urged that women's empowerment should not be confined solely to the green hydrogen sector.

"Such empowerment and mainstreaming



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of Namibian women into business should not only be limited to green hydrogen but should be extended to new industries such as oil and gas, as well as existing ones, including agriculture, tourism, commerce, infrastructure, information technology, and many others,” he added.

Speaking at the same event, WiGH Namibia Country Lead Iyaloo Akuaake highlighted the need for updated gender participation data in the sector.

“Currently, based on the data that I provided on one of my slides, it showed that 35% of women participated in the industry. But that’s based on 2019 data, so we’re going to look at and see if there’s an opportunity for us to revisit these statistics and probably see if there’s an opportunity to do a study and to see what the statistics are currently,” Akuaake said.

She noted that while the oil and gas and green hydrogen sectors appeal to different skill sets and interests, both are important to Namibia’s development.

“I think there’s a varying interest based on the oil and gas industry versus the green hydrogen industry. I think we need to take into consideration that the green industry is there to contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals, especially when we’re looking at energy transition. Oil and gas are not necessarily green. So, it’s really people in two different industries and the skills are so diverse, but one can work in either one of the two fields,” she said.

Akuaake further pointed out that financing opportunities differ between the two sectors, with green hydrogen projects more likely to attract sustainable investment due to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

“Some investors don’t want to fund oil and gas because it’s not considered clean. And a lot of money is going towards clean energy sources such as the green hydrogen industry because of investors’ responsibility towards ESG and so forth. So it just depends, but I don’t think there’s going to be a challenge in the type of money that’s flowing,” she said.

The WiGH Namibia platform aims to drive gender equity within the rapidly growing green energy space, ensuring that women are not left behind in Namibia’s transition to a low-carbon economy.

‘Help! my work has been pirated!’

How creatives can protect their content

By Elzita Beukes

World Intellectual Property Day was commemorated recently in Windhoek, and in light of its on-going fight against content piracy, MultiChoice Namibia’s Head of Corporate Affairs Manager, Elzita Beukes shares some practical insights on how to safeguard your intellectual property.



The creations of our minds – songs, scripts, films, brand names, etc. – can have huge economic and cultural value. However, to make that value a reality, it’s important to protect your creations. If, as a creator, you fail to do that, you cannot earn a living from your ideas.

Copyright is the legal term for the rights creators have over their original literary and artistic works. In many African countries, you do not have to register a song or film for it to be copyrighted – it arises automatically, as soon as you create the work in fixed form. This protection typically lasts for your lifetime plus 50 to 70 years after your death. After that, the work falls into the public domain.

Even though your work may be protected by copyright automatically, official registration and proactive protection steps can strengthen your legal position. Some African countries offer voluntary copyright registration systems. Registering creates an official public record of the creator’s ownership. In Namibia, the Business Intellectual Property Authority is a key figure in the copyright of creative work.

Content theft: What to do

Using someone else’s content without permission is copyright infringement. When done on a large scale, it’s content piracy.



Copyright is the legal term for the rights creators have over their original literary and artistic works.

Fortunately, there are many steps copyright owners can take to address the infringement.

The most important step is to gather evidence. This could be screenshots of the infringing content, complete with URL and date. For video or audio, download a copy. Also record the infringer’s username or website, the number of views/downloads, and any ads or sale prices.

According to Frikkie Jonker, Director of Anti-Piracy Broadcasting & Cybersecurity Services at the MultiChoice Group, “Creators should have proof of ownership ready, when defending their copyright. Original project files of a song, with timestamps, raw early footage, or scripts can also help. Proof of registration with a copyright authority is valuable too. Social media posts or email records can also prove that you own a work and when it was released.”

Stop the spread

The next step is to stop the infringing material from spreading further. Often, the quickest way is through a takedown notice. If the content is online, identify who is hosting that content. One can contact the platform directly, via their copyright infringement reporting mechanism, or send a formal cease-and-desist letter.

Many countries have notice-and-takedown systems. The United States DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) has become a de facto global standard. African countries, including Namibia, have their own processes, but a detailed cease-and-desist letter can also be sent to the infringing website owner or the web host. Often, that will be enough to see the content removed.

If the infringement is severe – a large-scale piracy operation, or if the infringer ignores a takedown notice – the matter can be escalated to the appropriate authorities – national copyright commissions, the copyright board, or the police commercial crimes division.

International networks

African countries increasingly collaborate to enforce IP laws. Under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, member states are encouraged to cooperate on IP enforcement and ensure that creators have legal mechanisms to protect their rights.

International policing organisations like Interpol and Afripol facilitate cooperation between countries on various crimes, including IP theft. Jonker mentions numerous recent cross-border operations that have shut down thousands of piracy rings across continents. He also mentions the successes of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

WIPO provides frameworks like the Berne Convention, which ensures reciprocal copyright protection across borders. WIPO also provides arbitration and mediation services – in some cases, if a creator has a dispute with an overseas distributor, they can use WIPO mediation.

Tech protection

Technology can be a powerful ally in protecting original content. Two common techniques are watermarking and fingerprinting.

Digital watermarking involves embedding a marker or code into content. Visible watermarks can be overlaid on a video or an image. Invisible watermarks are more sophisticated. They subtly hide info within

the content, perhaps by altering pixels or audio frequencies. Many distribution or DRM (Digital Rights Management) platforms offer watermarking services.

Digital fingerprinting involves extracting a unique identifier from the content itself without altering it. Like Shazam for a creative work, digital fingerprinting analyses a song or video and finds distinctive identifying data patterns in the work. Big platforms like YouTube and Facebook use fingerprinting to detect uploads of copyrighted music and videos.

On a simpler level, when posting short clips or images on social media, a visible watermark can help viewers see the source of content and maintain attribution.

Technology can help a creator detect and prove infringement. However, it doesn't replace legal action – it complements it. A watermark or fingerprint helps find piracy, but it must be followed up.

Allow and Monetize

If content becomes popular among fans, and is reused, for instance as background music in videos, it is possible to allow it, but then monetize the content. YouTube's Content ID has a functionality where, if a creator uses someone else's song, any ad revenue goes to the original creator. This turns unauthorized use into income.

Engaging with platforms and using rights-management tools allows creators to automate and scale IP protection. It's like having a digital watchdog. After all, creators would rather spend their time creating, not chasing pirates.

By understanding your rights, registering and documenting your work, acting swiftly against infringements, and leveraging both technology and legal mechanisms, you can significantly reduce the risk of others stealing your ideas.

You're not alone – there are institutions and tools to support you. Used properly, they can protect your rights and allow you to focus on what you do best – creating quality work.

****Elzita Beukes is MultiChoice Namibia Head of Corporate Affairs***



Enriching Generations

FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

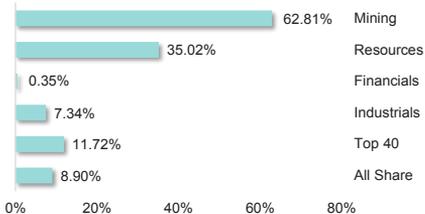
Commodities

Spot Gold	3299.09
Platinum	968.05
Palladium	936.38
Silver	30.95
Uranium	66.95
Brent Crude	63.38
Iron Ore	93.73
Copper	9453.97
Natural Gas	3.30
Lithium	9.35

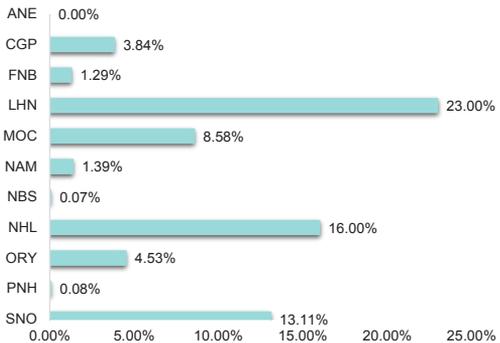
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.6511
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	24.8723
USD/CNY	7.2719
EUR/USD	1.1361
GBP/USD	1.3335
USD/RUB	81.9862
CPI	4.20%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

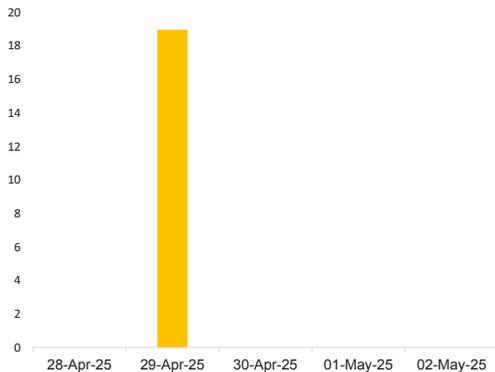
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

