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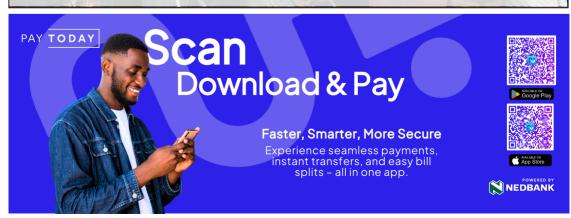
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- News Worth Knowing



Namibia to review 462 fishing rights ahead of 2026–27 expiry

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2025



MAIN STORY

Namibia to review 462 fishing rights ahead of **2026–27 expiry**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) has announced that 462 active fishing rights will be evaluated before their expiry in 2026 and 2027.

Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Inge Zaamwani, said 162 rights

Crucial Dates

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



granted in 2012 are due to expire on 31 December 2026, while the remainder, allocated in 2020, will lapse on 30 May 2027.

"Prior to the expiry of these fishing rights, the Ministry shall evaluate the performance of these fishing rights consistent with prescribed performance criteria. I commit that sufficient notices shall be sent out to the Right Holders before the end of the current financial year, 2025/2026," Zaamwani said during a consultation with the fishing industry.

She noted that the sector employed over 19,440 Namibians in 2024, with 71% engaged in onshore operations. Women accounted for 45% of the onshore

workforce, compared to only 140 people employed offshore.

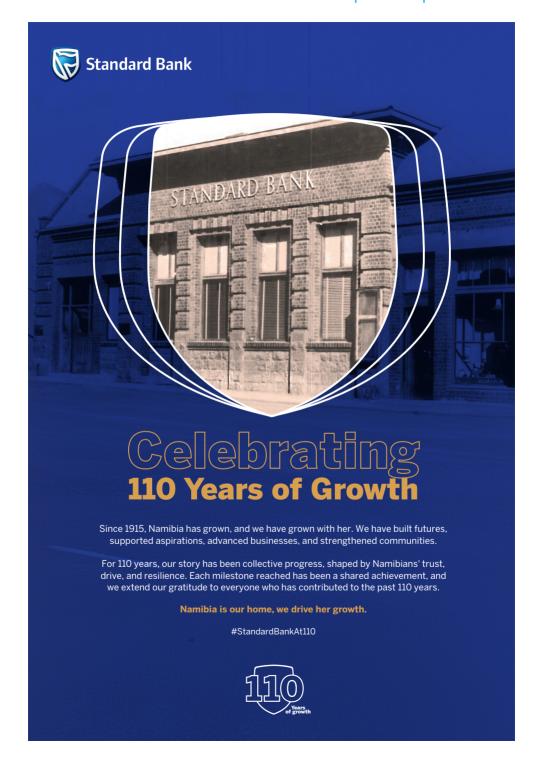
Namibia's fishing industry generated N\$13.8 billion in export earnings in 2024, a slight decline from N\$14.1 billion in 2023, despite lower catch volumes. Zaamwani said the sector contributed 4.1% to GDP in 2024, down from 4.5% in 2023, largely due to reductions in the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for key species such as hake and horse mackerel.

The 2024 TAC was set at 438,080 metric tonnes, down from 457,380 metric tonnes in 2023, resulting in total landings of 429,013 metric tonnes. The industry nevertheless operated with a fleet of 235 vessels and 30 onshore processing plants, producing more than 39 value-added fish products.

"The stability of Namibia's fishing industry is paramount. It is the foundation upon which the livelihoods of countless Namibians depend. However, factors such as fluctuating quotas owing to declining biomass, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and other external pressures have created uncertainty," she said.

Zaamwani added that the government remained committed to sustainability, inclusivity and long-term stability in the sector. She cited stricter bycatch management rules, a review of the quota system and plans to increase domestic fish processing to 45% within five years under the National Development Plan 6.







Namibians awarded 82% of N\$7.5bn government tenders

he Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) has awarded contracts worth N\$7.5 billion for the 2024/2025 financial year, a decline from N\$8.1 billion in the previous year.

Board member Julinda !Garus-Oas said



the contracts were spread across 36 for goods, 63 for works, and 80 for services, with more than 1,700 contracts active by mid-2025.

"The total value of the running contracts is N\$7.5 billion across the whole country with Khomas having the most projects valued at N\$1.7 billion and the Kunene region having the least with N\$57 million," she said.

Fellow board member Immanuel Kadhila noted that the majority of awards went to Namibian-owned companies.

"Out of 179 contracts awarded, 146, representing 82%, went to entities that are 100% Namibian-owned. Fifteen contracts, or 8%, went to businesses with at least 51% Namibian ownership, while only 10% went to international entities," he said.

The value of the contracts reflects the breakdown, with N\$4.4 billion allocated to fully Namibian-owned firms, N\$763

million to companies with at least 51% Namibian ownership, and N\$2.3 billion to international firms.

Kadhila added that the CPBN applies mechanisms to ensure inclusivity in procurement. "Through mechanisms such as reserved contracts for small and medium enterprises, local labour sourcing requirements, empowerment clauses in bids, and mandatory capacity-building programs, the CPBN ensures that opportunities are inclusive and reflect Namibia's demographics," he said.

He also highlighted the board's emphasis on supporting local industries, particularly in agriculture. "We are committed to sourcing fresh produce, meat, and other products from local producers. Bidders based in the northern regions are required to source meat from suppliers north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence," said Kadhila.



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A better future for Namibia: Why the HPV vaccine matters

By Ondavulitha Nuunyango

Something real.

If you're a parent in Namibia right now, you've probably heard the news. There's a national campaign to vaccinate girls aged 9 to 14 against Human Papilloma virus (HPV). And for some, that raises questions.

Maybe even a few fears. That's normal. No one wants to feel like their child is being used for a medical experiment. And with all the noise out there, WhatsApp messages, social media rumours, it's easy to feel unsure.

But here's the thing. This vaccine could change lives. Literally.

What is HPV and why does it matter? HPV, short for human papilloma virus, is a really common virus. Most people will get it at some point in their lives. It spreads through close skin contact, especially sexual contact. While most strains go away on their own, some do not. The high-risk types can lead to serious diseases. The most common is cervical cancer.

And cervical cancer hits Namibia hard. It's one of the leading causes of cancer death among women here. That's not just a statistic. It's mothers, sisters, aunties, friends.

The good news is that HPV is preventable. That's where the vaccine comes in.

66

HPV, short for human papilloma virus, is a really common virus.

Why vaccinate girls so young?

Because the vaccine works best before someone is exposed to HPV. That's why the Ministry of Health is focusing on girls aged 9 to 14. It's not about assuming anything about a child's behaviour. It's just the science. You protect early and give them the best chance of avoiding problems later.

Also, and this is important, it doesn't encourage sexual activity. The HPV vaccine is no different from the other vaccines our children already receive through the national EPI schedule. It's preventive, plain and simple. Like how we vaccinate against measles or tetanus. Nothing more.

Other countries have done the same. Australia, for example, started HPV vaccinations years ago. They've already seen a sharp drop in cervical cancer rates. This works.

So, is it safe?

Yes. Over 100 countries use this vaccine. It's been around for nearly two decades. It's backed by the World Health Organization, the CDC, and Namibia's own Ministry of Health. The side effects



are usually just a sore arm, maybe a little fever or tiredness. Serious reactions are extremely rare.

And the rumours about fertility issues?

There is no evidence to support that. Multiple studies from around the world have looked into it and all say the same thing. The HPV vaccine does not affect a girl's ability to have children later in life. However, cervical cancer can affect fertility, depending on how early its caught, the type and stage of the cancer and what treatment is needed. Catching it early or preventing it altogether is what makes the difference

What about boys?

Good question. Right now. Namibia is starting girls. That's where the highest risk of cervical cancer lies. But vaccinating boys also helps protect everyone by reducing how much HPV spreads in the community. Some countries already include boys. It's possible Namibia could go there too in the future.

Where is it being given?

The vaccine is being offered for free through schools and clinics across all 14 regions. If you haven't seen a consent form yet, it's coming. Or you can ask your local health centre. No private payment is needed. No jumping through hoops.

If you're still not sure That's okay. It's good to ask questions.

Speak to your local nurse or doctor. Ask your school. Or look it up on official sites, not the Facebook group where your cousin's friend posted a video from who knows where. The truth is, a lot of misinformation spreads quickly, especially when people are scared. But fear is not the same as fact.

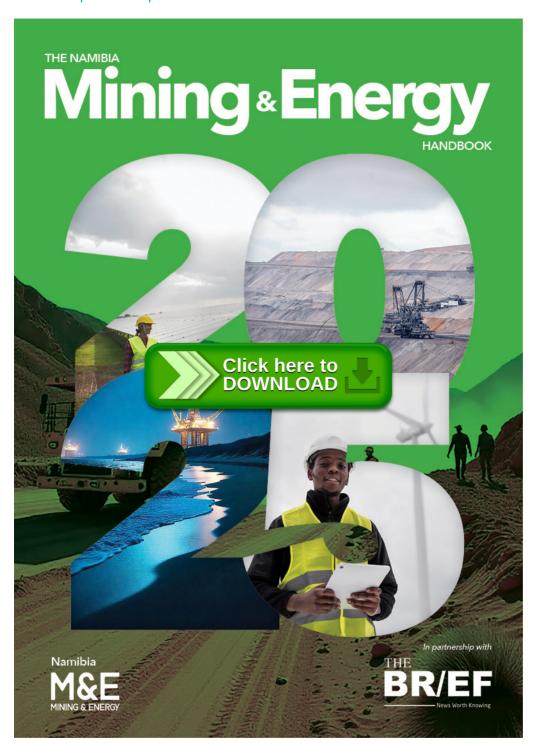
Final thought

The HPV vaccine is one of the simplest and safest ways to protect our girls from a cancer that is taking too many lives in Namibia. This is not about pressure. It is about protection. The kind that lasts long after the injection is over.

So if you get that form, read it. Ask your questions. But maybe consider saying yes.

Because one small decision today could mean a future where more girls grow up healthy, strong and free from a disease that never had to happen.

*Dr Ondavulitha Nuunyango, holds an MBCHB (Stellenbosch), member of Royal College of General Practitioners, practises as a Family Physician in the UK. The views expressed in the article are solely those of the author.



Bank Windhoek raises N\$250.5m with first Sustainability-Linked Bond

Bank Windhoek has raised N\$250.5 million through the issuance of Namibia's first Sustainability-Linked Bond (SLB), a financial instrument tied to defined sustainability performance targets.

"As a truly Namibian bank, we recognise the importance of financing traditional growth sectors and prioritising emerging, high-impact niches within the economy. One such area is Sustainable Finance, which is not only about risk and return but also prioritises specific impact areas linked to national development goals and sustainability objectives," Chief Treasurer Claire Hobbs said.

"The Sustainability-Linked Bond is a significant evolution in our approach: unlike use-of-proceeds bonds, this instrument directly commits the Bank to achieving defined sustainability performance targets."

The three-year bond auction, held on 19 August, attracted bids worth N\$525.5 million, of which N\$250.5 million was allocated at a rate of three-month JIBAR + 80 basis points. "The auction was 1.75 times oversubscribed speaking to investor interest for this type of thematic issuance, that is a first of its kind for the Namibian market," Hobbs said.

As part of its commitment, Bank Windhoek has pledged to deploy N\$300 million in sustainable finance over the next two years.

"The focus is to enable and empower small-scale projects, speaking to the ambition of this commitment, recognising that collective impact built on many small contributions can significantly drive resilience and inclusive development,"



Hobbs said.

On the design of the bond, she explained: "In designing this instrument, being a relationship bank, we engaged with various stakeholders, drawing from their insights and global best practices we could learn from. The resulting bond structure reflects our first attempt at this type of instrument, the unique market contexts and institutional capacity, while also challenging us to raise the bar in sustainable finance."

"Through this bond, Bank Windhoek aims to create meaningful impact, enable greater client participation in sustainability efforts as it works to achieve its commitment, and continue to play a catalytic role within the Namibian economy."



hairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economy and Industry, Public Administration and Planning, Iipumbu Shiimi, has warned that Namibia's ambition to become a regional transport hub could be undermined if government continues to prioritise roads over rail.

Speaking at a recent engagement, Shiimi highlighted the imbalance in infrastructure funding. "16 billion on roads, 4 billion on railways, while the need is actually the other way around. So if you really want to build a transport hub, much of the emphasis must now go to railway," he said.

Shiimi stressed that while road investment remains important, Namibia has already invested heavily in road expansion, whereas the railway system remains outdated, with much of the infrastructure dating back to before the 1960s.

He noted that allocating more resources to rail projects, such as the planned line to Katima Mulilo, could deliver significant economic and logistical benefits.

His remarks come as TransNamib had

planned to invest N\$1.7 billion in the purchase of 23 new locomotives as part of a fleet upgrade, while also committing N\$311 million to refurbish seven locomotives.

The funding, secured in June 2024 from the Development Bank of Namibia (N\$500 million) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (N\$2.1 billion), was intended to boost the operator's capacity.

However, Works and Transport Minister Veikko Nekundi cancelled the procurement, raising concerns over the risks of sourcing locomotives from a single foreign supplier.

TransNamib had proposed acquiring General Electric/Wabtec locomotives to standardise its fleet. Nekundi argued that the single-source approach carried excessive risk as it excluded competition.

Meanwhile, the Trans-Kalahari Railway project linking Namibia and Botswana has entered a new phase, with both governments focusing on attracting private sector investment, finalising financing frameworks, and preparing for regulatory and operational readiness.

Sisedi appoints Gabriel Indombo as Chief Investment Officer

siedi Investment Group has announced the appointment of Gabriel Indombo, CFA, as its new Chief Investment Officer (CIO), saying the move will strengthen the company's investment direction and growth strategy.

The asset manager said Indombo, one of the few black CFA charter holders in Namibia, will lead its investment division in identifying, evaluating and executing opportunities aimed at optimising returns and creating sustainable value for clients.

Hertha !Gontes, Chief Executive and Co-Founder of Sisedi Investment Group, said the appointment reflected the firm's values of inclusivity and transformation.

"As the only female-founded Namibian asset management company, Sisedi considers gender inclusivity as an essential prerequisite for optimal investment decision-making," she said.

"We believe that variety fosters creativity and innovation and that job roles are unrelated to any particular gender. Men and women contribute different values and perspectives, and that diversity enhances overall performance. As part of the leadership of Sisedi, Gabriel will lead our investment strategy. His appointment reflects our dedication to cultivating a team aligned with our vision and values. We are confident that his experience and expertise will further strengthen our mission to build a truly Namibian asset management company."

According to the company, Indombo holds an Honours degree in Financial Analysis and Portfolio Management from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Namibia University



of Science and Technology.

His career has spanned investment analysis, financial regulation, central banking and project structuring, providing him with experience across both domestic and international markets.

Sisedi said Indombo's appointment underlines its commitment to transformation, excellence and sustainable growth, while enhancing its ability to deliver innovative investment solutions for clients and stakeholders.



Agribank returns Witvlei abattoir on market for N\$51.7 million

he once-thriving Witvlei abattoir, a key facility in Namibia's beef export industry, is back on the market as the Agricultural Bank of Namibia (Agribank) seeks to dispose of the dormant asset for N\$51.7 million.

Agribank has issued a formal notice inviting offers for the entire abattoir and its associated properties, with no option to purchase components separately.

The bank is calling for full payment upfront from the highest bidder, with only verifiable Namibian bank guarantees accepted. Irrevocable foreign guarantees may be considered, and a penalty of N\$1 million will apply for withdrawal of guarantees.

The Witvlei abattoir, located in the Omaheke Region, once played a central role in boosting Namibia's beef processing and export capacity.

"Agribank shall only accept offer payments in full and not in instalments from the highest bidder," Agribank's Chief Executive Raphael Karuaihe told The Brief on Wednesday.

It was previously leased to Witvlei Meat, a company owned by businessman Sidney

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Agribank shall only accept offer payments in full and not in instalments from the highest bidder



Martin, who paid N\$250,000 per month since 2006. However, a failed purchase agreement and legal dispute over ownership led to the company's eviction in 2019, following a High Court ruling.

Since then, the facility has remained idle, despite its potential to support regional farmers and re-establish Namibia's position in the international meat market.

"Only verifiable Namibian Bank guarantees shall be accepted. Or irrevocable foreign bank guarantees issued to our local banker in our favour, shall only be accepted after verification by our local banker on the validity of the guarantee," he added.

Agribank has made it clear the sale is final, with no negotiation on terms.

The property will be sold as is and the buyer will assume all compliance and transfer costs.

A compulsory site visit is scheduled for 25 August 2025 at 10h00, open to all serious bidders.

As Namibia looks to revitalise its agricultural economy, the sale of the Witvlei abattoir presents a rare opportunity to restore a key piece of infrastructure and breathe new life into the country's meat industry. The closing date of the bids is 2 September 2025.



OTESA appoints Sethu Kalili as Acting Chief Commercial and Technical Officer

TESA Civil Engineering has announced the appointment of Sethu Kalili as Acting Chief Commercial and Technical Officer, effective 1 August 2025.

In her new role, Kalili will oversee the company's Commercial and Technical Services Department, tasked with aligning policies and operations with OTESA's long-term strategy.

According to the company, her mandate includes driving efficiency, optimising performance, promoting innovation, and fostering a high-performance culture.

"We are confident in Kalili's leadership and proven capabilities. Her dedication and professional expertise will provide stability and direction during this transitional period, while ensuring that OTESA continues to deliver on its commitments to quality, innovation, and client satisfaction," OTESA Civil Engineering Chief Executive Officer, Elmo Kaiyamo, said.

Kalili joined OTESA in November 2024. She is a qualified civil engineer with a postgraduate degree in Project and Construction Management and has more than 20 years' experience in the construction industry. Her career spans general contracting, design and drafting, fit-out work, and subcontracting across the private, residential, and mining sectors.

She has also worked extensively on construction, infrastructure, renewable energy, and process management projects, with international experience in South Africa, Namibia, Tanzania, and Kenya. Beyond Africa, she has been involved in renewable energy and infrastructure projects in Australia, the United Kingdom,



and the United States.

OTESA Civil Engineering said the appointment demonstrates its commitment to maintaining strong leadership as it continues to position itself as a trusted partner in Namibia's civil engineering and construction sector. The company is active in delivering key infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, bridges, and buildings.



Building legacy, shaping tomorrow: Reflections on 35 years of Wernhil

By Sven Thieme

s I reflect on Wernhil Park's remarkable 35-year journey, I am deeply moved by the vision and courage of my grandfather, Werner List, whose faith in Namibia's future created something far greater than a shopping centre.

When he and my grandmother Hildegard (hence the name Wernhil) made the bold decision to invest in what is today one of Namibia's premier retail destinations and the oldest regional mall in Namibia, they were laying the foundation for a legacy that would pulse with the heartbeat of our city and our nation.

The year 1990 marked Namibia's independence but also the birth of Wernhil, a symbolic merging that speaks to the profound connection between O&L's vision and our country's destiny.

At a time when political uncertainty cast shadows over business decisions, my grandfather chose to believe in Namibia's potential.

That act of faith, that willingness to invest when others hesitated, exemplified the spirit that continues to drive O&L today – we are proudly Namibian and our commitment to this country runs deeper than profit margins.

The start of Wernhil emerged from the City of Windhoek's ambitious central business district (CBD) master plan, which envisioned Post Street Mall as a vibrant pedestrian throughfare leading to a retail magnet along Mandume Ndemufavo Avenue. When O&L seized this opportunity. we saw this as a way to actively participate in the architectural transformation of Windhoek's heart

We were already considering building Wernhil simply because our Model Super Store on Independence Avenue had outgrown its space and we needed larger premises. When the municipality's CBD master plan was unveiled, it aligned perfectly with our vision.

remarkable We saw convergence of municipal ambition and business necessity that allowed us to create something exceptional: Namibia's first true one-stop shopping destination while actively participating in the architectural transformation of Windhoek's central business district.

What began as a practical idea – housing 54 shops in an 18,000 square metre complex – has evolved into something extraordinary.

Today, Wernhil spans over 54,000 square metres with more than 100 retail outlets, welcoming 1.1 million shoppers monthly. This transformation didn't happen by accident.

The vision of growth has always been there. From the beginning, our architects built foundations capable of supporting additional levels, pillars engineered to carry the weight of future dreams and infrastructure designed for growth that hadn't yet been imagined. This forward-thinking approach reflects O&L's core philosophy: we build for generations to come.

The secret to Wernhil's enduring success lies in something uniquely valuable – unparalleled variety and choice.

While shopping malls globally face challenges from e-commerce and changing consumer behaviour, Wernhil has defied these trends by consistently remaining a hugely popular retail shopping destination in Namibia.

When shoppers need home décor, they can choose from five different home shops under one roof.

When they're seeking the perfect outfit, they discover Namibia's most



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comprehensive fashion selection, including the country's largest collection of men's fashion retailers. This is the transformation of shopping from a chore into an experience where comparison, choice and competitive pricing come together.

And the convenience extends beyond shopping. When hunger strikes, Wernhil offers an extensive selection of takeaways to refuel during your shopping adventure, while three major grocery retailers provide comprehensive grocery shopping.

Our four phases of expansion over 35 years tell a story of continuous reinvestment and unwavering belief in the capital's and, by extension, the country's potential.

Phase 2 in 2007 injected N\$78.9 million into the centre, increasing foot traffic by 35% and revitalising the entire CBD.

Phase 3 in 2010 represented a N\$224 million commitment, adding over 16,000 square meters of retail space.

Phase 4, completed in 2019 with a N\$529 million investment, created 600 new positions and solidified Wernhil's position as a catalyst for economic growth. Each phase has been inaugurated by Namibia's presidents, reflecting the deep connection between our vision and the nation's journey.

As Karen Keys, the Managing Director of Broll Namibia, aptly observes: "We're not just managing a mall – we're shaping one that's ready for tomorrow, rooted in what matters: connection, creativity and community. A place where people feel seen, valued and proud to belong." This perspective captures what makes Wernhil special – it has become a cornerstone of Windhoek's social and cultural landscape, truly the ultimate one-stop destination where families can accomplish all their shopping needs in one single visit.

Looking ahead, I feel that Wernhil's story reflects the broader narrative of Namibia's

development. We've witnessed our country's transformation from uncertain beginnings to confident strides toward prosperity and we've been privileged to contribute to that journey.

Our investment in Wernhil represents a declaration of faith in Namibian potential, a commitment to job creation, community upliftment and CBD revitalisation.

The visionaries who laid Wernhil's foundation understood that true success isn't measured in square metres or tenant numbers only, but in the positive impact on people's lives. For 35 years we've been the pulse of Windhoek city, standing at the heart of the capital's retail landscape.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, our deepest gratitude goes to the tenants with whom we have built lasting partnerships over three and a half decades and to the countless shoppers who have made us part of their everyday lives.

Together, we have contributed to shaping a legacy that extends far beyond retail success.

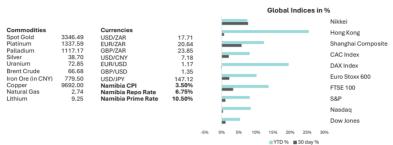
Looking toward another 35 years of growth, we remain committed to evolving with purpose, creating experiences that uplift and going beyond shopping while integrating sustainable practices and fostering a space where every visitor feels seen and valued.

Grounded in financial sustainability, we will continue shaping a mall that thrives economically, emotionally and culturally.

Through bold ideas and a legacy mindset, our future-forward thinking ensures that Wernhil will continue serving as a beacon of Namibian excellence, just as my grandfather envisioned when he first believed in the promise of our beloved country.

*Sven Thieme is the Executive Chairman of O&L Group





ISE Sectors: Year to Date Performance in % Today's JSE Top 40 Top & Worst Performers in Telecommunications British American Tobacco PLC Technology Investec PLC SA Listed Property Investec Ltd Precious Metals Industrials Northam Platinum Holdings Ltd Health Care Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV ≡ 961Y Financials Pepkor Holdings Ltd ■ %YTD Gold Fields Ltd Consumer Staples Consumer Services Sasol I td Consumer Discretionary FirstRand Ltd Construction and Materials Woolworths Holdings Ltd/South Basic Materials -60 -40 -20 0 20 40 60 80 100 120

