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THE

# BR/EF

News Worth Knowing

## Flood-damaged roads to cost N\$467 million to fix



THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025

## MAIN STORY

# Flood-damaged roads to cost N\$467 million to fix

**T**he Roads Authority (RA) has spent approximately N\$200 million to repair national roads severely damaged by heavy rains and flooding, with an estimated N\$467.1 million required to fully restore all affected infrastructure across the country.

RA Chief Executive Officer Conrad Lutombi made the remarks during a site visit to the newly completed Dr. Hage G. Geingob Interchange, emphasising the urgency of the works to protect road safety and ensure mobility.

“We have committed more than N\$200 million to repair the roads that were severely damaged by floods and rainfall across the country, and these interventions are essential to maintain safety and ensure uninterrupted mobility on our national road network,” said Lutombi.

He confirmed that the funds spent so far are part of an emergency response plan aimed at addressing widespread deterioration in road conditions. “These interventions were critical to maintaining the integrity of the national road network and ensuring the safety of all users,” he said.

The Authority has already allocated N\$230 million in the current financial year for road repairs in the northern regions of Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Omusati



## Crucial Dates

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

“  
We have committed more than N\$200 million to repair the roads that were severely damaged by floods and rainfall across the country.

and Kunene. Lutombi said the total cost of restoring damaged roads countrywide is projected at N\$467.1 million, drawn from the RA’s overall budget of N\$2.4 billion for the 2024/25 financial year.

He noted that while the current interventions are urgent, they must be balanced against other planned infrastructure projects and ongoing maintenance already budgeted for.

Meanwhile, the Road Fund Administration (RFA) is also facing pressure from local authorities seeking support.

RFA CEO Ali Ipinge revealed that 20 out of 57 local authorities had submitted requests totalling around N\$500 million to repair damaged local roads.

“They were requesting a huge amount of money. Unfortunately, we had no excess

funds available, so there was quite a shortfall,” said Ipinge earlier this year.

Despite having allocated N\$600 million for local road maintenance and construction during the current financial year, the RFA acknowledged it lacks the resources to respond to emergency demands. Ipinge added that the administration is preparing a formal submission to the government for additional funds and noted that consultations are under way.

The funding shortfall comes as the RA celebrated the completion of the N\$3 billion Dr. Hage G. Geingob Interchange near Hosea Kutako International Airport.

Lutombi described the project as a “milestone investment” in the country’s transport network, aimed at easing congestion and improving access along one of Windhoek’s busiest corridors.



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## MTC and Letshego partner to launch instant loans via mobile phone

**M**obile Telecommunications Limited (MTC) and Letshego Micro Financial Services have launched Tamba Maris, a mobile microlending platform currently being rolled out under a controlled pilot phase.

The service, capped at N\$2 million for

its first month, will initially be available to 6,000 selected MTC customers, with plans to expand depending on regulatory approval.

“So, this product is going to be available to all MTC customers who are utilising MTC Maris products,” said Letshego CEO



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Melvin Angula.

“For the testing phase, in terms of control, we have capped it at about N\$2 million for the first month, which will be monitored on a regular basis. We have also approved a list of 6,000 customers,” he said.

Delivered via USSD, the platform allows users to access instant loans ranging from N\$100 to N\$1,500, repayable over 7, 14, or 30 days. Interest rates vary by duration: 14% for 7-day loans, 18% for 14-day loans, and 22% for 30-day loans, averaging approximately 18% across the product range.

The pilot is being conducted within a regulatory sandbox created by NAMFISA and the Bank of Namibia, which enables controlled testing of financial innovations not yet covered by existing regulations.

Angula said loan disbursement takes less than 60 seconds and does not require internet access.

“Transactions are secured through MTC’s robust network and systems integration,” he said.

The platform is aimed at informal workers, gig economy participants, and underbanked Namibians without access to traditional financial services.

Loan applications are processed using automated Know Your Customer (KYC) and

credit scoring systems powered by Credit Info, which rely on transaction data to build a user’s credit history.

Loans are repaid through the MTC Maris wallet, with tools for tracking balances and receiving payment reminders.

“It’s worked well in other countries. We’re very confident it will be a success. We’re looking at phased expansion,” said Angula.

If successful, Tamba Maris could eventually be extended to MTC’s full customer base of 2.7 million.



Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) hereby invites bids through Open National Bidding (ONB) procedures for the Provision of Security Services for Namport at the Ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz For a Period of Three (3) Years.

Bid Reference Number	Brief Description	Pre-bid Conference	Last Day for Clarification Requests	Closing Date
NCS/ONB/NAMPOR-3672/2025	The Provision of Security Services for Namport at the Ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz For a Period of Three (3) Years	Non-Compulsory Pre-bid/Site Visit meeting on 01/08/2025 @ 10h00 AM	15/08/2025	05/09/2025 @ 12h00 PM  (Virtual Bid Opening Link available on website)

1. Bids are invited through the Open National Bidding (ONB) procedure and the invitation is open to all eligible bidders. All Bidders must comply with the requirements outlined in the bidding document.
2. Interested eligible bidders are requested to visit the Namport website at <https://www.namport.com.na/procurement> for details of the bidding requirements. Bidders must register as suppliers, express interest in a specific bid, make a payment of the (non-refundable) bid levy of **N\$300.00** and submit the proof of payment in order to be granted access to the bidding documents. The Namport Banking Details are available on the link: <https://www.namport.com.na/procurement/banking-details/558/>
3. A Non-compulsory **Pre-Bid/Site Visit meeting** is scheduled for **01 August 2025 at 10H00 AM**. The meeting will be held at **Executive Boardroom, Namport Head Office, Walvis Bay**. Bidders should take note that the virtual meeting link is also available on the website for bidders that would like to join the meeting virtually.
4. Bids must be delivered to: **The Tender Box, Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) Reception, No. 17 Rikumbi Kandanga Road, Walvis Bay**

ALL enquiries related to these bids must be directed in writing by email to the following contact details:

<b>Procurement Manager</b> Melani de Klerk Tel: +264 208 2319 Email: <a href="mailto:m.deklerk@namport.com.na">m.deklerk@namport.com.na</a> or <a href="mailto:procurement@namport.com.na">procurement@namport.com.na</a>	<b>Tender and Contracts Administrator</b> Owlike Amunkete Tel: +264 208 2217 Email: <a href="mailto:o.amunkete@namport.com.na">o.amunkete@namport.com.na</a> or <a href="mailto:procurement@namport.com.na">procurement@namport.com.na</a>
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# 2,500 plots made available for low- income housing

The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) says 2,500 plots across the country have been made available under the National Informal Settlement Upgrading Project (ISUP), aimed at increasing access to affordable housing for low-income earners.

According to NHE Chief Executive Officer Gisbertus Mukulu, the plots are at different stages of servicing and contribute to the agency's goal of delivering 2,000 new housing units by April 2026.

"There has been positive response from most local authorities that NHE has

engaged to foster partnerships for the implementation of the ISUP. So far, at least 2,500 plots, at various stages in terms of availability of services, have been made available to NHE,” said Mukulu.

He added that the project gained further traction with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between NHE and the Usakos Town Council on 22 July 2025.

“The MoU serves as a platform for NHE and the Town Council to collaborate and provide decent housing to Usakos residents,” he said.

While the number of housing units to be built in Usakos has not yet been confirmed, the council has agreed to provide land for development under the ISUP.

The programme seeks to formalise informal settlements by providing access to serviced land. Mukulu said the repayment

model is structured for low-income households, with monthly instalments starting at N\$400 for a one-bedroom house and N\$1,200 for a three-bedroom unit.

Welcoming the partnership, the Mayor of Usakos described it as a milestone for the town’s housing development.

“Today’s MoU is more than a document. It is a declaration of hope, a commitment to progress, and a foundation upon which dreams will be built. Together, we are laying bricks of opportunity, security, and dignity for every family in Usakos,” she said.

The ISUP model is already being implemented in Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Otjiwarongo.

NHE has urged more local authorities to join the initiative to help expand access to affordable and dignified housing across the country.














## Mining for Namibia's Future: Job Creation, Local Empowerment, and Economic Transformation.

06 August 2025 08H00 – 17H20 Conference Tent

07H00 – 08H00 Conference Delegate Registration

### Conference Programme



 <p><b>George Botshewe</b> President, Chamber of Mines Managing Director, OJ Gold Namibia, Naschob Gold Mine Board of Directors (the Boardship to Hon. Dr. Inge Zemanitz)</p> <p><b>Welcoming Remarks</b></p>	 <p><b>Baronessa Tshepo</b> Chairperson, Health &amp; Safety Committee, Director Sustainability and Business Transformation, Sizemore Tourism Minister</p> <p><b>Safety Moment</b></p>	 <p><b>Marina Ross</b> Lead Consultant, M Communications CC Moderator: Driving Local Employment through Procurement and Economic Inclusion Moderator: Mining for Generations – 35 Years of Community Impact</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Moderator</b></p>	 <p><b>John Ross</b> 1st Vice President, Chamber of Mines, Director and Country Manager, E2Gold Namibia Panel Discussion: Driving Local Employment through Procurement and Economic Inclusion</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Panelist</b></p>	 <p><b>Irvine Simatwa</b> 2nd Vice President, Chamber of Mines, Executive Vice President, Saseep Uranium Panel Discussion: Driving Local Employment through Procurement and Economic Inclusion</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Panelist</b></p>
 <p><b>Dr. Gabi Schneider</b> Director, Namibia Uranium Association Panel Discussion: Mining for Generations – 35 Years of Community Impact</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Panelist</b></p>	 <p><b>Dr. Chris Brown</b> CEO, Namibia Chamber of Environment Panel Discussion: Mining for Generations – 35 Years of Community Impact</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Panelist</b></p>	 <p><b>Steve Galloway</b> Independent Consultant, Chairperson – Independent Non Executive Director, Bessing Uranium Panel Discussion: Mining for Generations – 35 Years of Community Impact</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Panelist</b></p>	 <p><b>Angelique Peake</b> Senior Specialist for Mining, Energy and Innovation, PwC, E&amp;B Namibia Presenting the Future: How Mining Can Foster Namibia's Development Promise</p> <p><b>Session 1 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>John Ross</b> 1st Vice President, Chamber of Mines, Director and Country Manager, E2Gold Namibia Chairperson of Session 2</p> <p><b>Session 2 – Chair</b></p>
 <p><b>Willy Mertens</b> Chief Executive Officer, DeBeers Namibia Namibia's Diamond Future: DeBeers Namibia: navigating the route to excellence through the diamond cycles</p> <p><b>Session 2 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>John Ross</b> Director and Country Manager, E2Gold Namibia OJ Gold Mine: A Pioneer in Namibia's Mining Revolution</p> <p><b>Session 2 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>George Botshewe</b> Managing Director, OJ Gold Namibia, Naschob Gold Mine Naschob Gold Mine Expansion: Unlocking Jobs, Innovation, and Economic Transformation</p> <p><b>Session 2 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>Veston Malongo</b> CEO, Chamber of Mines Chairperson of Session 3</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Chair</b></p>	 <p><b>Irvine Simatwa</b> 2nd Vice President, Chamber of Mines, Executive Vice President, Saseep Uranium Husab Mine: Building a world class Namibia Uranium Company</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Speaker</b></p>
 <p><b>Mike Woodborne</b> COO, Namibia Marine Phosphate Building Namibia's Integrated Marine Phosphate Industry to Fuel Economic Diversification and Value Creation</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>Chris Janssen</b> CEO, Namib Mining Building Namibia's Integrated Marine Phosphate Industry to Fuel Economic Diversification and Value Creation</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>John Bonhoff</b> CEO, Deep Yellow Limited The Transformative Impact of the Tsumeb Uranium Project</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>Werner Ewald</b> Managing Director, Bannerman Mining Resources Namibia Strong Contribution to local Economic Growth</p> <p><b>Session 3 – Speaker</b></p>	 <p><b>Irvine Simatwa</b> 2nd Vice President, Chamber of Mines, Executive Vice President, Saseep Uranium Closing Remarks</p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p>



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## Shafudah appoints Masheshu, Siteketa and Kamatuka to DBN Board

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah has appointed three new members to the Board of Directors of the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), effective 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028.

The appointments were made in line with the Public Enterprise Governance Act No. 1 of 2019 (PEGA) and Cabinet Decision No. 9th/17.06.25/013, the Bank confirmed.

According to DBN, the new board members are Desiree Masheshu, a trained lawyer; Bonifasia Siteketa, a qualified aircraft engineer; and Gerson Kamatuka, a human resource expert. They join current members Evangelina Nailenge (Chairperson), Willy Mertens (Deputy Chairperson), Patience Kanalelo and Marsorry Ickua, who were appointed in January 2025 and will serve until 31 December 2027.

"Their expertise will strengthen our ability to provide strategic guidance and oversight as DBN continues to drive infrastructure development, enterprise growth, and sustainable economic transformation for Namibia," said Nailenge.

DBN said the board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of its Integrated Strategic Business Plan (2024–2029), which outlines the Bank's roadmap for impact-driven financing across infrastructure, manufacturing, and green investments.

The strategy also focuses on improving customer experience, service delivery, and long-term development impact, all underpinned by financial sustainability, organisational culture, and market positioning.



## Steenkamp raises alarm over poor literacy and numeracy in schools

**M**inister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts & Culture Sanet Steenkamp has sounded the alarm over national learning outcomes, revealing that only 28% of Grade 3 learners passed the 40% literacy benchmark in 2024, while just 3% scored above 75%.

In numeracy, only 5% reached the 75% benchmark.

“Repetition rates, as reported by EMIS 2023, of 17.2% in Grade 1, 19% in Grade 4, and 21.9% in Grade 8, signal that many of our learners are in school but not learning effectively,” said Steenkamp.

She added that 17,152 learners dropped out of school in 2023, including 8,432 girls and 8,720 boys. Pregnancy, long distances, domestic responsibilities, and disciplinary

issues were cited as key causes.

“Learning poverty is not a statistic. It is a child’s silence in the classroom, a missed opportunity, a lost voice,” said Steenkamp.

This comes as the End Learning Poverty for All in Africa (ELPAF) campaign was launched nationally on 30 July in Outjo.

It forms part of a continental effort under the African Union’s Decade of Education. Namibia joins Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria in implementing national campaigns.

“Only 51,872 children accessed early childhood development services in 2024 out of 414,069 children aged 0 to 4. That is deeply inadequate,” said Steenkamp.

Of those in early education, only 1,102 children with disabilities are enrolled.

Formal qualification among educators remains low, with only 17% certified, and 55% of children aged 3 to 6 are not in any educational setting. This represents a significant barrier to lifelong learning, said Steenkamp.

The campaign's interventions include expanded teacher development, digital tools like Jolly Monitor and Jolly Classroom, improved assessments, and a push for inclusive and equitable access.

It further follows commitments made during the 2022 National Conference on Education.

"We will pursue scalable, evidence-based strategies that rapidly improve foundational outcomes," said Steenkamp.

Also speaking at the event, Sophia Ashipala, Head of the Education Division at the African Union Commission, said ELPAF is a direct response to a continental learning crisis, where 90% of 10-year-olds in Sub-Saharan

Africa cannot read a simple sentence or complete a basic maths task.

"We are gathered here not just to launch a campaign, but to reaffirm a promise — a promise to ensure that no child is denied the opportunity to learn, thrive, and lead," said Ashipala.

She welcomed Namibia's data-driven approach to education reform, noting that this unique initiative demonstrates Namibia's determination to build policy on the foundation of evidence, local insight, and expert knowledge.

The ELPAF campaign targets by 2030 include 150,000 children enrolled in ECD, 80% of rural constituencies with at least one functional ECD centre, and 90% of educators trained and certified.

Further targets include 75% reading fluency by Grade 2, 75% writing proficiency by Grade 3, and the full national rollout of structured numeracy and literacy programmes.



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## DBN selects eight graduates from 400 applicants for two-year training

**T**he Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has selected eight young graduates for its Youth Professionals Programme (YPP), following a competitive process that drew over 400 applications.

The two-year programme aims to prepare graduates for careers in development finance through structured training, job rotations, mentorship and individual project assignments.

“Each participant will be assigned an individual project aligned with their area of placement. Their success and progression will be evaluated based on the outcomes of these projects,” said DBN Chief of Human Capital, Sara Kapiye.

She acknowledged the small intake but said it was a step towards broader impact.

“Eight participants out of hundreds, and even more when considering the broader youth population in Namibia, may seem like a drop in the ocean. But movement and progress happen gradually,” she said.

Participants were selected based on

a minimum academic average of 65 percent and less than one year of work experience. Degrees in areas such as SME finance, compliance, legal, IT, lending and investments were considered.

DBN Acting CEO John Mbango said the programme forms part of the Bank’s contribution to national skills development. “We capacity the young professionals so that at least we contribute to the national talent pipeline that any other industry players can tap into,” he said.

While the programme does not guarantee permanent employment, some participants may be absorbed into DBN roles after completion. “After two years, what we intend to do is to absorb some of them into DBN structures where possible,” said Mbango.

“Some of you may transition into permanent roles where opportunities exist. Where they do not, we remain committed to creating more access and availing further opportunities for young people through future cohorts,” Kapiye added.



# Communal farmers to benefit from N\$80m Etunda feedlot

A new N\$80 million cattle feedlot has officially broken ground at the Etunda Irrigation Scheme in the Omusati Region.

The facility, which will hold up to 1,000

cattle, forms part of the EU-Namibia Livestock Support Programme aimed at boosting livestock production in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs).

Chargé d’Affaires of the EU Delegation to



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The feedlot for which we are breaking ground today is valued at almost NAD 80 million, and is part of a broader NAD 400 million support package to the livestock sector in the Northern Communal Areas.

Namibia, Ian Dupont, said the project is part of a wider N\$400 million support package jointly funded by the European Union and the Namibian government.

“The feedlot for which we are breaking ground today is valued at almost NAD 80 million, and is part of a broader NAD 400 million support package to the livestock sector in the Northern Communal Areas,” Dupont said.

He added that the broader package includes upgrades to abattoirs in Opuwo, quarantine and veterinary facilities in Omusati, Kavango West and Zambezi, and the construction of an Artificial Insemination Centre in Oshikoto.

The EU has also provided five 30-ton trucks to the Ministry of Agriculture, with nine more expected.

“Together with Namibia’s agriculture ministry, we support these strategic infrastructures across the NCA in order to enhance livestock productivity, strengthen farmers’ adaptation to climate change, and improve access for farmers in the Northern Communal Areas to both local, regional and international markets through the Commodity-Based Trade (CBT),” he said.

Director of the National Planning Commission, Kaire Mbuende, said the feedlot will serve as an important off-take point for communal farmers and improve food security.

“The benefits brought about by this project—namely the introduction of feedlots—enhance the agricultural value chains, which are strategic imperatives for value addition in livestock,” said Mbuende.

He added that the project will support sustainable farming, reduce poverty and drive economic growth in the region.

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## Speaker calls for transparency by NGO in use of donor funds

Speaker of the National Assembly Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has called for increased transparency and accountability from civil society organisations, particularly in relation to their

use of donor and public funds.

“We also note that there are some limitations. One of them is to say that because they are not elected, they cannot represent governments. And to the extent



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This policy provides for the provision of subsidies, including cash subsidies, tax subsidies, and agency arrangements for private sector and civil society organisations to implement government programmes in order to provide much-needed services to our communities.

that donors, especially international donors, try to see them as an alternative to working with governments, that creates problems,” said Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

Addressing an interactive debate with major stakeholders at the United Nations in Geneva, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila raised concern over the lack of financial audits among some civil society groups, noting this hampers government’s ability to partner with them effectively.

“Many of them are sometimes not audited, and it becomes difficult even for government to provide them subsidies where they cannot account for the public funds that governments are expected to account for to the public,” she said.

She stressed that while civil society plays a valuable role—particularly in mobilising resources and reaching remote communities—they must align with national priorities and be accountable in their operations.

“Sometimes their views do not really represent the views of the broader society. They introduce and advocate for things that are sometimes not embraced by communities and therefore result in tensions between the NGOs and certain segments of our communities,” she said.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said the government has adopted a formal policy

framework for engaging with civil society and the private sector. This includes financial and institutional support mechanisms to involve them in delivering public services.

“This policy provides for the provision of subsidies, including cash subsidies, tax subsidies, and agency arrangements for private sector and civil society organisations to implement government programmes in order to provide much-needed services to our communities,” she said.

She further cautioned against the misuse of civil society as instruments for foreign agendas, stating that they should not replace or attempt to override democratically elected governments.

“They cannot hold government accountable, but they can work with communities to empower them through capacity-building so that they are more able to hold government accountable as the substantive sovereigns—the ones that are represented by elected leaders,” she said.

Despite these concerns, she affirmed Namibia’s commitment to strengthening partnerships with civil society and private sector actors.

“For Namibia, we are ready to work with them, and we want our development partners to recognise the partnership we share and help us to strengthen this partnership for the best interests of Namibia,” she said.

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## South African Reserve Bank cuts interest rates 25 basis points

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has voted to cut interest rates in South Africa by another 25 basis points.

This brings the country's repo rate down to 7.00% and the prime lending rate to 10.50%. "For policy, as we showed last time, lower inflation allows for lower interest rates. In our Quarterly Projection Model, for a 4.5% objective, rates bottom out around 7%. By contrast, the

forecast for a 3% objective has roughly five more cuts, over the medium term, taking interest rates slightly below 6%. The logic of the model is that interest rates need to fall as inflation eases, to prevent the inflation-adjusted rate, or real interest rate, from rising too much. Real rates are nonetheless temporarily higher for a 3% objective, and there is a modest growth sacrifice, which helps anchor expectations at lower levels," the SARB Governor said.

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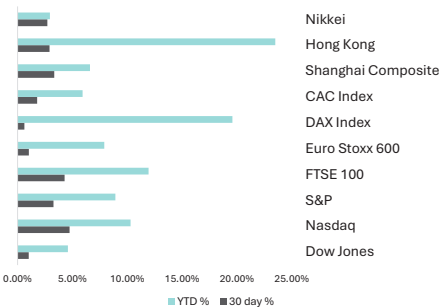
Commodities

Spot Gold	3294.19
Platinum	1291.13
Palladium	1202.22
Silver	38.70
Uranium	70.70
Brent Crude	72.69
Iron Ore (in CNY)	785.50
Copper	9698.50
Natural Gas	3.02
Lithium	8.45

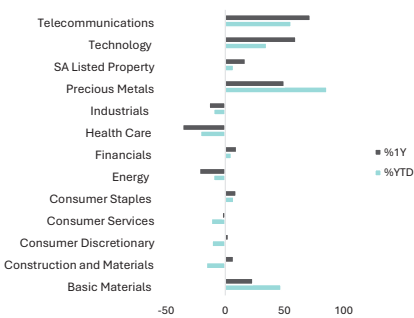
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.12
EUR/ZAR	20.75
GBP/ZAR	23.97
USD/CNY	7.20
EUR/USD	1.14
GBP/USD	1.32
USD/JPY	150.42
Namibia CPI	3.70%
Namibia Repo Rate	6.75%
Namibia Prime Rate	10.50%

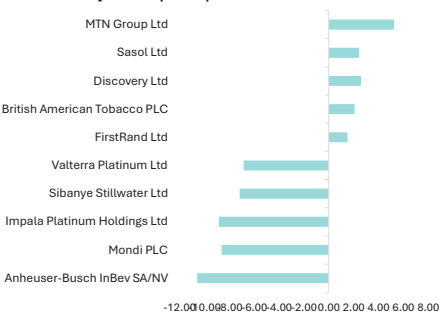
Global Indices in %



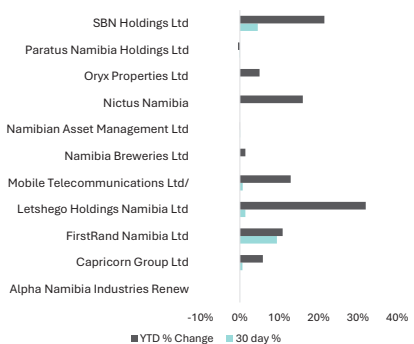
JSE Sectors: Year to Date Performance in %



Today's JSE Top 40 Top & Worst Performers in %



NSX Stocks Performance in %



Today's NSX Overall Top & Worst Performers in %

