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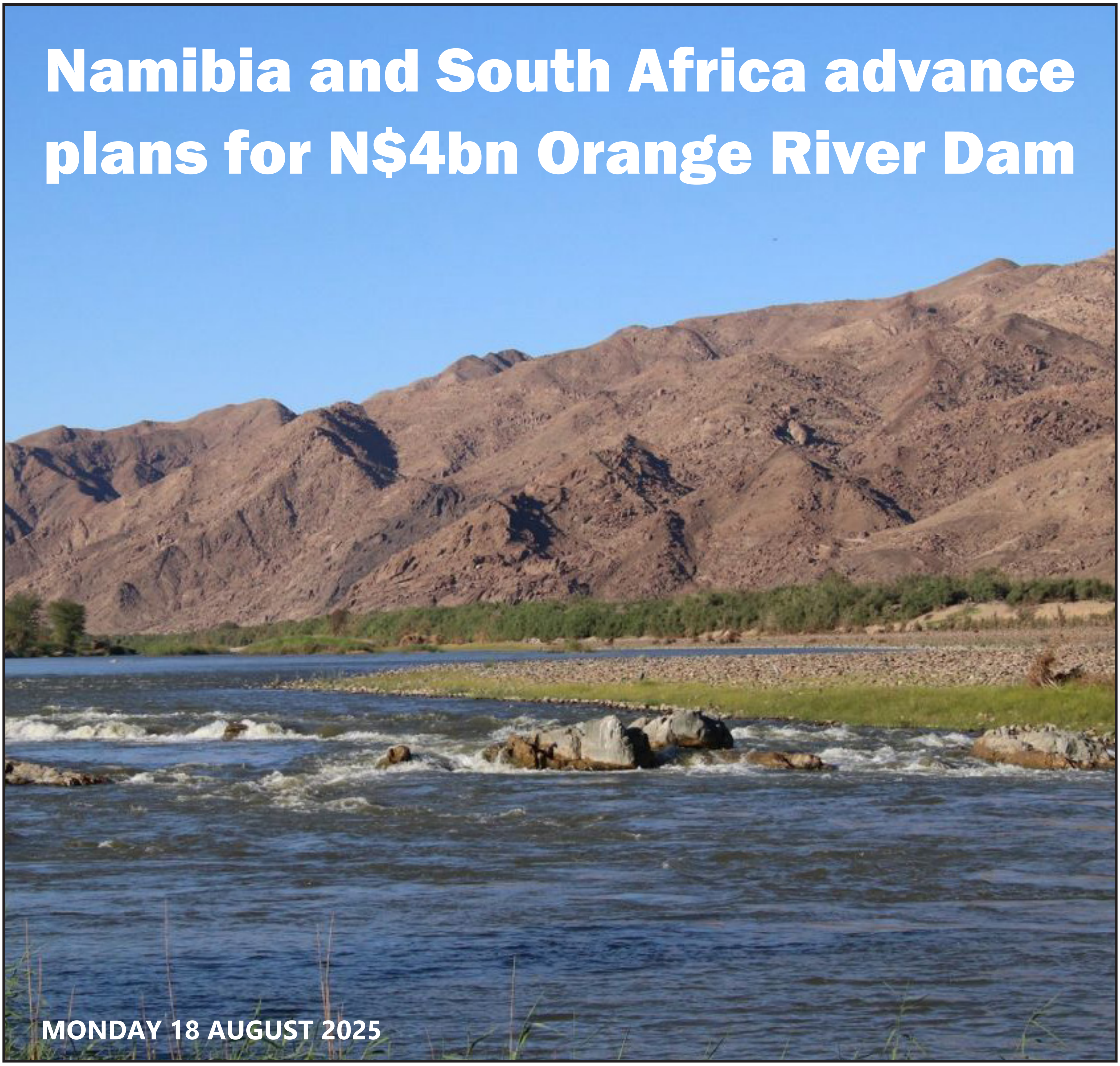
Namibia and South Africa advance plans for N$4bn Orange River Dam



MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2025

MAIN STORY

Namibia and South Africa advance plans for N$4bn Orange River Dam

Namibia and South Africa have committed to a joint feasibility study for the construction of the Noordoewer-Vioolsdrift Dam on the Orange River, a project estimated to cost N$4.07 billion (US$231 million).

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Inge Zaamwani, said both countries had agreed to contribute N$44.05 million (US$2.5 million) each towards the study.

"Furthermore, we have committed to carrying out a joint feasibility study on the Noordoewer Vioolsdrift Dam on the Orange River to the tune of 2.5 million USD, to be equally contributed by Namibia and South Africa. The capital costs requirement for the dam construction is about 231 million USD, which we are hoping to attract interest from investors," she said.

Zaamwani explained that the project formed part of Namibia's broader strategy to address water scarcity, which remains a challenge in one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. She noted that government had already allocated N$2.8 billion under the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for priority water and sanitation projects.

"These resources are earmarked for large-scale projects that will improve bulk water conveyance, rehabilitation of ageing infrastructure, and to expand sanitation

Crucial Dates

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

> Public-private partnerships would play a central role, including a planned coastal desalination plant to serve mining operations and coastal towns.

coverage in both rural and urban areas," she said.

She added that Namibia had also secured around N$4 billion in concessional loans from the African Development Bank and KfW to support large-scale water initiatives.

Public-private partnerships would play a central role, including a planned coastal desalination plant to serve mining operations and coastal towns.

Zaamwani stressed the link between water security and broader development goals, saying the Noordoewer-Vioolsdrift Dam would be critical in ensuring sustainable supply, enabling irrigation and supporting regional socio-economic growth.

"The Government of Namibia has made significant public investments in bulk water supply and sanitation infrastructure, treatment facilities, and distribution networks, recognising this as a core public mandate to ensure that water services remain accessible, affordable, and equitable for all citizens," she said.

NPC warns Namibia's Vision 2030 targets under threat

Namibia's ambitions to achieve high-income status by 2030, as set out in the long-term development framework Vision 2030, are facing serious challenges, Director General of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Kaire Mbuende, has warned.

Mbuende said the recent reclassification of Namibia's economy from Upper-Middle Income to Lower-Middle Income underscored the need for more inclusive and sustainable development strategies.

He noted that although the country had experienced economic growth in recent years, this had not always translated into meaningful social progress.

According to him, poverty, unemployment and inequality remain at unacceptably high levels, reflecting persistent gaps in access

to opportunities and social protections.

"The recent reclassification of our economy from Upper-Middle Income to Lower-Middle Income status is a sobering reminder that our journey is fraught with challenges. Economic growth has not always translated into inclusive social development, with poverty, unemployment, and inequality persisting at unacceptably high levels," Mbuende said.

He emphasised that true prosperity required more than GDP growth.

"It requires that workers earn decent wages, households live above the poverty line, and disadvantaged groups receive strong social support," he said. "Without these measures, growth alone cannot deliver the benefits Namibians aspire to under Vision 2030."

Mbuende called for renewed focus on both economic transformation and social inclusivity. He said government needed to strengthen infrastructure, develop human capital, and support sectors that could generate employment and income.

Achieving these goals, he added, would be critical to reducing inequality, improving livelihoods, and ensuring that economic growth delivers tangible benefits.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the new National Planning Commission commissioners, who have officially begun their mandate to provide strategic policy guidance. Commissioners are appointed by the President for a three-year term, which may be renewed, under the National Planning Commission Act of 2013. Their appointments are formally published in the Government Gazette.

Stop the bleeding:

Namaf's tariffs are driving patients into debt while funds grow fat

BRIEFLY

The Namibia Association of Medical Aid Funds (Namaf) calls its benchmark tariffs a "reference." Medical aid funds claim they can't pay more. Both are lies of convenience.

The reality: funds peg their reimbursements to Namaf's rates. Those rates have slid so far behind real costs that providers either absorb losses or bill patients the difference. A medical emergency call is reimbursed at N$741.60—less than a plumber's call-out—before any care is delivered.

Meanwhile, funds are not broke. In the first quarter of 2025, they banked a combined surplus of N$229.7 million. Those millions didn't come from thin air—they came from cutting what patients get. Hospital cover dropped a third, daily doctor fees down 30%, anaesthesia rates down 27%.

For members, this isn't abstract. A short in-hospital operation lasting an hour can now leave a patient with N$15,000 in co-payments—just to cover the surgeon and anaesthetist. The benchmark doesn't protect them; it punishes them.

After the Supreme Court's 2017 ruling shielded Namaf from competition law, it behaved as if the bench handed it a licence to starve the system.

Namaf hides behind actuarial jargon and "independence" while allowing this rationing to masquerade as guidance. The last verified cost model dates back two decades. Updates are opaque, consultations minimal. This isn't neutrality—it's complicity.

If the benchmark doesn't reflect the cost of care, it's not a tool for fairness. It's a ceiling for underpayment. And if funds can post record surpluses while cutting benefits, they can afford to pay more.

Raise the tariffs to match reality. Do it now. Or own the collapse of Namibia's private healthcare as your legacy.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Govt reforms underway at NIPAM, including self-funding plans

The Office of the Prime Minister says the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) must generate its own income to become financially self-reliant and less dependent on state funding.

Executive Director Gladice Pickering said this objective forms part of ongoing reforms to address underfunding and instability at the institute. “The objective with our engagements now is to enable the institution to generate their own income, to become self-reliant and self-sustaining,” she said.

Pickering confirmed that NIPAM had been underfunded in the past but said government had begun engaging directly with its management to find solutions. “NIPAM has been underfunded, it is true and we have now as going forward as an initiative we have had a discussion with the NIPAM management,” she said.

As part of the changes, NIPAM will now present its own budgetary requirements directly to Treasury during mid-year submissions. “We have decided to invite NIPAM to our mid-year budget presentations for them to go and present their own needs and to Treasury,” Pickering said.

She added that reforms would also cover the institution’s programmes, with a review of the curriculum to ensure alignment with the skills and training needed in the public service. “We are going to relook the programme or revisit the programme of NIPAM to ensure that NIPAM has the curriculum is revisited to make it more responsive to the needs and that was also highlighted in this report,” she said.

Pickering noted that NIPAM’s facilities had been underutilised and would now be repositioned as a centre for training, conferences and workshops. “Going forward we are going to make use of NIPAM as far as possible in terms of training, in terms of hosting conferences, workshops and so forth,” she said.

She said government was also following up on outstanding payments owed to the institute. “We keep on following up on that on a monthly basis to ensure that there are no outstanding amounts, we keep track of the data age analysis,” she said.

On governance matters, Pickering said the leadership instability highlighted in previous parliamentary reports had been resolved. She further announced that NIPAM had introduced a new public service change programme aimed at transforming the behaviour and mindset of civil servants through targeted training.

Namibia's green finance revolution: A blueprint for Africa's energy future

By Rebbeka Shipepe

Namibia is quietly emerging as one of Africa's most compelling clean energy stories.

With world-class solar and wind resources, the country is now pairing natural advantage with financial innovation to reshape its energy future.

At the heart of this transformation is green project financing, a fast-evolving mechanism that is unlocking capital, accelerating infrastructure, and positioning Namibia as a regional leader in the energy transition.

From Energy Deficit to Energy Opportunity

Namibia currently imports nearly 70 percent of its electricity, much of it from South Africa.

Yet the country is blessed with some of the highest solar irradiance levels on the planet and vast wind corridors that make it a natural candidate for renewable energy leadership.

The shift is already underway. Namibia is embracing new financial models to reduce energy insecurity, decarbonise its industrial base, and build future export capacity, particularly in green hydrogen.

Green project finance is no longer a niche concept, it is becoming central to how Namibia funds its energy ambitions.

"At the heart of this transformation is green project financing, a fast-evolving mechanism that is unlocking capital.

Green Finance Gains Momentum

Green project financing, which blends public and private capital to fund sustainable infrastructure, is now driving some of Namibia's most strategic developments.

In 2024, the World Bank approved its first energy-sector loan for Namibia, a US$138.5 million facility to expand solar and wind integration, upgrade transmission, and install utility-scale battery storage.

A year later, the Climate Investment Funds selected Namibia for up to US$250 million in concessional funding to support industrial decarbonisation and green hydrogen development.

These are not isolated wins. They reflect a growing confidence in Namibia's ability to deliver bankable, climate-aligned projects.

Blended Finance, A Local Success Story

Namibia is also innovating at home. The SDG Namibia One Fund, a joint initiative between Climate Fund Managers and the Environmental Investment Fund, is targeting €1 billion to finance clean energy infrastructure, including the flagship Hyphen Green Hydrogen project.

EIF's Green Impact Facility is helping local entrepreneurs and SMEs access concessional loans for off-grid solar, water-efficient agriculture, and climate-smart technologies.

Meanwhile, the SUNREF Namibia programme, backed by the French Development Agency, has channelled over €45 million in credit lines through local banks including FNB, Nedbank, and Bank Windhoek.

Capital Market Innovation

Namibia's green finance evolution has reached its capital markets. Bank Windhoek issued the country's first Green Bond in 2018, followed by a Sustainability Bond in 2021, raising N$227 million for water and energy projects.

Nedbank Namibia has convened green energy finance roundtables to shape investable pipelines.

Standard Bank Namibia has taken a leading role in financing clean energy infrastructure, most notably as sole mandated lead arranger, lender, and agent for the 44 MW Diaz Wind Power Project near Lüderitz, the country's first utility-scale wind farm.

This project reflects Standard Bank's broader ESG strategy, which supports inclusive and sustainable growth across Africa by financing infrastructure that delivers long-term environmental and economic value.

Our commitment to Namibia's energy transition is not just about funding assets, it is about enabling transformation.

Flagship Projects Reshaping the Landscape

Namibia's energy map is being redrawn by a series of high-impact projects. These include NamPower's Omburu Solar Plant near Omaruru, the Erongo Battery Energy Storage System near Walvis Bay, and the Kokerboom Solar project supplying mining operations in the //Karas Region.

The Otjikoto Biomass Power Station, slated for 2027, will use encroacher bush as feedstock.

The Hyphen Green Hydrogen project, backed by the SDG Namibia One Fund, is expected to produce 350,000 tons of green hydrogen annually for export.

Each of these projects signal Namibia's intent, not just to meet domestic energy needs, but to become a clean energy exporter and industrial hub.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite strong momentum, challenges remain. SMEs still face barriers to finance, and technical capacity gaps could slow implementation.

However, Namibia's bold approach, blending concessional funding, commercial investment, and local innovation, is attracting global attention.

The Bank of Namibia's Sustainable Finance Framework, released in 2024, is another milestone.

It commits financial institutions to ESG principles and climate-risk disclosures, laying the groundwork for a more resilient financial ecosystem.

Financing Transformation, Not Just Infrastructure

Namibia's green finance journey is about more than solar panels and wind turbines. It is about energy sovereignty, industrial competitiveness, and inclusive growth.

Standard Bank is proud to be part of this journey. Our ESG strategy is rooted in enabling Africa's transition to a low-carbon economy, supporting clients and communities with the capital, insights, and partnerships needed to thrive in a changing world.

As global decarbonisation accelerates, Namibia's model, built on innovation, collaboration, and financial foresight, offers a blueprint for other frontier markets. The future of energy in Africa may well be written in the sun and wind of Namibia.

**** Rebbeka Shipepe is a Client Analyst Corporate and Investment Banking at Standard Bank Namibia***

MTC launches Buffalo Project to boost rural connectivity

Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) has launched the Buffalo Project, a rural network optimisation initiative aimed at improving mobile coverage and service quality in northern Namibia.

The project, named after the strength and resilience symbolised by the buffalo, will focus on raising tower heights, relocating sites where necessary, upgrading rural areas with 4G LTE, and enhancing service reliability in underserved communities. It will later be extended to other parts of the country facing similar challenges.

The launch follows a comprehensive network audit covering more than 2,000 kilometres across Outapi, Oshakati, Rundu and Katima Mulilo.

The assessment, conducted by MTC in collaboration with network partner Huawei and led by Chief Technology and Information Officer Monica Nehemia, found that some towers in rural regions were inadequately positioned due to historical infrastructure planning.

Several sites had low antenna heights, limited access to 4G/LTE technology, and in some cases, towers operated only on GSM or 3G. Inconsistent power settings and antenna directions along key travel corridors were also identified as reducing service quality.

Nehemia said the intervention was a direct response to customer concerns.

"The network audit and subsequent rollout of the Buffalo Project demonstrate MTC's resolve to act on customer feedback and respond with practical solutions. Our customers rely on us not just for communication, but to access opportunities. When we receive feedback from people living in areas where towers exist, yet they still struggle with coverage, it becomes our duty to investigate and correct it. We are the country's leading digital enabler, and this project reflects that responsibility," she said.

The Buffalo Project builds on MTC's long-term network expansion strategy following the successful rollout of the 081Every1 programme, which sought to extend population coverage across Namibia.

Nehemia stressed that while investment in new technologies continues, ensuring quality and consistency in existing infrastructure remains equally important.

MTC said it will continue to provide updates as the Buffalo Project progresses, reaffirming its commitment to deliver inclusive, reliable and high-quality connectivity for all Namibians.

Reimagining HR: From legacy systems to purpose-driven people strategies

By Bianca Muller

Human resources (HR) has long been seen as the custodian of employee advocacy. In Western contexts this often meant managing union relations and nurturing internal talent through structured development programmes.

But in Africa, the HR journey has followed a different path – one shaped by the continent's unique socio-political transitions, from colonial rule to independence, and the gradual rise of corporate ecosystems. Today, that legacy is being rewritten.

HR is no longer just about compliance or cost control. It's about culture, wellbeing, and strategic alignment.

The global disruptions of the past 5 years – including the Covid-19 pandemic and the Great Resignation – have accelerated this shift.

Employees across the world began reassessing what work means to them and in Namibia, this introspection sparked a quiet but powerful transformation.

Namibian professionals are increasingly seeking purpose, flexibility, and a healthier work-life balance.

This evolution is reshaping how organisations think about talent, leadership, and resilience, and HR is at the centre of it all.

The trend was quieter in Namibia than in places like South Africa, but it reflected a deeper evolution in what people wanted from their work.

"HR is no longer just about compliance or cost control. It's about culture, wellbeing, and strategic alignment.

More and more employees began prioritising purpose, flexibility, and a healthier balance between their jobs and personal lives.

The pendulum didn't just swing, it came crashing back. Suddenly, people and culture reclaimed centre stage in the boardroom conversation.

HR departments, once seen as mainly back-office operations handling payroll, paperwork, and compliance, are suddenly at the centre of the action.

Their role has expanded, shifting from administrative support to a key player in keeping employees engaged, retaining them, and building organisational resilience.

Today, HR is increasingly viewed as a strategic partner to company leadership, with a hand in shaping culture and making sure people strategies align with business goals. This kind of alignment has never been more important.

HR teams that aren't in sync with the company's strategy or don't fully grasp the effort it takes to reach big goals will struggle with the basics: hiring the right people, keeping them motivated, and helping them thrive.

In today's fiercely competitive job market, HR has transitioned beyond playing a supporting role and now has to act as the architect of culture, resilience, and growth. But while progress is underway, many organisations have not yet kept pace with global shifts in reimagining the role of HR.

According to pollster Gallup's 2024 State of the Global Workplace report, nearly half of employees in sub-Saharan Africa (48%) experienced significant stress the previous day, up 2 percentage points from 2022 and well above the global average of 41%.

The region also reported the second-highest rate of daily loneliness, with 28% of employees affected, compared to 22% globally.

By contrast, only 37% of European workers reported daily stress, and just 14% reported loneliness.

The report also found that 75% of African employees are either actively looking for or open to new job opportunities, more than double the 32% in Europe.

The picture in Namibia is no less urgent. Nearly 70% of the workforce is affected by chronic health conditions, including stress and mental health challenges, issues that are driving a staggering 35% drop in productivity.

Employees aren't shy about where they think accountability should lie. In a 2023 survey of 2 000 South African professionals by recruitment firm Robert Walters, 42% said senior leaders and HR should take the lead in tackling workplace stress.

Another 32% pointed to line managers as key players in creating a healthier work environment. These figures drive home an important point: investing in employee well-being is smart business, and more companies are taking notice.

For these businesses, well-being, development, and inclusion aren't just feel-good extras. They're built into how the company operates.

These organisations support employees through personal and professional challenges, encourage ongoing learning, and treat flexibility not as a perk but as a basic requirement of modern employment. And it's paying off.

Some employers in South Africa are setting a strong example when it comes to employee wellness.

Through initiatives like Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs), wellness days, and health risk assessments, a leading insurer has reported meaningful improvements: nearly half of employees in some cases have noted better health, and over a third say they feel more productive. This has translated into fewer sick days and a noticeable boost in morale.

A financial services company implemented personalised, data-driven health interventions to drive employee engagement and retention. In some instances, nearly 30% of employees have achieved a biological age equal to or younger than their actual age – a clear indicator of improved well-being.

The impact goes beyond individual companies.

Industry-wide wellness tracking shows that organisations in the top 20% for health metrics experience nearly half the absenteeism compared to those in the bottom 20%, highlighting a strong link between wellness and workplace performance.

At Nedbank Namibia we've seen firsthand how the role of HR is changing, and we're fully embracing that shift.

In August 2024 we launched an on-site wellness facility at our Windhoek campus, offering employees convenient access to health services during their workday.

These services include access to a general practitioner, a doctor, and even a psychologist. At its core, this initiative is a strategic investment in our people's holistic well-being.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. Last year we were honoured to receive the IPM Human Resources Centre of Excellence Award at the 14th Annual IPM Namibia Conference. It was a proud moment and an appreciated recognition of the work we are doing to keep people at the heart of our business.

We have made deliberate, measurable strides toward gender equity, transforming our workforce to reflect better the society we serve.

Women make up 64% of our overall workforce and 54% of our management team. This highlights our intentional effort in ensuring a balanced workforce demographic.

Learning and development continue to be a key part of our focus. In late 2024 we launched the NedNamibia Holdings Educational Trust to help our employees and their dependants pursue further education.

Through the trust, eligible beneficiaries can access funding for studies at accredited institutions across the SADC region in a diverse range of fields.

At Nedbank Namibia, we are proud to be part of this bigger shift, where HR is no longer just about the usual admin tasks but about truly championing well-being, inclusion, and growth, both for the employees and their dependents.

This shift extends to wider society, as evidenced by our recent N$560 000 sponsorship towards the Agra Agricultural Academy, a significant step towards enhancing skills development and training in various agricultural disciplines.

The academy, managed by Agra ProVision, a subsidiary of Agra Limited, offers students the opportunity to pursue national certificates and diplomas in fields such as plant production, animal production, advanced farm management, agricultural extension, and agri-sales and services.

By focusing on these areas, forward-thinking HR leaders are helping build resilient organisations that are equipped to navigate future challenges with confidence.

At Nedbank Namibia, we take pride in our deliberate and strategic approach to transforming HR into a true strategic business partner that drives sustainable growth and delivers meaningful impact across the organisation.

The future of work is already here, and HR holds the blueprint for building workplaces where people are inspired to show up in their best versions.

** Bianca joined the Nedbank Group in February 2023, having had more than 20 years' professional experience in Namibia's banking and fishing industries. Her previous role was as a manager in Human Capital as part of the Senior Leadership Team at Hangana Seafood (Pty) Ltd, a subsidiary of the Ohlthaver & List Group of Companies, where she was responsible for leading and supporting strategy for the Human Resources function.*

She holds an honours degree in marketing from the Namibia University of Science and Technology and an advanced human resources management certificate from the University of Cape Town. She also holds a master's degree in business administration (MBA), having specialised in leadership and change management at the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Namibian President pushes for mineral value addition at SADC Summit

Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has called on Southern African leaders to prioritise value addition to the region's critical raw minerals before exporting them, arguing that such efforts would strengthen economies and ensure more benefits remain within the region.

Speaking at the 45th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Madagascar, her first since being elected in November 2024, President Nandi-Ndaitwah said the region could not achieve its long-term goals while faced with persistent socio-economic challenges.

“Equally, there is a compelling need to enhance value addition to our region's critical raw minerals, including through regional value chains, before they are exported beyond the SADC region. By doing so, we will strengthen our economies, create jobs, and retain more benefits from our natural resources,” she said.

The Namibian President warned that the region’s aspirations would remain out of reach unless hunger, youth unemployment and inequality were addressed. “I address you today, to reaffirm a critical truth: the objectives of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2030–2050 and the SADC Vision 2050 cannot be realised when our people are confronted by hunger, high youth unemployment and other socio-economic challenges,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah told the summit.

She stressed the importance of equipping young people with skills in ICT, digital innovation and the creative industries to enable them to compete globally. On security, she raised concern over instability in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, warning that it remained a threat to SADC’s development aspirations.

Referring to the summit’s theme, Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC, the Namibian President urged member states to tackle food insecurity with urgency. She said the goal must be to make food security “a reality in every home across the region, rather than just a goal on paper.”

Her address also highlighted the empowerment of women. She pointed to Namibia’s launch of the International Women’s Peace Centre and called on SADC states to work together in advancing gender equality across the region.

Strive for food self-sufficiency and security

By Erastus Ngaruka

Food self-sufficiency and food security may seem to be the same, however, these are two different phrases where food self-sufficiency is an enabler of food security.

Food self-sufficiency refers to the reliance on own production to meet or satisfy daily food consumption, rather than purchasing or importing from elsewhere.

On the other hand, food security refers to the availability and accessibility of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food produced anywhere. Moreover, food self-sufficiency is a critical aspect of food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Food production and distribution in the world are facing many challenges that can be attributed to harsh climatic events, population growth, political conflicts, and trade barriers, among others.

This has evidently resulted in food scarcity in many countries. In Namibia, food scarcity is prevalent to some extent, especially in destitute communities across the country. This unforgiving situation is exacerbated by the recurrent drought, floods, pests and disease outbreaks.

Agriculture in Namibia is the principal sector supporting all livelihoods and the national economy in the form of food provision, employment creation, and income generation.

The sector is dominated by livestock production, mainly cattle, sheep and goats, as well as other opportunistic enterprises such as poultry, piggery, and dairy. Crop production includes maize and millet as staple foods, and horticultural production such as grapes, dates, onions, tomatoes, carrots, cabbage, and pumpkin, among others.

Some of these are produced on a commercial basis, whereas some are mainly under subsistence farming practices in communal farming areas, which harbor the larger portion of the farming population in the country.

Food production in Namibia is at different scales, where some is produced for commercial purposes, for example, targeting formal local and export markets. On the other hand, there are numerous subsistence farmers producing at a smaller scale mainly for household consumption.

However, despite efforts in agriculture production, Namibia still imports significant amounts of food as local production cannot meet local consumption needs. This is evident in the production of crops, pig and poultry products, among others.

The common limitations towards sustainable agricultural production in Namibia include the lack of knowledge/ skills, access to land, finance, the lack of inputs, inappropriate technologies, inaccessible markets, inadequate farm infrastructure, high cost of production, rural-urban migration, unfavorable climatic conditions, land degradation, pests and diseases, and in some cases, slow or poor implementation of policies or developmental agendas among others.

Food self-sufficiency requires a multifaceted approach where all aspects from production to consumption are identified and understood to explore appropriate production practices aimed at increasing agricultural output.

Efforts to improve local production should be based on localized research and experimental activities focusing on production methods and technologies to ensure the sustainable production of safe foods, including indigenous foods.

Increasing the consumption of local foods is key to stimulating local production and food self-sufficiency.

This, in turn, reduces dependency on food imports and associated costs. Such initiatives can be promoted through local institutions such as schools, hospitals, prisons, and various food distribution programs aimed at addressing hunger in destitute communities.

These institutions can serve as catalysts and gateways for local farmers, helping them to sustain production, access services and markets for the growth of their farm businesses.

Another consideration for sustainable food production is access to land, affordable finance, production inputs, information, and capacity building services.

Moreover, another weakness in sustainable food production in the country is the reliance on imported inputs such as seeds, implements or machinery, among others.

This reliance stems from the unavailability of these inputs due to insufficient capacity to manufacture or produce inputs locally.

Therefore, the country needs to develop local input manufacturing industries to reduce the dependency on the importation of certain inputs. In addition, value addition to local foods and raw materials will also reduce the importation of finished products.

This will ultimately lower the cost of production and food prices, and in turn increase production and the consumption of local foods.

In conclusion, food self-sufficiency is a developmental agenda that requires coordinated efforts to strengthen and harmonize support systems such as policies, institutions, and investments to ensure sustainable agricultural and economic development.

* ***Erastus Ngaruka is a Technical Advisor: Livestock & Rangeland Management at Agribank***

Tented camps post highest occupancy in Namibia at 58% in June

Tented camps registered the highest room and bed occupancy rates among Namibia's hospitality establishments in June 2025, despite an overall decline in nationwide occupancy levels, the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has reported.

According to the NSA, tented camps achieved a room occupancy rate of 58.0% and a bed occupancy rate of 51.5%.

However, overall room occupancy across the country fell by 6.5% compared to May, a sharper decline than the marginal 0.1% drop recorded the previous month. Year-on-year, room occupancy still rose by 8.5%.

"The monthly decline was largely driven by reduced room occupancy rates in hospitality establishments in the southern and northern regions, whereas the central and coastal regions recorded increases," the NSA said.

The southern region recorded the steepest decline, with occupancy down by 13.4%, followed by the northern region at 8.0%. In contrast, the central and coastal regions saw increases of 31.1% and 14.6%, respectively.

In June 2025, 60,593 rooms were available nationwide, of which 31,100 (51.3%) were sold. This compared to 61,853 rooms available in May, with 33,957 sold, reflecting an occupancy rate of 54.9%. In the southern region, 23,590 rooms were

> In June 2025, 60,593 rooms were available nationwide, of which 31,100 (51.3%) were sold.

available in June, compared to 20,637 in May and 21,944 in June 2024.

A total of 11,382 rooms were sold, slightly down from 11,501 in May but up from 10,088 in June 2024. The northern region offered 22,813 rooms, selling 12,247 and leaving 10,566 unsold.

Across accommodation categories, room occupancy fell in June, with guest houses the only exception, rising to 55.4% from 53.7%. Despite a month-on-month decline, tented camps remained the strongest performers at 58.0%, down from 62.1% in May.

Hotels dropped to 49.8% from 53.7%, rest camps fell sharply to 44.6% from 62.3%, and guest farms declined to 40.6% from 51.7%.

Meanwhile, the Bed Occupancy Rate Index recorded a sharper month-on-month fall of 9.3% in June, following a 3.1% decline in May. On an annual basis, the index was down 1.8%.

"The monthly decline in bed occupancy was largely driven by reduced levels across all hospitality categories during the review period," the NSA said. The northern region experienced the largest fall in bed occupancy at 15.2%, followed by the southern region at 11.7%. In contrast, the central and coastal regions reported growth of 18.0% and 11.7%, respectively.

Nationwide, 57,730 beds were sold from 136,136 available, compared to 63,226 beds sold from 135,175 available in May. This reflected an increase in bed supply but a fall in demand.

By type of establishment, tented camps again led the way with the highest bed occupancy at 51.5%, followed by guest houses at 44.9%. Hotels recorded 40.8%, while guest farms and rest camps trailed at 30.0% and 25.1%, respectively.

The Market Lens

Enriching Generations

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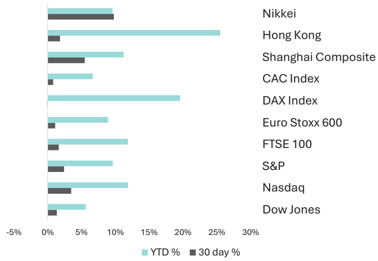
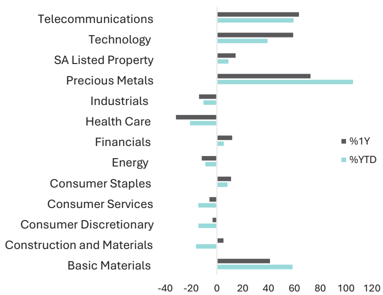
Commodities	
Spot Gold	3334.09
Platinum	1335.35
Palladium	1124.47
Silver	38.70
Uranium	72.05
Brent Crude	66.00
Iron Ore (in CNY)	772.00
Copper	9773.50
Natural Gas	2.87
Lithium	9.25

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	17.67
EUR/ZAR	20.61
GBP/ZAR	23.88
USD/CNY	7.19
EUR/USD	1.17
GBP/USD	1.35
USD/JPY	147.96
Namibia CPI	**3.70%**
Namibia Repo Rate	**6.75%**
Namibia Prime Rate	**10.50%**

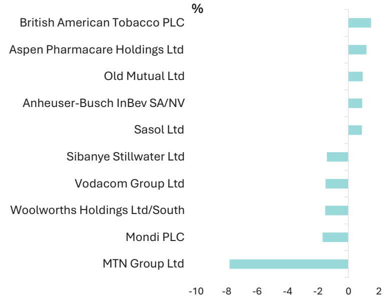
Global Indices in %



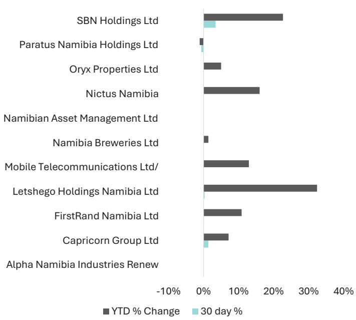
JSE Sectors: Year to Date Performance in %



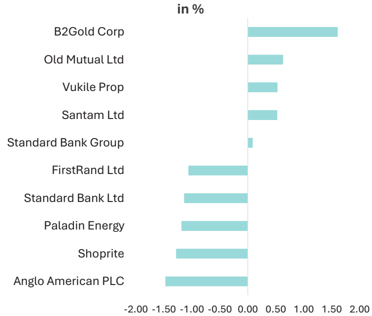
Today's JSE Top 40 Top & Worst Performers in %



NSX Stocks Performance in %



Today's NSX Overall Top & Worst Perfomers in %



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