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MOPANI OIL FIELD DRILLING

Galp set to pay at least N\$ 1.3 billion in rig costs for each Well

EX FINANCIAL MARKETS

Exchange Rates

N\$ – US Dollar:	17.57
N\$ – British Pound:	22.77
N\$ – Euro:	19.07
N\$ – Aus dollar:	11.55
N\$ – Yen:	0.11

Commodities

Gold:	2 743
Silver :	32.66
Palladium:	1115.74
Platinum:	1002.68
Brent crude:	72.81



DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY
2021 - 2030

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Business Express is a Namibian quality journalism publication aimed at giving consumers cutting-edge business content with key focus on business and economic news.

Established in 2022, our premium weekly virtual newspaper (e-paper) has distinguished itself as an in-depth, analytical and discursive medium that helps readers make sense of the headlines. We provide daily news and popular multi-media content on our digital and social platforms. As an independent, non-partisan business, we see ourselves as, and pride ourselves in being, a critical alternative platform.

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Business Insights

Weekly...

Exploring CX as key component of business

Across various industries, particularly retail, travel, finance and hospitality; the significance of loyalty programmes is on the rise. Loyalty or reward programmes offer benefits to customers for supporting a certain brand.

Some programmes are directly linked to a particular company (such as an insurer, bank or supermarket chain), while others are stand-alone rewards programmes. From a business point of view, a loyalty programme is a strategic marketing tool.

2024 loyalty research report by Bond Global revealed that 73% of surveyed consumers opt to adapt the amount they spend to maximise reward benefits and 79% of consumers are more likely to recommend a brand if it has a good loyalty programme. A whopping 85% of respondents said that loyalty programmes encourage them to continue doing business with a particular brand.

Considering that repeat business comprises a significant portion of organisation sales, this is a massive factor to take into account. The data indicates that in a highly competitive business landscape, having a rewards programme that is superior to those of competitors is likely to give a brand a notable business edge in terms of attracting and retaining customers. Simply offering a loyalty programme, will not guarantee success. A programme needs to offer real value to the end user (i.e., the consumer).

To succeed, brands need to have a “big picture” understanding of Customer Experience (CX), and develop strategies based on these fundamental elements. CX refers to the entire customer journey, encompassing the various touchpoints and opportunities for interaction, including marketing content, direct interactions with customers, post-sales customer service, social impact and overall perceptions of a brand.

CX entails both tangible benefits (such as direct sales), as well as comparatively intangible benefits, such as promoting trust and emotional connection.

An excellent loyalty programme is one that takes these numerous “mini experiences” into consideration and entrenches them into market strategies, but also makes the CX journey highly personalised, starting with simple items such as using the customer’s name when addressing them. This goes far beyond “feel good” factors as it stimulates customer-centric value which in turn promotes brand bottom-line objectives.

>>> **FARM-OUT PLANS FOR 40% STAKE TO BE DELAYED**

Galp set to pay at least N\$1.3 billion in rig fees per well

Business Express Writer

Galp Energia, which has spudded the Mopane 1-A well as part of the second exploration and appraisal campaign in PEL 83 in Namibia's Orange basin has slashed well costs to around US\$75 million (about N\$1.3 billion) per well, Business Express understands.

This was revealed by CEO Filipe Silva who told analysts during Galp's third-quarter earnings presentation last week.

Silva attributed this to better knowledge of its drilling environment and "a lot more competition from service providers."

The pivotal four-well exploration and appraisal campaign offshore Namibia which kicked off last week is being conducted at blocks 2813A and 2814B, where Galp is the operator with 80% stake, with Custos Energy and NAMCOR, the National Petroleum Company of Namibia, holding 10% each. Sintana maintains an indirect 49% interest in Custos Energy.

Galp and its Namibia partners started off with an appraisal well, spudded on Oct. 23 close to the original discoveries, and results are expected this year, which should help re-risk an initial development. Next up is expected to be an exploration well, located southeast of Mopane in the PEL 83 license's other block, 2814B. However, the second well is not due to be drilled until June 2025, allowing sufficient time to study seismic activity.

"That, in itself, will likely trigger a number of other wells in the region," Silva explained. It could support a separate development, he added.

"We look forward to the continuing progress on PEL 83, further unveiling of the potential and quality of the Mopane complex. These efforts should provide additional insights into this world class opportunity and into our broader Orange Basin portfolio located at the heart of this emerging hydrocarbon province." said Robert Bose, Chief Executive Officer of Sintana. Initial analysis suggests the reservoirs have good



porosities, high pressures, and high permeabilities in large hydrocarbon columns with very low oil viscosity and no CO2 or H2S. The flows achieved during the well test have reached the maximum allowed limits.

Saipem's Santorini drillship which has been contracted by Galp is a seventh-generation drillship – acquired by Saipem in December 2022 – equipped with two seven-cavity anti-eruption devices (blow-out preventer or BOP) and capable of operating at water depths of up to 12,000 feet (over 3,500 meters). Eni



Continues from page 3

exercised a two-year contract extension for the rig in April 2023.

Last year, Galp began to drill a well in license PEL 83 with the SFL Corporation-owned and the Odfjell Drilling-managed Hercules sixth-generation deepwater and harsh environment semi-submersible rig by spudding the Mopane-1X prospect in November 2023, which was the first of two wells planned to be drilled.

FARM-OUT PLANS DELAYED

Despite Galp having commenced drilling, it will likely not conclude a planned farm-out of its giant Mopane discovery until late next year, the firm revealed.

An announcement of a 40% operator for Mopane has been keenly anticipated, with both a senior executive at state-owned Namcor and a potential buyer recently suggesting that a deal was coming imminently.

“We remain very keen to hold onto our 80% stake in Namibia, at least until we get the results from our next two wells,” Silva said.

As such, a farm-out agreement will “wait until most likely end of 2025 and also to learn from what other players around us are going to find,” Silva said. These are very, very exciting times for Galp and for Namibia, he added.

The farm-out of Mopane, touted as a 10 billion barrels of oil equivalent in place discovery, has been one of the most closely watched M&A deals this year.

A string of heavyweight suitors has been linked to the project, including Petrobras and a number of the oil majors.

Analysts at investment bank RBC Capital Markets suggested Mopane could also be a good fit for large US integrated companies that have been on the hunt for long-term oil and gas resources.

Chevron would be a natural acquirer of the portfolio and have the capacity to do so, the analysts noted.

COMMERCIALLY VIABLE

On April 21, the Galp announced that the Mopane find was likely to be commercially viable. According to Commodity Insights estimates, the Mopane field will see first oil in 2030 and will plateau at 211,000 boe/d in 2037.

The find sits to the north of the giant Venus and Graff discoveries by TotalEnergies and Shell respectively in early 2022, which sparked a rush for stakes in the Orange Basin from the world’s biggest exploration and production firms.

The Venus find, which could hold as much as 5 billion barrels of oil in place, according to the Namibian government, is expected to be the first oil project to come online in 2030, according to forecasts from Commodity Insights analysts.

TotalEnergies is planning for a 160,000 b/d development on Venus, CEO Patrick Pouyanne told analysts on Oct. 2, while also drilling other prospects in its Orange Basin acreage.

Commodity Insights forecasts suggest Namibian crude production from Venus, Jonker and Graff will reach 380,000 b/d by 2035, increasing further with additional discoveries.

That would make Namibia -- which does not currently produce any hydrocarbons -- a major African oil producer, transforming its economy.

OTHER PROJECTS

Both third-quarter cash flow and net oil and gas output were down around 10% compared to the same quarter in 2023, reflecting Galp’s disposal of its Area 4 assets in Mozambique.

Output should get a boost from the start-up of the Bacalhau field in Brazil next year.

But a key energy transition project, Galp’s planned Aurora lithium processing joint venture in Portugal, is on hold. “We are in no rush to take an FID [final investment decision] until we see an appropriate return for the project, and we don’t seem to be there as we speak,” said Silva.

The failure of lithium mining to take off in Portugal is another concern for the project, he noted.

While the outlook for renewable energy in Brazil has improved, it has not done so sufficiently for Galp to reactivate previous solar and wind plans, analysts heard.

Namibia's table grape export campaign to begin



By Business Express Writer

The Namibian table grape industry is looking forward to a good export season, which is due to gather momentum with shipments through the port of Walvis Bay from week 47.

Early growers are expected to start packing next week, but exporters have said that during the first two weeks there will be relatively small volumes.

The Namibian industry is bullish about further exports through the port of Walvis Bay, after initial shipments were very successful last year.

“We will definitely increase shipments through this port this year, with six container vessels being available from week 47,” said Kobus Bothma of Capespan Namibia, one of the leading producers and exporters.

“Last year we gained 8–10 days in the logistics journey by using this port and that is very important to get our grapes in the market as early as possible,” he explained.

“This year we anticipate that the whole Namibian industry will direct around 1,250 containers through Walvis Bay.”

He noted that with NAMPORTTIN (Terminal Investment Namibia), managing quayside operations and regular

vessels from MSC visiting, a smooth operation was anticipated. From the Aussenkehr region in Southern Namibia, the journey on land runs to Windhoek in the centre of the country, and then from there directly to Walvis Bay on the West Coast.

Growers said that they have had a good bloom and set in vineyards, and with conditions remaining favourable they are expecting a quality crop.

Last year the industry shipped just over 9m cartons, and exporters anticipate this year's crop will be at the same level.

The Namibian industry will also use the port of Cape Town, but the diversion of some fruit through Walvis Bay is expected to relieve pressure there – to the advantage of the whole Southern African grape export industry.

It is understood that exporters from the Orange River in South Africa are also planning some shipments through Walvis Bay.

If this is successful, it will give them alternatives to the delays they have become used to in Cape Town.

Namibian growers said they would this year export larger volumes of Sweet Globe and Sweet Celebration, with new plantings of Arra and Sun World varieties also making good progress.



How Paladin Energy is navigating Langer Heinrich production trials

By Business Express Writer

Paladin Energy has identified several solutions to help overcome short-term operational challenges as it continues ramping up the Langer Heinrich uranium mine (LHM) in Namibia.

The LHM re-commenced commercial production on 30 March 2024 following the successful completion of the restart project and is undergoing an operational ramp-up during FY2025, with ore feed to the plant sourced from previously mined stockpiled ore.

Mining activities are expected to resume in FY2026, ahead of achieving nameplate production of six million pounds per annum by the end of 2026.

Ore feed impacted

Paladin revealed in its latest quarterly report that it had encountered issues during the period that affected ore feed, recovery rates and production volumes.

The efficiency challenges included variability in the stockpiled ore processed, resulting in a lower feed grade than planned for the quarter.

The mine's performance was also impacted by the delayed commissioning of a second classification circuit, while lower-than-anticipated tailings water recovery necessitated adjustments to the water balance within the plant, resulting in lower levels of fines rejects and variability in recoveries.

With the Paladin team working through these issues,

production continued to ramp up, with 0.64Mlb of uranium produced during the quarter.

Progressing solutions

Chief executive officer Ian Purdy said the operations team is progressing solutions to address the challenges, with an independent third party also engaged to assist in improving the tailings water recovery process.

He noted that significant improvements have been supported by crusher upgrades that have eliminated the previous bottleneck, demonstrating sufficient capacity to achieve full production at the mine.

Paladin is preparing for a planned two-week shutdown in November to allow for further improvements and operational upgrades to be implemented.

Upgrade benefits

"The ramp-up of production at the LHM continues to de-risk the project and demonstrates the benefits of the plant upgrades," Purdy said.

"While production in the second quarter of the ramp-up encountered some process recovery and efficiency challenges, the onsite team has begun implementing operational and process design improvements, which delivered improved performance towards the end of the quarter."

"Our global clean-energy customers have commenced receiving and processing our product,

EX *Continues on page 7*

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with Paladin now delivering on its mission to resource a carbon-free future.” Paladin continues to develop its world-class offtake contract book, with three additional sales agreements signed during the quarter and approximately 23Mlb of production contracted through to 2030.

Guidance

Paladin will continue to use previously mined stockpile ore for production at the Langer Heinrich mine next year, and will restart mining activities in 2026. Having recently completed the restart of the Namibian mine, Paladin has previously announced its 2025 production guidance of 4-million to 4.5-million uranium oxide (U3O8) at a production cost of US\$28/lb to US\$31/lb.

Langer Heinrich will be in operational ramp-up in the 2025 financial year, with production levels expected to be higher in the second half of the year.

Mining activities will restart in the 2026 financial year, ahead of achieving nameplate production of six-million pounds a year by the end of the 2026 calendar year. The resurrected mine will have a 17-year mine life, producing 77-million pounds of U3O8.

New Horizons

Last month, it was reported that the effort by Paladin Energy to acquire Canadian-listed uranium explorer Fission Uranium seems to have hit another speed bump, as the Canadian government has stepped in with a national security review of the deal. Per section 25.3 of the Investment Canada Act, the deal now requires further government approval.

The Canadian government is known to be increasingly sensitive about the acquisition of strategic resource companies by overseas shareholders. Paladin Energy is listed in Australia, however, and counts several UK, Canadian and US fund managers among its biggest stockholders.

However, Paladin is working with the China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC), a state-owned entity, on the development of the Langer Heinrich uranium mine in Namibia. China Uranium Corp, a subsidiary of CNNC, acquired 25% of the mine in a 2014 deal. This is what could have raised Canadian government security concerns in the first place.

CNNC is one of the two big players in China’s nuclear sector and partly responsible for securing overseas uranium supplies for China’s nuclear reactors. It has been very active in Africa over the past decade.

Ironically for Fission Uranium, China’s other uranium heavyweight, represented by CGN Mining, is a minority shareholder of Fission (11.26%) and has itself acted to block the Paladin deal in the Canadian courts.



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Bid Document	Available from Wensday; 16 October 2024 at (Northgate Tutorial College Reception)
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Documents Fee	N\$2000.00 Non-Refundable Fee
Technical Enquiries	Mr. F.J. Mangwana Tel: +264813009991
Tender and Contracts Administrator	Mr. Johannes Isac Tel: +264815740215

Schlettwein shares entry points to leverage agriculture value chains

By Business Express Writer

Minister of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform, Carl Schlettwein, has distinguished four key entry points for positioning domestic agricultural producers to better leverage value chains in the sector and realise increasing value shares.

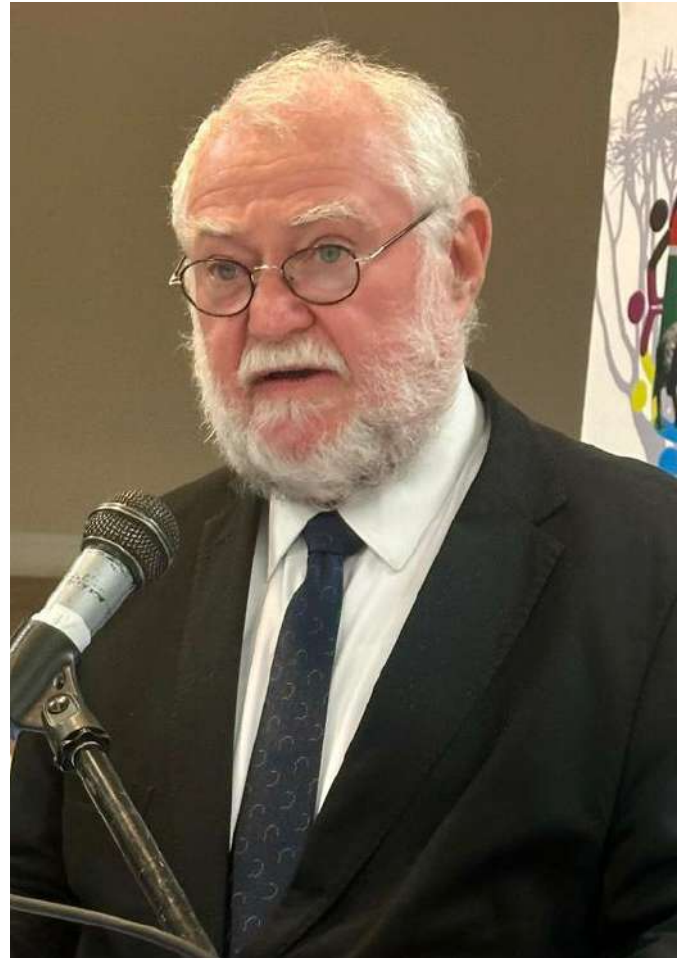
Schlettwein, who was speaking last week at the Keetmanshoop Agricultural & Industrial and Tourism Expo in the //Karas Region, highlighted that the first entry point regards the domestic value chain in the livestock and agronomic sub-sectors.

“For the livestock sub-sector, which is the mainstay for the majority of Namibian farmers, the existence of excess market demand is a favourable opportunity to improve domestic livestock productive capacity and to transform the sub-sector from a producer of raw materials to an exporter of finished livestock products by servicing these best paying markets with finished or intermediary goods. This requires that registered abattoirs are put to productive use, value chain industries such as meat processing plants and tanneries are harnessed, veterinary services are efficiently provided, and the public sector institutional capacity is improved to serve the sector better,” he said.

At this point in time, co-funding of value chain nodes with the support of the European Union under the Livestock Support Program, encompassing feedlots, artificial insemination centres, processing facilities, and expanded market access schemes, is underway to enhance efficiency mechanisms in the livestock subsector.

“The objective is to crowd-in producers, most specifically small-scale producers and women and youth farmers, into livestock value chains with market integration into regional and global value chains. Poultry and pork value chain schemes are promoted through input subsidies and market promotion schemes, respectively, to enable domestic players in these subsectors to realise gains and market share with significant domestic job content and revenue gains.”

He went on to say that the Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme has particularly rendered itself



Carl Schlettwein

highly employment-intensive through high multiplier effects, enabling more domestic market-oriented flows, increasing value shares, and creating more jobs.

In the agronomic sector, the policy objective is to achieve scaled-up productive capacity for basic grains and cereals as basic staple foods for food self-sufficiency while allowing for diversification into high-value fruits, horticulture products, and crops. Such productive diversification and intensification extend well beyond the government-owned green schemes to include commercial and communal farming practices in the country. The Ministry continues to support agronomic producers through the Horticulture Support and Value Chain Development Scheme, focusing on technical capacity building and equipment support interventions.

“It is well known that the government has invested

EX Continues from page 8

in the Green Scheme Projects with the objective of securing at least 27,000 hectares of land under irrigation while developing similar strategic projects such as the Hardap irrigation scheme. Considered alone, the schemes are sufficient to enable the country to achieve self-sufficiency in basic staple foods once effectively utilized. The domestic private sector, agri-entrepreneurs, and financiers are called upon to take advantage of these opportunities.

“There is substantial empirical evidence and market experience about input and product subsidies in the agricultural sector, regionally and globally. In as much as subsidies may have distortionary effects on prices, the Namibian agricultural sector and its nascent industries cannot withstand the uneven playing field in the global market for agricultural products, including those from advanced and emerging market economies, which are highly subsidized. We should, therefore, master the capacity to scale up the national subsidy program beyond the current discrete and underfunded, small incentive packages with limited outreach,” he said.

Secondly, the Minister said that regional value chains through the SADC and the African Continental Free Trade Area provide diverse entry points for the Namibian agriculture sector.

“Namibia has a distinct, perfect advantage of being wedged between the sizable economies of South Africa and Angola, providing effective demand for agricultural products. The African Continental Free Trade Area provides sizeable market access and opportunities for productive diversification in the sector, beyond the existing capacity of the domestic producers. This is in addition to market access agreements to which Namibia is party.”

Thirdly, Schlettwein said Namibia as a logistics hub for the sub-region is competitively poised to better harness global value chains in the sector. Being a gateway to landlocked SADC and international markets, Namibia is a natural epicentre for market agglomeration, assembly, and processing of final consumer goods through the importation

of raw materials. “This has further multiplier effects in the domestic economy and enables domestic industry players to participate in the global value chain setting,” he said.

Lastly, he said that the competitiveness of the agricultural sector depends on secure and affordable sources of energy, water, and fertilisers.

“The strategic shift towards intensive agriculture demands that we strengthen the nexus between water supply security and food security. This involves investments in replacing and upgrading our ageing water supply and distribution infrastructure, as well as developing additional water supply sources, including desalination of sea and brackish water, to be linked into our national integrated water supply system. And this speaks to Namibia’s harsh climatic conditions, hence our prompt actions to interlink various water sources across the country,” explained the Minister.



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Tel:+264 61 423 700, E-mail: Susana.Horaes@rflaun.com.na

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CLOSING DATE: Friday, 22 November 2024 at 16h30

At least 13% of Namibian households depend on old age pension

By Business Express Writer

The recently released 2023 Census Main Report has shown that about 13.8 percent of Namibian households depend on the old age pension, while 10.7 percent depend on farming for their survival, and the majority, 46.6 percent of households, depend on salaries and wages.

Beyond this, 9% depend on business (non-farming), 2.4% on child support, 2.6% on grants, 2.1% on in-kind receipts, 1.4% on drought relief assistance, and 3.7% rely on other sources of livelihood, while the remaining 3.3% have an unknown source of income. "Information on the livelihood of households is very important to measure the level of poverty, hunger, and in general the living standard of the people. The livelihood referred to here is not only in monetary terms but also in terms of the main products being produced for consumption or sale," the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) says in the report.

Assets owned by households

The census collected information on a wide range of assets, including cars, televisions, radios, and mobile phones. These can be categorised into assets used for transportation, communication, and domestic utilities. It should be noted that a household can own or have access to one or more assets.

"Motorcars were the most owned transportation assets, owned by 22.6 percent of the households, followed by bicycles owned by 5.5 percent of the households. Similarly, motorcars were the most owned transportation assets in urban and rural households, owned by 27.6 percent and 16.6 percent of households, respectively. In addition, households that owned animal-drawn carts were more prevalent in rural areas, owned by 6.6 percent," NSA notes.

On the other hand, the majority (52.4%) of households owned smartphones, followed by radio (47.2%) and television (35.1%). Most urban households (68.5%) owned smartphones compared to 33.0 percent of rural households. Computers/laptops were mostly owned by urban households (30.5%), compared to 6.4 percent of households in rural areas.

"In Namibia, 34.9 percent of households have access to mobile internet connectivity. A similar trend is observed in urban and rural areas, where 50.3 and 16.2 percent of the households had access to mobile



NSA CEO & Statistician General, Alex Shimuafeni

internet connectivity."

Furthermore, most households in Namibia (46.3%) owned electrical/gas stoves, followed by 41.6 percent of households who owned refrigerators/freezers, while 26.0 percent of households owned microwaves. Similarly, the results show that these assets are the ones that are also mostly owned by households in both urban and rural areas.

Population

The 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census enumerated 3,022,401 people in Namibia as of 24

EX Continues from page 10

September 2023. Figure 2.1 shows that Namibia's population increased from 1,409,920 in 1991 to 3,022,401 in 2023, representing a population increase of 1,612,481 (114.4%) over the period of 32 years.


Urban population has caught up and slightly surpassed the rural population for the 2023 census year. The urban population was 1,512,685 compared to the rural population, which recorded 1,509,716 people. The result indicates an increase of 67.4 percent in the urban population between the 2011 and 2023 census, while the rural population increased by 24.8 percent between the two census years.

“The Khomas region retained the largest population in Namibia for all census years except for 1991, where Omusati (189,919) had the largest population. In contrast, the region of Omaheke registered the smallest population across all four census years. The rural percent share decreased across all four census years from 72.9 percent in 1991 to 50.0 percent in 2023. At the regional level in 2023, Khomas had the highest share of the total population with 16.4 percent, followed by Ohangwena (11.2%) and Omusati (10.5%), whereas Omaheke, Hardap, and //Kharas had the smallest share of the total population with 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 percent, respectively,” the report reads in part.


The Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), conducted the 2023 Namibia Population and Housing Census to provide updated demographic, social, and economic indicators for policy formulation and planning to support the national development agenda and track the implementation of national, regional, continental, and global development goals such as the NDPs AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The preliminary report that was released in March

2024 provided the interim results on the population distribution by sex at regional and constituency levels. While the main reports present the Census results in much more detail, covering all variables collected in the Census.

More thematic reports (Fertility, Mortality, Migration, Labour Force, Disabilities, Regional Profile, and Population Projection) and targeted analyses of the census data will be undertaken in the next financial year. The NSA will also produce the Census Atlas, Interactive Atlas, and Proximity Analysis, which will provide information on the spatial distribution. In addition, sample microdata will be available for researchers and analysts to further do research and studies on the Namibian population.



National Business Innovation Survey 2024
October/2024



NATIONAL BUSINESS INNOVATION SURVEY 2024

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) is a Public Enterprise established in terms of section 4 of the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act No. 23 of 2004) with a primary role of promotion, coordination, and development of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia.

NCRST is launching the National Business Innovation Survey 2024. The data collection exercise will be both offline and online and will run from **17 October to 14 November 2024**. This survey aims at assessing the state of innovation across business sectors in the country, recognising key trends in innovation, and identifying opportunities and challenges faced by business communities covering a two-year period (2022 – 2023).

NCRST invites all Namibian enterprises (Large Enterprises, SMEs, Commercial Public Enterprises, Entrepreneurs, etc.) to actively participate in this survey. By sharing information on their innovation activities, businesses will contribute to the creation of policies that will support their growth and competitiveness in the global market. Participation in the survey is voluntary. However, we urge businesses to take this opportunity to help shape the future of innovation in Namibia.

We would like to assure the business community that the information submitted by the enterprises will be combined with similar information to prepare summary statistics. The NCRST will not publish, release or disclose any information in a form that discloses the identity of individual enterprises.

We thank the business community in advance for their participation and cooperation.
Together, we can build a stronger, more innovative Namibia.

Please complete the survey at <https://www.research.net/r/businessinnovationsurvey> by 14 November 2024.
Alternatively provide the contact person's details by Wednesday 23 October 2024, to innovationsurvey@ncrst.na or Tel: 061 431 7025/7000.

Galp's new drilling campaign: A bold bet in Namibia's Orange Basin



By Business Express Writer

Portuguese energy company Galp has started an exploration and appraisal campaign on its strategic block in the Orange Basin off the coast of Namibia. On October 23, the first of four planned wells was drilled, targeting the Mopane field, a significant discovery made earlier this year. This program aims to clarify the potential of this oil reserve, estimated to hold billions of barrels.

This campaign is being conducted in blocks 2813A and 2814B, under Petroleum Exploration License 83, where Galp holds a majority 80% stake, alongside Custos Energy and state-owned Namcor, each holding 10%. Canadian company Sintana Energy, a 49% shareholder in Custos, confirmed that the Mopane 1-A well has begun, aiming to further validate the quality of the oil field discovered in previous drillings.

Galp announced in April that the Mopane field could contain up to 10 billion barrels of oil equivalent. The first drilling phase had already identified significant columns of light oil in high-quality sands, with the Mopane-1X and Mopane-2X wells revealing a substantial lateral extension of the reservoir. This time, the goal is to deepen the understanding of the field's characteristics to confirm its economic viability and position it on the global map of top-tier oil reserves.

Development of the Orange Basin: A Strategic Challenge for Namibia

The Orange Basin has become one of the most sought-after regions in the oil exploration sector. Since major discoveries by TotalEnergies and Shell in 2022, an increasing number of international oil companies have turned to this region. To date, Mopane represents the largest confirmed discovery in the Orange Basin, a project that could transform Namibia's economy.

The Namibian government, although currently a non-producer of hydrocarbons, sees these discoveries as an opportunity to diversify its economy and enter the global oil market. Oil production could begin by the end of the decade, with forecasts suggesting that TotalEnergies' Venus project could start production as early as 2029, followed by Mopane in 2030, with a potential plateau of 211,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2037.

Galp and the Challenge of International Cooperation
In a context of intense competition, Galp has announced its intention to reduce its stake in the PEL 83 block from 80% to 40%, allowing an international partner to join the project. While the company has confirmed strong interest from major oil companies, such as Petrobras, it has stated that no decision will be made before the completion of the current drilling campaign, scheduled for 2025. Felipe Silva, Galp's CEO, stressed that the company is not under pressure to secure a partner in the short term.

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This cautious approach reflects Galp’s strategy to optimize the value of the discovery by focusing on risk reduction before considering a partnership. In the meantime, the company is relying on this drilling campaign to confirm the Mopane field’s potential and attract partners capable of financing future development phases.

An Economic Transformation in Perspective

Analysts agree that the rise of Namibia’s oil sector could redefine the economy of this Southern African

country. In addition to Galp, other industry giants like Chevron and TotalEnergies plan to launch drilling campaigns in the Orange Basin by the end of the year. With significant production prospects, Namibia could quickly establish itself as a key player in the African oil sector, potentially contributing to the continent’s energy independence.

The commitment of multinational companies in the Orange Basin represents an opportunity for economic diversification for Namibia, which remains heavily reliant on mineral resources. If ongoing drilling campaigns confirm the potential of oil reserves, investments could flow in, transforming the economic and energy landscape of the region.



INVITATION TO BID

The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) hereby invites qualified and competent entities to submit bids for the procurement of the undermentioned.
All bids are reserved for Namibian registered entities in terms of section 29(1)(b) of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015)

REFERENCE NUMBER	BID DESCRIPTION	COST PER BIDDING DOCUMENT	INVITATION DATE	DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS
W/ONB/NHE-02/24/25	CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL SERVICES FOR NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN WALVIS BAY- KUISEBMOND EXTENSION 9 - PHASE 01	N\$ 300.00	18 OCTOBER 2024	29 NOVEMBER 2024 10H00 AM
W/ONB/NHE-03/24/25	CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL RETICULATION FOR NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN WALVIS BAY - KUISEBMOND EXTENSION 9 - PHASE 01	N\$ 300.00	18 OCTOBER 2024	29 NOVEMBER 2024 10H00 AM
W/ONB/NHE-04/24/25	NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (TURNKEY) (CONSTRUCTION OF NHE NATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	N\$ 300.00	18 OCTOBER 2024	06 DECEMBER 2024 10H00 AM
W/ONB/NHE-05/24/25	NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (FULL CONSTRUCTION) (CONSTRUCTION OF NHE NATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS IN ALL 14 REGIONS	N\$ 300.00	18 OCTOBER 2024	06 DECEMBER 2024 10H00 AM
G/RFO/NHE-01/24/25	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF IT EQUIPMENT TO THE NATIONAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE (NHE)	FREE	18 OCTOBER 2024	07 NOVEMBER 2024 10H00 AM

Bidding documents must be downloaded from the NHE website www.nhe.com.na and payment must be made before or upon submission of bids.

Payments must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) only, to the account number indicated in the bidding document, on or before due date for submission of bids. Proof of payment should be attached to bid at submission. No late payments will be accepted.

Please note that pre-bid meetings are scheduled as follows:

CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL SERVICES FOR NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN WALVIS BAY- KUISEBMOND EXTENSION 9 - PHASE 01, AND
CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL RETICULATION FOR NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN WALVIS BAY -KUISEBMOND EXTENSION 9 - PHASE 01
 Compulsory Bid Meeting: 01 November 2024, at 10h00 am - NHE Walvis Bay Offices
NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (TURNKEY) (CONSTRUCTION OF NHE NATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS, AND
NHE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (FULL CONSTRUCTION). (CONSTRUCTION OF NHE NATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS IN ALL 14 REGIONS
 Non-Compulsory Bid Meeting: 06 November 2024, at 10h00 am - NHE Head Office Eros, Windhoek, Lecture Hall

Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked with description and reference number as indicated above must be deposited in the Bid Box placed at **NHE Reception, NHE Head Office, 7 Gen. Murtala Muhammed Avenue, Windhoek** before or on closing date and time.

Electronic bidding will not be accepted. Late bids will be rejected.

All enquiries should be made in writing to procurement@nhe.com.na

ALL PROCUREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, 2015
 (ACT NO. 15 OF 2015) AS AMENDED



88 Energy seismic lights up oil targets in Namibia

By Business Express Writer

88 Energy has wrapped up a successful 2D seismic program across its petroleum exploration licence 93 (PEL93) in Namibia’s Owambo Basin with initial analysis picking up significant subsurface structures.

Although the 203km of 2D seismic lines still need to be fully interpreted in-house, the company said it was happy with the information it has received so far, confirming the signal-to-noise ratio – and indicator of the quality of the data - was good across all nine lines.

88 Energy will soon begin crunching the processed data in collaboration with joint venture partner Monitor Exploration and will then look to produce an independent prospective resource estimate by April next year.

Processed by seismic specialist Earth Signal in its Canadian offices, the results have picked up an exceptionally detailed image of the main Damara play within the Mulden and Otavi reservoirs. The interpretive work will now focus on these two zones of interest in preparation for eventually pinpointing suitable drill sites.

More specifically, the initial analysis picked up a substantial, high-relief structure now known as “Lead 9” which spans almost 186 square kilometres within Damara. It has been interpreted to be close to the original source of the hydrocarbons, making it a major exploration target.

The recent activity by Reconnaissance Energy Africa (Recon Africa) at the nearby PEL 73

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“The initial analysis picked up a substantial, high-relief structure now known as “Lead 9” which spans almost 186 square kilometres within Damara.”

licence and particularly its Naingopo-1 well targeting the Damara play, appears to show striking similarities with 88 Energy’s plans.

And the story has only become more interesting since Recon Africa farmed out 20 per cent of its ground to BW Energy in July for AU\$24 million. That deal has stirred a lot of industry interest, hinting at the potential value of ongoing exploration within the huge Owambo Basin.

88 Energy’s work to date at PEL 93 has not only fulfilled its license requirements but puts it in good stead for taking up the option to increase its position to 45 per cent through additional investment should the play continue to stack up.

At the same time as moving its Namibian interests forward, the company has equally big ambitions to develop up its huge 63 per cent-controlled Phoenix project in Alaska. Recent work by independent consultant ERCE boosted its prospective 2C resource to an eye-watering 378 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMboe) at the project, of which 239 MMboe is attributable to 88 Energy.

With the energy community no doubt watching closely, 88 Energy’s upcoming exploration steps may hold the key to unlocking the huge potential of the Owambo Basin and with it, Namibia’s standing on the global energy map.



Oonani Investments appoints Jamie-Lee Nels as its new CEO

Oonani Investments Group (Pty) Ltd, the business arm of the Namibian Traditional Authorities Trust, has announced the appointment of Jamie-Lee Nels as its new Chief Executive Officer.

With over 16 years of business expertise across agriculture, banking, retail, and startup development, Jamie-Lee Nels brings a wealth of experience and the ability to deliver sustainable growth.

As CEO, Jamie-Lee Nels will be responsible for driving the Group’s mission to support Namibian Traditional Authorities and communities. Oonani Investments is committed to creating positive economic impact across Namibia, particularly among previously disadvantaged communities. Under Jamie-Lee’s leadership, the organization aims to enhance business efficiency, deliver impactful investment strategies, and strengthen economic support for Namibian Traditional Authorities.

Academically, Jamie-Lee is an MBA graduate with an Honours Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Namibia, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration, and a Master’s in Managing International Organizations from the University of Stellenbosch Business School. This strong academic foundation complements her hands-on approach to problem-solving and operational efficiency.

Oonani Investments Group (Pty) Ltd, the Namibian Traditional Authorities Trust, and its respective Board of Directors would like to welcome Ms. Jamie-Lee Nels to the team and wish her all the best in her new role.



We enhance access to finance for bankable SMEs.

Promoting entrepreneurship and supporting job creation in Namibia.

Collateral Loan Scheme between NASRIA, Lending Institutions and Borrowers.

The Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) ensures that bankable SMEs who are ready to take up loans but lacks collateral are able to get loans from lending institutions. This is through a shared risk arrangement between NASRIA, Lending institutions, and Borrowers.

CGS Participation

- SMEs apply for business loans at participating financial institutions.
- Financial Institution (Fis) credit criteria are applicable to all SMEs application.
- A bankable Business Plan and business registration are key requirement.
- The Credit Guarantee scheme is both for new and existing SMEs.

Target Segment

- Youth** - Up to 40 years
- Women in business** - No age limits
- SME** - <20 million Annual Turnover.



Credit Guarantee Scheme



RES4Africa set to host renewable energy event in Namibia this week



By Business Express Writer

RES4Africa, in collaboration with the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) and NUST Namibia, with support from Enel Foundation and the Italian Embassy in Pretoria will on the 5th of November host an event in Windhoek under the theme: “Growing renewable energy technologies in Namibia.”

This year’s event will delve into essential topics for advancing Namibia’s green energy landscape, from grid integration to green hydrogen and regional energy trade.

Discussions will focus on scaling Namibia’s renewable potential, unlocking investments in critical minerals and transmission infrastructure, and harnessing local manufacturing to boost energy independence and sustainability.

“Namibia has become a regional and continental front-runner for renewable energy technologies including green hydrogen. A large resource potential and novel developments of the country’s regulation have been key to this label.

“There is, however, still significant room for growth to be placed as a regional and continental hub. Issues such as the integration of renewable energy in to the grid, transmission infrastructure

investments, regional trading, critical minerals, and local manufacturing are all salient issues in Namibia’s green energy aspirations,” part of the event’s concept note reads.

Here is a list of the featured speakers and moderators:

Prof. Eroid Naomab, Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST); Amb. Vecchi Alberto, Embassy of Italy in Pretoria; Ms. Marianna Petrosillo, RES4Africa Foundation; Mr. Kudakwashe (Kuda) Ndhlukula, Executive Director, SACREEE; Mr. Francois Robinson, Interim Executive Director, Regional Energy Regulators Association (RERA); Mr. Robert Kahimise, CEO, Electricity Control Board and Mr. Hafeni Motsi, Senior Energy Investment Analyst, Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB).

Other speakers include Mr. Maurizio Decinti, CFO, Enertronica Santerno South Africa; Prof. Samuel John , NUST Green Hydrogen Program; Ms. Toni J E Beukes Cert.Dir., Head of Environmental, Social and Governance, HYPHEN Hydrogen Energy; Dr. Zivayi Chiguvare, Acting Director, Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute, University of Namibia; Dr. Lutz-Heiner Otto, Business Development Manager, Daures Green Hydrogen Village Consortium and Mr. Deon Fuhri, Director Southern Africa, RINA.

Alweendo encourages tech innovation in Namibia's energy sectors

By Business Express Writer

Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo has said that Namibia needs to embrace technology and innovation across all stages of development in both oil and gas and green hydrogen industry value chains.

Alweendo was addressing delegates at the 2024 Erongo Business & Tourism Expo when he further stated that digital technologies like automation, artificial intelligence, and data analytics can help optimise production, reduce costs, and minimise environmental impacts.

“We must therefore aim to be at the forefront of technological advancements, ensuring that our industries are not only competitive but are also built to last,” Alweendo said.

He further said that the government is working with both international and local investors, local businesses, and research institutions to build a robust ecosystem that fosters innovation and sustainable practices.

“Our approach to developing this sector is holistic, while emphasising technological innovation. Technological innovation is key where not only are we adopting existing technologies but also fostering homegrown innovations that make green hydrogen production more efficient, cost-effective, and locally driven,” he said.

Namibia's recent oil and gas discoveries have drawn the attention of global markets, positioning the country as a rising energy player. The potential revenues from these resources could fuel infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and much-needed social programs. These new industries have opened up a credible pathway for Namibia to meaningfully address historical structural challenges of high unemployment, high poverty, and high income inequalities.

“However, there is an important caveat to this happening—we must approach these opportunities with foresight and care. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we cannot afford to squander;



Tom Alweendo

something that we must make sure propels us to prosperity and makes us proud Namibians. We thus need to approach this opportunity judiciously, always emphasising the ethos of, among others, meritocracy, pragmatism, integrity, honesty, and accountability.



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“As we tap into these resources, let us commit to responsible extraction practices that prioritise environmental preservation. We have seen the lessons from countries around the world where poorly regulated oil and gas activities led to ecological degradation and harm to communities. We cannot and must not repeat such mistakes. Our approach must be centred on smart regulation, transparency, inclusiveness and environmental stewardship,” said Alweendo adding that there is need to ensure that the oil and gas sector is not just about short-term profits, but must also serves as a bridge to a diversified economy.

“Revenues should be reinvested in innovation, social services, and industries that will sustain Namibia long after the oil has run out. The government is implementing strict regulations to ensure sustainable exploration and production. Environmental responsibility is at the forefront of our energy strategy, and we are working to ensure that all projects align with global best practices. For local businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), this sector offers numerous opportunities.

“From supply chain local sourcing services to logistics and environmental consultancy, there are various ways SMEs can contribute and benefit. Now is the time to innovate, upskill, and position yourselves to take advantage of these opportunities. The Erongo Region, in particular, is well positioned to provide strategic goods and services to the oil and gas industry, including vessel repair facilities, lodging, base re-supply capabilities, and fuel bunkering, amongst many others,” the Minister said.

He went to explain that it is the government’s number one priority to ensure that they introduce inclusive policy tools that promote local participation and employment. This will be achieved by requiring a certain percentage

of goods and services to be sourced from domestic suppliers, especially those owned by historically disadvantaged Namibians, and a certain percentage of jobs to be filled by local people, thus maximising the local content in these strategic bet industries. The policy also motivates international oil companies to share knowledge and expertise with local firms and encourages investment in local infrastructure and skills development.

“While oil and gas present new economic prospects, our green hydrogen initiative is a cornerstone of our leadership in the global energy transition. Green hydrogen, produced using renewable energy, is crucial

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KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Estate planning tasks include making a will, setting up trusts, naming an executor and beneficiaries, and setting up funeral arrangements.
- A will gives instructions about property and custody of minor children
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Shilunga Estates Consultants is an estate planning company that involves determining how an individual’s assets will be preserved, managed and distributed after death. It also takes into account the management of an individual’s properties and financial obligations in the event that they become incapacitated. Assets that could make up an estate include houses, vehicles, stocks, art, collectibles, life insurance, debts and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EX Continues from page 19

in reducing carbon emissions and decarbonising industries such as mining, transportation, and manufacturing.” Alweendo also went to state that the government’s ambition is to produce green hydrogen on a scale that meets both domestic and international demand and use the molecules as cornerstones of establishing new industries in Namibia. Globally, there is a concerted effort to reduce carbon emissions across all industries. Namibia is poised to reap increasing benefits from this excess global demand.

“In some industries, one can electrify them with clean electricity, while in others, commonly referred to as hard-to-abate sectors, one will need green hydrogen and its derivatives. So, if we can competitively produce this clean fuel locally, it presents Namibia and the Erongo Region with a plethora of new industries, which include green iron production, green shipping fuel bunkering, and even green fertiliser manufacturing. This effort not only creates a cleaner energy future but also drives sustainable economic growth and

productive diversification opportunities. The potential for job creation, local enterprise participation, and export revenue is immense,” he said. Conclusively, Alweendo called on stakeholders to work together with the government towards building a thriving energy sector.

“As I conclude, I am convinced that Namibia’s future is bright, and we stand at a critical juncture in our national development and social transformation. The potential for growth in our oil, gas, and green hydrogen sectors is unprecedented. However, with this opportunity comes the responsibility to ensure that the development is sustainable, inclusive, and beneficial for all. As we look to the future, I call on all stakeholders—businesses, investors, innovators, and community leaders—to embrace this challenge.

“Let us work together to build an energy sector that is not only economically robust but also environmentally responsible. Let us ensure that Namibia becomes a leader in sustainable growth, not just in Africa but globally. Erongo Region is at the epicentre of this transformation journey, being a central pillar of our logistics hub agenda,” Alweendo said.

Aldoro Resources appoints Liqun Li as executive chairwoman

Aldoro Resources Ltd has appointed one of its largest shareholders, Liqun (Quinn) Li, as executive chairwoman of the company effective November 1, 2024.

Li is a corporate executive with more than 20 years of experience in the resources and development sectors.

She has considerable expertise in asset divestment and project financing having led a number of significant asset sales on behalf of listed companies which ensured appropriate value recognition for shareholders.

The appointment as executive chairwoman follows Li’s appointment to the company board on April 9, 2024. In the seven months she has overseen the successful licence renewal of the flagship Kameelburg Niobium-REE project, bolstered the funding position and rewarded shareholders with a loyalty option issue.

During this time Aldoro has also purchased a fleet of drilling rigs in preparation for the maiden drilling

program at Kameelburg, which is expected to commence in the current quarter.

Dr Minlu Fu and Edwin Bulseco remain on the Aldoro board as non-executive directors.

To allow for strengthened alignment of the board’s objectives and shareholder return the company intends to seek shareholder approval for the issue of incentive securities at the forthcoming AGM to be held on November 29, 2024.

Aldoro Resources Ltd has a portfolio of critical minerals including rare earth, lithium, rubidium and base metal projects, located in Western Australia and Namibia.

The company’s flagship project is the Narndee Nickel Project in Western Australia, which is prospective for nickel-copper-PGE mineralisation.

Aldoro’s other projects include the Kameelburg REE Project (Namibia), the Wyemandoo lithium-rubidium-tungsten project and the Niobe lithium-rubidium-tantalum project.

Namibia pushes for inclusive digital identity systems through legal identity governance

By Business Express Writer

Namibia is advancing digital inclusion by working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish legal identity systems, for all its citizens to have verifiable identities. These initiatives come as Namibia tackles identity verification challenges that leave rural and marginalized communities underserved, a gap that digital identity technologies aim to bridge.

The initiative follows extensive collaboration between UNDP Namibia and local stakeholders, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, to address gaps in the country's identity governance framework. According to a recent UNDP blog, the collaborative approach seeks to ensure that Namibia's legal identity governance system is not only comprehensive but also accessible across socio-economic divides.

For many Namibians, particularly those in remote areas, accessing essential services is hindered by the lack of verifiable identification. The partnership seeks to equip underserved communities with the legal means to access healthcare, education, and social benefits by providing them with a secure digital identity. UNDP Namibia emphasizes that this approach will align with the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 16.9, which advocates for legal identity for all by 2030.

Bridging the digital divide through community-centric models

UNDP Namibia has emphasized the importance of tailoring systems to Namibia's unique social and geographic landscapes. Part of the strategy includes exploring community-centered models that focus on inclusivity, ensuring that women, children, and rural populations are prioritized in the rollout of digital ID services. These community-centric approaches reflect UNDP's efforts to build resilient legal identity frameworks that address local needs, promoting digital inclusion through contemplative governance. In 2021, the Accelerator Lab identified a need to support the most underserved communities, focusing on addressing the lack of legal identity documentation among residents in Groot Aub. A UN report uncovered that without recognized identification, many individuals were left on the margins of society, unable to access essential services or fully engage in socio-economic opportunities.

Pilot projects have been launched to test these digital



identity tools and fine-tune them for Namibia's distinct contexts. During these pilots, various methods for documenting legal identities are being evaluated, aiming to identify the most efficient and accessible practices for wider implementation.

A model for digital identity governance in Africa

With digital transformation rising across the continent, Namibia's focus on digital inclusion and legal identity governance serves as a model for other African nations facing similar challenges.

Namibia, like many countries globally, faces challenges with fragmented service delivery and limited interoperability between separate databases and systems. To address these issues, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, in collaboration with the ICT System Architect from the Office of the Prime Minister, has been actively working to overcome these barriers, according to reports from another UN blog post.

By providing Namibian communities with accessible legal identities, the UNDP-led initiative aims to reduce the risks associated with identity exclusion, such as restricted access to essential services and economic opportunities. **Biometricupdate**

Namibia: Livestock farmers resilient and looking for solutions



By Tisha Steyn

Namibia’s livestock industry is alive and well and despite concerns about intensifying drought, exports reached record highs in the first quarter of 2024.

Simonis Storm, a Namibian financial services company that offers inter-generational wealth solutions and integrated and sustainable investment strategies, said marketing activity across all livestock sectors saw a significant uptick in March 2024 compared to both

February 2024 and March 2023. “Of particular note, 34 196 head of cattle were marketed in March 2024 – the highest monthly figure recorded since August 2023,” said Simonis Storm Economic researcher Halleluya Ndimulunde. “This total included 12 709 cattle slaughtered within domestic facilities and 21 487 exported live, predominantly to South Africa.” During the first quarter of 2024, Namibia exported 2 936 183 kilograms of beef, a 106% year on year increase from the prior year.

South Africa remains the primary destination for the majority of Namibia’s livestock exports, followed by Botswana, Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Challenges

Despite these successes, livestock farmers experience challenges. The Livestock Producers’ Organisation (LPO) visited seven locations across the country in August and September 2024 to assess the challenges and to find solutions to alleviate pressure on the sector.

Throughout these visits, the positive energy of producers was infectious, driving a collective search

for solutions, reports the Namibian Agricultural Union (NAU) in its weekly newsletter on 11 October.

The primary aim of the visits to the seven locations was to gather feedback from LPO members about the biggest challenges they face and potential solutions. In Aranos, Aroab, and Helmeringhausen, the discussions focused on issues pertaining small livestock, while weaner and ox production were examined in Okahandja, Gobabis, Grootfontein, and Otavi.

At each of the meetings, the conversation started with an overview of the current state of the livestock industry and the LPO’s actions to address the issues in each area.

While farmers of small and large livestock experienced similar challenges, the solutions they offered differed. The six main challenges include: low profitability, control of the value chain for small livestock, bush densification and rangeland restoration, government regulations, succession planning and crime.

Challenges and solutions

Low profitability

Effective production depends on the rangeland’s carrying capacity and how efficiently the grass is converted to meat. Profitability is directly related to effective pasture and herd management. Young farmer study groups, the use of technology and partnerships between weaner and ox farmers can improve profitability.

Value chain

Small livestock: Some 80% of Namibian sheep

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farmers' income is generated by sales to South African consumers. Market diversification to reduce this dependency is essential. The LPO undertook to create a business plan for small livestock to identify profitable opportunities and advocate for simpler carcass grading for the local market.

Large livestock: High-quality meat produced for niche export markets gives Namibia a competitive edge. However, it is vital that the cattle export value chain fairly compensates producers. The LPO will focus on enhancing market intelligence to understand product pricing and the costs of value addition.

Bush densification and rangeland restoration

Namibia's competitiveness can be improved by creating a balance between grassland and bush. Rangeland grass continues to be the most affordable feed, and veld-produced meat is a key advantage. Producers need a cultural shift to encourage investment in land productivity. This can be achieved by identifying success stories and analysing the cost-benefit of restoring rangeland and thinning bush to encourage new growth.

Government regulation

Up to 70% of Namibia's meat production relies on regional and international export markets. Therefore, import regulations from export countries form an integral part of the smooth operation of the industry. The conclusion was that addressing bureaucratic frustrations and improving service delivery were essential, along with the consistent implementation of export regulations in order to advance the livestock sector and maintain the good reputation of the industry.

Succession planning

According to the opinion aired during the meetings, there is a need for the preparation of a new generation of livestock farmers to succeed the current generation. However, low profitability complicates retirement for older farmers to make room for a new generation to step into their shoes. The solution is to prioritise timely retirement planning and to promote a positive image of the livestock industry among youth.

Crime

During discussions, it emerged that crime remains a significant and ongoing concern for livestock farmers. The collective decision was that the solution is to strengthen existing crime prevention forums, improve the legal system, and create information systems to identify habitual offenders. "Despite these challenges, the meetings made it clear that Namibian livestock farmers remain resilient," reports the NAU.



Hilton Windhoek wins top honours at the 2024 World Travel Awards

Hilton Windhoek has announced that it has been awarded two prestigious accolades at the 2024 World Travel Awards as Namibia's Leading Hotel and at the MICE Awards as Namibia's Best MICE Hotel.

These highly esteemed awards recognize Hilton Windhoek's commitment to excellence in service and dedication to delivering unforgettable guest experiences across all aspects of its hospitality offering.

Muka Salare, Cluster Commercial Manager at Hilton said Hilton Windhoek's recognition as Namibia's Leading Hotel and Best MICE Hotel of 2024 underscores the hard work, passion, and unwavering dedication of our entire team. "This achievement celebrates our commitment to exceptional service, cultural authenticity, and elevated guest experiences. The support of our stakeholders has been invaluable, establishing Hilton Windhoek as a true beacon of local culture and celebration, seamlessly blended into world-class hospitality," said Salare.

With extensive, flexible event spaces and a range of 150 guest rooms, Hilton Windhoek stands ready to meet the growing demand for premium MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) services in Namibia. From intimate gatherings and large-scale conferences to group and leisure stays, our team is committed to delivering an exceptional service that meets the diverse needs of our guests.

Connected Minerals latest explorer to hit Namibia on the hunt for uranium

By Business Express Writer

Connected Minerals has become the latest Australian explorer to hit Namibia, with the company in this case on the hunt for uranium.

The company is chasing up unverified historic data suggesting uranium could be present with that conclusion supported by scintillometer readings. That's a radiation-based tool used by geophysicists.

Notably, the company's exploration team chief is Herbert Roesener, who was once Chief Geologist for Namibia's Geological Survey.

Connected's project is called Etango North-East, somewhat a nod of the hat to Bannerman Energy's Etango Uranium Project (EUP). Connected will first focus on an area 1km x 2.5km in size which is along strike of Bannerman's acreage.

Geotechs on-site will be looking to collect rock chip samples, as well as geological mapping of areas where scintillometer data tips towards anomalies.

Assay results are due back as early as 'mid to late November,' with the campaign expected to take two weeks.

"It is pleasing we will hit the ground running in Namibia with exploration to commence less than a week after Connected Minerals has recommenced trading on the ASX," Connected



CEO Warrick Clent said.

"Connected's uranium assets are ideally located in Namibia's most prolific uranium producing province and we intend to take advantage of this positioning by applying systematic exploration for the discovery and delineation of economic resources."

What matters is whether or not Connected can verify its "unverified" data based on scintillometer readings that reportedly clocked 5,870 counts per second, above a natural background average of 400 counts per second.



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