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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Namibia exports 45,000 tonnes of salt to Nigeria in first AfCFTA shipment

MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025

MAIN STORY



Namibia exports 45,000 tonnes of salt to Nigeria in first AfCFTA shipment

Namibia has made its first official export under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), sending 45,000 tonnes of salt from Walvis Bay to Nigeria.

The salt, produced by Walvis Bay Salt Holdings, marks Namibia's entry into the AfCFTA, which aims to create a single African market by removing trade barriers between member states.

At the launch in Walvis Bay, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,

Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, said government would begin a nationwide outreach in July to help businesses understand how to take

Crucial Dates

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

Government will continue to create an enabling environment, but the private sector will be the true engine of this transformation.

advantage of the agreement.

“The Ministry of International Relations and Trade, together with the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, will undertake regional outreach with the private sector, including SMEs. Our goal is to ensure that Namibia is not only a signatory on paper but a true participant and beneficiary,” she said.

She said the private sector must lead the way in using the agreement to access new markets, with government providing the necessary support.

“Government will continue to create an enabling environment, but the private sector will be the true engine of this transformation,” she said. “The success of the AfCFTA depends on how well we embrace, network, and utilise its opportunities.”

She added that Namibia’s position as a coastal state, with infrastructure like Namport and the Walvis Bay Corridor, makes it well placed to serve both local and regional trade needs.

The Minister also said Namibia’s involvement in AfCFTA represents a shift away from dependence on regional blocs like SACU and SADC, and opens up trade opportunities with North, West and Central Africa.

She said harmonising policies, improving logistics and building production capacity are key to making the most of the agreement.

“While the potential benefits are clear, they require our businesses, SMEs, exporters and service providers to stand ready and remain relevant,” she said.

Namibia has spent the past four years raising awareness of the AfCFTA and preparing the local business sector for participation.



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Standard Bank invests N\$35 million in CSI initiatives over five years

Standard Bank Namibia says it has invested more than N\$35 million in Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives over the past five years.

The bank's wide-ranging support spans health, education, housing, and community upliftment.

According to the bank's CEO, Erwin Tjipuka, N\$10 million has been allocated for CSI initiatives this year, drawn from 1% of the bank's revenue after tax.

"Over the past five years, we have committed more than N\$35 million to initiatives that educate, equip, and uplift



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individuals. This year alone, we are proud to dedicate N\$10 million to these causes. My vision is to see us uplift one another, one by one, one step at a time,” he said.

At a ceremony attended by government officials, community partners, and stakeholders on Monday, the CEO also handed over N\$3.5 million to the Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Evelyn !Nowases-Taeyele.

The funds will go towards the construction of approximately 80 houses through a partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, as part of the bank’s flagship Buy-a-Brick initiative.

“This is not just the handover of funds. It is the passing on of belief, belief in people, in communities, and in the power of hope to transform lives. We invest not only in markets, but in people. One by one, one at a time,” he said.

Furthermore, the bank, in partnership with the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (UNIPA), officially launched the SME Blue Growth Masterclass.

The bank has committed N\$1.5 million over the next three years to mentor and support 30 entrepreneurs annually.

The programme is designed to equip small business owners with skills in formalisation, investment readiness, and sustainable business growth.

Other beneficiaries of Standard Bank’s CSI

programme include the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, which will use the donation to purchase new equipment for the Katutura State Hospital emergency unit.

The Cancer Association of Namibia is also receiving support to continue its work in cancer prevention, care, and awareness campaigns.

In the education sector, the bank is supporting the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWENA) to advance girls’ education and leadership development across the country.

VACANCIES

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced Namibian citizen to fill the following position:

- **Consultant: MSME Ecosystem Sector Development (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Consultant: Market Access & Export promotion (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Consultant: Start up & Scale (Paterson Grade C4)**
- **Senior Investment Analyst (ICT) (Paterson Grade C5)**

Interested candidates are invited to visit <https://nipdb.com/career/> for the requirements and guidelines of how to apply. All foreign qualifications must be evaluated by the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA).

The NIPDB is an equal opportunity employer and complies with the Affirmative Action Legislation. In line with the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No. 29 of 1998, suitably qualified persons with disabilities who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply. Please note that reference checks and competency assessment tests will be conducted, and qualifications will be verified.

Remuneration:

The NIPDB offers market related remuneration packages commensurate with experience and qualifications. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The NIPDB reserves the right to use additional/ relevant information as criteria for short listing and regrettably no documents will be returned.

Enquiries: recruitment@nipdb.com

Closing Date: 2 July 2025 at 17:00



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ABOUT NIPDB

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSME activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.


www.nipdb.com





First Capital, Kuleni to administer GIPF's Pension-Backed Home Loan Scheme

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has selected First Capital Housing Scheme and Kuleni Financial Services to administer its Pension-Backed Home Loan Scheme (PBHLS).



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METROPOLITAN

Edwin Tjiramba, GM: Marketing & Stakeholders at GIPF, said the two agents will be onboarded once all required agreements are signed and the approved interest rate, set at the Repo rate plus 2.5%, is gazetted.

The scheme will allow active GIPF members to use a portion of their pension savings as collateral for home loans.

Tjiramba said the PBHLS is in the final stages of implementation, following government's formal approval.

"The Fund now awaits the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between itself and the Office of the Prime Minister," he said.

Finance Minister Ericah Shafudah recently announced the approval in Parliament, describing the scheme as a joint effort between the Ministry of Finance, NAMFISA, GIPF, and the Office

of the Prime Minister.

The GIPF Board of Trustees approved the concept in 2016, with regulatory approvals from the Office of the Prime Minister and NAMFISA granted in 2018. The scheme was formally established in 2021.

The Fund said it has spent the past two years sensitising members across the country in preparation for the rollout. Further details will be shared once all agreements are in place.

The scheme differs from the earlier First Capital Housing Fund, launched in 2011, which limited property acquisitions to urban areas. Under the new PBHLS, members will be able to acquire homes in rural areas as well.

GIPF is a statutory pension fund that provides guaranteed pension and related benefits to employees of participating public-sector employers in Namibia.



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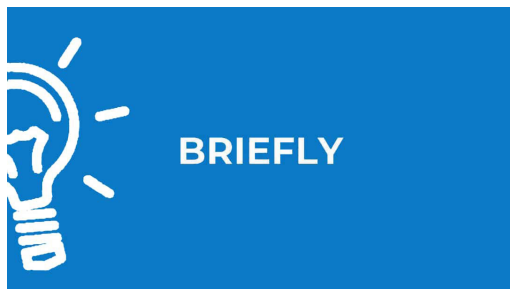
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Asset stripping a crisis:

Windhoek's cynical housing pitch



Windhoek is not building homes. It is building illusions. In a recent address to investors, the City of Windhoek, through its CEO Moses Matyayi, presented what it described as a N\$2.7 billion “opportunity” in Namibia’s housing shortage.

This was not a policy blueprint. It was not even a plan. It was a repackaged crisis, offered to the private sector as a blank canvas for speculative profit.

The real crisis, however, lies not only in the numbers, some 300,000 housing units short nationally, but in the nature of the demand. Namibia’s housing problem is not simply a supply gap; it is an affordability chasm.

Those most in need cannot pay commercial rates, cannot access bank loans, and cannot afford even basic serviced plots. There is no viable return on investment at the base of the market, and yet this is precisely where the need is greatest.

Despite this, the City continues to frame a structural failure as a market waiting to be unlocked. It does not offer free land. It does not subsidise building inputs at scale. It does not underwrite loans or carry any meaningful risk.

What it offers is paperwork, bureaucracy, and a sales pitch. Investors are expected to finance infrastructure, absorb delays, navigate shifting zoning policies, and

somehow extract returns from an income group largely absent from the City’s own formal records.

The City speaks of plans to service 12,000 erven, conflating land with housing, as if plots alone will house the working poor. It points to demand but ignores the fact that this demand is not solvent. It calls for policy reform but proposes none.

The contradictions are familiar: a local authority that wants capital without accountability, progress without redistribution, and transformation without cost.

There is no business model in a vacuum. Yet that is exactly what the City is offering, a fantasy of private sector salvation, absent the structural conditions necessary for delivery.

A credible housing policy would begin by acknowledging that the free market cannot solve this. It would treat land as a social asset, not a speculative commodity. It would require government-backed development finance, cross-subsidised models, and urban planning that encourages density over sprawl.

But such measures demand political courage, not empty showcases.

Windhoek has instead chosen theatre. Investors would be wise to see through the script.

****Briefly is a weekly column that’s opinionated and analytical. It sifts through the noise to make sense of the numbers, trends and headlines shaping business and the economy — with insight, wit and just enough scepticism to keep things interesting. The views expressed are not our own; we simply relay them as part of the conversation.***

Health ministry considers online consultations and mandatory service for doctors

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) is considering the introduction of online medical consultations and mandatory community service for medical professionals as part of efforts to improve healthcare delivery in Namibia.

The Ministry said the initiatives form part of a broader strategy to address longstanding challenges in the health sector, including high patient volumes, staff shortages, and the uneven distribution of healthcare workers across the country.

According to Health Minister Esperance Luvindao, online consultations are intended to expand access to healthcare by enabling patients to consult medical professionals remotely. This, she said, is expected to ease the burden on overstretched facilities, particularly in urban areas such as the Katutura Health Centre.

At the same time, she revealed that the Ministry is exploring the introduction of mandatory community service for medical professionals as a way to address staffing gaps in underserved rural and remote regions. This follows ongoing concerns about the concentration of health workers in urban areas, while regions such as Zambezi, Kavango West, Omaheke, //Kharas and Hardap remain understaffed.

“Other interventions such as online consultations and community service requirements are among the complementary approaches currently under discussion. While the Ministry recognises that high patient volumes are not unique to the Khomas Region, our plan is to gradually roll out relief measures across all regions until we strengthen both



infrastructure and staffing,” Luvindao said.

She was speaking during the recent onboarding of 11 private sector medical doctors who will offer pro bono services at the Katutura Health Centre.

Luvindao added that these initiatives are intended to complement ongoing efforts, which include increasing the number of night-shift doctors at Katutura, extending operating hours at high-volume clinics such as Okuryangava and Otjomuise, and introducing 24-hour services at facilities like the Maxuilili Clinic.

“The construction of new health facilities, including the Windhoek District Hospital, will also go a long way in reducing pressure on existing services,” she said.

The Ministry said it is continuing to engage with medical professionals and the public to refine the proposed measures.

Namibia's carbon market framework: An opportunity for industry leadership

By Shirley Mambadzo

Namibia is taking important steps to develop a regulatory framework for carbon markets, as reported by The Brief, signalling its intent to tap into a multi-billion-dollar global mechanism for financing climate action.

This development presents a critical moment for reflection on how our domestic industries can position themselves within this emerging landscape.

Having worked on the “analysis on risk & opportunity of nature-based voluntary carbon credit in Asia” project with Suzano, through the Future 17 SDGs Challenge, I experienced firsthand the economic and environmental potential of these mechanisms when implemented strategically. Carbon markets are not abstract policy instruments, they represent climate finance tools with direct implications for business competitiveness and national development.

As early as 2022, UNDP Namibia highlighted the need for institutional strengthening within the government and other stakeholders, including the private sector, to enable effective implementation of market mechanisms.

The Environmental Investment Fund's collaboration with the Green Climate Fund marks another important step in aligning Namibia's carbon credits with international standards and expectations.

The business case for carbon market participation

The emerging regulatory framework



The emerging regulatory framework creates opportunities for Namibia's carbon-intensive sectors to demonstrate leadership while accessing new revenue streams and financing mechanisms.

creates opportunities for Namibia's carbon-intensive sectors to demonstrate leadership while accessing new revenue streams and financing mechanisms, particularly as they face global sustainability expectation.

However, effective participation in carbon markets requires solid foundations. Companies need comprehensive emissions measurement systems, aligned with international standards such as those set by the GRI or the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

This means tracking Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, setting reduction targets, and integrating carbon risks into core business strategy.

While some Namibian companies have already begun implementing Environment Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks,

the opportunity extends far beyond listed corporations and extractive industries.

Agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and even government institutions can benefit from ESG integration and carbon market participation.

The climate finance ecosystem requires broad-based participation to create meaningful impact and ensure that all sectors contribute to national climate goals.

The question facing many of our industries is not whether to engage with carbon markets, but how quickly and effectively they can build the necessary capabilities. The opportunity lies in aligning these existing efforts with emerging local frameworks to create synergies and competitive advantages.

Building market demand locally

A functional carbon market requires both sellers and buyers. Much of the national conversation has focused on the supply side, on how conservancies, renewable energy developers, and the green hydrogen programme can generate credits for international markets.

However, we must also consider domestic demand. Without active participation from local emitters, we risk developing an export-focused system that bypasses opportunities for domestic mitigation and community investment. When local industries offset carbon emissions through domestic projects, the financial flows support community development and conservation efforts while contributing to national emissions reduction goals. This creates shared value and strengthens the social license to operate for participating companies.

Economic implications and timing

The timing of this framework development coincides with broader economic pressures facing Namibian businesses.

Moreover, the selection of Namibia as one of seven countries for the Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Industry Decarbonization

Investment Program validates our potential and creates access to concessional financing for low-carbon technologies. This recognition opens doors for institutions ready to demonstrate climate leadership and technical capability.

From framework to implementation

Namibia's climate ambitions, outlined in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), will require private sector engagement to achieve. The government has established the regulatory foundation, but implementation success depends on industry participation and technical capacity building. This represents both an opportunity and a responsibility for Namibian industries.

Institutions that proactively engage with emissions measurement, carbon market mechanisms, and climate disclosure will not only comply with emerging regulations but also access new financing opportunities and strengthen their competitive positioning.

The conversation should move beyond whether carbon markets are relevant to how quickly and effectively our local industries can build the necessary capabilities.

****Shirley Mambadzo holds a Master of Philosophy (cum laude) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development from Stellenbosch University's Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST), with a focus on governance in socio-ecological systems. She is the Executive Director of Eden Greenfields, a Namibian social enterprise advancing sustainable agriculture and climate resilience through agroecological practices and infrastructure innovation. Her work explores the intersection of polycentric governance, sustainability reporting, and the role of local institutions in enabling just transitions. Email: shirley@edengreenfields.com, Cell: 0857141778***

GIPF's Treasury Unit tops N\$40 billion in assets under management

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has made strong progress in enhancing its internal investment capability, with its Treasury Unit's assets under management reaching N\$40 billion in 2024, up from N\$38.5 billion the previous year.

This growth, demonstrates GIPF's dedication to efficiently overseeing its pension assets.

“For the past six years, GIPF has strategically focused on internalising investment management, a critical initiative for safeguarding and growing the Fund. By enhancing the investment function's role and scope, GIPF has equipped its Trustees to better protect and enhance the Fund for the benefit of its members,” said Saltiel Shino, Manager Treasury at the GIPF.

The aim is to deepen Namibian investment management while achieving a balanced mix of in-house and outsourced services. Key objectives include bolstering internal capacity, making informed investment decisions, minimising management fees, and adhering to the Fund's broader mandate.

“By having a knowledgeable and experienced internal workforce, GIPF is able to actively participate in its investments and make better decisions. Attracting and retaining top investment talent is crucial for successful management of funds. GIPF collaborates with external investment consultants to enhance its internal capabilities, ensuring its investment decisions are well-informed and strategically sound,” he said.

The Fund's internally managed portfolios, which are supervised by the Treasury Unit,



were valued at N\$21.5 billion as of March 31, 2024, up from N\$20.7 billion the year before.

A substantial portion of this portfolio is allocated to fixed-income securities, including both short-term money market instruments and long-term bonds, representing 25% and 66% of the internally managed funds, respectively.

“The Treasury Unit plays a vital role in developing Namibia's financial markets. By investing directly in listed debt instruments

issued by the Namibian Government, State-Owned Enterprises, local authorities, and corporations, GIPF not only secures returns for its members but also contributes to the country's economic growth. Money market investments are primarily conducted through domestic commercial banks and financial intermediaries," Shino said.

In addition to fixed-income securities, the Treasury is tasked with investing in strategic equities. As of March 31, 2024, these equities, managed internally through a passive buy-and-hold strategy, accounted for 9% of the internally managed funds, totaling N\$1.8 billion.

"The Treasury Division also oversees the swapped portfolios valued at N\$18.5 billion, culminating in a total of N\$40 billion in assets under management. This innovative approach involves exchanging Rand-denominated assets with a local entity, which issues Namibian dollar-denominated corporate paper in return," he said.

The overall strong growth of GIPF's assets from N\$151 billion to N\$168 billion is evidence of the Fund's stability and soundness. In 2024, GIPF generated N\$18 billion in net investment income, which, when reinvested, supports the Fund's long-term growth objectives. The portfolio's performance was 13.2%, surpassing the benchmark of 11.7% by about 1.5%.

"GIPF is committed to making sure that pensions and associated benefits are paid on time while responsibly deploying member contributions to produce long-term profits. Maintaining sufficient assets to cover future liabilities is essential for defined benefit pension funds. The Fund uses a Liability-Driven Investment (LDI) approach with an emphasis on Asset Liability Modelling (ALM) to accomplish these goals," Shino said.

The Fund's Risk and Return Strategy is

shaped by this framework, which enables it to adjust to changing market conditions while deploying prudent investment strategies to strike a balance between asset protection and growth.

The Fund constantly makes sure that its risk reserves and assets are adequate to meet obligations as they arise. A dynamic approach to asset allocation guarantees that GIPF will continue to adjust to shifts in the economy.

The Fund's fixed-income investments total N\$67.2 billion, with 29% managed internally by the Treasury Unit, making it the largest fixed-income asset manager within GIPF portfolios. As of March 2024, GIPF owned 24% of Namibia's outstanding government debt (N\$115 billion), making it the country's largest buyer of government bonds. Investments in nominal and inflation-linked bonds, as well as Treasury Bills for liquidity, are all part of the Fund's diverse portfolio.

With N\$9 billion in unlisted investments, including significant commitments to social infrastructure, affordable housing, and renewable energy projects, GIPF's dedication to the Namibian economy is undeniable. These initiatives show GIPF's commitment to social responsibility in addition to supporting economic growth.

The Fund's overall asset allocation for the year under review reflects a strong geographical split, with significant investments in Namibia (48%), Global Developed Markets (28%), South Africa (14%), Global Emerging Markets (5%), Africa (3%), and China (2%).

According to the asset class allocation, our largest exposure is in listed shares which make up 43% of the total, followed by government bonds (14%), corporate bonds (13%) and foreign bonds (7%). The former form part of our substantive current asset allocation.

Tim Ekandjo backs Eenhana Expo with personal and corporate pledges

Tim Ekandjo has thrown his support behind the 2025 Eenhana Trade Expo, pledging a combined total of N\$120,000 – N\$70,000 from MTC, where he serves as Chief Brand, Marketing, Communications & Sustainability Officer, and an additional N\$50,000 as a personal contribution.

Speaking at the Expo's fundraising gala dinner, Ekandjo highlighted the critical role of humility in leadership, telling guests that no meaningful progress can be achieved without unity and self-awareness.

"No country, community, congregation, political party, family, or Expo can ever succeed without humility and unity of purpose. Humility breeds great servanthship. And I chose to speak of it today because as leaders and aspiring leaders, we have an opportunity to change someone's life every single day," he said.

He added that leadership should not be about tearing people down, but rather helping others grow.

"Humility is the first step in admitting that we do not know everything, and we are open to learning while accepting others. It is about letting go of your pride and retaining your dignity," he said.

Held under the theme "Advancing Innovation & Diversification", the gala dinner brought together business and regional leaders and raised a total of N\$490,000.

The funds will go towards hosting the 2025 Eenhana Trade Expo, which is scheduled to take place from 24 July to 2 August.

In his closing remarks, Ekandjo said, "Platforms that unlock economic



opportunities are facilitated and made possible by us [the people]. The contributions that we give as corporates or in our individual capacities are the pulse that maintains the heartbeat of the economic activities that are necessary for regional and national economic development goals."

He concluded by urging leaders in Eenhana and across the country to "maintain humility and humbly serve and lead the socio-economic empowerment of the people."



Khomas begins phased rollout of 24-hour public clinic services

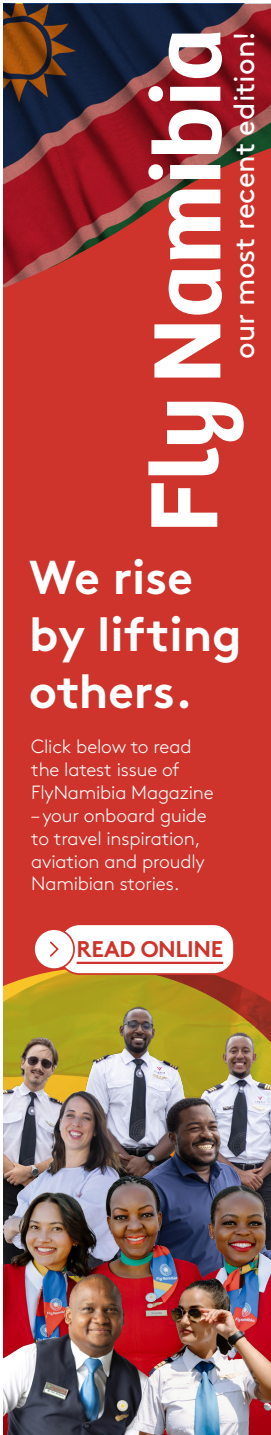
The Ministry of Health and Social Services will begin a phased rollout of extended clinic operating hours in the Khomas Region starting 1 July 2025.

The Okuryangava Health Centre is set to become the country's second 24-hour public primary health facility from 1 August.

Health Minister Esperance Luvindao announced the plan during an onboarding session for private-sector medical officers who have volunteered to provide evening services at Katutura Health Centre.

The Minister said the new measures aim to reduce patient pressure at Katutura, which currently sees up to 1,000 patients

A Standard Bank advertisement. The background is a dark blue blueprint of a building. On the left, the Standard Bank logo is shown with the text 'Standard Bank Business & Commercial'. In the center, the headline reads 'From Blueprint to Reality'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Let's make your commercial property acquisition or development goals a reality. We provide solutions that adapt to your project's unique needs, offer support and see your vision through to completion.' Below that is the hashtag '#YourPartnerInGrowth' and the text 'Let's talk about how far we can take your business.' At the bottom left, there is an email address 'businessbankingc@standardbank.com.na' and a small note 'Ts & Cs apply.' On the right, there is a circular inset image of a modern, multi-story building at night with many lit windows. A small logo for 'Commercial Property Financing' is visible in the bottom right corner of the advertisement.



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Extending operating hours at these two health facilities will significantly alleviate the burden on Katutura Health Centre, especially given their large catchment areas, high population density, and proximity to underserved informal settlements.

daily.

“Extending operating hours at these two health facilities will significantly alleviate the burden on Katutura Health Centre, especially given their large catchment areas, high population density, and proximity to underserved informal settlements,” said Luvindao.

From 1 July, Okuryangava Health Centre and Otjomuise Clinic will operate from 07h00 to 19h00, seven days a week.

Katutura Health Centre will also increase its night shift doctor count from three to five to manage peak evening demand between 19h00 and midnight.

“We are collaborating with medical officers from the private sector to provide pro bono health services at Katutura Health Centre from 17h00 to 23h00. Eleven doctors will join our team as of 1 July 2025,” said Luvindao.

In a second phase planned for 1 October, Maxuilili

Clinic in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency will be upgraded to a 24-hour facility. It serves a population of over 46,000 and is considered ideal due to its modern infrastructure.

“Preparations are underway to capacitate Maxuilili Clinic to enable it to provide 24-hour services. This will be a great relief for Katutura Health Centre as the same services will be provided at this facility,” said Luvindao.

The Ministry is also exploring complementary measures including online consultations and possible reforms to community service requirements for health professionals. Longer-term interventions include construction of new health facilities such as the Windhoek District Hospital.

“Your willingness to offer your skills and time without expectation of financial gain exemplifies the spirit of ubuntu, the belief in a shared humanity,” said Luvindao.



GIVING BACK :As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, the Namibia Institute of Pathology Limited (NIP) sponsored students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in recognition of their academic excellence during

the NUST Academic Awards Ceremony held on 29 April 2025. The sponsorship totalled N\$15,000, covering four Merit Awards of N\$3,000 each, and one Overall Performance Award for the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences programme.

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Let us protect our meat industry

By Erastus Ngaruka

Livestock production in Namibia primarily includes cattle, sheep and goats. Essentially, the management practices implemented to ensure optimal performance and productivity focus on their health, nutrition and welfare among other aspects.

Livestock health is one of the aspects of economic importance to Namibian farmers as it plays a significant role in the trading of livestock and by-products.

Livestock production in the country, especially the beef production industry, holds a significant share in the Namibian export basket, ranging from live animals, such as weaners to South Africa, or beef cuts to the lucrative international markets

in Europe, for example.

Having enjoyed the worthwhile European markets for years, Namibian beef has also gained access to the United States of America (USA) and the Chinese markets.

Moreover, through consistent efforts focused on market expansion and diversification, Namibia was recently accorded another window of opportunity to export goat and sheep meat to China. This is favorable news for the goat and sheep farmers in the country. This means small stock farmers need to enhance their production capacity to penetrate this market and future markets while sustaining existing markets.

Overall, market exploration efforts are underpinned by the animal health and free-range statuses that the Namibian beef

industry has promoted and maintained over the years to build and retain consumer confidence.

In addition, the country complies with international trade protocols and the animal health protocols of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). This compliance is strengthened by the country's animal health and trade protocols facilitated by regulatory or facilitating authorities such as the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Livestock and Livestock Product Board (LLPB), embodying all meat industry stakeholders.

Furthermore, an essential part of the systems that promote and protect the meat industry includes the FANMeat scheme of LLPB, which has established an assurance of quality and safety of Namibian beef. This assurance includes a system known as the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS) that enables the tracing of meat or animals back to the farm of origin, among other uses.

To access and maintain Namibian meat markets, farmers need to play a significant role by implementing and adhering to all animal health and trade regulations or protocols. To this end, it is vital for every farmer to develop and use animal health and welfare programs or protocols to enhance productivity and participation in livestock markets.

There are certain aspects that farmers need to consider when developing their programs. Firstly, the prevalence of diseases in their farming environment and the country at large. This includes "Notifiable Diseases", which are diseases that must be controlled through annual vaccinations by law. These diseases include Anthrax, Brucellosis, and Foot and Mouth Disease

(FMD) among others. Moreover,

these diseases have economic or trade implications, hence, export markets strictly require meat products to come from farming areas that are free of or cleared from such diseases. Farmers should also pay attention to other diseases of concern, including Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), botulism, black quarter, pulpy kidney, and pasteurellosis, among others.

Another animal health practice that should be included in the program is the control of both internal (e.g., worms, flukes) and external (e.g., ticks, mites, fleas) parasites. This is critical as parasites can cause deadly illnesses in livestock. Moreover, some parasites can negatively affect meat quality, resulting in significant economic losses.

For example, "beef measles" in carcasses is caused by a tapeworm that lives in the human intestines and contaminates the environment through human feces. To prevent such contamination, it is therefore crucial to practice proper hygiene on farms through the construction of ablution facilities (toilets).

Lastly, agriculture in Namibia is dominated by livestock production and is regarded as a principal contributor to the GDP. To this end, protecting this sub-sector not only favors our markets but also the livelihoods of many Namibians, directly or indirectly.

This is a shared responsibility between all role players, including individual farmers, the government and its agencies/institutions, farmers' unions, traditional authorities, and the population at large.

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NB: The views and thoughts expressed in this article are purely of my own and do not represent those of my employer

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NamRA rules out extension to individual tax return deadline

The Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) maintains that 30 June remains the official deadline for submitting individual income tax returns, urging taxpayers to file without delay.

Speaking on the matter, Tonateni Shidhudhu,

NamRA’s Manager for Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagements, said the date is fixed by law and has consistently marked the close of the tax filing period.

“We encourage all taxpayers who have received their PAYE 5 certificates from their employers to submit their returns without delay. You can do so by using our digital platform, ITAS – the Integrated Tax Administration System,” Shidhudhu said.

He added that taxpayers may also submit their returns at any NamRA office across the country. In response to increased demand, NamRA has extended its reach through mobile service points, covering towns, villages and shopping centres.

“This month has indeed been a busy one for us at NamRA. Our offices have experienced high volumes of visitors, and to increase access, we extended our services across the country,” Shidhudhu said.

He emphasised that filing is not merely administrative, but a legal duty that enables NamRA to ensure accurate tax compliance.

“Filing your tax return is not just a formality – it is a legal obligation and a critical step that allows NamRA, as the collector of revenue, to assess whether the correct amount of tax was deducted during the financial year,” he said.

While acknowledging public requests for an extension, NamRA stated that no such decision has been made.

“We have also noted the public calls for an extension of the deadline. As it stands, no extension has been granted, but should there be any change, NamRA will communicate officially and promptly,” Shidhudhu added.

The agency encouraged all eligible individuals to file their returns by the end of the day to avoid potential penalties or non-compliance.



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- Pop-up Banners
- A Frames
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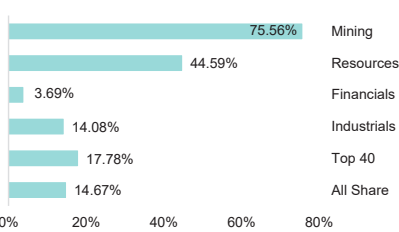
Commodities

Spot Gold	3285.06
Platinum	1329.97
Palladium	1110.28
Silver	32.17
Uranium	77.50
Brent Crude	67.63
Iron Ore	87.66
Copper	9957.72
Natural Gas	3.46
Lithium	7.85

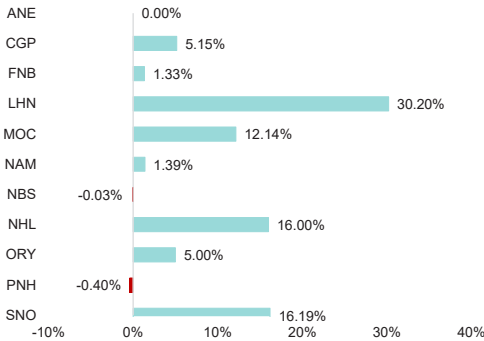
Currencies

USD/ZAR	17.7766
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	24.3562
USD/CNY	7.1641
EUR/USD	1.1737
GBP/USD	1.3702
USD/RUB	78.1963
CPI	3.50%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

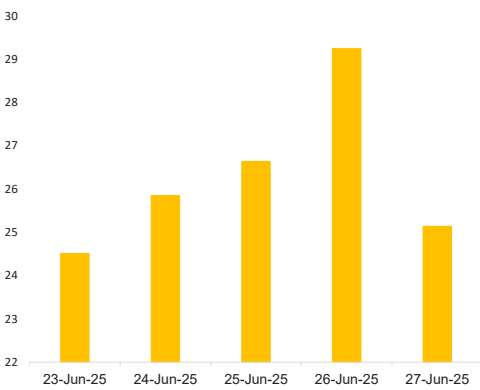
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



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