

RESIGNS

DBN CEO John Steytler resigns, John Mbango appointed interim leader

p. 05



TESTING

NIP to localise DNA paternity testing

p. 08



LAUNDERING

ACC records decline in non-compliance, money laundering, tax evasion cases

p. 12



THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



NaCC to overhaul fines, targets new rules for green hydrogen and AI

TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025

MAIN STORY



NaCC to overhaul fines, targets new rules for green hydrogen and AI

The Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC) is set to review its fining fees and penalties while expanding its regulatory scope to accommodate emerging industries.

NaCC Chief Executive Officer Vitalis Ndalikokule said the review will assess whether existing penalties remain an effective deterrent.

"We are going to review and assess if these penalties that we have are still serving the purpose in terms of the law. If not, if things have changed, then we will do so," Ndalikokule said.

The review according to NaCC CEO, is part of the commission's new five-year strategy, spanning from 2025 to 2030, which aims to

Crucial Dates

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

modernize competition regulations to cover new and evolving industries.

"The economy is growing. There are new sectors, new industries that are coming in. Those new sectors and new industries might not be properly catered for in the current law," Ndalikokule noted.

He identified green hydrogen and artificial intelligence as key industries requiring regulatory oversight.

"You're talking about green hydrogen, you're talking about artificial intelligence, and all these, and all that needs to be provided for in the law," he said.

Ndalikokule made these remarks at the Competition Law Seminar, hosted by Candace Competition Law Advisory Service (CCLAS) for procurement and compliance officers.

CCLAS Director Grace Mohamed emphasized the need for businesses to better understand competition law and compliance requirements.

"The class advisory was started in 2022, and what we have seen, firstly, is that we are competition law specialists, but because the Commission has increased its enforcement, right, and we see the amount of fines, people are being fined and businesses. It also became apparent to us that people don't understand this thing called competition law," Mohamed said.

She stressed the importance of ensuring compliance officers acquire the necessary

skills to navigate regulatory obligations.

"The people that are responsible for making sure businesses comply must understand what this thing is and start paying attention to this thing. This is what informed us to do this seminar and to try and make it as practical as possible," she explained.

South African Competition Commission Deputy Commissioner Hardin Ratshisusu highlighted the significant financial impact of competition law fines on businesses.

"Fines can be extremely harsh. After 25 years of enforcement and advocacy, along with repeated efforts by various groups visiting Namibia to push for stricter measures, there will be no excuse for not imposing the maximum penalties," Ratshisusu said.

He cited ArcelorMittal South Africa Ltd as an example of a company still facing financial burdens due to outstanding penalties.

"For instance, ArcelorMittal South Africa Ltd, out of the R1.5 billion owed, they have paid less than a billion and still owe a significant amount in taxes. Some may argue that they have restructured under different entities, but even if fines are imposed, these companies remain uncompetitive," he added.

The seminar underscored the growing emphasis on competition law enforcement in Namibia, as authorities seek to ensure businesses operate within the legal framework and adapt to an evolving economic landscape.

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Standard Bank

SBN HOLDINGS LIMITED

RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Namibia
Kunene River

Profit for the year	Headline earnings growth	Cost to income ratio	Credit loss ratio	Total capital adequacy ratio	Return on equity	Final dividend per ordinary share
N\$1 053m	35.1%	56.4%	0.37%	18.0%	20.0%	70 cents
2023: N\$770m ▲ 36.8%	2023: 25.9%	2023: 60.7% ▼ 430bps	2023: 0.59% ▼ 22bps	2023: 20.7% ▼ 270bps	2023: 15.6% ▲ 440bps	2023: 58 cents ▲ 20.7%

"The year 2024 saw the group delivering an exceptional and historical set of results as we surpassed the N\$1 billion headline earnings mark for the first time in our 109 years of existence."

Erwin Tjipuka, Chief Executive

Income statement

	Change %	2024 N\$'000	2023 N\$'000
Net interest income	14.8	2 067 311	1 800 015
Non-interest revenue	15.3	1 677 624	1 455 093
Net fee and commission revenue	9.2	1 040 280	952 929
Trading revenue	11.7	221 668	198 510
Other revenue	31.7	282 537	193 312
Other gains and losses on financial instruments	46.8	153 139	104 342
Total net income	15.0	3 744 935	3 255 108
Credit impairments	(35.1)	(106 103)	(163 411)
Income before operating expenses	17.7	3 638 832	3 091 697
Operating expenses	6.9	(2 113 374)	(1 976 192)
Net income before tax	36.8	1 525 458	1 115 505
Taxation (indirect and direct)	36.7	(472 844)	(345 792)
Profit for the year	36.8	1 052 614	769 713

Group results

The group finds itself at a historic milestone as it celebrates a momentous achievement of delivering a N\$1 billion headline earnings for the first time in its 109 years of driving Namibia's growth. This achievement did not only demonstrate the impact of our deliberate strategic choices but exemplified our disciplined strategy execution and dynamism in the face of a tough trading and macro-economic environment. Refer below for the key financial highlights, the factors that contributed to our success, and how we have positioned ourselves for continued growth in an ever-evolving economic landscape.

Net interest income surged to N\$2,067 billion, a 14.8% increase from prior year. This growth was underpinned by strong average balance sheet growth and higher margins resulting from funding optimisation strategies. Net interest margin increased by 40 basis points to 5.6% in the current year.

Non-interest revenue increased by 15.3% to N\$1,678 billion from prior year, underpinned by increases in net fee and commission revenue of 9%, trading revenue of 11.7%, other revenue of 31.7% and other gains and losses on financial instruments of 46.8%. The main driver for the increase in net fee and commission revenue was the growth in transactional volumes. Trading volumes, expanded client propositions, foreign exchange and commodity volatilities underpinned the growth in trading revenue. Other revenue growth was driven by the increase in insurance related revenue which grew by 7.9% from prior year and profits earned on the disposal of Sparinvest Investments (Pty) Ltd related entities. Increase in other gains and losses on financial instruments is largely due to a 57.2% growth in distributions from financial investments driven by higher investments resulting from excess funds held during the year.

Credit impairments decreased by 35.1% year on year, as a result of the regularisation of group scheme home loan accounts which were previously impaired due to technical challenges, the realisation of our non-performing loan (NPL) strategy in the current year and the improved quality of the book. The credit loss ratio (CLR) decreased to 0.37% compared to 0.59% in prior year. The CLR improved due to the decrease in credit impairment charges and the growth in loans and advances. The group is positioned in its provisioning and closely monitors and reassesses its strategic NPL initiatives to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Operating expenses growth decreased by 10.8% from prior year to 6.9% which tracked closer to the average inflation for the year of 4.3%. The main driver of the increase in expenses were:

- Staff costs which went up by 10.2%, underpinned by annual salary increases of 7%, filling of vacant positions, engagement of temporary IT employees to support key regulatory projects such as PSD 9, and higher variable remuneration aligned with group performance.
- Other operating expenses grew by 4.5%, which is in line with average annual inflation of 4.3%.

The group's cost-to-income (CTI) ratio has decreased to 56% from 61% in 2024.

Dividends declared

On 7 March 2025, the group declared a final cash dividend of 70 cents per ordinary share. Together with the interim dividend of 68 cents per ordinary share, this represents a total dividend of 138 cents per ordinary share (2023: 100 cents). This is a 38.0% increase on the total dividend per share for 2024.

Statement of financial position

	Change %	2024 N\$'000	2023 N\$'000
Cash, financial investments and other assets	31.1	15 359 905	11 715 700
Loans and advances to banks	(2.5)	5 292 869	5 429 848
Loans and advances to customers	3.8	22 340 071	21 524 042
Total assets	11.2	42 992 845	38 669 590
Deposits and current accounts from customers	10.9	33 239 449	29 982 379
Deposits from banks	>100.0	763 908	292 038
Other liabilities	3.7	3 496 255	3 372 382
Equity	7.9	5 491 233	5 087 791
Total equity and liabilities	11.2	42 922 845	38 669 590

Loans and advances to customers increased by 3.8% year on year, in contrast to the negative growth of 2.8% experienced in prior year. The franchise portfolio increased as follows: CIB by 9.8% driven by the growth experienced in medium term loans and BCB and PPB portfolios by 1.7% underpinned by growth in vehicle and asset finance and unsecured lending as a result of the digital lending introduced in the current year. Although home loans grew negatively by 1.8% mainly due to the run down on the book, the new business written was 66% higher than in the prior year.

Despite the difficult macroeconomic environment characterised by prolonged high interest rates, sticky and elevated inflation, our NPL ratio (including interest in suspense) decreased from 4.52% (restated) in 2024 to 3.77% which is below both the industry average of 5.6% as at 31 December 2024 and the regulatory trigger limit of 6%. The decline in the NPL ratio demonstrates our disciplined and prudent approach to credit risk management and is testament to the resilience of our NPL reduction plan. The group remains committed to closely monitoring NPLs to ensure a good quality book.

There was a significant increase in deposits from customers of 10.9%, attributable to an increase in demand deposits, term deposits and a strategic decrease in negotiable certificates of deposits. The aforementioned increase is a result of our efforts to diversify our deposit mix to meet strategic goals. Debt securities decreased by 23.2% following the redemption at maturity of the SBN424 and SBN02 facilities with an issuance volume of N\$658.5 million during the year. The group's liquidity position remained strong and within approved risk appetite and tolerance limits. The group continuously ensures that it has sufficient marketable assets available in its portfolio to meet the outflow demand in both businesses as well as stress circumstances.

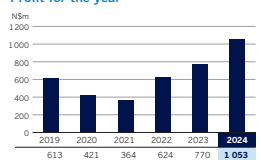
Outlook

Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting economic growth and delivering sustainable value to our stakeholders. With a solid foundation and a clear strategic vision, the group is well positioned to navigate future opportunities and challenges in a dynamic economic landscape, as we strive to live our purpose, 'Namibia is our home, we drive her growth'.

Appreciation

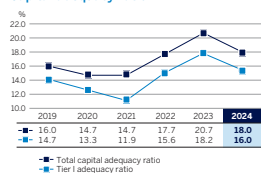
We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated employees, loyal customers, board of directors, shareholders, regulators and all other valued stakeholders. Together, we have navigated the complexities of the past year and laid a sturdy foundation for the future.

Profit for the year



The group's profitability reached a record high in 2024, with profit for the year increasing significantly to **N\$1 053 million**, a substantial improvement from N\$770 million in 2023. This impressive growth is directly attributable to a combination of strategic initiatives, funding optimisation, the successful scaling of our digital banking platforms driving increased transactional volumes, enhanced cost efficiency achieved through operational improvements, and a steadfast commitment to disciplined credit risk management. The provision profit increased by 276% from N\$1,279 billion in the prior year to N\$1,631 billion in the current year.

Capital adequacy ratio



The group maintained its strong capital adequacy ratios with total regulatory capital at **18.0%** (2023: 20.7%) and total tier 1 capital at **18.0%** (2023: 18.2%).

Postal address: PO Box 3327, Windhoek, Namibia
Registration number: 2006/306
Country of incorporation: Republic of Namibia

Directors: Mr H Tjipuka (Chairman); Mr E Tjipuka***, Mr S Horung***, Mr STD Mwaikasa***, Mr AT Mwaikasa***, Mr JS Mwaikasa***, Mr JG Reddel*, Mr P Schlebusch***, Ms NA Tjipuka*.

* Namibian ** South African *** Zimbabwean # Executive

Company secretary: Adv S Tjiporika

SBN Holdings Limited's full annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 is available for viewing on the Standard Bank website. The directors of SBN Holdings Limited take full responsibility for the preparation of this announcement and ensuring that the financial information, where applicable, has been correctly extracted from the consolidated annual financial statements. This announcement has not been reviewed by our external auditors. The results disclosed in this announcement are consistent with the accounting policies adopted by the group in the audited annual financial statements and are presented on an FRP[®] Accounting Standards basis. The financial statements will be presented at the annual general meeting on 29 April 2025.

www.standardbank.com.na

STUDIO®

DBN CEO John Steytler resigns, John Mbango appointed interim leader

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has announced the immediate resignation of its Chief Executive Officer, John Steytler.

According to the bank, Steytler has stepped down to pursue new interests and opportunities.

The DBN Board has appointed John Mbango, Head of Coverage and Large Transactions, as Acting CEO while the recruitment process for a substantive CEO is underway.

"Dr. Steytler has served as CEO since September 2023 and has made a marked impact on the Bank. We thank him for his service and dedication and wish him well in his future endeavors," said Evangelina Nailenge, Chairperson of the Board.

The bank reaffirmed its commitment to its mandate of driving Namibia's developmental agenda and socioeconomic growth.

The DBN, a statutory financial institution established under the Development Bank of Namibia Act of 2002, is dedicated to financing projects that contribute to Namibia's economic development and sustainable growth.

Through various programs, the bank supports initiatives that foster socioeconomic development, with a focus on sustainability and community welfare.



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Namibia to import 333,000 tonnes of cereals in 2024/25 to meet demand

Namibia will need to import an estimated 333,000 tonnes of cereal for the 2024/25 marketing year, as domestic production remains insufficient to meet demand, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

FAO highlighted that the country will need to import 105,000 tonnes of wheat, 22,000 tonnes of rice, and 206,000 tonnes of coarse grains.

“Per capita consumption is projected at 114kg per year, consisting of 41kg of wheat, 8kg of rice, and 65kg of coarse grains,” noted FAO.

This comes as domestic cereal availability is expected to reach 105,000 tonnes, comprising 85,000 tonnes from production and a 20,000-tonne stock drawdown.

FAO's recent data highlights that the cereal supply and demand balance for the 2024/25 marketing year (May-April) highlights a significant dependence on imports due to declining domestic production.

“Total domestic cereal availability is projected at 105,000 tonnes, consisting of 85,000 tonnes from production and a 20,000-tonne stock drawdown,” said FAO.

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The country's wheat production is expected to reach 20,000 tonnes, while coarse grain production is estimated at 65,000 tonnes.

"Total cereal utilisation is projected at 438,000 tonnes, with food consumption accounting for 344,000 tonnes, including 125,000 tonnes of wheat, 23,000 tonnes of rice, and 196,000 tonnes of coarse grains," FAO data reveals.

Meanwhile, non-food uses, such as animal feed and industrial purposes, are expected to consume 91,000 tonnes, with the majority being coarse grains (88,000 tonnes).

Exports are minimal at 3,000 tonnes, and no stock build-up is anticipated.

Moreover, a comparison with previous years reveals a sharp decline in production as total cereal production for 2024 is estimated at 85,000 tonnes, which is only 61% of the five-year average of 139,000 tonnes.

"While wheat production has increased by 38% compared to the five-year average (14,000 tonnes), coarse grain production has plummeted to just 52% of the five-year average (125,000 tonnes)," FAO revealed.

In contrast, the previous year's total production was significantly higher at 155,000 tonnes, including 30,000 tonnes of wheat and 125,000 tonnes of coarse grains.

Import requirements have risen compared to previous years, with total imports for 2024/25 expected to be 5% higher than the five-year average of 317,000 tonnes.

While wheat imports (105,000 tonnes) are slightly lower than the five-year average (112,000 tonnes), rice imports (22,000 tonnes) remain unchanged.

Coarse grain imports, however, have increased by 13% from the five-year average of 183,000 tonnes, primarily due

to reduced domestic production.

"Compared to the previous year, total import requirements have increased from 267,000 tonnes to 333,000 tonnes, with wheat imports rising from 90,000 tonnes, rice imports decreasing slightly from 26,000 tonnes, and coarse grain imports surging from 151,000 tonnes," said FAO.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE



MTC hereby invites companies to participate in the following procurement opportunity:

TENDER NO: MTC14-25-0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MOBILE SECURITY DISPLAY UNITS FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Wednesday, 05th March 2025 by 10H00

TENDER NO: MTC13-25-0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF 1X AUTOMATIC WRAPPING MACHINE FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Thursday, 06th March 2025 by 10H00

TENDER NO: MTC07-25-0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 19 X VEHICLES FOR MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Thursday, 06th March 2025 by 11H00

Briefing Meeting Venue:

Microsoft Teams, the link will be on MTC's website.

Closing date: Thursday, 20th March 2025 by 14h30



Terms of reference are available at:
<https://www.mtc.com.na/procurement/tenders>



NIP to localise DNA paternity testing

The Namibia Institute of Pathology Limited (NIP) plans to establish a department within its Molecular Medicine Centre of Excellence to conduct DNA paternity tests as part of its new strategic plan, the Za Tuka business roadmap.

Currently, NIP operates 37 laboratories across Namibia but lacks the capacity to conduct DNA paternity tests for clients involved in legal or civil disputes or for parents seeking such information.

Over the past 14 years, NIP has facilitated 756 paternity tests using accredited laboratories in South Africa, at a cost of N\$2,250 per test involving both parents and the child.

Since its inception 24 years ago, NIP has referred DNA paternity test samples to South Africa, with Namibians spending approximately N\$1.7 million on such tests.

The institute charges an administration fee of N\$95 per test to cover shipping costs.

NIP's Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, Niita Evaristus, highlighted that DNA testing referrals are commonly made for inheritance claims to establish eligibility for estate distribution among blood relatives, paternity disputes to resolve uncertainties regarding biological parentage, and motor vehicle accident benefit payouts to confirm biological relationships for children of deceased individuals seeking benefits.

Other reasons she said, include cases where parents seek peace of mind by dispelling paternity-related rumors, as well as wills and estate planning, where affluent clients with terminal illnesses may wish to verify biological relationships to ensure only their legitimate children are included in their wills. In some instances, DNA tests

are required to correct national documents, such as birth certificates that mistakenly list a grandparent's name instead of the biological father's, requiring proof for amendments.

"[Affluent] clients with terminal illnesses may wish to verify biological relationships to ensure that only their legitimate children are included in their wills, and correction of national documents: for instances where official documents such as birth certificates reflect a grandparent's name instead of the father's, hence requiring proof for amendments," Evaristus told The Brief.

As part of its expansion, NIP aims to establish a Centre of Excellence to recruit experts capable of performing DNA paternity tests and other advanced diagnostics locally.

In the past five years, NIP has shipped 756 DNA paternity test samples to South Africa.

"Typically, any medical laboratory will support the idea of newborn screening, which can include genetic testing to identify genetic disorders. However, mandatory



DNA paternity testing to establish biological relationships is beyond our jurisdiction," she said.

Currently, NIP primarily conducts tests for diseases and viruses deemed a public health concern.

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HARTLIEF SMOKED VIENNAS	500g	N\$84.99
HARTLIEF SANDWICH HAM	100g	N\$29.99

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Namibia's cattle sales plunge by 49.1% in January

Namibia's livestock industry experienced a significant downturn in January 2025, with cattle sales dropping by 49.1% compared to the same period last year, according to the latest report from the Livestock and Livestock Products Board.

The board revealed that only 11,797

cattle were marketed in January 2025, a sharp decline from the 23,166 cattle sold in January 2024. Live exports saw the steepest decline, plummeting by 68.2%, while throughput at B&C class abattoirs fell by 56%.

Slaughtering at export-approved abattoirs, however, recorded a modest



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increase of 5.2%.

Despite the drop in cattle sales, prices remained strong. The s-VCF beef all-grade average carcass price rose to N\$64.01/kg, an increase of N\$4.60/kg from January 2024.

Similarly, the s-VCF B2 producer price climbed by N\$9.00/kg year-on-year, reaching N\$70.20/kg compared to N\$61.19/kg in 2024.

Small livestock sector also takes a hit

The downward trend extended to the small livestock sector, with goat marketing declining by 34.9%. Only 4,515 goats were marketed in January 2025, a drop from the 6,932 recorded in the same period last year.

The decrease was attributed to reduced marketing activity across all channels. Lamb auction prices averaged N\$42.31/kg during the first month of the year.

The sheep sector recorded the most severe contraction, with sales plummeting by 65.1% due to low animal availability following previous herd reductions.

Year-on-year, live sheep exports fell by 52.4%, from 26,399 sheep in 2024 to 12,571 in 2025. Slaughtering at export-approved and local abattoirs decreased by 90.8%, as production was redirected towards the domestic market.


“The Namibian

A2 producer price rose significantly to N\$90.41/kg in January 2025, up N\$18.55/kg from N\$71.86/kg in 2024. In comparison, the Northern Cape A2 producer price averaged N\$89.75/kg, making Namibia’s price slightly higher by N\$0.66/kg,” the board stated.

Mutton production remained low due to reduced throughput at export-approved abattoirs, leading to a meager 272 kg of processed mutton being exported to South Africa, Botswana, Portugal, and China.

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TENDERS



ENQUIRY NO. E026-ND-2025

THE PROVISION OF SEWAGE REMOVAL SERVICES

SCOPE OF WORKS

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd hereby invites reputable and suitably qualified service providers to submit their proposals to provide Sewage Removal Services in Southern Coastal Mines.

The Scope of Services shall primarily consist of:

- Collection and Disposal of Sewage Effluent; and
- Chemical treatment of sludge build-up in septic tanks.

COMPULSORY PHYSICAL SITE INSPECTION

A compulsory Physical Site Inspection (PSI) shall be conducted on **Monday, 24th March 2025, at 07h30. Only Tenderers who attend the Site Inspection shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.**

ENQUIRY DOCUMENTS


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

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

SUBMISSIONS

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to tender@namdeb.com
The closing date and time for submissions is: Friday **28th March 2025 at 14h00.**

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ACC records decline in non-compliance, money laundering, tax evasion cases

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has recorded a decline in cases of non-compliance, money laundering and tax evasion, attributed to its collaboration with the Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA).

According to ACC Director-General Paulus Noa, the ACC and NamRA's joint efforts have led to a noticeable reduction in tax evasion cases, with several companies

now adhering to tax regulations to avoid financial penalties.

"Since we started taking action, NamRA started taking action, these things are still reducing now. There were companies that have not been paying tax, but they have learned now. Time to cheat is over," he said.

He noted that businesses that previously failed to comply have faced severe consequences, including account closures

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and seizure of funds owed to the tax authorities.

"There are companies that have lost a massive amount of money when they realised that their accounts have been closed, and all the money that was in the bank account was taken because the company was owing the tax man," he said.

Noa noted that the joint efforts between ACC and NamRA have led to significant financial consequences for non-compliant businesses as the ACC's investigative strategy now includes a broader focus beyond corruption.

"One thing that we immediately try to look at is, besides the corruption, is there money laundering in the process? Is there tax avoidance? As soon as we investigate, we share this information with the Namibia Revenue Authority to see whether this person has ever declared his income or not. That helps us in the process of investigation to strengthen our suspicion that we are dealing with a criminal person here," Noa explained.

He emphasised that even when individuals evade criminal prosecution, financial penalties remain a key deterrent.

"Even when he is not taken to the criminal court, we will chop his head off through the taxation. That's how we deal. We deal with all the barriers open. We don't just use one barrier," Noa

said.

The DG noted that the ACC's efforts align with NamRA's intensified enforcement measures, which have contributed to increased compliance in taxation and financial regulations.

He further noted that the decline in such cases signals progress in Namibia's broader anti-corruption and tax compliance framework, a trend that authorities intend to sustain through continued inter-agency cooperation.

www.debmarnamibia.com

TENDER

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:
Debmarnamibia 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 Avigilon 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%. Qualified 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 **Asite Marketplace**: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to obtain a tender document with reference number **DBMNE0522 BABYLON ACCESS CONTROL and/or AVIGILON SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM CALL OFF CONTRACT AT THE NAMDEB CENTRE IN WINDHOEK**

ENQUIRIES:
The Procurement Officer
Tel: +264 61 297 8481
Email address: e-tender@debmarine.com

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

DISCLAIMER:
Debmarnamibia 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.

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

Funding is the foundation of a thriving creative ecosystem

By Alvaro Mukoroli

Creativity is the soul of any society. It tells our stories, preserves our culture, and pushes boundaries. In Namibia, we are blessed with an abundance of raw talent—painters, musicians, filmmakers, fashion designers, poets, and content creators.

Yet, for many creatives, talent alone is not enough. The biggest hurdle standing between them and success is funding.

Walk into any artist's studio, and you'll likely hear the same story. There's a passion for the craft, a dream to create something impactful, but a constant struggle to stay afloat financially.

The reality is stark: most Namibian creatives self-fund their projects. They dip into their savings, rely on family and friends, or juggle multiple jobs just to keep their creative ventures alive.

Without sustainable funding, many are forced to abandon their dreams altogether.

The problem isn't a lack of talent—it's a lack of investment.

Across the world, thriving creative industries are backed by strong funding mechanisms.

Governments, private sector players, and international organizations provide grants, sponsorships, and structured financial support to ensure that creatives can produce, market, and distribute their



“

Across the world, thriving creative industries are backed by strong funding mechanisms.

work effectively.

In Namibia, however, access to such funding is limited and highly competitive.

While initiatives like the National Arts Council and sporadic government grants exist, they are often underfunded and unable to support the growing number of creatives in need.

Corporate Namibia has also been slow to see the value in investing in the arts. Many businesses prefer to direct their corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets to more traditional causes, overlooking the potential of the creative industry to drive tourism, job creation, and cultural preservation. This mindset needs to shift. Creativity is not just entertainment—it is an economic driver.

Then there's the challenge of securing private investment. Many Namibian creatives struggle to package their work in a way that attracts funding.

Business acumen is often not part of artistic training, leaving creatives unsure of how to write funding proposals, pitch

ideas, or monetize their work effectively.

Without proper guidance, many give up before they even start.

But it's not all doom and gloom. The rise of digital platforms has opened new doors for creatives to access funding beyond traditional sources.

Crowdfunding, digital marketplaces, and international grant opportunities provide alternative revenue streams. However, without proper guidance and mentorship, many creatives still struggle to navigate these platforms effectively.

So, what's the way forward?

First, we need more structured and accessible funding opportunities. The government must prioritize funding for the arts as a key economic sector, ensuring that creatives have the financial support to thrive.

Second, businesses need to recognize

the value of investing in creativity—not just as charity but as a strategic investment in culture and innovation. Third, creatives themselves must be empowered with business and financial skills to better position themselves for funding opportunities.

If we want Namibia's creative ecosystem to thrive, we must invest in it. Funding is not a luxury—it is a necessity.

Without it, we risk losing the stories, perspectives, and cultural expressions that make us who we are. It's time to put our money where our creativity is.

**Alvaro Mukoroli is a PR and Brand Strategist at Alvaro Media Group and has been working with Namibian and international creative industry (Media, Fashion and Events) for over a decade.*

Balancing Growth and Social Upliftment:

The National Budget in a New Dispensation

25 March 2025 | 09h00-11h00 | Hilton Windhoek



Salomo Hei
MD: High Economic Intelligence (Presenter)



Jason Kasuto
EAN Chairperson (Panelist)



Prof Teresia Kaulihowa
Associate Dean: NUST (Panelist)



Floris Bergh
Chief Economist: Capricorn Asset Management (Panelist)



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Government allocates N\$12 million for electrification in Hardap and Il Kharas

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) has allocated N\$12 million for the 2025/26 financial year to support electrification efforts in the Hardap and Il Kharas regions, with a particular focus on peri-urban settlements.

Speaking at the official inauguration of electrification projects in Maltahöhe, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Kornelia Shilunga, highlighted the region's historical progress and ongoing challenges.

"Hardap boasts one of the highest electrification rates in the country at

62%, a testament to the government's commitment. However, this is a decline from 67% in 2011 due to urban migration," she said.

To address this decline, the ministry has prioritized electrification in informal settlements to ensure that growing communities are not left behind.

Shilunga emphasized that negotiations with NamPower and development partners are underway to supplement the allocated budget.

"While it is too early to announce the

final allocation for Hardap, we assure you that it will exceed previous investments," she stated.

The government remains committed to achieving universal electrification by 2040, as outlined in the National Electrification Policy 2022. However, efforts are being made to accelerate this timeline.

"We are working tirelessly to bring that deadline forward because we know that electricity is not just a luxury—it is a necessity for economic growth, education, and healthcare," Shilunga said..

Apart from grid electrification, the ministry is also focusing on off-grid solutions, particularly solar energy. Currently, 12% of Namibians rely on off-grid technologies, with Hardap reflecting the national average.

"Modern off-grid technologies have greatly improved, offering longer-lasting and more resilient battery storage," said Shilunga.

She further noted that investing in off-grid systems can help households save money on monthly electricity tariffs, redirecting those funds to other essential needs.

"Recognizing this potential, the ministry is developing an off-grid program to create an enabling environment where end-users and

private businesses can mutually benefit from these technologies," Shilunga said.

The ministry acknowledges the challenges posed by Namibia's vast geographical size and low population density, which make electrification efforts costly and complex.

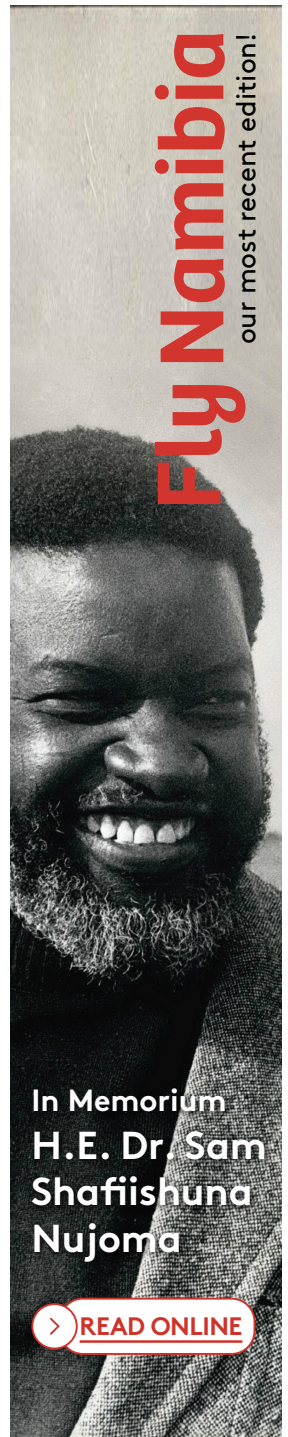
"Namibia is approximately the size of South Africa or Nigeria, yet we have a population of just over three million. This presents unique challenges," she explained.

Despite these challenges, Namibia has made commendable progress, with the latest census data indicating that 47% of households have access to grid electricity.

"While some may see this as a low figure, let us put it into perspective. Given our geographical size and sparse population, our electrification rate is one of the highest among similarly low-density countries," Shilunga said.

As electrification efforts continue, Shilunga urged residents of Hardap to seize the opportunities provided by access to electricity to improve their livelihoods.

"The light in our homes must translate into brighter futures for our children. Let us work together to harness the power of electricity to build businesses, improve education, and enhance healthcare," she said.





MPs propose increase in Namibia's seal harvesting quotas

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources has proposed an increase in Namibia's annual seal harvesting quotas, recommending a rise from the current 50,000 to 200,000 for a fixed period.

The proposal aims to control the growing seal population, which has raised concerns over its impact on fish stocks and sustainable marine resource management.

Namibia currently has an annual hunting

quota of 80,000 Cape fur seal pups and 6,000 bulls.

However, due to limited markets for seal products, the quotas have not been fully utilized, leading to a steady increase in the seal population. The committee emphasized that effective population control is necessary to maintain a balance between marine conservation and economic sustainability.

To improve quota utilization, the

committee urged the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) to extend the harvesting season until the end of November.

“The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources must look into the possibility of extending the harvest season to the end of November to enable harvesters to catch their full quotas as allocated, cognizant of the fact that bulls only come to shore towards the end of September, which at present only gives two weeks of harvesting,” the committee stated.

Recognizing the economic potential of seal harvesting, the committee encouraged the MFMR to promote local consumption of seal meat through the Namibia Fish Consumption initiative. It also called for an exploration of year-round harvesting to maximize the economic value of seals and meet market demand.

In a bid to boost exports, the committee recommended collaboration between the MFMR and the Ministry of Trade and Industrialization to secure markets in Asia and Canada.

“The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources together with the Ministry of Trade and Industrialization should engage with Asian countries and Canada, where markets for seal products exist, to promote the opening up of new trade opportunities,” the committee noted.

Additionally, the MFMR has been urged to revise the Marine Resources Act to impose stricter penalties on companies mistreating workers aboard fishing vessels. The committee further recommended that the ministry publish annual reports detailing seal population trends, quotas, and actual harvest numbers to enhance transparency and public awareness.

Seal harvesting is practiced in nine countries, including Canada, Denmark, and Russia, with Namibia being the only Southern Hemisphere nation engaged in the practice. Between 2005 and 2015, the country exported nearly 400,000 seal skins, despite ongoing criticism from animal rights groups.

Namibia has 26 seal colonies stretching from Lüderitz in the south to the Erongo Region in the north. Population trends within these colonies have fluctuated over time, primarily due to food-driven migration patterns.



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FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

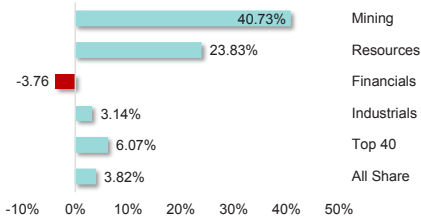
Commodities

Spot Gold	2914.81
Platinum	977.16
Palladium	947.62
Silver	30.95
Uranium	65.20
Brent Crude	70.02
Iron Ore	95.70
Copper	9520.79
Natural Gas	4.46
Lithium	9.85

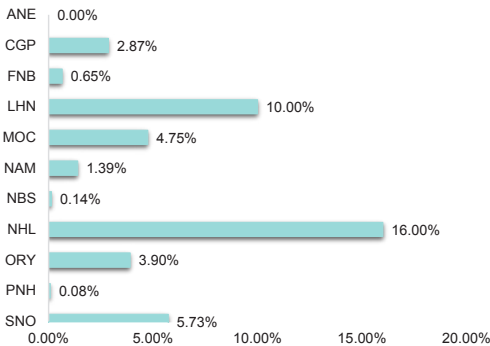
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.2558
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	23.5977
USD/CNY	7.2304
EUR/USD	1.0906
GBP/USD	1.2926
USD/RUB	85.2563
CPI	3.60%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

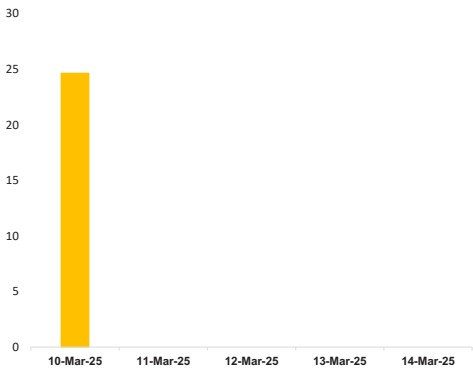
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

