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ISSUE 154 | Tuesday, 22 April 2025 - 27 April 2025

D-DAY LOOMS

Oil & Gas industry holds breath for policy clarity at NIEC

EX FINANCIAL MARKETS

Exchange Rates

N\$ – US Dollar:	18.81
N\$ – British Pound:	25.01
N\$ – Euro:	21.44
N\$ – Aus dollar:	12.02
N\$ – Yen:	0.13

Commodities

Gold:	3 326
Silver :	32.51
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Platinum:	964.68
Brent crude:	67.54



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I believe **ZERO** is the only acceptable number of casualties caused by an unused seatbelt this Easter.



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Business Insights
Weekly...

How AI can cultivate Namibia's agricultural future

Namibia's arid landscapes and unpredictable climate have long challenged its farmers, who grapple with water scarcity, soil degradation, and erratic rainfall. Yet, in these challenges lies an opportunity to redefine resilience through artificial intelligence (AI). By integrating AI into agriculture, Namibia could unlock sustainable productivity, empower rural communities, and future-proof its food systems against climate volatility.

AI-driven precision farming offers transformative potential. Smart sensors and satellite imagery can monitor soil moisture, nutrient levels, and weather patterns in real time, enabling farmers to optimize irrigation and reduce water waste—a critical advantage in a nation where 80% of land is semi-arid. Machine learning algorithms can analyze historical data to predict droughts or floods, allowing farmers to adapt planting schedules and crop choices proactively. For instance, AI models could recommend drought-resistant millet or sorghum varieties, aligning cultivation with Namibia's ecological realities.

Livestock farming, a cornerstone of rural livelihoods, also stands to gain. AI-powered collars or drones can track animal health, detecting early signs of disease through changes in movement or body temperature. This proactive approach could curb losses, which devastate smallholder farmers. Similarly, AI chatbots delivering localized advice via mobile apps—already successful in Kenya and Ethiopia—could provide Namibian farmers with instant guidance on pest control, market prices, or vaccination schedules, bridging the gap between knowledge and practice.

Supply chain inefficiencies compound post-harvest losses, but AI can streamline this process. Predictive analytics can forecast market demand, helping farmers align production with consumer needs. Blockchain-enabled platforms, integrated with AI, could trace produce from farm to table, ensuring fair pricing and reducing waste. For example, an AI system could alert a farmer in Otjozondjupa to transport tomatoes to Windhoek when demand peaks, maximizing profits while minimizing spoilage.

However, realizing this vision requires addressing barriers. Rural internet access remains sporadic, and many farmers lack digital literacy. Public-private partnerships must prioritize infrastructure investment and training programs to democratize AI tools. Initiatives like Namibia's National Digital Strategy should expand to include AI literacy campaigns, ensuring technology serves all, not just the tech-savvy.

>>>ALL EYES ON NANDI-NDAITWAH'S NIEC ADDRESS

Oil & gas industry holds breath for Nandi-Ndaitwah's clarity this week

Business Express Writer

Namibia's energy sector is bracing for pivotal updates as President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah prepares to deliver a keynote address at a major upstream conference in Windhoek this week, following her recent decision to centralize control of the oil and gas sector under her office.

The move, which mirrors similar actions by Nigerian leaders Bola Tinubu and his predecessor Muhammadu Buhari, has sparked a mix of anticipation and unease among exploration and production (E&P) companies seeking clarity on the implications for investment, regulation, and governance in this strategically vital industry.

Since assuming office in March after a decisive victory for the long-ruling SWAPO party, President Nandi-Ndaitwah—affectionately known locally as “NNN”—has moved swiftly to consolidate authority over Namibia's burgeoning oil and gas sector. Her reorganization of governance structures, which shifts oversight directly to the presidency, marks a significant departure from previous administrative frameworks and raises questions about the future of regulatory transparency, bureaucratic efficiency, and stakeholder engagement. The upcoming speech, slated for this week at the Namibia International Energy Conference (NIEC), is widely seen as an opportunity for the president to outline her vision for the sector amid mounting speculation.

The decision to centralize control follows in the footsteps of Nigeria, where Tinubu and Buhari similarly concentrated power over oil and gas within the presidency, arguing that streamlined decision-making would enhance operational efficiency and attract investment. However, critics of such models warn of risks associated with reduced checks and balances, including potential bottlenecks, opacity in licensing, and diminished accountability. For Namibia, a nation on the cusp of transforming its economy through offshore hydrocarbon discoveries, the stakes are particularly high.

“This move could either accelerate Namibia's emergence as a global energy player or introduce new complexities for investors,” a Windhoek-based energy analyst said. “The industry is eager to understand how the presidency plans to balance



centralized control with the need for collaborative governance, especially given Namibia's commitment to transparency in resource management.”

Nandi-Ndaitwah's ascent to power comes at a critical juncture for Namibia. The SWAPO party, which has governed since independence in 1990, secured a reduced majority in last year's elections, reflecting growing public demand for economic reform and equitable resource distribution. Her administration faces dual pressures: to capitalize on recent oil discoveries in the Orange Basin—such as Shell's



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Jonker-1X and TotalEnergies' Venus-1X finds—and to address systemic challenges, including youth unemployment exceeding 46% and persistent income inequality.

The president's centralization of the energy sector is viewed by some as an effort to fast-track development and ensure that hydrocarbon revenues directly benefit national priorities. However, industry players remain cautious. E&P firms, many of which are already active in Namibia's offshore zones, have called for clearer guidelines on licensing, local content requirements, and environmental regulations. "Predictability is key for long-term investments," said an executive from a European oil major, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We need to know how this structural shift will affect permitting timelines and stakeholder consultations."

The Nigerian parallel looms large in these discussions. While Buhari's consolidation of oil authority aimed to curb corruption and inefficiency, critics argue it exacerbated bureaucratic delays and deterred investors. Tinubu's recent reforms, including the controversial removal of fuel subsidies, have further polarized opinion. For Namibia, a country lauded for its stable governance and low corruption levels, the challenge lies in adopting best practices while avoiding pitfalls observed elsewhere.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah, a seasoned politician and former deputy prime minister, has historically championed resource nationalism. Her tenure as minister of international relations saw her advocate for African solidarity in global trade negotiations,

a stance that may inform her approach to energy diplomacy. Observers suggest her centralized model could enhance Namibia's bargaining power in deals with international oil companies (IOCs), ensuring favorable fiscal terms and robust local participation.

Namcor, the state-owned petroleum corporation, currently holds a 10% carried interest in all offshore licences, a policy designed to safeguard national interests.

However, the president's recent moves have fueled speculation about potential adjustments to this framework. "There's talk of increasing Namcor's equity or introducing new local content mandates," said a senior government official. "But until the president speaks, everything is conjecture."

Environmental and social governance (ESG) concerns also feature prominently in the debate. Namibia has committed to generating 70% of its energy from renewables by 2030, even as it pursues offshore oil and gas development. Civil society groups warn that centralized control must not come at the expense of environmental safeguards or community rights. "

As the countdown to Nandi-Ndaitwah's address continues, the broader implications for Namibia's democracy linger. SWAPO's reduced majority in parliament means Nandi-Ndaitwah's policies will face heightened scrutiny from opposition parties and civil society.

This week's speech is expected to address these multifaceted issues head-on, offering insights into licensing frameworks, partnership models, and socio-economic priorities. With Namibia poised to become a significant hydrocarbon exporter, the president's words could either galvanize investor confidence or deepen uncertainties.



Investment Tip of the Week

The winning is not in the buying and selling...
but in the waiting.

-Charlie Munger

TechnipFMC, UNAM team up to expand subsea engineering skills in Namibia

By Business Express Writer



UK-headquartered energy technology provider TechnipFMC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Namibia (UNAM) to co-develop specialized courses in subsea engineering and project management.

According to TechnipFMC, the specialized courses are a part of the company's broader push to support local workforce development and boost Namibia's energy capabilities.

UNAM Vice Chancellor Kenneth Matengu and TechnipFMC's Namibia Country Manager Brice Lacrampette signed the MoU, which follows a similar partnership signed last year with the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

"Team TechnipFMC has taken another step forward in its journey to developing a new generation of energy industry talent in Namibia," the company said in a social media post.

"Building a strong, skilled workforce is key to unlocking Namibia's energy potential."

Shortly after reporting an integrated engineering, procurement, construction, and installation (iEPCI) contract with Equinor in Norway, TechnipFMC secured another one in March, this time with Shell in Brazil, worth over \$1 billion.

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TENDERS

Erongo RED invites bidders to bid for the following Tender:

TENDER NUMBER: 03/2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Erongo RED is under no obligation to accept any tender whether the lowest or not. Erongo RED reserves the right to accept the full tender or only part thereof. Erongo RED is not under obligation to assign any reason for acceptance or rejection of a tender.

Documents in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the tender number: **E.g. Tender 02/2025** addressed to the Chairperson of the Tender Committee must be placed in the tender box at the Enquiries Desk at: **Erongo RED Headquarters, 91 Hage Geingob Street, Ground Floor, Walvis Bay** or be posted to the Chairperson of the Tender Committee, P.O. Box 2925, Walvis Bay, to reach him at the latest by: **Friday, 09 May 2025 @10h00 am.**

MANDATORY DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Registration documents: **A.** Copy of the latest company registration certificate (including certificates for change of name if applicable) **B.** ID of owners or shareholders, and directors. **C.** Valid good standing Certificates with the Receiver of Revenue and the, **D.** Social Security Commission. **E.** Further mandatory documents and requirement will be stipulated in the Tender Document.

Please note that no faxed or e-mailed documents, nor documents received after the specified closing date and time will be considered for evaluation.

ENQUIRIES:

Enquiries: **Ms. Anna David**
Document Fees: **N\$ 384.00 (Non-refundable)**
Email Address: **adavid@erongored.com.na**
Telephone: **+264(0)64 - 201 9066**

Clarification Meeting: 22/04/2025 (MS Teams)
Time: 11h00 am

No tender delivered after the closing date and time will be considered for evaluation.

The onus is upon the tenderer to ensure that tenders are deposited in the stipulated tender box before the closing date and time.

No tender or quotation received by e-mail or fax will be considered unless the tender document specifically provides for it.

All requests for clarification/ information are to be done in writing to the designated tender liaison/contact person(s) stated in the tender documents at least 7 (seven) days before the tender closing date.

The cost of preparation of the tender is entirely borne by the tenderer.

CLOSING DATE:

10h00 am on Friday, 09 May 2025.

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Namibian exploration deal sees Grand Gulf Energy's stock soar

By Business Express Writer

Australian junior energy firm Grand Gulf Energy has seen its share price skyrocket by 100% following the announcement of a strategic agreement to enter Namibia's burgeoning hydrocarbon sector, signaling growing international confidence in the country's untapped energy potential.

The company revealed this week it has secured a binding deal to acquire Wrangel Pty, a move that positions it to obtain a 70% stake in Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 2312, located in the Walvis Basin offshore Namibia. The news has electrified markets, underscoring heightened investor interest in Namibia's northern basins as exploration activity surges beyond the heavily contested Orange Basin.

The agreement, finalized amid a scramble for exploration rights in Namibia's offshore zones, highlights a strategic pivot by oil and gas players toward less saturated regions. With major acreage in the Orange Basin—home to Shell and TotalEnergies' multi-billion-barrel discoveries—already dominated by global giants, junior explorers like Grand Gulf are turning their attention to emerging plays in the Walvis, Lüderitz, and Namibe basins. Grand Gulf's bold entry into PEL 2312, previously operated by UK-based Chariot, marks a significant bet on Namibia's northern margins, where geological parallels to neighboring hydrocarbon-rich regions have sparked optimism.

Under the terms of the deal, Grand Gulf gains an option to purchase Wrangel Pty, which has applied to hold a 70% operating interest in PEL 2312. The remaining shares in the licence are split between local firm TSE Oil & Gas (20%) and Namibia's state-owned National Petroleum Corporation (Namcor) (10%), ensuring domestic participation in line with Namibia's empowerment policies. While the licence application is still pending regulatory approval, the market's reaction was immediate: Grand Gulf's stock doubled on the Australian Securities Exchange, reflecting bullish sentiment around Namibia's exploration prospects.

Grand Gulf, which has historically focused on helium



projects in the United States, described the move as a strategic diversification into “high-impact oil and gas opportunities.” The Walvis Basin, though less explored than the Orange Basin, has attracted attention following recent seismic studies suggesting hydrocarbon potential. Industry analysts note that the basin's geology shares similarities with Brazil's Santos Basin, where vast pre-salt reserves were discovered, raising hopes that Namibia's northern waters could yield similar successes.

“This deal is a vote of confidence in Namibia's evolving energy narrative,” said a local energy analyst, who requested anonymity due to ongoing projects. “With the Orange Basin crowded and capital-intensive, juniors are carving out niches in frontier areas. Grand Gulf's leap into the Walvis Basin could catalyze further investment, especially if early exploration confirms resource viability.”

The transaction also underscores Namibia's growing appeal as a hotspot for both established and emerging energy players. Since Shell's 2022 discovery of the Jonker-1X well in the Orange Basin, the country has



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witnessed a surge in exploration applications, with over 20 active licences now spanning its offshore territories. However, as competition intensifies in the south, smaller firms like Grand Gulf are leveraging partnerships with local entities to access opportunities in under-explored zones. TSE Oil & Gas, a Namibian-owned company, and Namcor's involvement in PEL 2312 align with government mandates to ensure

resource wealth benefits local stakeholders through employment, skills transfer, and equity participation. For Grand Gulf, the high-risk, high-reward nature of offshore exploration is tempered by the potential for outsized returns. The company's decision to pivot toward oil and gas mirrors a broader trend among helium-focused firms seeking to balance portfolios amid fluctuating commodity prices. Should PEL 2312 progress to drilling, Grand Gulf plans to collaborate with TSE and Namcor to conduct seismic surveys and exploratory drills, though timelines remain contingent on regulatory approvals and funding.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (Eol) to serve on the **Board of Trustees for the Namport Social Investment Fund**



The Namport Social Investment Fund (NSIF) is the vehicle through which the Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) contributes to the development of a better Namibia by investing into corporate social responsibility projects that seeks to uplift the lives of all Namibians.

The Fund, since its inception in 2006, to date invested over fifty (50) million Namibian Dollars towards the various causes that have supported our communities throughout all fourteen (14) regions. The strategy of the Fund aligns to the national strategic imperatives of the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals, Vision 2030, NDP 6 and HPP. The Fund's framework is based on the societal pillars of Quality Education, Entrepreneurship, Environment and Health.

There are currently three (3) external vacancies on the Board of Trustees, and the Namport Social Investment Fund is herewith inviting an Expression of Interest (Eol) from qualified professionals to fill the vacant positions.

To apply, please submit a formal Expression of Interest accompanied by a detailed CV to Jo-Ann@namport.com.na by **12h00 on Monday, 5 May 2025**. The Expression of Interest should outline your motivation to join the Board of Trustees and highlight the contributions you can make to enable the NSIF effectively achieve its vision and mission.

A detailed terms of reference may be requested from Jo-Ann@namport.com.na or visit the Namport website: www.namport.com for more information.

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Kröhne pushes for Namibia's minerals to fuel local prosperity and green energy

By Business Express Writer

In a resolute maiden address to Parliament last week, newly appointed Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy Gaudentia Kröhne declared that Namibia's mineral wealth must serve as a catalyst for equitable growth, ensuring both investors and local communities reap sustainable benefits. Kröhne, deputizing Minister Natangwe Ithete, emphasized that responsible resource management, industrial innovation, and renewable energy expansion are pivotal to transforming the nation's economic landscape.

"As a member of this august House and deputy minister, I shall work closely with stakeholders to promote responsible mining practices that benefit both investors and local communities," Kröhne asserted, underscoring her commitment to aligning industrial, mining, and energy policies with Namibia's sustainable development goals. Her speech struck a balance between attracting foreign investment and prioritizing grassroots empowerment, signaling a shift toward policies that demand more than mere resource extraction.

"Namibia is blessed with vast mineral resources and an emerging energy sector that holds great promise. However, it is not enough to simply extract these resources. We must ensure that they contribute meaningfully to national development," she said. Highlighting persistent challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, poverty, and inequality, Kröhne stressed the urgency of building a resilient economy. "Our vision must be directed to creating a sustainable economy that will counter national and international challenges," she added.

Central to her strategy is enhancing local value-addition and beneficiation to maximize economic returns from Namibia's mineral reserves. By processing raw materials domestically rather than exporting them unrefined, the deputy minister aims to create jobs, stimulate secondary industries, and retain more wealth within the country. This approach, she argued, would help dismantle cycles of dependency on foreign markets and ensure Namibians directly benefit from their natural endowments.

Kröhne also pledged to accelerate Namibia's



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renewable energy transition, citing the dual imperatives of combating climate change and improving electricity access. With over half of Namibia's population still lacking reliable power, she vowed to bolster investments in solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects. "Improving energy access is not just about infrastructure—it's about empowering households, schools, clinics, and businesses to thrive," she said, framing renewable energy as a cornerstone of inclusive development.

The deputy minister's appointment comes at a critical juncture for the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy, which recently expanded its mandate to include industrialization—a priority Kröhne described as "essential for economic growth." She emphasized that fostering local manufacturing and supporting small businesses are key to reducing import dependence and building self-sufficiency. "Industrial growth is a key driver of economic resilience. We must foster an environment where Namibian businesses can thrive," she stated.

Kröhne's vision extends beyond traditional mining sectors. By integrating industrial policy with energy innovation, she aims to position Namibia as a regional leader in sustainable development. This includes creating enabling environments for startups and enterprises to experiment with green technologies, as well as streamlining regulations to attract ethical investors committed to community upliftment. Her message resonated with calls for greater accountability in the extractive industries, where concerns over revenue leakage and environmental degradation have long fueled public discontent. Kröhne acknowledged these grievances, affirming that transparency and community engagement

would underpin her ministry's operations. "Resource extraction should never come at the cost of environmental integrity or social justice. The well-being of our people and their lands is non-negotiable," she said.

As her deputy ministerial role overlaps with Ithete's duties as deputy prime minister, Kröhne's success hinges on cross-sector collaboration. She expressed optimism about partnering with traditional leaders, civil society, and the private sector to design policies that reflect local needs. "Sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires unity of purpose and shared sacrifice," she noted.

For many observers, Kröhne's appointment signals a renewed focus on economic justice amid global pressures. Namibia, despite its mineral riches, remains plagued by stark income inequality and unemployment rates exceeding 20%. Her emphasis on grassroots beneficiation and renewable energy aligns with the Harambee Prosperity Plan II's goals, which prioritize wealth redistribution and green industrialization. Yet challenges loom. Global commodity price fluctuations, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and infrastructure gaps could hinder progress. Kröhne's ability to navigate these hurdles while maintaining investor confidence will test her leadership. Nevertheless, her inaugural speech struck a hopeful tone, envisioning a Namibia where natural resources fuel shared prosperity rather than division. "The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy exists to promote sustainable social and economic development by fostering an enabling environment that benefits all Namibians," Kröhne concluded. "This is not just a mandate—it is a moral obligation to our children and the generations yet unborn." As she steps into her role, stakeholders await tangible reforms. For now, Kröhne's promise of a balanced, inclusive approach offers a blueprint for turning Namibia's subterranean wealth into a beacon of hope above ground.

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Latest Namibia exploration well hits hydrocarbons



By Business Express Writer

According to multiple sources, Cape Town-based Rhino Resources has confirmed the discovery of hydrocarbons at its Capricornus-1X exploration well in the offshore Orange Basin, reigniting hopes for a transformative economic windfall. While it remains premature to declare the find commercially viable, the breakthrough marks another milestone in Namibia's quest to harness its offshore potential, offering early validation for President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's administration, which assumed office last month amid high expectations for resource-driven growth.

The Capricornus-1X well, located in Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 85, was spudded two months ago in partnership with state-owned National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor), global energy giants BP and Eni, via their Azule Energy joint venture. The discovery adds momentum to the Orange Basin's reputation as a hotspot for hydrocarbon exploration, following major finds by Shell and TotalEnergies in adjacent blocks. Though Rhino Resources has yet to release detailed data on the reservoir's size or quality, industry insiders describe the results as "encouraging," with further analysis required to determine flow rates and economic feasibility.

For President Nandi-Ndaitwah, who has prioritized economic diversification and job creation since her inauguration, the news arrives at a critical juncture. Namibia, despite its vast mineral and marine resources, continues to grapple with unemployment rates exceeding 20% and stark income inequality. A commercially viable hydrocarbon discovery could unlock billions in investment, create skilled jobs, and generate state revenues to fund infrastructure and social programs. "This discovery aligns with our vision to leverage natural resources for inclusive growth,"

said a presidential spokesperson. "While cautious optimism is warranted, we are committed to ensuring any future developments benefit all Namibians."

The Orange Basin, stretching along Namibia's southern coastline, has emerged as one of Africa's most prospective offshore regions following Shell's 2022 Jonker-1X light oil discovery and TotalEnergies' Venus-1X find, estimated to hold over 2 billion barrels of oil. Rhino's entry into this competitive arena—via its partnership with Azule Energy, a BP-Eni collaboration formed in 2022—underscores the basin's strategic allure. Azule, which holds a 45% stake in PEL 85, brings technical expertise and financial heft to the project, while Namcor's 10% equity ensures local participation in line with Namibia's empowerment policies.

However, the path from exploration to production is fraught with challenges. Rhino Resources and its partners must now conduct extensive testing, including flow rate assessments and seismic studies, to evaluate the reservoir's commercial potential—a process that could take months. Even if the find proves viable, first production would likely be years away, requiring billions in infrastructure investment.

For Rhino, a junior explorer, the partnership with Azule mitigates financial risk, leveraging BP and Eni's deepwater experience to navigate complex technical hurdles.

The discovery also highlights Namibia's evolving role as a collaborative player in global energy markets. By mandating local equity participation and prioritizing partnerships with established firms, the government has sought to balance investor confidence with national interest. Namcor's involvement in PEL 85,



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though minor, ensures the state retains a foothold in decision-making and revenue-sharing.

Environmental concerns, however, loom large. Offshore drilling remains contentious amid global calls to transition from fossil fuels, and Namibia's commitment to renewable energy—including ambitious green hydrogen projects—creates a delicate balancing act. President Nandi-Ndaitwah's administration has pledged to pursue a "dual strategy" of developing hydrocarbons for short-to-medium-term gains while investing in renewables for long-term sustainability.

As the global energy industry watches Namibia's ascent, the Capricornus-1X well serves as a reminder of the high-stakes nature of exploration. For Rhino Resources and its partners, the next steps involve meticulous appraisal work. For Namibia, the discovery underscores the transformative potential of its offshore riches—and the imperative to steward them wisely.

In the coming months, all eyes will be on the Orange Basin, where the interplay of geology, economics, and governance could redefine Namibia's trajectory. Whether this discovery becomes a cornerstone of national prosperity or a footnote in exploration history depends on the data yet to surface. For now, optimism floats as steadily as an offshore rig, riding the waves of possibility.



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Namibia breaks ground on pioneering biotech facility, eyes economic gains

By Business Express Writer

Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Natangwe Ithete, officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Vigor Biotechnology Production Facility last week. The state-of-the-art plant, set to rise in Henties Bay, promises to harness Namibia's marine resources to produce high-value seal and nut oils rich in omega-3 fatty acids, positioning the country as a competitive player in global biotech markets while addressing longstanding economic and environmental challenges.

Speaking before a gathering of dignitaries, investors, and community representatives, Ithete underscored the facility's alignment with Namibia's national development agenda, including Vision 2030, the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), and the SWAPO Party Manifesto. "This investment embodies our commitment to industrialization, economic diversification, and value addition," he declared. "By transforming an environmental management challenge into an economic opportunity, we are writing a new chapter for Namibia—one rooted in innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability."

The facility, spearheaded by Vigor Biotechnology in partnership with local and international stakeholders, will specialize in extracting omega-3 oils from seals and nuts for use in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and health supplements. With global demand for omega-3 products projected to grow exponentially, the project aims to capitalize on Namibia's abundant seal population—a resource historically viewed through the lens of conservation debates. Ithete emphasized that the venture would adhere to strict ecological guidelines, ensuring seal harvesting is guided by scientific data, monitored quotas, and international best practices. "Our approach must balance ecological preservation with socio-economic progress," he stated, urging regulatory authorities to enforce compliance with environmental laws.

The ceremony, attended by Minister of Urban and Rural Development Sakwasa James Sankwasa, Minister of Environment, Forestry



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and Tourism Indileni Daniel, Erongo Governor Neville Hope, and Vigor Biotechnology Managing Director Charlie Xie, among others, highlighted the project's potential to generate transformative outcomes for local communities. Ithete noted that the facility would create "not just jobs, but livelihoods" for residents of Henties Bay and the broader Erongo Region.

Existing operations have already provided employment opportunities, with plans to expand skilled and semi-skilled positions as production scales. Partnerships with vocational training institutions will further equip Namibians with expertise in biotechnology, marine resource processing, and quality assurance, fostering long-term economic resilience.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are poised to benefit through involvement in logistics, packaging, construction, and maintenance, amplifying the project's ripple effects across the economy. "This is inclusive growth in action," Ithete remarked, stressing the government's dedication to empowering youth, women, and local businesses. By championing the "Made in Namibia" brand, the initiative aims to reduce import dependency while opening new export channels, bolstering foreign exchange earnings and national pride.

The Deputy Prime Minister also addressed broader industrial priorities, linking the facility to Namibia's ambition to become a hub for value-added manufacturing. "We can no longer afford to export raw materials only to reimport finished goods at higher costs," he said, advocating for a paradigm shift toward domestic processing. The Vigor Biotechnology project, he argued, exemplifies how strategic partnerships and technological investment can unlock the latent potential of Namibia's natural resources.

Environmental and ethical considerations featured prominently in the discourse. With Namibia concurrently pursuing renewable

energy targets—including a goal to generate 70% of its power from renewables by 2030—the government faces the delicate task of balancing hydrocarbon and biotech development with climate commitments. Ithete assured stakeholders that the facility would prioritize worker safety, health protections, and ecological responsibility. "Industrial growth must never come at the expense of our environment or people's well-being," he asserted, calling for vigilance in upholding conservation principles.

Community leaders welcomed the project but urged transparency in ensuring local benefits. James !Hoeab, a Lüderitz-based advocate, emphasized the need for tangible outcomes: "Past projects promised jobs and infrastructure but fell short. This time, we expect Vigor and the government to deliver on their pledges."

For Vigor Biotechnology, the groundbreaking marks the culmination of meticulous planning and a vote of confidence in Namibia's investment climate.

Managing Director Charlie Xie praised the nation's stable governance and commitment to sustainability, pledging to align operations with national development goals. "This facility is more than a business venture—it's a partnership with the people of Namibia," he said.

As the ceremony concluded, Ithete reflected on the symbolic significance of the event: "Today, we lay the foundation for a future defined by dignity, opportunity, and innovation. Let this facility inspire similar ventures across our nation."

With construction now underway, all eyes turn to Henties Bay, where the intersection of biotechnology and sustainable resource management could redefine Namibia's economic trajectory.

For a country poised on the brink of industrial transformation, the Vigor Biotechnology Production Facility stands as both a beacon of hope and a test of resolve—a promise that prosperity, when rooted in prudence and equity, is within reach.

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Andrada Mining unveils plans to expand its footprint in the mineral-rich Erongo region



By Business Express Writer

In a strategic push to cement Namibia's role in the global green energy transition, Andrada Mining Limited has unveiled ambitious plans to expand its footprint in the mineral-rich Erongo region, targeting new tin, tantalum, and lithium mines.

The London-listed company, already a key player in Namibia's critical minerals sector, aims to leverage the region's "phenomenal geology" to scale production and establish itself as a champion of polymetallic mining.

Andrada CEO Anthony Viljoen, in an exclusive interview, expressed unwavering confidence in Namibia's potential, both as an investment hub and a geological treasure trove. "We've always been bullish on Namibia," Viljoen said. "The Erongo region is blessed with world-class mineral systems, and our success at Uis is just the beginning. We're now focused on opening more mines and solidifying our position as a critical minerals leader."

The company's flagship Uis mine, once the largest hard-rock opencast tin operation globally, is poised for a revival. Recent drilling within a 3 km radius of the existing plant has revealed extensive pegmatites rich in tin, lithium oxide, and tantalum—a trifecta of

metals essential for renewable energy technologies. Viljoen highlighted plans to resurrect adjacent pits historically mined by Iscor, emphasizing the potential for concurrent production without disrupting current operations. "The Uis area isn't just about tin anymore. The polymetallic nature of these orebodies allows us to produce lithium and tantalum as high-value co-products, diversifying revenue streams," he noted.

This expansion is already underway. In February, Andrada secured a \$2.5 million loan to construct a second tin processing plant at Uis, featuring advanced crushing, jigging, and shaking table circuits designed to handle varying ore grades. The move follows the successful monthly shipment of tantalum—a metal critical for electronics—extracted alongside tin concentrate, which Viljoen described as a "game-changer" for profitability.

Beyond Uis, Andrada's Lithium Ridge project has emerged as a focal point. Spanning 3,300 hectares in the NaiNais-Kohero pegmatite belt, the site boasts continuous lithium, tin, and tantalum mineralization along a 6 km strike. A partnership with Chilean lithium giant SQM is set to accelerate exploration, with spodumene—the primary lithium-bearing mineral—dominant across the licence area. "Lithium Ridge



Continues on page 15



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represents a strategic leap into the battery metals market," Viljoen said. "Collaborating with SQM gives us the technical firepower to fast-track development." The expansion aligns with global demand for green transition metals. Tin, used in solder for solar panels and EVs, and lithium, the backbone of batteries, are projected to see sustained growth as nations pivot from fossil fuels. Tantalum, vital for capacitors in smartphones and electric vehicles, further enhances Andrada's market agility.

For Namibia, the ripple effects could be transformative. The Uis mine alone has already created jobs and injected capital into local economies, with Viljoen pledging to prioritize Namibian employment and supplier networks as operations scale. "Our goal is to build sustainable livelihoods, not just extract resources," he said, underscoring partnerships with local vocational centers for skills development.

Geologists have long hailed Erongo's potential, but Andrada's success hinges on marrying historical data with cutting-edge technology. The company's approach—reprocessing tailings from legacy mines and deploying modular plants—minimizes environmental disruption while maximizing resource recovery. "We're not starting from scratch," Viljoen explained. "The groundwork laid by past operations gives us a head start, but our innovation ensures we leave a smaller footprint."

Challenges remain, however. Namibia's arid climate demands water-efficient processing methods, and community expectations for equitable benefits are high. Andrada has committed to engaging traditional leaders and regional councils to address concerns. "Transparency is non-negotiable," Viljoen asserted. "We're here to partner with communities, not just operate near them."

The broader mining sector is watching closely. Andrada's model—combining legacy assets with modern extraction techniques—offers a blueprint for revitalizing Africa's mining landscapes. With the Erongo region positioned as a hub for green minerals, Namibia could

attract further investment, echoing the surge in renewable energy projects across the country.

As global markets clamor for ethically sourced critical minerals, Andrada's expansion underscores Namibia's strategic advantage. The country's stable governance, clear regulatory framework, and rich deposits make it a magnet for developers aiming to decarbonize supply chains.

For Viljoen, the vision is clear: "Namibia isn't just a supplier—it's a cornerstone of the global energy transition. With every ton of lithium or tin we produce, we're powering a cleaner future." As drills turn and plants rise in Erongo's dusty plains, Andrada's ambitions may well position Namibia at the forefront of a resource revolution—one where geology and green ideals converge.



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21 / 22
May 2025



09:00 to
16:30



Hilton Hotel,
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Speakers

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 <p>Ms. Morna Ikosa Chartered Public Relations Practitioner Skilled Moderator, Published Author, and Aspiring Filmmaker</p>	 <p>Ms. Bianca Muller Executive Human Capital Nedbank Namibia</p>
 <p>Mr. Fedden Mukwata Legal Practitioner Mediator Legal Fundit Founder of FASZ Legal Consultancy and Lex Academy Namibia</p>	 <p>Ms. Rethie Ahrens Dietician & Nutritionist Health and Wellness Consultant</p>
 <p>Mr. Petrus Muhepa Employee Relations and Wellness Expert</p>	 <p>Sr. Ndapewa Nashipili Registered Nurse and Mental Health Advocate</p>

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Askari to spear new tin-tantalum targets at Namibian project

By Business Express Writer

Askari Metals' recent trawl through a historical exploration database at its Uis project in Namibia has identified significant tin, tantalite and rubidium mineralisation within its licence area.

The review reveals "exceptionally high" tin, tantalum and rubidium responses from a 492-sample rock chip database, with assays including 3.17 per cent tin oxide, 5226 parts per million (ppm) tantalum pentoxide and 0.87 per cent rubidium oxide.

The tenement is Askari's southernmost holding in the area and is just 14 kilometres southwest of Andrada Mining's well-established Uis tin mine.

Mapping and rock chip sampling at Askari's nearby 3km by 30-metre Kestrel pegmatite target has also turned up elevated responses with up to 0.38 per cent tin oxide, which is typically represented by the mineral cassiterite, and 672ppm tantalum pentoxide, generally present as the mineral tantalite.

Historical drilling data has also come up with high grades that include four 1m intervals carrying tin oxide at grades of 0.13 per cent to 0.25 per cent tin oxide and 173ppm to 227ppm tantalum pentoxide.

Askari says the exploration results and its newly identified pegmatite exploration targets have never been followed up, despite being hosted by the same pegmatite geology hosting mineralisation at Andrada's operating Uis tin mine.

"Uis is fast emerging as a serious strategic asset for the company owing to its location along strike from the operating Uis tin mine. Historical exploration at the Uis project has demonstrated significant high grades of mineralisation including tin, tantalum and rubidium, comparable with the results outlined by our neighbour, Andrada Mining," Askari Metals director Gino D'Anna

Tin is currently in strong demand and trading at US\$31,275 (A\$49,147) per tonne. Analysts forecast the global tantalum market will grow at a compound annual rate of about 5.88 per cent to \$126.4 million by the end of the decade.

D'Anna said Uis is a heavily underexplored opportunity for Askari and with the current high tin prices, it was too hard for the company to ignore.

The company plans further exploration aimed



at developing and expanding the known tin and tantalum mineralisation on the licence area. The work will comprise an initial extensive program of soil geochemistry within its key structural corridor of interest to define additional areas of tin-tantalum or indicator mineral anomalism, focussing on identifying buried or blind pegmatites.

That work will be accompanied by detailed mapping and rock chip sampling of new targets in the licence area.

Subject to results from the preceding work, the company plans to put an excavator on site to conduct a first phase of trench sampling at identified target sites.

Askari has already identified five new targets on the licence, which will be subject to further follow-up exploration for high-grade tin and tantalum mineralisation.

The company says its low-cost work programs aim to deliver exploration targets within its licence area with a high level of confidence prior to conducting further drilling to explore the promising polymetallic mineralisation at Uis.

Succulents die off with expanding desert in South Africa and Namibia

By Business Express Writer

Succulents endemic to South Africa and Namibia are drying up and dying across the increasingly hot northern part of their range.

In September 2024, botanists Wendy Foden and Kayleigh Murray surveyed an area Foden described as a “graveyard” of succulent plants in Namaqualand, an arid region shared by the two Southern African countries. It’s “an avenue of mostly dead *Aloidendron ramosissimum*,” Foden said. The plant is known as the maiden’s quiver tree in Namaqualand’s Richtersveld National Park.

The botanists surveyed plants in Richtersveld between 2022 and 2024 to understand the effects of an earlier drought. Their survey numbers haven’t been published yet, but Foden said the initial data show a continuing trend of the bushy 60-centimeter (2-foot) trees dying on the northern, hotter edge of their range. In the cooler southern area of their range, quiver trees, from the same family as aloe vera, are thriving as temperatures become warmer and more favorable. However, the species isn’t shifting into new areas.

“We’d hoped to see them shift further south, and some colonization in newly suitable areas, but sadly, we see no evidence of that. We’re still increasingly losing populations and range up north, and we’re not expanding south,” Foden said.

Foden, who studies climate change impacts on biodiversity loss, has also been monitoring another species of quiver tree, *Aloidendron dichotomum*, listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, for the last two decades. In fact, researchers have found that at least three species of quiver tree are dying off in an area that today resembles a moonscape but was once so abundant with plant life that it attracted wildlife including gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) and springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*).

As the landscape has become hotter and drier, huge sand plumes, so large they can be seen from space, are developing across the region. The sand

is released when sheep shear succulents too close to the ground, or when mining vehicles break through the cap that keeps the soil in place. As the sand loses its moorings, Joubert wrote, it’s picked up by strong winds. And while desert-adapted plants are able to survive sandstorms, too much sand exposure pummels the plants like sandpaper, ultimately smothering them.

Foden said “very active conservation approaches” need to be taken to save the species. In addition to reducing threats, some species may need to be cultivated in gardens, as reestablishing populations in the wild isn’t feasible for now.

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Namibia cements leadership in Africa's green revolution



By Business Express Writer

Namibia has etched its name into the annals of global climate action with the inauguration of the Hylron Oshivela Production facility—Africa's first zero-emissions iron plant.

The historic event, in the arid expanses of Oshivela, marked not only the continent's maiden production of green hydrogen and direct reduced iron (DRI) but also signaled Namibia's emergence as a trailblazer in the global green transition. Under the gaze of President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, European Union (EU) and German dignitaries, and Industry Minister Natangue Ithete, the facility's launch symbolized a fusion of innovation, international collaboration, and Africa's resolve to redefine industrial progress on its own terms.

The Hylron plant, a joint venture between German and Namibian renewable energy and engineering firms, represents a technological marvel powered by Southern Africa's largest electrolyzer. This cutting-edge infrastructure splits water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable energy, producing the green hydrogen needed to transform iron ore into DRI—a critical raw material for carbon-neutral steel. By replacing fossil fuels with hydrogen in the reduction

process, the facility slashes CO₂ emissions by 3.6 million tonnes annually at full capacity while churning out two million tonnes of green iron. Such output positions Namibia not merely as a participant but as a pacesetter in the race to decarbonize heavy industry, a sector responsible for nearly 40% of global carbon emissions.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah, addressing a crowd of local workers, diplomats, and investors, framed the project as a testament to Namibia's visionary policies. "Today, we prove that Africa can lead the green industrial revolution," she declared. "This facility is more than steel and hydrogen—it is a beacon of hope for our youth, a catalyst for jobs, and a blueprint for sustainable prosperity." Her words resonated deeply in a nation where unemployment hovers above 20%, particularly among the youth. Hylron's promise of 6,000 construction jobs and 900 permanent roles, coupled with contracts for over 60 Namibian SMEs during its pilot phase, underscores the tangible economic dividends of green industrialization.

The project's roots lie in the EU-Namibia Strategic Partnership on Green Hydrogen, a cornerstone of the EU's Global Gateway initiative. Launched



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EX *Continues from page 18*

in 2021, Global Gateway seeks to mobilize €300 billion in public and private investments by 2027 to bridge global infrastructure gaps while advancing climate resilience. For Namibia, a sun-drenched nation with vast renewable potential, the alliance has been transformative. EU Commissioner Jozef Síkela emphasized this synergy: “Hylron isn’t just a milestone—it’s a revolution. By combining European expertise with Namibian resources, we’re rewriting the rules of progress for an entire continent.”

Germany’s pivotal role—evident in its initial €13.7 million grant from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)—has been bolstered by a €12 million blended-finance package from the EU and the Netherlands for the plant’s second phase. This next stage aims to scale production to 200,000 tonnes of DRI annually, with a German steel manufacturer already secured as a buyer. Such partnerships exemplify the “Team Europe” approach, uniting EU member states, development banks, and private entities to de-risk investments and accelerate Africa’s clean energy transition.

Hylron’s significance extends beyond borders. It anchors the EU’s “Scaling Up Renewables in Africa” campaign, launched in November 2024 by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. The year-long initiative, aligned with the World Bank’s Mission 300 to electrify 300 million Africans by 2030, seeks to leverage public and private capital for projects that marry climate action with economic empowerment. Namibia’s success story is poised to inspire similar ventures, with over 50 renewable energy projects slated for rollout across the continent under the campaign.

Yet the Hylron plant is as much a local triumph as a global one. For communities in Oshivela and beyond, the facility embodies a shift from resource extraction to value addition—a theme central to Namibia’s economic strategy. By processing iron ore domestically rather than

exporting it raw, the nation captures greater revenue while nurturing high-skilled jobs. Minister Ithete highlighted this paradigm shift: “We are done being mere suppliers of raw materials. With green hydrogen and DRI, Namibia is building an industrial legacy that benefits our people first.”

Environmental safeguards remain paramount. The plant’s operations adhere to strict sustainability protocols, with hydrogen production powered entirely by solar and wind energy. This aligns with Namibia’s ambitions to generate 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030, a target that now seems increasingly attainable. Moreover, the project’s water-efficient electrolysis process addresses concerns about resource scarcity in one of the world’s driest

EX *Continues on page 20*



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Monday, 21 April 2025	
Easter Monday (Closed)	
Tuesday, 22 April 2025	
Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-18:00
Unam Hage Geingob Campus (Windhoek)	09:00-15:30
Highline High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Integrated Dental Holdings (Windhoek)	09:00-15:30
Ondangwa Centre (Gwashamba Mall)	10:00-18:00
Walvis Bay Town (Behind Welwitschia Medi-park)	10:00-18:00
Wednesday, 23 April 2025	
Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-16:00
Namibian Oncology Centre (Windhoek)	08:30-16:00
Windhoek Gymnasium High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Unam Engineering Campus (Ongwediva)	09:00-15:30
The Dome (Swakopmund)	10:00-15:30
Thursday, 24 April 2025	
Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-16:00
Dobra High School (Brakwater)	10:00-15:30
Khomas High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Valombola Vocational Training Centre (Ongwediva)	09:00-15:30
NAMDOCK (Walvis Bay)	10:00-15:30
Friday, 25 April 2025	
Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-16:00
Cosmos High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Office of the Judiciary (Windhoek)	09:00-15:30
/Anes Secondary School (Rehoboth)	09:30-14:00
Uukule Secondary School (Onyaanya)	09:30-14:00
Namib High School (Swakopmund)	09:00-14:00



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countries.

Critics, however, urge caution. Some environmental groups warn against over-reliance on hydrogen, citing potential leaks of the potent greenhouse gas and the energy intensity of production. Others stress the need for equitable benefit-sharing, ensuring that marginalized communities near mining and industrial sites are not excluded from opportunities. President Nandi-Ndaitwah acknowledged these challenges, pledging inclusive policies and transparency: "Growth must uplift all Namibians. We will monitor this project to ensure it meets the highest ethical and environmental standards."

For the EU, Hylron validates the Global Gateway's ethos of fostering "essential links rather than dependencies." Unlike past infrastructure schemes criticized for burdening nations with debt, the partnership prioritizes knowledge transfer and local capacity-building. German engineers have trained

Namibian technicians in electrolyzer maintenance, while vocational programs prepare youth for roles in renewable energy and advanced manufacturing. Such collaborations, Commissioner Síkela noted, "close the investment gap without closing minds."

As the sun set over the Hylron site, casting golden hues on the nascent infrastructure, the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation. For Namibia, the plant is more than an industrial feat—it is a declaration of agency in a world often skeptical of Africa's ability to lead. By harnessing its boundless solar and wind resources, the nation has turned its climatic adversities into strategic assets, attracting global capital while charting a low-carbon development path.

The road ahead is fraught with hurdles, from scaling technology to navigating global market shifts. Yet, as President Nandi-Ndaitwah concluded, "Hylron lights the way. Africa's green transition is not a distant dream—it is here, and Namibia is proud to lead it." In this remote corner of Southern Africa, the clang of machinery now harmonizes with the whispers of the wind, composing a symphony of progress that resonates far beyond Oshivela's sands.

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Paladin hit with class action over 'misleading' uranium guidance

By Business Express Writer

ASX- and TSX-listed Paladin Energy has been served with a class action lawsuit in the Supreme Court of Victoria, with the plaintiffs alleging the uranium producer misled investors and breached its continuous disclosure obligations ahead of a major production downgrade last year.

Filed on April 16 by law firm Slater and Gordon, the claim centers on Paladin's guidance regarding its flagship Langer Heinrich uranium mine, in Namibia.

The company had forecast production of 4.0-million to 4.5-million pounds of uranium concentrate for the 2025 financial year, at a cost of \$28/lb to \$31/lb, in an announcement to the ASX on June 27, 2024. That guidance was reiterated in subsequent updates in July and August.

However, on November 12, Paladin slashed its 2025 financial year forecast to between 3.0-million and 3.6-million pounds and withdrew all previous guidance, citing water supply disruptions and variable ore quality. Paladin shares fell 22% over the following two days, compounding a 15% drop in late October after weaker-than-expected quarterly production results.



The class action alleges that Paladin knew or ought to have known its earlier forecasts were overly optimistic, and that there was a material risk they would not be met. According to the claim, shareholders who bought Paladin stock between June 27 and November 11, 2024, paid inflated prices or would not have invested at all had the company disclosed the operational risks earlier.

The proceeding has been initiated by Ian Weatherlake, on behalf of the Weatherlake Family Trust, representing affected shareholders during the five-month period in question. Slater and Gordon allege breaches of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ASIC Act 2001.

In a statement, Paladin said it "intends to strongly defend this claim".

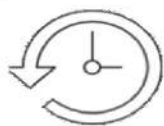


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WEEKLY MARKET REPORT 10 - 16 April 2025



Namibian Weekly Market Report

10 April 2025 - 16 April 2025

NSX				
	1 Year %	Weekly %	Daily %	Price
NSX Local	5.25%	-0.17%	-0.03%	717
NSX Overall	9.99%	3.39%	0.00%	1,673

NSX Value Traded		
	Market Cap (N\$ bn)	Total Value Traded (N\$)
NSX Local	48	14,457,910
NSX Overall	2279	385,789,850

NSX Primary Listed									
	1 Year %	Weekly %	Daily %	Price		1 Year %	Weekly %	Daily %	Price
Capricorn Group	16.88%	0.19%	0.00%	21.33	Alpha Namibia Industries	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.99
FirstRand Namibia	-4.87%	0.28%	0.00%	47.06	MTC	5.19%	-1.82%	0.00%	8.10
Letshego Namibia	48.19%	0.00%	0.00%	6.15	Namibia Breweries	-3.50%	0.00%	0.00%	28.95
Namibian Asset Man	1.39%	0.00%	0.00%	0.73	Nictus Holdings	30.63%	0.00%	0.00%	2.90
SBN Holdings	19.53%	0.79%	0.00%	10.16	Oryx Properties	11.57%	0.00%	0.00%	13.40
Stimulus Investments	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	128.01	Paratus Namibia	-0.39%	0.00%	0.00%	12.65

Over the Counter (OTC)									
Gondwana	12.38%	0.00%	0.00%	8.99	Agra	5.83%	0.00%	0.00%	3.81

Namibian Economic Indicators		
Repo Rate (%)	04/25	6.75%
Prime Rate (%)	04/25	10.50%
GDP Growth (%)	12/24	3.10%
Inflation Rate (%)	03/25	4.19%
Money Supply Growth (%)	02/25	10.61%

NSX Top Performers for the Week Value Traded (N\$)	
SBN Holdings	1,803,693
FirstRand Namibia	7,352,024
Capricorn Group	4,570,589

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NIP elevates diagnostic testing

By Business Express Writer

The Namibia Institute of Pathology Limited (NIP) has taken a bold step to enhance its diagnostic capabilities through its Equipment Replacement Plan (ERP), to optimize its laboratory network by replacing outdated equipment with state-of-the-art technology—ensuring faster, more efficient, and high-precision laboratory diagnostics across Namibia. This transformational project is a key pillar of its Integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) 2022–2027.

According to the NIP CEO, Kapena Tjombonde, “over the past three years, the NIP has significantly enhanced healthcare accessibility by decentralizing a suite of critical diagnostic tests across its national laboratory network.” Reference is made to high-demand tests such as Blood Grouping and RH, RPR, Hepatitis E IgM, and COVID-19 tests—once centralised at NIP Windhoek—have now been introduced to additional laboratories, improving turnaround times and alleviating pressure on centralised facilities.

This initiative is part of NIP’s broader hub-spoke-node strategy to fortify diagnostic capacity in regions that previously relied heavily on referral systems.

“In a strategic push to reach underserved communities, NIP extended its test menu to remote node laboratories nationwide,” says, Ms Tjombonde. Critical tests such as HIV Early Infant Diagnosis, Hepatitis E, Troponin T, D-Dimer, and Prostate Specific Antigen have been rolled out in remote labs from Opuwo and Okahao to Khorixas and Karasburg.

This expansion and decentralisation enable quicker clinical decisions, particularly in critical and time-sensitive cases, while also reducing logistical burdens on the healthcare system. These advancements underscore NIP’s commitment to equitable healthcare delivery through continuous innovation and strategic decentralization.

For the just ended 2024/2025 financial year, NIP’s ERP target was set at 40%, which meant replacing 22 out of 38 instruments across its



37 networks of laboratories, in all 14 regions of the country. To date, 21 instruments have been successfully replaced, achieving a 54% replacement rate.

Thus, Tjombonde proudly stated that “while this progress is commendable, NIP will accelerate efforts to meet our overall target and sustain the operational excellence our stakeholders expect.”

By 2027, NIP will have redefined the diagnostic landscape, setting new standards in medical testing. This isn’t just an upgrade, it’s a commitment to excellence, innovation, and saving lives!

Walvis Bay gaining ground as strategic gateway

By Business Express Writer

The Walvis Bay Corridor is witnessing a surge in cargo volumes as mineral production in Zambia's Copperbelt expands, bolstered by investments in new mining ventures.

According to Mbahupu Hippy Tjivikua, CEO of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG), this growth reinforces the port's strategic importance as a gateway to global markets.

"We have observed that the volumes moving in and out of the Copperbelt are increasing, driven by the expansion in mineral production by existing mines and investments in new mining ventures, such as KoBold Metals in Chingola and Kalengwa in Mufumbwe," Tjivikua said.

"With this upward trajectory in volumes, leveraging the Port of Walvis Bay as a strategic gateway provides a seamless and efficient connection to international markets."

Elisha Matambo, Zambian Copperbelt minister, echoed these sentiments at a recent Copperbelt information-sharing session in Kitwe, Zambia. He emphasised the importance of Walvis Bay in supporting the region's mining sector, in light of the need for efficient, cost-effective logistics solutions to enhance the region's competitiveness.

"To that end, we have placed the Zambian dry port under Zamcargo to increase Zambia's presence in Namibia, and consequently we anticipate quick growth of Zambia's logistical footprint in the country." Tjivikua said the benefits of using Walvis Bay to move Copperbelt minerals are clear.

"We offer shorter transit times, competitive logistics solutions and efficient connections to global markets." He said one important development was that of



the new strategic corridor, Kolwezi-Kambimba-Lumwana-Mangu-Katima Mulilo-Walvis Bay, which was being championed by Sandstone Consortium. "This new corridor will be 235km shorter than the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor (WBNLDC), and up to seven days faster.

"Furthermore, a new border post will be constructed between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia for this corridor, along with the development of a new road featuring toll facilities. Once completed, this route is set to provide a faster and more efficient alternative for exports and imports to and from the Port of Walvis Bay, enhancing regional connectivity." Freightnews



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