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News Worth Knowing



# City rules out easing urban chicken farming ban

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#### **MAIN STORY**

# City rules out easing urban chicken farming ban

The City of Windhoek has ruled out relaxing its regulations on poultry farming within city limits, despite calls for the practice to be permitted to create employment, stimulate household income, and contribute to food security.

Under existing municipal laws, "a person may not keep poultry in town without the written permission of the Council," with stringent guidelines governing any approvals.

City of Windhoek CEO Moses Matyayi told The Brief that the regulations are in place to prevent nuisances such as noise and odour.

"We have assessed the situation, and at the moment, it is not viable. But we will go back and review to see what can be accommodated," Matyayi said. He also raised concerns about potential health risks, emphasizing that chickens are susceptible to diseases that could pose threats in urban areas.

While backyard poultry farming is permitted in several countries across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, Matyayi questioned its practicality in Windhoek's urban landscape.

"Imagine having chicken farming activities in Ludwigsdorf? We need to provide a conducive urban environment for our residents. Perhaps in areas such as Katutura, it can be allowed because that is our lifestyle," he said.



Agribank Technical Advisor for Crops and Poultry, Hanks Saisai, believes the current regulations are restrictive and that Windhoek's strong purchasing power presents an opportunity for economic growth through poultry farming.

"We have seen that if you start selling eggs in Windhoek, it's easy to make money because

#### Crucial Dates

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



you offer a product that is needed every day and can be sold easily to households and establishments within the city. There is an active market within Windhoek," Saisai said.

He suggested that allowing poultry farming in urban areas could be feasible with proper consultations and resident approval.

"It just has to be done in such a way that consultations with residents of the respective suburbs are done, and members of these societies consent to the initiative," he added.

Saisai further proposed that incentives, such as offering local residents discounted poultry products, could help gain community support. However, he emphasized the need for strict biosecurity measures.

"No one should have access to the chickens without going through a disinfection process and documenting each visit received on the farm," he said.

Jesaya Hakanyome of Backyard Chickens Namibia supported the idea, advocating for designated poultry farming units within city limits. "It would create employment. It's something we welcome," he said.

Poultry producer Albert Uulenga echoed these sentiments, arguing that backyard chicken farming thrives in developed countries with stringent hygiene controls.

"Namibia is not economically strong at the moment, so this is something that would help. It provides additional income for someone to have fuel or pay for the children's fees," Uulenga said.

Namibia's poultry sector recorded a 13.47% growth in 2023. Industry production increased from N\$1.5 billion in 2023 to N\$1.74 billion in 2024.

### Celebrating Namibia's Fifth President

Namibia stands at the threshold of history as we proudly celebrate the inauguration of Honorable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the nation's first female President. Her leadership certainly marks not only a personal triumph but a defining moment for Namibia, an era where women can ascend to the highest office in the land, proving that leadership knows no gender.

The Pupkewitz Group takes immense pride in joining the nation to celebrate this significant achievement. Her presidency is a testament to the progress Namibia has made in fostering inclusivity and empowering women to lead at the highest levels.

Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah represents hope and inspiration for all Namibian women who now see that the highest office in our country could be within their reach.

As she embarks on this journey, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes for a tenure marked by progress, peace, and transformative growth.

May her **leadership continue to uplift Namibia and inspire** a remnant of excellence for years to come.

Congratulations, Madam President!

Pupkewitz Group of Companies









amibia recorded 79,000 passenger arrivals and departures at airport terminals nationwide in January 2025, a decline from 89,442 in December 2024, latest data shows.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), the figure, however, reflects an increase from the 71,988 passengers recorded in January 2024.

This comes as the Passengers Movement Composite Index (which includes international, regional, and domestic arrivals and departures of passengers at all airports) contracted by 11.7% in January 2025, compared to a contraction of 6.9% recorded in the preceding month. However, the index

experienced an increase of 9.7% on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, Hosea Kutako International Airport remains the main hub for passenger arrivals and departures, handling 76.4%, while Walvis Bay and Eros airports account for 11.0% and 6.2%, respectively.

The Arrivals Index for Walvis Bay Airport declined by 28.3% in January 2025, in contrast to a growth of 30.3% reported in the previous month. On the other hand, the index posted an increase of 24.5% year on year.

"In absolute terms, the number of passengers that arrived through the Walvis Bay Airport terminals decreased to 3,881 passengers in January 2025, compared to



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5,413 passengers recorded a month earlier, while 3,117 passengers were recorded in January 2024," noted the NSA.

In January 2025, the Departures Index for Walvis Bay Airport fell by 2.9%, in contrast to the 14.8% growth posted in December 2024. However, the index grew by 19.7% year on year.

"In the month under review, the total number of passengers who departed via Walvis Bay Airport stood at 4,779 passengers, marginally lower than the 4,921 passengers recorded in the preceding month. However,

this was higher than the 3,994 passengers reported in the same month of 2024," the report noted.

In January 2025, the Arrivals Index for Hosea Kutako Airport declined by 17.3%, dropping further when compared to the previous month's decline of 2.4%. In contrast, the index grew by 10.8% on a yearly basis.

In January 2025, the number of passenger arrivals recorded at Hosea Kutako Airport terminals dropped 29,802 compared to 35,775 passengers recorded month earlier, while 26,715 passenger arrivals registered in January 2024.

The Departures Index for Hosea Kutako Airport recovered in January 2025 with a decline of 9.7% compared to a reduction of 14.0% posted in December 2024. However, the index posted an increase of 7.1% on an annual basis.

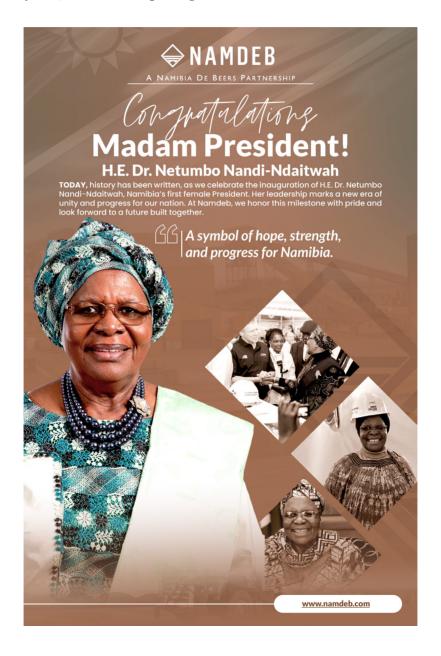
"In absolute terms, the number of passengers that departed through the Hosea Kutako Airport terminals stood at 30,759 passengers in January 2025, below the 34,081 passengers recorded in December 2024, while 28,731 passengers were recorded in January 2024," the NSA revealed.



The Arrivals Index for Eros Airport in January 2025 increased by 4.6%, in contrast to the preceding month's decline of 22.6%. On the other hand, the index declined by 8.2% in the corresponding month of 2024.

In January 2025, the number of passengers

that arrived via Eros Airport terminals increased to 2,410 passengers, up from 2,303 passenger arrivals recorded in December 2024, while the corresponding month of 2024 recorded a total of 2,624 passenger arrivals.



The Departures Index of Eros Airport for January 2025 recorded an increase of 6.6%, in contrast to a decline of 19.3% recorded in December 2024. Conversely, the index contracted by 7.0% on a yearly basis.

"The number of passengers that departed

via the Eros Airport terminals in January 2025 increased to 2,495 passengers, compared to 2,340 passengers recorded a month earlier. However, this was lower than the 2,684 passengers who departed via the airport in January 2024," said the NSA.





Progress is never the work of one. It is built through shared vision and collective effort.

As Namibia celebrates 35 years of Independence, we stand at the dawn of a new chapter. The inauguration of Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, our country's first female president. is a testament to what we can achieve when we move forward together.





# Govt backs Universal Service Fund with N\$145 million in seed funding

The government has allocated N\$145 million over three years as seed funding for the Universal Service Fund (USF), a strategic initiative aimed at expanding Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility across the country.

This was announced by Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Emma Theofelus, during the official launch of the USF.

As part of the first phase of the initiative, the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has disbursed a subsidy of N\$31 million to Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) to develop nine network sites. The USF will provide financial support to mobile network operators to mitigate the challenges of expanding services in highrisk, low-return areas. By offering subsidies, the fund will facilitate the introduction of advanced technologies in remote regions, ensuring equitable access to digital resources.

"Statistically, our achievements are commendable. According to CRAN, mobile network coverage now stands at 91% of the population, and internet penetration continues to rise. In urban areas, nearly 85%



of households have access to reliable internet services, while rural connectivity is steadily improving due to strategic investments in digital infrastructure," Theofelus said.

The Minister further emphasised that priority has been given to regions where 4G coverage is below 80%, in line with the National Broadband Policy.

The regions include Kavango West, Kavango East, Kunene, Ohangwena and Oshikoto. Additionally, 16 schools and four clinics have been selected to receive uncapped Wi-Fi as part of the initiative.

Additionally. the initiative will promote digital literacy, equipping Namibians with the skills needed to thrive in the modern digital landscape. This initiative aligns with Namibia's commitment to international development frameworks, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG9, which advocates for resilient inclusive infrastructure. industrialisation. and innovation.

The initiative further supports Namibia's Vision 2030, the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), all of which prioritise ICT development as a cornerstone of national progress.

Chairperson of CRAN's Board of Directors, Tulimevava Mufeti, emphasised that the initiative

marks a transformative milestone for telecommunications accessibility in Namibia.

"Connectivity is no longer a luxury; it is a necessity. It is fundamental for education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and overall socio-economic development. Yet, many rural and underserved areas still lack adequate access to these critical services. The USF is a strategic tool designed to close this gap by fostering innovation and collaboration to expand telecommunications infrastructure," Mufeti said.



National Commission on Research, Science & Technology (NCRST) Congratulates Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on Her Historic Inauguration

The NCRST proudly congratulates Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on her inauguration as the 5th President of the Republic of Namibia and the nation's first female Head of State. Your leadership marks a pivotal moment in Namibia's history, symbolising progress and the breaking of new ground.

The NCRST fully supports your vision of fostering integrity, accountability and unity, as outlined in your leadership agenda for Namibia. We share the collective goal of advancing research, science and technology to drive socio-economic development for the prosperity of all Namibians

On 21 March 2025, Namibia also commemorates 35 years of independence (1990–2025), reflecting on our nation's journey of resilience and unity. We invite all Namibians to join in the celebrations, honouring our shared history and looking forward to a future filled with promise and opportunity.

A new era of leadership begins - may it be one of progress, unity and prosperity for all.

Long live the Republic of Namibia! Long live visionary leadership!

## Unlocking Namibia's potential: The case for private sector-led growth

By Tio Nakasole

am of the view that if the government is partially struggling to address some of the fundamental challenges, at least it should be able to empower its people to be able to flourish.

Empowerment can take many forms, such as through education, the ability to provide essential services or providing a conducive environment and policy protection for the private sector to grow and not sequestrate each other. One example is that Namibia do not have the capacity, expertise and skills to develop a mine or drill for oil.

This is already a resource dilemma / curse on its own. We have mines but we don't trust ourselves in running. We have a lot of retail outlet, we run them but not ours in tandem neglecting Namibian owned ones. We have more trust on banking foreign banks than establishing ours.

We have diamond and gold deposit of mines, but we do not have any jewellery shop that is Namibian owned. We are the fourth uranium producer, but we do not produce vessels, or boats or motor vehicle. When will be the right time to think in private sector terms and start to envisage the possibility of contestation and other way of doing things in Namibia.

Globally, especially in the recent developed countries, the private sector is observed as the engine of long-term economic growth and a vital catalyst for social and economic development. Namibia too can become an Empowerment can take many forms, such as through education, the

ability to provide essential services or providing a conducive environment and policy protection for the private sector to grow and not sequestrate each other.

investment paradise once there are pragmatic measures that provide sufficient oxygen that pump private sector with the necessary. When all is placed squarely, the private sector will spark innovation and create a long chain of entrepreneurship, improve access to and the quality of economic opportunities, and support the sustainable use of natural resources. Furthermore, it will enable them to penetrate sophisticated sectors that enable a more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

#### **BAROMETER**

The World Bank stressed that in order for the most developing economies to end poverty within a decade, such economies need to achieve a gross domestic product per capita growth of about nine percent. At the same time, for these economies to escape the "middle-income trap", developing countries will need a GDP per capita growth of more than five per cent per year over extended periods. All in all, the private sector must become more dynamic and resilient to meet the formidable development challenges that most developing countries are confronted with. One of the impediments highlighted is that informal enterprises often operating in less favourable environments with limited infrastructure and a less skilled workforce face significant challenges in achieving sustainable growth.

To narrow it down to Namibia, Namibia is classified as an upper middle-income country. This is not synonymous by saying that the country is performing above its weight economically. The questions are, what are the laws and best practices that the private sector can propel some challenges constraining Namibia, that are far beyond the capacity of the government to tackle alone?

#### **EMPOWERMENT**

It was Mahatma Gandhi who once said, "Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need, but not everyone's greed." Therefore, this is just a reminder that once you allow your nation to fail to deliver due to megalomania, self-serving

or greed, or inability to unlock economic potential, ultimately this hinders prosperity. Article 16 in the Namibian constitution gave us the key economic provisions, there are still certain degrees of grey area of a unclear policy framework within which economic empowerment can take place. Certain initiatives that were meant to empower micro and small medium enterprises, such as the Affirmative Action Loan Schemes, the National Resettlement Policy. the Development Capital Portfolio of the GIPF, City Savings and Investment Bank. Namibia Harvest, quota allocation in the fishing industry, Barden International, Ongopolo Mining and Processing and the SME Bank, some of them have been a liability to the national prosperity and to the intended end user. After thirty-five years of independence, which about to be celebrated in a few days, these cul-de-sac schemes need proper cleansing iumpstarting the private sector.

In the end, this will not individual only help orSMEs. banks. tourism. manufacturing. construction and telecommunication but there are benefits attached to the registration of companies the overall economies. for Where formal indentureship is high, job creation, productivity, and economic growth tend to be high too. The success of formal enterprises translates into



higher volumes of gross domestic product and growth rate at the macro level, as more goods and services will be produced year in and year out. It is not only ending there; through tax revenue, but formal businesses also bolster government finances in support of social and economic policy goals. As formality expands in the business sector, the government will have a larger tax base that ultimately catapult the provision of essential public services such as infrastructure, education, and health care.

#### LESSONS

To draw good examples, in the 1950s, history has it that South Korea and Singapore were poor countries. An average person from these two countries lived below the poverty line. By the 1990s, these two countries had huge industries, and the average person had enough money to raise their living standards. In South Korea, the government encouraged the development of major conglomerates such as Hyundai, LG and SK by providing them with financial support, favourable policies and access to capital. In the end, these conglomerates were instrumental in scaling up production, driving technological innovation and contributing to South Korea's global competitiveness. These chaebols not only helped create a strong industrial base but also made a paradigm shift from agriculture to manufacturing. In a nutshell, they invested in advanced technology and research and development, improving the quality and competitiveness of South Korean goods. This has also catalysed the export-orientated government's mechanism, which encourages the domestic firms to increase exports, helping the country become noticeable in the global economy. These paved the way for the private sector in becoming a crucial player in generating foreign exchange and creating jobs, raising the standard of living for the population.

Whereas with Singapore, the government encourages the growth of small and medium-

sized enterprises by offering financial support, particularly in industries like manufacturing, retail, and services. The banking and finance industries, on the other hand, were booming due to favourable policies, and the private sector capitalised on the country's stable legal and political environment to establish a vibrant financial services industry that accommodates everyone.

Regarding the best practices with our private sector regulatory framework, the government must assist SMEs that do not overreact. There is a need to develop a legal market culture that is not detrimental to the start up that do not have means to production or collateral. Institution such as AgriBank and Development Bank of Namibia, need to scrutinise and reform requirements that keep the majority at the periphery in terms of access to capital. At the same time, they need to learn from some of the successful countries as per the aforementioned given that are not slaves to concepts that are western in character. Choosing the finest practices should not be equivalent to rejectionism or destroying all the current ones, but to be able to enact those that correlate with our country's nature and needs.

After all of these, having regulatory frameworks is not enough; effective government-provided services that facilitate compliance with regulations and provide institutional support to the private sector also play a preponderant role to nurture a thriving business environment. The key question is why Namibia is unable to do what these two Asian countries did.

\* Tio Nakasole is an Economics Honors degree holder, MBA final student, and a Research Analyst at MONASA Advisory and Associates. The views expressed do not represent those of his employer. - theoerastus@ gmail.com



### Govt urges financial institutions to support entrepreneurs, balance risk with investment

inister of Mines and Energy Tom Alweendo has urged financial institutions in Namibia to take a more proactive role in supporting entrepreneurship by providing capital, while striking a balance between risk aversion and investment.

He highlighted that extreme caution has clouded even the largest financial institutions, which are meant to serve as engines for growth, rather than merely acting as safeguards of security.

"We therefore need financial institutions that are willing to be involved, the ones that burn risk with opportunity, the ones that invest in financial products that undersell businesses, and that also take a proactive role in driving development," he said.

The Minister emphasised the importance of fostering venture capital systems and



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macro-finance initiatives to ensure that small enterprises have access to affordable credit.

He also highlighted the role of technology in expanding financial inclusion, ensuring that entrepreneurs are not excluded from opportunities due to outdated models of credit assessment.

"It often means embracing technology to expand financial inclusion, so that no entrepreneur is locked out of opportunity, simply due to some bureaucratic barriers or some outdated models of credit assessment," he added. While calling for a greater effort from financial institutions, Alweendo also acknowledged the role of government in creating an enabling environment for investment.

He stressed the need for policymakers to empower financial institutions to take calculated risks by providing incentives or guarantees that encourage responsible lending.

"We need to create environments where financial institutions feel empowered to take calculated risks, whether through guarantees or with incentives, or some form of frameworks, that promote responsible

lending without startling ambition," he stated.

The Minister stressed that no economy can grow without investment and that financial institutions play a key role in driving this process.

He noted the importance of shifting the mind-set from risk aversion to opportunity recognition, as the free flow of capital to those who need it most would help unlock potential across various sectors.

"The reality is really simple. No economy can grow without investment, and no investment can thrive without financial institutions that are willing to step forward as true partners in development," Alweendo remarked.

He further called on financial institutions to see themselves not only as protectors of capital but as catalysts for economic

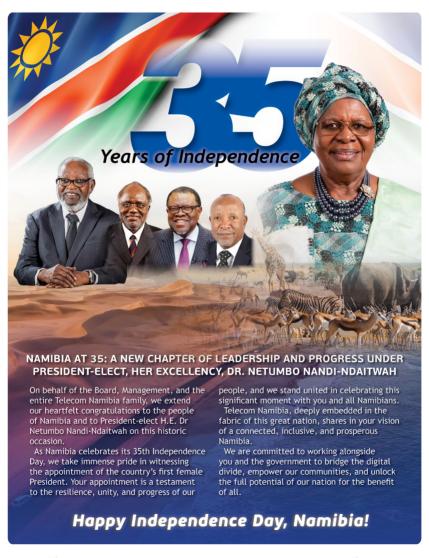


progress.

"I would therefore like to chime in with our financial institutions to know more, and also to be more, and to see themselves not just as protectors of capital, but also as capitalists for progress. Capital drives innovation, supporting infrastructure development, in

the process of creating jobs," he explained.

The Minister delivered these remarks at a business breakfast hosted by Stanlib Namibia that brought together stakeholders in the financial and energy sectors to discuss the intersection between finance, energy, and mining in a changing world.









amibia's new vehicle sales surged by 15.6% month-on-month in February, reaching 1,117 units compared to 966 recorded in January 2025, latest data shows.

According to IJG Securities, year-on-year, sales increased by 1.7%, while year-to-date figures went up 3.8% to 2,083 units, the highest for the first two months of the year since 2016.

Commercial vehicles dominated February's sales, accounting for 606 units, while 511 passenger vehicles were sold.

"Light commercial vehicles were the topselling category for the month, with 540 units sold. This however represents a 5.6% y/y decrease in sales compared to February 2024," said IJG.

On a 12-month cumulative basis, new vehicle sales experienced modest growth of 1.8% y/y to 12,885.

"The 1.8% y/y growth in 12-month cumulative new vehicle sales to 12,885 indicates a marginal upward trend, which is

likely to be further supported by the current low-interest rate environment," said IJG.

Meanwhile, a total of 511 new passenger vehicles were sold during the month, reflecting a 9.0% m/m increase and a 10.4% y/y rise compared to the 463 units sold in February 2024.

"Year-to-date, new passenger vehicle sales reached 980 units, marking a 10.0% y/y increase compared to the 891 units sold during the same period last year. On a 12-month cumulative basis, sales of new passenger vehicles totalled 5,873 units, a slight decline of 1.0% y/y," IJG said.

In February, 606 new commercial vehicles were sold, marking a 21.9% m/m increase compared to the 497 units sold in January.

According to the firm, this also represents the highest monthly number of units sold since October 2024.

New commercial vehicle sales were however down 4.6% y/y compared to the 635 units sold in February 2024.



"Sales of light commercial vehicles reached 540 units, up 16.6% m/m from the 463 units sold in January, while medium commercial vehicle sales totalled 25 units, reflecting a 25.0% m/m increase and substantial 66.7% y/y rise," said IJG.

In contrast, heavy commercial vehicle sales declined by 14.6% y/y, totalling 41 units, yet reflects a significant improvement compared to the 14 units sold in January.

On a 12-month cumulative basis, light commercial vehicle sales are up 4.6% y/y, and medium commercial vehicle sales have increased by 6.9% y/y.

On the other hand, heavy commercial vehicle sales are, however, down 0.7% y/y over the corresponding 12-month cumulative period a year ago.

In terms of market share, Toyota continues to lead the year-to-date sales in both the passenger and light commercial vehicle segments.

In the passenger vehicle segment, Toyota holds a 50% market share, while in the light commercial vehicle segment, Toyota retained a 66% share.

Volkswagen continues to secure the second-largest share in the passenger segment with a 15.5% market share, while Ford captured 12.5% of the light commercial segment.

In the medium commercial vehicle segment, Toyota leads with a 40% share of total sales, while Hino and Mercedes-Benz each captured 20% of the medium commercial vehicle sales.

In the heavy and extra-heavy commercial vehicle segment, both Faw and Hino secured a 24% share of sales. Scania followed closely with a 20% share, while Volvo Trucks accounted for 12% of sales.

### For Daily Namibian Finance and Business news







## RMB Namibia backs NUST's Bloomberg Finance Lab with equipment sponsorship

Romputer equipment for the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) for the launch of the country's first Bloomberg Finance Lab.

The initiative, in collaboration with MTC and the Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), aims to enhance financial education, investment literacy, and market analytics training in Namibia.

The Bloomberg Finance Lab will provide undergraduate and graduate students with access to industry-standard financial tools, including e-learning certification courses such as Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC).

Students enrolled in undergraduate and Master's programs will also receive training on the Bloomberg Terminal, along with courses on investment, risk, and portfolio management. Additionally, the lab will be open to NUST's academic community for research purposes.

"This sponsorship reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening financial market education and investment readiness in Namibia by ensuring students, professionals, and researchers have access to world-class financial tools and insights. It is part of how we are building a globally competitive Namibia," Ian Erlank, Head of Global Markets at RMB Namibia said.



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This sponsorship reflects our ongoing commitment to strengthening financial market education and investment readiness in Namibia by ensuring students, professionals, and researchers have access to world-class financial tools and insights.

"We look forward to working closely to shape the next generation of financial professionals and furthering our shared vision for financial excellence."

The establishment of the Bloomberg Finance Lab underscores the importance of collaboration between academia, the private sector, and technology leaders in advancing industry-driven education.

RMB Namibia, a division of FirstRand Namibia Limited, is a key player in corporate and investment banking, with expertise in infrastructure and project finance across sub-Saharan Africa.



















Commodities	
Spot Gold	3027.46
Platinum	991.27
Palladium	964.38
Silver	30.95
Uranium	63.45
Brent Crude	70.76
Iron Ore	97.83
Copper	9885.84
Natural Gas	4.17
Lithium	9.85

Currencies		
USD/ZAR	18.1467	
EUR/ZAR	19.2300	
GBP/ZAR	23.5280	
USD/CNY	7.2304	
EUR/USD	1.0884	
GBP/USD	1.2966	
USD/RUB	84.0001	
CPI	3.60%	
Repo Rate	6.75%	
Primo Poto	10 50%	

