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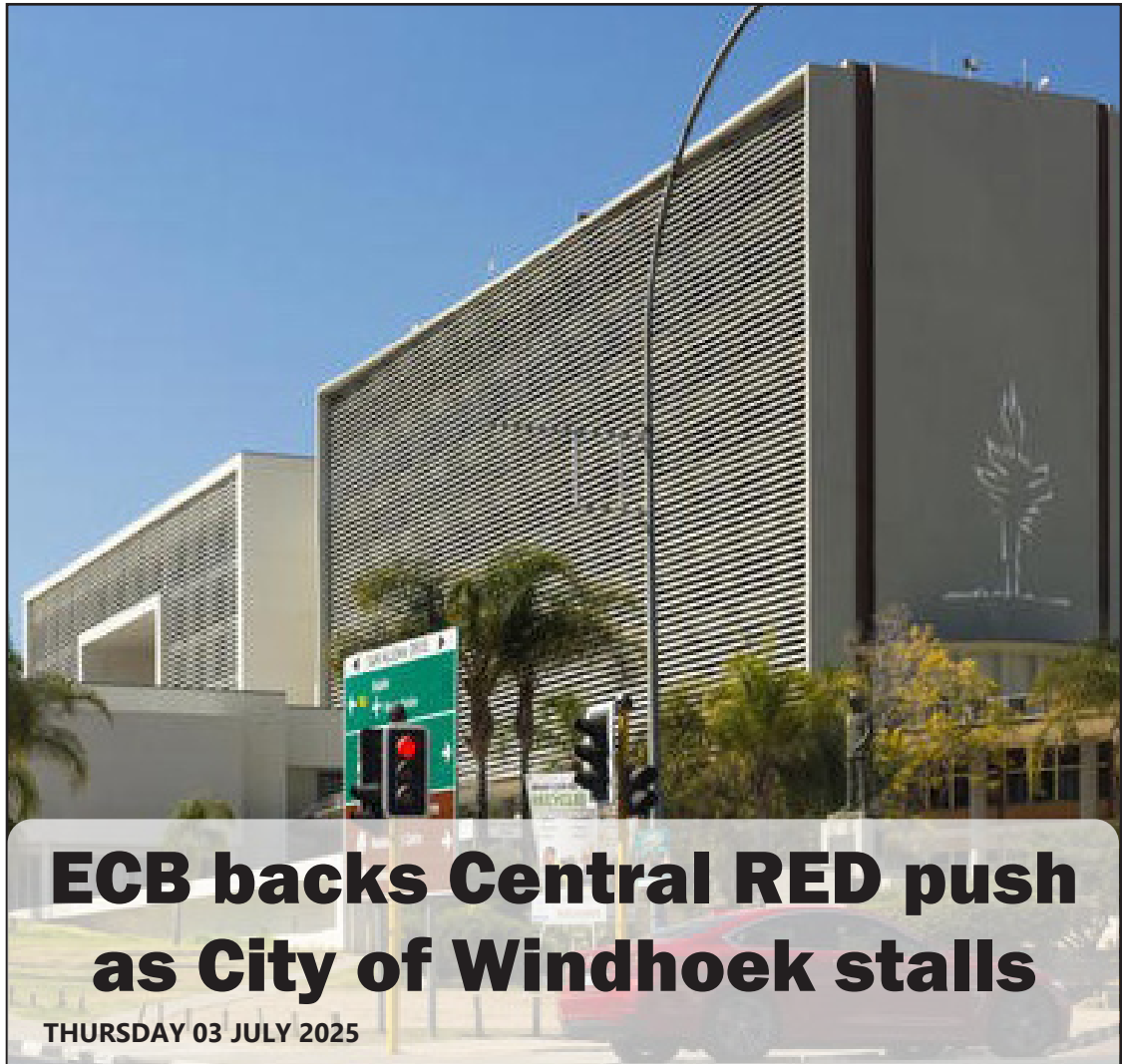
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THE

# BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



## ECB backs Central RED push as City of Windhoek stalls

THURSDAY 03 JULY 2025

## MAIN STORY

# ECB backs Central RED push as City of Windhoek stalls

The Electricity Control Board (ECB) says it remains firmly behind efforts to establish a Central Regional Electricity Distributor (Central RED), but a lack of consensus within the City of Windhoek is delaying progress.

The proposed Central RED, meant to streamline electricity supply in Windhoek, the Khomas Regional Council, Dordabis, and surrounding areas, is part of Namibia's broader electricity reform under the RED (Regional Electricity Distributor) model.

ECB Chief Executive Officer Robert Kahimise said the Central RED would integrate both urban and rural electricity networks under a single operator, helping to address inequalities in access to electricity.

"From our side, we are actively assisting the government in establishing a Central Regional Electricity Distributor, known as Central RED. The objective is to bring together both affluent urban areas, such as Windhoek, and typical rural areas that are usually supplied by regional councils," Kahimise told The Brief.

However, he confirmed that the City of Windhoek has yet to agree to the proposal, stalling momentum on a plan that has been under discussion for years.

"That is the gap we need to bridge. If the city earns N\$2 to N\$3 billion annually from electricity, but 80 percent of that goes to



## Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
  - \* 13 August 2025
  - \* 15 October 2025
  - \* 3 December 2025

From our side, we are actively assisting the government in establishing a Central Regional Electricity Distributor, known as Central RED.

NamPower, what is the true benefit?” said Kahimise, who previously served as CEO of the City of Windhoek.

Concerns have been raised, both within council structures and among the public, about the potential impact on the city’s revenue and the cost of setting up a new RED, especially the executive management structure. But Kahimise argued these fears are overstated.

“There have also been concerns from consumers... But that is not the case. Staff costs are one of the smallest contributors to overall expenses,” he said, adding that such costs do not significantly influence electricity tariffs.

Kahimise stressed that the government’s intention with the RED model is to enable cross-subsidisation, where wealthier, urban areas help support surrounding towns that struggle financially or face unreliable

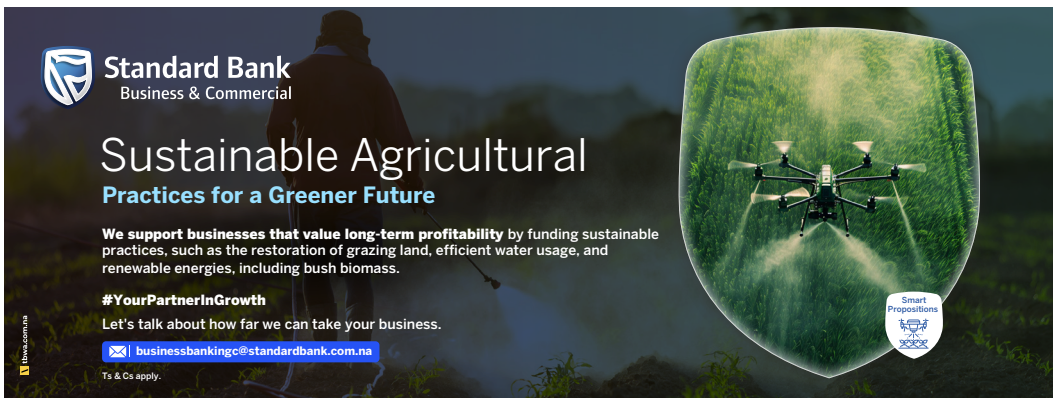
electricity supply.

“It would be unfair for Windhoek to have consistent power while places like Rehoboth and Okahandja continue to experience load-shedding. The government’s vision through the RED model is to balance the system,” he said.

He pointed to the example of the Erongo RED, where coastal towns like Walvis Bay and Swakopmund help support rural areas such as Daures and Okombahe.

The ECB is continuing technical work toward forming the Central RED, including efforts to consolidate existing electricity distribution licenses under one operator.

“Alternative models, such as a broader City Power structure, are also under consideration, provided they incorporate the surrounding regions. Our hope is to agree on a model that the City Council can support in order to operationalise Central RED,” Kahimise said.



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## Namibia records N\$121 million trade surplus in May

Namibia recorded a trade surplus of N\$121 million in May 2025, marking a significant shift from the N\$1.8 billion deficit seen in April.

This is the country's first trade surplus in a year, following twelve consecutive months of deficits averaging N\$2.9 billion.

The Namibia Statistics Agency's (NSA) International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) report shows that export revenue rose by 7.3 percent to N\$11.8 billion in May, up from April's figures. Compared to May 2024, exports increased by 25.8 percent, from N\$9.4 billion.

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“In May 2025, the country’s trade balance recorded a surplus of N\$121 million, an improvement when compared to a revised deficit of N\$1.8 billion recorded in the previous month,” the report states. It adds that the persistent trade deficits between May 2024 and May 2025 reflect Namibia’s continued reliance on foreign goods to meet



Alpha Namibia Industries Renewable Power Limited  
(Incorporated in the Republic of Namibia)  
Registration Number 2018/0148  
NSX Share code: ANE  
ISIN: NA000A2J2364  
("ANIREP" or the "Company")

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
The key focus during the period was expanding the group's generation base and ANIREP made significant investments to make this possible

- Construction of the Khan 25,04MWp PV plant nearing completion during the current year while construction on the expansion of the Otjiwarongo PV Park was initiated.
- These two projects will increase generation capacity by over 300% and significantly increase revenue and profitability.
- ANIREP grew its asset base to N\$1.2 billion from N\$1.0 billion during the year.

**GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 28 February 2025**

	Audited Year ended 28 February 2025 NS	Audited Year ended 29 February 2024 NS
<b>Revenue</b>		
IPPs - Sale of electricity	38,848,347	37,073,320
EPC and O&M Revenue	138,375,665	52,087,658
<b>Total revenue generated by group companies</b>	<b>177,224,012</b>	<b>89,160,978</b>
Less intercompany/segmental revenue #	-	15,049,332
<b>Consolidated Group Revenue</b>	<b>69,996,501</b>	<b>74,111,646</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>57,122,238</b>	<b>60,871,300</b>
(Loss) before taxation*	-	7,921,226
Taxation	3,180,075	6,250,485
<b>(Loss) for the year - Basic earnings</b>	<b>39,760,724</b>	<b>14,171,711</b>
Attributable to Ordinary equity holders	36,113,037	10,752,649
Attributable to non-controlling interest	3,647,687	3,419,062
<b>Number of shares in issue</b>	<b>72,867,909</b>	<b>30,336,793</b>
<b>Headline earnings</b>	<b>1,574,945</b>	<b>16,371,711</b>
Attributable to ordinary equity holders	1,430,458	12,512,649
Attributable to non-controlling interest	144,487	3,859,062
Net asset value per share (cents per share)	812	837
Basic earnings per share (cents)	50	35
Headline earnings per share	2	41
Dividend per share	Nil	Nil

# Inter-segment revenues are eliminated upon consolidation and primarily relate to work done by Hopsof Africa for the group

\* Loss for the year for Feb 2025 includes share-based performance in incentive of N\$41.3 million (2024: N\$0)

**Key features:**

- Total segmental group revenue for the year grew significantly to N\$177.2 million from N\$89.2 million in the prior year, on the back of increased EPC revenue in Hopsof Africa in constructing the Khan Moses Mague / Garobë 25.04 MWp Solar PV plant
- The construction of the plant was completed after year-end, and was officially inaugurated by the then President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Nangolo Mumbaia. Since commissioning, the plant has achieved a significant milestone by supplying power to the grid, more than doubling ANIREP's independent power producer (IPP) revenue generation potential.
- The core IPP annuity revenue from the 13.34MWp in ANIREP Solar generated revenue of N\$38.8 million for the year, an increase of 4.8% from the prior year.
- The IPP Sale of Electricity underpinned by long-term power purchase agreements with NamPower and CENORED, which are in place until 2041.
- Since listing in 2019, the group growth in Net Asset Value (NAV) has exceeded the hurdle rate of 15%, generating significant value for the group. This has triggered the outflow of incentives in accordance with the shareholder approved performance incentive scheme. The value of the award in the current year was N\$41.3 million.
- Group loss before tax increased to N\$42.9 million from N\$7.9 million in the prior year, on the back of a share-based performance incentive scheme of N\$41.3 million awarded in the current year and increased costs, with significant management time and development costs being borne by the group, as it grows its IPP portfolio. As result of this structural loss, net asset value per share decreased by 3% to 812 cents per share (28 Feb 2024: 837 cents).
- Basic earnings (loss) per share of -50 cents (28 Feb 2024: -35 cents).
- Headline earnings/(loss) per share of 2 cents (28 Feb 2024: -41 cents).

**Share-based Payments**

- Total expenses of N\$41,335,669 related to equity-settled share-based payments transactions were recognised in 2025.
- N\$19,512,471 of the expense relates to shares that were exercised during the year ended 28 February 2025 and the remaining N\$21,823,198 will be exercised in the next financial year.
- The performance share scheme is calculated as 25% of the growth in the NAV of ANIREP Limited above a hurdle rate of 15%, using a Discounted Cash Flow methodology on a fair and reasonable basis.
- Members of the general partners receive 70% of the share-based Performance Incentive, with ANIREP Limited executive management receiving the balance of 30% of the Performance Incentive.
- The performance incentive is subject to a claw-back clause.

ANIREP Managing Director Iyalayo ya Nangolo said:

"I'm excited that we have now started exporting energy into the grid at the Khan Moses Mague / Garobë plant and we have increased our generation capacity to 38,344MWp, including 3 MWp of rooftop installations. Building on this success, we are well underway with the next phase of growth, with the expansion of the Otjiwarongo PV Park nearing completion.

In the growth stage all development costs for future projects are being borne by the group and the expanded generation base provides the group with a bigger cash flow base to absorb these costs. Thus, the ANIREP group is geared towards ensuring that all new projects are implemented timously to warrant quick contribution of revenue to group performance".

**Interim Dividend**  
No interim dividends were declared or paid during the period under review (2024: N\$ Nil).

**Outlook**  
ANIREP's diversified energy portfolio is on track to grow to over 190MWp of renewable, clean energy capacity, building on the successful launch of the Khan Moses Mague / Garobë 25MWp solar PV plant, the recent acquisition of the 45% stake in the 50MWp CERIM Wind Project and the Kokerboom development of 100MWp.

**Khan Moses Mague / Garobë 25 MWp solar PV plant**  
ANIREP successfully obtained the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) from NamPower for the connection of the Khan Moses Mague / Garobë 25.04 MWp solar PV plant to the national grid on 22/05/2025. This certification is a prerequisite for the legal operation and integration of solar energy systems with the national grid. During the trial run period from 23/05/2025 to 9/06/2025, the plant complied with the requirements of the Contracted Performance Ratio and AC Capacity.

Energy Exported during trial run period is as depicted below:

Energy Counter 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 14:00	Energy Counter 9 <sup>th</sup> of June 2025 at 18:30	Total Exported between the two Counters
2,324,579.84 kWh	4,665,781.89 kWh	2,341,202.05 kWh

With the CoC in hand, ANIREP has now commenced the full-scale operation of the Khan solar plant, which will significantly contribute to the revenue and profitability of the company whilst supporting the country's renewable energy objectives. The new solar plant increased installed capacity of ANIREP Solar by 300% from 13.34MWp to 38.38MWp. The increased IPP capacity will significantly contribute to the revenue and profitability of the IPP core revenue, whilst supporting the country's renewable energy objectives. The plant is expected to generate average monthly energy of 5.7 million kWh.

**CERIM Acquisition**  
ANIREP has successfully fulfilled the conditions for the acquisition of the 45% shareholding in Cerin Luderitz Energy (Pty) Ltd (Registration No. 2023/0352) ("the Company" or "CERIM") for a total consideration of N\$60,000,000 (sixty million Namibia Dollars). CERIM, is an Independent Power Producer ("IPP") currently developing a 50 MW (AC) Wind Power Plant located 17km south of Luderitz in the //Karas Region. The project will include the development of 743 hectares of land into a power generating facility and the construction of a 40kV-132 kV transmission line to evacuate power to the Namib substation. Commercial Operation Date ("COD") is expected within 18 months following Financial Close. The project is underpinned by a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with NamPower,

Land Lease Agreement in the Tsau //Khaeb national park, an Environmental Clearance Certificate and a Transmission Connection Agreement.

**Kokerboom Development**  
ANIREP is developing a 100MW solar farm and overhead transmission line to supply renewable energy to contestable customers in terms of the Modified Single Buyer ("MSB") Framework. At present, ANIREP has secured the adjoining land extending 250 hectares on a portion of the farm Klein Spitskop No.153, less than 700m from the Kokerboom Sub Station in Kertmannshoop //Karas region of Namibia and obtained an Environmental Clearance Certificate for the proposed 100MW solar farm and overhead transmission line on the land.

Backed by a robust equity base and access to capital through the N\$5 billion Green Bond listed in 2024, ANIREP is well positioned to fund these projects and future developments across Namibia and the region. ANIREP continues to serve as a vital conduit between capital markets and infrastructure-based renewable energy investments, anchored in long-term, sustainable cash flows.

**Short form announcement**  
This short-form announcement is the responsibility of the directors. It is only a summary of the information contained in the full announcement and does not contain full or complete details.

Any investment decision should be based on the full announcement which is accessible from 30 June 2025, via the NSX link <https://sensipd.jse.co.za/documents/2025/nsx/issu/anirep/infesb025.pdf>

Alternatively, the full announcement is available on our website at: [https://anirep.com/documents/Annual\\_Financial\\_Statement\\_as\\_at\\_end\\_of\\_February\\_2025.pdf](https://anirep.com/documents/Annual_Financial_Statement_as_at_end_of_February_2025.pdf)

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**Executive Directors:** I. Nangolo, A. Mylirinnem\*\*\*, V. Mahind\*\*\*\*


\*\*\*South African  
\*\*\*\*Finnish  
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domestic demand.

The report highlights that the mining and quarrying sector led the export growth in May, contributing N\$5.8 billion or 49 percent of total export earnings. This sector saw a month-on-month increase of N\$398 million.

“Regarding the sectoral share to total exports, May 2025 saw the mining and quarrying sector occupying the first position with the largest export value of N\$5.8 billion, contributing 49.0 percent share to the country’s total export earnings,” the report adds.

The manufacturing sector was the second-largest contributor, accounting for 48.1 percent of total exports with a value of N\$4.3 billion from the manufacturing of basic metals. This was followed by food product manufacturing at N\$1.1 billion and chemical manufacturing at N\$329 million.

In the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, crop and animal production reached N\$2.3 billion, while forestry and logging, and fishing and aquaculture contributed N\$1.6 billion and N\$707 million, respectively.

“The manufacturing sector was second with a share of 48.1 percent of total exports in May 2025. Additionally, exports of goods from this sector increased by N\$367 million when compared to the previous month,” the report says.

“Furthermore, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector ranked third, contributing a mere 2.4 percent to the country’s total export.”

On the import side, Namibia’s demand for foreign goods remained strong, particularly from the manufacturing industry, which accounted for N\$9.2 billion in imports in May, an 8.3 percent rise from April.

The mining and quarrying sector followed with N\$2.2 billion in imports, a 44.4 percent decrease month-on-month. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contributed N\$179 million to imports.

By trading partner, Namibia posted surpluses with China (N\$1.5 billion), Botswana (N\$1.2 billion) and France (N\$562 million). Deficits were recorded with South Africa (N\$2.0 billion), India (N\$597 million) and the United States (N\$297 million).

Namibia also expanded its trade network during the period, exporting to 103 countries, up from 98 in April, and importing from 155 countries, three more than the previous month.

# Govt orders urgent law reforms to speed up service delivery

The Namibian government has directed lawmakers to urgently amend legislation that hampers service delivery and delays national projects, with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah calling for the swift removal of legal “grey areas” obstructing implementation.

Delivering a statement on behalf of the President to Parliament, Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare said the country must act quickly to address laws that hinder the execution of government programmes, particularly those outlined in the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan.

“We must move fast and amend laws that hinder progress and implementation of identified projects. Ugly grey areas in our laws must be removed to ensure effective service delivery,” Ngurare told lawmakers.

He highlighted the Regional Councils Amendment Bill as one such reform aimed at reducing political interference in administrative matters.

The bill, tabled by Urban and Rural Development Minister James Sankwasa, proposes removing staff management



functions from Regional Councils and placing them under professional administrative control.

“The tabled amendment is progressive in nature as it seeks to remove human resources management from the Regional Councils, which are political bodies, to ensure fairness and transparency,” said Ngurare.

“Where powers and authority over

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administrative functions such as staff appointments and discipline vest in a political body, it obviously creates room for administrative processes to be subjected to undue political influence or being politicised,” he added.

The President’s message also addressed bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption, calling for ministers and public servants to act with urgency, transparency and full accountability.

“The Government shall not tolerate corruption, delaying tactics and corridor hindrance, as it is business unusual. Anyone that stands in the way of effective service delivery will be swept away by the tidal wave of our uncompromising commitment to service delivery to the Namibian people,” Ngurare said.

Ministers have been ordered to submit quarterly progress reports and ensure no funds are returned to Treasury while

development projects remain incomplete.

“It is our resolve that no money should be returned to Treasury while projects and programmes remain incomplete. Ministers are under instructions to act urgently and decisively to ensure that all projects and programmes are implemented. Those found wanting in this regard will be held accountable,” he warned.

Ngurare also urged the Anti-Corruption Commission and prosecuting authorities to intensify efforts to root out malpractice in government institutions.

The President’s message concluded with a strong call for visible results and unity of purpose across all regions.

“In all 14 Regions, in all 121 Constituencies, as the saying goes ‘the dust must be seen’. Therefore, Ministers are under instructions to act urgently and decisively to ensure that all projects and programmes are implemented,” Ngurare said.



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# The high cost of Namibia's .NA domain is pricing citizens out of their own digital identity

By Kondjeni Ndakeva

**H**ave you ever wondered why some Namibian businesses use awkward domain names like mydomainNAM.com?

You might ask, "Why not just get a .NA domain and avoid all that headache?"

The truth is, if you are Namibian and want your online presence to instantly reflect that, without room for doubt, the most direct way is through a .NA domain name.

After all, we all want our businesses to look as authentic as possible, just at first glance of our domain names.

But here is the surprise, registering a .NA domain name in Namibia doesn't come cheap.

A .NA as a first-level domain name (mydomain.na) will cost you more than N\$5000.00 per year, while a second-level domain name (mydomain.com.na) will cost you more than N\$700.00 per year.

To put that into perspective, in South Africa, businesses can register a second-level. co.za domain for under 200 Rands per year.

Meanwhile, a widely used .COM domain typically costs under 300 Rands per year. Even in the United States, a .US top-level domain costs under \$22.73 (N\$400) per year.

So why is Namibia's digital identity priced so far out of reach? The answer lies in the privatisation of Namibian's .NA top-level domain. In my view, privatising our digital identity is more like privatising our country dialling code (+264) or even Etosha National



“

**After all, we all want our businesses to look as authentic as possible, just at first glance of our domain names.**

Park. It feels like handing over a national asset to be exploited for profit.

Some might argue that the domain prices are high due to Namibia's small market size. But here is the thing. As our population has grown, so have the prices. So that excuse doesn't hold up.

The real question is this: Why cling to something you can't manage affordably? Especially when it should be accessible to every Namibian business and citizen.

How did we get here?

This issue dates to 1991, when the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) allowed the delegation of Namibia's .NA top-level domain to a private organisation simply because it met the technical and administrative requirements at the time.

Ironically, current ICANN policies discourage the privatisation of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs), recognising their importance as national digital assets. It further states that top-level domains should be operated in the best interest of the country or territory they represent.

Yet, Namibia remains locked into an outdated arrangement that hands control and pricing over to a private entity. ICANN policy requires that top-level domains be managed by entities with the capacity, infrastructure, and control measures necessary to operate them securely and reliably. These technical criteria gave the current registrar an advantage in acquiring control over Namibia's .NA domain in the early days of the Internet.

Today, that same entity continues to control and monopolise Namibia's national digital address, with little oversight and at a significant cost to the public.

In the year 1991, Namibia gained its independence from apartheid South Africa, and the Internet was just in its infancy, and domain name management was not fully formalised. Given the context, it's understandable that the Namibian government, largely composed of leaders from the liberation struggle, had limited exposure to internet governance or the long-term implications of domain name ownership. At the time, national priorities were focused elsewhere: rebuilding institutions, fostering unity, and laying the foundations for a new nation. It was under these circumstances that someone benefited from this situation by gaining control of the .NA top-level and reportedly trademarked the .NA domain suffix. This is why the domain is privately owned to date, and prices are ridiculously and exorbitantly high.

### **Efforts so far**

Section 103 of the Communications Act of 2009 stipulates the establishment of the Domain Names Association, which should have all rights necessary for administering the .NA top-level domain.

This should be a government association and fully funded by the government to allow the Namibian nation to gain cheap access to the .NA domain name. Unlike back in 1991,

the Namibian government is now capable of managing and controlling the .NA domain.

ICANN also indicates that if a country's top-level domain is privatised, it may intervene in redelagation disputes. There is no clear public information on whether these efforts have been carried out.

This situation raises important questions about the role and responsibility of the Namibian government. To what extent has the government taken steps to establish a national domain management association? And just as critically, what efforts have been made to ensure that the .NA domain is affordable and accessible to the broader public?

It's because of these unanswered questions and the lack of transparency on this matter that the government should reclaim control of the .NA top-level domain. Doing so would help ensure that this vital national digital asset becomes affordable and accessible to all Namibians.

What the government can do

The Namibian government must take decisive steps to make the .NA domain is affordable, starting with subsidising its cost and negotiating with the current private registrar for a fair transition of control. If talks fail, Parliament should declare the .NA domain as a sovereign national asset and pursue legal avenues to revoke the current license. In the meantime, as we wait for the government to address this unjust and unaccountable takeover of a national asset, the public must take a stand.

In the meantime, I encourage Namibians to consider boycotting .NA domains until pricing becomes fair, transparent, and truly reflective of our national interest.

***\*Kondjeni Ndakeva is a data scientist, software developer and database administrator with a master's degree in data science and writes in his capacity.***

## Namibia's household debt rises to N\$68.9bn

Namibia's household credit increased by N\$166 million in May 2025, pushing the total debt stock to N\$68.9 billion, according to analysis by Simonis Storm.

The rise reflects continued demand for secured lending despite high living costs and sluggish income growth.

"Although credit growth remains positive, households are clearly operating in a constrained environment where affordability and income uncertainty are central to their financial decisions," said Almandro Jansen, Junior Economist at Simonis Storm.

The firm noted that households remain focused on servicing existing debt and maintaining consumption levels, while showing little appetite for taking on new credit.

Mortgage lending declined by 0.7% year-on-year in May, reversing the 0.9% increase recorded in April. Despite the slowdown, the total mortgage balance stood at a high N\$45.7 billion, with most borrowing concentrated among more financially secure households.

"This contraction reflects the structural affordability challenges in the housing market, where high property prices relative to income continue to keep many first-time buyers locked out," said Jansen.

Other loans and advances rose by N\$64 million in May, slowing to 5.9% year-on-year. Jansen said this reflects greater caution among middle-income borrowers, many of whom face job insecurity and are wary of additional debt.

"The slowdown in unsecured credit growth points to increased prudence, as households assess their capacity to take on new obligations under current economic pressures," he said.

Overdraft facilities for households continued to contract, declining by 12.7%



year-on-year in May, though improving from a 17.2% drop in April. The overdraft balance stood at N\$2.7 billion.

"This sustained decline confirms that lower-income households are actively avoiding short-term borrowing, likely due to limited disposable income and fragile financial positions," Jansen added.

Instalment and leasing credit held steady at N\$8.2 billion, showing robust annual growth of 14.4%, largely driven by vehicle financing among middle- and upper-income earners. However, the firm cautioned that this momentum may not last.

“Despite strong growth in instalment credit, we may be nearing a turning point as passenger vehicle sales fell sharply by 31.2% month-on-month, reaching just 461 units, the lowest since September 2024,” Jansen said.

In summary, Jansen noted that household credit activity in May was shaped by asset-backed borrowing, with a clear preference for longer-term secured credit, while caution remains around unsecured lending.

“This pattern suggests that households are prioritising financial stability and managing risk, rather than driving credit expansion through increased consumption,” he said.

Meanwhile, corporate credit rose to N\$50 billion in May from N\$49.5 billion in April.

However, year-on-year growth slowed to 6.5%, down from 7.1% in April, indicating a cautious stance among businesses.

“Companies are being more calculated in their use of credit, balancing investment needs against liquidity and cost pressures,” Jansen said.

Overall, private sector credit expanded by 4.1% year-on-year in May, slightly below the 4.5% growth recorded in April, continuing the trend of softening credit conditions.

Banking sector liquidity also weakened, with average commercial bank balances falling to N\$8.5 billion from N\$9.9 billion the previous month. Simonis Storm attributed this to trade-related outflows, seasonal tax payments and muted inflows from key sectors.

“While liquidity conditions are still broadly supportive, they have become slightly less accommodative, which may constrain further credit extension in the short term,” said Jansen.

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## Fish exports hit N\$1.3 billion in May

Namibia's food trade recorded a surplus in May 2025, primarily driven by strong fish exports, which reached N\$1.3 billion and accounted for 76.9% of total food exports, the highest contributor to the country's food export basket.

According to Namibia Statistics Agency's (NSA) Trade Statistics for the month of May, Meat and edible meat offal followed with exports valued at N\$219 million. Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk, including pastrycooks' products, contributed N\$42 million, while edible fruits and nuts, including citrus peel and melon rind accounted for N\$37 million. Lastly, preparations of meat, fish, crustaceans, molluscs, or other aquatic invertebrates brought in N\$28 million. These five categories collectively represented the bulk of the country's food export basket for

the month.

"The month under review saw the country recording a trade surplus on Food items to the value of N\$420 million. The surplus on Food items was mainly attributed to Fish exports, which stood at N\$1.3 billion," the report read

It is further reported that on the import side, sugar and sugar confectionery dominated Namibia's food imports, with a total value of N\$197 million. This was followed by preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products, which were valued at N\$122 million while Miscellaneous edible preparations ranked third, contributing N\$108 million.

Other notable imports included residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder, which stood at N\$96 million

(7.8%), and animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products, valued at N\$93 million, contributing 7.5% of the total.

“On the demand side, sugar and sugar confectionery dominated the import list with a share of 15.9% while Preparations of cereals and Miscellaneous edible preparations took the second and third positions having accounted for 9.8 percent and 8.7% respectively of the Food items. The top five imported Food items accounted for 49.7% of the basket during the month under review,” it is reported. Furthermore, between May 2024 and May 2025, Namibia recorded an average monthly food trade surplus of N\$230 million. The largest surpluses were noted in December 2024 which was N\$669 million, April 2025 which accounted for N\$544 million, and N\$510 million in May 2024. Deficits were recorded in only three months: September which recorded N\$139 million, October recorded N\$166 million,

and November 2024 recorded N\$258 million. In the beverage category, imports averaged N\$319 million monthly, with the highest value recorded in November 2024 at N\$489 million. Beverage exports averaged N\$118 million over the same period, peaking at N\$189 million in July 2024 and hitting a low of N\$62 million in April 2025.

May’s commodity of the month was petroleum jelly (Vaseline), the country exported Vaseline valued at N\$3,100, with shipments destined for Greece and the Cayman Islands during the period under study. On the other hand, the value of imports for this commodity was said to have amounted to N\$4.9 million, mainly from South Africa. It was further noted that the average value of Vaseline imports from May 2024 to May 2025 was approximately N\$3.7 million, with the highest import value recorded in July 2024 at N\$5.9 million and the lowest in April 2025 at N\$1.1 million.



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# AI wants to steal Namibian culture

By Leake Ileka

American and Chinese tech giants are building AI systems that can absorb, replicate, and commercialize our cultural knowledge at unprecedented speed and scale.

By 2028, companies in Silicon Valley could be selling digital Namibian cultural designs to global markets, pocketing millions while the communities that created these traditions over centuries receive nothing.

AI systems are ethically bankrupt by design. They're computer programs without moral functions, programmed to copy and replicate whatever they're fed. When these systems are instructed to emulate our indigenous culture and knowledge, they do so without hesitation or consideration for the communities they're stealing from.

The Namibian Constitution, in Article 19, guarantees every person's right to "enjoy, practise, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion."

This fundamental protection extends to our non-physical cultural heritage; the living expressions passed down through generations. However, this constitutional right faces its greatest test yet in the digital age.

## The Incoming Era of Digital Colonialization by AI

The global exploitation of San people's



**Digital platforms can now create infinite variations of traditional Himba jewelry designs or San rock art patterns, flooding global markets with cheap imitations.**

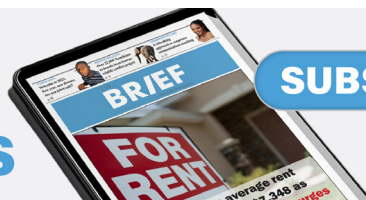
traditional knowledge of the Hoodia plant is a good example. After centuries of using it for appetite suppression, foreign pharmaceutical companies patented this knowledge without consent, earning millions.

Additionally, the Ovahimba and San, among the world's most distinct cultural groups, see their images generate revenue for foreign photographers and filmmakers while their communities remain marginalized and impoverished.

In the AI era, this exploitation accelerates to new levels. Digital platforms can now create infinite variations of traditional Himba jewelry designs or San rock art patterns, flooding global markets with cheap imitations.

The Aawambo culture faces similar

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threats. Traditional clothing patterns, passed down through generations, can be scanned, digitized, and mass-produced without acknowledgment or compensation.

Sacred stories, meant to be shared within communities according to specific protocols, risk being stolen by AI and repackaged as entertainment or educational content.

By 2028, I predict that we'll likely see our cultural identity packaged as emojis, NFTs, virtual reality experiences, and 3D-printed products all "produced" by foreign companies. No royalties will flow to our traditional authorities. No benefits will reach our communities. Our heritage will generate

wealth, just not for us. This risk exists today.

This isn't merely economic theft; it's cultural erasure. When AI systems trained on Western data reinterpret our traditions, they distort them. When sacred knowledge becomes publicly accessible content, it loses its power and meaning. Failing to protect our cultural identity means failing to preserve our history from distortion and propaganda.

### Two Steps Namibia Must Take Now



Drawing from my Master's thesis titled "Legal Strategies and Challenges for Protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage from Appropriation," here are two concrete solutions Namibia can implement to protect our cultural heritage from AI exploitation:

#### 1. Develop Specific ICH Legislation

Namibia urgently needs dedicated laws protecting intangible cultural heritage. While our Traditional Authorities Act empowers leaders to "uphold, promote, protect and preserve" culture, it lacks enforcement mechanisms against digital appropriation.

Based on my research comparing EU and UK frameworks, new Namibian legislation must go beyond general cultural protection. The law should explicitly require AI companies to obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from communities before digitizing any cultural expressions.

This means tech companies cannot simply photograph Himba hairstyles or record San healing songs without formal agreements that detail how the content will be used, stored,


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First date of publication: 06 June 2025

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and commercialized.

Furthermore, the legislation should establish clear penalties for violations. When a company uses our cultural knowledge without permission, communities need legal grounds to demand immediate cessation and compensation.

2. Empower BIPA with an ICH Mandate

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) activities must expand beyond conventional patents and copyright to protect our communal cultural expressions. My thesis reveals how traditional IP frameworks fail indigenous knowledge because they assume individual ownership, while our heritage belongs to entire communities.

Therefore, BIPA should establish a Traditional Knowledge Documentation Unit. This unit would work directly with traditional authorities to create a national ICH registry. When the Ju/'hoansi-San document their clicking language patterns or the Herero record their praise songs, they retain control over who accesses this information and under what terms.

By formally documenting traditional knowledge through BIPA, communities create prior art that blocks foreign patents. More importantly, when AI companies inevitably seek Namibian data to diversify their training sets, BIPA becomes the gatekeeper, ensuring any access happens through proper channels with fair compensation flowing back to source communities.

The Path Forward

History shows us what happens when we fail to protect our heritage. The physical artifacts in Western museums remind us

daily of past losses. AI companies are not waiting. Every day, their systems grow more sophisticated at extracting and replicating cultural knowledge.

As Namibians, we can either become subjects of digital colonialism, watching helplessly as our traditions enrich foreign corporations, or we can lead Africa in establishing robust protections for intangible cultural heritage in the AI age.

***\*Leake Iлека is a Chevening Scholar and holds a Master of Laws in Intellectual Property from Bournemouth University, England (2024). He specializes in IP policy and innovation systems in developing economies.***



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## Over 150 Namibians benefit from green hydrogen scholarships

More than 150 Namibians have received technical and vocational training through green hydrogen scholarships funded by the German government.

The figure was revealed during the launch of a new €1.2 million (approximately N\$24 million) round of scholarships under the Youth for Green Hydrogen (Y4H2) TVET programme, held in Gibeon.

The latest call targets youth from the Hardap and ǀKharas regions and will support training in solar technology, welding, electrics, mechatronics, plumbing and industrial mechanics. Between 70 and 80 additional students are expected to benefit.

“The scholarships are 100% funded by the German taxpayer— a further proof of our special partnership,” said Florian Seitz, Deputy Head

of Mission at the German Embassy.

“This programme is an important training initiative, but it also reflects Germany’s strong political commitment to Namibia and its future.”

Germany’s Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space is funding the programme.

Seitz said the initiative aligns with Namibia’s ambitions to become a leading producer of green hydrogen and praised the country’s progress.

“Germany is proud to be part of this journey,” he said.

He also noted that Namibia receives the highest per capita development assistance from Germany in Africa, totalling more than €1.6 billion (around N\$32 billion) since independence.

The German government is collaborating with the Namibian Green Hydrogen Programme, with SASSCAL as the implementing partner.



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## Govt tenders 1,000mt monk freezer fish


**T**he Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform have invited bids for 1,000 metric tonnes of monk freezer fish, following Cabinet’s approval of the 2025/2026 Total Allowable Catch.

According to the Ministry, the bid process is being conducted under Section 3(3) of the Marine Resources Act (Act No. 27 of 2000), as amended, which allows the State to harvest or allocate marine resources to advance social,

economic, cultural or other government objectives in the public interest.

According to the ministries, this can be done through a designated person or entity, based on a directive from Cabinet.

The call for bids follows Cabinet’s approval of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of over 9,000 metric tonnes of monk fish for the 2025/2026 fishing season, which runs from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2026.



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Expression of Interest

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The spaces are suitable for doctors consulting rooms, call centre, general office usage and can be tailored for individual needs with secure parking and 24-hour security.

**Prospective tenants are urged to express their interest to:**

Contact Person: Bonifasius Kleopas, Procurement Manager  
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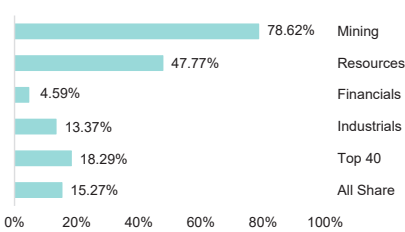
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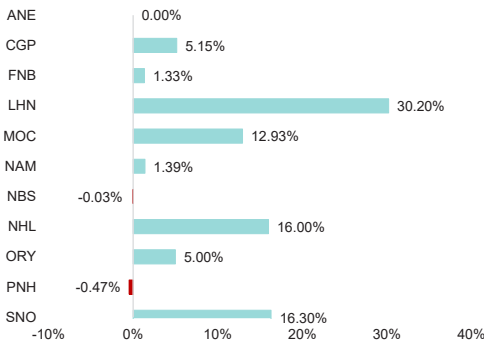
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USD/RUB	78.9298
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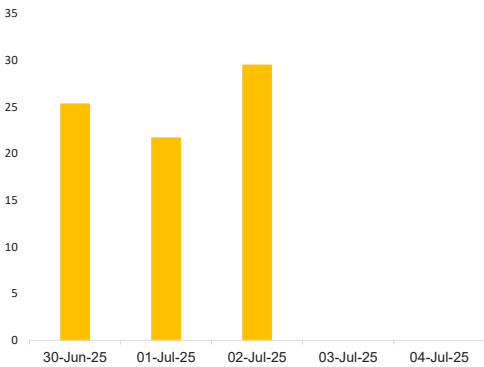
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

