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## MAIN STORY



# Windhoek District Hospital cost rises to N\$3.2 billion

The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has revised the projected cost for the construction of the Windhoek District Hospital to N\$3.2 billion, an increase from the initial estimate of N\$2.9 billion.

The planned 500-bed facility, to be located in the Havana informal settlement, is intended to alleviate the pressure on Katutura Intermediate Hospital and

## Crucial Dates

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

enhance healthcare delivery to Windhoek's growing urban population.

"The construction of a hospital requires huge investment, i.e. development of services (water, electricity, sewer, roads) before the actual construction of the hospital building, ancillary services and staff accommodation can commence," the ministry said in a response to The Brief.

The Health Ministry indicated that the revised cost includes not only the hospital structure itself, but also essential infrastructure developments required to support the facility.

Once completed, the hospital will provide a full range of outpatient and inpatient services, significantly reducing the need for referrals to overburdened hospitals. Key facilities will include a pharmacy, radiology department, outpatient services, kitchen, and laundry, according to the ministry.

The hospital's location was chosen to improve access to health services for Windhoek's underserved communities. "The hospital is expected to bring essential health services closer to Windhoek residents, reducing reliance on overburdened referral hospitals and ultimately saving lives through timely care," MoHSS said.

Supervision of the project according

to the Ministry, will remain under the Government, with responsibilities shared between the Ministry of Works and Transport and the MoHSS.

"The overall supervision is by Government (MWT and MoHSS) with a delegated function to the professional consultants responsible for the design. The construction component open bidding will be undertaken," the Ministry said.

Bulk infrastructure services to the hospital site are expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year, while the hospital is projected to be fully operational by the end of 2027.

The facility will also feature solar water heating systems to cut electricity usage and reduce the carbon footprint, part of the ministry's drive to promote environmental sustainability and long-term cost efficiency.

According to the 2023 National Infrastructure Atlas compiled by the Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia has 530 public health facilities, including 49 hospitals, 60 health centres, and 421 clinics. Among these, five are referral hospitals, with Windhoek Central serving as the national referral facility, while Katutura, Oshakati, Onandjokwe, and Rundu serve as intermediate hospitals.



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ORIGINAL THINKING





# 141,000 non-compliant businesses face deregistration by BIPA

**M**ore than 141,000 businesses in Namibia are at risk of being deregistered after the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) began a phased process to remove entities that have failed to comply with statutory beneficial ownership (BO) disclosure requirements.

The BO disclosure obligation, which came into effect in July 2023, was introduced through amendments to the Companies Act, 2004, and the Close Corporations Act, 1988.

It aligns Namibia with global anti-money laundering standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental organisation promoting transparency and combating illicit financial activity.

“A significant number of approximately one hundred and forty-one thousand (141,000) entities have yet to fulfil their beneficial ownership obligations and are consequently at risk of being deregistered,” said Ainna Kaundu, Acting Chief Executive Officer of BIPA.


According to Kaundu, the directive follows months of public awareness efforts aimed at educating businesses on their compliance responsibilities.

“Since the legislation came into force, BIPA has undertaken extensive awareness campaigns using various media platforms and nationwide outreach programmes,” she said.

In a directive issued on 11 April 2025, BIPA warned that all non-compliant entities would face deregistration from 16 May 2025 unless they complied by the stated deadline.



TENDER



Namclear hereby invites qualified vendors to participate in the below Request for Proposal:

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR): NC02/2025**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (“RFP”) FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT TO FACILITATE NAMCLEAR’S STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS & DRAFTING OF A 3-YEAR PLAN**


The complete Terms of Reference (TOR) can be requested via email and must also be submitted electronically to the same address.

**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, 09 MAY 2025 AT 12H00 PM**

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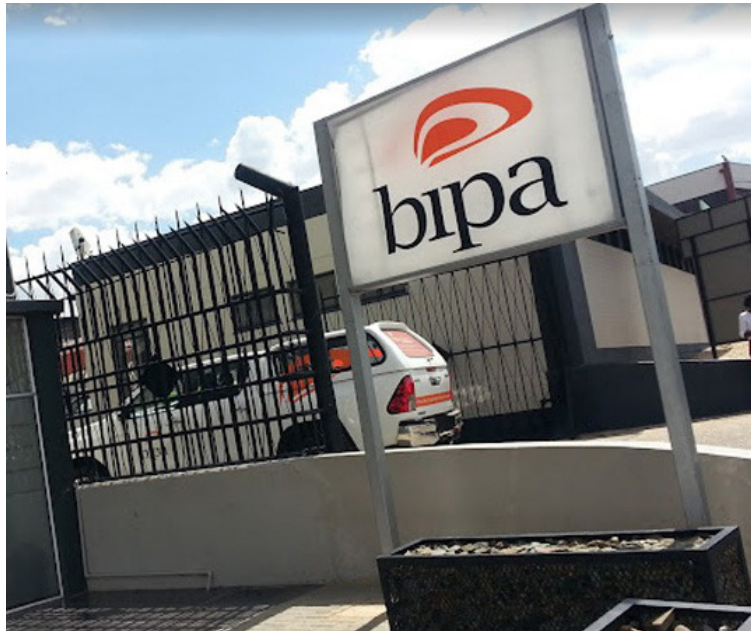
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Kaundu explained that the deregistration process would follow a prescribed legal procedure: “Non-compliant entities will be placed on an Inactive List. If they remain non-compliant for at least six months, they will be deregistered in accordance with the law.”

She warned that deregistration could result in serious financial and legal repercussions for affected businesses.

“We urgently advise all businesses, particularly those holding assets such as immovable property under their entity’s name, to rectify their compliance status without delay. Failure to do so will result in deregistration, and ownership of assets held

by the deregistered entity may ultimately vest in the State,” Kaundu said.

She further noted that the implications extend beyond asset forfeiture.

“Deregistration can lead to the loss of existing contracts, especially those related to public procurement, the closure or restriction of business bank accounts, and a loss of investor confidence,” Kaundu said.

“Entities involved in ongoing litigation may also face increased legal risks. Given the severe and far-reaching implications of deregistration, we appeal to all non-compliant entities to immediately submit their beneficial ownership information and ensure compliance.”

## Silent saboteurs: How jealousy from older subordinates undermines young leadership and team spirit

By Junias Erasmus

Leadership in the modern workplace is no longer about age, grey hair, or how long you've occupied a desk. It's about capability, vision, strategic thinking, and emotional intelligence.

As a result, younger supervisors are rising into leadership roles with increasing frequency. They bring with them not only fresh perspectives and tech-savvy mindsets but also a drive to challenge outdated systems and accelerate innovation. However, not everyone welcomes this gorgeous shift with open arms. Among the most dangerous obstacles young leaders face is the subtle, often unspoken resistance from older direct reporting subordinates, what we call the "silent saboteurs."

They rarely defy instructions openly or stage dramatic confrontations. Instead, they roll their eyes in meetings, respond with thinly veiled sarcasm, constantly refer to "how things used to be done or I know how it works." They are the kings and queens of workplace gossip, a clique of gossip-mongers within the organization who fail to embody its core values, withhold information, question decisions behind closed doors, and undermine leadership through casual gossip. Share a simple letter or email with them without saying it's from management; they question every word, but once you reveal that it was approved by management, suddenly everything is fine. Their resistance is passive, yet persistent, and deeply corrosive to team morale and cohesion.

The root of this behavior is often jealousy,



**HR leaders and executives need to promote intergenerational respect, create safe spaces for dialogue, and offer training on managing upward and navigating changing team dynamics.**

fueled by insecurity and pride. Some older employees, especially those who have not progressed into leadership themselves, struggle to accept that someone the age of their son or daughter is now in charge and practically makes them their boss. They may feel overlooked, undervalued, or even humiliated, forgetting that leadership is not about age, but about vision, responsibility, and results.

However, reporting to a younger boss, the age of your son or daughter should never be a source of shame or jealousy. On the contrary, it should be a source of inspiration. It is a testament to the progress of organizational thinking, one that recognizes potential over pedigree and empowers those best equipped to lead, regardless of age. Instead of resisting young leaders, older employees have the opportunity to support and strategically learn from them, fostering a dynamic exchange

of wisdom and innovation that benefits themselves and the entire organization.

When jealousy takes root, it doesn't just affect the young supervisor. It creates an atmosphere of division, slows down productivity, and encourages a culture of mistrust in the department and eventually the entire organisation. Team members become uncertain about whom to follow, collaboration erodes, and performance dips. On the other hand, when older subordinates embrace the leadership of a younger

supervisor with openness and humility, they demonstrate true professional maturity. They become role models not only for their peers but also for the younger generation watching them navigate this shift with grace.

Organizations must take this deconstructive move by old guards seriously. HR leaders and executives need to promote intergenerational respect, create safe spaces for dialogue, and offer training on managing upward and navigating changing team dynamics. At the same time, young leaders must lead with

empathy, recognizing the value older employees bring and creating room for their contributions to thrive.

Leadership is not a competition between generations. It is a collaboration. The baton of leadership must pass from one hand to another, not with resistance, but with respect. The future belongs to teams that know how to work across ages, across experiences, and egos. Reporting to a younger boss is not a defeat, but a partnership; we all win.

**\*Junias Erasmus works in the Financial Sector. He is a Management Scientist and Operational Researcher, a Strategic Scholar & a Motivational Speaker. This article is written in his personal capacity. For inquiries, contact him at Junias99@gmail.com**

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**Entity Qualifying Criteria**

- Entities legally registered within the SADC region
- Entities that have 5 years or more experience within the mining and/or dozing environment/s

**The Scope of Services shall primarily consist of:**

- The supply, operation and maintenance of Dozers

**TENDER REGISTRATION**

Interested parties may submit their company profiles (including a minimum of 3 references) to Namdeb's Supply Chain Help Desk **before or on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**, at the below listed details:

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


**The Tender Enquiry documents will be shared with all entities that meet the above qualifying criteria**

**COMPULSORY SITE VISIT**

A compulsory Virtual Site Visit shall be conducted on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**, at 10H00. Only Tenderers who attend the Site Visit shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.

**SUBMISSIONS**

All documents in support of the requirements must be submitted via e-mail to [tender@namdeb.com](mailto:tender@namdeb.com)  
The closing date and time for submissions is: Tuesday **27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 14h00**.



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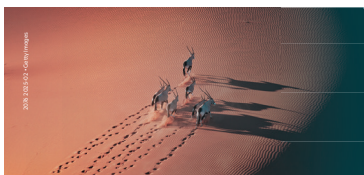


## Bank of Namibia issues N\$270 million worth of commemorative notes

**T**he Bank of Namibia has disclosed that it has printed commemorative banknotes valued at N\$270 million in honour of the country's past Presidents, including the late President Hage Geingob.

This includes five million N\$30 notes

introduced in 2020 to commemorate 30 years of independence and Namibia's presidential leadership since 1990, as well as two million N\$60 notes released this year to celebrate the life and legacy of President Geingob.



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According to the Bank's Spokesperson, Kazembire Zemburuka, 677,000 of the N\$60 banknotes, representing 33.9% of the total printed, have been issued into circulation since March.

"6,853 pieces have been procured globally as collector's items which equates to 0.3%. It is worth noting that the N\$60 has only been in circulation for a month," Zemburuka told The Brief.

In comparison, 32,735 pieces of the N\$30 note or 0.7% of the total issued, have been acquired globally by collectors.

Zemburuka attributed the limited

domestic uptake of the commemorative notes to Namibia's small numismatic market.

"Namibia does not have a large collector footprint, with most collectors being from South Africa and the international market. Namibians obtain the banknote at commercial banking halls, hence making it challenging to track local collectors," he said.

The central bank also noted that very few of the N\$30 notes have been returned due to damage, attributing this to the durability of the material used.

"The N\$30.00 banknote is made of polymer which has a longer lifespan compared to cotton banknotes and is more resistant to wear and tear. This is evident in the statistics since to date only 1.2% (60,000 pieces) have been received back by the Bank as damaged banknotes," Zemburuka explained.

No reprints are planned for either of the commemorative denominations.

"Commemorative banknotes are usually issued in limited quantities to celebrate a significant event, person or milestone and are therefore mostly printed as a once-off print," Zemburuka said.

"The N\$60.00 banknote was a once-off print to celebrate the Life and Legacy of the Third Namibian President, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob and hence no plans for a reprint in the future again."



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# A quick guide to internal branding

By Pierre Mare

I am old school when it comes to the internal brand. My take has been that association with the company and its brand is rewarded with a job, salary and in some cases promotions for people who show strong leadership.

The downside of the approach is that people who repel customers should leave the company. They endanger the livelihoods of other employees.

However, formal internal branding has evolved to become the key to creating a cohesive company culture. It involves aligning employees with the company's core values, mission, and identity, ensuring that they not only understand the brand but also embody it daily. A successful internal brand motivates employees to live the brand's principles in both their interactions and their work.

The first step is to clarify the company's mission, vision, and values. These elements guide the organization's direction and its employees' actions. It's essential to define what the company stands for: its purpose, values, and identity. Consider whether the brand is innovative or community-oriented and ensure these characteristics resonate with employees.

A well-defined brand makes it easier for employees to connect emotionally, and these values should be communicated clearly and consistently.

Once the brand is defined, communication becomes key.

Leaders must embody the brand and set



**A well-defined brand makes it easier for employees to connect emotionally, and these values should be communicated clearly and consistently.**

the tone for the organization. Employees often look to leadership for guidance on how to behave, so it's vital that leadership consistently represents the brand's values.

The onboarding process should introduce new employees to the brand's mission, values, and expectations. This can be done through structured programs, workshops, and open communication.

Ongoing communication, such as internal newsletters, team meetings, and intranets, helps keep the brand message alive. Regular updates about company success further reinforce employees' connection to the brand.

Employee engagement is a vital aspect. When employees feel connected to the company's mission, they are more likely to embody the brand in their work.

Involving employees in the brand's development process by soliciting feedback creates a sense of ownership and investment.



Recognition and reward programs help reinforce brand values by celebrating employees who exemplify them. Publicly recognizing such employees sets an example for others, creating a culture that continuously reinforces the brand.

Additionally, training employees on how to represent the brand ensures everyone is aligned with its values, whether it's in customer service, decision-making, or team collaboration.

The work environment must also align with the brand's values. If the brand emphasizes innovation, for example, the workplace should foster creativity and provide the tools needed for employees to succeed.

Encouraging open communication channels where employees can share their feedback on the brand's representation is also crucial. Listening to employee concerns fosters trust and transparency, helping improve internal branding.

Monitoring the effectiveness of internal branding is an ongoing process. Regular assessments, such as surveys or feedback sessions, help gauge how well employees understand and live the brand's values.

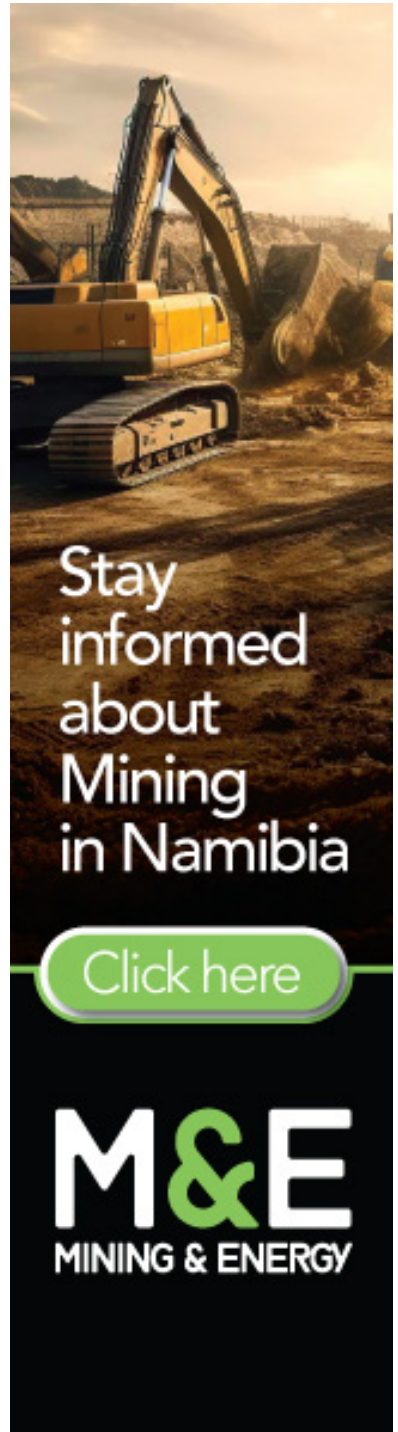
These evaluations allow for improvements and adjustments as needed. Internal branding must evolve alongside the company's growth. As business needs shift, so too should the branding strategy.

Building a strong internal brand is not a one-time effort but an ongoing process that requires consistent communication, employee engagement, and alignment with company values.

When done effectively, it creates a unified team that is motivated, aligned, and committed to bringing the brand to life every day.

Through a clear, consistent internal brand, companies can ensure that their employees are the strongest advocates for the brand's success.

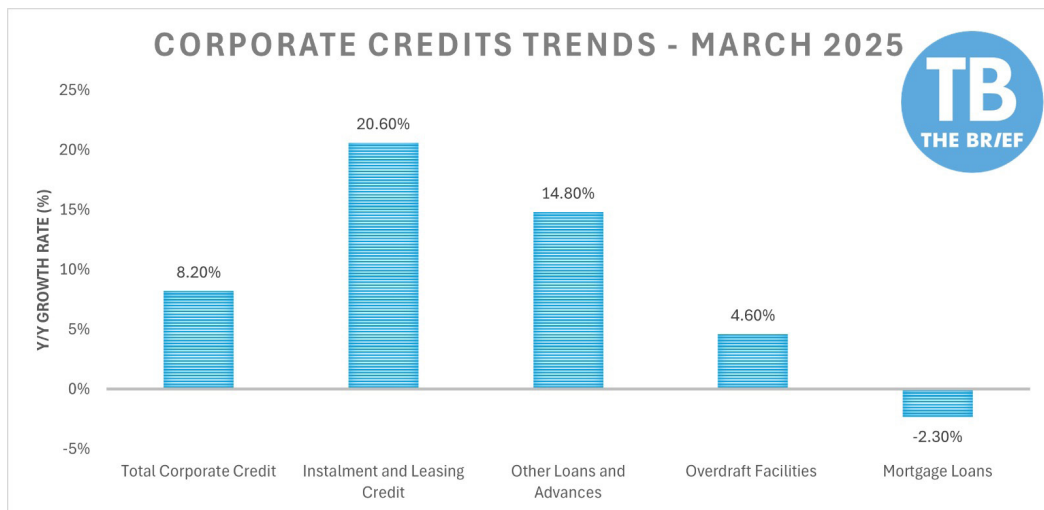
***\*Pierre Mare has contributed to development of several of Namibia's most successful brands. He believes that analytic management techniques beat unreasoned inspiration any day. Reach him at [contact@pressoffice7.com](mailto:contact@pressoffice7.com) if you need thought-leadership, strategy and support.***



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# Namibia's corporate debt rises by N\$1 billion in March

Namibia's corporate debt stock increased by N\$1 billion in March 2025, marking the fastest pace of business credit growth since December 2019, as demand for liquidity and capital investment surged across key sectors.

According to the latest data released by Simonis Storm, corporate borrowing rose by 8.2% year-on-year (y/y), up from 5.9% in February.

Junior Economist at Simonis Storm, Almandro Jansen, attributed the sharp rise in credit uptake to increased activity in mining, energy, tourism, manufacturing, and financial services — signalling a broad-based recovery in the Namibian economy.

"Installment and leasing credit grew by 20.6% y/y, up slightly from February's 20.4%, but still indicative of strong investment activity, particularly in transport, mining, and equipment-related sectors," Jansen said.

He noted that the elevated demand reflected

capital expenditure by firms upgrading vehicle fleets and acquiring durable assets.

"Other loans and advances surged to 14.8% y/y in March, up from 9.6% in February, with demand concentrated in manufacturing and energy. This suggests strategic credit usage for project financing and working capital needs," he added.

After more than a year of contraction, overdraft facilities also showed signs of recovery, increasing by 4.6% y/y in March compared to just 0.3% in February.

"The return to growth after over a year of contraction signals improved operational cash flow requirements and a tentative return to flexible credit lines," Jansen said.

However, commercial mortgage lending continued to weaken, slipping deeper into negative territory.

"This indicates that the commercial property market remains weak, with businesses continuing to delay large real

Installment and leasing credit grew by 20.6% y/y, up slightly from February's 20.4%, but still indicative of strong investment activity, particularly in transport, mining, and equipment-related sectors.

estate investments in favour of more liquid or short-term financing structures,” Jansen said.

On the household side, Namibia's debt stock reached N\$129 billion in March 2025, reflecting a month-on-month increase of N\$23.8 million. Household credit rose by 2.8% y/y, slightly higher than the 2.6% recorded in February.

Despite this improvement, mortgage credit growth slowed to 0.6% y/y, reversing the modest momentum seen earlier in the year.

“This stagnation highlights persistent affordability challenges amid elevated home prices and weak wage growth,” said Jansen.

Unsecured borrowing remained stable, with other loans and advances maintaining 7.9% y/y growth in March.

“The sustained growth points to continued reliance on flexible credit facilities, particularly among middle-income households seeking accessible financing options,” Jansen said.

Short-term borrowing patterns also reflected changing household liquidity needs. Overdraft facilities for households posted a -12.5% y/y contraction in March, continuing a recovery from earlier declines.

“Installment and leasing credit stood firm at 14.5% y/y, rising from 12.3% in February. The strength of this segment is underpinned by high vehicle sales and growing consumer demand for durables,” Jansen said.

Overall, Namibia's Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) rose to 5.0% y/y in March, up from 3.9% in February, driven largely by strong corporate credit uptake and steady gains in household borrowing.

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## Know your winter vegetables and how to grow them

By Hanks Saisai

**W**intertime offers an opportune time for farmers to grow a variety of cool weather loving crops. Vegetables grown at the right time typically thrive and grow optimally, producing significant yields. Namibia has seven crop production zones, namely Zambezi, Kavango, KARST, North Central, Central, South and Orange, according to the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB). During winter, farmers in these zones can grow a variety of winter vegetables such as onions, cabbage, lettuce, beetroot, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower to meet local demand.

Onions (*Allium cepa*) are a common crop that can be grown during the upcoming winter season. This crop prefers a range of soils, but loamy soils conventionally produce better results for farmers. The ideal soil for growing onions should be well-drained, with good aeration and a soil pH range of 5.5 to 6.5 (slightly acidic conditions). Onions require temperature ranges of 18 – 22 °C during the day and wintertime offers such temperatures for optimal growth. The ideal planting time for onions is the end of March to the beginning of April, and the seeds can be sown directly into prepared planting beds. Onions have a growing period of 90 to 155 or 200 days, depending on the variety

grown by the farmer. The common spacing recommendations are 15 to 20 cm between rows, 7 to 10 cm within rows, and a sowing depth of 0.5 – 1 cm. Adding manure during land preparation is recommended, but it is essential for farmers to test the soil for accurate fertilizer application. Farmers can also apply NPK (2:3:2 or 2:3:4) throughout the growing period. Moreover, the water requirements for onions range from 400 to 600 mm over the growing period, and if planted accordingly, a farmer can achieve an average yield of 30 tons per Hectare.

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) is another common crop that can be grown during the winter season. This crop prefers a range of soils, but loamy soil produces the best results for farmers. The soil should be well-drained with good aeration and contain an abundance of organic matter to supply sufficient nutrients. The soil must have a soil pH range of 6.5 to 7 (slightly acidic to neutral soils). Cabbages require temperature ranges of 15 to 20 °C during the day and can tolerate frost up to – 3 °C, and wintertime offers such temperatures for optimal growth. The end of March to the beginning of April offers an ideal planting time for cabbages. Cabbage seeds must be sown in seedling trays, and at a later stage, the farmer can transplant the seedlings into prepared seedbeds until they reach maturity. Cabbages have a growing



period of 85 to 90 or 120 days, depending on the variety grown. The common spacing recommendations are 50 to 70 cm between rows, 40 to 50 cm within rows, and a sowing depth of 0.5 – 1 cm in the seedling trays. A soil test should be conducted to ensure correct fertilizer application, however, the addition of manure at soil preparation is ideal. Moreover, cabbages may prefer Nitrogen-rich fertilizers, such as Urea or chicken manure can be an ideal organic fertilizer (NB: Do not make use of fresh chicken manure, it must be 2 months old before you can use it). The water requirements for growing cabbages range from 440 to 500 mm over the growing period. If planted correctly and properly cared for, a farmer can achieve an average yield of 40,000 to 50,000 heads per Hectare.

Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris*) can also be grown during winter, known for its nutritious roots. This crop can also be grown in a wide range of soils but prefers loamy soil for good results. The soil should be well drained with good aeration and must have a soil pH range of 5.5 to 6.5 (slightly acidic soil condition). The ideal day temperature for growing beetroot should range from 15 to 20 oC for optimal growth. The end of March and beginning of April offer an ideal planting time, and beetroot seeds can be sown directly in the seedbeds or seedling trays and later be transplanted by the farmer. Beetroots have a growing period of 60 to 90 days, depending on the variety.

The commonly recommended spacing requirements of beetroot are 40 cm between rows, 10 cm within rows, and a depth of 1 – 2 cm in beds or seedling trays. A soil test should be conducted to ensure correct fertilizer application, however, adding manure at soil preparation is ideal to ensure the soil supplies essential elements. Beetroot has water requirements ranging from 400 to 600 mm over the growing period. If planted correctly and properly cared for, a farmer can achieve an average yield of 20 tons per Hectare.

Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) is another common crop that can be grown during winter, known

for its nutritious leaves that are often popular in the fast-food industry. Lettuce can be grown in a range of soils, but loamy soil is always ideal for optimal yields. The soil should be well-drained with good aeration and must contain a lot of organic matter to provide sufficient nutrients. The soil pH should range from 6.5 to 7 (slightly acidic to neutral soils). Lettuce requires temperature ranges of 15 to 20 oC during the day and can tolerate frost up to – 3 oC, and wintertime offers such temperatures for optimal growth. The end of March to the beginning of April offers an ideal planting time, and lettuce seeds must be sown in seedling trays. The seedlings can be transplanted at a later stage into prepared seedbeds until they reach maturity. Lettuce has a growing period of 45 to 75 days, depending on the variety grown by the farmer. The commonly recommended spacing requirements for lettuce crops are 60 cm between rows, 30 cm within rows, and a sowing depth of 1 – 2 cm in beds or seedling trays. Correct fertilizer application requires a farmer to conduct a soil test, however, adding manure during soil preparation is ideal. Due to its leafy nature, lettuce may prefer Nitrogen-rich fertilizers, such as Urea or chicken manure can be an ideal organic fertilizer (NB: Do not make use of fresh chicken manure, it must be 2 months old before you can use it). The water requirements for lettuce crops range from 440 to 500 mm over the growing period.

If planted correctly and properly cared for, a farmer can achieve an average yield of 20 tons per Hectare.

Other crops that can be grown by farmers during winter include carrots, broccoli and cauliflower. Ideally, farmers should grow crops driven by market demand, and it is equally vital to secure a market before venturing into the production of these crops. Moreover, if a farmer's production site is larger than 0.5 Hectares (5,000 m<sup>2</sup>), it is essential to register as a producer with the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB).

***\*Hanks Saisai is a Technical Advisor: Crops and Poultry at Agribank***

# Speculations have become reality: AI innovations and Africa's strategic opportunity

By Stantin Siebritz

In the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, yesterday's speculations are quickly becoming today's reality. Huawei's latest Ascend 910D AI chip exemplifies this trend perfectly. Unveiled as a direct response to restricted access to American technologies such as Nvidia's flagship H100 chip, the Ascend 910D is no longer mere speculation; it represents a tangible leap towards AI independence. Huawei is determined to demonstrate that when international markets close their doors, innovation can flourish domestically. Similarly, Intel's Gaudi 3 accelerator has also emerged as a cost-effective challenger in a market historically dominated by Nvidia. For African enterprises and innovators, this intensified competition in AI hardware translates into greater choice and potentially more affordable options to deploy robust AI solutions.

Meanwhile, on the software front, the emergence of Gwen 3 marks another transition from speculation to reality. Previously, powerful multimodal AI models were largely proprietary and closely guarded, reserved for a few tech giants. Now, models



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**Namibia could invite partnerships to establish AI innovation hubs or state-of-the-art computing facilities from whichever nation offers the most advantageous terms.**

such as Gwen 3 are not only open-source but also demonstrate capabilities surpassing established entities such as OpenAI and DeepSeek in certain benchmarks. By "multimodal," we mean these AI tools effortlessly handle diverse inputs such as text, images, and video simultaneously, vastly expanding their utility. Echoing the revolutionary spirit of the open-source software movement decades ago, these models, as a classic '80s digital hero would put it, truly "fight for the users" by democratising powerful AI tools.

For African tech ecosystems, this wave of



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open models offers unprecedented potential. African developers and entrepreneurs no longer need to remain dependent on distant tech giants. Instead, they now possess powerful AI models they can freely adapt, innovate with, and tailor specifically for local languages, cultural contexts, and region-specific challenges, without exorbitant costs or stringent usage restrictions.

The current backdrop of escalating US-China competition, previously a topic of speculation among geopolitical analysts, is now definitively shaping global technology trends. Both superpowers, driven by rivalry and economic interests, are actively seeking markets and partnerships globally, and Africa has emerged as an attractive destination for their technological and infrastructural investments. According to Chinasa Okolo, a Brookings Institution expert, Africa's demand for technological advancement aligns neatly with these global powerhouses' strategic ambitions. Consequently, Africa finds itself in an unexpectedly favourable negotiating position.

Namibia, South Africa, and other African nations can leverage this unique position strategically. Rather than passively accepting aid or investment, Africa has the opportunity to actively negotiate favourable terms that include technology transfers, local capacity-building, and long-term infrastructure development.

For example, Namibia could invite partnerships to establish AI innovation hubs or state-of-the-art computing facilities from whichever nation offers the most advantageous terms. South Africa is already

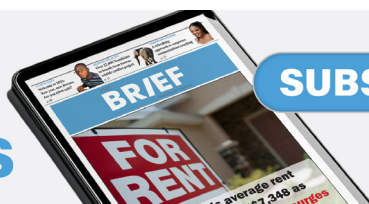
implementing this strategic vision by investing in AI hubs within its universities, cultivating local expertise capable of addressing distinct African challenges in agriculture, healthcare, and financial services.

Furthermore, the African continent offers something increasingly coveted by global tech giants: fresh and diverse data. Western markets face saturation of English-language data, making Africa's linguistic diversity and unique contextual data immensely valuable for training future AI models. As Okolo highlights, investing in Africa provides global tech giants invaluable data resources essential for enhancing AI capabilities universally. This scenario places Africa not just as a passive recipient but as a strategic partner with significant bargaining power.

Ultimately, Africa is poised to turn global tech competition into a springboard for digital transformation. Envision AI-driven innovations crafted in Namibia, powered by local data centres, addressing local needs, yet bolstered by global partnerships. As famously stated in a classic '90s blockbuster, "There is no fate but what we make for ourselves." Africa's AI future is no longer speculative; it is a concrete reality ready to be shaped decisively. The challenge now is for African policymakers and business leaders to proactively navigate and seize this extraordinary opportunity to catalyse a continental digital renaissance today.

***\*Stantin Siebritz is Managing Director of New Creation Solutions, and a Namibian Artificial Intelligence Specialist***

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# FINANCIAL MARKET MONITOR

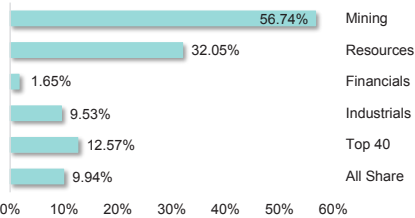
### Commodities

Spot Gold	3260.76
Platinum	969.30
Palladium	954.36
Silver	32.17
Uranium	66.95
Brent Crude	61.62
Iron Ore	94.34
Copper	9251.00
Natural Gas	3.59
Lithium	9.35

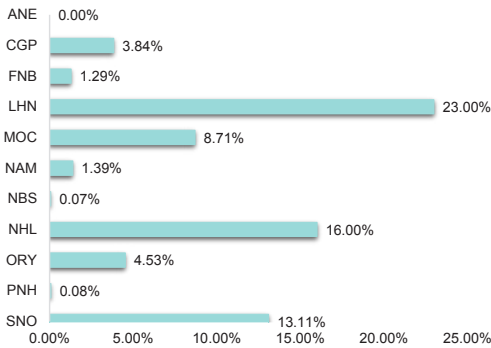
### Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.4071
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	24.5115
USD/CNY	7.2714
EUR/USD	1.1356
GBP/USD	1.3316
USD/RUB	82.8873
CPI	4.20%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

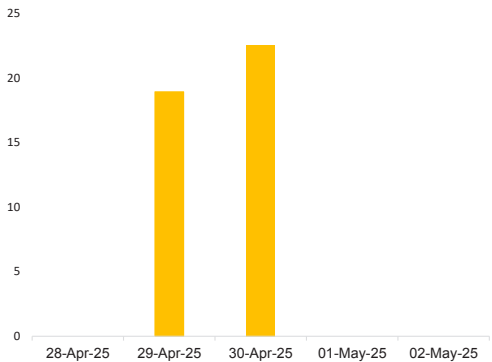
### JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



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



### JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



### Global Indices: Year to Date in %

