

EXPORTS

Namibia blueberry exports reach N\$52.2 million in 2024

p. 05



BUILDING

Swakopmund leads building completions worth N\$86.8 million in March

p. 09



DNA

Mandatory DNA testing in Namibia

p. 12



THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Namibia eyes billion-dollar fish waste innovation opportunity

THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025

NEW Flavours

Flavour	Weight	Price
Chicken Viennas	150g	N\$9.99
Chicken Viennas	450g	N\$28.99
Russian	420g	N\$24.99
Chicken Bacon	150g	N\$34.99
Chicken Polony	150g	N\$14.99
Chicken Polony	250g	N\$14.99
Chicken Polony	80g	N\$5.99

While Stocks Last. - Recommended selling price. - Available at participating retailers.

MAIN STORY

Namibia eyes billion-dollar fish waste innovation opportunity

Namibia's fishing industry is setting its sights on a multi-billion-dollar opportunity by transforming fish waste into high-value products — from Omega-3-rich hake liver oil to collagen-based cosmetics and even medical treatments.

According to fisheries expert and Namibia Ocean Cluster associate, Dave Russell, what is currently discarded at sea could form the foundation of a new, job-creating sector focused on health, wellness, and industrial applications.

Russell noted that Namibian vessels presently discard heads, guts, and skins at sea, despite their considerable potential in secondary industries.

He emphasised that international benchmarks, such as Iceland's century-old liver oil sector, illustrate how waste products can be converted into profitable commodities.

"What we are hearing from international partners is that when companies manage their waste more efficiently, they are better able to cope with quota reductions. This provides a cushion while stocks recover. Regeneration, at its core, makes good business sense," said Russell.

Citing early local research, Russell highlighted that 750 millilitres of hake liver oil had been extracted from just four



Crucial Dates

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

kilograms of livers — a strong indicator of commercial viability.

He explained that liver oil is rich in Omega-3 and vitamins A, D, and E — nutrients that are in high demand globally across health and nutrition markets.

He further noted the versatility of fish skins, which are used in the production of collagen and gelatin for health and beauty products.

Moreover, Russell pointed to international medical applications as further evidence of the value inherent in fish waste.

He cited Brazil's innovative use of tilapia skins in the treatment of burn wounds and chronic ulcers, highlighting how such innovations can yield high-value, life-enhancing products.

"Beyond industrial uses, fish skins are being used internationally for medical treatments. In countries like Brazil, tilapia skins are applied to burn wounds and chronic ulcers. They assist with skin regeneration and reduce healing time," he noted.

However, Russell observed that the waste generated by individual companies is insufficient to justify large-scale investment, while the cost of research and development remains a major hurdle.

As such, he stressed the need for collective action through platforms like the Namibia

Ocean Trust to drive product innovation and industrial transformation.

Russell explained that Namibia's hake sector comprises six companies with a combined quota of 110,000 tonnes.

Although some modernisation has taken place, the sector has yet to achieve the efficiency levels seen in leading fishing nations. He argued that value addition would not only boost economic returns but also create employment.

"The marine fishing industry employs around 18,000 people, with approximately 12,000 in the hake sector. By pursuing value addition through the utilisation of waste materials, the industry can create even more jobs beyond the current 18,000. Government has been promoting value addition — and rightly so — because it leads to employment creation," he said.

He also acknowledged that the recent quota reduction from 150,000 to 140,000 tonnes reflects mounting pressure on fish stocks and underscores the importance of sustainable resource management.

In contrast, Russell pointed out that the horse mackerel sector handles around 250,000 tonnes annually but employs only 6,000 people due to limited processing and value addition. This, he argued, clearly demonstrates the direct link between domestic processing and job creation.



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MEDIA RELEASE



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ECB APPROVES 3.8% NAMPOWER BULK ELECTRICITY TARIFF FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL PERIOD

1. BULK TARIFF APPLICATION

In accordance with the existing legal provisions, NamPower submitted a tariff application for an effective bulk tariff increase of 17.44%, for both generation and transmission tariff. NamPower submitted their bulk tariff application on 17 February 2025. The requested adjustment would have resulted in a bulk tariff increase from NS 1.8869 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to NS 2.3319 per kWh for the financial period 2025/2026.

The Board of Directors of the Electricity Control Board (ECB) met on 16 April 2025 and 12 May 2025, to deliberate on the NamPower bulk tariff application submitted, which will be effective 01 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

2. ECB BULK TARIFF REVIEW PROCESS

2.1. ECB Internal Review Process

In accordance with the tariff regulatory tools, the ECB conducted a comprehensive review process that included:

- Detailed analysis of the submitted tariff application;
- Financial impact analysis on NamPower;
- Economic impact analysis of the application; and
- Optimal dispatch of the local generation versus contracted imports of electricity.

Based on the detailed analysis, NamPower's revenue requirement was adjusted from NS\$8.8 billion to NS\$1.1 billion.

2.2. Bulk Tariff Review Process Stakeholder Consultations

As part of the bulk tariff review process, the ECB facilitated stakeholder consultation meetings where NamPower presented its tariff application to various stakeholders. These stakeholders included members of the public, industry's associations, business and employer federations and associations, agricultural unions, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), the renewable energy association, Government Ministries and agencies, and electricity distributors. Stakeholders were invited to engage and interrogate NamPower's application and to provide verbal and/or written comments and inputs for ECB's consideration. The ECB indeed considered the comments and inputs provided, in determining the final tariff.

3. BULK TARIFF REVIEW OUTCOME

After due consideration, especially the impact on affordability of electricity, and in accordance with the ECB tariff review methodology, the ECB Board resolved to approve a 3.8% for NamPower instead of the 17.44% initially requested by NamPower. However, the 3.8% will be supported with a financial support of NS\$283 million by the shareholder (Namibian Government), equivalent to 3.8%. This adjustment changes the average tariff from the current approved rate of NS1.8869 per kWh to NS 2.0611 per kWh for the financial period 2025/2026.

Regarding the impact of the approved bulk tariff on the economy, with the tariff increasing at 3.8%, below the current inflation rate of 4.2% (March 2025), it is expected that the tariff adjustment will have minimal impact on future inflation as well as on prices of goods and services. But it will slightly negatively impact the GDP growth as electricity cost is a component of the inflation calculation.

4. PRIMARY FACTORS CONSIDERED IN THE BULK TARIFF ADJUSTMENT

The primary factors influencing the tariff adjustment include:

- An increase in the return on assets and depreciation due to the revaluation of the transmission regulatory asset base, which rose from NS\$4.55 billion to NS\$17.4 billion.
- The cost of electricity generation, particularly the expenses associated with imported electricity. Approximately 25% of the generation cost is denominated in US dollar, making it susceptible to currency exchange fluctuations.

Further, NamPower's revenue is based on the approved budgeted costs, volumes (energy and capacity), and tariffs. The 2023/2024 period saw an over-recovery of NS\$63 million, attributed to higher-than-expected generation from the Ruacana Hydropower Plant. This over-recovery was considered, to reduce the revenue requirement, and therefore providing relief to customers.

We wish to highlight that the ECB assessed the various factors of the financial impact of the tariff increase of 3.8% and Government financial support of NS\$283 million on NamPower's financial sustainability, and we confirm that NamPower will remain financially sustainable.

5. AVERAGE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION TARIFF PER SOURCE

The following Table indicates the average generation and transmission tariffs per source, to give an indication of the current tariff and projected tariff path.

Table 1: Average Generation and Transmission Tariffs per source:

Generation Source	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27*	2027/28*	2028/29*	2029/30*
NamPower	0.5051	0.5645	0.4070	0.4083	0.4106	0.4135
IPPs	1.4338	1.3685	1.2974	1.3518	1.4086	1.4678
Imports	1.7507	2.1210	2.2101	2.3029	2.3996	2.5004
Average Generation Tariff	1.3356	1.1526	1.3750	1.3440	1.1889	1.2483
Transmission Tariff	0.5228	0.6075	0.7202	0.7562	0.7941	0.8338
Reliability Tariff	0.1258	0.1429	0.1688	0.1772	0.1861	0.1954
Losses	0.1349	0.1582	0.1514	0.1590	0.1669	0.1753
Total bulk tariff	1.9856	2.0611	2.2855	2.4454	2.5188	2.5944
Tariff Increases	0%	3.8%	11%	7%	3%	3%

**Italics: Forecasted (the asterisk serves to provide clarity in the event a photocopy isn't clear or some persons can't distinguish between plain and italicized text)*

6. DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES TARIFF APPLICATION PROCESS

The approved bulk electricity tariff will be applicable to NamPower bulk customers such as Regional Electricity Distributors (REDs), Local Authorities, Regional Councils and large industrial transmission customers (e.g. mines). All distribution licensees will individually apply to the ECB for a review of their distribution tariffs, which, when applied timely, will be applicable to end-consumers effective from 01 July 2025.

To enhance end-consumers' involvement in the determination of end-consumer tariff, all major distribution utilities will

continue to present their tariff applications directly to end-consumers in their designated areas. These engagements will be facilitated by the ECB, and we believe it will give licensees the opportunity to clarify and explain their tariff applications to their customers. The engagements have been scheduled to take place as follows:

Table 2: Licensee - End Consumer Consultative Engagement:

Date	Licensee	Town	Venue	Starting Time
2 June	Keetmanshoop Municipality	Keetmanshoop	Westdene Moth Hall	14:00 – 16:00
4 June	ERONGO RED	Walvis Bay	Municipality Hall	10:00 – 12:00
6 June	City of Windhoek	Windhoek	Khomas Regional Council Hall	14:00 – 16:00
9 June	CENORED	Tsumeb	Nomtsoub Community Hall	17:00 – 19:00
11 June	Oshakati Premier Electric (OPE)	Oshakati	Oshandira Lodge	09:00 – 11:00
	NORED	Ongwediva	Ongwediva Trade Fair Centre Conference Hall	17:00 – 19:00
12 June	NORED	Rundu	Regional Council Auditorium	17:00 – 19:00

NB: Please note that the presentation dates will be published in the local media outlets and on social media platforms of the ECB and the distribution utilities.

In addition, all distribution utilities are urged to apply for their annual tariff reviews before the end of May 2025. Utilities that do not apply for tariff adjustments in time to coincide with the implementation of the bulk tariffs, which is effective 01 July 2025, will lose revenue because they will be selling electricity based on outdated tariffs while purchasing on new tariffs, especially pre-paid revenue that is collected through pre-paid sales. We wish to reiterate that this non-constructive practice by some distribution utilities is not financially sustainable, and it affects their financial ability to honour NamPower's bills, and it further affects service delivery. This causes insecurity or instability in electricity supply to end consumers.

7. OVERALL ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SITUATION

For the 2025/2026 period, it is projected that 53% of the national demand will be supplied by local generation, with the remaining 47% to be met with regional imports. The Ruacana Hydropower Plant remains the primary source of local generation, with performance dependent on the water flow of the Kunene River. Compared to other generation sources, electricity is generated relatively cheaply at the Ruacana Hydropower Plant. Therefore, less generation at Ruacana results in increased generation of power from expensive alternatives or imports at higher costs. Hydropower is generally considered a low-cost source of electricity.

It is important to note that during the period 2023/2024, Ruacana generation achieved one of its best productions in years, generating 2,067 GWh (Gigawatt-hour or one billion watt-hour) due to favourable water management and water flow conditions.

Notably, there has been an increase in local generation from renewable energy plants over the period. To complement local generation, two plants have been added to the national grid in the 2024/2025 period.

- Anxaxis II – 58MW (Megawatt or one million watts) (Heavy Fuel Oil)
- Khan Solar PV – 20MW

The two aforementioned plants are part of the 79 electricity generation licenses (excluding standby generators) that the ECB has issued, out of which 41 are operational and 38 are still under development. We hope that those licensees that have not yet commissioned their plants will do so soon; this will have a positive impact on end-consumer prices.

To further improve the electricity supply situation, Government introduced the Modified Single Buyer (MSB) Market model, a unique Namibian market platform which allows private generators and considerable customers to transact electricity. There are seven (7) operational solar PV plants with a combined installed capacity of 28MW established under the MSB Model. It is anticipated that about 93MW will be commissioned during 2025/2026 financial period, meaning that more electricity will be generated locally, hence reducing imports and overall cost of electricity.

8. ELECTRICITY CONTROL BOARD'S POSITION ON FUTURE SECURITY OF SUPPLY THROUGH A BASELOAD POWER PLANT OPTION

The Electricity Control Board is concerned about the country's reliance on imports and supports efforts to address security of supply. Namibia thus needs to urgently develop a Base Load Power Plant that will stabilize and enhance security of supply and result in cheaper locally generated electricity than imports. Base-load power is reliable minimum amount of electricity supplied, or consistently required, to meet demand over a long period, typically 24 hours.

Government's financial support towards capital investments, for such a plant, as opposed to funding operational activities of licensees, will thus be a sustainable way of addressing reliability and affordability in the long run. Investments towards a base-load plant must be accompanied by other investments in strengthening transmission infrastructure, to unlock local generation capacity, and export potential.

9. CONCLUSION

Overall, a modern economy cannot function properly without secure and stable electricity supply. Much less without electricity. The stable supply of electricity is critical for economic growth and development. Electricity generation, transmission and distribution comes at variable costs, which must be regularly reviewed in order to provide predictability, availability and stability in the market. While we are cognizant of the impact of any tariff increase on the end consumers, a zero tariff increase has unintended consequences: deterioration of infrastructure without the necessary and continual refurbishment and renewal, which will lead to an unstable grid, damage to equipment and blackouts. These, in turn, will lead to financial and economic losses, and poor economic performance, thus an unfavourable investment environment for citizens and other interested parties.

Consequently, we wish to assure the public that the ECB takes a measured judgement in every step of the electricity tariff review process, ensuring electricity affordability, reliability and security of supply, and sustained economic industry performance.

END/

Issued by:

Robert N. Kahimbe
Chief Executive Officer



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Issued by: Public Relations and Stakeholder Engagement Division

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Namibia blueberry exports reach N\$52.2 million in 2024

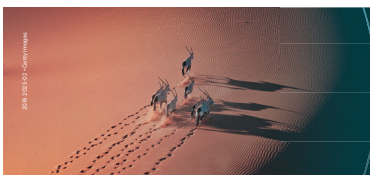
Namibia's blueberry industry continues to make strides on the international stage, with exports by Namibia Berries reaching N\$52.2 million in 2024, according to the Namibia Foreign Direct Investment Report.

The report attributes the earnings boost to strong demand in the Eurozone, with key markets including Germany and the Netherlands.

“Local value addition, especially in fruits like blueberries, enhances the country's export portfolio and supports diversification goals,” the report stated.

Namibia Berries, which launched operations in 2021, completed its first commercial harvest in August 2024.

Since then, the company has begun shipping premium blueberries to international markets such as Hong Kong,



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“These early shipments have established Namibia Berries as a significant player in agricultural exports,” the report noted, citing the company’s strategic entry into the high-value early-season market.

The report further highlights the role of partnerships in enabling this success.

“Partnerships with local players like EOS Capital have strengthened its financial base, enhancing growth potential and operational capacity,” it read.

As of 2024, Namibia Berries has created between 350 and 400 local jobs, with

plans to expand to around 800 permanent positions and up to 7,000 seasonal roles during harvest periods. “This job creation is essential for improving livelihoods in the Kavango East Region and boosting the local economy,” the report emphasised.

Situated on a 250-hectare farm along the Kavango River in Divundu, Kavango East, the company has ambitions to grow its footprint to over 500 hectares.

Backed by a total investment of N\$1.5 billion spanning from 2021 to 2027, Namibia Berries is not only a production hub but also a centre for training and skills development.

“The project is designed not only to produce high-quality blueberries but also to build local capacity through training and employment opportunities,” the report noted.

Furthermore, the initiative is also aligned with the Harvard Growth Lab’s recommendations for promoting high-value fruit exports as a means of economic diversification.

Founded by Loxworth Capital, a South African private equity firm, Namibia Berries operates as a flagship project aimed at reshaping the nation’s agricultural export strategy.

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) has been instrumental in supporting the project’s development and ensuring its benefits extend beyond the immediate locality.



Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) hereby invites bids through Open National Bidding (ONB) procedures for the Construction of a Road Over Rail Bridge in the Port of Walvis Bay.

Bid Reference Number	Brief Description	Pre-bid Conference	Last Day for Clarification Requests	Closing Date
W/ONB/NAMPORT-3670/2025	Construction of a Road Over Rail Bridge in the Port of Walvis Bay	Non-Compulsory Pre-bid/Site Visit meeting on 19/05/2025 @10h00 AM	06/06/2025	26/06/2025@ 12h00 PM (Virtual Bid Opening Link available on website)

1. Bids are invited through the Open National Bidding (ONB) procedure and the invitation is open to all eligible bidders. All Bidders must comply with the requirements outlined in the bidding document.
2. Interested eligible bidders are requested to visit the Namport website at <https://www.namport.com.na/procurement> for details of the bidding requirements. Bidders must register as suppliers, express interest in a specific bid, make a payment of the (non-refundable) bid levy of **N\$600.00** and submit the proof of payment in order to be granted access to the bidding documents. The Namport Banking Details are available on the link: <https://www.namport.com.na/procurement/banking-details/558/>
3. A Non-compulsory **Pre-Bid/Site Visit meeting** is scheduled for **19 May 2025 AT 10H00 AM**. The meeting will be held at **Executive Boardroom, Namport Head Office, Walvis Bay**. Bidders should take note that the virtual meeting link is also available on the website for bidders that would like to join the meeting virtually.
4. Bids must be delivered to: **The Tender Box, Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) Reception, No. 17 Rikumbi Kandanga Road, Walvis Bay**

ALL enquiries related to these bids must be directed in writing by email to the following contact details:

Procurement Manager
Melani de Klerk
Tel: +264 208 2319
Email: m.deklerk@namport.com.na or procurement@namport.com.na

Tender and Contracts Administrator
Owiike Amunkete
Tel: +264 208 2217
Email: o.amunkete@namport.com.na or procurement@namport.com.na



Sustainability branding comes home to roost

By The Brand Guy

I have been watching the shenanigans in the United States, not with any great joy, more with a sense of horrified fascination. Elon Musk has been particularly interesting, notably the loss of value to Tesla shares and implied questions about his ability to lead.

In the wake of the DOGE cuts, there is a mounting backlash against the Tesla brand in the form of emerging consumer boycotts. At the same time, manufacturers from China are using the opportunity to press ahead with their own electronic vehicles and occupy the gaps.

Some recently publicized research has pointed to potential brand contagion (read loss of potential brand equity) due to association with undesirable brands. The phenomenon falls squarely in the realm of ESG, validating the concept of ESG as a bottom-line contributor.

Corporates increasingly recognize that consumers, employees and partners seek more than just products or services. They want to support organizations whose actions align with their personal values.

As markets evolve and stakeholder expectations change, ESG is reshaping the core of corporate identity. What began as a specialized set of reporting guidelines has become integral to how brands define their purpose, articulate their values and distinguish themselves in competitive landscapes.

Consumers, and the broader set of stakeholders that includes employees, community groups, NGOs and supply-chain partners, expect companies to demonstrate genuine commitment to environmental



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Some recently publicized research has pointed to potential brand contagion (read loss of potential brand equity) due to association with undesirable brands.

stewardship, social equity and sound governance.

By embedding ESG into branding, companies cultivate deeper emotional connections, bolster trust and encourage long-term loyalty. Consumers who identify with a brand's social and environmental goals often become vocal advocates, amplifying brand stories through word of mouth and social media.

According to the concept of sustainability branding, a brand must “credibly convey sustainability benefits which are relevant to the consumer”. In practice, ESG reporting and social-impact disclosures foster an ethical reputation and enhance a sense of responsibility, giving markets and stakeholders a clear mission to rally around. This is the lesson to be learned from Tesla.

Moreover, thought leadership around ESG, for example, publishing white papers or participating in industry forums, strengthens credibility and attracts top talent who increasingly seek purpose-driven employers.

A robust ESG program helps companies

identify emerging ESG risks and develop proactive mitigation strategies. Implementing comprehensive ESG assessments enables informed decision-making that safeguards both reputation and operational continuity. By embracing ESG-driven risk profiles, organizations can refine their risk-management frameworks to anticipate threats earlier and adapt more swiftly, bolstering long-term resilience.

One renewable-energy provider illustrates this trend. After conducting an internal review of its environmental footprint and community impact, the company rolled out a program combining off-grid solar installations in underserved areas with skills-training workshops for local residents. Rather than positioning these efforts as discrete charitable activities, the organization integrated them into its core brand narrative—demonstrating how each customer's purchase contributes directly to cleaner energy and community development. This seamless approach to ESG storytelling has become a distinctive hallmark of its public image. At the same time, investors and financial stakeholders view robust ESG performance

as an indicator of sound risk management and future resilience. Organizations that proactively address environmental exposures, labor practices and governance frameworks tend to demonstrate more stable operations and fewer reputational crises. By aligning branding with ESG commitments, companies signal to capital markets that they are anticipating long-term challenges and embedding sustainability into strategic decision-making.

Blockchain-based traceability systems are being piloted to provide immutable records of supply-chain practices, and social-media initiatives showcase authentic voices from partner communities. These approaches turn abstract ESG principles into tangible, engaging narratives, with accompanying sales gains.

****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 if you need thought-leadership, strategy and support.***



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Swakopmund leads building completions worth N\$86.8 million in March

The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) reports that the total value of buildings completed in Namibia surged to N\$86.8 million in March 2025, with Swakopmund accounting for the largest share at 51%.

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According to the latest data, Windhoek contributed 25.9% of the total value, while Walvis Bay followed with 23.1%. Ongwediva reported no building completions during the period under review.

This comes as the Composite Index for Buildings Completed increased by 72.6% on a monthly basis in March 2025.

"In contrast to a contraction of 2.1 % posted in February 2025. Furthermore, the index recorded an increase of 64.3 % on an annual basis," NSA noted.

The data, which tracks permits for industrial, residential, institutional, commercial, and 'additions and alterations' completed, covers four major local authorities: Windhoek, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, and Ongwediva.

The biggest monthly gain was observed in the Industrial Buildings Completed Index, which expanded by 250.0%.

"This follows a 100.0% growth posted in the previous month. On an annual basis, the index similarly increased by 100.0%," the NSA said.

Meanwhile, residential building completions rose by 55.2% in March 2025. However, year-on-year, the index declined by 2.2%. "The increase reverses the 31.0% contraction recorded in February 2025," the agency noted.

For additions and alterations, the index rebounded by 41.7% in March after having dropped by 53.8% in February. Year-on-year, this segment registered a 9.7% increase.

However, two segments reported no activity.

"The Institutional Buildings Completed Index contracted by 100.0% in March 2025. This is in contrast to the 100.0% growth recorded in February 2025," the NSA stated.

The Commercial Buildings Completed Index also fell sharply by 100.0% in March 2025, both on a monthly and annual basis, the NSA said.

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▼ Display Items

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- Tear Drops
- Director Chairs
- Table Cloths
- Kiosks
- Banner Walls
- Pop-up Banners
- A Frames
- Pull-up Banners
- PVC Banners



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Mandatory DNA testing in Namibia: A question of choice, not force

By Indileni Laudika Kawedi

The recent proposal to introduce mandatory DNA paternity testing in Namibia has sparked passionate debate across the nation. While I do not condone the act of mothers knowingly assigning the wrong paternity, I also believe that every child has a fundamental right not just to know the father but to be loved, protected, and raised in a nurturing environment, regardless of biological ties.

Even though DNA paternity testing might define genetic or biological parenthood, the crux of the matter that comes with fatherhood is love, presence, and fatherly responsibilities. If Namibia were to undertake a mandatory DNA paternity testing for all its citizens, we might be stunned by the results. Some of those who have grown up in loving homes, certain of their parentage, might discover otherwise. What then? Would we dismantle the bonds of love and care that have raised generations?

Let us not ignore the fact that some men already know that the children they raised are not biologically theirs. Yet, they choose to love, support, and protect them often in silence for reasons only known to them. That decision is deeply personal, and it is no one's business to interfere. Similarly, many couples, through modern reproductive assistance or traditional arrangements, knowingly choose unconventional paths to parenthood. Again, this is private.

It is true that knowing one's biological



Even though DNA paternity testing might define genetic or biological parenthood, the crux of the matter that comes with fatherhood is love, presence, and fatherly responsibilities.

parents can be important for medical, legal, or forensic reasons, such as in cases of blood transfusions, organ matching, or criminal investigations. In such instances, provisions for DNA relationship testing already exist and are appropriately utilized.

But to make DNA paternity testing mandatory for the general population, especially as a requirement for registration or documentation, sets a dangerous precedent. It transforms a personal and often sensitive process into a bureaucratic obligation.

Let us not forget that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security already allows mothers to register a child's birth without including the father's details. This is particularly helpful in cases where paternity is uncertain, or the alleged father is absent or has denied the paternity

child. No man is being forced to claim a child without his consent, and therefore, the justification for a compulsory paternity test at registration is not entirely required.

Moreover, DNA relationship testing is expensive. It is not a public health necessity that warrants free, government funded administration. It does not prevent disease or enhance national security. It is, for most people, a cosmetic or personal decision, one that should be paid for by those who need it or want it. In some situations, such as in accidents covered by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund or in legal investigations, DNA relationship testing is already appropriately funded.

While I encourage the idea of making DNA paternity tests more accessible and affordable, especially in the private sector, this must not come at the cost of individual dignity and privacy. Imagine a man, married or single, waiting in a public clinic reception area for a paternity test. Assumptions, whispers, and judgment can deeply impact personal relationships and mental health.

DNA paternity testing is a private affair. It involves sensitive emotions, trust, and sometimes betrayal. Public facilities are not the right space for such deeply personal matters.

Let us also be honest

that this is not just about women. Men, too, have been unfaithful. Some seek DNA paternity tests not out of truth seeking but out of suspicion, sometimes while maintaining other relationships. So, before we point fingers, we must look inward and acknowledge the complexity of human relationships.

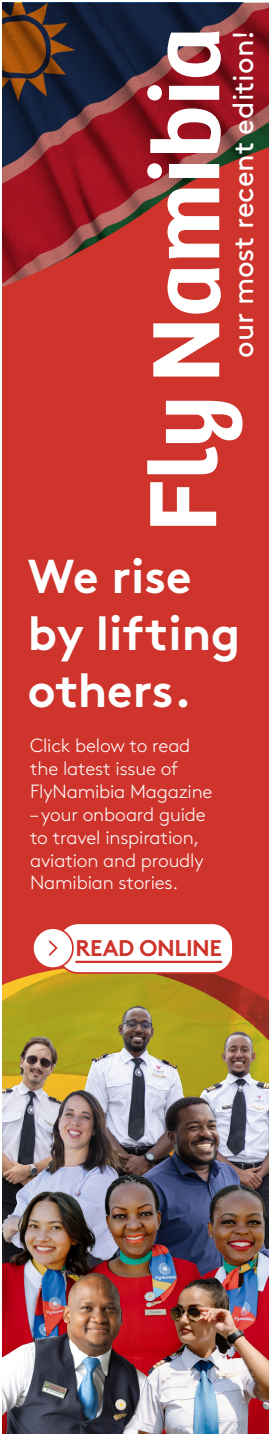
My advocacy is simple to make DNA paternity testing available and affordable for those who wish to do it, but do not make it mandatory. Do not make it a requirement for birth registration. Let individuals choose to seek the truth when they are emotionally, financially, and spiritually ready.

If a child later wishes to know their origins, let them pursue that journey in their own time, whether through paternity, sibling, or kinship testing same goes for the alleged father.

As I conclude, please ponder this question:

What about those who do not want to know, and what about those who already know but choose not to confirm?

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Red tape, capacity gaps stall Namibia's access to climate funds

Namibia's efforts to access international climate finance are significantly constrained by procedural complexity, institutional capacity gaps, and limited technical support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a new report shows.

According to a newly published assessment by the GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU), despite being among the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, Namibia's engagement with the GCF has yielded only modest returns.

This is largely attributed to the nation remaining reliant on a single direct access entity, the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia, which, due to accreditation limitations and resource constraints, can

only channel relatively small-scale grants.

"Namibia's ability to access and use climate finance is severely constrained by a lack of accredited direct access entities and limited human resources capable of preparing technically sound proposals. The GCF's complex procedures and passive engagement have further compounded these limitations," the report states.

Furthermore, the report underscores that relying on a single institution restricts the country's funding scope and weakens national ownership.

"Capacity constraints within the EIF and other stakeholders have hampered pipeline development and proposal readiness," it states.

Additionally, the report highlights

procedural hurdles imposed by the GCF itself, such as complex application processes, long approval timelines, and inconsistent guidance from the Fund’s Secretariat.

“The bureaucratic procedures of the GCF were frequently cited as a major deterrent to access. Stakeholders interviewed for the assessment expressed frustration at the disconnect between the Fund’s ambitious goals and its cumbersome delivery modalities,” the report said.

Despite these obstacles, Namibia has demonstrated a strong commitment to climate action as the EIF has successfully mobilised over US\$40 million in GCF funding to date, supporting projects in sustainable agriculture and community-based adaptation.

However, this is far short of the estimated US\$17 billion the country requires to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Recommendations include expanding the pool of accredited entities, enhancing institutional capacity through targeted technical assistance, and fostering greater engagement between national stakeholders and the GCF.

The report also calls on the GCF to streamline its procedures and provide more tailored support to countries with limited capacities.

This comes as Namibia is in the process of reviewing four major climate funding concept notes worth N\$10.5 billion, ahead of a planned

submission to the GCF.

According to Petrus Muteyauli, Deputy Director for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, the funding proposals have been developed by key institutions seeking accreditation as direct access entities to the GCF.

These include the Development Bank of Namibia, Agribank, Bank Windhoek, and the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), with the ministry accredited as a delivery partner.

BIDDING INVITATION

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) hereby invites reputable service providers to submit their best offers for the following bids:

Procurement Reference	Procurement Description	Cost
SC/RP/NIPDB-01/2025	Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services to NIPDB for a Three-Year Contract Period	Free
NCS/ONB/NIPDB-01/2025	Provision of Cleaning Services to NIPDB for a Three-Year Contract Period	Free

Information to Bidders

- Bidding documents are obtainable on request by email at: procurement@nipdb.com
- The Provision of Cleaning Services (NCS/ONB/NIPDB-01/2025) is reserved for registered Namibian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) only.

Bid Submission Address:

The Bid Box at Reception (Ground Floor)
Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board
Investment House, Cnr Garten Street and Dr. A. B. May Streets, Windhoek

Contact Persons: NIPDB Procurement Management Unit
Mr. Sandile Sangwali/ Ms. Frieda Ashipala
Telephone: +264 83 333 8600
E-mail: procurement@nipdb.com

Closing Date:

Thursday, 26 June 2025 at 11:00 AM Namibia Local Time
NB: Late submissions will not be accepted.

ABOUT NIPDB

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) is mandated to promote and facilitate investment by foreign and Namibian investors, and coordinate MSME activities across all levers of the economy, with the aim of contributing to economic development and job creation.

From shipyards to growth: Namdock's potential to transform Namibia's logistics and economy

The spirit of Willie Esterhuyse Lives On

By Lewis Komu

Maritime trade is presented as essential for Namibia's economic development, job creation, and diversification, aligning with the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). Namport is identified as the primary gateway for imports and exports, central to Namibia's logistics strategy and NDP objectives.

Namdock, through specialized services like dry docking, ship repair, and maintenance, is described as ensuring the operational efficiency and longevity of vessels.

These services are said to not only sustain Namibia's maritime infrastructure but also potentially position the country as a hub for regional and international trade. Expanding ports and dry docks is presented as a way to accommodate larger vessels and handle more traffic, potentially boosting maritime tourism, in line with NDP4.

Namibia can draw lessons from abroad like Dubai, Singapore, Rotterdam, and Bangladesh, which strategically invested in maritime infrastructure for economic diversification and establishing logistics hubs.

Walvis Bay is highlighted as Namibia's largest commercial port, crucial for regional trade. Namdock, based in Walvis Bay, is described as a vital component of the country's maritime infrastructure,



“

Namdock, through specialized services like dry docking, ship repair, and maintenance, is described as ensuring the operational efficiency and longevity of vessels.

with its capabilities directly contributing to Walvis Bay's efficiency as a logistics hub. Expanding these services is seen as enhancing Namibia's logistics network, reducing dependency on foreign ports, and increasing industrial activity.

The potential development of Lüderitz in the green hydrogen industry could offer new opportunities.

If Lüderitz's port infrastructure grows, Namdock is presented as potentially leveraging its relationship with Namport to expand operations there, tapping into emerging markets and contributing to Lüderitz's maritime capabilities.

This strategic move is described as potentially enhancing Namibia's capacity to serve different industrial sectors and create a diversified economy.

Namibia, like early Dubai, relies on primary sector exports and envisions becoming a trade-driven service economy. The NDPs, particularly NDP4, emphasized positioning Namibia as a logistics hub and improving competitiveness. Logistics was a key NDP4 priority. Namdock's services are presented as directly supporting NDP4's logistics and manufacturing pillars by servicing vessels, enhancing reliability, and reducing downtime. This is argued to strengthen Namibia's ability to position itself as a competitive logistics corridor in Southern Africa.


By improving in-country vessel maintenance reliability, Namdock is said to contribute to Namibia's trade performance, reducing reliance on foreign ports. This is seen as increasing Namibia's attractiveness as a maritime corridor and enhancing trade efficiency. Capitalizing on maritime development could improve transport links to landlocked neighbours, offering an alternative to South African ports. Localizing advanced ship repair services is also viewed as retaining capital and strengthening domestic industrial capacity, aligning with the NDP's manufacturing pillar.

Namdock and Namport are central to Namibia's push for industrialisation, especially in oil, gas, and green hydrogen. As the country works to diversify its economy, Namdock's operational and technical expertise and Namport's expanding infrastructure provide essential support for energy and logistics development.

Projects like the green ammonia hub at Walvis Bay benefit from Namdock's capabilities, while Namport's growth at Walvis Bay and Lüderitz is key to enabling hydrogen exports. Together, they help reduce trade costs, strengthen supply chains, and support greener port operations, advancing national goals for inclusive growth, sustainability, and greater global competitiveness.

This article offers a condensed overview of a broader opinion piece exploring how the maritime services sector is positioned to further support Namibia's economic development.

****Lewis Komu is an Analyst at High Economic Intelligence and holds a Masters of Science in Economics from Tilburg University.***



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NYS and Konga Microfinance sign deal to empower youth and women

The National Youth Service (NYS) and Konga Microfinance have entered into a formal partnership aimed at empowering Namibian youth and women through targeted support in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, biomass production and sustainable enterprise development.

The agreement was cemented through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the strategic collaboration aiming to unlock economic opportunities for young people and women by providing financing for solar and small-scale enterprises, enhancing support for climate-resilient farming, and offering skills training in biomass and charcoal production.

NYS graduates are also expected to benefit from improved access to employment and market entry within these growth sectors.

Dr Felix Musukubili, Commissioner of NYS, described the agreement as both “timely and crucial”, especially in light of the government’s ongoing efforts to tackle youth unemployment.

“This collaboration comes at a time when the government is calling for strengthened partnerships



to address youth unemployment and bolster socio-economic progress,” said Dr Musukubili.

“With Konga Microfinance’s financial and technical support, we are addressing the immediate needs of the 600 youth currently undergoing the Youth Self-Employment Charcoal Production training at Gembokpan Farm in the Otjozondjupa Region.”

The MoU also outlines a joint commitment to improving financial inclusion through youth- and women-friendly credit products, financial literacy campaigns, and business training and mentorship.

Konga Microfinance’s Executive Chairman, Tshombe Ndadi, emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in driving national development.

“We are extremely excited about this opportunity to partner with the National Youth Service in charting a way forward for impactful economic youth development. Konga Microfinance believes that no single institution can address the country’s socio-economic challenges alone. Development cannot happen without the involvement of the youth—and women—

and they must be at the forefront of such initiatives. Elders must guide, but the youth must drive momentum,” said Ndadi.

He added that Konga Microfinance will begin by supporting NYS’s biomass production team, highlighting biomass financing as a core offering of the institution. “We see the renewable resource of invader bush—our ‘green gold’—as an untapped opportunity for youth empowerment. We are committed to using this initiative not only to implement biomass financing but also to mobilise additional resources to support youth- and women-led businesses across Namibia.”

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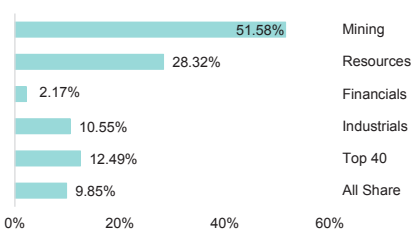
Commodities

Spot Gold	3208.64
Platinum	991.70
Palladium	969.94
Silver	32.17
Uranium	70.50
Brent Crude	64.20
Iron Ore	95.31
Copper	9626.35
Natural Gas	3.42
Lithium	8.35

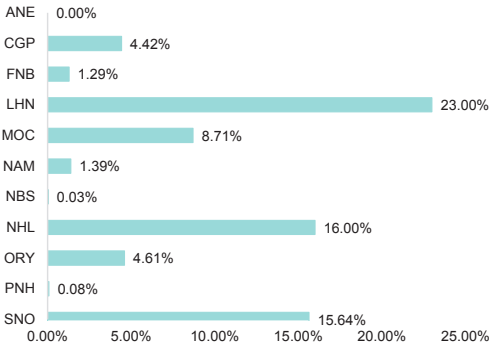
Currencies

USD/ZAR	18.0697
EUR/ZAR	19.2300
GBP/ZAR	23.9934
USD/CNY	7.2083
EUR/USD	1.1187
GBP/USD	1.3277
USD/RUB	80.5000
CPI	3.60%
Repo Rate	6.75%
Prime Rate	10.50%

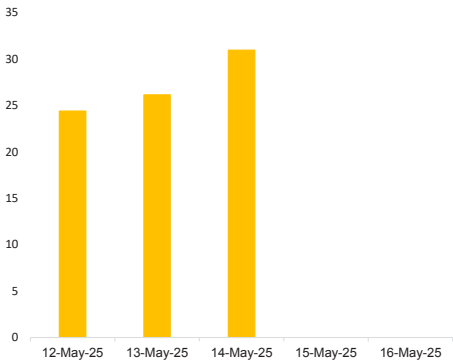
JSE Sectors: Year to Date in %



NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)



Global Indices: Year to Date in %

