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News Worth Knowing

Namibia faces 17-locomotive shortfall as rail market share falls to 12%



WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025

MAIN STORY

Namibia faces 17-locomotive shortfall as rail market share falls to 12%



Namibia's rail transport market share has declined to 12% annually due to a shortage of 17 locomotives, according to the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The AfDB noted that with only 15 trains operational daily out of the 32 required, the rail industry faces significant challenges in meeting freight demand despite growing interest from potential clients.

"The rail transport percentage of the market share has dropped to approximately 12% per annum. The market share is currently constrained by the availability of rolling stock. There are no sufficient locomotives to increase freight volumes even though there are several potential clients," the Bank said in the transport infrastructure project brief.

The project brief also notes that efforts to secure additional locomotives are underway,

backed by fresh financing.

"The situation can only improve when new additional locos are secured and brought into operation, the financing for which has been obtained," noted AfDB.

Meanwhile earlier this month, TransNamib revealed that it is set to invest N\$1.7 billion to purchase 23 new locomotives, as part of

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

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.

In 2023, the AfDB approved a US\$196.43 million loan to Namibia, covering 51.8% of the Transport Infrastructure Improvement Project (TIIP) Phase II, with the government providing the remaining 48.2%.

The project, aligning

with Namibia's Vision 2030, aims to enhance the logistics value chain by addressing railway infrastructure challenges.

Key components include constructing 207km of new rail between Kranzberg and Otjiwarongo, modernising signalling systems on the Walvis Bay-Tsumeb line, and building bridges and stations which are now complete.

As part of the project, the AfDB's support will have upgraded a total of 417km of rail to bolster trade competitiveness in Namibia and the southern African region.

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Year in Review



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Outlook 2025



Local contractors' delays and abandonments stall N\$315m water projects

NamWater says locally awarded projects worth N\$315 million have been significantly delayed or abandoned, hampering its ability to meet water supply demands, despite the utility's efforts to support local companies.

The water utility said this in response to recent concerns raised by the Namibia Local Business Association (NALOBA), about the impact of awarding water infrastructure projects to foreign companies.

"NamWater acknowledges the recent claims made by NALOBA and would like to take this opportunity to address these concerns while providing clarity on our procurement processes and challenges," said NamWater's Head of Public Relations and Corporate Communications, Lot Ndamanomhata.

He further explained that the Omahenene-Olushandja Canal Reconstruction (Parts A and B), which began in February 2021, remains incomplete due to contractor delays and site abandonment.

The Goblenz Reservoir Replacement project, which commenced in 2023, saw the contractor abandon the site after completing only 10% of the work, forcing NamWater to terminate the contract.

The Opuwo Boreholes Drilling project faced delays after the contractor failed to mobilise or commence work, exacerbating the water crisis in Opuwo.

Similarly, the Naute-Keetmanshoop Pipeline Replacement project could not proceed as the contractor failed to provide the required performance guarantee or mobilise on-site, resulting in the project's cancellation.

"These five projects, valued at



approximately N\$315 million, highlight the real challenges that have hindered our ability to deliver water infrastructure projects on time and within budget. Additionally, several other locally awarded projects are significantly behind schedule, further impacting our operations and ability to meet water supply demands," he said.

Ndamanomhata also said while NamWater remains dedicated to supporting local empowerment, it acknowledged that some specialised or large-scale projects might require international expertise to meet technical requirements.

In such cases, he said NamWater ensures collaboration with local partners to promote skills transfer and capacity building.

"However, for certain large-scale or highly specialised projects, international expertise may be necessary to meet technical requirements. In such cases, NamWater ensures knowledge transfer and collaboration with local partners to build national capacity," he said.



Daures harvests 10 tonnes in first cucumber harvest

The Daures Agriculture Facility, situated in the Daures Green Hydrogen Village, has harvested 10 tonnes of cucumbers from its climate-controlled greenhouse in its inaugural harvest.

Daures CEO Jerome Namaseb confirmed that the harvest is a significant milestone in the facility's broader agricultural ambitions.

"Annual harvest for the facility will be between 400 to 500 tonnes, depending on the crops planted," Namaseb told The Brief.

In addition to cucumbers, the facility has recently planted tomatoes and is gearing up for a harvest of red and yellow peppers in the coming months. Namaseb emphasized that the initial focus is on supplying the domestic market, with plans to explore international opportunities as operations expand.

"We are planting yellow and red peppers and anticipate harvesting them within two months. At present, all produce is earmarked for the local market. However, we are



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investigating opportunities for international markets, though these are still in the early stages,” he added.

The state-of-the-art greenhouse operates with a Priva climate automated system, which optimizes conditions for year-round production. This advanced technology supports increased growth rates and higher yields while integrating hydroponic farming to reduce water usage by up to 70% compared to traditional soil-based methods. The facility also recycles run-off water to minimize waste and uphold sustainable farming practices.

Covering 1 hectare, the Butterfly-Vent greenhouse leverages innovative cooling and irrigation systems tailored to Namibia’s arid desert conditions. The structure incorporates a high-pressure fogging system and spaghetti drip irrigation, ensuring water efficiency in one of the world’s driest regions.

The Daures Green Hydrogen Village, where the facility is located, aims to become a model for sustainable, carbon-free agriculture and produce crops using fertilizer derived from green ammonia, while supplying green hydrogen and green ammonia to both regional and international markets.

The initiative is a collaborative effort involving Enersense Namibia (90% shareholding), the Daure Daman Traditional Authority (5.5%), and the Tsiseb Conservancy (2.5%).



Environmental Investment Fund
of Namibia | ensuring sustainability

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) on behalf of the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme invites international and local reputable service providers to express their interest for the following.

Reference Number	Description	Non-Refundable document levy
SC/EOI/EIF- 1/2024	Expression of Interest for the Shortlisting of consultant for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Green Energy Production, Industrialisation and Common User Infrastructure in the Central Green Hydrogen Valley.	Free
SC/EOI/EIF- 2/2024	Expression of Interest for the Shortlisting of consultant for the Project Scoping/ Site Selection Study: Development of Wind Resource Assessment and Meteorological Mast Project Site Selection.	Free

- EOI document can be requested from procurement@eif.org.na

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:

Hard copies/physical bids to be delivered at:
Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Head Office,
1st Floor, Heinitsburg Heights, c/o Heinitsburg & Dr. Theo Ben-Gurirab Street, Klein Windhoek

OR

Electronic bids to be emailed to: procurement@eif.org.na

General queries can be addressed to:
Procurement Management Unit
Tel: +264 61 431 7733/38
Email: procurement@eif.org.na

Closing Date and Time for Submission:
Friday, 21 February 2025 at 12H00 PM Namibian Time



Namibia
Green Hydrogen
Programme



Namibians turn to Airbnb as economic pressures weigh on domestic tourism

Namibians accounted for less than 20% of guests in the tourism sector in 2024, a sharp decline from 26% in 2019, according to the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN).

This drop is attributed to rising economic pressures, which have limited domestic travel, prompting many Namibians to turn to informal tourism options such as Airbnb for more affordable alternatives.

In contrast, international tourism has shown resilience, with South Africans leading the pack, representing 32.49% of all arrivals in 2024. Tourists from other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries followed at 25.77%, and European visitors, primarily from France (10.90%), continued to contribute significantly to Namibia's tourism recovery.

HAN CEO Gitta Paetzold pointed out

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that the financial challenges faced by local travelers have driven many to seek out more budget-friendly options. Airbnb, along with other informal tourism services, has seen a noticeable uptick in offerings across the country.

“The increase in Airbnb and other informal tourism options may serve the Namibian market well, especially during challenging economic times,” Paetzold said.

Namibia’s tourism sector experienced a notable recovery in 2024, with national room occupancy reaching 54.48%, surpassing pre-pandemic levels and showing nearly a 3% increase from 2023. The Central region saw the highest room occupancy at 66.46%, while other regions—Coastal, Northern, and Southern—reported occupancy rates of 37%, 43.91%, and 43.68%, respectively.

Hotels were the leading accommodation type, with a 60% occupancy rate, followed by guest farms and self-catering units, each approaching 50%. Meanwhile, camping facilities remained a popular choice, especially for domestic and regional visitors, with SADC

While local tourism faced hurdles, international markets continued to propel the sector forward. Central Europe, particularly Germany, remained a

dominant source market, buoyed by direct flights between Windhoek and Frankfurt. Paetzold also expressed optimism about the upcoming Windhoek-Munich route, set to launch in April 2025, which is expected to attract more visitors from southern Europe.

“The strong performance of the Central European market is directly linked to the easy access into Namibia through the direct airline connectivity between Windhoek and Frankfurt,” Paetzold said.

“It is imperative to add to Namibia’s air access capacity if we want to see arrival numbers grow in the future.”



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Swakopmund approved building plans surge to N\$2.7 billion in 2024

Swakopmund's approved building plans surged to N\$2.7 billion year-to-date in 2024, up from N\$664 million in 2023, latest figures show.

According to Simonis Storm Junior Economist Almandro Jansen, despite a 20.4% month-on-month decline in December, with approvals dropping to N\$70 million, the overall figures highlight strong growth in the coastal town's construction sector.

"For the fourth quarter of 2024, the total value of approved plans stood at N\$213 million, up from N\$191 million in Q4 2023," he said.

In Swakopmund, residential developments accounted for 89% of approvals (60 projects), with industrial and commercial buildings contributing 3% and 7%, respectively.

Institutional projects were notably absent in December.

"Residential developments accounted for 89% of approvals (60 projects), with industrial and commercial buildings contributing 3% and 7%, respectively," Jansen noted.

Completed projects in Swakopmund contracted to 571 in 2024 from 662 in 2023, with the total value of completions dropping from N\$664 million to N\$404 million. This decline suggests reduced activity in both scale and value.

"Building activity in Swakopmund contracted, with completed projects falling to 571 in 2024 from 662 in 2023. The total value of completions also declined significantly, dropping from N\$664 million to N\$404 million," Jansen explained.

During Q4 2024, Swakopmund recorded 120 completed projects valued at N\$94.4 million, a significant drop from the 227 completions valued at N\$138.4 million reported in Q4 2023. This ongoing decline points to persistent challenges in the local construction market.

"In contrast, Swakopmund's construction sector remained subdued during Q4 2024. The town recorded 120 completed projects valued at N\$94.4 million, significantly lower than the 227 completions and N\$138.4 million reported in Q4 2023," Jansen stated.

Land prices in Namibia's coastal region surged by 60.7% year-on-year in Q3 2024, with the average price per square meter reaching N\$817, outpacing all other regions.

"This remarkable growth outpaced all other regions. The central region recorded a 31.4% increase to N\$1,041 per square meter, while the northern and southern regions experienced declines of -6.6% and -40.0%, respectively," he noted.

He said that the coastal housing market showed moderate gains, with house prices rising 2.7% y/y to N\$1,158,000.

Conversely, the southern region continued to struggle, as house prices contracted by -4.0% to N\$759,000.

"Nationally, the property market showed signs of recovery, with the 12-month weighted average house price rising 7.0% y/y to N\$1,303,179—the highest growth rate since 2021. The central region spearheaded this resurgence, with house prices increasing 6.9% y/y to N\$1,659,000," he explained.

Jansen said growth was driven by the small housing segment (N\$500,000– N\$1,500,000), which expanded by 14% y/y and accounted for the majority of transactions.

In contrast, larger properties (N\$3,500,000– N\$6,500,000) and luxury homes (>N\$6,500,000) experienced contractions of -6.5% and -4.4%, respectively.

"Transaction volumes also improved, led by a 1.1% y/y increase in the central region. The coastal and northern regions saw reduced contractions, while the southern region remained stagnant, reflecting ongoing disparities across the market," he said.

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DBN achieves 86% compliance rating from AADFI

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has achieved an 86% compliance index (BB rating) for 2024, awarded by the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI).

This marks an improvement from the previous review's 82% score and underscores DBN's commitment to governance excellence, financial stability, and impactful development.

The AADFI, an umbrella organization for Africa's development finance institutions, promotes sustainable development and economic integration across the continent. The rating highlights DBN as a trusted institution adhering to exemplary governance and operational standards.

The annual AADFI peer review evaluates adherence to prudential standards tailored to the African context, positioning DBN among the continent's top-performing development finance institutions.

Institutions achieving scores of 80% or higher are recognized as fully compliant with AADFI's stringent benchmarks.

DBN's high rating reflects strong board governance, sound equity levels, effective environmental policies, and efficient project completion. However, the review identified areas for improvement, including the publication of an integrated risk management policy and the adoption of policies promoting gender equity and poverty alleviation.

"The increase in compliance compared to the previous year is a testament to DBN's robust governance framework and our unwavering dedication to sustainable



development. It reflects our ability to uphold international standards of governance and financial integrity, instilling trust and confidence among our stakeholders," DBN's Chief Marketing & Corporate Affairs Officer, Jerome Mutumba said.

"This rating underscores our commitment to continuous improvement, with a focus on enhancing transparency in risk management and advancing policies that promote gender equity and poverty alleviation."

Namibia 2090: A vision of hope and innovation

By Horst Simon

Namibia, our country of stark desert sand dunes and a breathtaking coastline where the desert meets the ocean, inhabited by a diverse tapestry of cultures, stands on the verge of a remarkable future if we manage risk and exploit the opportunities we have. Thinking futuristic about the year 2090, our country can emerge not just as a country of hope but as a beacon of achievements, innovation, and success in sustainable growth. The story of our transformation will be one of ambition, unity and an unwavering commitment to progress, success, and sustainability.

What will our country look like in 2090?

As a country, we face many challenges, risks, and opportunities, from protecting our democracy to developing sustainable energy sources. If we can successfully manage and exploit these in the next few decades, we will see a radical new future for Namibia.

Our arid Namib Desert can become a hub of commercial activity and life if we use advanced climate adaptation technologies to transform this harsh desert environment into a thriving ecosystem. Let us build new solar desalination plants to provide abundant fresh water and practice modern agriculture with crops that will provide food security for all. Success in our ability to turn climatic challenges into



Thinking futuristic about the year 2090, our country can emerge not just as a country of hope but as a beacon of achievements, innovation, and success in sustainable growth.

opportunities will display the power of human ingenuity, fast-paced innovation, and a determination to succeed.

Towns on our coastline must be fortified against rising sea levels with modern infrastructure enhancements and ocean-retaining systems. This will allow us to take the lead in sustainable coastal development, protect and preserve our marine ecosystem, and foster economic growth.

With more than three hundred days of sunshine every year, let us harness our abundant solar and wind resources to become a global powerhouse in renewable energy. With targeted innovations in solar energy and the use of smart grid technology, we can not only be energy independent but also become a critical exporter of clean energy to the countries around us and beyond into Africa. This shift can catalyse a green revolution and make us a shining example of success in environmental management and stewardship.

Let us develop Windhoek, our capital, into a futuristic eco-metropolis that balances modern technology with traditional architecture and our unique lifestyle. Energy-efficient skyscrapers, vertical horticulture farms, and AI-enabled public services can enhance future urban life.

The use of smart city technologies will ensure efficient, sustainable urban living. We will see electric autonomous vehicles on our streets and intelligent infrastructure like automated traffic control systems that adapt to residents'

needs in real-time. Despite these advancements, our cultural essence must remain intact, with languages, traditions, and art seamlessly integrated into our high-tech society.

Our economy must not be reliant on just natural resources. Let us transform Namibia into a global innovation, technology, and sustainability hub. If we can excel in areas like AI, biotechnology, and quantum computing, it will foster a knowledge-driven economy that will offer opportunities for all. Our strategic location can also make us a key player

in the African space economy, and we can see satellite launches and space exploration technologies that will contribute to our global standing as an advanced economy.

Tourism must embrace the future whilst respecting the past. Visitors from around the world must be able to experience our unique landscapes through immersive augmented reality, blending adventure with education. Our commitment to conservation will ensure that our natural beauty remains pristine, attracting eco-conscious travellers seeking authenticity and visiting Namibia to experience the wonder of our vast landscapes.

Our corporate governance systems



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TRUSTEES

The Daures Green Hydrogen Village represents a vital step toward transitioning to renewable energy sources. Situated in the heart of the Daures Constituency, the project aims to demonstrate the nexus between green hydrogen, green ammonia, green fertilizer and carbon free agriculture, leveraging on abundant renewable resources.

The Daures Green Hydrogen Village, Daure Daman Traditional Authority and Tsiseb Conservancy is pleased to present expressions of Interest (EOI) for the establishment of a board of trustees to be a member of the "Daure Daman Traditional Authority DGHV Trust" and "Tsiseb Conservancy DGHV Trust".

We hereby invite interested candidates to submit their expressions of interest to serve on the board of trustees for the Tsiseb Conservancy DGHV Trust. Prospective trustees should demonstrate relevant expertise and a commitment to advancing the mission of sustainable energy and community development.

Roles and Responsibilities

The board of trustees will be responsible for:

- Providing strategic oversight and guidance on the trust.
- Ensuring effective communication with stakeholders, including community members.
- Overseeing financial management, including budget approvals and financial reporting for the trust.

Submission Requirements:

1. CV
2. Letter of Motivation
3. References

Please visit www.daures.green/tenders/ for more information

All expressions of interest must be submitted by **31st of January 2025** to hr@daures.green via email or delivered to the Daure Daman Traditional Authority Office or Tsiseb Conservancy Office in Uis.

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must be a model of transparency and accountability underpinned by innovative technologies like AI and blockchain. To ensure democracy thrives into the 22nd century, all citizens must actively participate in decision-making through digital platforms. Our strong governance frameworks, inspired by global principles, must foster a culture of trust and cooperation and drive sustainable businesses.

Resilience is woven into the fabric of Namibian society. From preparing for pandemics to managing economic shocks, we must aim to lead in proactive risk management. Every citizen must play a role, embodying the ethos that “every individual is a risk manager.” This collective mindset will fortify us against uncertainties, making Namibia a bastion of stability in a rapidly changing world.

Our cultural diversity will shine brighter than ever in 2090. Indigenous traditions, music, and art must be celebrated and preserved using advanced technologies, and these innovations will ensure that future generations remember and actively experience our heritage.

Education will be universally accessible, with AI-powered tutors and virtual schools enabling and empowering every child to reach their potential. Health innovations, including biotechnology and personalised medicine, will help to eradicate once-deadly diseases, enabling all Namibians to live longer, healthier

lives.

A Call to Action

Namibia’s journey to 2090 can be a testament to the power of vision, collaboration, and resilience. No challenge is insurmountable when a nation’s people unite with purpose. As we work together as Connectors of Positive Change and look toward this future, we must commit to preserving Namibia’s natural beauty, embracing innovation, and uplifting every citizen.

Let this futuristic view of Namibia in 2090 inspire us to dream bigger, act smarter, and build a legacy of hope for generations to come. The future is not just a destination but a journey we create together. And for us in Namibia, the journey is as extraordinary as the destination.

****Horst Simon is Business Risk Officer at Capricorn Group***



**SINOMINE
TSUMEB SMELTER**

TENDER
TENDER: ST24_004

PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES

Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter (Pty) Ltd. invites registered, competent and experienced individuals or companies to tender for the Provision of Security Services.

Details of the Tender

Tender availability

:

From Monday, 20 January 2025
Tender documents can be obtained by e-mailing: ststenders@sinomine.na

Cost per set

:

No levy

Closing date for submission

:

Friday, 14 February 2025

Submission requirements are defined in the tender documents and the closing date for submission is final, no extensions will be granted. Technical information, bid clarifications and any enquiries pertaining to this tender can be requested at: ststenders@sinomine.na

All tender proposals must be submitted via e-mail to:ststenders@sinomine.na

No other method of submission will be accepted

Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter employs an equal opportunity policy. Tenders will be awarded through a competitive bidding process which is transparent and open to all individuals or companies that meets the set criteria. Any person(s) or company that qualify as per the tender's evaluation criteria, may bid.



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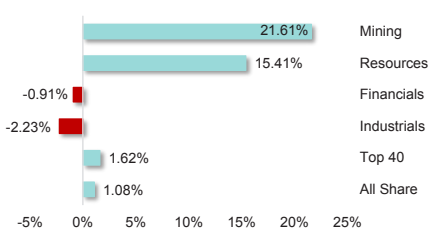
Commodities

Spot Gold	2753.90
Platinum	947.91
Palladium	976.13
Silver	30.68
Uranium	73.85
Brent Crude	79.09
Iron Ore	97.44
Copper	9212.30
Natural Gas	3.79
Lithium	9.85

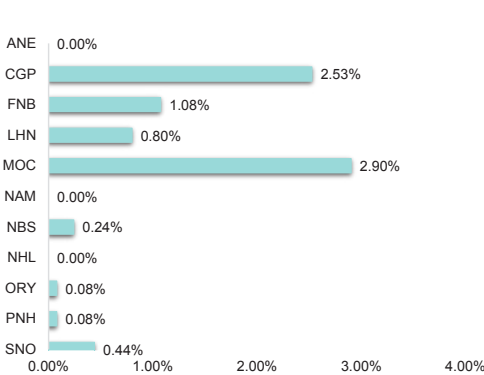
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.4891
EUR/ZAR	19.2690
GBP/ZAR	22.8142
USD/CNY	7.2710
EUR/USD	1.0422
GBP/USD	1.2339
USD/RUB	98.7977
CPI	3.40%
Repo Rate	7.00%
Prime Rate	10.75%

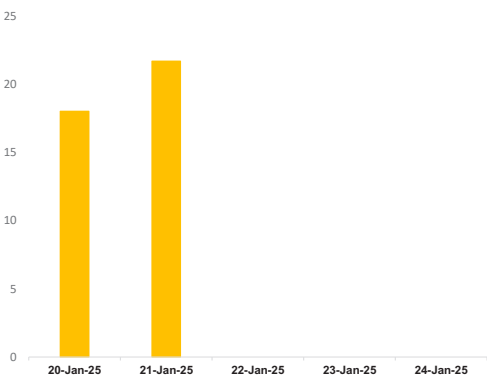
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

