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News Worth Knowing

TransNamib to invest N\$1.7 billion in 23 new locomotives



FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 2025

MAIN STORY

TransNamib to invest N\$1.7 billion in 23 new locomotives

TransNamib is set to invest N\$1.7 billion to purchase 23 new locomotives, as part of a major fleet upgrade aimed at boosting the country's rail transport capabilities.

The company will also spend N\$311 million to rebuild seven existing locomotives, a process that involves dismantling and refurbishing each one to extend its operational lifespan by another 20 years.

This comes as the company in June acquired funding from the Development Bank of Namibia (N\$500 million) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (N\$2.1 billion).

According to TransNamib CEO Desmond van Jaarsveld, the N\$2.6 billion investment would be allocated toward the company's rolling stock.

"But this is what we're going to procure. I think the most important thing is the new locomotives, 23 in total. We are also rebuilding seven, and when I say rebuild, I mean we take the whole thing apart. It's like Lego, everything is dismantled. The locomotive is broken down into 110 pieces, and it takes about three to four months to refurbish each part, from the turbo to the engine. Once reassembled, it will last for another 20 years," he said.

He further explained that the company would also be upgrading the workshop,



Crucial Dates

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

”
The board will oversee the procurement process, including specifications and criteria for the equipment.

particularly in terms of mechanical and heavy-duty equipment, steam boilers, and other tools to the tune of N\$ 29 million.

Van Jaarsveld said N\$249 million would be allocated for the procurement of 300 wagons, handled by the Central Procurement Board.

The board will oversee the procurement process, including specifications and criteria for the equipment.

He also clarified that no funds would be allocated for bonuses, as all the money is intended for equipment and refurbishment, which is essential and long overdue.

He pointed out that 80% of the existing locomotives are over 50 years old. Two locomotives are currently being refurbished at the workshop, a collaborative effort between contractors and TransNamib personnel.

As part of this process, staff are also being retrained in locomotive refurbishment.

“We’ll revive the older ones as well. In the meantime, we’re refurbishing two locomotives right now in our workshop. We have a contractor on-site working alongside TransNamib personnel, and part of the process is retraining our staff in locomotive refurbishment,” he said.

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Year in Review



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Outlook 2025





Shell's non-viable discovery won't impact Namibia's oil ambitions - Alweendo

Namibia's oil and gas development prospects remain on track despite Shell's announcement that recent discoveries in some wells drilled in PEL39 are not commercially viable, Minister of Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo has stated.

"The recent announcement by Shell... is unfortunate but it will not significantly impact Namibia's oil and gas development," Alweendo said.

The minister expressed optimism about ongoing exploration activities, highlighting the country's untapped offshore potential.

"We are positive that the remaining potential of PEL39 and other exploration campaigns currently underway will translate into commercial developments," he said.

He pointed to the progress made by TotalEnergies in its multi-well appraisal and exploration drilling campaign in

Block 2913B, located in PEL56, as a sign of continued momentum.

Additionally, Galp is seeking a new partner for its Mopane complex, following two discoveries in 2024 at Mopane-1X and its successful appraisal at Mopane-2A.

Meanwhile, Chevron, in partnership with Namcor and Trago, has commenced drilling the Kapana 1X well in PEL90. These activities underline the commitment of leading international oil companies to unlock Namibia's offshore resources.

"We believe that we have barely begun to scratch the surface of the country's offshore resources. We will continue working with dedicated companies to develop these resources," Alweendo said.

He expressed confidence that ongoing exploration would lead to commercial opportunities, paving the way for Namibia to deliver its first oil production in the near future. - ***miningandenergy.com.na***



Coastal land prices surge amid Namibia's property market recovery

Land prices in Namibia's coastal region have surged dramatically, recording a 60.7% year-on-year increase in the third quarter of 2024, according to the latest FNB House Price Index.

The average price per square meter in the region rose to N\$817, underscoring a remarkable rebound in property market activity.

This exceptional growth outpaced other regions, with the central region posting a 31.4% year-on-year increase in land prices to N\$1,041 per square meter.

Meanwhile, land prices in the northern and southern regions experienced sharp declines of -6.6% and -40.0%, respectively,

with the southern region registering the lowest average price at just N\$49 per square meter.

The coastal housing market also saw modest gains, with house prices rising by 2.7% year-on-year to an average of N\$1,158,000.

In contrast, the southern region struggled, with house prices contracting by -4.0% to N\$759,000.

Nationally, Namibia's property market showed strong recovery signs, with the 12-month weighted average house price reaching N\$1,303,179 at the end of the third quarter, up from N\$1,263,673 in the second quarter and N\$1,218,086 in the



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same period in 2023.

This represents a 7.0% year-on-year increase, the highest growth rate since 2021.

The central region led this resurgence, recording a 6.9% year-on-year increase in house prices, with the regional average rising to N\$1,659,000.

“The growth in the Central House Price Index continued to trend upwards, posting 6.9% in Q3 compared to 2.9% in Q2 and significantly above the -1.1% recorded in Q2 2023,” the report stated.

The small housing segment, priced between N\$500,000 and N\$1,500,000, was the key driver of market recovery, growing by 14% year-on-year and accounting for the bulk of transactions.

The medium housing segment (N\$1,500,000–N\$3,500,000) remained stable, with a slight contraction of -0.3%.

Larger properties in the N\$3,500,000–N\$6,500,000 range and the luxury segment above N\$6,500,000 continued to struggle, with contractions of -6.5% and -4.4%, respectively.

Transaction volumes also showed signs of improvement. The central region exited contractionary territory with a 1.1% year-on-year increase in the third quarter.

The coastal and northern regions reported reduced contractions of -4.7% and -19.0%, respectively, compared

to steeper declines in previous quarters. The southern region remained stagnant at 20.0%.

The recovery in land prices and housing activity signals renewed confidence in Namibia’s property market.

Analysts attribute the growth to increased demand in the small housing segment, stabilizing transaction volumes, and a strong rebound in the coastal and central regions.

With coastal land prices experiencing unprecedented growth and broader market indicators showing positive trends, Namibia’s property sector appears poised for sustained recovery.

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Beyond the shore: Tapping the Atlantic for renewable innovation

By Gerson Hakey Nasau

Imagine a future where the rhythmic waves and steady winds of the Atlantic Ocean fuel the homes, industries, and economies of Southern Africa. Stretching along the western coastline of countries like Namibia, Angola, and South Africa, the Atlantic offers an untapped reservoir of renewable energy waiting to be unlocked. This is not just an opportunity—it's a call to action.

The vast Atlantic Ocean stretches beyond the imagination, hiding in its depths not just marine life but the power to revolutionize energy generation in Southern Africa. As the global energy conversation shifts toward sustainability, the Atlantic's waves, winds, and currents hold untapped potential to lead a renewable energy revolution. Yet, marine renewables remain a barely audible whisper in Africa's energy mix conversations. It's time to amplify



As the global energy conversation shifts toward sustainability, the Atlantic's waves, winds, and currents hold untapped potential to lead a renewable energy revolution.

that voice and bring marine energy to the forefront of regional development.

Marine renewable energy refers to energy generated from ocean-based resources, including wave energy, tidal currents, offshore wind, and ocean thermal energy. This sector leverages natural oceanic



Invitation - Scope of Work Information Sharing

The Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) invites all interested bidders to attend a scope of work information session for the Request for Proposal (RFP) concerning the Development of a Predictive Model for Student Funding Budget Estimates.

Details of the session:

Date: Monday, 13 January 2025
Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Venue: NSFAF Head Office, 746 Erosweg, Eros, Windhoek


For further information or inquiries, please contact: Allenah Matengu: 061 434 6055 / Agnes Dawid: 061 434 6070 / Email: Procurement Procurement@nsfaf.ng

processes to produce electricity with minimal environmental impact. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), marine energy could play a key role in diversifying the global energy mix and meeting decarbonisation goals. Despite its promise, the African context rarely includes marine renewables in national energy strategies. This omission can be attributed to a few reasons: the high upfront costs of marine energy technologies, limited technical expertise, and the prioritisation of terrestrial renewables like solar and wind due to their accessibility and lower barriers to entry. However, ignoring marine renewables overlooks their significant potential for Southern Africa.

Southern Africa's extensive coastline, stretching over 3,000 kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean, offers enormous marine renewable potential. Recent studies indicate consistent and strong wave energy in regions off the Namibian and South African coasts, with currents and tidal forces adding to the resource mix. Offshore wind speeds in this region are some of the best globally, rivalling wind patterns seen in Northern Europe's North Sea. If harnessed,

these resources could generate gigawatts of renewable energy, creating a cleaner, more reliable power supply for the region. The proximity of these resources to coastal towns ensures minimal energy transmission losses and efficient delivery to consumers.

Namibia faces critical energy challenges that marine renewables could address. In



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INVITATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE IN THE KHOMAS COMMUNAL LAND BOARD.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) has created a communal land in the Khomas Region. The creation of the communal land necessitates a Khomas Communal Land Board to be established. MAWLR is hereby inviting competent **women** with expertise relevant to the functions of the Board and women engaged in Farming operations in the Khomas Region, to express interests to be appointed to serve on the Khomas Communal Land Board in terms of Section 4(1) (d) (i) (ii) of the Communal Land Reform Act No: 5 of 2002, as amended. Those interested must indicate the category they are interested to serve on the Board. The members are expected to serve on the Board until 29th February 2027.

Individuals are required to have at least a Degree in land related fields amongst others, but not limited to:

- Agriculture and or Land Tenure, Land Management, Land Administration/Farming.
- Land Use Planning and or Land Economics.
- Dispute Resolutions/Adjudication/Law.
- Customary and African Studies.
- Development Studies.

Individuals are required to submit the following documents:

- A cover letter supporting the Expression of Interest.
- Full Curriculum Vitae (CV) indicating experiences and qualifications.
- Certified Copies of Educational Qualifications and Identity Documents.
- Knowledge in communal land administration will be an added advantage.


Deadline to express interest: 31st January 2025

NB: This advert is only applicable to women. Youthful women and women with disabilities are encouraged to apply. EoI must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR KHOMAS COMMUNAL LAND BOARD MEMBERSHIP** and delivered to:


The Executive Director
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Building, 2nd Floor
55 Robert Mugabe Avenue
Ausspammplatz
Windhoek

Private Bag 13343
Windhoek
or at Namibia

For more information you may contact Mr. Gabriel Iindombo or Mr. Mukendwa Mumbone at Tel No: 061- 2965120/5090 or the nearest MAWLR Regional Office



Ndiyakupi Nguuamata (Ms)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




2024, local electricity production fell by 6.5% due to reduced water availability, and electricity imports rose to 28%, according to the Bank of Namibia. Marine renewables offer a sustainable solution to reduce reliance on imports and stabilise domestic energy production.


With the Atlantic Ocean buzzing with oil and gas exploration, marine renewables offer a unique opportunity to decarbonize these traditionally carbon-intensive operations. Similar to initiatives in the North Sea, where offshore wind farms now power oil


rigs as part of their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments, Southern Africa's oil and gas sector could adopt marine renewables to lower emissions and enhance sustainability. By utilizing ocean-based wind and wave power, offshore rigs could operate more cleanly, positioning the region as a leader in sustainable energy practices for extractive industries. Examples include Equinor's Hywind Tampen project in the North Sea, which powers oil platforms using floating wind turbines, reducing carbon emissions significantly.

Southern Africa's growing oil and gas industry could replicate such models, ensuring that extraction activities align with global decarbonization goals. Moreover, the recently effected FuelEU Maritime policy, which sets stricter emission standards for maritime transport within the European Union, emphasizes the need for clean fuels and innovative energy solutions. Southern Africa can leverage this momentum by promoting marine renewables as part of a broader strategy to meet international shipping decarbonization targets.


The push for green hydrogen—produced using renewable energy and water—has gained significant momentum in Southern Africa. Given that much of the region, including Namibia, is arid,




www.debmarine.com



TENDER



First date of publication: 06 December 2024

TENDER NO: DBMNE0506 PROVISION OF ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE

DESCRIPTION:
 Debmarine Namibia is seeking an experienced Service Provider for Security Services.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. The scope of the tender without limitation includes the provision of Security Services.
2. Demonstrate five (5) years' experience of relevant security services considering the scope. A key criteria will be companies of suitable size and dealing with complexities in line with the requirements needed for bigger corporate clients.
3. List three (3) corporate clients relevant to this scope of work – describe the service provided and skills or competency required and number of resourced assigned to the service provided.
4. Training manuals.
5. Number of staff allocated to the scope of work, describing their skill, background and relevant experience and qualification for this scope of work.
6. Show services rendered in other regions in Namibia.

CLOSING DATE: 17 JANUARY 2025 at 12:00

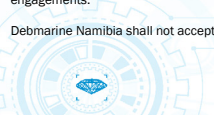

REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC TENDER DOCUMENT:
 Registered businesses interested in providing such services are requested to register at **Asite Marketplace**: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to obtain a tender document with reference number **DBMNE0506 ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE**

ENQUIRIES:
 The Procurement Officer
 Tel: +264 61 297 8481
 Email Address: e-tender@debmarine.com
 Subject line: DBMNE0506 ACCESS CONTROL AND RELATED SECURITY FUNCTIONS AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE

Bidders must register on our electronic platform Asite Marketplace: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to participate in this tender.

DISCLAIMER:
 Debmarine Namibia shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this tender and furthermore reserves the right not to extend this tender into any future tenders, negotiations and or engagements.

Debmarine Namibia shall not accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.

the sea is the most reliable source of water. Marine renewables located offshore, near desalination facilities, can provide a cost-effective energy source for water processing and electrolysis. This proximity minimizes logistics costs, making green hydrogen projects more viable and competitive globally. By integrating marine renewables into these projects, Southern Africa can reduce costs and attract investment for large-scale hydrogen production. The Southern African Green Hydrogen Atlas highlights the potential of Namibia to lead this industry, with its coastal access and high renewable energy potential, including marine resources.

Marine renewables could bring a transformative impact to Southern Africa's coastal towns, addressing chronic energy and water shortages while catalyzing industrial development. Take Lüderitz, for example.

This Namibian coastal town faces frequent power shortages. By tapping into offshore wind or wave power, Lüderitz could secure a stable and sustainable electricity supply, bolstering local industries and improving residents' quality of life. Beyond power generation, marine renewables could fuel desalination plants, providing freshwater to parched communities. Coastal towns could also see a boom in aquaculture, powered by reliable energy, diversifying their economies while reducing reliance on fishing.

Additionally, marine renewables could support marine mining—a growing industry—by providing the power needed for operations sustainably.

While marine renewables offer immense benefits, their deployment must be carefully managed to protect the marine ecosystems that sustain millions of livelihoods. Many Southern African economies are deeply reliant on the fishing sector.

For instance, Namibia's fishing industry accounts for approximately 15% of the country's exports and employs tens of thousands of people. Across Africa, an estimated 12.3 million people work in fisheries and aquaculture, contributing significantly to food security and income generation.

Deploying marine renewable projects must avoid disrupting key fish breeding grounds, migratory paths, and marine biodiversity.

Best practices, such as conducting detailed environmental impact assessments and employing technologies that minimize ecological disruption, are essential to balance energy development with marine conservation. Europe's experience in harmonizing offshore energy projects with ecosystem protection provides valuable lessons.

The Atlantic Ocean offers Southern Africa a shared opportunity to drive innovation, sustainability, and regional integration. Harnessing its marine renewables can not only decarbonize energy systems but also uplift coastal communities and reduce environmental risks from fossil fuel dependence.

From powering green hydrogen production to supporting aquaculture and ensuring coastal resilience, marine energy is the key to a future beyond the shore—one that balances economic growth with ecological stewardship. Southern Africa has the opportunity to lead a blue energy revolution. The time to act is now. Together, the nations of this region can turn the Atlantic's waves into a force for good, propelling them toward a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

****Gerson Hakey Nasau is Co-founder at Kaoko Green Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd***



CIF renews call for National Construction Council to protect local industry

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) has reiterated its call for the establishment of a National Construction Council, citing ongoing concerns about fair competition and the prioritization of local businesses.

The federation argues that such a regulatory body is crucial for safeguarding the domestic construction sector, fostering

fair competition, and prioritizing Namibian contractors in national infrastructure projects.

CIF CEO Bärbel Kirchner, highlighting the federation's advocacy efforts since 2006, expressed frustration over the slow progress, despite its inclusion as a priority at the 2019 Namibia Investment Summit.

"The lack of a construction council is not just a missed opportunity for local

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businesses; it's a threat to our national sovereignty. Each project awarded to foreign contractors is a loss for Namibia's economy and workforce," Kirchner said.

She argued that the absence of regulation has enabled foreign contractors to dominate major projects, such as the Ogongo-Oshakati pipeline and the Karibib-Usakos road rehabilitation. This, she said, has sidelined Namibian firms and deprived the local economy of critical resources.

"Namibia's neighboring countries have long established regulatory bodies to oversee their construction industries. Without similar measures, we risk losing our competitive edge, and our construction sector will continue to decline. It's time to act decisively to protect our future," she warned.

Kirchner noted that a National Construction Council would require contractors to register and meet specific qualifications, effectively eliminating unqualified middlemen and ensuring fair competition.

The council would also promote local participation by prioritizing Namibian contractors in both public and private projects, ensuring they play a leading role in the country's infrastructure development.

Additionally, the proposed council would enforce stringent quality

and safety standards, align training programs with industry needs, and provide a comprehensive registry of all construction businesses for strategic planning and resource allocation.

"With large-scale infrastructure and green energy projects on the horizon, the construction sector is at a crossroads. The time to act is now. CIF remains steadfast in its commitment to advocate for this crucial reform, ensuring that Namibia's construction industry reaches its full potential," Kirchner said.

www.debmarnenamibia.com

TENDER

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Cybercrime: A global threat requiring unified action

By Brunmore van Rensburg

Cybercrime is more than just a technical challenge; it is a global threat that endangers the security, privacy, and integrity of our interconnected world. In this digital age, where data drives economies and shapes societies, cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities with increasing sophistication.

As cybersecurity engineers, we are on the front lines of this battle. Our responsibility extends far beyond safeguarding systems and networks we are tasked with protecting the foundation of our digital society.

To effectively combat cybercrime, implementing robust security measures is paramount. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is one such essential measure. MFA enhances security by requiring users to verify their identity using two or more distinct forms of authentication:

1. Something You Know: A password or PIN.
2. Something You Have: A physical device like a smartphone or a hardware token.
3. Something You Are: Biometric data such as a fingerprint or facial recognition.

By combining these factors, MFA ensures that even if one layer is compromised, attackers cannot gain unauthorized access.

Other critical measures include Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA), which ensures that no entity is trusted by default, even within an organization's perimeter, and security



“

To effectively combat cybercrime, implementing robust security measures is paramount.

monitoring, which provides real-time insights into potential threats and enables swift responses to incidents.

In addition to these proactive measures, organizations must deploy the correct perimeter firewalls to establish a strong defense against cyber threats. Perimeter firewalls serve as the first line of defense by filtering traffic entering and leaving the network. Selecting and configuring the right firewalls for your organization's needs is critical.

Organizations must also have well-defined Disaster Recovery (DR) policies and Time to Recovery (TTR) policies to mitigate the impact of cyber incidents. DR policies outline the steps to restore critical systems and data in the event of a cyberattack, natural disaster, or system failure.

TTR policies, on the other hand, focus on minimizing downtime by setting clear objectives for how quickly critical systems and services must be restored after an

Cybersecurity is not just a job; it is a commitment to safeguarding humanity in an increasingly digital era.

incident.

Continuous learning and skill enhancement complement these technical and operational measures. Keeping up to date with industry certifications and committing to yearly updates in our knowledge are key factors in protecting data and maintaining trust in our systems. Cybersecurity is an ever-evolving field, and staying ahead of emerging threats requires dedication, vigilance, and a proactive mindset.

Partnerships are essential: Governments, enterprises, and cybersecurity professionals must unite to combat this shared enemy. By working together and leveraging advanced security tools and strategies, including MFA, ZTNA, security monitoring, the deployment of proper perimeter firewalls, DR policies, and TTR policies, we can build a more resilient and

secure future.

Cybersecurity is not just a job; it is a commitment to safeguarding humanity in an increasingly digital era. By integrating innovative solutions into our strategies, we can rise to this challenge and protect the foundation of our global society in 2025.

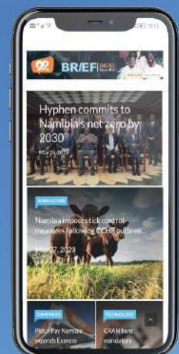
****Brunmore van Rensburg is a seasoned cybersecurity professional with extensive experience in network security solutions. As a Senior Network Cybersecurity Engineer, he is dedicated to safeguarding digital infrastructures and ensuring the privacy and security of critical systems. Brunmore's expertise includes managing security frameworks, and helping organizations stay ahead of evolving cybersecurity threats.***

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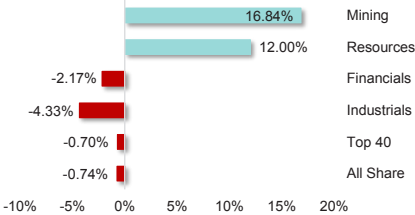
Commodities

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Spot Gold | 2687.96 |
| Platinum | 963.77 |
| Palladium | 956.07 |
| Silver | 30.57 |
| Uranium | 75.00 |
| Brent Crude | 80.04 |
| Iron Ore | 92.48 |
| Copper | 8974.19 |
| Natural Gas | 3.91 |
| Lithium | 9.85 |

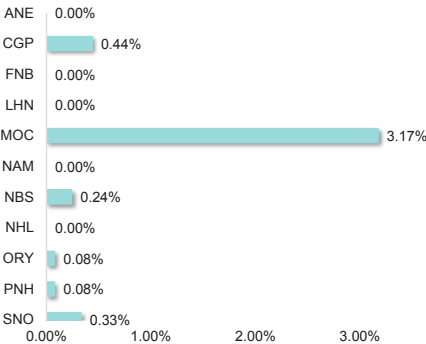
Currencies

| | |
|------------|----------|
| USD/ZAR | 19.0970 |
| EUR/ZAR | 19.5794 |
| GBP/ZAR | 23.3575 |
| USD/CNY | 7.3327 |
| EUR/USD | 1.0252 |
| GBP/USD | 1.2231 |
| USD/RUB | 102.1111 |
| CPI | 3.40% |
| Repo Rate | 7.00% |
| Prime Rate | 10.75% |

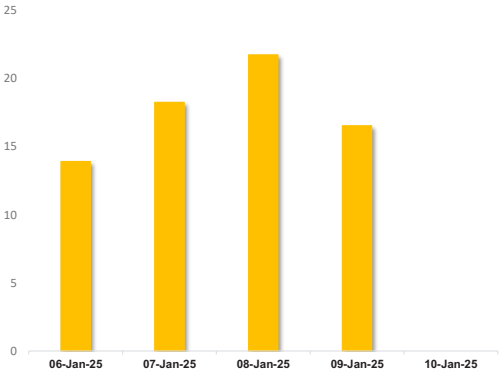
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Month on Month in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

