**NEW NOTES** 

Bank of Namibia to introduce new notes and coins



Namibia moves to enable YouTube monetization, PayPal and Apple Pay

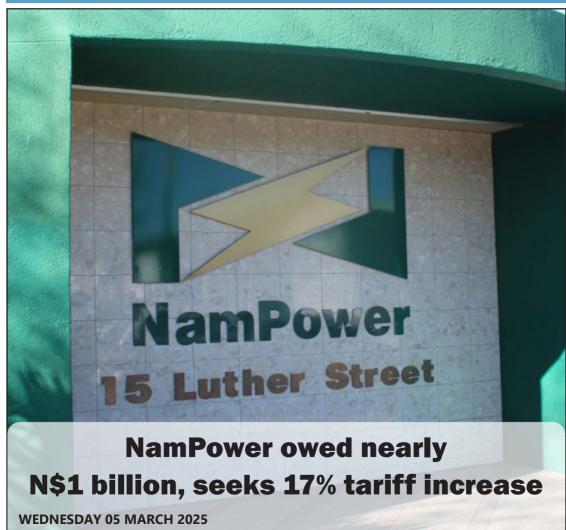
APPOINTMENT
EIF appoints Romeo
Muyunda as Corporate
Communications Manager

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# BR/EF

- News Worth Knowing



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### **MAIN STORY**



he Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower) is grappling with unpaid customer debts, which have pushed its total outstanding overdue debt to N\$960 million.

The utility has recorded N\$157 million in expected credit losses for the 2024 financial year, citing widespread non-payment as a major factor straining its financial stability and hindering critical infrastructure investments.

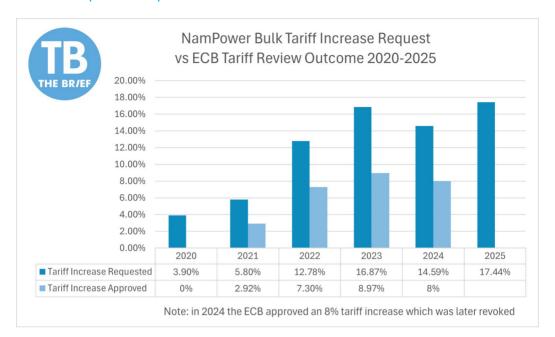
This comes as NamPower seeks a 17.44%

tariff increase for the 2025/26 financial year, driven by its ongoing inability to recover

### Crucial Dates

- Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:
  - \* 16 April 2025
  - \* 18 June 2025
  - \* 13 August 2025
  - \* 15 October 2025
  - \* 3 December 2025





costs through current tariffs due to regulatory constraints.

The company has requested the increase to meet its N\$8.8 billion revenue requirement for the period, covering key expenses including energy costs of N\$5.6 billion, fixed costs of N\$1.4 billion, and N\$2.2 billion for return and depreciation.

NamPower's Senior Manager for Electricity Pricing and Financial Modelling, Christo Visser, said the requested increase is essential to cover rising energy supply costs, depreciation, and infrastructure development while addressing past revenue shortfalls.

"One hundred and fifty-seven million was impaired in 2024, and our total outstanding debt has now reached nearly N\$1 billion. This is a huge financial burden that we can't recover directly through tariffs, and it puts us at great risk," Visser said.

He said accumulated debts represent a significant operational challenge for the company.

"This debt, which has been unpaid for extended periods, is causing significant cash flow problems. We can't continue to operate like this without a tariff adjustment," he said.

Visser also noted that regulatory restrictions limit NamPower's ability to recover these debts through immediate tariff increases, further exacerbating its financial strain.

Meanwhile, Desdemona Lubinda, Head of Electricity Pricing at NamPower, detailed the specific cost breakdown contributing to the tariff increase application. According to Lubinda, energy supply costs account for a significant portion of the required increase.

"Energy costs account for 64% of the total revenue requirement, while depreciation and return take up 25%, and fixed operational costs make up 16% of the total," Lubinda explained.

She highlighted the key components behind the proposed 17.44% tariff hike. "The 17.44% tariff increase is made up of 9.1% for return and depreciation, 1.5% for fixed operational costs, and 3.3% for energy supply costs," Lubinda said.

Lubinda also pointed out that while NamPower experienced an over-recovery in 2024, it still faces challenges in recovering the full amount necessary to cover operational costs, particularly from previous years where under-recoveries occurred.

Further data shared by Lubinda indicates that NamPower supplied 47% of the national electricity demand in 2024, with imports covering 46% of the country's needs. She

noted that Namibia's reliance on imported energy, along with rising fuel costs and inflation, will contribute to future pricing pressures.

"As we anticipate a greater reliance on imported power, alongside increased fuel costs, it will directly impact the future cost structure of electricity," Lubinda warned.





## Bank of Namibia to introduce new notes and coins

The Bank of Namibia (BoN) has announced plans to launch a new series of banknotes and coins, with the official release slated for June 2025.

The announcement was made on

Wednesday by BoN Governor Johannes !Gawaxab during the launch of the N\$60 Hage Geingob commemorative banknote.

He said the new currency series will feature advanced security enhancements,



### DRIVING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: NAMIBIA'S DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

Namibia has developed a comprehensive Economic Diversification Strategy to address critical challenges and promote sustainable growth. This forward-thinking approach aims to reduce economic dependence on a few industries, foster innovation, and unlock new opportunities across various sectors. By leveraging this strategy, Namibia is building a more resilient and competitive economy, poised to thrive in the global market.

Join us in shaping a vibrant and diversified economic future for Namibia.

NIPDE

Namina Insultant Property

Lines Insultant Services

Since Insultant Services

ensuring that both banknotes and coins remain modern, resilient and secure.

"This proactive approach reflects the Bank's commitment to innovation, resilience, and security in its financial system and ensures that our currency remains a robust and reliable symbol of our nation's identity and economic strength," !Gawaxab said.

He said the current Namibian banknote series has been in circulation since 2012 and the coins have never been upgraded since their first issuance in 1993. According to !Gawaxab, a review every six to eight years is required to maintain currency security, durability and cost-effectiveness.

"The need for the Bank to undertake a minor upgrade on the current banknote series and a complete overhaul of the coin series has been identified. In terms of banknotes, it became imperative to enhance their security features to remain abreast of technological advancements while protecting the currency against counterfeiting. For the coins, the objective

is to modernise the current coin series, allowing for the incorporation of state-of-the-art security features," he said.

In addition to improving security, the coin review is also aimed at mitigating negative seigniorage—a situation where the production cost of coins exceeds their face value.

Rising metal prices have contributed to this issue, making it essential to address resource optimisation and sustain the efficiency of Namibia's currency system.

Namibia's transition from using the South African Rand to adopting the Namibia Dollar in 1993 was a defining moment in the country's financial history.

The upcoming currency series represents another major step in ensuring the integrity and sustainability of the national currency.



First date of publication: 14 February 2025

TENDER NO: DBMNE0522 BABYLON ACCESS CONTROL and/or AVIGILON SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM CALL OFF CONTRACT AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE IN WINDHOEK

### DESCRIPTION

Debmarine Namibia is seeking experienced Service Providers for the Security access control systems and Security surveillance systems maintenance services at the Namdeb Centre in Windhoek.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

Babylon and or Aviglion Systems - The scope of this tender encompasses the Namdeb Centre Security Access Control Systems maintenance and repairs commitment resulting in the highest reliability and maintaining a constant systems availability of 98%. Outlified skilled technicians must be equipped to work on the access control system and the surveillance systems.

CLOSING DATE: 20 March 2025 at 12:00

### REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC TENDER DOCUMENT:

Registered businesses interested in providing such services are requested to register at **Aalte Marketplace**: https://za.marketplace.aalte.com/ to obtain a tender document with reference number DBMINGES22 BABYLON ACCESS CONTROL and/or AVIGLION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM CALL OFF CONTRACT AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE IN WINDHOEK

### ENOUIRIES:

The Procurement Officer

Tel: +264 61 297 8481

Email address: <a href="mailto:etender@debmarine.com">etender@debmarine.com</a>
Subject line: DBMNE0522 BABYLON ACCESS CONTROL and/or AVIGILON SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM CALL OFF CONTRACT AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE IN WINDHOEK

ANADEB CENTRE IN WINDHOEK

Bidders must register on our electronic platform Asite Marketplace: <a href="https://za.marketplace.asite.com/">https://za.marketplace.asite.com/</a> to participate in this tender,

### DISCLAIMER:

Debmarine Namibia shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this tender and furthermore reserves the right not to extend this tender into any future tenders, negotiations and or engagements.

Debmarine Namibia shall not accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.





## Namibia moves to enable YouTube monetization, PayPal and Apple Pay

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) is actively working to introduce YouTube monetization, digital payment solutions such as PayPal and Apple Pay in Namibia, aiming to empower local content creators and digital entrepreneurs to participate in the global digital economy.

Information and Communication Technology Minister Emma Theofelus said the initiative seeks to remove key barriers preventing Namibians from earning online income, particularly through platforms like Google AdSense and PayPal.

"In Namibia so far, for example, Google AdSense is a challenge. We have so many creators and YouTubers who are producing Namibian content but are unable to get paid by YouTube. So we have been engaging with Google AdSense to extend that service to Namibia. The same goes for PayPal. We have many young Namibians finding ways to work for companies outside of Namibia because technology enables it," Theofelus







said.

Speaking at the 12th Annual SAPOA Postal Forum, Theofelus emphasized the urgent need to strengthen Namibia's digital economy by improving access to online financial platforms.

"We have many talented Namibians creating content on YouTube, but they are unable to monetise their work due to payment restrictions. Similarly, freelancers and remote workers face challenges in receiving payments because services like PayPal are not enabled in Namibia," she said.

She further explained that Namibia's digital landscape is rapidly evolving, with increased internet penetration and mobile connectivity driving e-commerce growth.

As of 2021, 51% of the population of approximately 1.3 million people had internet access. Local platforms such as Buy Online Namibia and Zaleka are gaining traction, while regional marketplaces like Jumia are expanding their presence.

Key drivers of this transformation, she said include government initiatives to expand internet access, reduce data costs, and establish regulatory frameworks that promote digital transactions.

Theofelus pointed to the upcoming instant payment solution by the Bank of Namibia and the implementation of the Electronic Transactions Act as

clear steps toward a cashless society.

However, challenges remain, including the reluctance of mobile network providers to invest in underserved areas, leading to digital exclusion. In response, the government has allocated over N\$100 million to expand open-access network infrastructure, ensuring equal access to digital opportunities.

"Our focus must also extend to digital literacy. It is not enough to provide access; we must equip our people with the skills and confidence to navigate digital platforms safely and effectively," Theofelus said.

The Minister also stressed the importance of postal and logistics infrastructure in enabling a thriving digital economy. Reliable delivery services are essential for e-commerce businesses, particularly in rural areas where connectivity and transportation remain challenges.

Namibia's extensive road network, one of the best in Africa, provides a strong foundation for improving last-mile delivery. Theofelus urged stakeholders to invest in automation, digital tracking, and AI-driven analytics to enhance logistics efficiency.

"If a technological advancement does not lead to faster or more affordable deliveries, then it has little value," she said.



## Germany provides over N\$32 billion in development aid to Namibia

The German Embassy in Namibia has revealed that Germany has provided more than N\$32 billion (€1.6 billion) in developmental aid to the country through its implementing agencies KfW, GIZ, and BGR.

German Ambassador Thorsten Hursster said Germany is currently funding 60 active projects aimed at supporting Namibia's economic and social development.

"Overall, the total financial and technical support extended by Germany since 1990 exceeds €1.6 billion (approximately N\$32 billion). The current portfolio comprises approximately 60 projects distributed

amongst the implementation organisations KfW (25), GIZ (32), and BGR (3). The funds are a mix of grants and preferential loans," Hursster said on Wednesday.

He explained that KfW oversees 25 projects, primarily focused on infrastructure development, financial sector growth, and environmental conservation.

GIZ is responsible for 32 projects, providing technical expertise in vocational training, renewable energy, governance, and sustainable urban development.

BGR he noted, manages three projects, specializing in natural resource management and geological research to ensure the



sustainable utilization of Namibia's mineral wealth.

He sexplained that Germany's development cooperation with Namibia is centered on three key areas, addressing some of the country's most pressing challenges. One of the primary focus areas is conserving nature and natural resources, which includes



biodiversity protection through conservation initiatives in national parks and community conservancies. Additionally, efforts are being made to improve water and sanitation infrastructure, ensuring access to clean drinking water and effective wastewater management in both rural and urban areas.

The second major focus area is climate and energy, with Germany supporting Namibia's transition towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. This includes investments in solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects to enhance the country's energy security.

Sustainable urban development is also a priority, with efforts geared toward affordable housing and climate-friendly city planning.

The third key focus area is sustainable economic development, training, and employment. German cooperation has been instrumental in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), particularly in fields such as engineering, agriculture, and ICT, to boost employment opportunities for Namibians. Additionally, Germany supports financial and private sector development, including initiatives that promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship to stimulate economic growth.

He said Germany remains committed to poverty reduction, job creation, and economic growth in Namibia, with ongoing initiatives in climate change adaptation, water scarcity solutions, green hydrogen development, and critical raw materials exploration.

Today, the cooperation between the Namibian and the German governments is oriented towards and aligned with the National Development Plan 5 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan II. German-Namibian Development Cooperation today focuses on three main areas of intervention," Hursster said.



# Namibia's Sovereign Wealth Fund now worth N\$460m

he Welwitschia Sovereign Wealth Fund has grown to N\$460 million since its establishment in 2022, marking an increase of N\$7 million from the N\$453 million reported last month.

Bank of Namibia (BoN) Governor

Johannes !Gawaxab confirmed the fund's latest balance during the launch of the late Hage Geingob N\$60 commemorative banknote.

"Through prudent management and strategic investment, the Welwitschia Fund



will continue to serve as a cornerstone of Namibia's economic resilience, empowering our people and safeguarding the nation's wealth for years to come. Your Excellency, I am happy to report that the fund now stands at N\$460 million from the N\$270 million invested in 2022 when it was launched," !Gawaxab said on Wednesday.

The Governor highlighted its growth as a reflection of late President Hage Geingob's commitment to economic sustainability.

"Among his many achievements, he

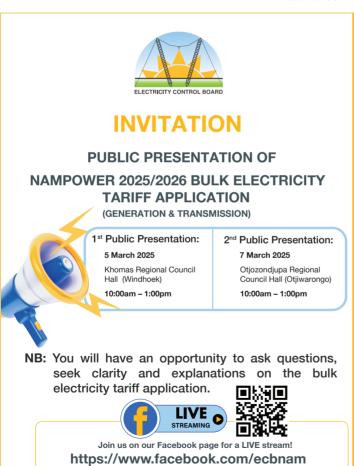
spearheaded the establishment of the Welwitschia Fund, Namibia's sovereign wealth fund administered by the Bank of Namibia on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, ensuring that the wealth derived from our nation's natural resources is preserved and utilised for the prosperity of future generations. This fund stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication to economic sustainability, social development, and intergenerational equity," he said.

Launched with an initial investment of

N\$270 million, the fund has seen steady growth through prudent financial management and strategic investment.

The fund benchmarked against the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global. aligning with it international investment standards. It is structured into short- and long-term investments, with 70% allocated to equities and the remainder invested in fixed-income assets, real estate, and private equity. This diversified portfolio aims to maximize returns while effectively managing risks, according to the Bank of Namibia.

The BoN oversees the fund's management, transparency, and accountability, ensuring it remains a vital instrument for Namibia's economic stability and future prosperity.



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P.O. Box 2923 Windhoek Namibia



### NSI receives N\$13.5 million EUfunded laboratory equipment

he Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) has received laboratory equipment worth approximately N\$13.5 million from the European Union (EU) to enhance its Testing, Inspection, and Metrology laboratories in Walvis Bay, Windhoek, and Lüderitz.

The donation is part of the N\$117 million (€6 million) Programme to Support the EPA Implementation Plan in Namibia, an initiative aimed at maximizing the benefits of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signed in 2016 between the EU and six Southern African Development Community (SADC) nations.

The agreement grants Namibian exports duty- and quota-free access to the EU market.

NSI CEO Eino Mvula welcomed the equipment, emphasizing its role in facilitating Namibian products' access to international markets.

"The Namibian Standards Institution

(NSI) is appreciative to receive analytical and measurement equipment to the value of EURO 695,670 from the EU. This equipment will be used by the NSI in executing its role in facilitating access for Namibian products to export markets, with a specific focus on trade with the European Union, by strengthening the capacity of the NSI Testing, Inspection, and Metrology laboratories based in Walvis Bay, Windhoek, and Lüderitz," Mvula said.

The newly acquired laboratory equipment is expected to upgrade NSI's testing capabilities, improving technical performance and service delivery.

It will also bolster industrialization, job creation, and export-led growth by ensuring Namibian products meet international standards.

Erongo Governor Neville Itope, speaking on behalf of Minister of Trade and Industrialization Lucia Iipumbu, highlighted the importance of the This contribution reflects our shared commitment to strengthening Namibia's quality infrastructure and fostering deeper trade relations with the EU.

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investment.

"This contribution reflects our shared commitment to strengthening Namibia's quality infrastructure and fostering deeper trade relations with the EU," he said. EU Ambassador to Namibia, Ana Beatriz Martins, reiterated the EU's dedication to supporting Namibia's economic development.

"The EU is proud to support Namibia

strengthening the national quality infrastructure. This was done through procuring top-quality laboratory equipment to meet the needs of the NSI, thereby ensuring that Namibian products international meet standards and better access to global markets," she said.

The investment is expected Namibia's reinforce ability to compete in international markets, ensuring compliance with global standards and enhancing trade with relations the European Union.





### **DESIGN OF TAILINGS DAM FACILITIES**

Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter (Pty) Ltd. invites registered, competent and experienced individuals or companies to tender for the Design of Tailings Dam Facilities.

Details of the Tender

Tender availability : From Monday, 3rd of March 2025
Tender documents can be obtained by

render documents can be obtained by e-mailing: ststenders@sinomine.na

Cost per set : No levy

Closing date for submission : Friday, 21 March 2025 at 16h00

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

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

No other method of submission will be accepted

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



he Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) has announced the appointment of Romeo Muyunda as its new Manager for Corporate Communications, effective March 1, 2025.

Muyunda brings over 15 years of experience in communications, having previously led public relations units at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the Ministry of Education.

The EIF expressed confidence in Muyunda's ability to contribute significantly to the organization's objectives.

"We are proud to be associated with such an achiever. Given his expertise, we are confident he will play a pivotal role in advancing the goals of the Fund," the EIF said. The EIF's mandate includes raising financial resources for environmental protection, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and projects that support Namibia's sustainable economic development.

The Fund noted that Muyunda's track record aligns with these priorities, highlighting his passion and commitment to environmental preservation during his tenure at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

Muyunda holds a Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies and Sociology and is currently pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Management at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

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### Is Namibia's inflation import-driven? - A panoramic view

By Tio Nakasole

Based on the World Bank Statistics, indicated that Namibia's GDP per capita is at 4 168.3 US dollar. Relatively, Namibia is therefore classified as an upper-middle-income country, favourably with most countries in Sub-Saharan African

Down to the dichotomy of classification, that does not mean that the majority are able to put bread on their table everyday. This should, however, not obscure existing domestic developmental challenge to curtail inflation. The fact remains, many still live from hand to mouth, therefore inflation pressure is not only inexcusable but intolerant. From a giraffe point of view, it is high time to understand that, not all governments are certainly solutions, in certain part of the world has made the problems worse, by importing those problems as they perform below their weight given sufficient resources not to written off the Labor force that the country

As it goes without saying, three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth. With respect to Namibia, three traps cannot be long ignored which cage our inflation rate so high since as compared to 2.3 percent and 2.2 percent in 2020. Those traps are the natural resources trap, the trap of being a not a landlocked but with heavy reliance on SA for import of basic goods – leading to an import driven inflation.

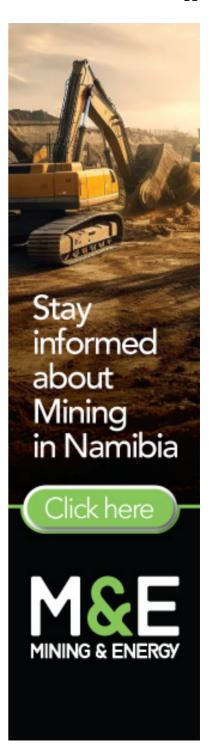
Recently, OpenAI made an estimation on Namibia's annual inflation rate, which made a takeaway on a decline from 5.4 Recently,
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per cent in January 2024 to 3.2 per cent in January 2025. It is believed that this downward trend was driven by lower price increases in essential categories such as food, transport, housing, and utilities. In contrary, fuel prices are anticipated to rise by cents per litre on Wednesday, March 5. 2025. However, in spite of the fluctuations, the fragmentation of inflationary pressures persists in certain subcategories, which demand microscopic monitoring. After all these extrapolations, this begs the question around the interconnectedness between the drivers of inflation in Namibia. This paper seeks to take stock of the root causes of inflation in Namibia in relation to imports but also took an oblique photo shoot on other root causes of inflation in general, which may be in close proximity to that of Namibia. Despite the bearing controversies around it, in simple terms, inflation is a persistent increase in the level of the consumer prices. Alternatively, inflation may also be defined as a persistent decline in the purchasing power of money due to an increase in available currency and credit beyond the proportion of available goods and services. However, this draft is not designed to deal with the symptoms of inflation but is mainly concentrated on unpacking the root cause and the funnel upon which the price fluctuation disseminates into the Namibian market.

Firstly, it is quite essential to delve into the different causes of inflation which might be part of the sandwich which makes up the Namibian inflation. Demandpull inflation originates from the buyers' side of the market. This often happens in a situation when there is "too much money chasing too few goods". This may be attributed to an increase in household consumption or an increase in government spending. However, that is not the only cause; cost-push inflation operates through the supply side of the economy by the general increase in the unit cost of production. This form of inflation is often inextricably interwoven with the input to the mix, in other words, with the raw material or manpower needed in the production. Then this also gives us an igniting light that, as a country, you may close the tap of inflation flow once you are in possession of the means of production and, in tandem, have the expertise to produce goods and services from start to finish.

Apart from the abovementioned monetary and fiscalbased root causes, this does mean to keep at bay what the school of thought has to offer. One of them are the "monetarist". The monetarists are of the same views that inflation is always engineered by the monetary factors. It means that an increase in the money supply has a prerogative role to play in terms of spending through transactional mechanisms, and that would invariably create a room where aggregate demand for goods and service exceeds aggregate supply. One may argue that then the Bank of Namibia's reshuffle of the repo rate down to 6.75 percent last month could potentially have some of form of ramifications effect on the general prices level. Another play maker in contributing to inflation is believed to be from the schools Kynesians's view who disagree with the Monetarists's view. As for them, they strongly believe that interest rates movement and not money supply as the monetarists believed. Lastly, structuralists



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Inasmuch, maintaining low inflation without hurting economic growth is therefore sine qua non.

are of the view that not everything has to do with money supply but interest rates, but because of structural changes in the economy.

What one can diagnose from the above pedagogy of the root cause of inflation is that all may deduce or accept that all may have a direct or indirect effect on the inflation. However, as with Namibia, the Namibia Statistics Agency released that Namibia's imports were 35.4 per cent from South Africa, which automatically has more bite on the pie of Namibia's inflation of goods and services. The only way to retrogress the level of high imports is by starting to produce goods and services, which later increases the export capacity. However, in the process, goods such as minerals, such as diamonds, gold, uranium, zinc, and copper, as well as fish, must be exported as processed in order to contribute to the diversification into an employment vacuum. Namibia needs to create an institution to complement the Namibia Standard Institution (NSI) that is in place and only earmarked for value addition and processing of finished products from both domestic and foreign investors, in order for the above to be realised.

After all the aforementioned root causes, are not designed to put us in the circus or to leave us in a dilemma of an "egg and a chicken" question. The bottom line is each economies has it own main

driver of inflation. As an economist, an advisors or policy makers ought to advise independently, avoid paternalism and make recommendation even if from an uncomfortable position given the fact on the ground. Personally, I am an ardent supporter of wealth creation, and not wealth redistribution, this is because reinventing the wheel of redistribution strategy such as it is partially synonymous as to say decisions has to be made after you have realised that a certain class is ahead, in return you preserve the same gap between the rich and the poor. Redistribution does not create jobs which generate income to afford goods at an exorbitant price but may diminish the gap to a certain extend but continuing to maintain a parallel relationship of living in the long run.

Inasmuch, maintaining low inflation without hurting economic growth is therefore sine qua non. It should be a reinforcing macroeconomic policy objective in Namibia and any other developing country. Otherwise, without realising that, Namibia's imports price index will forever remain proxied by those of South Consumer Price Index, which eventually will hurting the consumers.

\*Tio Nakasole is an Economics Honors degree holder, MBA final student, and a Research Analyst at MONASA Advisory and Associates. theoerastus@gmail.com

All Share

40%



#### Commodities Spot Gold 2911.88 . Platinum 968.27 Palladium 940.51 Silver 30.95 Uranium 65.20 Brent Crude 69.38 Iron Ore 96.31 9345.62 Copper Natural Gas 4.32 Lithium 9.85

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	18.3693
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	23.6277
USD/CNY	7.2415
EUR/USD	1.0764
GBP/USD	1.2864
USD/RUB	89.5097
CPI	3.20%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

# -1.47 | 30.12% Mining Resources Financials Industrials | 6,73% Top 40

20%

30%

### NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



4.33%

10%

-10%

0%

