LOAN

Govt secures N\$1.5 billion German loan to tackle northern water crisis p. 05



DBN AWARDS

Blue Crane Safaris, OLC Arandis Solar and Lizwise shine at DBN Awards

p. 11



VEHICLE SALES

Toyota, VW, Suzuki dominate Namibia's new vehicle sales

p. 14



BRIEF

- News Worth Knowing



Lawmakers call for NIDA's reintegration into Ministry

TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025

MAIN STORY



Lawmakers call for NIDA's reintegration into Ministry

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economy in the National Council has called for the immediate reintegration of the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) into the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, citing accountability failures and weak oversight.

The recommendation follows oversight visits to several NIDA-managed projects

Crucial Dates

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



"

NIDA should have only one supervisory body, to cease having dual supervisory bodies to ensure proper supervision and accountability.

in the //Kharas, Otjozondjupa, Zambezi, Kavango West, and Oshana regions.

During the visits, the committee identified a series of financial and operational shortcomings, including governance challenges and inefficiencies affecting key projects.

The committee criticised the current dual oversight structure governing NIDA, stating it has contributed to lapses in supervision.

"NIDA should have only one supervisory body, to cease having dual supervisory bodies to ensure proper supervision and accountability," the committee said in its report.

The lawmakers further urged the ministry to appoint regional officials at both the Naute Irrigation Project and the Kavango Cattle Ranch (KCR) as signatories on the accounts of the respective farms to strengthen local control.

"Six Section Managers should be

appointed at KCR and each Section Manager to be responsible for his or her Section, rather than having one manager running the whole farm, which is not practical and impossible," the committee stated.

Concerns were also raised about informal settlements at the KCR farm, where former workers and community members have settled.

The committee recommended the development of a policy to manage this issue and avoid the farm's gradual transformation into a residential area.

NIDA recorded operating losses of N\$102 million in the 2024 financial year, according to its latest annual report.

Established in 2018, NIDA is tasked with driving Namibia's industrialisation agenda in line with national strategies such as the Growth at Home Strategy, the Harambee Prosperity Plan, and the Fifth National Development Plan.





6 0 0 0

A single bracelet does not jingle.

We are your investment partner of choice.

Together, we are transforming our country's future.

Shape Today. Own Tomorrow.



For all your Corporate, Promotional & Display Needs





WINTER SPECIALS

CONTACT US TODAY AND WILL SEND YOU OUR WINTER CATALOGUE

▼ Corporate Clothing

- Golf Shirts
- Lounge Shirts
- T-Shirts
- Body Warmers
- Headwear
- Jackets
- Hoodies
- Tracksuits
- Work Wear
- Footwear





Corporate Gifting

- Notebook
- Diaries & Pens
- Backpacks
- Drinkwear
- Giftsets/Bags
- Umbrellas
- Lanyards
- Key Chains
- Flash Drives
- Power Banks

▼ Display Items

- Gazebos
- Tear Drops
- Director Chairs
- Table Cloths
- Kiosks

- Banner Walls
- Pop-up Banners
- A Frames
- Pull-up Banners
- PVC Banners





orbitalmedianam@gmail.com



+264 81 434 3145



Govt secures N\$1.5 billion German loan to tackle northern water crisis

he Namibian government has signed a loan agreement worth approximately N\$1.5 billion with the German Development Bank, KfW, to fund major water infrastructure projects in the country's northern regions.

The loan, facilitated through the Ministry of Finance, will be used to support critical projects aimed at improving water infrastructure and addressing long-standing water challenges in the northern regions of Namibia.

The projects will be implemented by NamWater on behalf of the government.

Finance Minister Erica Shafudah described the funding as both urgent and strategic, particularly for communities in the north.

"This funding is earmarked for the



construction, rehabilitation, and upgrading of extensive bulk water infrastructure and investment of strategic importance that will directly address the long-standing water supply challenges faced by our communities," Shafudah said.

She highlighted that the loan carries a 10.09% interest rate and a 20-year repayment period, including a five-year grace period.

The interest rate is 2.3% lower than the local rate for loans of similar maturity.

"That is very, very critical – 2.3% lower than the local interest rate of similar maturity – and provides sufficient grace period to allow the construction of these projects before repayment," she added.

Projects to be financed under the agreement include the Omundaungilo—Omutsegwonime Bulk Pipeline Scheme (Phases 1 and 2), the Oshakati—Ondangwa—Oshali—Omuthiya—Omutsegwonime Pipeline Replacement (Phases 1 and 2), the Katima Mulilo Extension Phase 2, and the installation of package plants, including desalination units.

German Ambassador Thorsten Hutter welcomed the agreement, describing it as a significant step in Namibia's efforts to boost water resilience.

"The projects to be financed will help

support Namibia's resilience droughts bv helping reduce water losses and increase a long-term sustainable water supply for the country," Hutter said and reaffirmed Germany's commitment ongoing to cooperation on water development projects.

NamWater CEO Abraham Nehemia said the agreement would boost the utility's capacity to deliver reliable services.

"This partnership Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW strengthens NamWater's capacity to deliver reliable and sustainable water services to all Namibians." Nehemia said. "The support will enable us to accelerate the development and rehabilitation of vital infrastructure that is critical to meeting current needs and securing future supply."



Speedlink lite					
Package/Contract Period	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps		
Download Speed (up to)	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps		
Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps		
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded		
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	379	439	479		
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	339	399	429		
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	319	379	409		

Speedlink Prepaid

Package	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	6Mbps	8Mbps	10Mbps	25Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	2Mbps	2Mbps	2Mbps	10Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
(12-month service duration including installation)	5,119	5,579	5,819	8,059

Speedlink liteplus (Asymmetric)

Package/Contract Period	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	25Mbps	50Mbps	75Mbps	100Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	35Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	749	879	1,159	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	679	789	1,039	1,779
Monthly charge (N\$) (36-month)	639	749	979	1,679

Speedlink liteplus (Symmetric)

Package/Contract Period	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Download Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Upload Speed (up to)	10Mbps	15Mbps	25Mbps	50Mbps
Internet usage	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
CPE	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Monthly charge (N\$) (12-month)	799	989	1,299	1,979
Monthly charge (N\$) (24-month)	719	889	1,169	1,779
Monthly charge (NS) (36-month)	679	849	1.109	1.679

- All prices are VAT exclusive
- Installation charges for Residential customers: Free for 36 months contracts ONLY (excluding non-fibre-ready areas)
- Installation charges for Residential customers: Standard installation charges apply for 12 months & 24 months contra
 Installation charges for Business customers: Standard installation charges apply

Promotion valid until 28 July 2025

For more information, visit your nearest Teleshop or call us toll free on ${\bf 11000}$.









Your Kitchen targets 130,000 meals per year for Namibia's mining and hospitality sectors

Your Kitchen, a newly established food production company in Windhoek, has announced annual targets of 50,000 meals for the mining sector and 80,000 meals for the hospitality industry.

Backed by N\$20 million in shareholderfunded investment, the company is scaling operations with advanced European technologies to meet growing national demand.

Finance Manager, Alice Rigoldi during a recent media site visit noted currently delivering an average of 1,700 meals per week, the company aims to increase output as further collaborations materialise.

"We currently produce and deliver an average of 1,700 products per week, a number expected to grow with the future



The power of many -Alexander Forbes Namibia Retirement fund

Join our flexible and cost-effective umbrella fund today because together, we grow!



collaborations in the pipeline," said the Finance Manager.

Established in September 2023 by Italian directors/shareholders, she says additional capital investment is ongoing, with new EU-imported technologies expected to arrive before the end of June.

"We use vacuum technology, sous vide cooking, and blast chilling, methods widely applied in Europe and the USA but new to the Namibian and Southern African context. These technologies allow Your Kitchen to extend shelf life, maintain nutritional value, and ensure high standards of food safety and consistency across locations," she noted.

Its service model is tailored to serve remote and logistically challenging environments, particularly within the mining sector, while also enhancing meal quality in lodges and hospitality venues across the country.

Rigoldi noted that the company currently supplies eight lodges nationwide, with clients located in the North, South, and Coastal regions.

A new operational base will open at Arandis on 1 June, focused on servicing mining clients in the area. This comes as the company plans to increase its workforce from 14 employees to 50 within five years. "The team grew from three employees at the opening stage to 14 employees currently," said Rigoldi.

She highlighted that all employees are Namibian nationals, with a focus on youth employment and long-term upskilling.

"Your Kitchen has hosted 11 interns through partnerships with hospitality schools, with seven of them hired full-time. One former intern now serves as our Assistant to the Production Manager," Rigoldi said.

The company sources all raw materials from Namibian suppliers, working with multiple vendors to meet bulk requirements and supporting small-scale producers when available. "All ingredients used in our productions are sourced from Namibian suppliers," said Rigoldi.

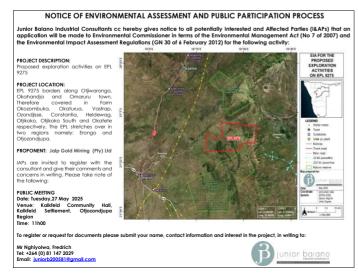
Support from the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) was key during the company's setup.

"The NIPDB assisted with construction service provider connections, import logistics, legal compliance, and immigration documentation. We deeply value this partnership and look forward to continued

collaboration as we scale further," Rigoldi said.

She also added that Your Kitchen is also preparing to enter the retail market, aiming to offer fresh, preservative-free products to end consumers that require minimal preparation.

"Your Kitchen remains committed to investing in Namibia's future – growing local talent, supporting agriculture, and delivering excellence in food services," added Rigoldi.





Windhoek building plans plunge by 87% in April

Indhoek recorded an 87% monthon-month decline in the value of approved building plans in April 2025, dropping from N\$1 billion in March to just N\$145 million, according to the latest report by Simonis Storm.

Swakopmund also saw a sharp drop of 44% over the same period, with approvals falling from N\$80 million to N\$45 million.

Despite the steep monthly decline, Junior Economist Almandro Jansen from Simonis Storm noted that the cumulative value of building plan approvals in Windhoek had reached N\$1.4 billion for the year to date.

Swakopmund's total for the same period stood at N\$199 million, a significant decrease from the N\$2.2 billion recorded during the first four months of 2024.

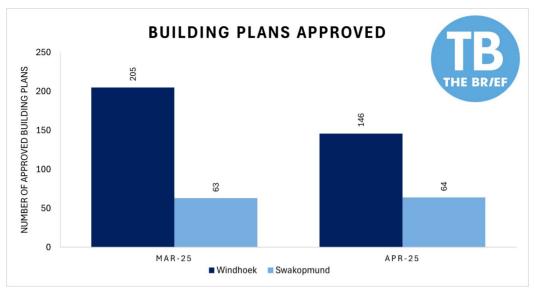
"The regional divergence in approvals is notable. While Windhoek is experiencing a contraction in project value, Swakopmund is seeing a gradual recovery in the number of approvals, albeit from a much lower base," said Jansen.

In terms of volume, Windhoek saw a 28% month-on-month decline in the number of approved plans, falling from 205 in March to 146 in April. Swakopmund, in contrast, recorded a slight increase from 63 to 64 approvals. Year-to-date figures highlight the divergence further. Windhoek's approvals are down 10% compared to the same period in 2024, with 584 plans approved so far this year compared to 650 last year.

Meanwhile, Swakopmund recorded a 69% increase in approvals, rising from 170 to 287 between January and April.

A breakdown of April's approvals shows that in Windhoek, 77% were for residential additions, while only 3% were for commercial projects.

"Swakopmund was even more skewed, with 92.1% of approvals for residential projects, and just 3% for commercial and industrial



developments combined," Jansen said.

Completion data reflects similar trends. In Windhoek, 181 buildings were completed in the first four months of 2025, with a total value of N\$390 million — down from 268 completions worth N\$770 million during the same period in 2024.

However, there was a rebound in April, with 84 projects completed, up from just 24

in March. The value of these completions rose from N\$22 million to N\$53 million.

"Swakopmund's year-to-date completions fell from 217 to 139 buildings, while the total value declined from N\$404 million to N\$128 million. Monthly completions dropped in April to 21 buildings worth N\$13 million, down from 39 buildings valued at N\$44 million in March." Jansen said.



SENIOR POLICY RESEARCHER

Are you interested to play a key role in transforming Namibia's financial service landscape?

Join our dynamic Team of Policy Researchers and Analysts.

Please visit www.nasia.org.na for more information and then submit your application to vacancy@nasia.org.na

Closing date: 30 May 2025 at 12:00





Blue Crane Safaris, OLC Arandis Solar and Lizwise shine at DBN Awards

Blue Crane Safaris (BCS), OLC Arandis Solar (OLC), and Lizwise Investment walked away with a combined N\$800,000 in prize money at the 2025 Good Business and Innovation Awards.

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) hosted the event at the Windhoek Country Club under the theme Celebrating Innovation and Impact, which recognised enterprises driving sustainability, job creation, and socioeconomic development.

BCS took top honours in the SME category, receiving N\$150,000. Derek Jacobs, founder and owner of Blue Crane Safaris, noted that the company had grown from a one-man operation to a team of around 20 over the

past 15 years.

"We specialise in tours across Namibia, which remains our main destination, but we also operate in neighbouring countries such as Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Our offerings include guided camping and accommodated tours, as well as self-drive options, all aimed at showcasing the best the region has to offer," he said.

OLC won the Large Enterprise award, securing N\$250,000.

Bernd Walbaum, Managing Director of O&L Energy, a renewable energy firm, and its project arm, OLC Arandis Solar Energy, said the company focuses on developing medium- to large-scale solar power plants



and battery storage systems, with the aim of reducing Namibia's dependence on imported electricity.

As part of a larger group of companies, Walbaum added, they also offer engineering, procurement and construction services, while creating employment and transferring skills within the energy sector.

"DBN financed 70% of our project, which enabled us to build and operate a successful energy plant. Entering this market does present challenges, including high capital requirements, complex regulatory processes, difficulties securing suitable land, and long lead times. For new businesses, strong financial backing and persistence are essential," he said. Lizwise Investment received the N\$400,000 Innovation Award for its Mahangu Pasta product.

Founder Elizabeth Kambonde said the innovation supports food security, reduces reliance on imported wheat products, and opens a new market for local farmers ,contributing to rural development and job creation along the supply chain.

"Beyond being a healthy, fibre-rich alternative to traditional pasta, Mahangu Pasta helps address health risks such as diabetes and malnutrition. Through education campaigns, we aim to promote indigenous and nutritious food choices. Mahangu is drought-resistant and grows well in Namibia's dry climate with minimal water, making it a sustainable crop," she said.

Kambonde also outlined plans to expand production and distribution to reach more households, support local economies, and help preserve traditional farming practices.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Vice President Lucia Witbooi, Finance Minister Erikah Shafuda said the awards align with government's vision for an inclusive, innovation-driven economy.

"As we embark on a renewed journey of nation-building under the leadership of President Nandi-Ndaitwah, we are reminded that inclusive growth and innovation are not just aspirations, they are imperatives," said Shafuda

She added that DBN's Good Business and Innovation Awards reflect the national vision of recognising enterprises that build sustainable industries, create meaningful employment, and deliver transformative impact in communities.

DBN Deputy Board Chairperson Willy Mertens highlighted the Bank's 20-year track record in advancing Namibia's economic development.

"For two decades, the Development Bank of Namibia has been a steadfast partner in building a resilient and inclusive economy. Today, we celebrate enterprises that reflect the Bank's commitment to sustainable development ,those not only creating jobs and boosting productivity, but also pioneering innovative solutions in sectors vital to Namibia's future," said Mertens.

Other winners included Ongula Homestead Group and Quanta Holdings (Pty) Ltd, which were named runners-up in the SME and Large Enterprise categories, respectively.

Wapa-Nawa Recycling Centre and AUDAX Coatings took second and third place in the Innovation Award category.

DBN Acting CEO John Mbango praised the quality of entries and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to supporting innovation.

"These awards recognise the ingenuity, resilience and determination of Namibian enterprises that are not only creating value and employment, but also redefining what's possible through innovation and enterprise development," he said.

He added that the awards, now a key fixture on Namibia's enterprise development calendar, aim to spotlight businesses that contribute to national progress through forward-thinking solutions and operational excellence.



2025



HANDBOOK



Toyota, VW, Suzuki dominate Namibia's new vehicle sales

Toyota, Volkswagen and Suzuki are leading Namibia's new vehicle market in 2025, holding the top three positions in year-to-date passenger vehicle sales, according to the latest data from IJG Securities.

Toyota continues to dominate the passenger segment with a commanding

51.8% market share, well ahead of Volkswagen at 13.0% and Suzuki at 6.6%. Kia and Haval follow with 6.3% and 5.3% respectively.

In the light commercial vehicle category, Toyota also leads with a 67.1% share of year-to-date sales. Ford ranks second with 11.6%, while Volkswagen holds third place



Help us improve customer service in Namibia!

Your feedback matters! Take a few minutes to complete our survey and contribute to better service standards.

Click or scan QR code to participate: https://forms.gle/ZZ57jJkdU1CVTYVM6



with 4.7%.

Toyota further tops the medium commercial vehicle segment with a 35.2% share, ahead of Hino at 24.1% and Mercedes-Benz at 22.2%.

"Toyota also leads the light commercial vehicle segment with 67.1% of year-to-date sales, followed by Ford with an 11.6% share. Volkswagen ranks third with a 4.7% share of sales," the IJG report stated.

So far in 2025, a total of 4,646 new vehicles have been sold in Namibia, reflecting a 6.5% increase compared to 4,361 units over the same period in 2024.

Passenger vehicle accounted for 48.9% of total sales, while light commercial vehicles made up 2,075 units. Medium and heavy commercial vehicle sales were recorded at 108 and 193 units, respectively.

Despite strong year-to-date performance, monthly vehicle sales in April fell by 5.8% to 1,243 units from 1,320 units in March. However, this still represents a notable 37.5% year-on-year increase from 904 units sold in April 2024.

"A total of 1,243 new vehicles were sold in April, a 5.8% m/m contraction from the 1,320 vehicles sold in March. Notably, monthly passenger vehicle sales surpassed commercial vehicle sales for the first time since May 2023," IJG noted.

Passenger vehicle sales rose by 8.1% month-onmonth and surged 61.1% year-on-year to 670 units in April. This brings the yearto-date total to 2,270 units, up 17.5% from 1,932 over the same period last year. On a rolling 12-month basis, passenger vehicle sales reached 6,122 units – the highest level since September 2023.

Commercial vehicle sales dropped by 18.1% month-on-month in April to 573 units, although they were still up 17.4% compared to April 2024. Light commercial vehicles comprised the bulk of these sales at 496 units. Medium commercial vehicle sales declined slightly, while heavy commercial vehicle sales dropped from 88 units in March to 50 in April.



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)

- 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 N5600.00 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/f58/
- 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 procurement@namport.com.na







DBN prioritises digital transformation to boost service delivery

he Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has placed digital transformation at the centre of its five-year strategy as it seeks to expand access, improve efficiency, and respond more effectively to the needs of Namibian enterprises.

According to Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John Mbango, the bank is streamlining its application processes to make financial services more accessible to businesses across the country, regardless of location or size.

"We are enabling a broader spectrum of entrepreneurs to engage with DBN as a responsive and forward-thinking development finance partner. To complement our emphasis on green finance, the Bank is investing in digital transformation," said Mbango.

He announced the Bank's renewed focus during the 2025 Good Business and Innovation Awards held in Windhoek recently.

Since 2012, DBN has used the Good Business Awards to recognise innovation and responsible business practices.

Mbango noted that digital upgrades are part of its 2024-2029 Integrated Strategic Plan, which also includes targeted support for underrepresented sectors and historically disadvantaged communities.

The plan also emphasises sustainability, green financing, and improved service delivery.

"Since 2012, DBN has used the Good Business Awards to recognise innovation and responsible business practices. This year's event marked the return of the Innovation Award, highlighting the Bank's intent to promote tech-driven development," he added.

DBN Deputy Chairperson Willy Martens said the Bank has invested over N\$21 billion in the economy to date, creating more than 76,000 jobs.

He linked the new digital push to the broader national agenda of technology, sustainability, and industrialisation.

"Namibia is moving toward a future driven by technology. The return of the Innovation Award is timely and strategic. It supports projects that apply technology, improve resource efficiency, and enhance productivity in key sectors," said Martens.

The awards recognised excellence in SMEs, large enterprises, and innovation, with DBN officials calling on all sectors to collaborate in building an inclusive and resilient economy.

For Daily Namibian Finance and Business news







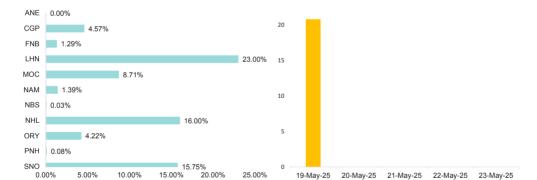


Commodities		Currencies	
Spot Gold	3279.40	USD/ZAR	17.9407
Platinum	1038.93	EUR/ZAR	19.2300
Palladium	997.36	GBP/ZAR	23.9870
Silver	32.17	USD/CNY	7.2176
Uranium	70.50	EUR/USD	1.1263
Brent Crude	65.20	GBP/USD	1.3370
Iron Ore	95.27	USD/RUB	80.8123
Copper	9561.10	CPI	3.60%
Natural Gas	3.31	Repo Rate	6.75%
Lithium	8.15	Prime Rate	10.50%

Mining 58.93% 33.35% Resources 0.31% Financials 10.45% Industrials 12.82% Top 40 9.99% All Share 0% 20% 40% 60% 80%

JSE ALL SHARE VALUE TRADED (ZAR BILLIONS)

NSX Local Stocks: Year to Date in %



25



