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NamRA collects N\$12.78 billion in first two months of financial year

WEDNESDAY 09 JULY 2025

MAIN STORY



NamRA collects N\$12.78 billion in first two months of financial year

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) has collected N\$12.78 billion in revenue between 1 April and 31 May 2025, as part of the current financial year.

Of this total, N\$6.81 billion was raised through domestic taxes, while N\$5.97 billion came from customs and excise duties, according to the agency.

The latest collection figures come shortly after NamRA reported a strong performance for the 2024/25 financial year, which ended on 31 March 2025.

In that period, the agency collected a total

of N\$88.6 billion in net revenue ,a 15% increase from the previous year's figure of N\$77 billion.

Crucial Dates

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

The gross revenue collected amounted to N\$98.9 billion, with N\$10.4 billion disbursed in refunds, resulting in a net collection of N\$88.6 billion.

NamRA Commissioner Sam Shivute said the agency had exceeded its annual revenue target of N\$85.3 billion by collecting 103.81% of the projected amount.

“The gross revenue collected amounted to N\$98.9 billion, with N\$10.4 billion disbursed in refunds, resulting in a net collection of N\$88.6 billion,” said Shivute.

He added that international trade taxes contributed the largest share of the revenue, totalling N\$30.18 billion or 34% of the total collected.

Value-Added Tax (VAT) and Pay-As-You-

Earn (PIT) followed closely, each contributing 23% , equivalent to N\$20.56 billion and N\$20.07 billion, respectively.

Corporate Income Tax (CIT) made up 14% of revenue at N\$12.63 billion, while other sources brought in 6%, amounting to N\$5.1 billion.

NamRA's improved revenue performance has been linked to broader economic expansion, with Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) increasing by 34%, from N\$184 billion in 2021 to N\$245 billion in 2024.



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Namibia's national parks generate over N\$140m annually

Namibia's protected areas generate more than N\$140 million annually from tourism and conservation fees and support the livelihoods of at least

500,000 people, according to a revised draft national policy on prospecting and mining in protected and environmentally sensitive areas.



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Smart Propositions

The draft, prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in partnership with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, is yet to be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

It states that Etosha National Park brings in about N\$90 million each year from entrance and conservation fees. An additional N\$20 million could be generated annually through concession fees if all identified tourism opportunities are developed.

“Several tourism concessions in the park have been awarded to neighbouring conservancies and the Hai//om San community,” the policy reads. “Once fully operationalised, these concessions will generate more revenues for the state and provide economic benefits to local communities.”

Namib-Naukluft National Park generates about N\$20 million per year, making it the country’s second-highest income earner. The draft notes the sensitivity of the northern section due to gypsum crusts, which are easily damaged and do not recover after rehabilitation.

“It has one of the most scenic coastlines on the planet,” the policy adds.

In Skeleton Coast National Park, new concession developments are expected to add more than N\$10 million annually once fully operational. The draft highlights ecological changes

in the area, including the growth of Cape fur seal colonies at Toscanini, Palgrave Point, Möwe Bay and Cape Fria.

The policy projects an additional N\$20 million in concession income from parks across the country if all identified opportunities are realised.

Cape Cross Nature Reserve, despite its small size, is noted as the third-highest revenue generator with N\$4.2 million annually. The draft describes it as “an important bird area” with “extremely important historical sites and a significant lichen area,” as well as global significance as a surfing destination with a five-star lodge nearby.

Beyond revenue, the policy emphasises the role of protected areas in supporting rural employment. It estimates that more than half a million Namibians benefit from income linked to wildlife tourism, conservancies, and hunting activities, with over 70% of national tourism activity occurring in protected areas.



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How AI can reduce waiting times and improve service delivery in Namibian hospitals

By Junias Erasmus and Ester Shangandi

Namibia's health sector, like many others across the developing world, continues to face persistent challenges in delivering timely, efficient, and quality healthcare services.

One of the most pressing issues in the country's public hospitals and clinics is the long waiting times experienced by patients, often caused by a combination of staff shortages, inefficient systems, and overwhelming patient loads.

These delays not only cause frustration and discomfort but also pose serious risks to patient outcomes, particularly for those in urgent need of care. As the world embraces the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Namibia has an opportunity to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a transformative tool to reduce waiting times and significantly enhance service delivery across its health system.

The introduction of AI into healthcare does not begin with advanced robotics or complicated algorithms. It begins with streamlining simple but critical processes that consume time and resources.

For instance, AI can be used to manage appointment scheduling more effectively. Currently, many hospitals in Namibia still operate on manual or semi-manual systems, where patient files are handled physically and appointments are registered in logbooks or basic software.



These systems are prone to duplication, lost records, and inefficiencies that lead to overbooking or unattended queues. An

AI-powered scheduling system could automatically

manage and allocate appointments based on the urgency of care, doctor availability, and patient history, thereby reducing overcrowding and improving patient flow.

Once patients arrive at a hospital or clinic, triage often becomes the next bottleneck. In many facilities, the process of determining which patients require urgent attention relies heavily on limited personnel and subjective judgment, especially in high-pressure environments.

AI-driven triage tools, using algorithms trained on thousands of clinical cases, can assess symptoms, check vital signs, and assist in categorizing patients based on severity and urgency. These systems do not replace healthcare workers but rather support them by accelerating decision-making, reducing human error, and allowing doctors and nurses to focus on critical cases sooner.

AI also holds promise in streamlining diagnostic and administrative processes. In Namibia's overstretched health facilities, laboratory tests and diagnostic results often take longer than necessary due to backlog and manual reporting.

AI-powered diagnostic tools can

interpret medical images, blood tests, and other routine diagnostics with high speed and accuracy, enabling quicker feedback to attending physicians.

Likewise, AI chatbots and virtual assistants can collect preliminary patient information even before a person walks through the clinic door, reducing the administrative burden on nurses and clerks while improving the accuracy of patient records.

Beyond direct patient interaction, AI can enhance service delivery by improving internal hospital operations. AI systems can predict peak times based on historical data, helping administrators prepare staff rosters more effectively and allocate resources where they are needed most.

Machine learning models can analyse patterns in patient data to anticipate demand for medication, beds, or equipment, minimising shortages and ensuring smoother service delivery. In the long term, this can help reduce both cost and waste, freeing up resources to be invested back into patient care.

It is important to note that the use of AI in healthcare should not be viewed as a replacement for human care, but as a complementary solution to existing gaps. The Namibian health system is rich in committed professionals who work tirelessly under challenging conditions. What AI offers is the opportunity to relieve them of repetitive tasks, assist in complex decision-making,

and create more time for human-to-human interaction, which remains irreplaceable in healthcare.

Adopting AI in Namibia's hospitals will require strategic planning, digital infrastructure, skilled personnel, and policy frameworks to guide ethical use and data protection.

But the foundation is already in place. Namibia has made strides in digital health, and with growing investment in innovation, now is the time to pilot AI solutions in high-volume hospitals as a model for broader adoption.

Artificial Intelligence is not a distant or abstract concept. It is a practical, timely,



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The introduction of AI into healthcare does not begin with advanced robotics or complicated algorithms.

and transformative tool that can directly address one of the most visible pain points in Namibian healthcare: long waiting times. With careful implementation and inclusive planning, AI can unlock new levels of efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness in hospitals and clinics.

For a country determined to provide equitable healthcare for all its people, embracing AI is not just a technological choice, it is a moral imperative for better

service delivery and healthier communities.

****A dual-perspective analysis and reflection by Junias Erasmus and Ester Shangandi. This article is written in the authors' personal capacities and does not reflect the views or positions of their respective employers. For inquiries, contact them at Junias99@gmail.com or Oufroester@gmail.com***



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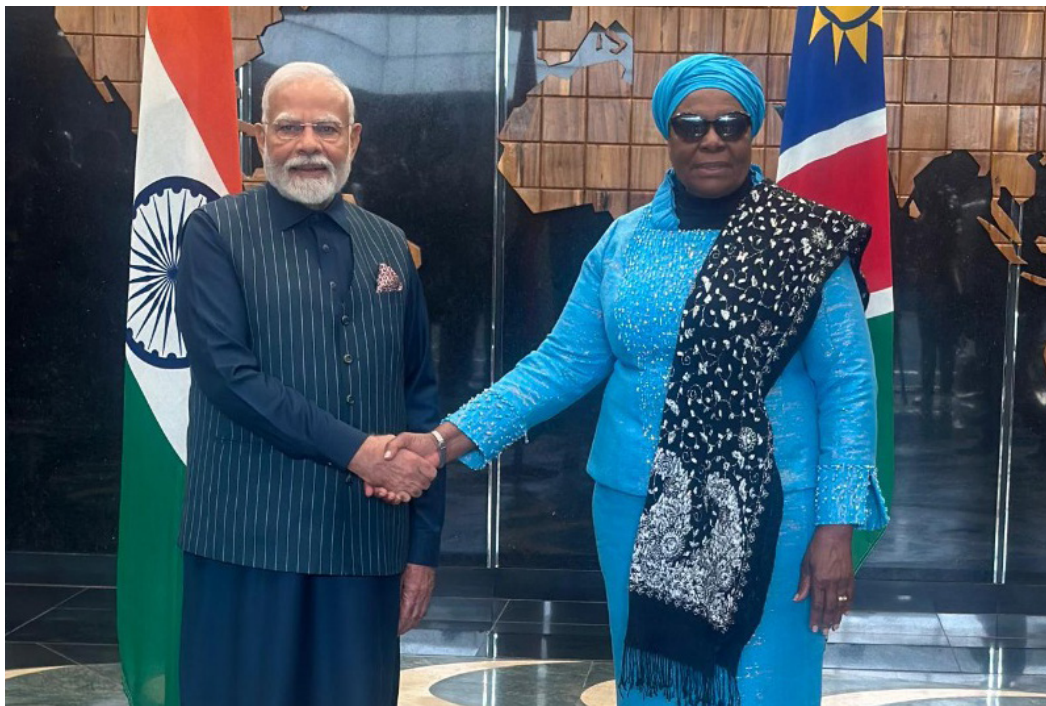
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Namibia backs India's pharmaceutical hub proposal

Namibia has expressed its full support for India's proposal to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in the country under the "Pharmacy of the World" initiative.

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah made the announcement during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Namibia, saying the initiative aligns with

Namibia's national objectives to boost local medicine production and reduce reliance on imports.

"In the health sector, Namibia welcomes India's proposal under the 'Pharmacy of the World' initiative to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in Namibia. This initiative aligns with our goal to enhance domestic health production

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capacity and improve regional health security. We are eager to finalise the outstanding memorandum of understanding in this regard," she said on Wednesday.

The proposed hub is expected to improve access to affordable medicines, strengthen Namibia's ability to respond to health emergencies, and support broader regional health resilience.

In addition, President

Ndaitwah welcomed India's plan to set up an India–Namibia Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, saying it would play a key role in skills development, health innovation and promoting entrepreneurship, particularly among youth and women.

She described India as one of Namibia's largest trading partners, highlighting that trade and investment remain central to the bilateral

GEMHEALTH+ MEDICAL AID SCHEME

APPOINTS NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICER



MR. GAVIN VAN WYK
Principal Officer

Mr. Gavin van Wyk, appointed GEMHEALTH Medical Aid Scheme Principal Officer, holds a Bachelor of Accounting (Honours) degree from the University of Namibia and has further expanded his business acumen through a Foundations of Business Management course at the University of Cape Town. He brings to the role over a decade of hands-on leadership experience in the healthcare administration and medical aid environment, having overseen financial operations, regulatory compliance, claims optimization, and strategic projects within large medical practices. His professional background is rooted in bridging healthcare service delivery and funder expectations – giving him a nuanced understanding of both patient-centric care and sustainable scheme management.

Looking ahead to private healthcare the new GEMHEALTH Medical Aid Scheme Principal Officer Gavin van Wyk believes "that the relationships between the medical aid funders industry and the healthcare provider community need to be a priority as closer collaboration and cooperation between the stakeholders will create a better understanding and improve working relationship into a partnership the benefit of the patient and the members of medical aid funds."

GEMHEALTH MEDICAL AID SCHEME APPOINTS NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICER, MR. GAVIN VAN WYK.

Following the departure of Callie Schäfer from the position of Principal Officer of the GEMHEALTH Scheme, at the end of February 2025, the Trustees of GEMHEALTH have announced the appointment of Mr. Gavin van Wyk as the Scheme's new Principal Officer with effect 1 March 2025.

Gavin previously gained valuable industry experience and led financial and administrative teams, optimized claims processes, system upgrades and auditing, improved operational efficiencies at diverse and large healthcare practices in Windhoek. This allowed him to interact, build and strengthen relationships with key healthcare stakeholders, including medical aid schemes and regulatory bodies. His work experience and close working relationship gave him excellent experience of all the managerial aspects of the healthcare practice and service providers industry.

According to the GEMHEALTH Board of Trustees, the recruitment process included close scrutiny of the candidates' own motivation for wanting to helm GEMHEALTH followed through psychometric testing and personality testing. Gavin's personal objectives of focus on interaction between patients/members and with his medical practice experience, exposure to the healthcare professionals and all other industry stakeholders and regulators preceded that of his competitors. "We believe that Gavin's experience in the leadership positions in the healthcare service delivery industry will enhance our policy of constructive engagement with the industry and strengthen the bridges we have already built and need to strengthen" the Trustees said.

"His background in practice management, patient relationship and interaction with medical aid fund/administrators and the regulators will assist him in the complexities of Scheme management, corporate governance, not just in navigating the baseline requirements in a dynamic healthcare financial environment, but also in ensuring a smooth adoption to the expected transition of the way medical aids are managed under the soon to be implemented Financial Intermediaries Market Act (FIM Act) that require a high level of governance, internal process audit and risk base management".

Speaking on the broader role of GEMHEALTH, Gavin said, "The vision of the Scheme should not be empty promises, but we should live up to its standards by working in smart partnerships with all stakeholders, employer groups, administrators, industry at larger and regulators to achieve service excellence in service delivery to members and healthcare practices".

Former Principal Officer, Callie Schäfer has retired after a spell of 25 years in the medical aid and healthcare industry.

For any inquiries, please contact GEMHEALTH Medical Aid Scheme at po@gemhealth.com.na

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GEMHEALTH Medical Aid Scheme



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relationship.

There is strong potential, she said, to expand cooperation in sectors such as green hydrogen, mining and value addition, oil and gas, infrastructure development, agriculture, food security and tourism.


“These actions align with Namibia’s national agenda to attract foreign direct investment, expand the country’s export basket, and accelerate economic growth in order to create employment and reduce poverty,” Ndaitwah said.

“We must work together to maximise these opportunities and fully unlock the potential of our trade and investment portfolios,” she added.

The President also noted that the growing partnership with India spans several key sectors including health, education, digital innovation and public administration.

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ENQUIRY NO. E045-ND-2025

THE PROVISION OF GREENFIELDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES

SPECIFICATION OF THE SERVICES

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd hereby invites reputable and suitably qualified service providers to submit their proposals to provide Greenfields Maintenance Services within the Town of Oranjemund.

The deliverables shall, without limitation, include the maintenance of:

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- Sports Fields; and
- Oranjemund Golf Course;

ENQUIRY DOCUMENTS

Interested parties may contact Elizabeth Markowitz, at the below listed details, to register and obtain a copy of the enquiry documents:

Email: elizabeth.markowitz@namdeb.com
Tel.: +264 (63) 238 502


COMPULSORY SITE VISIT

A compulsory physical site visit shall be conducted on **Monday, 28th July 2025, at 09h00. Only Tenderers who attended the physical site visit shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.**


SUBMISSIONS

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to tender@namdeb.com
Closing date and time: **Wednesday 6th August 2025 at 14h00.**

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Khomas faces structural development hurdles, says Governor

The Khomas Region continues to face significant development challenges that are stalling inclusive growth and social progress, Governor Sam Shafishuna Nujoma has warned.

Speaking at a recent stakeholder engagement session aimed at fostering collaboration and improving service delivery, Nujoma highlighted key concerns, including a housing backlog exceeding 25,000 units, high school dropout rates, and an inadequate public transport system.

“These challenges reflect the broader need for integrated and sustained development planning across sectors,” he said.

With more than 60% of Khomas residents under the age of 35, the Governor described the region as distinctly youthful, but expressed concern over the exclusion of young people from the formal



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These challenges reflect the broader need for integrated and sustained development planning across sectors.

economy.

“Many of our young people are locked out of the formal economy, excluded from housing markets, unsupported in enterprise, and underrepresented in procurement pipelines,” Nujoma said. Youth unemployment in the region stands at over 41%, with many of those who are employed stuck in low-wage, informal or insecure jobs. “Social grants keep families alive, but they are not transformative,” he said, adding that many of the existing systems are “overburdened and under-maintained”.

Nujoma also pointed to growing strain on basic infrastructure and services.

“Basic infrastructure such as waste management, electricity supply, water distribution, road maintenance, public transport, and social amenities are increasingly overwhelmed,” he said.


He noted that this cannot be attributed to population growth alone.

“They are also the product of governance systems that were not designed to adapt at the speed of urban expansion,” Nujoma said, highlighting the mismatch between rapid urbanisation and slow institutional reform.

To address these issues, the Governor called for inclusive economic strategies, youth-focused empowerment initiatives and stronger local governance structures capable of responding to the demands of a fast-growing region.

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TENDERS



ENQUIRY NO. E076-ND-2025

RENTAL OF TRACK DOZERS IN SOUTHERN COASTAL MINES

SCOPE OF WORKS

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd hereby invites reputable, qualified and bona fide service providers to submit their proposals for the rental of 1 to 4 Caterpillar D11 or Komatsu D475 Dozers in Southern Coastal Mines.

TENDER REGISTRATION

Interested parties may register and obtain the tender enquiry documents at Namdeb's Supply Chain Help Desk before **Monday, 21st July 2025**, at the below listed details:

Contact: Elizabeth Markowitz,
Email: elizabeth.markowitz@namdeb.com
Tel: +264 (63) 238 502


TENDER BRIEFING/CLARIFICATION MEETING

A compulsory virtual Tender briefing/clarification meeting shall be held on **Wednesday, 23rd July 2025, at 09H00**. It is strongly recommended that potential tenderers attend this meeting as important information will be shared.

SUBMISSIONS

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to tender@namdeb.com.
The closing date and time for submissions is: **Monday 28th July 2025 at 10h00**.

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NIPAM launches the Public Sector Awards

The Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) will host its first-ever Public Sector Awards on 11 July 2025 at the NIPAM Campus in Windhoek.

This groundbreaking event aims to recognise and celebrate public sector institutions that have invested significantly in the capacity building and development of their employees during the 2024/2025 financial year.

This inaugural event marks a significant milestone

Pitching for Namibia, innovating for Africa: My Bingwa PLUS journey

By Dr. Tuwilika Nafuka

Nigeria has always been on my bucket list, but I wanted to go with a purpose, and this was it.

Since 19 February 2025, I've been part of the Bingwa PLUS Y-Health Incubation Programme, an extension of the African Union's Bingwa initiative. The programme empowers young Africans aged 18–35 to address public health challenges through innovation, mentorship, and funding.

The journey began with 50 participants from across Africa in a six-week virtual training (Phase 1), and I was honored to be among the top 30 selected for Phase 2: the in-person pitch event held in Abuja, Nigeria, from May 27 to 30, 2025.

Representing Namibia at this event was a proud moment. I joined fellow health innovators and impactors from over 25 African countries, including Zambia, Uganda, Mali, The Gambia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Madagascar, South Africa, Somalia, Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and more. The energy, diversity, and shared mission among us were inspiring.

Bingwa PLUS, building on the foundation of the original Bingwa Initiative, focuses on priority health areas including mental health, digital health, and non-communicable diseases, recognizing the crucial role youth play in shaping Africa's health future. The program has not only sharpened our skills but also created a powerful network of youth-led solutions



“

The Bingwa PLUS experience has reignited my passion for public health innovation and deepened my belief in the power of youth-led change.

and changemakers.

I pitched my project under TupaBloom Care, which focuses on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education among Namibian youth. Our solution uses WhatsApp and gamified content to deliver youth-friendly SRHR information and includes

the development of a national SRHR provider directory, helping young people find accessible, stigma-free services.

This project is especially timely. Namibia is currently facing backlash and public concern regarding SRHR topics, ranging from myths about intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs) to skepticism about the upcoming HPV vaccine rollout by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. These challenges emphasize the importance of trusted, youth-centered health communication.

A personal highlight of the program was finally meeting our mentors and

programme leads in person after months of virtual interactions: Dr. Chrys Promesse Kaniki (Africa CDC), Lan Huong Le (GIZ), and Rotimi Olawale (Youth Hub Africa). Their guidance was instrumental. I also want to acknowledge the incredible support from Peter Ogah, Program Officer at Youth Hub Africa, Tanda Bibiana Bienka'a, Youth and Gender Consultant at Africa CDC and Metasebiya Ayele Mamo, Youth Engagement Advisor with GIZ and the African Union, who helped shape our experience as young leaders.

We also visited the Nigeria Health Watch headquarters in Abuja, where we learned about their media and advocacy work across Africa. It was a powerful networking opportunity and opened up conversations about how we can scale and strengthen our initiatives.



Beyond the technical training, what I valued most was the connection with fellow participants. Despite our diverse backgrounds, we all face similar health challenges. It's the context that differs. This realization emphasized the importance of collaboration, we must stop working in silos. I now see these innovators as future collaborators, not competitors.

The Bingwa PLUS experience has reignited my passion for public health innovation and deepened my belief in the power of youth-led change. I return home ready to implement what I've learned and continue improving SRHR outcomes

for Namibian youth.

To any young person considering Bingwa PLUS, I say: do it! Your idea matters. Your voice matters. There's no such thing as a "too small" initiative. Learn. Lead. Impact.

****Dr. Tuwilika Nafuka is a Medical Doctor, Africa CDC Bingwa PLUS and DHSA fellow, and a champion for digital health transformation. She is passionate about harnessing technology to advance health equity and strengthen community access to essential services across Namibia and beyond.***

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First date of publication: 06 June 2025

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CLOSING DATE:


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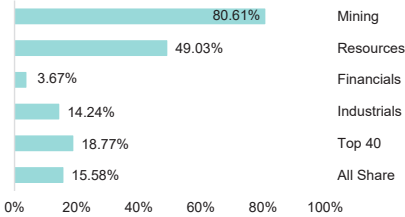
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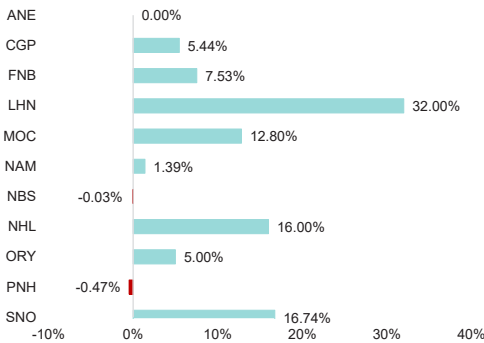
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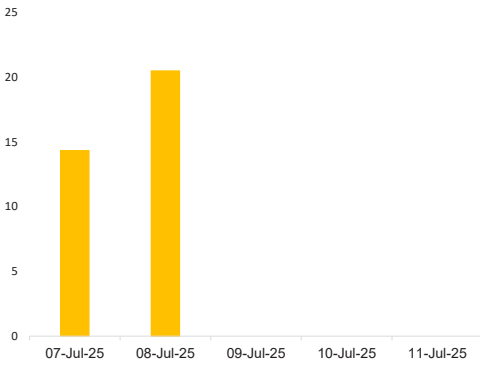
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