OIL AND GAS

Namibia's oil and gas reserves could generate N$7.7bn annually

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FDI RANKINGS

Namibia tops Africa in 2025 Greenfield FDI rankings

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REPO RATE

Bank of Namibia holds repo rate at 6.75%

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THE BR/EF
News Worth Knowing

Standard Bank posts N$556.9m six-month profit

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2025

MAIN STORY

Standard Bank posts N$556.9m six-month profit

SBN Holdings Limited has posted a 10.1% year-on-year increase in profit to N$556.9 million for the six months ended 30 June 2025, driven by loan growth, higher fee income and tighter cost management, even as lower interest rates squeezed lending margins.

The Namibian banking group, which

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:**
  * 15 October 2025
  * 3 December 2025

operates Standard Bank Namibia, reported return on equity of 20.3%, up from 18.6% a year earlier, and said its cost-to-income ratio improved to 54.4% from 54.9%.

Net interest income climbed 2.9% to N$1.1 billion, helped by an 8.9% increase in loans and advances to customers and an 18.4% rise in other interest-earning assets.

SBN said lending activity "commenced slower than anticipated, which limited the impact on average balances", and that a cumulative 100 basis point reduction in the repo rate "contributed to margin compression during the period".

Non-interest revenue rose 3.6% to N$792.7 million, supported by higher transaction volumes and stronger digital uptake, offsetting a 13.8% fall in trading income from a stable currency market, lower yields on short-term placements and the absence of one-off gains from the prior year.

Credit impairments fell 21.8% as non-performing loan inflows dropped 46% on average per month, bringing the credit loss ratio down to 0.5% from 0.7%. The NPL ratio improved to 3.7% from 4.7% at year-end 2024.

Operating expenses rose 2.1% to N$1 billion, below Namibia's 3.5% inflation rate, with higher staff costs offset by a 6.8% drop in IT spending and a 4.6% reduction in other operating costs.

Customer deposits increased 3.6% to N$29.7 billion, led by double-digit growth in term deposits and negotiable certificates of deposit, which the bank said added funding flexibility "albeit at a higher cost."

The group ended the half with a capital adequacy ratio of 17.3% and a common equity tier 1 ratio of 15.3%, both above regulatory requirements, and said liquidity coverage remained well over the minimum.

INVITATION TO BID

GIPF
Government Institutions Pension Fund
To guard, and to grow.

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:

Bid Number	Bid Description	Non-refundable Document Fee	Enquiries	Closing Date
RE-ADVERTISE-MENT: CS/EOI/GIPF-02/2025	Investment Management Process Assessment	N/A	Julia Shipanga E: jshipanga@gipf.com.na T: +264 61 205 1745	29 August 2025 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 deadlines will not be considered.

www.gipf.com.na

Standard Bank

SBN HOLDINGS LIMITED

RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

for the six months ended 30 June 2025

"Our strategic focus on resilience, relevance, and sustainability enables the group to contribute meaningfully to Namibia's long term growth and inclusive development." **ERWIN TJIPUKA,** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Profit after tax (N$m)	Growth in net loans and advances to customers (%)	Cost to income ratio (%)	Total capital adequacy ratio (%)	Return on equity (%)	Interim dividend per ordinary share (cents)
557 ▲ 10.1%	**8.9** ▲ 400bps	**54.4** ▼ 50bps	**17.3** ▼ 160bps	**20.3** ▲ 170bps	**64** ▼ 5.9%
1H24: 506	1H24: 4.9	1H24: 54.9	1H24: 18.9	1H24: 18.6	1H24: 68

INCOME STATEMENT

	Change %	**1H25 Unreviewed N$'000**	1H24 Unreviewed N$'000
Net interest income	2.9	**1 051 570**	1 021 757
Non-interest revenue	3.6	**792 657**	765 123
Total income	3.2	**1 844 227**	1 786 880
Credit impairment charges	(21.8)	**(71 867)**	(91 884)
Net income before operating expenses	4.6	**1 772 360**	1 694 996
Operating expenses	2.1	**(1 002 811)**	(981 705)
Profit before tax	7.9	**769 549**	713 291
Taxation (indirect and direct)	2.4	**(212 629)**	(207 628)
Profit after tax	10.1	**556 920**	505 663

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Change %	**1H25 Unreviewed N$'000**	1H24 Unreviewed N$'000
Cash, financial investments and other assets	6.9	**13 730 790**	12 846 180
Loans and advances to customers	8.9	**23 879 813**	21 922 841
Loans and advances to banks	(24.5)	**2 747 671**	3 638 139
Total assets	5.1	**40 358 274**	38 407 160
Deposits and current accounts from customers	3.6	**29 749 406**	28 714 876
Deposits from banks	>100	**1 475 100**	453 935
Other liabilities	(12.5)	**3 451 012**	3 946 010
Equity	7.4	**5 682 756**	5 292 339
Total equity and liabilities	5.1	**40 358 274**	38 407 160

GROUP RESULTS

The group delivered a solid financial performance for the interim period, underpinned by resilient core operations and a stable quality asset base notwithstanding the challenging external environment. Profit increased by 10.1% period-on-period, reaching N$556.9 million. The cost-to-income ratio improved to 54.4%, down from 54.9% as at June 2024, reflecting ongoing efficiency gains. Return on equity remained robust at 20.3% in June 2025, compared to 18.6% recorded in June 2024.

Net interest income rose by 2.9% to N$1.1 billion, supported by an 8.9% growth in loans and advances to customers and an 18.4% increase in other interest-earning assets. Despite the loan book's upturn ahead of overall PSCE of 5.9% (30 June 2025), lending activity commenced slower than anticipated, which limited the impact on average balances, a key driver of net interest income. In addition, the cumulative 100 basis point reduction in the repo rate contributed to margin compression during the period.

Non-interest revenue grew by 3.6% period-on-period to N$792.7 million, underpinned by increased client activity and continued uptake of digital services. Net fee and commission income rose by 7.4%, owing to higher transaction volumes and improved utilisation of digital channels. Trading revenue declined by 13.8% due to a fairly stable currency market, reduced yields on short-term placements which compressed margins, and the absence of once-off gains realised in the prior period.

Credit impairments decreased by 21.8% period on period, primarily due to prudent credit risk management which resulted from following key shifts:

- Accounts transferring into non-performing loans decreased sharply, with monthly inflows falling by an average of 46%.
- A decline in accounts showing a significant increase in credit risk, including those placed on watch lists.

These improvements, coupled with the growth in loans and advances, contributed to a more favourable credit loss ratio, which improved from 0.7% in June 2024 to 0.5% as at the end of the interim period. The NPL ratio improved to 3.7% from 4.7% as at 31 December 2024 (restated to exclude BID 2 write-offs and loans and advances to banks, in alignment with industry practice). The Group continues to maintain a prudent provisioning stance and actively reviews its strategic pre-NPL and NPL initiatives to ensure that they remain responsive and fit for purpose in the ever evolving risk landscape.

Total operating expenses were well contained and below average inflation of 3.5%, increasing by 2.1% to N$1 billion as at 30 June 2025. Staff costs increased by 11.3%, driven by annual increases, a higher headcount due to filling in vacant positions and variable remuneration that increased in line with the group's performance. IT expenses decreased period on period by 6.8% due to our save to invest strategy and delayed expenditure. The group remains committed to strategic investments in its digital and customer-facing capabilities. Other operating costs excluding IT and staff costs decreased by 4.6% period-on-period, reflecting our continued discipline in discretionary spending.

Overall, operating expenses grew at a slower pace than total income, resulting in a positive jaws of 1.1% (30 June 2024: 6.6%). The CTI ratio improved to 54.4%, demonstrating our sustained efforts to contain costs and drive operational efficiencies. The group remains committed to prudent cost management and optimisation through our save to invest strategy.

Loans and advances to customers grew by 8.9%, outperforming the average PSCE growth of 5.9% as at 30 June 2025. This robust performance stemmed from increased lending activity across both retail and commercial portfolios. The growth was primarily attributable to a notable 16.7% increase in corporate lending ahead of average PSCE for businesses of 10.6% and a 17.3% increase in vehicle and asset finance slightly behind average PSCE growth for instalment credit of 17.5%. Additionally, other loans and advances increased by 15.9% surpassing the average PSCE growth of 8.3%.

Customer deposits and current accounts grew modestly by 3.6% to N$29.7 billion for the six months ended 30 June 2025. This growth was primarily underpinned by the following increases: a 7% in current accounts, 16.3% in term deposits and 21.2% in NCDs. The increased uptake in term deposits and NCDs provided greater funding flexibility, albeit at a higher cost which contributed to compressed margin from 6.0% in prior year to 5.8% in the current year. These funding sources are not expected to expand significantly in the near term, as the group remains focused on optimising funding and strengthening its core deposit base. The overall deposit mix remained largely unchanged, reflecting a stable client base and sustained confidence in the group's offering, despite a more measured pace of liquidity growth in the broader market.

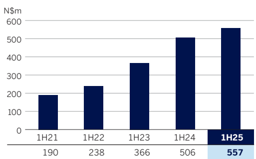
Financial assets increased by N$1.4 billion period on period, primarily driven by additional investments in government bonds and treasury bills. This reflects the group's capital management strategy and prudent deployment of surplus liquidity in an environment of moderate credit extension. This approach supports earnings stability while preserving the group's capacity to respond to lending opportunities as credit demand gradually recovers.

The group maintained a strong capital and liquidity position throughout the period, in line with regulatory requirements and internal risk appetite. Capital ratios remained robust with a total capital adequacy ratio at 17.3% and common equity tier 1 ratio at 15.3% both well above regulatory minima. Liquidity buffers were conservatively managed with high quality liquid assets resulting in a LCR above minimum regulatory requirements. The group's funding profile remained sound and diversified enhancing capacity to meet lending demand as well as managing cost of funds. This positions the group well to enable sustained support for lending and investment initiatives, prudent risk taking and absorption of potential shocks, while maintaining flexibility to create value for shareholders over the medium term.

PROSPECTS

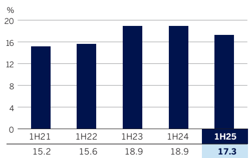
The group remains mindful of the ongoing economic uncertainty both locally and globally. Strategic focus will remain on prudent capital and cost management, while selectively investing in our digital capabilities. The group is committed to maintaining resilience and supporting clients through evolving conditions.

Profit after tax



*The group's profit grew by 10.1% period-on-period to **N$556.9 million**.*

Total regulatory capital ratio



*The group maintained strong capital ratios, with a total capital adequacy ratio of **17.3%**.*

DIVIDENDS DECLARED

On 12 August 2025 the group declared an interim cash dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2025 of 64 cents per ordinary share. The dividend declaration, slightly lower than the interim dividend for the six months ended 30 June 2024 of 68 cents per ordinary share, reflects a conservative stance amid evolving market conditions and underscores the board's focus on long term financial resilience.

DIVIDEND PAYMENT DETAILS

Last day to trade cum dividend:	5 September 2025
First day to trade ex-dividend:	8 September 2025
Record date:	12 September 2025
Payment date:	26 September 2025

Postal address: PO Box 3327, Windhoek, Namibia
Registration number: 2006/306
Country of incorporation: Republic of Namibia

Directors: Mr IH Tjombonde (Chairman)*, Mr E Tjipuka*#, Ms S Hornung*, Mr STB Madonsela**, Mr AT Matenda***#, Mr JS Mwatotele*, Mr JG Riedel*, Mr P Schlebusch**, Ms NA Tjipitua*, Mr ZK Kasete*, Mr A Kanime*

* Namibian ** South African *** Zimbabwean # Executive

Company secretary: Adv S Tjijorokisa

SBN Holdings Limited's full announcement containing the interim results announcement for the six months ended 30 June 2025 is available for viewing on the Standard Bank website. The directors of SBN Holdings Limited take full responsibility for the preparation of this announcement and ensuring that the financial information, where applicable, has been correctly extracted from the underlying condensed consolidated interim financial statements. This announcement has not been reviewed by our external auditors. The accounting policies applied in the preparation of the condensed consolidated interim financial statements from which the results have been derived are in terms of IFRS® Accounting Standards and are consistent with the accounting policies applied in the preparation of the group's previous consolidated interim financial statements.

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STUDIO S

Namibia's oil and gas reserves could generate N$7.7bn annually

Namibia's offshore oil and gas reserves could generate up to N$7.7 billion annually in government revenue through royalties and taxes, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Natangwe Ithete, has said.

Speaking at the third Namibia Oil and Gas Conference in Windhoek, Ithete said the discoveries—estimated at 11 billion barrels of oil and 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas—must be used to deliver long-term prosperity.

"It is important to note that oil and gas have potential to generate up to N$7.7 billion per year in government revenue through royalties and taxes," he said.

He pledged that revenues would be invested in infrastructure, education, renewable energy and job creation, with local content at the centre of industry development.

"Our government's pledge is clear: Every barrel, every cubic foot, must translate into jobs, infrastructure, and opportunities for Namibians. The revenues will not be squandered, they will build schools, power our homes, and seed our renewable energy future. Local content will be the heartbeat of this industry, our businesses, our skills, at the centre of value creation," he said.

Ithete said Namibia welcomed partnerships but only on terms that safeguard the environment, respect communities and ensure fair benefit sharing.

"Colleagues at the ministries and relevant institutions, we have one chance to get this right, therefore, failure is not an option! We must succeed, so that the oil beneath our seas fuel prosperity long after the wells run dry. If we fail, history will judge us harshly," he said.

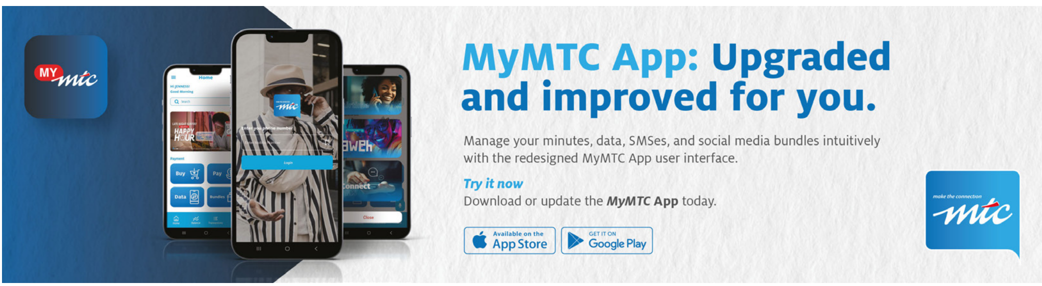
-www.miningandenergy.com.na

NamRA plans digital system to track SME earnings and enforce compliance

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) will roll out an electronic invoicing (e-invoicing) system to strengthen compliance with revenue laws and improve efficiency in tax collection.

Commissioner Sam Shivute said the system will connect cash registers at small and medium-sized enterprises directly to NamRA's Integrated Tax Administration System, enabling the agency to monitor monthly earnings in real time.

"The system is not meant to burden taxpayers but to support them," he said on Wednesday.



> To sustain our number-one tax-to-GDP ranking in Africa, we must ensure that compliance is not seen as a burden but as a shared responsibility that drives national development.

He added that it will improve oversight of businesses that do not use swiping machines for payments.

NamRA said e-invoicing will increase transparency, reduce opportunities for tax evasion and simplify compliance.

"To sustain our number-one tax-to-GDP ranking in Africa, we must ensure that compliance is not seen as a burden but as a shared responsibility that drives national development," Shivute said.

He also pointed to NamRA's accredited trader programme, which offers reduced inspections, faster processing and greater trade facilitation to businesses that meet customs compliance, financial solvency and VAT refund requirements.

"This approach promotes voluntary compliance while maintaining high regulatory standards," he said.

Shivute said Namibia's position as Africa's top-ranked country for tax-to-GDP is the result of effective revenue administration and growing taxpayer cooperation, adding that the agency aims to combine technology with a culture of readiness-based compliance to secure sustainable revenue collection and build trust with the business community.

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Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N$) (12-month)	379	439	479
Monthly charge (N$) (24-month)	339	399	429
Monthly charge (N$) (36-month)	319	379	409

Speedlink Prepaid

Package	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps	10Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
(12-month service duration including installation)	5,119	5,579	5,819	8,059

Speedlink liteplus (Asymmetric)

Package/Contract Period	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	35Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N$) (12-month)	749	879	1,159	1,979
Monthly charge (N$) (24-month)	679	789	1,039	1,779
Monthly charge (N$) (36-month)	639	749	979	1,679

Speedlink liteplus (Symmetric)

Package/Contract Period	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N$) (12-month)	799	989	1,299	1,979
Monthly charge (N$) (24-month)	719	889	1,169	1,779
Monthly charge (N$) (36-month)	679	849	1,109	1,679

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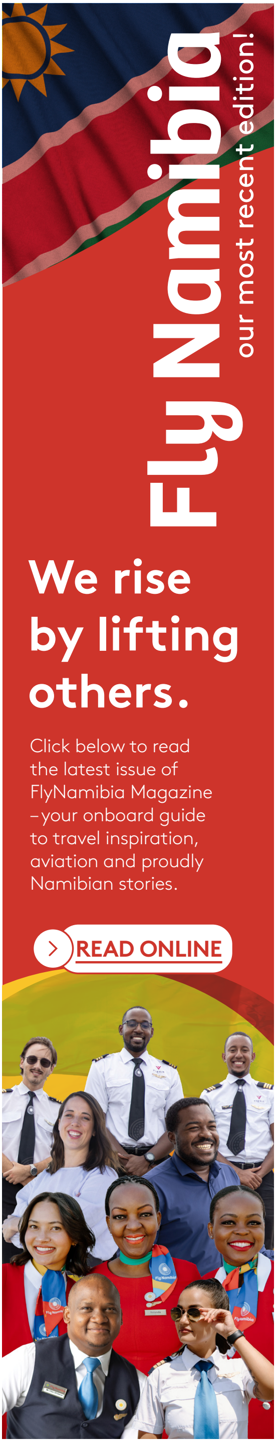

Namibia tops Africa in 2025 Greenfield FDI rankings

Namibia has been ranked first in Africa and second globally in the 2025 Greenfield Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Performance Index, according to Foreign Direct Investment Intelligence.

Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) CEO Nangula Uaandja said the country moved up 10 places from the previous year, outperforming its projected FDI inflows by almost eight times.

"Namibia ranks first in Africa and second globally in the 2025 reading of the Green FDI Performance Index. The sub-Saharan African country moved up 10 places from the previous year, outperforming its due portion of the FDI projections by almost eight times," she said.

Speaking at the Namibia Oil & Gas Conference 2025, Uaandja said recent offshore oil discoveries have transformed the country's economic outlook.

She noted that exploratory activities in the Orange Basin indicate potential reserves of 11 billion barrels of light oil and 2.2 cubic feet of natural gas, which could significantly increase GDP by 2040 if commercially viable.

Uaandja said political stability, respect for the rule of law and openness to investment have attracted major global investors, including oil service companies Baker Hughes and Halliburton, to Namibia.

She emphasised the importance of ensuring that foreign investment benefits local communities through job creation and the inclusion of small businesses in value chains.

"We have to bring small businesses into the value chains and then of course we are creating those databases. While the Namibia economy continues to expand mainly thanks to foreign investment in its mineral world; job creation and private sector-led growth has remained low," she said.

The 2025 Namibia Oil & Gas Conference is bringing together industry leaders, government officials and investors to discuss strategies for developing the country's natural resources while promoting sustainable development and socio-economic growth.

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SanlamAllianz awards N$50,000 each to five promising Namibian start-ups

Five young Namibian entrepreneurs have each received N$50,000 in seed funding through the 2025 SanlamAllianz Bridge Programme, an initiative aimed at providing start-ups with capital, mentorship and business development training.

Now in its third year, the programme is run in partnership with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) and targets Namibians aged 18 to 35.

According to the organisers, this year's 15 finalists, from sectors including manufacturing, services, agriculture and technology, pitched their business ideas to a panel of five judges after weeks of targeted pitch training.

At the end of the competition, the winners were announced as Dean Brandt of Brandt Auster Farming cc, Eben Ezer Nangolo of Tezer Printing and Embroidery Services, Herman Kornelius of Twin Horizons Investment cc, Mwalwa Loide Namukwambi of Loide Bead and Designs cc, and Uini Zaombo of Indeue Kreative Studio. SanlamAllianz said each of the winners will also receive six months of tailored mentorship, business coaching and access to NIPDB's MSME growth initiatives, including branding masterclasses, digital bootcamps, financial seminars and market access programmes.

Laurencia Prinzonsky, Marketing and Communications Manager at SanlamAllianz, said investing in entrepreneurship extends beyond providing financial support.

"When we empower young entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses, we give them the confidence to take bold steps, create opportunities, and shape their own futures. That is what our brand promise, Live with Confidence, is all about," she said.

SanlamAllianz expressed appreciation to NIPDB for its ongoing partnership in creating platforms that turn innovative ideas into viable enterprises and commended all participants for their creativity and commitment to Namibia's entrepreneurial growth.

Hilifa Lisias Usuiku, founder of Africa Brandberg Investments and a past beneficiary of the programme, said the SanlamAllianz Bridge had enabled their business to employ 12 Namibians and impact 20 families.

He added that refining their original concept was key to their growth, noting that they shifted from selling online classes to producing animated marketing content.

SanlamAllianz said the Bridge Programme is designed to transform promising ideas into sustainable enterprises through a combination of seed capital, structured training, mentorship and access to networks.


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News Worth Knowing

PETROFUND and FirstRand Namibia sign deal to boost oil and gas skills

The Petroleum Training and Education Fund (PETROFUND) and FirstRand Namibia, which includes RMB Namibia, FNB Business and FNB Retail, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening local capacity in the oil and gas sector.

The signing took place on Wednesday during the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference in Windhoek.

Under the agreement, the two organisations will work together to enhance skills development, support local suppliers and retain more value within Namibia's economy. The partnership has the in-principle backing of the Oil and Gas SteerCo, which has approved a co-sponsorship package of N$1 million, to be paid in two annual instalments of N$500,000.

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> Under the agreement, the two organisations will work together to enhance skills development, support local suppliers and retain more value within Namibia's economy.

Conrad Dempsey, CEO of FirstRand Namibia, said the country's oil and gas potential rests on its people.

"At FirstRand Namibia, we recognise that the real value of Namibia's oil and gas opportunity lies not only in resources, but in people," he said.

"This partnership with PETROFUND reflects our long-term commitment to developing local capacity by supporting skills development, strengthening local suppliers and helping to retain in-country value. We are proud to contribute to building a future where Namibians are equipped to lead in their own energy story."

PETROFUND CEO, Nillian Mulemi, described the partnership as "a significant milestone" in the organisation's mission to build a skilled and competitive workforce in the petroleum industry.

"What stands out is not just the local financial institution's traditional role of safeguarding wealth through innovating solutions, but FirstRand Namibia and its partners' bold commitment to extend financial support to not only develop the sector's workforce through education and training but also developing local suppliers as key pillars for retaining the wealth of the sector in the country," she said.

"Together, we are creating pathways for Namibians to participate in and benefit from this economy-transforming industry meaningfully."

Bank of Namibia holds repo rate at 6.75%

The Bank of Namibia's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.75 percent, following its fourth bi-monthly meeting of 2025 held on 11 and 12 August.

Governor Johannes !Gawaxab said the decision, taken unanimously, was aimed at "safeguarding the one-to-one link between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand, while supporting domestic economic activity."

He added that commercial banks are expected to maintain their prime lending rates at 10.50 percent.

In line with a guidance note issued by the central bank in June, commercial banks are expected to reduce their prime lending rates by 12.5 basis points to 10.375 percent by the end of September.

"The normalisation in the prime-repo spread that is in the pipeline is expected to provide support for domestic economic activity and credit growth going forward," !Gawaxab said.

He noted that maintaining the repo rate while the South African Reserve Bank cut its own rate in July was "a further step towards narrowing the interest differential between Namibia and South Africa."

The Governor said the gap has been closing, with Namibia's repo rate remaining 25 basis points lower than in the anchor country — a situation he described as "good for supporting domestic growth without jeopardising the stability of capital flows that has been observed to date."

The MPC also acknowledged the South African Reserve Bank's recent move to lower its preferred inflation rate to 3.0 percent from 4.5 percent.

"The Committee welcomes and recognises the positive policy development associated with this stance to promote price stability and strengthen monetary policy transmission," !Gawaxab said.

The next MPC meeting will be held on 13 and 14 October 2025.

Standard Bank to host 2025 Anti-Financial Crime Conference

Standard Bank Namibia will host its second annual Anti-Financial Crime Conference on Thursday, 14 August 2025, focusing on the rising complexity of financial crime in the digital era.

The event, themed "Combating Financial Crime in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Geopolitical Unrest", will bring together regulators, financial institutions and global experts.

Roxzaan Witbooi, Head of Compliance at Standard Bank Namibia, said AI is reshaping both crime and compliance. "AI is not just a tool; it is a turning point. Criminal networks are using machine learning to automate fraud, manipulate data, and exploit vulnerabilities at scale. But AI also offers us unprecedented capabilities to detect anomalies, predict risks, and strengthen compliance. The challenge is to stay ahead, ethically and intelligently," she said.

The conference comes as Namibia works to address 72 recommended actions from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after being placed on its grey list in early 2024.

Keynote speaker Professor Thuli Madonsela, Director of the Centre for Social Justice at Stellenbosch University and former South African Public Protector, will address "Strengthening Financial Cybercrime Guardrails in the Age of AI." Witbooi called her "a moral compass in a time of disruption" and said: "She reminds us that technology must be guided by values, and that leadership rooted in integrity is our strongest defence."

Other speakers include ICT Minister Emma Theofelus, Financial Intelligence Centre Director Dr Bryan Eiseb, NamRA Commissioner Sam Shivute, Bank of Namibia Deputy Governor Leonie Dunn, and Deloitte Country Partner Melanie Harrison.

"The conference will convene financial institutions, regulators, policymakers, and technology leaders—each facing a shared challenge and a shared responsibility... Above all, it is a space for learning, collaboration, and decisive action toward a safer financial ecosystem," Witbooi said.

Sponsors for the event are MobiPay, Ekwando Consulting and MTC. All proceeds will go to Standard Bank's Buy-a-Brick initiative, which funds affordable housing for vulnerable communities.

The financial impact of climate change in Namibia

By Veruscka Gertze

"Renewable investment can help enhance regional supply, create jobs, and gain access to new markets for regional exports.

Namibia is already feeling the true cost effects of climate change. It's no longer theoretical. Unpredictable weather, increasing droughts, and unpredictable seasons are already changing how we farm, build, invest, and make plans for the future.

Agriculture, energy, insurance, and infrastructure sectors are especially exposed. In the countryside of the developing world, agriculture provides the main source of income, but when rains do not come or heatwaves hit, harvests fall, livestock perish, and families lose earnings. It doesn't just hurt families, it hurts banks, insurers, and investors alike, as loans are not paid back and claims accumulate.

For the insurance industry, climatic event claims are increasing and cost more. As dangers escalate, policies become more expensive or less available. Insurers are now reassessing how they price risk, taking advantage of new data analytics and innovative products like parametric insurance to hedge against climate-related events.

The energy industry tells a different story. Namibia has long relied on imported electricity, making the country vulnerable to external shocks. But with vast potential for green hydrogen, solar, and wind energy, Namibia also has the potential to be a clean energy pioneer. Renewable investment can help enhance regional supply, create jobs, and gain access to new markets for regional exports. Green hydrogen, for one, has already started piquing the interest

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of foreign investors and could place Namibia in the global picture as one of the region's most important clean energy producers.

Across the board, climate change is forcing individuals and institutions to rethink how they manage risk and spot opportunity. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors are more and more front and centre in investment decision-making. Green bonds and climate-responsible funds are among the financial instruments on the increase. But this transformation is not the exclusive domain of large institutions. Families and regular individuals are now incorporating climate risk into property acquisitions, business investments, or retirement strategies. As an illustration, it is now increasingly common to ask about flood risk in buying land or consider how water scarcity might affect a farm investment.

Namibia is also undertaking national climate-smart agriculture, water security, and green infrastructure plans. This gives the financial sector a chance to also be aligned with these goals. Policymakers, investors, and planners can all simultaneously unlock funding for projects enhancing climate resilience, such as improving rural infrastructure, spurring eco-entrepreneurs, or preserving natural resources

And though risks are serious, there is vast opportunity as well. Clean energy projects, green start-ups, sustainable agriculture, and climate fintech are proliferating. There is a real chance to steer investment into ideas that not only save the planet but also are sound for long-term wealth and jobs.

Climate change is a disruptor, but it's also a catalyst for innovation and new thinking. For Namibia to prosper, we need to build financial systems and strategies that look forward, not back. That means imagining a future where resilience, sustainability, and shared progress are embedded within the definition of success.

To put it simply, climate change adaptation is not only the smart thing to do, it is one of the strongest investment strategies of our time.

*** *Veruscka Gertze is a Wealth Manager at Old Mutual Wealth Namibia***

Proflight Zambia to launch Lusaka–Windhoek route in March 2026

Proflight Zambia will introduce a new three-times-a-week service between Lusaka and Windhoek, via Livingstone, starting on 3 March 2026.

Flights will operate on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The Lusaka–Windhoek leg will depart at 08:30 and arrive at 11:35, while the Livingstone–Windhoek leg will run from 09:55 to 11:35. Return flights from Windhoek to Livingstone will depart at 12:20, arriving at 13:55, and to Lusaka from 12:20 to 15:20.

"We warmly welcome Proflight Zambia to Namibia and congratulate them on this timely and vital regional route. The new route is more than a connection between two countries, it is a powerful catalyst for regional integration, economic synergy and deeper ties between the people of Southern Africa," said Namibia Airports Company CEO and Air Connect Namibia spokesperson, Bisey /Uirab.

According to Air Connect Namibia, the service is expected to boost tourism, trade and investment, and provide access to Victoria Falls via Livingstone.

Air Connect Namibia an initiative which aims to improve air access and promote the country as a regional aviation hub, developed in collaboration with the NAC, Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, Gondwana Collection, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Walvis Bay Corridor Group, Namibia Tourism Board and the City of Windhoek.

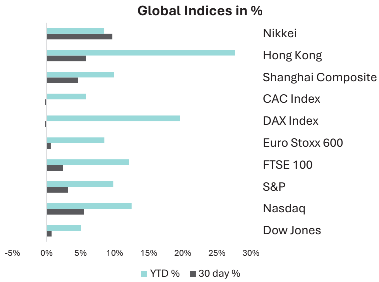
The Market Lens

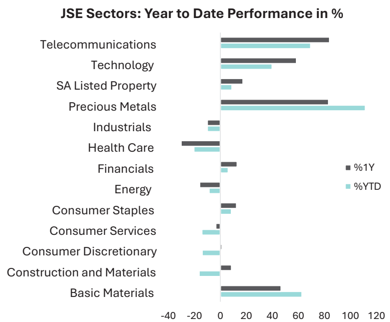
Enriching Generations

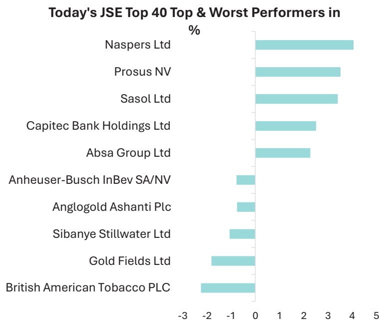
SIMONIS STORM

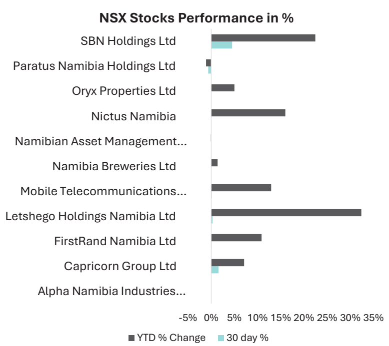
Commodities	
Spot Gold	3362.27
Platinum	1338.17
Palladium	1131.22
Silver	38.70
Uranium	72.05
Brent Crude	65.35
Iron Ore (in CNY)	794.50
Copper	9840.50
Natural Gas	2.82
Lithium	8.85

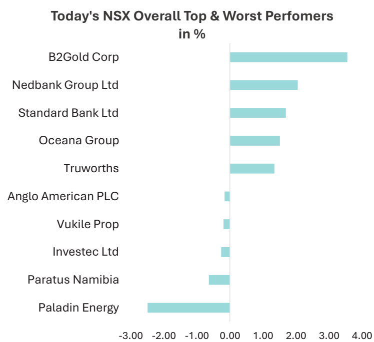
Currencies	
USD/ZAR	17.51
EUR/ZAR	20.51
GBP/ZAR	23.76
USD/CNY	7.17
EUR/USD	1.17
GBP/USD	1.36
USD/JPY	147.14
Namibia CPI	**3.70%**
Namibia Repo Rate	**6.75%**
Namibia Prime Rate	**10.50%**











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