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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing

NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NUST to build N\$750 million Kleine Kuppe campus

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025

NEW Flavours

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N\$9.99
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450g

Russian
N\$24.99
420g

Chicken Polony
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150g

Chicken Polony
N\$5.99
80g

Chicken Bacon
N\$34.99
150g

Chicken Polony
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250g

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MAIN STORY

NUST to build N\$750 million Kleine Kuppe campus



The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) plans to construct a new campus in Kleine Kuppe at an estimated cost of N\$750 million.

Construction is expected to commence in the second half of 2025, with completion anticipated within three years, subject to funding availability.

The first phase of the development

Crucial Dates

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

Construction is expected to commence in the second half of 2025, with completion anticipated within three years, subject to funding availability.

will accommodate approximately 3,200 students, with a focus on executive management education. The campus will be specifically designated for the Harold Pupkewitz Graduate Business School (HPGBS).

“The Harold Pupkewitz Graduate Business School (HPGBS) is a key pillar in this expansion. In aligning with global trends in business education, we are committed to ensuring our business school caters to the increasing demand for postgraduate qualifications, including our industry-leading MBAs as well as other executive education programmes,” NUST Public Relations Officer Cindy van Wyk told The Brief.

The expansion forms part of NUST’s broader strategy to enhance access to education and strengthen its role in

Namibia’s economic and professional development. It aligns with the university’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and will be fully integrated into the upcoming 2026-2029 Strategic Business Plan.

NUST Vice-Chancellor Erol Ndabab emphasized the significance of the project.

“This campus will serve as a hub for innovation and learning, featuring modern classrooms, advanced laboratories, collaborative spaces, and student support facilities. This is a significant investment in the future of our university, and more importantly, in the future of Namibia’s youth,” he said.

The announcement comes as NUST marks 10 years since the enactment of the NUST Act of Parliament (No. 7 of 2015), reinforcing its commitment to expanding educational opportunities in the country.



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Invitations for Bids

Bidders are invited to submit bids for the following Consultancy and Non-Consultancy Services

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE: SCRFPI/AGRI-17/2024-2025
PROJECT NAME: Provision of Forensic Investigation Services (Three Years Contract)
COMPULSORY DEBRIEFING: Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 11H00 AM
CLOSING TIME & DATE: Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 11H00 AM
PAYABLE FEE: NS300.00
TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES: Mrs. Augusta Mtshali, Tel: 061 207 4241, Email: amtsali@agribank.com.na

PROCUREMENT REFERENCE: NCS/ONB/AGRI-07/2024-2025
PROJECT NAME: Provision of Security Services at Agribank Head Office & Branches [Four (4) Years Period]
COMPULSORY DEBRIEFING: As directed in the bid document
CLOSING TIME & DATE: Tuesday, 29 April 2025, at 11:00 AM
PAYABLE FEE: NS300.00
TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES: Mrs. Victoria Hauwanga, Tel: 061 207 4221, Email: vhauwanga@agribank.com.na

- Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bid document at the address given below.
- Qualification requirements can be obtained from the template document on the website.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased as instructed in the bid document.
- Bid documents must be delivered and deposited in the bid box located at Agribank Head Office, Reception, Ground Floor as per the closing date and time specified. Electronic bidding will not be accepted. Late bids will be rejected.
- The address referred to above is: Agricultural Bank of Namibia, Website: <http://agribank.com.na/page/news&media/bids>

Administrative Enquiries: Okeri Mbingeneeko, Tel: +264 61 207 4327, tenders@agribank.com.na

Windhoek Head Office
(061) 207 4111
info@agribank.com.na

Katima Mulilo
(061) 252 0660
katima@agribank.com.na

Mariental
(061) 242 8188
southern@agribank.com.na

Midland (Windhoek)
(061) 207 4202
midland@agribank.com.na

Oranjemund
(067) 304 5596
orjmund@agribank.com.na

Oshanaati
(061) 221 3588
oshanaati@agribank.com.na

Rundu
(061) 255 645
karungu@agribank.com.na

Gobabis
(061) 577 8001
gobabis@agribank.com.na

Grootfontein
(067) 240 04050
grootfontein@agribank.com.na



Namibian guest houses record higher occupancy than hotels in January

Guest houses recorded the highest room occupancy rate of 47.1% in January 2025, surpassing hotels, which followed at 41.8%, according to the latest report from the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

Tented camps and tented lodges secured third and fourth positions with occupancy rates of 40.5% and 39.0%, respectively, while guest farms reported the lowest occupancy rate at 36.9%. The NSA's Rooms & Beds Occupancy January 2025 report also indicated that the Room Occupancy Rate Index declined by 15.9% on a monthly basis, showing a recovery from the 23.9% drop registered in the previous month. On an

annual basis, the index contracted by 0.2%.

"The monthly decline was driven by an overall decline in room occupancy across hospitality establishments in all regions, except for hotel pensions, which recorded a positive figure," the NSA report stated.

The coastal region experienced the sharpest decline at 21.1%, followed by the southern region with a 19.0% drop. The central and northern regions saw declines of 16.3% and 9.2%, respectively. During the reporting period, a total of 52,948 rooms were available nationwide, with 19,443 (36.7%) sold. This marked a reduction compared to December 2024, when 61,430 rooms were available, with 26,833 (43.7%) sold. In comparison,

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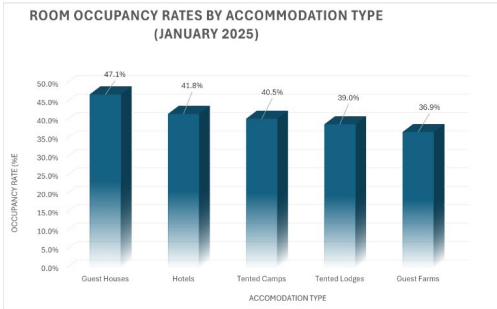
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January 2024 recorded 46,341 available rooms, with 17,049 (36.8%) being sold.

"In the period under review, the northern region saw the highest number of rooms available, amounting to 21,576 rooms with 7,248 rooms sold, leading to a surplus of 14,328 rooms," the report highlighted.

The southern region followed, offering 17,546 rooms, of which 6,240 were sold, leaving a surplus of 11,306 rooms. The central region recorded 8,494 rooms available and 3,160 sold, leading to a surplus of 5,334 rooms. The coastal region had the lowest availability, with 5,332 rooms, of which 2,795 were sold, leaving a surplus of 2,537 rooms.

Meanwhile, a total of 104,067 beds were available nationwide in January 2025, with 34,514 (33.2%) sold. This reflected a contraction compared to the previous month, which had 124,056 beds available, with 49,655 (40.0%) sold. In January 2024, 94,375 beds were available, with 30,402 (32.2%) sold.

"Guest houses experienced the highest

bed occupancy rate of 40.6% in January 2025, followed by tented lodges with 36.2% and tented camps with 34.9%," the report stated. Hotels and guest farms ranked fourth and fifth, with bed occupancy rates of 33.6% and 29.6%, respectively.



PROJECT FINANCE DIRECTOR

Oluwe Project Engineers CC is a project management firm based in Windhoek. For the above position, we are looking to employ on a 5-year contract basis, a mature individual with a strong financial background and experience at an executive level, coupled with construction industry-specific IT and internal control systems knowledge with a focus on the road construction and maintenance sector.

Key attributes:

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- ✓ Excellent project management skills
- ✓ Financial modelling expert-level competency
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- ✓ Excellent communication & report-writing skills

Qualifications and Experience

- Chartered Accountant
- Construction management qualification will be an added advantage
- 5+ years' experience in the construction sector at senior managerial level

Closing date:31 March 2025

Please forward your application accompanied by a detailed CV and certified copies of qualifications to info@oluwe.com.



Demshi to invest N\$220 million in fibre network expansion across 10 towns

Demshi Investment Holdings (Demshi) has announced a N\$220 million investment for the second phase of its fibre network expansion in Namibia, with completion expected in two years.

Demshi Managing Director Werner Shilunga told The Brief that the expansion will cover 10 towns, further extending the company's footprint.

"The second-phase rollout will bring Demshi's total number of home passes to 50,000, with completion anticipated

in less than two years. The project is part of the company's broader regional expansion, which includes plans to venture into neighbouring Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries before moving into East Africa," Shilunga said.

Shilunga, however, noted that delays in municipal approvals for wayleave applications have affected the rollout schedule, impacting job creation opportunities for young Namibians.

"Municipalities and town councils take

forever to approve wayleave applications, which delays our rollout of the fibre network at no cost to them. This prolongs the unemployment crisis in many towns,” he said.

Currently, Demshi’s fibre network covers 15,000 home passes in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Windhoek, excluding Rehoboth. In February 2025, the company began deploying fibre in Rehoboth under an Open Access model, allowing all licensed internet service providers (ISPs) to utilise the network.

“We are excited to begin deploying fibre in Rehoboth. Just like in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, and Windhoek, our fibre in Rehoboth will operate on an Open Access model, providing all licensed ISPs the opportunity to offer services. Our Point of Presence in Rehoboth is at Dr Lemmer High School, with a second one at the Nampower substation, which is critical for ISP capacity transmission,” Shilunga said.

The Rehoboth Open Access Fibre network is expected to cover the entire town with approximately 3,500 home passes.

According to Shilunga, Demshi has already completed an 18 km feeder cable forming a redundancy ring around the town to ensure uninterrupted service in case of network issues.

Demshi has partnered

with Paratus, the anchor ISP in Rehoboth, to enhance internet access in the town. Upon completion of the Rehoboth rollout, Demshi’s total home passes across the four towns will increase to 18,500.

“Demshi is steadily growing its fibre network, connecting between 120 to 150 homes per month, with the majority of home connections in Swakopmund. Our target growth by the end of the year is 15%, and we are confident that we will reach it,” Shilunga said.



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ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Ensure all Health, Safety and Environment standards and policies are adhered to.
- Lead by example through compliance with the company purpose and values.
- Ensure all food preparation adheres to safety, health, and hygiene standards.
- Preparation of food for the guests at the Company Guest House.
- Develop and design seasonal or permanent menus, focusing on traditional Chinese flavors and dishes.
- Managing kitchen inventory and ensure ingredients are stocked and ordered as needed.
- Oversee the cleanliness and organization of the kitchen.
- Ad hoc tasks as required.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Grade 12 certificate with a Level 2 National Certificate in Chinese cuisine chef qualification authorized by Chinese Institution or equivalent.
- A minimum of ten (10) or more years' experience in Chinese cuisine.
- Proficient in Chinese cooking techniques.
- Skilled at adapting traditional recipes while preserving authentic flavors and introducing new ideas to the menu.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in both English and Mandarin.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 28 MARCH 2025, AT 16H00

Please forward application to the email: stsrcruitment3@sinomine.na
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Applicants, who are not contacted within two weeks after the closing date, should consider their application unsuccessful.

The recruitment process will be administered as prescribed by Namibian Affirmative Action Act.
Women and person with disability are encouraged to apply.

Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

All applications meeting the minimum requirements must be accompanied by a non-returnable detailed curriculum vitae, certified copies of qualifications and identification documents. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for and should be sent as one PDF attachment. Applications not adhering to these rules will not be considered.

Is our Namibian diaspora sleeping? ... in terms of export promotion and market access

By Hasekiel Johannes

What if Namibia's biggest untapped resource is not within its borders --- but spread across the globe? The Namibian diaspora holds immense potential to help local businesses to access international markets and largely driving export promotion.

In general, the diaspora is known for being cultural ambassadors, business connectors, attracting investments, and particularly driving homegrown products abroad. However, Namibian diaspora-driven export promotion remains largely untapped and underreported for various reasons. Nevertheless, valuable lessons can be drawn from the African diaspora.

Lessons from DRC, Nigeria and Ghana

Across Africa, lessons can be learned from the diaspora communities of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, and Ghana who have successfully facilitated trade and market access for their home countries. For instance, The DRC Diaspora and Business Networks, have established strong business communities in Europe (particularly in France and Belgium) and North America. These networks act as



Across Africa, lessons can be learned from the diaspora communities of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, and Ghana who have successfully facilitated trade and market access for their home countries.

intermediaries, connecting businesses back home with buyers abroad. By leveraging their understanding of both markets, they facilitate trade agreements, logistics, and even investment opportunities for Congolese entrepreneurs.

Similarly, The Nigerian and Ghanaian diaspora communities in the USA and Europe have successfully introduced African products into mainstream markets. A prime example is the shea butter industry, where Nigerian and Ghanaian entrepreneurs



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have created strong distribution networks that supply beauty and wellness brands worldwide. They did this via online platforms, specialised retail stores, and word-of-mouth marketing --- these communities have made shea butter a globally recognised product.

Namibian Diaspora-driven export promotion

Namibia has unique, high-quality products that have the potential to appeal to international consumers, particularly in the USA and Europe. And the Namibian diaspora should be at the forefront of promoting these products through cultural advocacy, business linkages, and direct marketing --- basically “putting us on” as the Gen Z call it. Key products include Marula Oil (used in the global beauty and wellness industry), Kapana (grilled meat culture – a growing street food trend), Kapana Spices (targeting niche food markets), Devil’s Claw (with medicinal and cosmetic benefits), Biltong, and Namibian Gin (Ombike), among others.

A win for Namibia

Namibian diaspora-driven export promotion can succeed through the following strategies: forming business associations in key markets (USA, UK, Germany) to promote and distribute Namibian products; partnering with local retailers and supermarkets to stock these products; establishing online platforms (Amazon, Etsy, Alibaba) for direct sales; collaborating with embassies to organize trade fairs and B2B events; and engaging Namibian influencers abroad to showcase products on digital platforms.

The synergy between culture and commerce must be emphasized, as cultural appreciation often drives consumer interest in new products. Through collaboration, innovation, and strategic networking, the Namibian diaspora can become ambassadors of Namibian trade, ensuring that the nation’s rich products find their rightful place in international markets.

****Hasekiel Johannes has over 11 years of experience in MSME development and business innovation. He currently serves as a Consultant for MSME Market Access & Export Promotion at the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), where he supports entrepreneurs in scaling their businesses for success.***

PROCUREMENT NOTICE



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

TENDER NO: MTC15-25-O

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF A HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Thursday, 13th March 2025 by 10H00

TENDER NO: MTC10-25-O

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF STATIONERY AND TONERS TO MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Thursday, 13th March 2025 by 11H00

TENDER NO: MTC11-25-O

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SIGNAGE ITEMS AND BRANDING MATERIALS TO MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MTC)

Briefing Meeting:

Thursday, 13th March 2025 by 12H00

Briefing Meeting Venue:

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

Closing date: Friday, 28th March 2025 by 14h30



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

CRAN discontinues WiMAX technology in Namibia

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has discontinued Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) technology, citing its obsolescence and the emergence of more advanced solutions such as 4G LTE and the upcoming 5G networks.

“WiMAX, once heralded as a revolutionary broadband solution, has become increasingly unviable due to several critical factors. Firstly, it is no longer considered a true broadband service as it struggles to meet the speed and reliability expectations of today’s users, particularly in an era dominated by high-definition streaming, online gaming, and cloud computing,” CRAN said.

“These newer technologies offer significantly superior performance and capacity. This obsolescence is compounded by the growing challenge of sourcing parts and components necessary for maintaining and upgrading existing WiMAX infrastructure, as manufacturers shift their focus to newer technologies.”

As part of this transition, CRAN has officially revoked WiMAX spectrum licences allocated to Telecom Namibia Limited, affecting frequencies within the 3405 to 3227 MHz and 3505 to 3547 MHz ranges.

To ensure minimal service disruption, the regulator has implemented a structured migration plan requiring Telecom Namibia to transition its WiMAX customers to alternative technologies within a specified timeframe.



“The operator has been granted six months from October 2024 to complete the migration of services in urban areas of the Khomas, Erongo, Kavango West, and Oshana regions. The operator is allowed nine months to migrate urban areas in all other regions. A more extended timeline of 24 months has been allocated for the migration of all rural areas within Namibia’s borders,” CRAN said.

CRAN emphasised that there will be no abrupt service discontinuation, ensuring that affected customers are transitioned smoothly. “The exercise means switching off the WiMAX services and migrating customers to another technology that ensures service continuity. There can be no hard switch-offs; customers must be migrated to an alternative technology and should not be left without a service.”

CRAN’s Chief Executive Officer, Emilia Nghikembua, reaffirmed the authority’s

commitment to overseeing a seamless transition that safeguards consumer interests.

“The cancellation of these spectrum licences represents a significant step in our regulatory oversight of the telecommunications sector. We are

committed to ensuring that all service providers operate within the legal framework and that customers are supported throughout this transition. Our focus is on maintaining high standards for service delivery and protecting the interests of consumers,” Nghikembua said.

Call for Trustee Nominations



Namibia Health Plan is the leading medical aid fund in Namibia. A board of elected and appointed Trustees manages the Fund. All Trustees serve on the Board for a period of 3 years, where after they retire, but may be re-elected or re-appointed.

The Board of Trustees currently has **four vacancies** which require the expertise of a **principal member in any of the following areas:**

1x Investments | 1x Legal | 2x Marketing

Only nominations that fit these roles shall be considered.

In terms of the Fund's rules, any Trustee shall not be:

- Under the age of 21 years.
- A person who is not a principal member of the Fund.
- A director, member, employee or other official of any organisation serving as the Administrator of the Fund.
- A director, member, employee or other official of any organisation rendering services to the Administrator in connection with the business of the Fund.
- The Principal Officer, Auditor, Consultant of the Fund.
- Anyone who has been declared insolvent.
- Anyone with a court judgement granted against him/her (including a default judgement, finding of fraud, financial mismanagement, misrepresentation or dishonesty) or a notice recorded by Transunion ITC in the last 5 years.
- Anyone with a criminal record.
- A person of unsound mind.

If you wish to nominate a Trustee to serve on the Board for the next 3 years, the nomination forms are available on our website at www.nhp.com.na.

Please submit your nomination to nhpam@nhp.na by **12:00pm on Friday, 28 March 2025.**

For enquiries, please call **+264 61 242 821**

All NHP members are invited to attend the 2025 Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, 27 June 2025.



Global debt markets in flux: How changing trends shape regions

By Trophy Shapange

A new wind of change is clearly affecting global debt markets in 2025. The global monetary policy tightening cycle has run its course, and most major central banks in developed markets have started cutting interest rates. This shift marks a significant turning point in economic policy, with broad ramifications for nations worldwide, particularly those in Africa: South Africa, and Namibia are no exception,

Over the past few years, central banks worldwide aggressively raised interest rates to combat inflation. One of the most aggressive rate hike cycles in modern history was started by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB), and the Bank of England. These policies were aimed at controlling inflation, stabilizing currency values, and preventing overheating economies.

However, as inflationary pressures continued to decrease in 2025, many of these central banks have begun reducing interest rates. The Federal Reserve has signaled potential rate cuts in response to slowing economic growth, while the ECB has already reduced borrowing costs to stimulate economic activity. Lower interest rates make



“

International investors, in search of higher yields, may also redirect their capital into African debt markets, offering opportunities for economic expansion and improved credit conditions.

borrowing and investing more affordable for governments, businesses, and individuals by lowering the cost of debt servicing.

For Africa, its emerging markets, have closely monitored the abovementioned shifts, as their economies are heavily influenced by the monetary policies of major global financial institutions. When interest rates in developed economies rise, capital flows out of emerging markets, leading to weaker currencies and higher borrowing costs. Conversely, as interest rates decline, investment capital often returns, strengthening local currencies and

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making debt more manageable.

Therefore, lower global interest rates are expected to ease debt burdens in many African countries, providing relief for governments that have been struggling with rising external debt servicing costs. International investors, in search of higher yields, may also redirect their capital into African debt markets, offering opportunities for economic expansion and improved credit conditions.

In general, Africa's debt market has been under pressure for years, with many countries grappling with high sovereign debt levels, currency depreciation, and fiscal deficits. The shift in global monetary policy could provide some relief, but challenges remain.

However, with global investors looking for better returns, Africa's bond markets could attract significant foreign capital. Countries with strong governance, stable economic policies, and clear debt management strategies will likely benefit the most. Investors seeking diversification may find Africa's debt market an attractive option, particularly in infrastructure and green energy projects.

Coming back closer to our neighbour, South Africa, as the most developed economy in the continent, occupies a unique position in the debt landscape. While it shares some challenges with its African counterparts,

it also has a more advanced financial system and deeper capital markets.

Indeed, South Africa's government debt has risen significantly, driven by persistent fiscal deficits and rising public sector wages. But, the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has maintained a cautious approach to monetary policy, carefully balancing inflation control with economic growth. Therefore, with global interest rates falling, South Africa may have more room to maneuver in managing its debt obligations.

Even though, lower global interest rates could improve investor sentiment toward South Africa, potentially attracting foreign investment into government bonds and corporate debt markets. This will depend on the country's ability to address structural economic challenges, such as power shortages, high unemployment, and policy uncertainty.

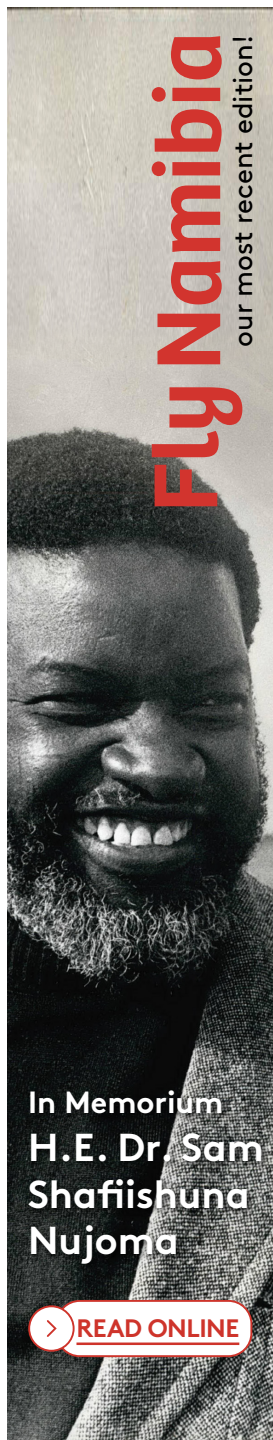
Bring it all back home: Namibia, though very small, it is a strategic significant economy in Southern Africa, but it faces its own set of debt challenges. Namibia has seen rising public debt levels, largely due to slower economic growth, external shocks, and increasing fiscal demands.

Namibia's Reserve Bank (Bank of Namibia) closely follows the monetary policies of the South African Reserve Bank

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Nujoma**

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due to the Namibia dollar/ Rand pegging arrangement. Lower interest rates in South Africa could lead to similar adjustments in Namibia, reducing borrowing costs and easing debt servicing pressures for the government and private sector. During the current quarter, Namibia and South Africa both cut the repo rates by 25 basis points.

Just like most African countries, Namibia's external debt is a key concern, worse because a significant portion is denominated in foreign currencies. Lower global interest rates may improve debt affordability, but currency volatility remains a risk.

However, as global capital markets become more favorable, Namibia could attract foreign investment into sectors such as mining, tourism, and renewable energy. Furthermore, stable governance and transparent economic policies are vital in leveraging these opportunities for long-term

economic development.

The shift in global monetary policy and the subsequent decline in interest rates offer a mixed bag of opportunities and challenges for global debt markets. While developed economies ease borrowing costs, emerging and developing economies, particularly in Africa, stand to benefit from lower debt servicing burdens and increased investment inflows.

Notably, for South Africa and Namibia, these changes present a chance to stabilize public finances, attract foreign capital, and drive economic growth. However, proactive fiscal policies, sound debt management strategies, and structural economic reforms will be critical in ensuring long-term sustainability.

****Trophy Shapange is the Managing Director of Lebela Fund Managers.***

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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Namibia Facebook page



Green industry, oil & gas to drive Namibia's economic revival

President Nangolo Mbumba says Namibia's economic prospects hinge on green industrialization, oil and gas discoveries, and mineral resources.

Speaking at the final Cabinet meeting of his presidency, Mbumba stated that the administration's investment efforts have created "green shoots on the horizon."

"The economic outlook remains positive with the discoveries of oil and gas, the exploration of mineral resources, and the vigorous promotion of green industrialization and the blue economy," Mbumba said.

He highlighted that Namibia's economic performance is rebounding from the effects of COVID-19, positioning the country for future prosperity.

"As our economic performance continues to recover from the effects of COVID-19, we can look forward to the potential of green hydrogen and oil and gas discoveries, which will transform our economy and usher in a new era of prosperity for the Namibian people," he said.

Reflecting on the past 13 months, Mbumba acknowledged the challenges his administration faced, particularly the passing

of President Hage Geingob and Founding President Sam Nujoma.

"While we have been focused on mitigating the devastating effects of one of the most severe drought periods in our recorded history, we have also suffered a double blow. Last year, we lost a sitting President, my brother, President Hage Geingob, and this year, just 12 months later, we lost our Founding President and Leader of the Namibian Revolution, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. May their brave souls rest in eternal peace," he said.

Despite these challenges, Mbumba commended the resilience of his Cabinet, emphasizing that as the nucleus of Namibia's political leadership, they have remained steadfast.

The outgoing President expressed confidence in President-elect Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's ability to steer Namibia forward, stating that the SWAPO Party's manifesto would serve as the foundation for the incoming administration.

"I am encouraged by the forward-looking SWAPO Party Manifesto, which will form the basis of the agenda for the incoming

administration of our President-elect, Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. As a tried and tested leader, I have no doubt that she will continue to consolidate the peace and unity we have enjoyed for 35 years and will usher in a new era defined by economic growth and opportunities for all Namibians,”

he said.

Mbumba reaffirmed his belief that Namibia's focus has shifted from independence to economic emancipation, with new leaders set to build on a strong foundation to uphold peace, democracy, unity, and development.

Call for Appointed Board Member



Namibia Health Plan is the leading medical aid fund in Namibia. A board of elected and appointed Trustees manages the Fund. All Trustees serve on the Board for a period of 3 years, where after they retire, but may be re-elected or re-appointed.

The Board of Trustees currently has **one** vacancy for an appointed Board member, who must be a principal member of the Fund and a long-standing health professional in the medical field with at least 10 years of experience, practicing in any medical discipline, including, but not limited to:

• General Practitioner • Dentist • Hospital Administrator

The prospective candidate must be a Namibian citizen and a registered practitioner with the Health Professions Council of Namibia, with a keen interest in the medical aid funding industry.

In terms of the Fund's rules, any Trustee shall not be:

- Under the age of 21 years.
- A person who is not a principal member of the Fund.
- A director, member, employee or other official of any organisation serving as the Administrator of the Fund.
- A director, member, employee or other official of any organisation rendering services to the Administrator in connection with the business of the Fund.
- The Principal Officer, Auditor, Consultant of the Fund.
- Anyone who has been declared insolvent.
- Anyone with a court judgement granted against him/her (including a default judgement, finding of fraud, financial mismanagement, misrepresentation or dishonesty) or a notice recorded by Transunion ITC in the last 5 years.
- Anyone with a criminal record.
- A person of unsound mind.

Interested individuals who comply with the above requirements are invited to submit their comprehensive Curriculum Vitae, HPCNA registration and other relevant documents to the **Fund's Principal Officer at principalofficer@nhp.na by 12:00pm on Friday, 28 March 2025.**

For enquiries, please call +264 61 242 821



Tribute to Hon Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

By Lot Ndamanomhata

As Honourable Calle Schlettwein prepares to retire in March 2025, Namibia pays tribute to a career defined by transformative leadership, sustainable development, and a steadfast commitment to public welfare.

His contributions to the water sector, coupled with his tenure in finance, agriculture, and land reform, reflect a legacy of visionary leadership, strategic execution, and a deep sense of duty towards managing Namibia's most vital resource—water. Honourable Schlettwein's enduring legacy is one of equity, resilience, and innovation, shaping Namibia's socio-economic landscape for generations to come.

Advocate for Public Assets and Equitable Services

As Minister of Finance, Honourable Schlettwein firmly opposed the privatisation of Namibia's essential public assets, including water. At the 2024 World Water Forum in Bali, he reiterated his belief in public ownership of vital services, declaring: "Water must be given, and what you pay is secondary. If shared prosperity is our goal, privatisation will only bring inequality."

This stance echoed the sentiments of global leaders like Nelson Mandela, who famously said: "What is privatised are the assets, while the liabilities remain public. The poor end up paying the price." Honourable Schlettwein's unwavering



International investors, in search of higher yields, may also redirect their capital into African debt markets, offering opportunities for economic expansion and improved credit conditions.

advocacy ensured that essential services remained in the hands of the people, prioritising equitable access and sustainable management of public resources.

He also criticised inefficiencies in outsourcing agricultural green schemes and abattoirs, stating: "We tried to outsource some green schemes, but six months down the line, no production has happened. The private sector is failing us, and we cannot rely on them. We must ensure production and sustainability ourselves."

These perspectives highlight his consistent prioritisation of public welfare over profit, even in challenging economic times.

Championing Land Reform: A Historic Hand-Over to the !Khomani Traditional Authority

Under Honourable Calle Schlettwein's leadership as Minister of Agriculture, Water

and Land Reform, Namibia witnessed the historic hand-over of communal land to the !Khomanin Traditional Authority in the Khomas Region. For the first time since independence, the region now includes communal land—spanning over 8,132 hectares acquired at a cost of N\$33.8 million. This significant milestone marked the culmination of decades of advocacy by the !Khomanin community, beginning in 1990. The communal land, governed under the Communal Land Reform Act, provides opportunities for cultural preservation, economic empowerment, and sustainable development. Honourable Schlettwein's commitment to addressing historical injustices and implementing the resolutions of the Second National Land Conference underscores his transformative approach to land reform in Namibia.

Architect of Namibia's Water Sector

Under Honourable Schlettwein's stewardship, Namibia achieved unprecedented advancements in water infrastructure. Investments exceeding N\$3.8 billion transformed access to potable water, ensuring the sustainability of vital

resources. Key projects included:

- * Ohangwena II Wellfield Water Supply Schemes: A N\$250 million lifeline delivering clean water through advanced boreholes and purification systems to Eenhana and surrounding communities.

- * Rundu Water Treatment Plant Extension: A N\$665 million transformative project boosting water supply in the Kavango East and West regions, addressing acute shortages.

- * Ondangwa-Omutsegwonime Pipeline Replacement: A N\$91 million project ensuring steady supply while meeting growing demand in the Oshana and Oshikoto regions.

- * Henties Bay Reservoir Pipeline Upgrade: A N\$15 million initiative safeguarding water access for a key coastal town.

- * Outapi Water Treatment Works Extension: A N\$123 million project enhancing water reliability for the Outapi community and surrounding areas.

- * Ogongo-Oshakati Pipeline Replacement and Ancillary Works: A N\$236 million project replacing an aging asbestos-cement pipeline with a 53-kilometre system to reduce water losses and meet future regional demands.

These projects demonstrate Honourable Schlettwein's hands-on approach and ability to marshal resources for the benefit of Namibia's people.

A Legacy of Advocacy and Policy

During his tenure, the Water Resource Management Act, 2013 (Act 11 of 2013) was

BID

Provision of Maintenance, Plumbing, Carpentry, Joinery and Air-Conditioning service for Rundu, Otavi, Katima Mulilo, Walvis Bay, Keetmanshoop, Otiwarongo, Ongwediva and Windhoek Service Centre

Reference No: W/OAB/MVA FUND - 02/2025

Bid Opening Date: 14 March 2025
 Clarification Date: 31 March 2025
 Closing Date: 14 April 2025

Provision of General Building Maintenance and Minor Works including but not limited to the below:
 a) General Maintenance b) Plumbing c) Electrical Works d) Air-conditioning e) Carpentry and Joinery

Note: Bidding documents can be collected from the MVA Fund Windhoek Service Centre upon payment of N\$ 300.00 fee.

Contact Person: Bonifasius Kleopas, Procurement Manager
 Tel: (061) 289 7051 | Email: bonifasius@mvalfund.com.na

operationalised in 2023, a milestone in safeguarding Namibia's water resources and introducing sustainable governance practices critical for long-term security.

Visionary Leadership for Universal Access

Determined to achieve universal water access, Honourable Schlettwein led efforts to close the potable water access gap from 87% to 100%. His initiatives also prioritised sanitation improvements, addressing public health and development needs. Landmark projects like the Cabinet-approved Desalination Plant and Kavango Water Links Project exemplify his forward-thinking approach to mitigating water scarcity through innovation and resilience.

Visionary Leadership and Lasting Legacy

Just as Namibia honours Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba for modernising Namibia's road network, Honourable Schlettwein will be remembered as the architect of the nation's modern water infrastructure. His vision to achieve universal potable water access and improve sanitation coverage reflects his determination to enhance the quality of life for all Namibians.

His leadership has positioned Namibia to tackle future challenges, aligning water sector advancements with socio-economic goals and climate resilience. His advocacy for equitable service provision, sustainable development, and resistance to privatisation has set the foundation for a resilient and inclusive future.

Even amid differing policy views, Honourable Schlettwein's unwavering devotion to public service has earned him the respect of colleagues, partners, and the Namibian people. His legacy will remain a guiding light for future leaders tasked with continuing the work of ensuring "Water for All, Forever."

On my own behalf, I express my deepest gratitude to Honourable Calle Schlettwein for his exemplary service and visionary leadership.

His transformational contributions will be remembered, celebrated, and inspire generations to come. Happy retirement, sir.

**Lot Ndamanomhata is graduate of Public Management, Journalism and Communication. This article reflects his views and write entirely in his personal capacity.*

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Gobabis turns to boreholes as dams run dry

The municipality of Gobabis has turned to extracting water from boreholes scattered across the town to prevent taps from running dry for businesses and residents as dam levels plummet.

The town, an economic hub for the Omaheke region, primarily relies on inflows from the Otjivero and Black Nossob dams, which supply water to its own reservoir, the Tilda Viljoen Dam, located on the outskirts of Gobabis.

However, both Otjivero and Black Nossob dams are empty due to minimal or nonexistent rainfall, halting their water supply to the town. Forecasts indicate that the prospect of significant inflows remains bleak.

Speaking to The Brief Gobabis Municipality Public Relations Officer Frederick Ueitele urged residents to conserve water and report any leaks in private properties, public schools, clinics, or offices.

"The municipality of Gobabis would like to request the community of Gobabis to use water sparingly and [to] report any leakages of our infrastructure and at their properties and to settle their financial obligations towards Council," Ueitele said.

Ueitele noted that the town currently relies on 22 operational boreholes owned

by NamWater, Namibia's national water utility. However, the municipality faces an additional challenge—an outstanding debt of N\$ 45.3 million owed to NamWater.

The financial strain is part of a broader crisis affecting NamWater, which is struggling to recover N\$ 2.4 billion in arrears from private firms, state-owned enterprises, and municipalities across the country. Local authorities collectively owe NamWater N\$ 899 million, with the municipalities of Rundu (N\$ 333.9 million), Rehoboth (N\$ 108.5 million), and Khorixas (N\$ 71.7 million) ranking among the highest defaulters. In contrast, Karasburg and Okakarara municipalities are among the lowest debtors, owing N\$ 35.7 million and N\$ 34.1 million, respectively. The Omaheke Regional Council also has an unpaid bill of N\$ 24.8 million.

The Otjivero Dam, which supplies water to Gobabis only when it reaches a minimum level of 35%, currently holds just 9.1% of its capacity, prompting the abrupt cutoff of supply.

NamWater, as a bulk water supplier, relies on revenue from municipal clients such as Gobabis, Rundu, and Okakarara to maintain an affordable, clean, and sustainable water supply nationwide.



Enriching
Generations

FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

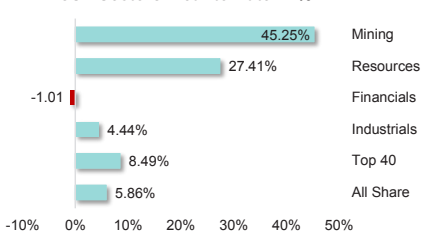
Commodities

Spot Gold	3028.77
Platinum	1003.58
Palladium	967.55
Silver	30.95
Uranium	63.70
Brent Crude	71.28
Iron Ore	97.83
Copper	9837.62
Natural Gas	4.08
Lithium	9.85

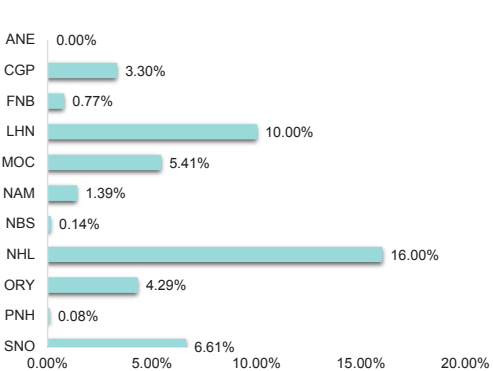
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.1174
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	23.5058
USD/CNY	7.2271
EUR/USD	1.0916
GBP/USD	1.2974
USD/RUB	81.4714
CPI	3.60%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

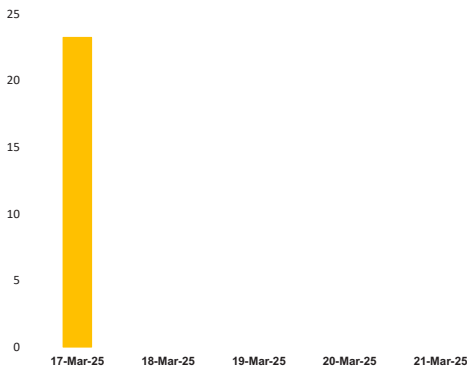
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

