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THE BRIEF
News Worth Knowing

Invest International backs Loxworth Capital’s 100-hectare Namibia Berries expansion

MONDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2025

MAIN STORY

Invest International backs Loxworth Capital's 100-hectare Namibia Berries expansion

Loxworth Capital is set to expand its flagship agricultural investment, Namibia Berries, with a 100-hectare extension of its hydroponic farming operations supported by Invest International.

Currently, 90 hectares are under production, with a further 30 hectares being prepared.

Founder and CEO Michael Rodenburg said the expansion will boost productivity and benefit local communities through clean water, solar power, and employment opportunities, while developing new agricultural skills across the Kavango East Region.

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement date:**
  * 3 December 2025

> Our focus has always been on building long-term, sustainable enterprises that create opportunity where it's most needed.

"Our focus has always been on building long-term, sustainable enterprises that create opportunity where it's most needed. Namibia Berries shows how aligned vision, responsible finance, and on-the-ground commitment can transform a region," Rodenburg said.

Situated along the banks of the Kavango River, the expansion will strengthen the project's capacity to produce high-quality berries year-round and advance sustainable farming systems tailored for Namibia's arid conditions. The project, launched in 2021, has already attracted over N$200 million in shareholder investment, with Phase 1(b) completed in January 2025.

In July, Standard Bank Namibia provided N$40 million in funding to the project, split equally between working capital and capital expenditure. Earlier, in August 2024, Eos Capital, through its Euphrates Agri Fund, acquired a 15% stake in the company to support its growth.

The farm produces export-grade fruit and includes a cooling facility to ensure post-harvest handling meets international standards. It also runs training and skills development programmes for local workers and focuses on sustainability through water management, solar power, and community engagement.

Once fully developed, the Namibia Berries project is expected to cost more than N$1 billion.

FlyNamibia partners with Fastjet to connect Windhoek and Harare via Vic Falls

FlyNamibia has partnered with Fastjet to offer travellers a new route connecting Windhoek and Harare via Victoria Falls from 1 November 2025.

The partnership will align flight schedules between FlyNamibia's Windhoek–Victoria Falls service and Fastjet's Victoria Falls–Harare route, allowing seamless travel between Namibia and Zimbabwe.

"This partnership with Fastjet represents progress for regional air travel," said FlyNamibia CEO Nerine Uys.

"By connecting Windhoek and Harare through Victoria Falls, we are helping to move people, ideas, and opportunity across our borders."

FlyNamibia said the collaboration will enhance regional connectivity and support trade and tourism across Southern Africa.

The airline currently operates domestic flights to Ondangwa, Katima Mulilo and Lüderitz, and regional routes to Maun and Victoria Falls.

From April 2026, FlyNamibia will expand its Victoria Falls service to six flights per week. The operational schedule runs from 1 November to 29 November 2025, with additional flights on 3 January, 29 January, 12 February, 19 February, 26 February, 5 March, 12 March and 26 March 2026, followed by six weekly flights from 1 April to 30 November 2026.

Namibia: Stuck in neutral promise without propulsion

Namibia is not in decline. It is stuck. Ranked 22nd in Rand Merchant Bank's Where to Invest in Africa 2025/26, the country falls squarely into the category the report calls "Stuck in Neutral"—economies that invest too little, export too little, and depend too heavily on imports to finance their consumption.

It shares this quadrant with Malawi, Madagascar, Uganda, Senegal, Zambia, Benin, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe—states that, in RMB's words, "need exports to build productivity, and productivity to generate exports." None has yet managed both.

The irony is that Namibia is not short on opportunity. RMB estimates its untapped export potential at around US$3.5 billion, roughly 7 % of GDP.

That should be enough to shake off inertia. But the country's export engine remains jammed by familiar constraints: ageing railways, under-performing ports, slow customs clearance and regulation designed more to control than to enable.

The report notes that such non-tariff barriers do more to throttle African trade than tariffs ever did. Namibia's trading future, it argues, lies mainly outside the US market, in diversified regional and non-Western corridors that can cushion shocks.

The deeper problem is structural. Namibia invests too little in productive capacity. Gross capital formation lags well below the levels of faster-growing peers, while the current-account deficit has become a chronic condition.

The economy imports more than it exports and compensates through borrowing rather than production. RMB's growth-structure model places Namibia in the lower-left corner of its matrix: low investment, negative external balance, weak momentum.

There is no shortage of examples for how to move up. The report cites Singapore, Mauritius, Estonia, and Botswana—economies that broke the cycle with institutional discipline, education, and coherent industrial policy.

Namibia has yet to demonstrate that ambition. The government's offshore oil discoveries are treated as a lifeline, but they are years from realisation. The promise of 8 % growth is a fantasy; the IMF's 3 % forecast is reality.

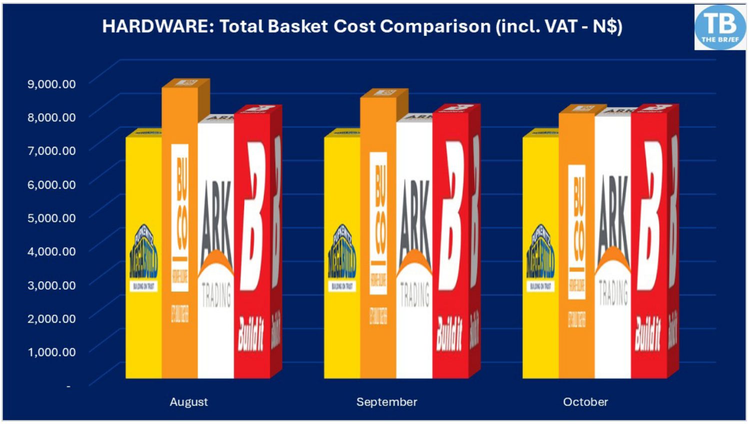
Hydrocarbons may one day lift revenue, but they will not fix the structural flaws that keep the country stagnant.

The global environment is turning less forgiving. Development aid is contracting, foreign investment is flowing to economies that act rather than wait, and Namibia's bureaucratic calm is starting to look less like prudence and more like paralysis. Stability alone is no longer a virtue when it becomes an excuse for inaction.

The way forward is mundane but clear. Focus on logistics, streamline ports, digitise trade documentation, support exporters with credit and market intelligence. Use the export potential as a target for policy, not as a talking point. Namibia does not need a miracle—just movement.

"Stuck in Neutral" is a warning, not a sentence. The country has the means to accelerate; what it lacks is urgency. If policymakers continue to confuse steadiness with strength, Namibia will remain what it is today—a capable nation idling in place while others overtake it.

**** Briefly is a weekly column that is opinionated and analytical. It sifts through the noise to make sense of the numbers, trends and headlines shaping business and the economy with insight, wit and just enough scepticism to keep things interesting. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT OUR OWN, we simply relay them as part of the conversation.***



Pupkewitz retains position as the cheapest hardware store in October 2025

For the third consecutive month, Pupkewitz Megabuild maintained its position as the most affordable hardware store among the four major retailers (BUCO, Ark Trading, and Build It).

In October 2025, Pupkewitz's total basket cost remained unchanged at N$7,174.79, continuing its streak of price stability. This represents a saving of N$619.42 compared to its closest competitor, Ark Trading (N$7,794.22), and a gap of N$723.89 compared to the most expensive retailer, Build It.

Overall, BUCO and Build It remained on the higher end of the pricing spectrum, recording totals of N$7,890.17 and N$7,898.68, respectively.

Prices Comparison (incl. VAT) – October 2025

- Big Ticket Items (Aluminium): This category shows huge variation. Pupkewitz's win was anchored by the aluminium sliding door at N$2,628.99. This was over N$450 cheaper than BUCO's price (N$3,082.22) for the same item. However, BUCO was also the most expensive for the Aluminium Window (N$1,000.83), while Pupkewitz was cheapest (N$849.00).
- Core Materials (Bricks, Lintols, Paint): Build Its high basket cost was driven by it having the top-end price on numerous common materials. While Ark Trading offered the cheapest Brick 7MPA at N$2.61, Build It was significantly more expensive at N$3.78 (a 45% difference).

This pattern continued with Build It holding the highest prices for both Brick force rolls (N$21.22 - N$22.00),ceiling board (N$178.76), Lockset 2 lever (N$120.00), and Paint (N$1,111.67).

• Commodities (Copper & Cement): Ark Trading provided the best deal on Copper Tube 460 Class 0 at N$584.25. In contrast, other commodity items like cement (32.5 and 42.5 grades) showed minimal variation, with all four suppliers pricing these items within a N$1-N$5 range of each other. This suggests shoppers gain little by shopping around for cement alone.

	Pupkewitz Megabuild	Ark Trading	BUCO	Build It
Roofing Galvanized IBR	644.99	612.08	634.98	661.09
Copper Tube 460 Class 0	690.00	584.25	672.03	611.59
Aluminium Window (Bronze)	849.00	1,066.88	1,000.83	875.87
Aluminium Sliding Door (Bronze)	2,628.99	3,056.47	3,082.22	3,046.10
Brick 7MPA	2.94	2.61	3.02	3.78
Brick force 150MM 15M ROLL	15.25	15.67	19.42	21.22
Brick force 75MM 15M ROLL	15.25	15.69	18.79	22.00
Lintol concrete (1.2 mm)	44.45	69.54	50.34	53.83
Lintol concrete (1.8 mm)	69.00	46.35	77.96	83.46
Lintol concrete (0.9 mm)	32.95	34.10	37.06	40.47
Ceiling Board	168.99	151.60	122.28	178.76
Door Frame Steel	529.00	497.82	562.52	559.58
Lockset 2 lever	78.99	86.63	104.74	120.00
Door Hardboard Interior	275.00	390.95	321.79	296.86
32.5 Cement Ohorongo	101.99	105.32	102.30	102.50
42.5 Cement Ohorongo	109.00	114.32	109.81	109.91
Paint	919.00	943.94	970.06	1,111.67
Total	7,174.79	7794.22	7,890.17	7,898.68

Key Observations

• Stable Pricing: Pupkewitz's prices have remained unchanged since August, reflecting consistency amid stable market conditions.

• Competitive Middle Ground: Ark Trading continues to position itself as a mid-range option, offering competitive prices on essentials like bricks, brick force, and cement.

• Higher-Ticket Disparities: BUCO and Build It recorded higher prices, particularly on aluminium doors and windows, and paint, key drivers behind their overall higher totals.

Key Takeaway

Price competition in the hardware sector remains tight.

Pupkewitz Megabuild retains its lead through consistent pricing and competitive rates on high-value items, while Ark Trading remains a strong alternative for core materials.

For consumers and contractors alike, comparing prices across suppliers, especially for large or bulk purchases can yield meaningful savings.

Disclaimer: This survey is for informational purposes only and is based on prices collected in October 2025. Prices may vary due to supplier changes in stock issues or timing. Contact retailers directly for the latest information.

Namibian beef competes on quality, not quantity

By Rosa Thobias

“Cattle availability and processing capacity have fluctuated due to droughts, herd-rebuilding cycles, and animal disease outbreaks.

Over the past five years, Namibia’s beef export industry has shown a mixed yet instructive performance.

On one hand, the country has strengthened its premium market positioning — exports rose to over 22,700 metric tons in 2024, with more than 13,200 metric tons destined for the European Union (EU).

This reflects Namibia’s ability to meet strict international standards and maintain access to duty-free routes such as the Norway quota.

These achievements have reinforced Namibia’s reputation as a supplier of high-quality, value-added beef in niche markets where quality matters more than mass production.

However, despite improving demand and strong export accreditation, supply-side constraints have persisted.

Cattle availability and processing capacity have fluctuated due to droughts, herd-rebuilding cycles, and animal disease outbreaks.

In the first half of 2025, beef exports fell by nearly 50% year-on-year, largely because of low marketed cattle numbers, movement restrictions, and underutilisation of export-approved abattoirs.

These challenges highlight that Namibia’s competitiveness cannot be measured by volume, but rather by quality consistency and resilience within the value chain.

Recent reports that China is eyeing 20,000 tons of Namibian beef per month serve as a reminder that Namibia simply cannot compete on volume.

What Namibia produces in a year, countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Australia produce in a month, thanks to their vast herds and industrialised feedlot systems.

Namibia's strength lies instead in niche, high-value segments that appreciate the unique characteristics of its beef — grass-fed, hormone-free, ethically raised, and fully traceable from farm to fork.

Once you taste Namibian beef, you understand that it is the Rolls-Royce of beef, not the everyday sedan. Its quality sets it apart from mass producers, with cattle raised naturally on open rangelands, free of growth hormones. This premium distinction is the foundation of Namibia's global competitiveness.

The livestock industry remains a cornerstone of Namibia's economy, contributing about 70% of agriculture's share to GDP and providing livelihoods across the value chain.

Guided by Vision 2030 and the Namibia Agriculture Policy, government priorities aim to unlock the sector's full potential through feedlot development, fodder production schemes, and the construction of agro-processing facilities, such as the new Rundu Abattoir in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA).

These investments are essential to expanding processing capacity and ensuring that Namibia continues to be a net exporter of quality beef from both the Southern Veterinary Cordon Fence (SVCF) and NCA regions.

It is also noteworthy that Namibia has recently gained market access to Qatar, expanding its footprint in the Middle East.

This milestone aligns with the country's strategy of targeting premium, quality-driven markets that value traceability and food safety.

By diversifying beyond traditional destinations such as the EU, Norway, and China, Namibia is reducing dependency risks while strengthening its reputation as a trusted supplier of free-range, grass-fed beef.

In conclusion, Namibia's beef industry remains internationally competitive on quality, not quantity. Its long-term success will depend on stabilising production, building climate resilience, diversifying export destinations, and deepening value-chain development.

If Namibia continues to leverage its strengths — authenticity, sustainability, and premium quality — its beef will remain among the most sought-after in the world.

**** Rosa Thobias works in the agricultural sector and has served in several capacities. She writes this article in her personal capacity.***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THE BR/EF
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News Worth Knowing
NEW CEO, NEW VISION FOR DESTINATION NAMIBIA
COMING SOON

Namibia moves closer to secure digital identity and online verification system

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) says the country's data infrastructure is ready to support the implementation of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) framework, a system designed to strengthen digital security and trust in online transactions.

Speaking at a stakeholder engagement on the PKI, Elton Witbooi, CRAN's Executive for ICT, said that although Namibia currently has only one Tier 3 data centre, the infrastructure is sufficient to support the secure rollout of the framework.

"In the context of PKI, the data that enables and drives the process is primarily the certificate management data, which is transactional data used for the management of keys and that is minimal. This data can, of course, be hosted within the different certification service providers," he said.

The PKI framework forms the technical foundation of modern digital security systems. It uses digital certificates and encryption to verify identities, protect sensitive information, and enable electronic signatures. This ensures that data exchanged online is authentic and secure from unauthorised access or manipulation.

Witbooi said CRAN had undertaken benchmarking assessments which confirmed that both CRAN and the Ministry of Home Affairs operate facilities that meet the required standards for key generation and secure data management.

He added that while PKI-related data can be safely handled within existing infrastructure, end-user data remains the responsibility of individual institutions such as banks, telecommunications operators, and other entities that manage sensitive customer information.

To strengthen capacity further, Witbooi said the Office of the Prime Minister is leading plans to establish a dedicated government data centre, which will enhance Namibia's digital infrastructure and support broader digital transformation efforts.

Under the Electronic Transactions Act No. 4 of 2019, CRAN has been appointed as the Root Certification Authority responsible for implementing the PKI framework and ensuring compliance with security standards.

CRAN said the rollout of the system will pave the way for more secure communication, digital signatures, and online identity verification across both public and private sectors, laying the foundation for a safer and more trusted digital economy.

The year-end advantage in forging next year's success now

By Loide Nantinda

As the corporate calendar turns to its final, frenetic quarter, the natural impulse is often to hunker down, manage budgets, finalize reviews, and simply close out targets.

Yet, the most successful, forward-thinking organizations view this period not as a scramble, but as a strategic launchpad.

By simultaneously refining team communication and sharpening goal-setting, they establish a powerful "Year-End Advantage" that sets them up to dominate the year ahead.

This is the crucial moment to transition from merely evaluating the past to proactively engineering the future.

Communication Coaching – Translating Performance into Progress

A year-end performance review should be a pivotal development moment, not a bureaucratic chore. Its effectiveness hinges entirely on the quality of the conversation surrounding it.

This is where targeted communication coaching transforms a dreaded evaluation into a true engine of growth.

Bridging the Review-to-Action Gap:

Many performance reviews fall short because the feedback is either too vague ("needs to improve presentation skills") or delivered in a way that triggers defensiveness.

“ A year-end performance review should be a pivotal development moment, not a bureaucratic chore.

Coaching equips managers to move beyond broad criticism and use structured frameworks, such as the S.T.A.R. method (Situation, Task, Action, Result), to deliver specific, behavioral feedback. This turns abstract advice into concrete, actionable steps an employee can immediately implement.

Strategic Alignment Through Active Listening:

For employees, year-end discussions often feel like a passive exercise in receiving judgment. Communication coaching shifts the focus, prioritizing active listening skills so they can truly absorb and internalize organizational priorities.

This ensures their personal development goals are not just isolated aspirations, but are structurally aligned with the company’s crucial Q1 and Q2 objectives, making every development effort a strategic investment.

Elevating Executive Presence for High-Impact Leadership:

With bigger goals on the horizon, the

ability to articulate strategy and inspire confidence becomes paramount. Coaching at this stage can specifically focus on executive presence—helping high-potential leaders convey conviction, manage complex ambiguity with clarity, and effectively "sell" their vision for the next operational cycle, rallying their teams with assurance.

Goal Setting – Moving Beyond the Checkbox Mentality

The end of the year presents a golden opportunity to retire stale, siloed objectives and embrace a goal-setting methodology that is both ambitious and grounded in reality. Effective goals are more than mere checkboxes; they are powerful communication tools that clearly articulate where collective effort should be directed and why it matters.

The Pivot to OKRs (Objectives and Key Results):

Many firms revitalize performance by shifting away from rigid annual goals toward the dynamic framework of OKRs.

The final quarter is the ideal time to run small pilots, train teams on the distinction between the aspirational Objective (the what) and the measurable Key Results (the how), and foster a cadence of quarterly check-ins rather than relying on a single annual assessment. This creates a flexible, results-driven culture.

The Motivational Power of "Stretch" Communication:

Goals must inspire, not intimidate. Through communication coaching, leaders learn how to frame "stretch goals" not as insurmountable burdens, but as exciting opportunities for professional evolution and market leadership.

The language used in defining a goal directly shapes a team's motivation, perception of success, and willingness to take calculated risks.

De-risking the Unknown by Communicating Lessons Learned:

Next year's success is dependent on this year's failures. The year-end analysis must involve a candid, proactive communication of the biggest risks and resource gaps identified throughout the year.

This ensures that goals are set with the necessary guardrails and resources are allocated before the new year

> The end of the year presents a golden opportunity to retire stale, siloed objectives and embrace a goal-setting methodology that is both ambitious and grounded in reality.

begins, preventing predictable roadblocks, burnout, and failure before they even start.

The Launchpad to a Triumphant New Year 2026

The pressure to successfully close out a business year can often feel weighty—a stark reminder of the constant need to be "on." Yet, the year-end offers a profound opportunity for revitalization and focused preparation.

By strategically investing in clear communication and purposeful goal-setting right now, you aren't just engaging in administrative tasks; you are making a profound, dual investment in your people and your future performance.

You are handing your teams both the essential tools (communication clarity) and the detailed map (aligned goals) they need to execute flawlessly.

Let the final quarter be less about last-minute panic and more about confident preparation. Step back, define the path forward with clarity, and trust that the work you put into refining your internal dialogue and establishing clear objectives will yield an exceptional return.

This isn't just about a better balance sheet; it's about building a more resilient, aligned, and motivated organization.

Embrace the clarity, champion the vision, and you will undoubtedly enter the new year revitalized, aligned, and ready to not just succeed, but to truly thrive

***Loide Nantinda is the founder of Loide Invictus Media, Creative Polymath and a Communications Coach**

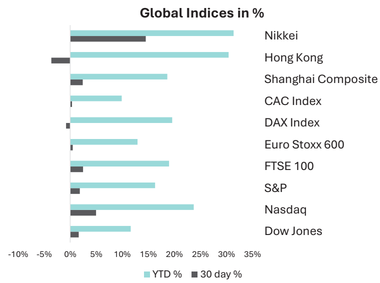
The Market Lens

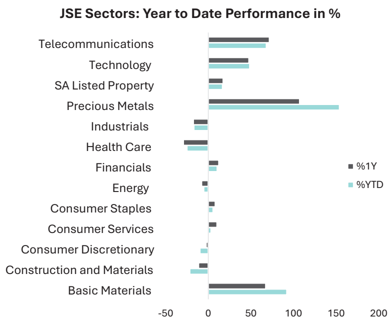
Enriching Generations

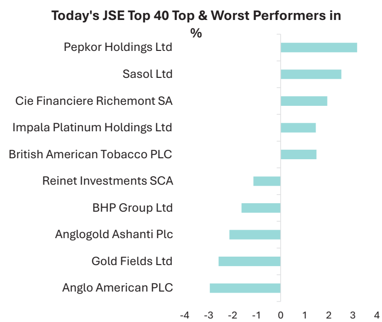
SIMONIS STORM

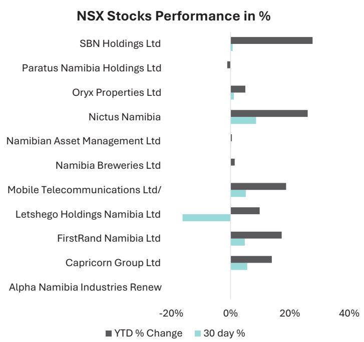
Commodities	
Spot Gold	4010.32
Platinum	1582.33
Palladium	1460.31
Silver	42.33
Uranium	77.50
Brent Crude	64.57
Iron Ore (in CNY)	781.50
Copper	10887.50
Natural Gas	4.14
Lithium	10.05

Currencies	
USD/ZAR	17.35
EUR/ZAR	19.96
GBP/ZAR	22.74
USD/CNY	7.12
EUR/USD	1.15
GBP/USD	1.31
USD/JPY	154.22
Namibia CPI	**3.50%**
Namibia Repo Rate	**6.50%**
Namibia Prime Rate	**10.125%**









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