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NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE SCHEMES IN OKAKANGO, PORTION OF EXTENSION 7 WITHIN OKAKARARA LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA. & INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING

Tortoise Environmental Consultants (TEC) hereby notifies all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 2012) as follows:

Proponent: Okakarara Town Council
Project Location: Okakango Informal Settlement, Portion of Extension 7

Public Meeting Venue: Okakango Informal Settlement (Uetupa Tree)

Date: Wednesday, 28th August 2024
Time: 10h00 – 11h00
Deadline to submit comments: 29th August 2024
For questions and comments:
Contact: 0814077616, Email: info@tec.com.na



NOTICE

Take notice that HARMONIC TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS CC, Town, and Regional Planners, on behalf of the owners of the respective Erf, intend to apply to the Rehoboth Town Council and the Urban and Regional Planning Board for the:

- Rezoning of Erf No. Rehoboth B 545 from "Single Residential" with a density of 1:500 to "General Residential" with a density of 1:100, and
- Consent to commence with the proposed use while the rezoning is in progress.

Erf Rehoboth B 545 measures approximately ±1028 m2 in extent and is zoned "Single Residential" with a density of 1:500 according to the Rehoboth Zoning Scheme. The owner intends to rezone Erf Rehoboth B 545 to increase the density of the property. The owner aims to develop flats for residential purposes. The proposed rezoning will allow the owner to erect a total of 10 units on the erf thus, maximising the use of the erf to its full potential.

Sufficient parking for the development will be provided in accordance with the requirements of the Rehoboth Zoning Scheme.

Further take notice that the plan of the erf lies for inspection on the town planning notice board at the Rehoboth Town Council and at Harmonic Town Planning Offices, 76B Pasteur Street, Windhoek West.

Further take notice that any person objecting to the proposed use of the land as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof, with the Rehoboth Town Council and with the Applicant in writing within 14 days of the last publication of this notice (final date for objections is Thursday, 19 September 2024).

Contact: Harold Kisting
 Harmonic Town Planning ConsultantsCC
 Town and Regional Planners
 P.O. Box 3216 Windhoek
 Cell 081 127 5879
 Fax 088646401
 Email: hkisting@namibnet.com



REZONING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Hilaria Kevanhu, intends to apply to the Rundu Town Council and the Urban and Regional Planning Board on behalf of the registered owner of Erf 1135, Rundu Extension 3, for the:

- Rezoning of Erf 1135, Rundu Extension 3 from "Single Residential" with a density of 1/300 to "Hospitality".
- Consent to commence with the development while the rezoning is in process

The rezoning of Erf 1135, Rundu Extension 3 as well as the consent use sought, would enable the owner of the property to optimize the development potential of their property and thus cater towards the need to contribute towards the hospitality industry in the town.

Take note that a similar notice of the intent to rezone, have been posted on site, published in the Government Gazette as well as on the Notice Board of the Rundu Town Council. The consultation with neighboring erf owners duly took place too.

Take note that any person objecting to the proposed rezoning as set out above may lodge such objection together with the grounds thereof with the Chief Executive Officer, Rundu Town Council, Private Bag 2128, Rundu and/or the applicant in writing within 14 working days of the publication of this notice. The last date for comments/objections is thus 20 September 2024.

Applicant:
 Hilaria Kevanhu
 P O Box 793
 Swakopmund
 Mobile: +264 81 3236024
 E-mail: @htskevanhu@gmail.com

NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED REZONING OF ERF 354 AND ERF 357 OSHAKATI EXTENSION 2 FROM SINGLE RESIDENTIAL TO BUSINESS, OSHANA REGION

Notice is hereby given to all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant stakeholders, that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) for the following activities.

Project title: Rezoning of Erf 354 & 357, Oshakati Extension 2, from Single Residential to Business

Project Location: Oshakati Extension 2, Oshana Region

Proponent: Mrs. Martha Nashidengo

Description: The proponent intends to apply for the Rezoning of Erf 354 & 357 from Single Residential to Business. In terms of the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 07 of 2007), the Rezoning of land from "Residential" to Commercial, cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate being obtained.

I&APs are hereby invited to register, request the Background Information Document (BID), and submit input to info@greengain.com.na The last day to submit input is on **11 September 2024.**

The need for a public meeting will be determined after the consultation and communicated to all registered I&APs.

For more information: Email: eap@greengain.com.na or jkondja@gmail.com
 Cell: +264 81 142 2927 or 081 338 0114



NOTICE

REZONING OF ERF 2326, KUISEBMOND PROPER

A notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Section 107 of the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 5 of 2018), that HEH Urban Nest Creations intends to apply to the Municipality of Walvis Bay and subsequently to the Urban and Regional Planning Board on behalf of the owner of Erf 2326 Kuisebmond Proper for the Rezoning of Erf 2326 Kuisebmond from "Single Residential" to "General Residential", as a special case.

Erf 2326 is located within a predominantly Single Residential neighbourhood of Kuisebmond Proper and measures 264m2 in extent. The purpose of the application is to permit the owner to rezone his erf to align the current developments of twin blocks of flats parallel to each other with the Walvis Bay Town Planning (Zoning) Scheme regulations. Plans and particulars of the application may be inspected during normal office hours on the notice-board of the Town Planning Section at the Municipality of Walvis Bay.

Further take notice that any person having objections to the proposed rezoning application as set out above may lodge such objections and comments, together with the grounds thereof, with the Town Planning Section of the Walvis Bay Municipality and the applicant in writing within 14 days after the publication of this notice. The last date for any objections is: 23 September 2024.

Council:
 Municipality of Walvis Bay
 Private Bag 5017, Walvis Bay
 Civil Centre, Nangolo Mbumba
 Tell: +264 (0)64 201 3229
 Email:townplanning@walvisbaycc.org.na

Applicant:
 HEH Urban Nest Creations
 P O Box 4453, Walvis Bay
 No.77, 6th Street
 Tell: 064 220 275
 Email: info@urbannest-na.com



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DEMOCRACY IN THE MIRROR

300 tied the knot for Namibian citizenship since 2020



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MUN western region condemns activities of national leadership



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PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2024

Rural constituencies in Zambezi region struggling with water crisis

MARTIN ENDJALA
Staff Writers

The prevalence of water challenges is increasing for rural communities in the Zambezi Region due to ageing infrastructure and depleted water supply.

This is according to Judea Lyaboloma Constituency councillor Humphrey Divai, who confirmed this to the *Windhoek Observer* on Wednesday. According to Divai, most rural communities in the constituency and other parts of the Zambezi Region do not have enough water services because of limited availability and administrative problems. He said failure to maintain and repair



Members of the Sechona community queue for hours to get water at one of the boreholes in the Judea Lyaboloma constituency. Photo: Contributed

TO PAGE 2

3 ways to become a more effective boss

When you're the boss, it's so easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the corporate world. Leadership fundamentals are often long forgotten (so far in fact that you've probably forgotten that they should've been remembered.)



PAGE 14

ECN identifies 13 000 duplicates in voter registration

NIËL TERBLANCHÉ
Staff Writers

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has identified 13 685 duplicate entries following the completion of the

2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV).

This was revealed by the ECN chairperson, Elsie Nghikembua, on Thursday when she released the Provisional Voters' Register and Preliminary Statistics following the

completion of the GRV.

"As a result, the final provisional statistics now reflect a total of 1 451 444 registered voters, accounting for 90% of the expected voter registration," she said.

Nghikembua said the duplication

represented a 0.93% decrease in the total preliminary statistics.

The fourth GRV was conducted between 3 June and 1 August 2024, both within Namibia and at all 35

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300 tied the knot for Namibian citizenship since 2020

ERASMUS SHALIHAXWE
Staff Writer

Since January 2020 to date, 296 foreign nationals have acquired Namibian citizenship through marriage to Namibians.

This is according to statistics provided by the executive director in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Etienne Maritz, to the *Windhoek Observer* on Thursday.

Maritz said the ministry also approved 416 applications for citizenship by foreign nationals who are married to Namibians.

He explained that Article 4(3) of the Namibian Constitution, along with Section 3 of the Namibian Citizenship Act (Act No. 14 of 1990), allows individuals to acquire Namibian citizenship through marriage.

“Article 4(3) in good faith marry a Namibian Citizen or, prior to the coming into force of this constitution, in good faith married person who have qualified for Namibian citizenship if this constitution had been in force, and subsequent to such marriage have ordinarily resided in Namibia for a period of not less than 10 years, and to apply for Namibian citizenship, applicant must complete and submit the application form attaching all the required documents listed in application form,” said Maritz.

Applicants seeking Namibian citizenship through marriage are categorised by country.

Country (%)	Males (%)	Females
South Africa	15.71	28.57
Angola	11.42	7.14
Zimbabwe	8.57	4.28
Zambia	2.85	1.43
Nigeria	2.85	0
Tanzania	2.85	1.43
Cameroon	1.43	0
Kenya	1.43	0
India	1.43	0
Scotland	0	1.43
Egypt	1.43	1.43

The parliament is currently discussing the Marriage Bill, seeking to amend certain sections of it.

Last month, while contributing to the bill, Popular Democratic Movement member of Parliament Elma Dienda said that under Section 32 on Good Faith Marriages, Subsection 1 stipulates that a marriage between a Namibian citizen and a foreign national is not in good faith if it is primarily intended for acquiring Namibian domicile, residence, or citizenship.

“I submit that we add a period of at least a two-year relationship before a valid marriage between a Namibian and a foreigner can take place to reduce incidences of marriages of convenience. A two-year demonstrated relationship period will show genuine intent and commitment,” said Dienda.



Picture for illustration purposes

ECN identifies 13 000 duplicates in voter registration

FROM PAGE1

Namibian diplomatic missions abroad.

She said that after completing the GRV, the ECN shifted focus to reviewing the electoral data and compiling the provisional voters' register.

“This process included running the Automated Fingerprint Identification System to compare all 10 fingerprints of each voter captured on the system, aiming to detect any possible multiple entries,” she said.

According to Nghikembua, this critical step is part of the commission's efforts to maintain the integrity and credibility of the voters' register.

Nghikembua also announced that the provisional voters' register, which was produced following the verification exercise, will be displayed for public objections from 29 August to 4 September 2024, in all 121 constituencies across the country.

“This is in accordance with the provisions of Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014, as amended,” she said. The released preliminary statistics include detailed breakdowns by national generational cohorts, gender, youth turnout, and participation of people with disabilities.

She said a regional breakdown of the duplicates recorded during the registration process has also been provided.

As the electoral calendar progresses, significant statutory activities leading up to polling day include the display of the provisional voters' register for scrutiny, the handling of objections by the Electoral Tribunal, the production and release of the final voters' register on 30 September 2024, and the candidate nomination period scheduled between 26 September and 16 October 2024.



Elsie Nghikembua

Nghikembua said that in preparation for the upcoming elections, the ECN will also present the voter verification module, which will be used to identify and verify voters on polling day.

“To ensure readiness, the commission will conduct a mock verification exercise in randomly selected constituencies and localities on 30 to 31 August 2024,” she said.

Nghikembua urged all stakeholders to participate in the mock verification exercise and to employ effective voter education efforts to ensure a high voter turnout on 27 November 2024, when the elections are set to commence.

She stressed that the right to vote is a fundamental right that must be upheld and protected by all.

Rural constituencies in Zambezi region struggling with water crisis

FROM PAGE1

dried-out boreholes is among the biggest challenges.

“Rural water supply in the region does not stock or procure parts for boreholes, and community members buy parts with their own money for government boreholes to be repaired when broken down,” he said. He stated that the water challenge has caused many deaths in the constituency as human-wildlife conflict has occurred, particularly at water points such as rivers. In the 2023/2024 natural calamity of drought, he said, there has been and still is a high increase in water consumption for both humans and animals, fearing that the limited boreholes supplying water to communities may dry out if the government does not intervene as soon as possible.

He believes that drilling more boreholes and connecting the Kongola to Malengalenga pipeline and the Zambezi to Muyako pipeline will improve the situation. “When this is achieved, it will ease the water challenges in the Zambezi Region,” he said. A community member from the Ngonga area, Timothy Sitali, said that the area is grappling with water scarcity due to broken pumps which makes it difficult to access water.

Divai said that although the area has rehabilitated boreholes, they lack pipelines and pumps, allowing them to dry out and deteriorate.

He called on the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to speed up the drilling of borehole programmes to help the community in dire need of water.

Geoffrey Simbuu from Lizauli complained that for the past five months, they have been struggling with water.

According to him, the current water tank has run dry, and the little water left in the river is left to help the community and the animals, describing the situation as catastrophic.

“We are suffering, competing for water with the animals, and the little livestock we have is now also dying; we need an extra tank and boreholes to address the water situation. Thirty-four years after, and we are still living like an oppressed community,” he argued. Darlams Kajwa from the Mbambazi area said the area only has two boreholes, one belonging to the school and one to the community.

While pointing out that nearby villages without boreholes frequently use the same borehole, Kajwa said that one of the boreholes is old and needs replacement. He suggested that they need at least two or three additional boreholes, one in Mbambazi and two on the east and west, to address water shortages in other areas. He said this will further extend assistance to other faraway areas that are also grappling with shortages of water.

“If we can get these boreholes drilled and operational with pipelines to address the water pressure complaints by extending the pipeline distance, this will further help the community access water at all times. But we are urging the councillor and the government to hurry before the situation gets to the point of no return,” he argued.

2025/26 NAMIBIA HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY (NHIES): PILOT SURVEY

Selected areas for Pilot Survey

Regions	Constituency	Specific areas
Erongo	Swakopmund	Ocean view (Streets are Sandpaper, Goswk, Sharewater, Plover, Emerald, Stick and Onyx).
Hardap	Mariental urban	Commercial Farms behind the Hardap Green Schemas
Zambezi	Kabbe South	Kasika area
Kavango West	Ncamangoro	Ncamangoro Farms and Karukuvisa West, kulimina, Sihova and Mukuta

Kunene	Epupa	Otjihende, Oukavaty, Ombitsaori, Oruyombo Oozonduombe, Otjite, Okomukandi, Owakapau
Khomas	Windhoek East	Ludwigsdorp (streets: Maria, Karin, Lanie, Gloudina, Qenta and Lyona Street).
Omusati	Oshikuku	Oshikuku town
Omaheke	Kalahari	Commercial farms on the road to Drimopsis

NB: Kindly note that not all households in the selected streets will participate in the survey

30 September – 20 October 2024



NHIES
Namibia Household Income
and Expenditure Survey



Namibia Statistics
Agency



MUN western region condemns activities of national leadership

NIËL TERBLANCHÉ
Staff Writer



Abiud Kapere

The Mine Workers Union of Namibia's (MUN) western regional office has raised serious concerns over what it describes as unconstitutional activities initiated by the union's Head Office Administration.

According to Abiud Kapere, chairman of the MUN's western region, these actions have been undertaken without the mandate of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and are in direct violation of the MUN Constitution. In a statement on Wednesday, Kapere reiterated that the issuance of disciplinary enquiry notices by a MUN staff member against union members concerning matters related to structural activities represents a grave breach of members' constitutional rights.

"The western region has also noted the alarming silence from the NEC regarding these arbitrary actions, which we believe signifies complicity and a failure to uphold the union's constitutional principles," he said. Kapere cited Article 13 of the MUN Constitution, which mandates that the NEC ensure compliance with the Constitution and protect members' rights.

"By remaining silent, the NEC is seen as abdicating its responsibility and becoming complicit in the ongoing constitutional violations," he added.

According to Kapere, the western region is committed to accountability, constitutional compliance, and transparency.

Kapere stressed that the region demands strict adherence to the MUN Constitution at all levels of the union. He expressed concern over the misuse of membership fees to convene unauthorised NEC meetings aimed at targeting members with dissenting views.

Kapere condemned the usage of the union funds to finance legal battles against members, describing it as a tactic to silence opposition and prevent members from participating in leadership structures that promote accountability.

"This imbalance is not only unjust but also a clear conflict of interest," Kapere said while pointing to the fact that many current leadership figures have benefitted from questionable transactions.

He said these transactions were supposed to be scrutinised following a resolution passed at the May 2023 Congress, which called for a forensic audit and an extraordinary congress to be held within six months.

"However, the implementation of this

resolution has been delayed, with no sign of the promised Extraordinary Congress by the end of August 2024," he added.

The western region, according to Kapere, demands that the congress convene no later than November 2024. He warned that failure to do so would force the regional office to take legal or other appropriate action.

Kapere dismissed the excuse of insufficient funds and the restricted NAMIT Trust account as unacceptable.

"The MUN Constitution does not allow for the Trust to fund the union's operational activities, and using Trust funds for the Extraordinary Congress is seen as another attempt to misuse resources meant for the Trust's beneficiaries," he stated.

Four other regions have joined the western region in calling for an extraordinary congress.

"The NEC's reluctance to comply with this demand, coupled with what the Western Region describes as "baseless excuses," will not deter the region from advocating for governance and accountability in line with the Congress Resolution," Kapere maintained.

He said that the western region distanced itself from the "unfounded and baseless" allegations made by the General Secretary regarding union-busting activities at Husab.

Kapere stated that these claims were never raised by the Branch to the Region or the NEC and are viewed as a deliberate attempt to destabilise the Western Region.

He urged all members to stay focused on the goal of holding the Extraordinary Congress, highlighting that it is illogical for leaders elected by over 700 members to be removed by a select few, particularly when considering the cost implications for members.

"The Western Region remains united and determined to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and constitutional compliance," he said.

Kapere called on all patriotic union members to take an active role in directing the organisation for the benefit of all.

The MUN acting vice president, Shavuka Mbidhi, confirmed that the leadership has received the letter and will respond to the western region in the coming days.

Namcor and BW Kudu expand scholarship programme for underprivileged students

NIËL TERBLANCHÉ
Staff Writer

The National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR), in collaboration with BW Kudu, has announced the expansion of its scholarship programme aimed at supporting underprivileged students.

According to a joint statement issued by both institutions on Thursday, this initiative, in partnership with the Physically Active Youth (PAY), a non-profit organisation dedicated to the upliftment of disadvantaged children especially from the Katutura suburb of Windhoek, is a continuation of a successful collaboration that commenced in 2023.

"NAMCOR and BW Kudu are thrilled to continue with this support. We believe that education is key to a brighter future, and we are determined to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Namibian youth," said Klaus Endresen, country chairperson of BW Kudu.

He added that the scholarship programme, which began with two recipients in 2023, has proven to be very successful.

The two students who received scholarships last year excelled academically and are continuing with their studies.



Klaus Endresen

"Following this success, PAY approached BW Kudu with a request to include more students in the programme. BW Kudu, together with NAMCOR, has approved this request and will be expanding the scholarship initiative," he said.

He added that in 2024, the number

of scholarship recipients will increase to four, with the duration of the scholarships being extended to three years.

"This expansion underscores BW Kudu's and NAMCOR's commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of underprivileged youth and reflects their dedication to corporate social responsibility," he said. A formal handover ceremony was held on 27 August 2024 to confirm the expanded scholarship programme. The event celebrated the achievements of the current scholarship recipients and welcomed the new students who will benefit from this initiative.

According to Endresen, PAY will, in the meantime, continue its mission to nurture self-confidence, critical thinking, and active citizenry in young Namibians from disadvantaged backgrounds, contributing to a more equal and knowledge-based Namibia. BW Kudu operates the Kudu gas field, located 130 kilometres west of Oranjemund, in collaboration with NAMCOR.

The gas from this field will in the future be piped to Elisabeth Bay near Lüderitz, where a power station will generate electricity for the nation.

BW Kudu is a subsidiary of BW Energy Limited, an independent oil and gas company listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange in Norway.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS



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Potentia Namibia Recruitment Pty Ltd cordially invites interested parties to submit quotations for the supply of various IT and office equipment as described below:

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103	Mini Tower servers - Exclude SSDs
243	Uninterruptable Power supply Units(UPS)
395	Network Cabling
388	Monitors
200	Memory
350	HDD

We kindly request all bidders to:

- Present a comprehensive description of your company, including any relevant certifications or proof of being an authorised dealer for the items you intend to supply (if applicable). This information will help us assess your eligibility as a supplier.
- Submit copies of your Social Security and Tax Good Standing Certificates to ensure compliance with legal requirements and to establish your credibility as a business entity.
- Itemise each cost item in the quotation and provide their associated costs. Be transparent and specific in your pricing, ensuring that all relevant expenses are included. Furthermore, kindly note that the costs should encompass the delivery of the items to Potentia Namibia's premises.
- Clearly state any applicable discounts, if available, and consider this quote as your best and final offer. We appreciate competitive pricing, and the consideration of discounts helps us evaluate the overall value of your proposal.
- Specify the projected or expected delivery date for the items mentioned in the quote.
- Ensure that the prices quoted are fixed and non-negotiable. Any changes to the pricing of the post-contract award will require written agreement between all involved parties.

Interested?

For other instructions and more detailed information regarding the products and their specifications, kindly refer to the following link for the full RFQ document : <https://t.ly/2GRM9> or request via email to procurement@potentia.com.na. To ensure streamlined communication and efficient processing, we require all quotations and correspondence to be submitted exclusively through the aforementioned email address.

Please note that the deadline for the receipt of your quote is set for **Friday, 06 September 2024 at 13h00**. Any quotations received after this date and time will not be considered.





Lack of security has turned Pamodzi into a dangerous place harbouring robbers, causing significant concern among local residents.

Club Pamodzi abandoned and dangerous

INVITATION TO BID



The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) was established to provide retirement benefits to employees in the services of the Namibian Government and other participating public institutions. The Fund's membership includes active members and a variety of annuitants. The Government Institutions Pension Fund's mission is to safeguard and grow the Fund for the benefit of its stakeholders and Namibia.

GIPF hereby invites qualified, competent, authorised from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) and registered companies to submit bids to GIPF for the under-mentioned:

Bid Number	Bid Description
G/ONB/GIPF-02/2024	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Cloud-based Data Backup Hardware to GIPF

Cost per set of documents: N\$300

Bid Documents Availability and Enquiries:

Documents for these bids are available via electronic mail from the below contact, following a non-refundable payment of N\$300:

Mr. E. Job
Procurement Officer
T +264-61-205-1210
E: ejob@gipf.com.na

Details of Bid Submission:

Sealed bids citing the bid number and detailing the services to be rendered should be posted or hand delivered to:

The Chairperson: GIPF Procurement Committee
 BID NO: G/ONB/GIPF-02/2024 – Supply, Delivery and Installation
 of Cloud-based Data Backup Hardware to GIPF
 GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS PENSION FUND
GIPF House, Ground Floor, Reception
 Corner of Dr Kenneth David Kaunda and Goethe Street
 P.O. Box 23500
 Windhoek, Namibia

The closing date and time for this bid is 05 September 2024 at 12H00 p.m.
 Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Visit: www.gipf.com.na Email: info@gipf.com.na



HERTTA- MARIA AMUTENJA

Staff Writer

Once a vibrant nightclub and matinee venue in Katutura, with a rich history as a popular spot for social gatherings and entertainment, Club Pamodzi has become a nightmare for the residents of Rykmansdorp in Katutura.

For the young people in Katutura, the place was known for its lively atmosphere, music, events, nightlife, and matinee.

However, since its closure in 2015, the building has fallen into disrepair and become a hotspot for criminal activities.

The lack of security has turned it into a dangerous place, causing significant concern among local residents.

This has created a sense of fear and insecurity among residents, who feel that their concerns are being ignored by the authorities.

The community's concerns have intensified following an incident where a woman and her two sons were robbed at knifepoint near the site on Wednesday.

The woman, who lives in a nearby complex and spoke to the Windhoek Observer on condition of anonymity for fear that the attackers might return, voiced her frustration, saying this was not an isolated incident.

"I am not the first person from our complex to have been targeted near that building," she said.

She criticised the authorities for not responding to their community's cry to have the building either turned into an operational business or demolished.

"It's like they are just waiting for something worse to happen before they take action. We're scared, and we don't feel safe here anymore. I've had enough—I'm planning to move out as soon as possible," she said.

The building, previously known as Club Pamodzi, has been a cause of concern for years, attracting criminal activities ranging from robberies to assaults. The former nightclub and matinee venue today has no doors or windows, making it a perfect spot for criminal activities as

there is no lighting or security around it.

The local community, frustrated by the lack of progress, is demanding that the authorities take decisive action to address the issue.

John Moonde, councillor for the John Pandeni Constituency, said efforts have been made to address the problem.

"We held three or more community meetings with the City Council, NamPol, and City Police at my office when these criminal activities were brought to my attention," he said. Moonde added that he met with the building's owner in 2022, who promised to rehabilitate the structure into a shop.

"Unfortunately, up to now, the building is just harbouring robbers," Moonde added.

Moonde emphasised the need for the City Council to enforce its bylaws.

"What is needed in this case is for the City Council to enforce its bylaws and bring the owner of the building to book, while the police keep patrolling around the building as they occasionally do," he said.

The City of Windhoek acknowledged the issue through spokesperson Harold Akwenye but noted the limitations they face with privately owned properties around the city.

"The City of Windhoek has specific regulations for the maintenance of private properties, but our ability to intervene is limited. We engage with property owners to address safety concerns," Akwenye said.

He added that while there are no immediate plans to secure or repurpose the building, discussions with the owner are ongoing.

When reached for comment, the building's former owner, Silvanus Hauwanga, said that he had sold the property last week and signed it off to a new owner.

"The new owners are currently busy sorting that out," Hauwanga said. He directed any further inquiries to himself but declining to comment further on the matter.

The Namibian Police did not respond to queries sent before publishing this article.

Compliance with road rules leads to safer roads in Oshana over the long weekend

STEFANUS NASHAMA
Staff Writer

The Oshana police have recorded only four vehicle accidents, one fatality, and six cases of drinking and driving during the past long weekend.

The Oshana regional police commander, Commissioner Naftal Lungameni Sakaria, shared this information with the *Windhoek Observer* on Thursday.

“We have recorded a total number of four accidents, one fatality and six cases of drinking and driving in the region during the past long weekend,” he explained.

According to Sakaria, the low-motor vehicle accident cases indicate that motorists are complying with the road rules and police instructions.

“These numbers are low considering the number of people travelling in our region during the long weekend. There was a lot of movement with people travelling to Omuthiya for Heroes Day, the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, weddings, and many other events,” he stressed.

According to him, the number of such cases was high during the same period last year.

Sakaria said the police were primarily focused on speeding, drinking, and driving, as well as vehicle documentation and roadworthiness.

“Those are the things we were mostly

focussing on during such a time to ensure the safety of our nation,” he said.

He acknowledged the travellers for respecting and following the laws and road instructions.

He further called for a continuous relationship with Neighbourhood Watch and Men and Women Network.”

“The commitment to fight against crime and reduce accidents should not be left to the police alone. We should be working together with the community,” he said.

Sakaria commented on public figures who reported unlawful incidents to the police. He announced the opening of more police stations in the region to ensure that services are more accessible to the public.

“Tomorrow we are opening a new police station at Onawa in Oshakati because our regional station is not sufficient enough to attend to all reports on time,” stated Sakaria.

He encouraged community members in the area to vigilantly observe and report any illegal activities promptly.

According to the latest Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) fund statistics in the past eight months 1919 vehicle accidents, with 3510 injunt and 266 fatalities have been recorded.

Earlier this month the fund’s executive director Rosalia Martins-Hausiku expressed deep concern, urging strict adherence to traffic rules to prevent further tragedies.



We have recorded a total number of four accidents, one fatality and six cases of drinking and driving in the region during the past long weekend.



Commissioner Naftal Lungameni Sakaria



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Nantu launches CPD training academy to empower teachers

NIËL TERBLANCHÉ
Staff Writer

The landscape of education in Namibia is set for a transformative shift with the launch of the Namibia National Teachers Union's (NANTU) Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Training Academy, aimed at empowering educators to lead the way in a rapidly evolving educational environment.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Education, Arts, and Culture, Anna Nghipondoka, during the Namibia National Teachers Union (NANTU) twelfth National Congress held in Swakopmund on Wednesday.

The new academy, established by NANTU, is designed to provide continuous professional development opportunities for its members, ensuring that teachers are equipped with the necessary skills to meet the diverse needs of their learners.

The minister said that the CPD programme will include workshops, seminars, peer observations, and collaborative projects, all aimed at enriching teaching practices and fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

Nghipondoka stressed the importance of continuous professional development, noting that emerging technologies and evolving pedagogical strategies require teachers not only to keep pace but also to lead the way in educational innovation.

"Continuous Professional Development ensures that we are not just keeping pace, but leading the way. It provides us with the tools

to innovate, inspire, and impact our learners profoundly," she said.

The theme of the congress, "Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive Education, Lifelong Quality, and Relevant Learning in Namibia," stresses the need for a robust and adaptable education system.

Nghipondoka reiterated the critical role of teachers in shaping the future of Namibia and urged them to embrace continuous learning to better serve their students.

She also referenced the ministry's broader efforts to transform education in Namibia, including the implementation of the National Conference on Education Implementation Plan (NCE-IP), a seven-year plan with key areas of focus, including inclusive quality education, educational infrastructure development, and the professionalisation of the teaching profession.

"I acknowledge the challenges faced by teachers, including inadequate resources and overcrowded classrooms, but their dedication and passion for delivering quality education is praiseworthy," she said. The minister urged teachers to actively participate in the CPD programmes, share their insights, and support their colleagues in this collective endeavour.

Neville Andre, the Erongo regional governor, praised the efforts of NANTU in advocating for the rights and welfare of educators.

He acknowledged the progress made in education within the Erongo Region but stressed the need for continued efforts to ensure that education systems are resilient and

“

I acknowledge the challenges faced by teachers, including inadequate resources and overcrowded classrooms, but their dedication and passion for delivering quality education is praiseworthy.

capable of meeting the demands of an ever-changing world.

Andre reiterated the need for collaboration between the government, the private sector, and educational stakeholders in addressing challenges such as infrastructure development and water shortages in schools. He called for continued commitment from all stakeholders to create an environment where every learner has the opportunity to succeed.

Andre said the launch of the NANTU CPD Training Academy is a vital step towards enhancing the professional development of teachers in Namibia.

"This initiative will play a crucial role in ensuring that educators are well-prepared to inspire and nurture the next generation of Namibian learners in a technologically advanced world," he said.



Anna Nghipondoka

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS ABRIDGED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 29 February 2024			
	Notes	2024 N\$	2023 N\$
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
Property, plant and equipment	3	--	407 157
Cash and cash equivalents	5	--	440
		<u>--</u>	<u>407 597</u>
Accumulated surplus / (accumulated deficit)		(494)	973
Mortgage bonds	7	--	406 624
Bank overdraft	5	494	--
		<u>--</u>	<u>407 597</u>
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Revenue	8	8 000	65 110
Administrative expenses	9	(2 431)	(1 963)
Other expenses	10	--	(4 101)
Finance cost	11	(7 036)	--
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		<u>(1 467)</u>	<u>59 046</u>
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY			
Balance at 01 March 2022		(58 073)	(96 556)
Deficit for the year		59 046	31 984
Balance at 28 February 2023 / 01 March 2023		973	(64 572)
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(1 467)	59 046
Mortgage bonds		--	6 500
Balance at 29 February 2024		<u>(494)</u>	<u>974</u>
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS			
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		(1 467)	59 046
Adjustments for finance costs		7 036	--
Net cash flows used in investing activities		407 157	--
Net cash flows used in financing activities		(413 660)	(60 899)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(934)	(1 853)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		440	2 293
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	5	<u>(494)</u>	<u>440</u>

Statistic agency sets record straight about N\$250 million budget

STEFANUS NASHAMA
Staff Writer

The Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) clarified that N\$250 million is required to conduct at least one large survey every year, in addition to the normal operations and statistics currently produced by the agency.

The normal operations include the National Accounts, the National Consumer Price Index, sectoral reports, and trade statistics.

The NSA statistician-general, Alex Shimuafeni, clarified a media report that said the NSA is having difficulty releasing national statistics promptly due to insufficient funding.

"NSA has been producing timely statistics since its inception in 2012. The figure of N\$ 250 million is rather an ideal amount required to be doing at least one large survey every year," he said. He said the government,



Alex Shimuafeni

through the National Planning Commission (NPC), has supported the NSA throughout the years, and the agency is not struggling to release the national statistics. He defines timely statistics as those that are released as soon as possible

after collection.

He referred to the current trend of using administrative records as a new method of data collection, which the NSA has started evaluating as more cost-effective. Shimuafeni said while it cannot always replace certain surveys and certainly cannot substitute for the Census at this point.

"The NSA has done so with the 2023 Population and Housing Census, of which the reference night was 24 September 2023, and the preliminary report (which is the first report to provide information of how much the population is as well as the number of households) was released on 13 March 2024.

"The second batch of the Census report will be released later this year – a timeline that is in good benchmarking as subsequent reports are normally released over a year after the preliminary report due to further analysis to be made (as some of the neighbouring countries did with their 2022 Census reports, which were released in 2024)," explained Shimuafeni.



Former Eskom CEO Brian Molefe, and veteran singer Gezani Eric Nkovani, popularly known as Papa Penny were sworn in at the Good Hope Chamber in Cape Town on Wednesday.

Papa Penny, ex-Eskom boss sworn in as MK parliamentarians

Ten politicians, including former president Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto WeSizwe Party (MK) members, joined the latest group of MPs that were sworn. Speaker of the National Assembly Thoko Didiza administered the oath of office to the group on Wednesday at the Goodhope Chamber Building in Cape Town.

The group included former EFF MP Mzwanele Manyi, reality TV celebrity and veteran singer Gezani Eric Nkovani, popularly known as Papa Penny, and Sinawo Tambo, who is anticipated to take Floyd Shivambu's place.

Official opposition party
They are jumping on board after a

highly competitive election in May that resulted in the eight-month-old MK Party becoming the official opposition. The new MPs are: Thembisile Mjadu (KZN-MK), Nompumelelo Matilda Gasa (KZN-MK), former Passenger Rail Agency of SA CEO Lucky Montana (KZN-MK), Nkovani (KZN-MK), former Transnet Group CEO Siyabonga Gama (KZN-MK), and former Eskom and Transnet boss Brian Molefe (KZN-MK). The others are Thulani Innocent Gamede (KZN-MK) and Mogamad Nazier Paulsen (national-EFF). The two EFF members are taking the seats left vacant by Shivambu and Manyi, who has been the Jacob Zuma

Foundation spokesperson, left the EFF on the same day Shivambu announced his departure. Manyi was a member of the ANC, African Transformation Movement, and the EFF for the previous five years. Shivambu took to his X account to comment on the swearing in, adding that the MK members are clear on the party's mission. "The comrades sworn in on behalf of the uMkhonto WeSizwe Party today are a clear and emphatic demonstration that the movement is serious about an alternate revolutionary government and quality public representation," he wrote. - <https://sundayworld.co.za/>

WHO says droplets a 'minor' route of mpox transmission

The WHO on Tuesday said droplets were a minor route of transmission for mpox compared to physical contact, adding that more research was needed to understand how the outbreak is spreading.

The World Health Organization declared an international emergency over mpox on August 14, concerned by the surge in cases of the Clade 1b strain in the Democratic Republic of Congo and its spread to nearby countries. The UN health agency says on its website that mpox spreads between people mainly through close physical contact with someone who has the virus.

"Close contact includes skin-to-skin (such as touching or sex) and mouth-to-mouth, or mouth-to-skin contact (such as kissing)," it says. It can also include "being face-to-face with someone who has mpox (such as talking or breathing close to one another, which can generate infectious respiratory particles)". WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said Tuesday that if a person with the virus had lesions, "if you're talking closely to someone, breathing on them, physically close, face-to-face, there is a possibility" of viral spread, "but this is a minor source".

Instead, "what we're seeing is the close, physical skin-to-skin" contact as the chief route of transmission, she told a briefing in Geneva. "When you're talking to somebody, you're spitting out droplets," but "it's not a very major form of transmission — and it's not a... through-the-air, long-distance sort of transmission". "More research is needed to fully understand the transmission dynamics," Harris added. The WHO recommends the use of facemasks for those with mpox, their close contacts and health workers treating them. Studies into new strain There are two subtypes of mpox: Clade 1, endemic in the Congo Basin in central Africa; and Clade 2, endemic in West Africa. The surge in the DR Congo is being driven by surges of two different Clade 1 strains. The first is an outbreak in northwest DRC of what was previously known as Clade 1, now called Clade 1a. The second, in northeastern DRC, is a new offshoot of Clade 1 called Clade 1b, which was first detected in September last year and is spreading rapidly. The spread of Clade 1b, and its detection in nearby countries, were the main reasons behind the WHO

sounding its top emergency alarm. Clade 1 mpox is known to be more virulent than Clade 2 mpox and has a higher fatality rate. As for whether Clade 1b is more dangerous than Clade 1a, Harris said: "We don't have that data." "Studies are under way to understand the properties of the new strain. But available epidemiological data doesn't really suggest that the clade 1b variant causes more severe cases and deaths." The WHO said Tuesday that it needed \$87.4 million from September to February to implement its plans to contain the mpox outbreak. Meanwhile the UN refugee agency warned that displacement camps in the DRC and other impacted countries in Africa could be severely affected. "Without additional, urgent support, the recently declared mpox outbreak could become devastating for refugees and displaced communities," said UNHCR's public health chief Allen Maina. He said implementing mpox prevention measures among those fleeing violence was a "tremendous challenge", with people driven into overcrowded shelters with poor sanitation, while others were cut off from humanitarian assistance.

AFP

OPINION: Are Namibian Parastatal conferences socially exclusive? Its impact on national development oil and gas | green hydrogen | hospitality

QUINTON ADOLF

In Namibia, the emergence of exorbitant and expensive parastatal conferences as exclusive events inaccessible to the general public because of affordability raises concerns about social inclusivity and its broader impact on the nation.

These conferences, often attended by government officials, industry experts, and corporate elites, serve as platforms for discussing important issues affecting the country's development. However, the lack of representation and participation from ordinary Namibians raises questions about the fairness, transparency, and effectiveness of these gatherings in promoting national progress.

The exclusion of the Namibian public from parastatal conferences reflects a broader trend of social elitism and exclusion that has persisted in the country for years. Historically, Namibia has grappled with issues of inequality, poverty, and social marginalization, stemming from the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. The concentration of power, wealth, and influence in the hands of a privileged few has perpetuated disparities in access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making processes. When parastatal conferences become exclusive events catering primarily to an elite audience, they reinforce existing power dynamics and limit the diversity of perspectives and voices that are essential for meaningful national dialogue and decision-making. By excluding ordinary citizens, especially those from marginalized communities, these conferences risk perpetuating a cycle of exclusion and alienation that undermines social cohesion, trust in institutions, and ultimately, the legitimacy of governance structures.

The impact of the social exclusivity of Namibian parastatal conferences on the nation at large is multifaceted and far-reaching. Firstly, the lack of inclusivity hampers efforts to address the root causes of social and economic challenges facing the country. By failing to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including grassroots organizations, civil society groups, and ordinary citizens, these conferences miss out on valuable insights, experiences, and solutions that could inform more holistic and sustainable development strategies.

Moreover, the exclusion of the Namibian public from parastatal conferences contributes to a sense of disillusionment, apathy, and disengagement among citizens, particularly the youth. When people feel disconnected from decision-making processes and



perceive them as inaccessible or irrelevant to their lives, they are less likely to participate in civic activities, hold leaders accountable, or contribute to national development efforts. This lack of civic engagement can erode the social fabric of the nation, weaken democratic institutions, and hinder progress towards inclusive and equitable development. Furthermore, the social exclusivity of parastatal conferences can exacerbate existing inequalities and deepen social divisions within Namibian society. When only a select few have access to information, networks, and resources available at these conferences, the gap between the haves and have-nots widens, perpetuating patterns of privilege and disadvantage. This exclusion not only limits opportunities for social mobility and economic empowerment but also fosters a culture of elitism and entitlement that undermines efforts to build a more just and inclusive society. Social exclusivity of Namibian parastatal conferences has profound implications for the nation's development trajectory and social cohesion. To realize the full potential of these gatherings as catalysts for positive change, it is imperative to prioritize inclusivity, diversity, and transparency in their design and implementation. By opening up these spaces to a broader range of participants, fostering dialogue across different sectors of society, and promoting accountability and responsiveness to citizen needs, parastatal conferences can become more effective platforms for advancing national development goals.

Quinton Amen Ra Chinuru Adolf is a Published author of 2 books, columnist, social entrepreneur, thought leader of "Green Economy 4 Africa" and project manager of BIMNP.

Namibia's economic growth could be affected by growing geopolitical unrest

JOSEF KEFAS SHEEHAMA

Namibia relies heavily on imports, and rising geopolitical upheaval may limit the country's economic growth. Within this framework, the growing geopolitical environment, which includes the war between Russia and Ukraine, unrest in the Middle East, and a series of sanctions aimed at preventing Russia's military-industrial complex from obtaining critical and essential goods such as sophisticated machinery and electronic components, can be attributed for inciting World War III.

It is worth noting that Namibia saw positive growth in the first quarter of 2024, despite expectations that real growth would slow to 3.7 percent in 2024. However, real economic growth is predicted to increase by more than a point to 4.1 percent in 2025. World trade growth is expected to be 3.2 percent in 2024 and 3.3 percent in 2025, lower than its historical average of 4.9 percent, owing to persistent geopolitical tensions and policy uncertainties. The escalation of conflicts between Israel and Hamas, as well as between Russia and Ukraine, has hampered energy and food supplies and contributed to further destabilization. Inflationary pressures have risen since 2022 as costs have increased.

Ukraine's aggressive push towards the Kursk area on Russia's border will aggravate tensions. Additional sanctions have been imposed on Russia, raising the possibility of a third global conflict. Geopolitical conflicts increase uncertainty, lowering investment and economic growth. Conflicts and wars have the potential to reduce global supply capacity, which could lead to inflation. However, if the Middle East conflict escalates, oil prices might jump by 30% beyond the baseline estimate of \$81 per barrel in 2024. According to the World Bank's most recent Commodity Markets Outlook, this might boost global inflation and reduce global growth by 0.2 percentage point.

As a result, Namibia and its businesses can better address geopolitical concerns while maintaining economic growth. Namibia should prioritize institutional strengthening in agriculture, energy, transparency, and good governance in order to attract international investment and maintain a stable economy.

How can Namibia and businesses navigate geopolitics to sustain economic growth?

We must understand Namibia's trade with the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the United States, among other destinations. As a result, any global trade developments will affect Namibia. Namibia should maximize the market's role, create a more equal and dynamic market environment, and allocate resources as efficiently and productively as possible. Namibia will be able to reduce its dependency on imports to keep the national economy running smoothly while simultaneously releasing Namibians' local driving forces and creativity. Namibia must ensure that companies with varied forms of ownership compete in the market on an equal footing and are protected by law as equals, allowing them to complement and grow. Therefore, in order to preserve a positive maintainable and guarantee sustainable economic growth, it is imperative that economic policies be flexible and up to date. Since the downstream operations are farther away, a greater number of new capabilities must be developed concurrently in order for them to be realized.

Moreover, it is vital that Namibia use the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) to steer reform and lay the groundwork for development. We must deepen supply-side structural change, enhance incentive and control strategies that promote high-quality development, and endeavor to create new growth drivers and strengths. Namibia must improve its structures and processes for promoting quality productive forces in accordance with the local context, stimulating full integration of the real and digital economies, developing the delivery industry, improving infrastructure, establishing an effective local content policy and potential prior to operation, and strengthening the resilience and safety of industrial and supply



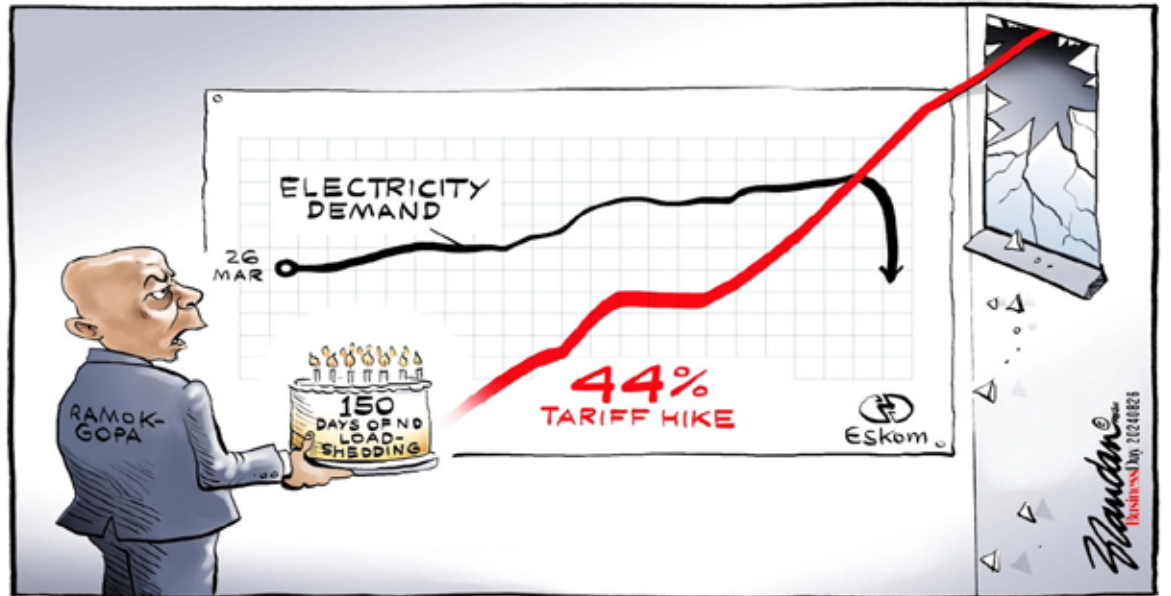
chains. As a result, Namibia should foster good relationships and increase capacity building in mining, green hydrogen, oil, and gas for local content growth. Namibia should invest in education, technology, and skill development. A country is vulnerable if it does not comprehend its economy and global trade. Namibia should execute effective macroeconomic policies to boost domestic demand, create new international trade drivers, expand the blue economy and nuclear power plants, improve people's well-being, and create more jobs.

Additionally, the political and economic spread of conflict beyond its geographic borders has a significant indirect effect, as evidenced by deteriorating regional investment climates and crowding out pro-growth policy priorities that would otherwise receive more attention. Namibia's food supply is under pressure, necessitating significant investment to ensure food security, as the country relies on imports. Investments must boost the productivity and revenue of small-scale farmers while also diversifying their income through value chain development and creating more and better jobs for the rural poor. Agriculture is vital in transforming economies to achieve the aim, as are other critical development goals such as guaranteeing food security and boosting nutrition. As a result, agricultural transformation must become a reality in order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition while also increasing economic growth.

From traditional to contemporary technology, agriculture to industry and manufacturing, and finally to a high-income service economy. To ensure the success of this process, the agricultural sector must be modernized. As a result, governments must create conditions, such as irrigation and enhanced market infrastructure, to allow farmers to obtain these inputs and sell their agricultural products. Namibia will also need to invest in human capital to create a trained labour force capable of mastering new technology, managing logistics, and enhancing each node of the value chain.

Namibia has the opportunity to undertake critical macroeconomic and structural improvements that will reduce crisis vulnerabilities while increasing growth. This would increase income per capita, reduce poverty. Namibia must behave differently to avoid an economic disaster in the middle of geopolitical conflict. As a result, in order to maintain economic recovery and growth, Namibia must make substantial headway towards doing things differently and remaining competitive. Namibia must consciously pay more focus to reform and deepen reform entirely with the purpose of boosting Namibian industrialization in order to better deal with challenging changes both at home and abroad, adapt to the new round of geopolitics and technological revolution and industrial transformation, and live up to the new expectations of Namibian. To this end, geopolitical volatility has emerged as a substantial source of uncertainty, and it will likely remain so in the future years.

As a result, the world will almost probably remain conflict-prone. However, the international community can play an important role in reducing escalation by pursuing a cease-fire rather than giving weapons to discourage other fighting countries, while also considering the long-term effects of its policies.



Investments necessary but insufficient Without ideological foundation, firmness

For all the good efforts those entrusted with attracting and luring, if not enticing investors to the country, at the end of the day their efforts may prove futile and the resources so invested wasteful?

Until and when all the necessary ingredients to their efforts are in place. Because investments alone is necessary but not a sufficient ingredient to make Namibia what she wants to be. And herein lies the problematic. Because except for craving investments, scant and significant attention, and/or no attention at all is given to how investments can, may and could benefit the whole country. Except for its hackneyed and assumed imperative for growth. Other than that the universal usefulness and need of investments to all of Namibia's citizenry, except the vantage few, it is and has not been clear.

Yes, conventionally and fashionably for growth! But is growth alone the only factor to guarantee prosperity for and to all amidst the grinding poverty and widening inequality in the country? Where and with Namibia rated as among the most and amongst the toppest unequal societies in the world. This is a fact and not a matter of perception. With little evidence over the last 34 years of the country's independence, that, if only the basics, and bare minimum, have been done in the least to alleviate, before even thinking of meantime reversing and ultimately and eventually eradicating poverty. The problematic in this regard being the brand that Namibia is currently, and/or perceived to be. An ideologically amorphous if not entirely ideologically debased and baseless entity. A factor that is mystified by the believe that ideology is an enemy of progress and prosperity, albeit according to the capitalists, and/or free market ideology and its political system of democracy, which is and has been seen as the only panacea for all the problems of especially the previously colonised nations.

While in essence democracy has been no more than a political hegemonic tool of capitalism to perpetuate and entrench the capitalist system. No for the good of all but of the few, the so-called investors and their metropolises. Hence the perceived replacement of colonialism by neo-colonialism while what has happened and has been happening since the day of colonialism, is only the cloaking of the presumably now free and independent former colonies with the mantle of democracy.

Another ideological and hegemonic tool for the continued entrenchment and perpetuation of capitalism. There's hardly, if at all, any formerly colonised country in the world where independence and freedom, ushered in by the so-called democracy, has realised the expected and anticipated



Yours Truly Ideologically with Kae Matundu-Tjiparuro

material wellbeing, especially for the impoverished masses. Simply because it has been business as usual with capitalism reigning supreme, and resultantly with decadence and opulence for the few and miseries for the majority. Yet, it has been hailed and continues to be hailed as the best system. Best for who? If particularly in the former colonised countries people continue to be subjected to the perpetual pillaging and plunder of their natural resources, and by design relegated and subjugated to walloping and swallowing in abject socio-economic conditions.

Capitalism has simply been proving itself that it is and cannot be in the interest of the masses, including the workers. How can a system whose foundation is nothing but the continued pillaging and plunder of the natural resources of any country, at the expense of those doing the actual work in the realisation of the profits for the "legal owners" of these resources, ala some circles of the Namibian ruling political authority, be in any way in the interest of the masses and workers?

As long as Namibia and the political principals, both real ones and the pretenders, continue to shy away from having a firm ideological vision, the country shall continue to pamper and pander to the denigrating whims of capitalism at the expense of the wellbeing of her people, the masses, workers in particular. Whatever brand it may have cultivated over the 34 years is as good as no-brand to attract investments she has been clamouring. As in the absence of any ideological clarity as to the development trajectory the country would wish to tread, as hitherto there has been none, other than trial and error, they are as good as none.

Ideological disposition and/or clarity and

firmness does not and cannot necessarily mean any ideology opposing capitalism, the most obvious one being socialism. But one thing for sure is that capitalism is and cannot be the most appropriate production system for Namibia that has emerged from over a hundred years of colonial capitalism. Because, one thing that the Namibian resistance, and later the liberation struggle, was pitted and launched against, was not only colonialism. But a spade must be called a spade, this was colonial capitalism. With the main and essential target being capitalism with colonialism (imperialism) being only a stage of capitalism. As much as neo-colonialism, which is the state of an independent Namibia today, as much is another stage of capitalism. But which ironically Namibia seems to have embraced, or shall one say, political leaders have imposed on the country lock, stock and barrel without any circumspection. Because the liberators of yesteryears have today become the proxy capitalists, conniving in the continued plunder and pillaging of her resources, without any pretension and compunction, against the best interests of the masses, and the country at large. While capitalism is and cannot and should not be a starter as far as Namibia's development trajectory is concerned, given that it has been already tested in colonial Namibia, even post-colonial during her 34 years of freedom and independence. When proven inimical to Namibian interests and that of her people, particularly the masses, peasants and workers. But the same cannot be said about socialism. Despite the missives that have been thrown at socialism as having been a failure wherever it has been full tried and tested. Whether in East Europe, Latin America and Africa. Where and which Yours Truly Ideologically also genuinely believe nowhere in the world has socialism been allowed to go its full course to be consequently fairly judged whether it is workable or not. Theirs is one example of positive results regarding socialism, which is Cuba, and lately Venezuela, but which is rarely spoken about, typical of the envy if not the hegemony of capitalism.

But should Namibia continues to shy away from especially the ism in socialism while embracing the one of capitalism, there's another ism that she can and could just as well take a leaf from if not emulate. This is the pragmatism that has been espoused by her eastern neighbouring country, Botswana. That has seen the country from colonial backwardness and underdevelopment she once was, to one of the model African countries today, and a star of Southern Africa in this regard. To be a brand that she is that Africa and the sub-region must not only be envious of but learn something from, especially Namibia, given her relation to her.

On privatized & corporatised liberations

PAUL SHIPALE

While the editorial of the Sun Newspaper on Friday, 23 August 2024, was cautioning the voters against “a litany of mega thumb sucked promises in the manifestos” of political parties without explaining how they will be fulfilled, on his part, Emeritus Professor André du Pisani said this was “A time of empty hollow ringing manifestos” in a country where words have lost their meaning due to deep racial and social divides.

Du Pisani’s assertion is premised on his argument that in the context of Southern Africa, there has been two dominant modes of transition from national liberation movements to governing parties. These are; Privatised Liberation, claiming an exclusive role in bringing about independence and Corporatized Liberation, of a pact between capital and the elite. The former include the MPLA party in Angola, FRELIMO in Mozambique and ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe, while the latter comprises SWAPO Party in Namibia and ANC in South Africa. Du Pisani says that both categories tend to conflate the party and the state, creating, overtime, party states. According to him, the defining features of first generation national liberation movements have been the armed struggle, anti-colonial nationalism and state capture as their first strategic objective with a hybridity of making generous promises and advancing a strong re-distributive agenda, which explain their initial success and their ultimate unravelling. My learned Professor Emeritus writing’s is purporting to speak for the “majority marginalized” of those given ‘thorns’ against the “few minority well fed moneyed elite given roses in salubrious suburbs and gated estates, lifestyle complexes or security villages in a folie de grandeur” far from “the infested social and spatial economy of the multidimensional poverty, inequality and visceral precarity”. My learned Professor may be correct when referring to opulence with some alleged to have amassed millions through duplicitous means. However, he seems to have taken a leaf from the pages of the book written by Dale T McKinley on April 10, 2017, titled; South Africa: Behind the ANC’s corporatised ‘liberation’, and added SWAPO to the characterization that “the ANC and the state it has politically controlled for two decades have become corporatised in form and content. This has produced a major shift in the balance of forces away from the mass of workers and the poor.” Indeed, according to Dale T McKinley, despite the more general social, political and economic advances that have been made under the ANC’s rule since 1994, power has not only remained in the hands of a small minority but has increasingly been exercised in service to capital. As a result, ‘transformation’ has largely taken the form of macro-acceptance of, combined with micro-incorporation into, the capitalist system, now minus its specific and

formal apartheid frame. Dale T McKinley concludes that what has happened in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994 is the corporatisation of liberation; the generalised political and economic commodification of society and its development with all the attendant impacts on governance, the exercise of power, the understanding and practice of democracy as well as political, economic and social relations.

To those who have already reached a conclusion, assuming with the underlined tone, that power in Namibia and South Africa has not only remained in the hands of a small minority but has increasingly been exercised in service to capital, I will attempt to first give the context as to why this happened by giving a summarized historical background before I offer my views from a Pan-Africanist perspective on Decoloniality.

Lest we forget, Southern Africa is the only region in Africa that has collectively defeated imperialism through the barrel of the gun and their surrogate of Ian Smith in former Rhodesia and the apartheid regime in both Namibia and South Africa. This narrative that in Southern Africa we only negotiated our independence is false because we won the border wars of independence and forced the boers to the negotiation table when they were told by the Western countries, through the Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, Chester Crocker’s ‘shuttle diplomacy’ of constructive engagements in his mediation efforts to go for negotiated settlements which included, among others, sunset clauses and property rights as well as access to capital. Thus, during the negotiations process, compromises were struck around modalities of the transition and South Africa and Namibia’s transitions towards democracy reflected the self-interest of the contending forces to avoid a scorched earth even if the core character of the political settlement of the early 1990s was the acceptance of consistent democracy enshrined in an enabling constitutional framework.

In the period since the advent of democracy, there have been many global and domestic developments that bear relevance to the strategic and tactical approaches of both the ANC and the SWAPO Party analysis of the global and domestic balance of forces, and how this facilitates or hinders the attainment of their ultimate objectives.

Since the global economic crisis which started with the financial meltdown in 2007, the world is experiencing a poly-crisis reflected in the rapacious conduct of finance capital. Across the world, progressive left political movements have sought to challenge this state of affairs. However, many parties have either been co-opted into the dominant school of thought or are unable to break through discourse that justifies social inequality. At the core of global social discord is the fundamental question of political economy, the distribution of income and assets in society. Income inequality and



inequitable distribution of assets are at their most intense. Poverty and unparalleled opulence live cheek by jowl. Apartheid colonialism ensured that these disparities express themselves along racial lines, with gender and geographic location overlaying the canvass upon which these fault-lines play out. From the tentativeness of the transition, and armed with overwhelming electoral mandates and constitutions that call for fundamental change, it became possible to start introducing far-reaching programmes of transformation. As both countries stepped onto the sunshine of non-racial democracy, the legality, legitimacy and authority of the new political systems, the nascent states and the new governments were incontrovertible. The emergence of the new system of an inclusive democratic society, starts with the attainment of political power. It is a conscious act of construction. The forces that coalesced to remove the old order had to endure yet another protracted process of conscious action before their ideals are realised.

In the process of social transformation, as during the years of struggle, the motive forces organise and act jointly and severally to attain their objectives. Such joint action requires a political movement with a vision that reflects the common interests of these forces encapsulated in the notion of an inclusive democratic society premised on constitutionalism and rule of law. Through the ebbs and flows of changing historical settings, the ANC and SWAPO have endeavoured to play this role. Ultimately, using various forms of struggle, they both emerged as the primary forces in the struggle against apartheid. This status was further underlined by the organisations’ electoral performances from the first democratic elections in 1990 and 1994, respectively. Discussing decolonization with Gadget Magazine in 2021, Professor Lwazi Lushaba, who teaches in the discipline of Political Science at the University of Cape Town, but his interests are much broader; and more in the history of South Africans, social sciences and a little, philosophy. More particularly, what he calls African modes of cognizing.

And, of course, he also invariably has to study modernity, which denies Africans of cognizing, broadly described what neo-colonialism looks like in the world right now, and suggest that the concept of neo-colonialism may no longer serve us. He thinks the concept of capitalist modernity is what will help us understand better what drove the encounter between the oppressor and the oppressed, but also what will sustain it thereafter. If you think of Africa as a place that is under the throes of capitalist modernity, he thinks we are going to be better able to make sense of what are the present challenges that Africa is faced with. Indeed, the colonizer not only takes possession of the land, its components delimited as resources and the possibilities of accumulation that he invents from it, but also of our bodies and our dreams, monopolizing, likewise, the ways of imagining, understanding and relating to the world. Here we are reminded of a line somewhere in Fanon’s book; Towards the African Revolution. It says, “Having judged, condemned, abandoned his cultural norms, his language, his food habits, his sexual behavior, his way of sitting down of resting, of laughing of enjoying himself, the oppressed, flings himself upon the imposed culture with the desperation of a drowning man.”

Now, what Fanon was talking about is certainly not neo-colonialism, as we understand it in the radical political economy sense. The tragedy Fanon was talking about here is much larger than that. Professor Lwazi Lushaba thinks it’s the concept of modernity, that we are under the throes of capitalist modernity, and what Africa has to decide is whether it wants to replicate Western modernity or not. People who insist that what gave birth to modernity was the Industrial Revolution mean that the industrial revolution would not have happened without reason to actualize itself. Now, it was that kind of thinking that European social thinkers would reduce to three concepts; reason, rationality, and capital not as fungible capital, but as a way of thinking. It was those three concepts that Marx and Durkheimian would say were the markets of Europe’s transition into capitalist modernity which was basically the coming into existence of an outlook towards the world underlined by the raising of capital.

In the all-encompassing nature of colonialism as we’ve seen its effects, in the cultural and political developments of inequalities in African countries and the desire to develop towards modernity influenced by their European, colonial past, perhaps the even more threatening resource behind this is the discourse of development. The Colombian anthropologist and leading decolonial thinker Arturo Escobar has an interesting book titled; Encountering Development. What he does in the book is to show how the discourse of development itself suggests that to develop necessarily means to replicate the Western model of modernity. The question is; what other system or model of governance were

the first generation of liberation movements supposed to follow if not the Western model of capitalist modernity and development? After all, the problem for the continent is that formal independence comes to us via nationalism. And nationalism, to borrow from Partha Chatterjee, represents a closed dialect. He says that by accepting to be more than what nationalism does everywhere, is to accept the Western model of modernity, as actually representing the trajectory that all societies necessarily have to follow.

The other problem at the foundation of Western epistemology, which is universally understood as the theory and study of knowledge, is the philosophical idea of man who has to be the proprietor of knowledge, who is possessed of reason that is unencumbered and so is the one that produces this knowledge but the Latin cogito, ergo sum, usually translated into English as ‘I think, therefore I am’, is the ‘first principle’ of René Descartes’s philosophy originally published in French as je pense, donc je suis in his 1637 Discourse on the Method, is diametrically opposed to the African philosophy of Ubuntu sometimes translated as “I am because we are” or “humanity towards others”. The problem is that to equate ourselves to Western disciplinary boundaries, we are already defeated because those disciplines, as the West has imagined them, have their own methodological underpinnings. Like in a capitalist system, it’s your relationship to the means of production that matter. Whiteness or Western capitalist modernity and model of development, in fact, become precisely the means of production here. Everyone has to understand themselves in terms of their relation to that model, which produces all sorts of material advantages, but it also produces an idea of being.

If such model is the norm, everything else becomes defined in terms of its distance from that norm. The further away from the norm, the more scorn the world reserves for you; the closer you are to the center, the norm, the world is a little kinder to you. That is why the first generation of liberation movements followed the Western model of capitalist modernity and development but now are characterized as privatized and corporatized liberation. There is nothing essentially or innately European. It is a constructed identity. Against this background, the sooner African reality and lived experiences can be narrated outside Western people’s experiences, with self-validation through Decoloniality as a liberatory language of the future for Africa, the better, instead of being defined by others as privatized and corporatized liberation through their epistemology and lens of Coloniality of power which is associated with the Peruvian sociologist Anibal Qui-jano who conceptualized a power matrix that constitutes the modern/colonial world to consolidate capitalism.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of my employer and this newspaper but solely my personal views as a citizen.

OBSERVERMONEY

A supplement of the Windhoek Observer publication

Letshego's operating profit increase to N\$219m



Uranium market resurgence unfolding



ANIREP expecting changes to its operations



www.observer.com.na

PARAGON MEDIA

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST 2024

OSINO TO DELIST FROM NSX



Demand for African airlines cargo grow by 6.2%

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has just released its July 2024 year-on-year analysis of the air cargo market and traffic. During the month in review, African airlines saw 6.2% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in July, the lowest of all regions and their lowest recorded figure in 2024. Demand on the Africa-Asia market increased by 15.4% compared to July 2023 while July capacity increased by 10.5% year-on-year. July's figures reflect slower year-on-year demand and capacity compared with June when demand was up 11.8% year-on-year and capacity rose expanded by 23.8% year-on-year.

Market Highlights

NAD per US Dollar

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

NAD per British Pound

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

NAD per Euro

Weighted average of the banks' daily rates at approximately 10:30 am. Weights are based on the banks' foreign exchange transactions.

EXCHANGE RATES

Major Pairs

N\$ / \$	17.8046	29 Aug 2024
N\$ / £	23.5252	29 Aug 2024
N\$ / €	19.822	29 Aug 2024
N\$ / AOA	0.0193	29 Aug 2024

Repo

7.50

Prime

11.50



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Osino to delist from NSX

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Osino Resources has announced that it will delist from the Namibia Stock Exchange. The company told shareholders that further to the transaction finalization notice distributed to shareholders on 19 August, notice was being given hereby given that the trading of the Osino Resources Corp shares will be suspended on 26 August 2024 and delisted from the Namibian Stock Exchange on 30 August.

Osino has already announced that Shanjin International Gold Co., Ltd. (formerly known as Yintai Gold Co., Ltd) will acquire all of the outstanding common shares of Osino for cash

consideration of C\$1.90 for each Osino Share. The approval of the Namibian Competition Commission was the final outstanding approval to conclude the arrangement.

Osino said the for cash consideration of C\$1.90 (N\$25.94) for each Osino Common Share, valuing Osino at approximately C\$368 million (N\$4,8 billion). At closing of the Yintai Arrangement, Osino's portfolio will consist only of gold related assets located in Namibia, primarily the Twin Hills Gold Project in central Namibia as well as exploration projects Ondundu and Eureka.

Heye Daun, President and CEO of Osino has said Yintai is experienced, well-financed, and has a highly credible track record of gold mining

in China, with the technical skills and financial resources to progress the project through construction and into production. We look forward to working with Yintai to continue to fast-track the development of the project and close this transaction."

Xingong Ou, President of Yintai, has said Twin Hills represents a unique opportunity to add a high-quality gold development asset to its portfolio in a stable and mining friendly jurisdiction. He said the project provides the foundation for its future production profile with production targeted for 2026, as well as significant exploration upside.

"We are excited to leverage the excellent work done by the Osino team in discovering and progressing Twin Hills to this point and we look forward

to working with the existing Osino team to grow their Namibian activities and to implement the construction of the project. We are impressed with the responsible mining approach which the Osino team has built, and we intend to continue and to grow that approach," he said.

Osino is a Canadian gold exploration and development company focused on the fast-tracked development of its Twin Hills Gold Project in central Namibia. Since its grassroots discovery by Osino in August 2019, Osino has completed more than 250 000m of drilling and has completed a suite of specialist technical studies culminating in the recently published Twin Hills Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS). The DFS describes a technically simple and economically robust open-pit gold operation with a 13-year mine life and average annual gold production of over 162 000 ounces per annum.



Heye Daun



CATALYST

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Email: info@catalyst.com.na | Tel: +264833308080



TOP Gainers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Oryx Properties Limited	12.80	6.49%
SBN Holdings Ltd	8.87	1.72%
Capricorn Group Limited (prev Capricorn Investment Group Ltd)	19.54	0.46%
Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Ltd	4.56	0.22%

TOP Losers NSX Local		
Share code	Close	1MoM%
Mobile Telecommunications Limited	7.62	-0.26%
FirstRand Namibia Ltd	46.45	-0.11%
Paratus Namibia Holdings Ltd	12.69	-0.08%
Namibia Breweries	29.49	-0.03%

TOP 5 Gainers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Oryx Properties Limited	12.80	6.40%
Sanlam Limited	89.06	5.96%
Old Mutual Ltd	12.99	5.27%
Standard Bank Group	242.55	4.21%
Vukile Property Fund Limited	17.83	3.97%

TOP 5 Losers NSX Overall		
Share code	Close	1W%
Trustco Group Holdings Limited	0.32	-27.27%
B2Gold Corporation	49.46	-4.07%
Paladin Energy Limited	117.75	-2.72%
Tadvest Limited NM	16.11	-1.29%
Santam Limited	348.26	-0.56%

Currencies				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
USD/ZAR	17.75375	0.51%	-2.56%	-2.72%
EUR/ZAR	19.654287	0.00%	-0.16%	-1.85%
GBP/ZAR	23.357721	0.17%	-0.05%	0.95%
USD/EUR	0.9033016	0.59%	-2.36%	-0.75%

Commodities				
	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
Brent Crude Oil (ICE \$/bbl)	78.65	-1.13%	-3.06%	2.09%
Gold NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	2501	-0.60%	5.08%	21.27%
Platinum NYMEX Near Term (\$/ozt)	933.70	-2.64%	-0.04%	-6.16%
Copper Cash Official LME (\$/mt)	9135.50	-1.21%	1.30%	7.78%
Uranium Near Term (NYM \$/lbs)	79.20	0.51%	-3.83%	-13.21%

Money Market Rates				
	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	9 MONTH	12 MONTH
Average Bank NCDs	7.98	8.35	8.51	8.67
Treasury Bill Rates	8.73	8.82	8.93	9.01

JSE INDICES				
Share code	Close	1D%	%MoM	%YTD
JSE ALSI	84,239.00	0.3%	3.6%	9.27%
All Share Industrials	121,964.00	0.1%	5.2%	10.16%
Mid Cap	88,660.00	-0.1%	4.4%	10.31%
Small Cap	85,744.00	0.4%	6.0%	17.86%
Industrial 25	113,871.00	0.1%	5.2%	9.67%
Financial 15	21,059.00	0.5%	7.8%	17.27%
Resource 10	57,511.00	0.5%	-5.2%	-0.56%
Top 40	76,784.00	0.3%	2.8%	4.90%

World Market				
Share Code	Close	1D%	%1M	%YTD
FTSE100	8,379.64	0.43%	0.70%	9.27%
S&P500	5,642.72	0.84%	2.44%	10.16%
DAX	18,912.57	0.66%	1.98%	10.31%
ASX	8,045.10	-0.33%	1.89%	17.86%
NASDAQ	17,764.69	1.17%	1.14%	9.67%
NSX Overall	1,867.92	0.11%	3.75%	18.09%
NSX Local	684.74	0.00%	0.60%	6.69%

Letshego's operating profit increase to N\$219m

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Limited has said in interim results for the year ended 30 June, that operating profit increased by 18% to N\$219 million compared to N\$186 million in the year ended June 2023.

Profit after tax increased by 16.3% to N\$199 million compared to N\$171 million in the same period last year. The group said Letshego Bank (Namibia) Limited capital adequacy ratio improved by 3% to 35%.

Letshego's said strong business fundamentals, coupled with significant advancements in governance and sustainability frameworks, positioned the company to capitalize on the benefits and potential generated by the initial phases of our strategic roadmap.

"As we approach the final stages, our efforts are closely aligned with our sustainability goals, emphasizing the integration of our expanding ecosystem. Whilst we celebrate the milestones achieved through our transformational strategy, we recognize that the journey is continuous. As we move forward, it remains imperative that we maintain momentum and remain adaptive to volatile market dynamics. Through our agile ways of working, embracing technology and nurturing strong partnerships, we are well-equipped to navigate the evolving financial services landscape and create long-term value for all stakeholders," the company said.

Basic Earnings per share (cents) increased by 16.3% to 40 cents.

Net Asset Value per share (cents) increased by one percent to N\$552.

Number of ordinary shares in issues is five million. Letshego Holdings declared a dividend of N\$181.9 million (36.38 cents per ordinary share) during June to the ordinary shareholders of Letshego Holdings (Namibia) Limited.

Letshego Holdings Namibia (LHN) opened its doors in 2002 as Edu Loan Namibia, providing consumer and micro-lending services. LHN is 79% owned by Letshego Holdings Limited (LHL), a Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) listed entity. LHN focuses on offering financially inclusive solutions to underserved low to middle-income earners across both the public and private sectors, as well as supporting Micro and Small Entrepreneurs (MSE) through its deduction at source model and other access channels. Letshego Bank Namibia now has a branch network of 17 branches across the country, of which six offer fully-fledged banking services. LHN has a staff complement of over 150 employees and provides loans to over 50 000 customers.



TENDER: DPMT24_029

HIGH- AND LOW-PRESSURE AIR RECEIVER REPLACEMENTS

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb (Pty) Ltd. invites registered, competent and experienced individuals or companies to tender for High- and Low-Pressure Air Receiver Replacements.

Details of the Tender

Tender availability:

From Monday, 2 September 2024

Tender details and documents will be available exclusively on our e-Procurement portal at www.webportunities.net

Cost per set:

No levy

Closing date for submission:

Friday, 27 September 2024, at 16h00 pm

Submission requirements are defined in the tender documents and the closing date for submission is final, no extensions will be granted. Technical information, bid clarifications and any enquiries pertaining to this tender can be requested at email: Tendersnam@dundeeprecious.com

All tender proposals must be submitted via our e-Procurement portal at www.webportunities.net

No other method of submission will be accepted.

The High- and Low-Pressure Air Receiver Replacements tender will be found under the tab Quotes/Tenders.

For any assistance on the portal, please call the Tara Nawa team on +26464402403 or send an email to the Contact Us page on the portal.

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Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb employs an equal opportunity policy. Calls for tenders will be awarded through a competitive bidding process which is transparent and open to all. Any persons or companies that qualify as per the tender's evaluation criteria, may bid.



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Uranium market resurgence unfolding

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Bannerman Energy Ltd, which is developing the Etango project in the Erongo has said persistent cumulative supply gap now stands at approximately 150 million pounds of uranium oxide. Namibia stands to gain from increase in demand for uranium as it is one of the world's largest producers of uranium.

Bannerman said in a presentation to investors that Emerging Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology is driving further new demand additions. The company added that the

industry has lost a decade of uranium exploration and project development post Fukushima.

The other factors that are driving demand for uranium include the fact that producers struggling to match ramping demand and are turning to tight spot market to fill gaps.

Bannerman added that there is increasing government support for nuclear power as a "middle ground" baseload energy source.

The Etango Uranium Project is located, 30 kilometres south-east of Swakopmund. It possesses a World class uranium Mineral Resource endowment of 207 million pounds of uranium oxide.

Etango has benefited from extensive exploration and feasibility activity over the past 15 years. In December 2022, the company completed the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) on Etango.

The DFS on Etango, which confirmed, to a definitive level, the robust overall viability of development and operation of the Etango. The Etango Mining Licence application was granted in December 2023. This key milestone was followed swiftly by the commencement of early development works at Etango.

Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies and Control Budget Estimate (CBE) processes for Etango were completed in June. Completion

of FEED and the CBE has refined the outcomes of the Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) undertaken in late 2022, delivering enhanced accuracy and recency to key cost estimates.

Bannerman is currently undertaking early works construction activities for Etango, in parallel with offtake marketing and strategic financing works streams. Detailed design works for Etango have also now commenced, initially focused on earthworks and civils.

These activities are steadily culminating in a push towards a positive Final Investment Decision (FID) for Etango, market conditions permitting, targeted during 2024.

To reinforce the technical and commercial viability of subsequent expansion, following construction and ramp-up at Etango, Bannerman completed a Scoping Study in February this year outlining two future-phase development options: an expansion of mine and plant throughput to 16 million tonnes per annum and a life-of-mine extension with mine and plant throughput maintained at eight million tonnes per annum.

The Etango Scoping Study has produced robust financial metrics showing the substantial in-ground leverage and scalability of the world-class Etango resource to higher uranium price outcomes.



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2 Years	2022	10%	72 months	25% RV	
3 Years	2021	10%	72 months	20% RV	
4 Years	2020	10%	72 months		
5 Years	2019	10%	60 months		
6 Years	2018	10%	54 months		
7 Years	2017	15%	48 months	No RV	
8 Years	2016	15%	42 months		
9 Years	2015	20%	36 months		
10 Years	2014	20%	24 months		

The special is valid from **07 June until 31 August 2024**.
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ANIREP expecting changes to its operations

CHAMWE KAIRA

Staff Writer

Alpha Namibia Industries Renewable Power Limited (ANIREP) has extended its cautionary announcement it first issued on 16 August 2021, advising shareholders that negotiations are still in progress, which if successfully concluded, may have a material effect on the price of the company's shares.

"Accordingly, shareholders are advised to continue exercising caution when dealing in the company's shares until a further announcement is made," it said on the Namibian Stock Exchange.

The core annuity revenue for ANIREP is derived from the IPP sale of electricity and operations and maintenance services, both consistently generating cash in accordance with the nature of the long term contracts and power purchase agreements.

During the first half of 2023, the Independent Power Producers (IPP) sale of electricity through ANIREP Solar (Pty) Ltd consistently generated a steady income of N\$17.2 million, aligning with the preceding period, attributable to power purchase agreements (PPAs).

The PPA with NamPower remains effective until 2040, while the PPA with CENORED was extended in December 2022 for an additional year, now spanning until 2042. This extension accommodates a 120% capacity increase (and volumes), expanding the current capacity from 5MW to 11MW, a development slated to commence in 2024.

The operations and maintenance for HopSol Africa generated revenue of N\$4.8 million in the first half of last year, a decrease of 16.6% compared to the prior period, as some of the contracts lapsed during the period with new contracts expected to contribute positively in the new financial year. The long-term strategy of the group is to grow annuity income.

ANIREP generated revenue of N\$35 million a decrease compared to same period in 2022 of N\$50.1 million, gross profit of N\$25.7 million a decrease compared to the same period



last year of N\$41.3 million.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) of N\$8.4 million showed a 78% decrease compared to half year 2022 EBITDA of N\$37.7 million. Currently, the company owns a total generation capacity of approximately 13.34MWp. According to the National Integrated Resource Plan, over 70% of the country's installed electricity capacity is projected to be derived from renewable sources by 2030. With abundant wind and solar resources, Namibia is positioned to be one of the most cost-effective regions for renewable energy production. With a vision to secure a 30% market share in the renewable energy sector, ANIREP is dedicated to pursuing renewable energy installations for prospective buyers, exploring acquisition opportunities, fostering capacity development initiatives, and engaging in Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) and Operations & Maintenance (O&M) projects.

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TENDERS



TENDER ENQUIRY NO. E113-ND-2024

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE MAINTENANCE & ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF MULTI-FUNCTION PRINTERS

1. OVERVIEW

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd (Namdeb) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Namdeb Holdings (Pty) Ltd, and performs land-based prospecting (exploration), mining and rehabilitation operations.

2. SPECIFICATION OF THE SERVICES

Namdeb hereby invites reputable and qualified service providers to submit tenders for the **Maintenance & On-Site Technical Support of Multi-Function Printers**.

3. TENDER ENQUIRY DOCUMENT

Interested parties may contact the following person to obtain a copy of the tender enquiry document:

Contact: Ms Minsozi Kompeli
Email: minsozi.kompeli@namdeb.com
Tel.: +264 (63) 238502

The deadline for requesting the tender enquiry is **Wednesday, 04 September 2024 at 15h00**

4. COMPULSORY VIRTUAL CLARIFICATION MEETING

A compulsory virtual clarification meeting (as further detailed in the tender enquiry) shall be conducted on **Thursday, 05 September 2024**.

Only Tenderers that attended the compulsory virtual clarification meeting shall be eligible to participate in the tender process.

5. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the tender is **16h00 on Monday, 16th September 2024**, and tender submissions must only be delivered to the address as specified in the tender enquiry document.

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Capricorn expecting higher profits

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Capricorn Group's expects profit after tax and earnings per share for the year ended 30 June to be materially higher by between 15% and 20% compared to what was reported in the prior period.

Additionally, headline earnings per share for the year ended 30 June 2024 is expected to be materially higher than what was reported in the prior period by between 13% and 18%, the group said. Capricorn added that during the year ended 30 June, Capricorn Group implemented IFRS 17 – “Insurance Contracts”, which requires full retrospective application for disclosure purposes.

FRS 17 is an International Financial Reporting Standard that was issued by the International Accounting Standards Board in May 2017. Under

the IFRS 17 general model, insurance contract liabilities will be calculated as the expected present value of future insurance cash flows with a provision for non-financial risk.

Capricorn said Consequently, comparative figures for the preceding period ended 30 June 2023 will be restated on publication of the 30 June 2024 annual results.

“Following these restatements, shareholders are advised that Capricorn Group’s profit after tax and earnings per share for the year ended 30 June 2024 are expected to be higher by between 8% and 13% when compared to the restated prior period. Similarly, headline earnings per share for the year ended 30 June 2024 are expected to be higher by between 5% and 10% compared to the restated prior period.”

The audited financial results for the year ended 30 June 2024 are expected to be published on or about 12 September 2024, Capricorn said.

In the 2023, annual report, Capricorn said its profit after tax increased by 28.7% to N\$1.48 billion (2022: N\$1.15 billion), while its annualised Return on Equity (ROE) also increased to 17.6%.

Both Bank Windhoek and Bank Gaborone reported marked improvements in their results. Bank Windhoek’s profit after tax increased 34.1% year-on-year to N\$1.09 billion (2022: N\$813.2 million).

Capricorn said this improvement in profitability was mainly due to an increase in net interest income due to the bank’s strong balance sheet. When the Group was listed on the Namibia Stock Exchange in 2013, it generated a revenue of N\$1.4 billion, compared to N\$4.6 billion for 2023. At the time of listing, it had total assets of N\$21 billion and net assets of N\$2.6 billion compared to N\$63 billion total assets and N\$8.3 billion net assets in 2023. The group employs over 1600 people.



FirstRand Namibia earnings to increase by 7% to 12%

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

FirstRand Namibia Limited has said group’s earnings and headline earnings for the year ended 30 June

2024 will be significantly higher than prior year by between 7% to 12%. “The main drivers of the increase in headline earnings are customer growth, credit extended during the period and higher transaction volumes. The group’s audited financial results will be released on or about 12

September,” the company said.

In the 2023 annual report, the FirstRand Namibia group said it has made substantial strides towards delivering on its strategic targets and growing the business. The results showed a net profit after tax of N\$1 56 billion (2022: N\$1 27 billion), a 23% improvement on the previous year.

In 2023, a number of key factors have contributed to the group’s strong position, including credit extension exceeding pre-Covid levels, stable credit impairments, and the effective containment of operating costs.

Headline earnings in 2023, increased by 23% to N\$1 55 billion. The main drivers of the increase in earnings are largely due to an improved trading environment, increased credit extended and base growth.

Last year, FirstRand Namibia Limited said it remained well capitalised, with its Tier 1 ratio standing at 17 % from 20.2%, given strong capital creation and lower risk weighted assets. This is still within its target of 14% and exceeds regulatory requirements.

The group’s total assets increased by 11% to N\$58 billion (2022: N\$52 billion). Net advances, making up 61% (2022: 61%) of the balance sheet, reflected a year-on-year increase of 11% to N\$35 billion.

FirstRand Namibia Limited asset profile is dominated by a diversified advances portfolio. The composition of the gross advances’ portfolio consists of FNB retail secured (51%), FNB retail unsecured (9%), FNB commercial (22%), and RMB corporate (18%). Mortgage loans increased year-on-year in 2023 by 5% to N\$16 billion and constitute 45% (2022: 47%) of gross advances.

Through providing credit to individuals, FNB Namibia continued to enable home ownership across the social spectrum. The group’s exposure to home loans is reflective of the Namibian banking industry where home loans tend to average 40% of credit extended in the local market. In the face of increasing competition, WesBank focused on protecting its origination franchise and return profile through disciplined risk appetite. This resulted in vehicle and assets financing increasing by 15% to N\$3.6 billion, the main driver being commercial Vehicle and Asset Finance (VAF), which saw clients replacing fleets due to improvement in tourism and other sectors.



TENDER: DPMT24_026

FREIGHT FORWARDING AND CONSOLIDATION SERVICES

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb (Pty) Ltd. invites registered, competent and experienced individuals or companies to tender for Freight Forwarding and Consolidation Services.

Details of the Tender

Tender availability: From Tuesday, 27 August 2024
Tender details and documents will be available exclusively on our e-Procurement portal at www.webportunities.net

Cost per set: No levy

Closing date for submission: Friday, 20 September 2024, at 16h00

Submission requirements are defined in the tender documents and the closing date for submission is final, no extensions will be granted. Technical information, bid clarifications and any enquiries pertaining to this tender can be requested at email: Tendersnam@dundeeprecious.com

All tender proposals must be submitted via our e-Procurement portal at www.webportunities.net

No other method of submission will be accepted.

The Freight Forwarding and Consolidation Services tender will be found under the tab Quotes/Tenders.

For any assistance on the portal, please call the Tara Nawa team on +26464402403 or send an email to the Contact Us page on the portal.

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb employs an equal opportunity policy. Calls for tenders will be awarded through a competitive bidding process which is transparent and open to all. Any persons or companies that qualify as per the tender’s evaluation criteria, may bid.



dundeeprecious.com



Langer Heinrich rakes in US\$24.8m

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

The Langer Heinrich Mine raked in US\$24.8 million in July with the first customer shipment, containing 319 229 pounds of uranium oxide that departed Walvis Bay, Namibia in July. The mine had been under care of maintenance for a number of years.

The shipment came with a partial advance payment under the terms of the customer offtake agreement. Paladin Energy of Australia, which is the major shareholder, said the restart project was completed on time and within cost forecast, with total project expenditure of US\$119.7 million. Paladin successfully achieved the commercial production targets set for the 2024 financial year on time and below the restart project and operational readiness budget, and the company will continue to ramp up during 2025.

The company appointed Trollope

Mining Namibia for the stockpile reclaim phase of operations. The result project commenced in July 2022, and was focused on the repairs and refurbishment and debottlenecking of the existing plant which was placed into care and maintenance in 2018. The company said it has had flexible shipping arrangements and early payment terms with its largest customer, providing flexibility and improved cash flow during the ramp up of operations at Langer Heinrich. “The uranium term market fundamentals remain strong and Paladin continues to actively engage with top-tier industry counterparties. The company will continue to layer in industry-leading offtake agreements as production ramps up at the mine. Paladin has executed commercial agreements with all three Western conversion facilities and has secured the necessary shipping arrangements,” the annual report said. Paladin Energy chairman, Cliff Lawrenson said Langer Heinrich is delivering production into an

increasingly supportive demand. He said Paladin achieved significant milestones including completion of the restart project on time and within cost forecast, exceptional project delivery with over 2.5 million project hours with no serious injury or environment incident and the commencement of production at the Langer Heinrich. The other milestones were the inventory buildup ahead of its first customer shipment and the provision of capital flexibility to its balance sheet via a US\$150M Syndicated debt facility. “Nuclear energy will continue to play an important role in the transition to a low carbon economy as the second largest source of global clean energy with almost zero carbon emissions. Importantly uranium fuel is one of the most concentrated energy forms with one kilogram of enriched uranium-235 releasing about 24 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy through nuclear fission, which is equivalent to burning approximately 3000 tons of coal,” said Ian Purdy, Chief Executive Office of Paladin Energy.

Uranium exploration gets positive feedback

CHAMWE KAIRA
Staff Writer

Namisun, the environment project company has said its opinion is that the environmental aspects and potential impacts relating to the proposed uranium exploration activities of GIB Mining in EPL 10131 in the Namib Naukluft National Park (NNNP), in the Erongo Region, have been successfully identified and assessed as part of this EIA Scoping process.

Namisun said relevant management and mitigation measures have been provided to ensure significant environmental and social impacts are avoided or minimized and positive social impacts enhanced, where relevant.

In consideration of the park management plan of NNNP, careful consideration from GIB Mining as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is required in respect of any planned mining activities near the Gembokwater Waterhole. “This means that even though MEFT might allow exploration activities in EPL 10131. It is Namisun’s, opinion that an early and a more detailed Environmental Screening Study be initiated, if mining and related activities are proposed near the Gembokwater Waterhole,” Namisun said in projects documents. Namisun recommended that, if the MEFT provides a positive decision on the application for the proposed exploration activities of GIB Mining in EPL 10131, they should include a condition to the clearance that GIB Mining must implement all commitments and adhere to the management and mitigation measures

contained in the EMP, also taking the stakeholders comments into consideration regarding the need for an in-depth screening study for possible future mining activities in the relevant areas.

GIB Mining Namibia is the Namibian registered company of Gibb River Diamonds Limited of Australia. In Namibia GIB Mining has acquired six Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPLs) covering 1828 km², two of which are in the Erongo Region. “Exploration activities are proposed in targeted areas only and will commence as soon possible, on both EPLs, depending on the decision by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and the issuing of Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs).”

Gib Mining is situated east of Swakopmund, and south of the existing Langer Heinrich Uranium Mine within the Namib Naukluft National Park in the Erongo Region. Namisun announced that potential environmental issues associated with the proposed activities, taking into account that the EPLs are located within the include Namib Naukluft National Park like physical destruction and general disturbance of vegetation, fauna and sensitive habitats because of the ground-based exploration activities; disturbance of fauna as a result of airborne surveys. The other issues include management of waste generated from the exploration activities.

Furthermore, other issues are potential surface and groundwater contamination from hydrocarbon spillages during the execution of some exploration activities. Other possible negative factors include possible impact and losses of historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources.

Demand for African airlines cargo grow by 6.2%

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has just released its July 2024 year-on-year analysis of the air cargo market and traffic.

During the month in review, African airlines saw 6.2% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in July, the lowest of all regions and their lowest recorded figure in 2024. Demand on the Africa-Asia market increased by 15.4% compared to July 2023 while July capacity increased by 10.5% year-on-year July’s figures reflect slower year-on-year demand and capacity compared with June when demand was up 11.8% year-on-year and capacity rose expanded by 23.8% year-on-year.

By comparison, the global airline industry reported a 13.6% rise in demand for air cargo transport last month compared to July 2023 levels, for an 8th consecutive month of double-digit y-o-y growth. Globally, capacity expanded by 8.3% last month versus July 2023.

Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), increased by 8.3% compared to July 2023 (10.1% for international operations).

This was largely related to the growth in international belly capacity, which rose 12.8% on the strength of passenger markets and balancing the 6.9% growth of international freighter capacity. It should be noted that the increase in belly capacity is the lowest in 40 months whereas the growth in freighter capacity is the highest since an exceptional jump was recorded in January 2024.

“Air cargo demand hit record highs year-to-date in July with strong growth across all regions. The air cargo business continues to benefit from growth in global trade, booming e-commerce and capacity constraints on maritime shipping. With the peak season still to come, it is shaping to be a very strong year for air cargo. And airlines have proven adept at navigating political and economic uncertainties to flexibly meet emerging demand trends,” said Willie Walsh, IATA’s Director General. Asia-Pacific airlines saw 17.6% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in July, the strongest of all regions. Demand on the Within-Asia trade lane grew by 19.8% year-on-year, while the Europe-Asia, Middle East-Asia,

and Asia-Africa trade lanes rose by 17.9%, 15.9% and 15.4% respectively. Capacity increased by 11.3% year-on-year.

North American carriers saw 8.7% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in July. Growth was hampered in part by flight cancellations and airport closures in the US and the Caribbean in relation to Hurricane Beryl. Demand on the Asia-North America trade lane, the largest trade lane by volume, grew by 10.8% year-on-year, while the North America-Europe route saw a modest increase of 5.3%. July capacity increased by 7.0% year-on-year.

European carriers saw 13.7% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in July. The Middle East-Europe trade lane led growth, up 32.2%, maintaining a streak of double-digit annual growth that originated in September 2023. The Europe-Asia route, the second largest market, was up 17.9%. Within Europe also saw double-digit growth, up 15.5%. July capacity increased 7.6% year-on-year. - *The International Air Transport Association (IATA).*



Profitable free-range chicken production in the Swartland

GLENNEIS KRIEL

Suzanne Smit grew up on a dairy farm near Eendekuil in the Western Cape, where there had always been some chickens scampering around the yard.

A few months after getting married in 2015, she started longing to have chicken at her new home, a wheat and cattle farm called Dela Gift, near Riebeek-Kasteel in the Swartland. Her husband, Jacobus Truter, responded to this need by buying a hen with six chicks when he came across the chickens of some farmworkers on another farm.

“Jacobus came home with this big smile and the birds in a shoebox. It was a lovely surprise,” Smit recalls. That first batch of birds was raised in an unused building near their house, and over time this hobby changed into a flourishing business called The Country Chic.

“I never really envisioned having a poultry business. Initially, I just wanted chickens for their aesthetic value and did not think of their laying or meat production potential,” Smit admits. A few years later, she drove along the Sonkwasdrift road, and near Gouda spotted a woman who had hundreds of chickens running wild around her smallholding. Smit asked if she could buy 20 hens and a rooster, to which the woman replied she could if she would be able to catch them.

Smit fetched seven workers from Dela Gift to help her catch the chickens. “It was chaos catching those birds. You would aim for one, and then another would dart straight at you or shoot between your legs. It almost took an hour to catch them.” The chickens multiplied quickly, and soon Smit had too many eggs to use for her household. She started supplying one of her neighbours, and later another. Word of her free-range eggs spread, and in a little while she also had a restaurant as a client.

Specialisation

In 2018, to ensure a constant supply of eggs, Smit bought her first 50 Lohmann point-of-lay hens. “Up until then the chickens were a muddle of inbreds. They were resilient but did not produce eggs as frequently and of the same quality as layers, or as much meat as broilers. I also learnt that keeping roosters between hens negatively affected egg production.” The farm did not have a budget or labour available to assist her, so Smit had to make do with whatever she could scavenge on the farm. An old pig house was cleared and turned into housing, empty farm cannisters were cleaned, cut in half and turned into laying boxes, and chaff was collected from the farm and used as bedding. “At that point, I still saw the venture as a side-hustle – something that kept me busy and helped to generate a little extra income. Demand, however, grew steadily, and over time I increased the number of layers. Today, I have 600 layers, and I have been able to buy second-hand layer boxes, which greatly eased management,” she says. Over time, she also built shaded structures, using second-hand parts and things she could find on the farm, under which the laying boxes are kept.



Suzanne Smit and her son Alexander feeding layers.-Photo: Glenneis Kriel

“Most of the chickens prefer laying their eggs in the darker spaces under these structures,” she says.

Introducing broilers

After a while, her clients started asking what she did with her spent hens, and whether she could supply them with free-range meat.

“I explained that spent hens are not ideal meat producers, as their meat is tough. Also, a spent hen on my farm weighs no more than 1,5 kg, whereas broilers weigh between 2,4kg and 3,2kg at the point of slaughter.” To cash in on this new opportunity, she decided to diversify into broiler production. Truter rejected the idea when she first mentioned it as he did not have any manpower available to assist her. Smit, however, vouched that she would “work it out” and ensure the broilers do not impact any of the formal farming activities.

Being new to broiler production, she did a lot of homework in preparation for this venture, and identified Hopefield Abattoir as the most suited place for slaughtering. She cleared out one of the storerooms on the farm to serve as housing, bought feeders, drinkers, lights and gas heaters from the local co-operative, and then started out with 50 day-old Ross chicks. The broilers, as is the case with most commercial broiler operations, are raised for six weeks, after which they are slaughtered. Smit explains that high feeding costs start to eat away at profits if you keep the birds longer. After a while, the birds also gain so much weight that their legs are unable to support their weight. Her first broilers sold out within 12 days after being slaughtered. Thereafter, she got a request from somebody to raise 700 broilers, which she raised along with 300 chicks for her existing clients.

Her clients scooped up the broilers in less than two weeks, whereas the big client struggled to sell 80 over this time. It then dawned on Smit that people bought her eggs and meat because they had a connection with her

and associated her with the produce. “The realisation made me aware of the importance of protecting my brand. So, I bought the birds back, and sold them all in another three weeks,” she said.

These days, her production cycle enables her to sell 300 broilers every two weeks. The birds were initially raised in two buildings on the farm that had not been used to their full potential, and Smit two years ago built another two buildings at a cost of about R40 000 each.

For biosecurity and hygienic purposes, the buildings are cleaned and disinfected when the broilers leave. A disinfected house is only filled with a new batch of chicks two weeks later. Smit says her broiler sales had gone down in the past year due to inflation and high interest rates, which negatively affected tourism in Riebeek-Kasteel and resulted in people having less dispensable income to buy produce.

“I reduce the number of broilers I raise to accommodate market cycles like this, and raise it again when demand picks up.”

Sales

Smit initially took orders from clients and then delivered the orders to the parking area of the local church on Monday afternoons.

“I packed and labelled each order, and people then paid cash when they collected the produce. To keep things simple, I only sold whole frozen chickens at first, but later expanded the range in response to the demand for specific cuts. A friend also offered to add value to the chickens by making chicken pies, which further expanded the brand.”

The delivery system has had various permutations since then. A helpful client offered to keep the eggs in their shop for collection to accommodate people who could not make the Monday collection, and someone later sold Smit’s produce in her shop. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, around 2020, Smit decided

that she wanted full control of her produce from farm to market.

“I wanted to guarantee my eggs and meat were of a superior quality, but could not do this if I delivered it to someone else’s shop. Nobody else will look after your produce as well as you do, as you have a vested interest in the success of your produce.”

She explains that “looking after” means things like not packing new eggs on top of those that have not sold yet, ensuring the produce looks attractive, maintaining the supply chain, and ensuring packaging is not damaged.

There was a specific space in Riebeek-Kasteel where she wanted to set up her own shop, but it was already occupied as a waffle shop. So, she gathered the courage to ask the owners of the shop to inform her whenever they wanted to let go of the space.

“They thought I was crazy and said they had no intention of leaving. About six months later, however, I received a phone call from them, and they said they were packing up and I was welcome to take over the lease. This was a double blessing. Not only was it the space I really wanted, but it also fell within my very limited price range,” she said.

She only heard she could move into the shop in December 2021, so planning was the only thing on her mind during that holiday.

“I had eggs and chickens, and that was it. There were so many things that had to be done in such a short time. I needed a logo, shop furniture and signs, and the shop had to be painted, to mention only a few things.”

Again, she kept everything on a shoestring budget. Her eldest daughter, Annabella (17), designed a logo, which represents Smit carrying a basket of eggs. Since then, Annabella has been helping Smit out with the designs and logos used for her products, as well as with the social media marketing of her produce. Her other children are also very involved in the business. Her charming seven-year-old, Karlé, can sell almost

anything, while four-year-old Hendré feels most at home helping to collect eggs and working with the birds. Her youngest, Alexander, is only two years old.

Smit was seven months pregnant with him when she opened the shop, and started taking him to the shop with her from the time he was three months old. Smit painted the shop red, adding big grey circles. She called the shop The Country Chic.

“My father, André Smit, said he had no idea what I was selling when he first looked at the shop and the name, and that was my idea. I wanted to spark people’s curiosity and lure them to enter my shop.”

In terms of furniture, she made use of things she had and bought a second-hand upright freezer to keep the meat in. Truter wasn’t impressed and as a surprise bought her a new sliding-door freezer that allowed the meat to be displayed.

“He brought the freezer on his bakkie on the day the shop opened and wished me well.”

Sales, as well as the product range, grew rapidly – from pomegranates, almonds and baked products to flowers, tea and beauty products – as more and more people asked Smit if they could supply her with products. “I accept new products on condition that it should be produced locally and cannot be sold anywhere else.”

She has also started making ice cream to sell. The shop was doing so well that she asked a neighbouring shop owner, whose space was about four times bigger than hers, if they could swap. “The woman was happy with the proposal as COVID-19 had knocked her sales,” says Smit.

It had not always been smooth sailing – load-shedding, for instance, forced Smit to buy an inverter, while the struggling economy has also lowered her margins. But she loves what she is doing, and that is making everything worthwhile.

Email Suzanne Smit at suzanne@thecountrychic.co.za.

-FARMER’S WEEKLY



3 ways to become a more effective boss

By focusing on these 3 important elements, you'll be that much closer to running a flawless operation.

When you're the boss, it's so easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle of the corporate world. Leadership fundamentals are often long forgotten (so far in fact that you've probably forgotten that they should've been remembered.) But take a step back: evaluate yourself, your actions and others' perception of your technique. And like Christina Aguilera's 2006 album, take it Back to Basics...

1. Change Change Change

You should be open to new ways of getting the job done. The best bosses are adaptable, flexible, and they're always tuned into the latest in their industry and environment. They're always looking for opportunities. It's also part of your job to be a good listener. Remember that the best ideas can come from employees on the floor – the ones closely involved with the actual work and processes. It's true what they say; rigidity is the enemy of progress. Not only should you NOT be afraid to shift the current operational model but you should actively seek opportunities that move away from the "this is the way it's always been done" line of thinking.

2. Excellence Excellence Excellence

The best bosses expect excellence from their employees. This is not to

say that you should set unrealistic goals. Instead set high standards and invite staff to meet them. Contrary to popular belief, it's not about being "tough" or "nice." Rather focus on upping the standard of work produced and lead by example.

Your employees should know that you expect the best, and that you give your best. Self management is a key managerial skill. In time your staff will strive to emulate your example: if your employees know that you produce excellence yourself, they'll be even more motivated to find it within themselves.

3. Objectives Objectives Objectives

The best bosses ensure that their employees clearly know where they need to focus. If each person's objectives are not well-conceived and measurable, you leave room for holes in efficiency. And excellence is still expected at each step. This also helps you manage employee performance objectively – they'll undoubtedly know what is expected of them. You'll also be able to pin-point exactly where they fall short if unsatisfactory work is being produced.

Use this as a guide throughout the year to maximise (here comes that keyword) operational effectiveness. If you tick all three boxes as well as the these three best boss boxes, you are definitely an amazing boss and deserve recognition.

Capacity Building



with

Diamond Training
Institute

Understanding customer service: Burnout in customer service: Tips for staying sane

Customer service roles are among the most demanding in any industry. With the constant pressure to meet clients' needs, handle complaints, and maintain a positive attitude, it's no surprise that burnout is a common issue.

Burnout can lead to emotional exhaustion, decreased performance, and even physical health problems. However, there are effective strategies to manage stress and stay sane in the challenging world of customer service.

Burnout is more than just feeling tired after a long day. It's a state of chronic stress that leads to physical and emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and a sense of ineffectiveness. In customer service, burnout can stem from several factors, including high workloads, demanding customers, lack of support from management, and the pressure to maintain high performance. Recognizing the signs of burnout is the first step in addressing it. Some common indicators include: Emotional exhaustion: Feeling drained, overwhelmed, and unable to cope with daily tasks (2) Reduced performance: A noticeable decline in the quality of your work or productivity. (3) Depersonalization: Developing a cynical attitude towards your job or the customers you serve. (4) Physical symptoms: Headaches, muscle tension, sleep disturbances, and a weakened immune system. Tips for Staying Sane in Customer Service

“

Burnout is more than just feeling tired after a long day.

It's a state of chronic stress that leads to physical and emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and a sense of ineffectiveness. In customer service, burnout can stem from several factors, including high workloads, demanding customers, lack of support from management, and the pressure to maintain high performance.

Prioritize Self-Care

Self-care isn't a luxury; it's a necessity, especially in high-stress jobs like customer service. Regular exercise, a healthy diet, sufficient sleep, and mindfulness practices such as meditation or yoga can help you manage stress and keep burnout at bay.

Develop Strong Support Networks Having a support system at work and outside of work is crucial. Colleagues who understand your challenges can offer valuable support, while friends and family provide a space to vent and relax. Don't hesitate to seek help when you need it, whether through professional counseling or peer

support.

Practice Effective Stress Management

Learning how to manage stress effectively can make a significant difference. Techniques such as deep breathing exercises, time management skills, and taking regular breaks during the workday can help keep stress levels under control.

Focus on What You Can Control

In customer service, there will always be factors outside of your control, such as customer attitudes and company policies. Focus on what you can control, like your response to situations and your work environment. Maintaining a positive attitude, even in challenging situations, can help reduce the feeling of helplessness that often accompanies burnout. Burnout in customer service is a serious issue, but it's not inevitable. By recognizing the signs early and implementing effective stress management strategies, you can maintain your mental and physical well-being. Remember, taking care of yourself is essential not just for your job performance, but for your overall quality of life. Prioritize your well-being, set boundaries, and seek support when needed to stay sane and thrive in the demanding world of customer service.

DTI Communications Team



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The GAC Emkoo will go on sale in South Africa in September. Picture: Supplied

Striking new GAC Emkoo debuts in South Africa - pricing and features announced

South Africa's newest Chinese Brand, GAC Motor, has announced its second product for South Africa and it's certainly a head turner.

Revealed at a glitzy event staged by the brand's local importer, Salvador Caetano Group, at Melrose Arch in Johannesburg on Tuesday night, the GAC Emkoo joins the smaller Emzoom that was announced to local media earlier in August.

Slotting above the latter, the Emkoo boasts an even bolder exterior design, with striking V-shaped grille elements, triple-element headlights and a coupe-inspired silhouette. The 4.68 metre-long crossover is not too dissimilar in concept to Haval's H6 GT.

Set to go on sale in September, the Emkoo is available in two variants, with the Executive model priced at R599,900 and the Executive Plus stickered at R659,900.

As per the smaller Emzoom, the Emkoo is powered by a 1.5-litre turbopetrol engine that offers up 130kW and 270Nm.

Given the added weight, it's not going to be as peppy as its smaller sibling, which has been praised by local media for its sporty driving characteristics, but it should prove adequate nonetheless.

Power goes to the front wheels only, via a seven-speed wet dual-clutch transmission.

The Emkoo's interior was inspired by an aircraft vector thruster, with round interior elements augmented by an ambient lighting system that

seemingly wants to beam you up.

It's highly digitised, as you'd expect by now, thanks to a 10.1-inch central touchscreen, with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Phone Screen Mirroring, and the driver faces a 7.0-inch digital instrument cluster.

Even the 'base' Executive is well stocked, with standard equipment including a glass roof with electric sunshades, Surround View Camera System, keyless start, Type A and Type C USB ports and a glut of driver-assist gadgets such as Adaptive Cruise Control, Traffic Jam Assist, Lane Keep Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Detection and Autonomous Emergency Braking.

The Executive Plus adds electric tailgate functionality to the equation along with Heads Up Display, wireless phone charging, interior ambient lighting system and heated and ventilated front seats, with seat memory position for the driver.

Externally, both have LED headlights as standard, with the Executive rolling on 18-inch alloys and the Executive Plus upgrading to 19" rims.

The vehicles are sold with a 150,000km warranty and 100,000km service plan, both valid for five years. The Salvador Caetano Group, which represents 36 automotive brands in 44 countries around the world, aims to have 20 South African dealerships up and running by the end of 2024, with plans to expand that to 30 in 2025 and 40 in 2026.

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Bennifer is over – again. But why does Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez’s divorce feel so sad?

Bennifer is over – again. But why does Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez’s divorce feel so sad?

It was genuinely nice seeing two middle-aged stars reunite 18 years after their wedding was called off. But it didn’t last

All Hollywood stars embarking on a romance secretly hope for just one thing: official condemnation from the Vatican. When it emerged that Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton were having an affair on the set of *Cleopatra*, the Holy See issued a letter describing Taylor as “an avaricious vamp who destroys families and devours husbands”. (To be fair, she was heading into marriage No 5, with three more to go.)

When news of Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck’s divorce broke today, two years after they married and two decades after they first fell in love, entertainment reporters began invoking Burton and Taylor, another celebrity couple who famously separated and reunited. Baylor – as no one called them – married in 1964, divorced in 1974, remarried in 1975 and divorced again less than a year later. But Bennifer – who were never condemned by a pope, but did earn the first ever celebrity couple portmanteau – were far more normal than Burton and Taylor, who both delighted in publicly playing out their torrid, drunken excess. And that was an undeniable part of Bennifer’s appeal.

Affleck and Lopez first dated between 2002 and 2004. Even at their heights, both of them could sell more magazines than tickets. He wrote a couple of very good films and starred in some very bad ones. She was a curious multi-hyphenate: a singer-dancer-actor with enough star power to drive a career in fluffy romcoms, so-so thrillers and a two-minute Pepsi ad. Both of them were beautiful and inoffensive, and seemed to fear and feed on the attention they got. Like many of our most enduring stars, she is now perhaps most famous for being her, JLO, Jenny from the Block. He is mainly famous now for looking sad. They almost got married in 2003, but called off the ceremony days before the wedding due to the “excessive media attention”; they dated for four more months before officially calling it quits. But, as the years trotted by, even when they married and divorced other people, they were unfailingly kind about each other. He laid into journalists for treating her as a mistake, the aberration on an Oscar-winner’s career. She blamed the media for the breakup, saying the attention destroyed their relationship “from the inside out” and that she felt “eviscerated” afterwards. When they got back together in 2021, it was as if they’d simply stepped out of the room for a bit. Perhaps some of the pleasure we secretly felt was really relief: we hadn’t ruined a nice thing after all.

In the same way you might be

It was genuinely nice seeing two middle-aged stars reunite 18 years after their wedding was called off. But it didn’t last



Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck in September 2021. The couple have since filed for divorce. Photograph: Joel C Ryan/Invision/AP

surprised to feel a twinge of sadness at the news of their divorce, their rekindled romance was oddly cheering. We were emerging from the madness of Covid-19, for one thing, which meant all mildly nice news was met with delirious pleasure. These were two people, older and maybe a little wiser, choosing to grant each other a second chance – which is always a miraculous gift, whether you are famous or not. And there was the eternal sadness of Affleck, who always seemed to move through the world with levels of agony not seen since the great Russian novels, always vaping despondently in his car. After his separation from Jennifer Garner, his wife of 10 years, Affleck got an enormous tattoo of a phoenix on his

back, lied that it was fake, then was photographed on the beach two years later, towel around his waist and giant phoenix on his back, staring out at the ocean like a haunted sea captain.

The internet cast him as a sort of universal sad dad, whose melancholy was both real and not real, but always deliciously memeable. So of course it was nice to see that guy land a win, making out with his hot ex-girlfriend at parties. When they got married, in 2022, it was a delightful blend of high and low culture, just like their careers: they married in Las Vegas and honeymooned in Paris.

Not everyone gets eight chances like Taylor, and both Affleck and Lopez

were openly grateful for the second. When asked by the *Wall Street Journal* to spill on his relationship, Affleck replied: “One of the harder lessons that I have learned is that it’s not wise to share everything with the world ... I am very lucky in my life in that I have benefited from second chances, and I am aware that other people don’t even get first chances.” Lopez had more to say, telling *People*: “We’re older now, we’re smarter, we have more experience, we’re at different places in our lives, we have kids now, and we have to be very conscious of those things. We’re so protective because it is such a beautiful time for all of us.” When it comes to celebrity marriages, no news is good news. Tabloids began portentously and

obsessively documenting instances where they were not wearing wedding rings. Lopez suddenly cancelled her US tour, citing her need to be with her children and family. They were papped looking cranky, or perhaps just bored or hungry. They put their \$68m marital home on the market, then got caught house hunting separately. (“The Broker Always Knows the Breakup Is Coming,” one *New York Magazine* headline read.) In the divorce papers, Lopez has listed their separation date as 26 April, though they were only filed today – on their two-year wedding anniversary, which was deliciously, unsubtly symbolic. Even amid heartbreak, she knows how to put on a show.



BBC reinvests in South Africa with new TV shows mooted



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BBC Studios has unveiled its list of returning shows for the South African market, including household favourites like the *Come Dine With Me SA* cooking competition.

The British TV production company has indicated that it will be bringing new shows to the SA market, but they remain tight-lipped about those shows for now.

The returning and new shows in the BBC stable include lifestyle shows Gary Barlow Wining & Dining in South Africa, Ultimate Braai Master and Listing Cape Town, as well as family shows *Come Dine With Me SA* and *Home Grown Tastes*.

BBC Studios hosted agencies and the media to an exclusive BBC Africa Upfront event at the Four Seasons Westcliff Hotel to take them on an experience around the world.

The theme of the event was 'taking you places' completed with the panel speakers wearing pilot and flight attendant uniforms. The theme explores taking flights and travelling all around the world through TV screens.

In the panel was socialite and radio presenter Bunny Mejaja, commercial director of BBC Studios Africa Pierre Cloete, Advertising account Director of BBC Studios Africa Sarah- Jane Harlingand Senior Sales Manager: Third party channels DSTV Media sales, Lerato Sekhoanyane. BBC Studios has six channels on DSTV, BBC Brit, BBC UKTV, BBC Lifestyle, BBC Earth, BBC News and BBC CBeebies .

These channels offer a variety of programmes ranging from local content shows, news, entertainment, cartoons, game shows, dramas, travel, wild life, cooking and lifestyle shows.

"Over the past 25 years we have built an incredible partnership with Multichoice and now have six BBC

channels taking viewers on incredible journeys around the globe," said Cloete.

While the BBC may be originally British, their channels also include South African local content that South Africans can look forward to. Some shows are new to the screens and some are favourites returning for new seasons.

All the avid braai masters will be delighted to hear that the Ultimate Braai Master is back for a seventh season.

Host Justin Bonello and judges, Pete Goffe-Wood and Benny Masekwameng are all back, and will be challenging a new group of contents.

Come Dine With Me SA is coming back for its 10th season narrated by Dave Lamb with a whole new group of candidates compete to be named the ultimate dinner party host, complete with dinner parties and culinary pleasures and disasters. All hoping to be the winner of a grand cash prize.

Listing Cape Town comes back for season three. Taking viewers into homes across the Atlantic Seaboard, Green Point, Sea Point, Bantry Bay, Fresnaye, Clifton, Camps Bay, Llandudno, De Waterkant, Cape Town City, Bishops court as well as inland properties in and around Franschhoek, Val de Vie and Pearl Valley.

From manicured stud farms in and around the Cape winelands, to beach bungalows, Listing Cape Town will feature some of the Mother City's most opulent and over the top properties.

Home Grown Tastes South Africa comes back for season two, Lorna Maseko gives viewers a closer look and visits the farms, vineyards and fishing fleets that produce South Africa's export quality food.

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ADVERTS

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Environmental Impact Assessment for a Solar Power Plant in the vicinity of Rehoboth, Hardap Region, Namibia

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012).

Project: The allocated solar power plant area is located north of Rehoboth, in the Hardap region. **The applied area covers an area of 50 Ha.** The proposed Solar plant area is accessible along the B1 tarred road from either Rehoboth or Windhoek and while the remaining smaller portion is accessible via an informal gravel road. The proponent intends to construct a solar power plant that will generate up to 20 MW of power.
Proponent: ANO Energy (Pty) Ltd

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before 04/09/2024. Contact details for registration and further information:
Augite Environmental Consulting
Dr. K Kanguuehi
Email: kkanguuehi0@gmail.com,
Cell number: 0817069027



NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) FOR THE PROPOSED SMALL-SCALE PROSPECTING AND MINING OF BASE AND RARE METALS ON MINING CLAIM NO. 73479 AND 73480 ON FARM MESOPOTAMIA NO.504, KHORIXAS DISTRICT, KUNENE REGION.

Namib Consulting Services CC hereby give notice to interested and affected parties under section 32 of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and listed activities of EIA Regulation (GN 29. of 2012), that an application will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner for an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the proposed prospecting and mining activities on mining claims No. 73479 and 73480.

Proponent: Mr. Gerhardt Kariseb of Kariseb and Sons (Pty) Ltd
Environmental Consultant: Namib Consulting Services CC

Brief Project Description: The Proponent (Mr. Gerhardt Kariseb) intends to undertake prospecting and subsequent mining of base and rare metals on the two mining claims (73479 and 73480) located on farm Mesopotamia No. 504 in Khorixas District of Kunene Region. The activities will involve, prospecting activities involving digging and drilling of a specified area on the mining claims to determine ore bearing areas. Minor invasive and non-invasive activities are expected to take place in the form of minimal vegetation clearance, drilling and extraction of the targeted ore-bearing rocks as well as limited movement of machinery, vehicles and personnel, to and from the project site upon issuance of an ECC.

Public participation meeting will be held on:

Date	Venue	Time
29 August 2024	Khorixas Town Council Chamber	10h00

Public Participation and commenting period is valid to the 30 August 2024.

Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to the contact details below:
Email: namibconsulting@gmail.com
Tel: + 264 814994488 (Tendie)/ 264 856949740 (Othero)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED REZONING OF ERF 354 AND ERF 357 OSHAKATI EXTENSION 2 FROM SINGLE RESIDENTIAL TO BUSINESS, OSHANA REGION

Notice is hereby given to all potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and relevant stakeholders, that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism (MEFT) for the following activities.

Project title: Rezoning of Erf 354 & 357, Oshakati Extension 2, from Single Residential to Business

Project Location: Oshakati Extension 2, Oshana Region

Proponent: Mrs. Martha Nashidengo

Description: The proponent intends to apply for the Rezoning of Erf 354 & 357 from Single Residential to Business. In terms of the Environmental Management Act (Act No. 07 of 2007), the Rezoning of land from "Residential" to Commercial, cannot be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate being obtained.


I&APs are hereby invited to register, request the Background Information Document (BID), and submit input to info@greengain.com.na **The last day to submit input is on 11 September 2024.**

The need for a public meeting will be determined after the consultation and communicated to all registered I&APs.

For more information: Email: eap@greengain.com.na or jkondja@gmail.com

Cell: +264 811422927 or 0813380114



PUBLIC NOTICE - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENTS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS	
Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being conducted in terms of the Environmental Management Act and related EIA Regulations for the activities listed below. On completion of the aforesaid EIA, a formal application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner for consideration.	
Listed Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent Closure of Remainder Erf 1527, Extension 5, Erven 2867 to 2868 Rundu Extension 9 as 'Public Open Space'. Consolidation of Remainder Erf 1527, Rundu Extension 5 with Erf 2867, Rundu Extension 9 into Erf 'X' Rundu Extension 5. Rezoning of Consolidated Erf 'X' from 'Public Open Space' to 'Hospitality' with a Bulk of 1.0 for the Development and Operation of a Hospitality Establishment. Rezoning of Erf 2868 from 'Public Open Space' to 'Single Residential' with a Density of 1:300. Construction and Operation of a Tourist Facility, a Resort Shop and a Place of Entertainment.
Developer	D O Industrial Trading CC
Invitation to Participate	Interested and Affected Parties (AIPs) are hereby invited to register for the EIA by requesting a Background Information Document (BID) on the development. The duration for submission of any comments, objections and /or concerns with respect to the proposed consolidation and rezoning is 31 August 2024 to 30 September 2024.
EIA Consultant:	 Cell: 081 418 3125 Fax: 088 645 026 Email: ekwao@iway.na

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Environmental Impact Assessment for a Solar Power Plant in the vicinity of Rundu, Kavango East Region, Namibia

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012)

Project: The allocated solar power plant area is located east of Rundu, in the local Kavango East region. The applied area covers an area of 65 Ha. The proposed Solar plant area is accessible along the B8 tarred road from either Rundu or Divundu and while the remaining smaller portion is accessible via an informal gravel road. The proponent intends to construct a solar power plant that will generate up to 20 MW of power.
Proponent: Epitome Energy (Pty) Ltd

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before 17/08/2024. Contact details for registration and further information:
Augite Environmental Consulting
Dr. K Kanguuehi
Email: kkanguuehi0@gmail.com,
Cell number: 0817069027



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'Evans retires as one of NI's all-time greats'

Bookended by outings against Spain almost 18 years apart, Jonny Evans' Northern Ireland career has ended as it began.

Having confirmed his international retirement on Thursday, across more than a century of caps in between those first and last outings for his country, the 36-year-old Manchester United defender ensured that one of the most memorable debuts in Northern Ireland's history preceded one of the finest careers in the green jersey.

It was Lawrie Sanchez who gave him his first taste as a senior international when Evans was an 18-year-old on loan at Belgian side Royal Antwerp. Legend has it the manager was only made aware of the young defender in the under-21s after his assistant Terry Gibson's son noticed him in the computer game Championship Manager.

Fresh off a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Iceland at Windsor Park, Sanchez wanted fresh faces for a training game but was so taken by Evans' performance that he included him from the start only days later against

a side who in the years to come would win the World Cup and a pair of European Championships.

Going against a forward line consisting of David Villa, Fernando Torres and Raul would have been daunting for any defender - to do so on your international debut, and out of position at left-back, felt a gargantuan task.

And yet, while it was David Healy's hat-trick in the 3-2 win that was destined to be shown time and time again, how Evans saw off the challenge of three of the game's superstars down the Spanish right flank would stay with Sanchez. "All three of them knew there was this young kid playing his first game and were probably thinking they would be able to get something out of him," Sanchez told BBC Sport NI in 2022.

"But they didn't. Jonny looked as though he had played 100 games for us at left-back."

On the basis of that night, perhaps it should come as no surprise that unflappable has been the word used to describe Evans time and time

again across his near two decades at the heart of Northern Ireland's defence.

Relied upon by four different international managers - Evans has been a constant under Lawrie Sanchez, Nigel Worthington, Ian Baraclough and both spells of Michael O'Neill - the former Leicester City and West Bromwich Albion man has provided an injection of Premier League quality to the side during an era when representation in England's top league has dwindled. And while his top-flight honours mark him out as one his country's most decorated ever players, helping his side to a major finals will rank alongside the Premier Leagues and FA Cups.

Evans, who scored six goals for his country despite a nine-year drought between his first and second, played all four of Northern Ireland's games at Euro 2016, previously citing the 2-0 win over Ukraine in Lyon as the highlight of his international career. Despite agonising play-off defeats by Switzerland and Slovakia denying them spots at the 2018 World Cup

in Russia and Euro 2020, Evans has remained among the side's most consistent performers, especially after the retirement of long-time team-mate Steven Davis last year. Having said he "came to the realisation" of how much it meant to him to represent Northern Ireland as his career progressed, Evans' attitude to international football, even through a period when results faltered at the end of Baraclough's reign and the early days of O'Neill, was praised by his manager as recently as this summer.

No longer with the likes of Davis, Stuart Dallas and Craig Cathcart alongside him, Evans' experience has been vital as a new team sparking optimism for the future has been blooded around him in recent windows.

While the likes of Conor Bradley, Trai Hume and Shea Charles have given Northern Ireland supporters cause to look forward to the future of late, Thursday's announcement provides a reason to look back with fondness on one of the great careers in green and the day a fresh-faced 18-year-old kept

Romelu Lukaku signs for Napoli from Chelsea

Napoli have signed Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea, the Serie A club announced on Thursday, ending the Belgium striker's extended period in limbo with the Blues.

Owner Aurelio De Laurentiis confirmed the deal, worth a reported \$33.2 million, on social media by saying "Welcome Romelu" with a photo of him signing his three-year contract.

Lukaku's move to Napoli keeps him in Italy, at his third club in as many years after loan spells at Inter Milan and Roma.

The 31-year-old was the idol of Inter fans when he fired their team to the Serie A title in 2021 under new Napoli coach Antonio Conte before being sold for well over 100 million euros to Chelsea that summer.

But Lukaku flopped on his return to

Stamford Bridge, and that massive fee left him in limbo as clubs refused to meet the Premier League club's valuations for a sale.

It led to an underwhelming year on loan back at Inter in the 2022/23 season during which he was dogged by injury and largely kept out of the team by Edin Dzeko.

His mooted permanent move to Inter broke down last summer as the club found out he had been making noises towards fierce rivals AC Milan and Juventus, so Lukaku and Chelsea eventually accepted another loan deal with Roma.

However Roma were not interested in shelling out for Lukaku, allowing Conte to be reunited with a striker whose reputation has suffered in recent years but is still Belgium's all-time top scorer with 85 goals in 119 appearances.

Conte said in a press conference on Thursday that Lukaku will be selected in the Napoli squad for Saturday's home match with Parma "as loss as he doesn't have any (physical) problems".

Napoli are trying to bounce back from a dreadful league title defence last term in which they went through three managers and finished 10th.

Lukaku has been brought in as part of that rebuilding process and as a replacement for want-away star forward Victor Osimhen who is reportedly considering a move to Saudi Arabia as no European club has offered enough for Napoli to sell.

Napoli currently sit 11th in Serie A after a crushing defeat at Verona and convincing win over Bologna in their first two matches of the new season.

AFP



Romelu Lukaku

GOSSIP

Arsenal will accelerate their efforts to sign Espanyol's Spanish goalkeeper Joan Garcia, 23, as England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale, 26, is set to join Southampton for £25m. (Athletic), external

Napoli's Nigeria striker Victor Osimhen, 25, who is a target for Chelsea, has been offered a four-year deal by Saudi Pro League side Al-Ahli worth £25m per year. (Sky Sports), external

England winger Jadon Sancho, 24, is set to move to Juventus from Manchester United on loan with an obligation to buy. (RMC Sport), external

Sancho would prefer to join Chelsea than Juventus and is holding out for an offer from the Blues. (Guardian), external

Aston Villa will move for Roma's England forward Tammy Abraham, 26, if Colombia striker Jhon Duran, 20 leaves the club before the transfer deadline. (Football Insider), external

Crystal Palace have agreed a deal with Wolfsburg for French defender Maxence Lacroix, 24, as a direct replacement for Denmark centre-half Joachim Andersen, 28, who has joined Fulham. (Sky Sports), external

Liverpool have turned down an approach from Bayer Leverkusen for England Under-21 midfielder Tyler Morton, 21. (Sky Sports), external

Newcastle United want to sign Burnley's England Under-21 goalkeeper James Trafford, 21. (Football Insider), external

Everton have made an enquiry about signing Fiorentina's Morocco midfielder Sofyan Amrabat, 28, who spent last season on loan at Manchester United. (Talksport), external

Galatasaray and Ivory Coast forward Wilfried Zaha's return to the Premier League has been all-but ruled out because of tax issues. Zaha's former club Crystal Palace were among those interested in re-signing the 31-year-old on loan. (Standard)

Manchester City's Burkina Faso right-back Issa Kabore, 23, is set to complete a season-long loan move to Benfica. (Sky Sports), external

Fulham are interested in signing Lyon's 20-year-old Ghana winger Ernest Nuamah. (Athletic), external

Meanwhile, Fulham's Switzerland defender Kevin Mbabu, 29, is set to join Danish champions FC Midtjylland on a two-year contract. (Standard), external

Wolves' Portugal winger Daniel Ponce, 28, is close to joining Al-Shabab in the Saudi Pro League. (Rudy Galetti), external

Nottingham Forest have turned down several loan offers for United States goalkeeper Matt Turner, 30, as they would prefer him to leave on a permanent deal. (ESPN), external