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2025: Inside Deep Yellow's nearly half a billion-dollar investments in Namibia

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Exchange Rates		Commodities	
N$ – US Dollar:	17.39	Gold:	4 039
N$ – British Pound:	22.66	Silver :	48.25
N$ – Euro:	19.28	Palladium:	1369.74
N$ – Aus dollar:	11.17	Platinum:	1514.68
N$ – Yen:	0.11	Brent crude:	63.73

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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.

Our target market comprises of business oriented individuals as well as diplomats, foreign communities, policymakers, industrialists and businesses, among other key constituencies.

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Business Insights Weekly...

A heartfelt thank you, and our eyes on 2026's horizon

As the final edition of Business Express for 2025 reaches you, our esteemed readers and partners, our foremost sentiment is one of profound gratitude.

This year, marked by both persistent challenges and promising opportunities, has reaffirmed the vital role of trusted business journalism and the strength of our community. To you—our loyal subscribers, discerning advertisers, insightful contributors, and our dedicated team—we extend our sincerest thanks. Your engagement has been the cornerstone of our journey.

Navigating the dynamic economic landscape of 2025 required agility and insight.

Through shifting market currents, technological advancements, and evolving policy frameworks, we strived to be your consistent source of clarity, analysis, and foresight. Your feedback, conversations at industry events, and unwavering support have not only shaped our coverage but have also inspired us to dig deeper and report with greater relevance.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the possibilities of 2026. The coming year promises further transformation across Namibia's business sectors, from green energy initiatives to digital innovation and beyond.

Our commitment is to be at the forefront, delivering not just news, but the strategic intelligence you need to make informed decisions. We will continue to champion local enterprise, hold constructive dialogues, and spotlight the stories of innovation that drive our nation forward.

Our mission remains steadfast: to empower your success with authoritative, timely, and impactful journalism. The trust you place in us is a responsibility we never take lightly. As we close this chapter, we do so with optimism, ready to embark on the next with you by our side.

Thank you for making 2025 a year of growth and impact. Here's to a collaborative, prosperous, and groundbreaking 2026.

>>>BULK FINANCING DEPLOYED TO OPERATING COSTS

Inside deep yellow's half a billion-dollar Namibian Investments

Business Express Writer

Deep Yellow Limited has cemented its role as a major economic driver in Namibia, with its 2025 Sustainability Report revealing a total investment of approximately N$468 million into the local economy during the last financial year. This substantial figure, equivalent to 38.4 million Australian dollars, underscores the Australian-based uranium developer's commitment to fostering sustainable growth and shared value in the regions where it operates, particularly as it advances its flagship Tumas Project towards future production.

The financial footprint is detailed in the company's comprehensive report, which outlines a deliberate strategy of local value retention.

The largest share of this economic distribution, amounting to roughly N$358 million, was allocated to operating costs, covering a wide range of activities from exploration and early works to logistical support. Direct investment in Namibian talent was equally significant, with worker wages and benefits totalling nearly N$107 million, supporting livelihoods and building specialised local capability within the mining sector.

Beyond core operational spending, Deep Yellow's contributions extended to state revenues and grassroots community development. Payments to the Namibian government exceeded N$528,000, while targeted community investment programmes summed to over N$844,000. These investments are strategically aligned with Namibia's national development plans, focusing on education, sports, and environmental conservation, thereby addressing broader socio-economic priorities.

A cornerstone of Deep Yellow's economic strategy is its robust local procurement policy. In the 2025 financial year, the company spent about N$45.5 million with suppliers within Namibian borders. This represents a commanding 82% of its total Namibian procurement spend of N$55.5 million, demonstrating a clear preference for developing local supply chains. This commitment is actively operationalised in the company's tender processes for major project packages, where 'local content procurement and support of local industry' forms a formal evaluation criterion. Contractual obligations are often used to ensure successful tenderers follow through on commitments to local labour usage and sub-contracting, thereby multiplying the economic benefits within the community.

The company's dedication to local capacity building is most evident in its employment practices. Deep Yellow's Namibian workforce in FY2025 was overwhelmingly local, with 93% of its 46 employees hired from within the country. This comprised 17 female and 26 male employees from the local community, reflecting a conscious effort towards inclusive and equitable hiring. The company also maintains a strong Affirmative Action compliance record, holding an A-rating certificate and integrating understudy programmes to facilitate skills transfer and advance historically disadvantaged groups.

Continues on page 4

Continues from page 3

While the consolidated accounts for the Namibian operations show a net economic value retained of negative N$466 million, this is characteristic of the pre-production and capital-intensive development phase for a major mining project. This period involves significant upfront investment in infrastructure, studies, and capability building long before revenue generation from mineral sales begins. These foundational expenditures are essential for establishing a viable operation and are indicative of the company's long-term commitment to the country. The reported investments in local suppliers, workforce development, and community programmes are strategic investments in the social and economic fabric required for sustainable operations.

Deep Yellow's community development initiatives, executed under its Corporate Social Investment pillars, provide a tangible dimension to its economic impact. In the reporting period, these went beyond financial contributions to include active partnership and volunteerism. Key projects focused on empowering communities through educational support, such as supplying textbooks and furniture to schools in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, and sponsoring career fairs. Support for sports development included sponsoring local tournaments and equipping athletic academies, while environmental protection efforts featured partnerships with the Gobabeb Research Institute and direct support for vulture conservation programmes within the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Governed by a formal Community Relations Policy and a commitment to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Deep Yellow's approach is structured to ensure that its presence catalyzes positive, lasting change. The company's nearly half-billion Namibia Dollar investment in FY2025 thus represents more than capital expenditure; it is a multi-faceted deployment of resources designed to stimulate regional economies, build human capital, and foster long-term community well-being. As the Tumas Project progresses from the current development phase towards construction and eventual production, the scale, scope, and positive impact of these economic and social contributions are poised for significant growth, further entrenching Deep Yellow's role as a partner in Namibia's sustainable development.

Solarcentury Africa's 19.3 MWp Gerus Solar plant begins merchant power trading in Namibia

By Business Express Writer

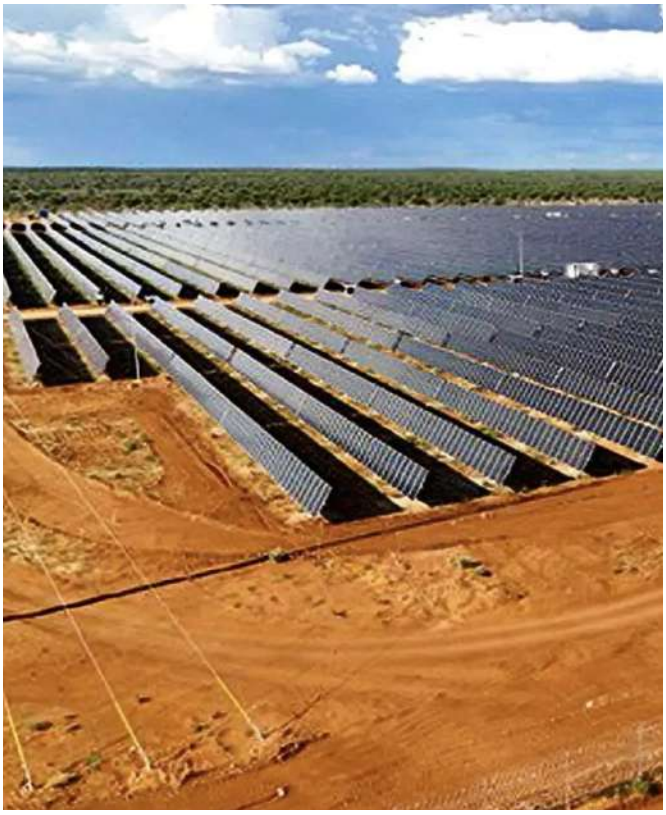
Solarcentury Africa has announced the commercial operation of its 19.3 MWp Gerus solar plant in Namibia, marking a major milestone for merchant renewable energy in Southern Africa. The project is now fully operational and selling electricity into the Southern African Power Pool, making it the first merchant solar plant in Namibia to trade power on the regional market.

The Gerus plant is only the second purpose-built merchant solar project in Africa to participate in the Southern African Power Pool. The first was Solarcentury Africa's 25 MWp Mailo solar plant in Zambia, which achieved commercial operation in July 2025. Construction is already underway on the next phase of this portfolio, the 34 MWp Phase 2 expansion at Mailo, which is expected to reach commercial operation in the second quarter of 2026. Developed in partnership with Sino Energy (Pty) Limited and delivered within a 12-month timeline, the Gerus project represents a significant step forward for competitive, market-based electricity generation in the region. By selling power directly into the Southern African Power Pool, the plant supports regional energy security and demonstrates the viability of merchant solar models in Africa.

Solarcentury Africa's Chief Executive Officer, Jason de Carteret, said the commissioning of Gerus highlights the impact of strong local partnerships and technical expertise in accelerating access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy across Southern Africa. He noted that the project strengthens the company's leadership position in merchant renewable energy.

The Gerus solar plant is wholly owned by Solarcentury Africa. Funding for the project was provided by BB Energy, the independent energy trading group and parent company of Solarcentury Africa. The electricity generated at the plant will be sold by Solarcentury Trading, which is a member of the Southern African Power Pool. This structure reflects the growing strategic importance of trading-led power assets within the group's long-term energy strategy.

BB Energy Group CEO Mohamed Bassatne said the transition to cleaner energy is a central part of the company's future direction. He stated that projects



like Gerus show how BB Energy's global capabilities in energy sourcing, trading, generation, transportation, and distribution can be applied to renewable energy markets. He also highlighted the role of electricity trading as a key driver of future growth, supported by the recent establishment of a dedicated power trading team in Geneva.

During construction, the Gerus project created up to 275 jobs, with more than 98 percent filled by Namibians. The project also supported skills development and training. The plant is expected to generate around 50.8 GWh of clean electricity annually, enough to supply power to more than 14,000 Namibian homes, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 17,000 tonnes per year. The project attracted around USD 20 million in international funding, representing the largest UK investment in Namibia's clean energy sector to date.

Solarcentury Africa also acknowledged the support of its Namibian partners, including Alensy Energy Solutions, Sino Energy, and Nexus, as well as NamPower, the Electricity Control Board of Namibia, and the Southern African Power Pool. Looking ahead, the company plans to develop, own, and operate more than 320 MWp of fully merchant solar capacity by 2027.

Telecom profits soar as consumer economy falters

By Business Express Writer

A recent equity analysis by Simonis Storm Securities, delving into the performance of Namibia's telecommunications sector, unveils a stark and growing paradox within the national economy.

While corporate giants like Mobile Telecommunications Ltd (MTC) report record profitability and enviable returns, the very consumers fueling this success face a reality of economic constraint. The report, "Equity Insight: Mobile Telecommunications Ltd Group," serves as a revealing lens not just on a company, but on the widening gap between corporate financial health and the purchasing power of the average Namibian household.

The analysis paints a picture of a telecom sector in robust health. MTC, the dominant player, saw service revenue rise roughly 15% in FY25, driven not by new customers, but by extracting more value from existing ones. Its Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) for prepaid services—the segment used by the vast majority of Namibians—jumped 14.6% year-on-year to "record levels." This translated into an EBITDA surge of 23% and a "sector-leading ROE of 33.5%." The company's financial fortitude is underscored by a "near debt-free balance sheet" and a generous dividend yield of 10.5%, as cited in the report.

Yet, buried within the same document is a crucial, sobering counterpoint. Under a section outlining risks, the analysts note: "Moderate GDP growth and low inflation in Namibia may constrain overall consumer spending, limiting upside for mobile subscriptions and ARPU despite MTC's dominant market position." This single sentence exposes the heart of the dilemma. The sector's impressive ARPU growth—the increased monthly spend per user—is occurring in an environment where the broader consumer wallet is under pressure. This suggests that telecommunications, increasingly seen as a non-negotiable utility, is capturing a larger slice of a stagnant or slowly growing household expenditure pie. Essentials like connectivity are being prioritised, even as spending in other areas may be curtailed.

This dynamic is facilitated by what the Simonis Storm report identifies as "still low competition in the mobile service market," which "allows operators to maintain pricing power." In a more fiercely competitive environment, some of this ARPU growth might be surrendered to attract and retain customers. Instead,

Continues on page 7

Continues from page 6

the current structure enables strong pricing discipline. Furthermore, the "digital adoption tailwind," also highlighted in the report, creates a natural upward pressure on spending. As smartphone penetration deepens and data usage becomes more integral to daily life, work, and education, consumers are effectively compelled to pay more, regardless of broader economic conditions.

The implications of this trend extend far beyond the telecom sector's balance sheets. It presents a complex challenge for policymakers and economists. On one hand, a highly profitable, cash-generative corporate sector is beneficial. It supports government tax revenues, provides dividends to pension funds and individual investors, and enables investment in critical national infrastructure like fibre and 5G networks, which the report notes MTC is actively pursuing.

On the other hand, when essential service costs rise significantly faster than general incomes or inflation, it acts as a silent tax on household finances. The money spent on increased data bundles is money not spent in local shops, on entertainment, or on other services that drive a diversified domestic economy. The telecom sector's success, in this context, could be inadvertently contributing to the very consumer spending constraints the report warns about.

The analysis also hints at a future where this tension may evolve. The emergence of Paratus Namibia as a "credible challenge," particularly in urban and enterprise segments, could introduce new competitive dynamics that might, over time, benefit consumers. However, as the report makes clear, Paratus is currently focused on infrastructure investment and is "reinvested as cash was reinvested" rather than paying dividends, suggesting a long-term play that may not immediately pressure consumer pricing.

Ultimately, the Simonis Storm report, while focused on investment appeal, inadvertently holds up a mirror to a key structural feature of Namibia's modern economy: the disproportionate power and resilience of certain utility-like digital services. The sector's health is undeniable. MTC's "strong income appeal" and "exceptional profitability," as lauded in the document, are real achievements.

However, for a nation striving for inclusive economic growth, the report's subtext is a vital caution. A thriving corporate sector must not become an island detached from the mainland of consumer well-being. The "digital dividend" must be broadly shared. Ensuring that the fruits of technological adoption and corporate efficiency translate into more than just shareholder returns—but also into affordable access, stimulating competition, and ultimately, a more robust and balanced economic ecosystem—is the next great challenge. The story hidden within the financial metrics is not just one of corporate triumph, but a reminder that sustainable national progress requires harmony between corporate success and household financial health.

How price-conscious buyers are redrawing Namibia's automotive map

By Business Express Writer

As Namibia's vehicle market steers towards its strongest annual performance in nearly a decade, a significant undercurrent is reshaping the competitive landscape. While headlines rightly note the surging popularity of Chinese brands and the enduring dominance of Japanese manufacturers, a more subtle story of changing consumer allegiance is unfolding in the showrooms. New data reveals that established European marques, long symbols of aspiration, are increasingly becoming the preserve of rental fleets and corporate garages, as private Namibian buyers pivot decisively towards value-driven alternatives.

According to the latest Namibia Vehicle Sales report by Simonis Storm Securities for November 2025, the automotive sector remains on a firm recovery path. Year-to-date sales of 13,356 units are the highest since 2015, positioning 2025 to be the best year for vehicle sales in a decade. However, beneath these robust aggregate figures lies a narrative of segmentation and strategic realignment.

Japanese manufacturers, led by Toyota, continue to command the market, holding a formidable 68.9% share in November. Yet, the report notes a telling moderation in their monthly sales growth, suggesting the market is entering a "more mature phase." This opening has been seized aggressively by Chinese brands like GWM, Omoda, and Jetour, which have more than doubled their market share compared to a year prior. Their rise is well-documented, fuelled by competitive pricing, modern SUV designs, and expanding dealership networks.

The less obvious, but equally significant, shift is occurring within the European segment. German brands, including Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz, recorded a solid performance in November, selling 119 units. However, the Simonis Storm analysis highlights a crucial evolution in their buyer base: "Their sales mix is increasingly skewed toward rental and corporate fleet channels, as private buyers become more price-conscious and gravitate toward lower-cost Asian alternatives amid rising ownership expenses."

This trend underscores a fundamental change in

Continues on page 9

Continues from page 8

Namibian consumer behaviour. The total cost of ownership—encompassing fuel, maintenance, insurance, and financing—is now a paramount consideration. With household budgets still pressured by elevated living costs, the allure of a premium badge is being weighed against the pragmatic economics offered by Asian manufacturers. The report notes that household credit uptake remains cautious, constrained by these very affordability pressures.

Conversely, the commercial vehicle sector tells a story of robust confidence. Sales expanded by 37.5% year-on-year in November, driven largely by corporate investment. This strength in light and extra-heavy commercial vehicles indicates sustained activity in sectors like transport, agriculture, and mining. The instalment and leasing credit segment, most directly tied to vehicle purchases, has been a resilient pillar of credit growth in 2025, predominantly supported by this corporate demand rather than household spending.

The financing environment provides context for these trends. The Bank of Namibia's recent rate cut, lowering the repo rate to 6.50%, has begun to ease borrowing costs. Market expectations point to a potential further cut in early 2026. "While the direct impact on demand is likely to be incremental rather than transformative," the report states, "further easing would strengthen the foundation for a more durable recovery in 2026, particularly for households near affordability limits and first-time buyers."

This evolving credit backdrop, combined with the impending arrival of even more new models—particularly next-generation pick-ups and hybrids from various brands—sets the stage for intensified competition. The anticipated entry of models like the Chery Omoda C3 Hybrid and JAC J7 from South Africa, along with new Jetour offerings already in Namibia, will further crowd the market with feature-rich, cost-efficient options.

The conclusion drawn by analysts is clear: Namibia's automotive market is undergoing a "gradual structural realignment." Sustained success for manufacturers will no longer hinge solely on brand heritage. Instead, it will depend on the ability to deliver a compelling package of competitive pricing, modern technology, product reliability, and strong after-sales support.

As the year draws to a close, bolstered by seasonal factors like year-end bonuses, the market momentum is expected to continue.

However, the defining characteristic of this recovery is its two-track nature: a booming commercial sector and value-conscious private buyers driving growth, while traditional premium segments recalibrate their focus. The Namibian driver is increasingly pragmatic, seeking dependable mobility without premium frills—a shift that is quietly redrawing the map of the country's automotive industry.

Could Namibia be salmon farming's new frontier?

By Rob Fletcher

Led by Helge Krøgenes, the former CFO of Andfjord Salmon, African Aquaculture has been granted permits to establish offshore farms capable of producing 51,000 tonnes of salmon a year across three zones near the town of Lüderitz.

While the thought of farming salmon in West African waters might sound outlandish, Krøgenes notes that environmental conditions are very similar to those in Chile. The Namibia license locations have depths of roughly 90–120 metres and year-round water temperatures between 10°C and 16°C.

"These are really the sweet spot for salmon farming," Krøgenes stresses. Another key positive is that farming Atlantic salmon has been tried and tested in the region – in the mid-2010s, a small operation in Saldanha Bay, about 900 km down the coast in South Africa, produced them successfully for five to six years, before closing during the pandemic.

"They had very limited equipment but still the salmon was growing nicely in the Benguela Current," Krøgenes says. "It's basically the same water coming up to Lüderitz."

While the previous farm used relatively basic infrastructure, Krøgenes says the new venture will deploy cutting-edge Norwegian equipment, including large-scale offshore net pens, predator-resistant HDPE nets to keep the region's abundant Cape fur seals at bay, and automated feeding and net cleaning systems

"This is a Rolls Royce compared to what they were using," he reflects. As well as the biological advantage of the region, Krøgenes notes that Namibia's political and economic profiles offer strong reasons for the project to both succeed and to attract investments.

"Namibia… is quite an attractive country in Africa to do investments in because of stable government, good financial systems," he notes. "Our experience with the country so far is very good. We're getting a lot of support." He also sees the benefits of working with the local fishing industry for both processing and transport of their salmon. "The processors are very positive to take salmon locally from Namibia," he says. Meanwhile Krøgenes adds that their lower logistics costs will also provide a strong competitive edge in sub-Saharan markets. "Fresh salmon into South Africa has an air transport cost of €3.00 per kilo," he says. "We think the transport cost to deliver to Cape

Town is about €0.20. That's going to be an advantage. There are also tax free zones in Africa which will benefit from Namibian production of salmon."
And they are also looking towards the Middle Eastern and Asian markets.

Sourcing local smolt

While the farm's equipment and feed will have to be imported from Europe, they will be able to source their smolt fairly locally – with plans to help develop an existing freshwater smolt operation in South Africa that has been producing ova and juveniles for more than two decades, for salmon farmers in Saldanha Bay and Lesotho's trout sector.

The facility, which is located in Fizantakraal, is run by an African Aquaculture subsidiary called Arctic Salmon and currently has the capacity to produce around 1.5 to 3.0 million smolts each year – enough to translate to 5,000 – 10,000 tonnes of market-sized salmon – and will act as a stepping stone until the company has its own hatchery in Namibia.

Upgrades to the existing facility are already underway and Krøgenes would like to see the first batch of smolt stocked in the hatchery during the first quarter of 2026.

As the project expands African aquaculture plans to build its own hatchery, closer to their cages.
"We are going to build smolt facilities in Namibia, but this gives us a start," Krøgenes explains.

Environmental planning

Continues on page 11

Continues from page 10

Environmental concerns need to be addressed before introducing salmon aquaculture into the region, but Krøgenes explains that the company has completed a comprehensive assessment.

“We have written a 360-page environmental report for the Ministry of Environment. And there are no suitable rivers with cold enough water in Namibia, so [salmon] will not be able to reproduce if you should get some escapes.”

Another major component of the project is the need for long-term local capacity building. The team is collaborating with universities in Namibia to develop national salmon farming expertise.

“Our aim is to educate Namibia to do salmon farming the same way which has happened in Chile,” Krøgenes says. Training will combine Norwegian aquaculture modules, interactive learning platforms and hands-on systems at sea. “We are going to use expats in the beginning,” he says, “but the goal is local competence.”

A bullish financial outlook

The financial model drawn up by the company forecasts plan to raise €30 - 40 million in equity and debt for the initial phase. Thereafter the growth is assumed as a combination of reinvestment of cash-flow, debt and potentially listing of the company on the way forward to develop the 51,000-tonne capacity. And Krøgenes projects that the venture will start to turn a profit after only three years.

Given these figures, it’s perhaps not surprising that the venture is progressing toward financial close, with interest from both local and international investors, according to Krøgenes. “We have some Namibian investors already… and Norwegian investors who are involved in the aquaculture industry as well as oil operations or licences in Namibia,” he says, adding that negotiations with several larger entities are also underway.

For Krøgenes, the appeal of Namibia can be summed up simply: it offers an unspoiled canvas for cutting-edge, efficient, salmon lice-free responsible salmon production.

“This is a greenfield opportunity for a much higher production volume,” he says. “We aim to do this as an environmentally friendly production… that’s high on the priority list.”

The tip of the iceberg?

Although African Aquaculture’s plans are the most advanced in the region, it is not the only offshore salmon farming initiative proposed for Namibia. Indeed, according to Krøgenes. another operator has been granted a licence for a 35,000-tonne site further offshore, while a major oil company has applied for a 10,000-tonne licence further south.

“We are the first out of the blocks, but we expect within 10 years [Namibia] might have a total production of about 150,000 tonnes,” Krøgenes predicts. If this is the case, the clustering effect could create and support the same service-industry ecosystem that supports salmon farming in established regions today.

“When you build salmon farming, the service industry develops,” Krøgenes says. “It’s easier when several initiatives come… it supports the vessels, the smolt, all the other services.”

“Namibia is very far away from Norway… but it’s getting a huge level of support. It’s a big operation, but the conditions are right, the team is experienced, and the country is ready,” he concludes.

Oregen Energy recruits CFO for oil and gas expansion in Namibia

By Business Express Writer

Oregen Energy is an investment company focused on the development of oil and gas deposits in Africa. In addition to developing its own holdings, another focus of its daily work is the active search for new investment opportunities.

The study of own and external financial figures is therefore of even greater importance at Oregen Energy than in other companies. Since December 5, 2025, Tatenda Muhle has been responsible as the new Chief Financial Officer for this central business area.

Tatenda Muhle succeeds Sean McGrath and is a senior financial manager and auditor who brings extensive international experience to the company. He began his professional training in Africa and has since held a number of senior positions in finance, accounting and consulting in various companies.

His professional expertise includes corporate finance, financial reporting, corporate governance, finance and strategic planning. As Tatenda Muhle pursues a disciplined and capital market-oriented approach, Oregen Energy expects him to actively support and drive Oregen Energy's growth strategy and offshore exploration activities as CFO.

Oregen Energy is likely to benefit in particular from the African roots and experience of the new CFO, as the company intends to primarily advance its ambitions in southern Africa in the coming years. The focus will be on Namibia. Off its coast lies the company's current flagship project, Block 2712A of the Orange Basin.

Oregen Energy holds a 33.95 percent stake in it. The Orange Basin is one of the most outstanding offshore oil deposits. Namibia owes its discovery to the fact that it is now regarded within the industry as one of the production areas with a world-class format. Sensational finds that other major operators have recently made in the Organe Basin and the surrounding basins confirm the great potential that this area of the world offers, particularly for the production of oil and gas.

The sector is booming in Namibia and the country itself is increasingly moving into the international spotlight. Oregen Energy intends to use this favorable tailwind to its advantage and further expand its footprint in Namibia and off the coast of the country.

Spar Western Cape and Namibia stores adopt turtle hatchlings, support conservation efforts

By Business Express Writer

Retailers from Spar Western Cape and Namibia heeded a call from Cape Town's Two Oceans Aquarium and adopted 12 turtle hatchlings recently.

Every year the Foundation's Turtle Conservation Centre based at the Two Oceans Aquarium receives dozens of stranded loggerhead turtle hatchlings that have washed ashore along our coastline in dire need of support and rehabilitation.

The adoption funds play a vital role in supporting the operational costs of the Centre and the ongoing care of these turtles.

The adoption allowed the Spar store owners naming rights of their hatchlings. At a handover ceremony, each received a certificate of adoption with a photo and the rescue and health details of 'their' hatchling.

No one else can adopt the hatchling, and the Foundation will update the sponsors monthly with details about their 'baby' turtle – its size and weight, as well as videos and pictures of the hatchlings until they are returned to their ocean home.

Elsabe van Zyl–Felix, sponsorship and events manager for Spar Western Cape and Namibia, was very excited to be part of the initiative.

"At Spar, we are family and community driven, so it's wonderful to be part of the Aquarium Foundation's

Turtle Conservation Centre through this 'Adopt a Turtle' initiative. They do amazing work for our city and its communities, educating and looking after the conservation of our threatened sea turtle species."

"All species of sea turtles are threatened, so efforts to rehabilitate every single one of the stranded turtles rescued by members of the public and brought to us is critical to their survival. With the support of the Spar retailers, the team at our Turtle Conservation Centre is able to give the 12 rescued hatchlings a second chance at life in the ocean," said Ronnis Daniels, stakeholder and company engagement manager, Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation.

All the Spar adoptive 'parents' are unanimous in the hope that their 'babies' are successfully rehabilitated and safely released back to their natural habitat. In the interests of conservation, they and their children will keenly follow the turtle rehabilitation journey.

Inside De Beers' Namibia off-shore operations

By By Victor Qunnuell Vaughns Jr

When De Beers invited me to Namibia to see how its diamonds are sourced, I assumed I knew what I was signing up for. I imagined dusty land mines, heavy machinery, maybe a safety vest and hard hat moment for the photo archive somewhere between Snow White and a National Geographic spread. What I did not expect was to board a helicopter and fly over the Atlantic Ocean toward a diamond vessel stationed so far offshore that land simply vanished.

That was my first clue that I had underestimated this entire operation. "Toto, we aren't in Kansas or the Upper East Side anymore".

Diamonds, it turns out, are not born in boutiques or showrooms. They begin deep underground, forming over millions of years in kimberlite pipes far inland. Time and erosion do the rest.

The Orange River carries them toward Namibia's southern coast, where they settle into ancient beaches and gravel terraces, and in some cases, continue their journey into the ocean itself.

De Beers operates here through two joint ventures. Namdeb handles land-based mining. Debmarine Namibia recovers diamonds from the seabed. Together, they power one of the most sophisticated diamond supply chains in the world.

Land mining in Namibia is alluvial, which means diamonds are recovered from the places water abandoned rather than pulled directly from volcanic source rock. Along the coast, massive excavation operations cut into ancient terraces and even push into the surf zone.

Gravel is hauled to processing plants like Elizabeth Bay, where it is washed, crushed, sorted and scanned using technology that feels less industrial and more TSA for gemstones. Tons of material move through vibrating racks and rotating drums to yield just a handful of gem-quality stones. For decades, towns like Oranjemund defined this world. Trucks moved earth by the ton. Careers were built here.

Then the industry followed the diamonds offshore.

To understand that shift, we boarded a helicopter and flew out to a Debmarine vessel anchored in the middle of the Atlantic. Landing on that ship was surreal. I was standing on a floating operation quietly processing diamonds worth millions, surrounded by ocean in every direction. It felt chic in a way fashion

Continues on page 15

Continues from page 14

rarely captures. Not styled. Not performative. Just rare

The vessels operate for years at a time, with crews living onboard and working twelve-hour shifts. The mining itself is precise. Seabed sediment is lifted, diamonds are recovered, and 99% of the material is returned to the ocean floor. No chemicals. No explosions. It is the reason Namibia now leads the world in marine diamond recovery, accounting for roughly 70 -75% of its total diamond production.

Everywhere we went, security was tight. Multiple checkpoints. Badges. Escorts. Entering and exiting each facility felt like stepping into Beyoncé's home. Controlled, serious and absolutely not up for debate. What surprised me most, though, was the workforce. Namdeb and Debmarine have created thousands of jobs across Namibia, many for people hired straight out of school and trained into highly specialized roles. We watched diamond sorters authenticate stones under strict lighting conditions, identifying the difference between industrial material and gem-quality diamonds with near-surgical precision. At one point, we were even allowed to handle the diamonds ourselves. Playing with them feels like the wrong phrase, but it's the only honest one.

The pipeline does not end with extraction. Companies like Tate Diamonds represent the next chapter. As part of De Beers' broader ecosystem, Tate focuses on polishing and beneficiation, ensuring that value stays closer to the source through craftsmanship and training. That relationship now feels especially tangible with Tate's recent opening of a physical retail store in Atlanta. Diamonds that began in Namibia are now being cut, polished, and sold in a city that understands legacy, Black ownership, and cultural continuity.

The economic impact is substantial. In 2023 alone, Debmarine contributed over N$5.3 billion (N$: Nambian dollars) in royalties, taxes and dividends. From 2020 to 2024, that figure reached N$20 billion, about U.S. $1.2 billion. That money supports STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education for tens of thousands of students, funds hospitals and neonatal units, sustains sports programs, and backs environmental efforts like the Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOB), a seabird conservation initiative rescuing endangered African penguins along the coast.

I came to Namibia as a fashion editor expecting a spectacle. I left with context.

Diamonds still sparkle. That part remains untouched. But now, when I see one on a runway or a red carpet, I'll think about helicopters over open water, security checkpoints, young Namibians trained into skilled careers and ships that quietly process luxury that seals climb all over while the rest of the world watches the shine. Luxury, it turns out, is never effortless. It just hides the work exceptionally well.

Minister Sankwasa's award highlights the human face of Namibia's housing crusade

By Business Express Writer

In a moment of profound personal and national significance, Namibia's Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sankwasa James Sankwasa, MP, accepted the Africa Housing Award for Best Exceptional Achievement in Southern Africa last Friday. While the accolade celebrates policy and progress, the deeper story lies in the journey of the man receiving it—a narrative that underscores a deeply personal commitment to solving one of Namibia's most persistent challenges.

At a continental audience in Abuja, Minister Sankwasa began not with a list of achievements, but with an acknowledgment of his origins. "Before this august gathering stands a son of a peasant uneducated farmer," he stated, paying homage to his late parents, Sankwasa Joseph Simasiku and Njala Mattti. This framing was not mere ceremonial humility; it was a declaration of identity. From the stark beauty of the Namibian landscape, a son of the soil has risen to the forefront of a battle against informal settlements, inadequate sanitation, and housing inequality.

The award, presented by the Housing Development Advocacy Network and Housing TV Africa, recognizes Namibia's strategic initiatives in a sector burdened by the legacy of spatial inequality and rapid urbanization. Yet, for Minister Sankwasa, the honour is a shared one. "This recognition is not personally mine," he asserted, "it belongs to all the Namibian people." He extended his "penultimate gratitude" to President Dr. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, whose support he credited for enabling significant strides within just eight months of his appointment.

The core of Minister Sankwasa's mission, as outlined in his acceptance speech, is a data-driven and morally urgent focus: the 88% of urban Namibians who fall into the ultra-low and low-income brackets. These citizens, often residing in the sprawling informal settlements that ring urban centres, represent the minister's primary constituency. "Despite their low income levels they constitute the majority of our population," he noted, linking their welfare directly to the social contract of governance and

Continues on page 17

Continues from page 16

the fundamental right to dignity. Namibia's housing challenge mirrors a continental crisis. The scourge of informal settlements, characterized by shacks and perilous sanitation, poses not just a developmental hurdle but a severe health risk. Minister Sankwasa views the transformation of these areas as a restoration of "human dignity."

His approach, however, is not that of a distant technocrat. He described his ministerial appointment as "a calling and not a challenge," rooted in being "part and parcel of the lives of ordinary Namibians." This sense of purpose fuels the ministry's aggressive agenda.

The operational blueprint for this calling is the Informal Settlement Upgrading Affordable Housing Program, launched under National Development Plan 6 and aligned with the ruling SWAPO Party's manifesto. The targets are ambitious and concrete. For the 2025/26 financial year, the program aims to establish 31 new townships, service 10,000 plots, and roll out essential sanitation in urban areas. The five-year vision is even more transformative: 50,000 serviced plots and affordable houses.

This governmental drive is not undertaken in isolation. Minister Sankwasa highlighted a collaborative ecosystem involving partners like the Shackdwellers' Association, Development Workshop Namibia, and GIZ, focusing on town planning and land servicing. The National Housing Enterprise, as a governmental arm, plays a pivotal role. Crucially, the state provides financial support to these partners to ensure their efforts reach the most vulnerable income groups.
The strategy is multi-pronged. Alongside the flagship upgrading program, the Mass Housing Development Program continues as a key governmental effort. The Built Together Program maintains its primary focus on housing delivery for the poor. Furthermore, the ministry is leveraging Public-Private Partnerships, engaging institutions like the Development Bank of Namibia and the Government Institution Pension Fund to inject capital and expertise into the housing market.

For the residents of Namibia's informal settlements, these programs represent more than statistics; they are a promise of security, health, and belonging. The servicing of a plot—providing water, electricity, and proper sanitation—is the foundational step from informality to integrated community life. It is a process Minister Sankwasa seems intrinsically to understand, not just from policy papers, but from a connection to the land and its people.

In accepting this continental award, Minister Sankwasa has placed a global spotlight on Namibia's pragmatic and people-centred housing model. He concluded his remarks by dedicating the award as "another inspiration and motivation to continue to serve," while advocating for continued continental networking and unity of purpose.

The story here, therefore, transcends an award for urban development. It is about leadership forged in personal history, a policy focus uncompromisingly aligned with the needs of the majority, and a recognition that the fight for decent housing is, at its heart, a fight for human dignity. As Namibia charts its course toward 2030, the journey of Minister Sankwasa—from the son of a peasant farmer to a laureate of continental housing excellence—serves as a powerful symbol of the nation's broader aspiration: to build a stable, prosperous, and inclusive home for all its citizens.

A safer online experience during the festive seasons

By Prof Marvin Awarab

During the holiday season, telecom regulations are extremely important because they guarantee network stability, consumer protection, and cybersecurity during these times of high demand and activity. The crucial legislative foundation that encourages companies to implement the security measures required to be safe throughout the holiday season is provided by telecommunications laws and related data protection legislation. Making best practices essential, these rules ensure that companies safeguard their infrastructure, customer data, and operational continuity. This aids in minimising the risk of cyberattacks as most staff members are out of office. Telecoms regulations create a safer business environment by controlling services and guaranteeing quality. Holiday-specific frauds that target both consumers and businesses are prevented and firms' reputations are safeguarded by setting and implementing clear regulations regarding advertising, fair competition and online purchasing.

Vital Areas of Telecoms Regulatory Relevance

Network Performance and Reliability: Mobile calls, internet usage, and online interactions all increase throughout the holiday season as individuals connect with friends and family, frequently from a distance. In order to avoid network congestion, dropped calls, and sluggish internet connections, regulators make sure that service providers (telcos) uphold established Quality of Service (QoS) requirements. This entails keeping an eye on network capacity and mandating that operators have strategies for handling growing traffic.

Increased online activity during the festive season: Network infrastructure is strained during the holidays due to a substantial increase in online shopping, streaming, social connections, and trip reservations. As a online consumer, there are various steps that you need to take to ensure that you have good online purchasing experience.

Firsly, update encryption standards: this requires ensuring that WPA3, the safest encryption standard available in 2025, is being used on your Wi-Fi being used to do online purchasing. Secondly ,your router should be upgraded to at least WPA2 Personal (AES) if it only supports WEP or WPA. Businesses should endavour to divide up its Traffic: this requires creating a guest network for guests and Internet of Things (IoT) gadgets, such as cameras or smart lights. This

separates devices with inferior security from the main network you use for banking and shopping. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure firmware update: Since many home routers do not automatically update, manually check the manufacturer's website or app for the most recent security fixes.Lastly, disable Vulnerable Features: this requires turning off UPnP (Universal Plug and Play), WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup), and Remote Management, which are popular ports of entry for hackers.

Consumer Protection: Due to increased business activity, there is a higher likelihood of consumer issues during the holidays. Regulations are necessary to stop price gouging during times of great demand for.

Handling of Consumer Complaints: Businesses should enhance their consumer complaint processes during this period to quickly address any potential issues. This requires providing additional information regarding the skeleton staff that will be available on standby during the festive season to address consumer complaints.

This is necessitated by the fact that most staff members take some time off work during the festive season and thus different channels may be used to resolve consumer complaints. Hence this channels should be made available to the clients.

Continues on page 19

Continues from page 18

Combating Fraud: Increased digital communication and online commerce may lead to an increase in fraud and scams. Regulators ensure that telecom companies implement policies that protect consumers from unfair or dishonest business practices. Businesses should strengthen autentication and account security. This requires adding a vital layer of protection against account takeovers by implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all internal and customer accounts. Furthermore, there is a need to leverage there is a need to leverage technology for fraud detection. This requires using fraud detection solutions driven by AI and machine learning to identify abnormalities (e.g., high transaction volumes in a short period, unusual login locations) by analysing transaction data and consumer behaviour in real-time.

Furthermore there are certain tips that businesses can implore to guarantee more safer online purchasing experience for the clients. Be Open: To gain the trust of your customers, be clear about your return policy and security procedures. Give Security Advice: Give consumers tips on how to shop safely, such as avoiding public Wi-Fi for transactions, using credit cards (which frequently offer superior fraud protection), and being wary of dubious links in emails.Provide Safe Payment Choices: Offer a range of safe payment options, including digital wallets with integrated fraud prevention features (Apple Pay, Google Pay). Consumers also have a role to play to ensure their own safety and comfort when purchasing online. Customers should buy on reputable websites, utilise safe payment options like credit cards, and be on the lookout for phishing schemes and dubious promotions to ensure safer online shopping over the holiday season.

Cybersecurity and Data Protection: While data protection focusses specifically on protecting data (confidentiality, integrity, and availability) through measures like access control, encryption, and compliance, cybersecurity defends digital systems (networks, devices, and data) from threats. Data protection is frequently viewed as an essential component of the larger cybersecurity strategy. Businesses and individuals are especially vulnerable to cyberattacks around the holidays when personnel could be on leave. In order to protect consumer data and critical equipment, telecommunications regulations mandate that organisations have strong security measures and incident response plans. These include: Strong authentication techniques (like multi-factor authentication) are necessary. Using multi-factor authentication (MFA) is one of the easiest and most effective solutions to protect your telecom systems. Before employees take time off to enjoy the holiday season, management of enterprises or companies should remind them to double-check their passwords.

If the organization's passwords aren't strong enough, encourage them to be changed, and include them with other security elements like biometric scans or authentication apps.

The essential elements of granting remote access to workers who might be working during a break include preserving business continuity, promoting employee flexibility, and maintaining the delicate balance between productivity and well-being.

Continues on page 20

Continues from page 19

Uninterrupted Productivity: Remote access ensures that critical tasks, unanticipated issues, or urgent projects may be completed promptly, preventing bottlenecks and maintaining operational momentum, regardless of physical location or usual office hour

Reliability of IT Infrastructure:From an IT perspective, the "essence" is the requriement for a robust, secure, and hghly accessible infrastructure (such cloud-based apps, VPNs, and secure mult-factor authentication that enables safe and seamless connectiviity outside of usual business hours without causing security vulnerabilities.

Infrastructure Management and Compliance: Rules ensure that essential infrastructure sharing agreements are upheld and that telcos' planned maintenance is scheduled appropriately to prevent disruption during significant holiday periods.

Ensuring Universal Access: Many people rely solely on telecommunications to communicate with loved ones, particularly in isolated or rural areas. Regulation ensures that operators expand their networks to unreached places so that everyone can benefit from the season's connectivity and lessen the digital divide.All things considered, the regulations provide a stable and secure framework that allows individuals and businesses to communicate consistently and safely over the busy Christmas season.

In summary, for enterprises and clients, the main focus of telecommunications law during the festive season is making sure that communication is safe, dependable, and compliant. Due to increased activity and remote work, consumer protection, data privacy, and network security should be given more attention. Prof Marvin Awarab is an Associate Professor of Law at Welwitchia University & Labour and Telecommunications Law Expert and Advocate. This article is written in his personal capacity.

Tin's meteoric rise fuels Andrada's African ambition

As tin prices shattered the $40,000 per tonne barrier in early December, casting a glittering spotlight on the often-overlooked metal, one company is quietly positioning itself at the epicentre of this bull market. Andrada Mining Limited, the sole tin producer listed on London's AIM market, has not only capitalised on the favourable conditions but is using its operational cash flow to bankroll a far grander vision: becoming Africa's next multi-commodity critical minerals hub.

The company's operational update for the quarter ended 30 November 2025 reveals a business hitting its stride. At its flagship Uis Mine in Namibia, a continuous improvement programme delivered a 12% year-on-year increase in processing throughput, pushing 429 tonnes of tin concentrate out of the plant—a 14% annual rise. Perhaps more crucially, tin recovery rates held firm at 73%, consistently exceeding internal targets for a third consecutive quarter. This operational stability, achieved even amid scheduled maintenance, provides a robust and predictable foundation. "These initial results provide a positive indication of the latent value within our operations," remarked CEO Anthony Viljoen, attributing the success to the "phenomenal geology" at Uis.

However, the real story extends beyond quarterly metrics. The surging tin price, up approximately 40% year-to-date amid global supply shortages, is the rocket fuel for Andrada's transformative strategy. Each shipment from Uis, 15 in the last quarter alone, generates enhanced revenue to fund exploration and development across a portfolio that reads like a checklist of the energy transition: lithium, tantalum, copper, and tungsten.

This diversification strategy is already in motion. At the Lithium Ridge joint venture with global lithium giant SQM, activity has accelerated with a third drill rig now deployed, targeting spodumene-bearing pegmatites. Initial assay results are eagerly awaited in the first half of 2026, potentially unlocking a second lithium asset to complement the technical-grade petalite production pathway being advanced at Uis itself.

Simultaneously, the company is looking to expand its feedstock base. The phased commissioning of a new jig plant at Uis aims to unlock additional tin recovery and processing flexibility. Furthermore, Andrada is actively pursuing third-party ore supply agreements, notably with the high-grade Goantagab deposit, to supplement its own mined material and drive regional growth.

The broader commodity outlook underpins this aggressive expansion. Beyond tin, the company is poised to benefit from tightening markets in tantalum and tungsten, and a forecast massive supply shortfall in copper by 2035. Exploratory drilling at its Brandberg West project has already confirmed promising intersections of both copper and tungsten, highlighting the latent potential within its Namibian licences.

ATB recognises Namibia as Africa's top destination for authentic travel experiences

By Business Express Writer

Namibia has been recognised by the African Tourism Board (ATB) as Africa's most authentic and challenging tourism destination, highlighting the country's distinctive place in the global travel landscape. This recognition reflects Namibia's growing appeal among international travellers who are increasingly drawn to low-density destinations, conservation-driven tourism, and genuine cultural experiences.

The ATB's assessment is based on detailed market insights from key European and North American markets, where travel preferences are clearly shifting. More travellers are now seeking space, sustainability, and deeper connections with the places they visit—qualities that come naturally to Namibia and set it apart from more conventional tourist destinations.

Namibia's Rise as a Premier Tourism Destination

The African Tourism Board's assessment highlights a fundamental shift in global travel behaviour. Travellers today are seeking destinations that offer physical space, environmental integrity, political stability, and personal safety, along with opportunities for cultural connection and purpose-driven travel. Namibia, with its vast landscapes and dedication to responsible tourism, has emerged as a top choice for these travellers.

Namibia's appeal stems from its breathtaking landscapes, including the Namib Desert's dunes, the wildlife-rich plains of Etosha National Park, and other dramatic natural settings that provide visitors with a sense of place and the opportunity for an authentic and immersive travel experience. Namibia is also committed to conservation, with a tourism model that involves community participation and environmental sustainability, which aligns perfectly with the expectations of today's conscious travellers.

The Growth of Responsible Travel in Namibia

As the world shifts towards more mindful and responsible travel, Namibia stands out for its dedication to conservation and sustainable tourism. The country's approach prioritizes low-density tourism, where visitors can engage with the natural environment without overburdening it. This model appeals especially to experienced travellers who seek slower-paced journeys, fewer crowds, and deeper cultural connections.

One of the country's prime destinations is the Sossusvlei area, home to the iconic red dunes that are among the tallest in the world. Deadvlei, located nearby, is another striking desert feature that offers visitors a surreal landscape for exploration. Namibia's digital planning platforms, such as VisitSossusvleiNamibia.com, are gaining traction among travellers, providing crucial information for preparing for trips to these remote environments. The platform recently earned recognition as Booking Portal of the Month, due to its support of responsible tourism and its focus on guiding visitors to plan longer, more immersive journeys in Namibia's vast desert regions.

Continues on page 23

Continues from page 22

"Digital platforms that support informed, responsible travel planning are becoming essential," said the Vice President of the African Tourism Board Marketing Corporation. "Namibia is a destination that requires preparation and understanding, and travellers are increasingly turning to specialized resources to plan longer, more meaningful journeys."

Namibia's Appeal to Today's Travellers

The rise in popularity of Namibia reflects a global shift in tourism trends, particularly as travellers reassess what they want from long-haul destinations. Authenticity, safety, and sustainability are now paramount in the decision-making process. Namibia, with its emphasis on conservation tourism and cultural immersion, offers the perfect blend of authentic experiences that do not compromise on either natural beauty or local culture.

The ATB's report highlights that Namibia's commitment to maintaining its distinct identity, while still offering exceptional tourism experiences, is key to its continued growth. Etosha National Park, one of the largest wildlife reserves in southern Africa, remains a top attraction for nature lovers and those seeking encounters with Africa's Big Five. The park's relatively low-density tourism approach allows guests to enjoy wildlife safaris in an undisturbed, authentic environment.

Moreover, Namibia's position as a country that encourages cultural exchange also adds to its growing appeal. Visitors can learn about the traditions of indigenous communities like the Himba people while participating in community-driven initiatives designed to support both local economies and environmental sustainability.

The Future of Namibia as a Travel Destination

As international interest in Namibia continues to grow, its appeal as a top tourism destination in Africa is set to solidify.

The African Tourism Board's recognition of Namibia as Africa's most authentic and demanding tourism destination underscores the country's pivotal role in the future of responsible travel. Namibia's dedication to providing unique, sustainable, and immersive travel experiences positions it at the forefront of African tourism in the coming years.

Travellers seeking to experience Namibia's vast landscapes, from the Namib Desert to the Etosha plains, will find that the country offers both adventure and serenity, making it a top-tier destination for those looking to engage meaningfully with the environment and local culture.

Beneath the surface of Namibia's digital boom: A cybersecurity mirage emerges

By Business Express Writer

The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has painted a picture of a nation steadily embracing the digital future in its latest Quarterly Statistics Bulletin. Headlines will understandably tout the 6% surge in mobile broadband usage, the significant 30% jump in dongle and router-based subscriptions, and the overall 3% growth in active SIM cards. Yet, nestled within the comprehensive report for July to September 2025 lies a more nuanced and potentially alarming narrative—one that reveals a paradoxical cybersecurity landscape where reported threats have plummeted while the nation's digital vulnerabilities stand stubbornly unchanged.

On the surface, the ICT sector shows resilient growth. Mr. Mufaro Nesongano, CRAN's Executive for Communication and Consumer Relations, highlighted a "renewed interest in fixed mobile wireless alternatives" and a continued migration toward data-centric services, with 63% of SIM cards now used for internet access. The launch of new LTE networks and competitive data packages, notably from Paratus Telecommunications Limited, has fuelled an appetite for streaming and social media, driving mobile data consumption. Revenue in the sector saw a modest 1% increase, and investments, though still recovering, point to ongoing network expansion by key players like MTC and Telecom Namibia.

However, the most startling figure from the report is not one of growth, but of dramatic decline: a roughly 53% drop in reported cyber-threat events in the third quarter. In an era where global cyber-attacks are becoming more sophisticated and frequent, such a statistic would typically be cause for celebration. Yet, CRAN's analysis injects a crucial note of caution. The authority explicitly states that "exposure levels and underlying vulnerabilities remained largely unchanged," suggesting the reduction "stems more from shifts in scanning activity than a true decrease in cyber risk."

This distinction is critical. It implies that the digital doors and windows through which malicious actors could enter Namibia's cyberspace are just as unlocked as they were before. The decline in reported events may reflect a change in hacker tactics—perhaps a move towards more stealthy, targeted operations that evade widespread detection—or a temporary lull in aggressive scanning from certain sources. It could also hint at potential under-reporting or gaps in threat detection capabilities. This creates a dangerous

illusion of safety, potentially leading to complacency among businesses, government entities, and individual users at the very moment vigilance is most required.

This cybersecurity mirage unfolds against the backdrop of Namibia's accelerating digital adoption. As more citizens and businesses connect, using more devices and consuming more data, the potential attack surface for cybercriminals expands exponentially. The report notes the steady decline of fixed-line subscriptions, continuing a long-term trend towards mobile and wireless solutions. While this increases flexibility and access, mobile ecosystems can sometimes introduce unique security challenges. The significant growth in mobile broadband and associated devices means more endpoints that need to be secured.

The contrast with other sectors in the report is stark. While cybersecurity incidents reportedly fell, the broadcasting sector saw a 3.5% average increase in pay-TV subscriptions, driven by content like the English Premier League. The postal sector, often seen as a traditional counterpart to digital communication, held stable, with its rural network continuing to provide a vital lifeline. This stability in traditional services alongside digital growth illustrates a nation in transition, yet the cybersecurity findings suggest the frameworks for protecting this transition may not be evolving at the same pace.

The modest 1% growth in ICT revenue and slight

Continues on page 25

Continues from page 24

decline in operating expenses, leading to an improved cost-revenue balance, is positive news for the industry's health. However, it raises an implicit question: are sufficient resources being allocated from these improved balances towards hardening the nation's digital defences? The investments noted are primarily in network expansion, fibre deployment, and software upgrades—essential for service quality and coverage. The report, however, does not detail parallel investments in cybersecurity infrastructure, public awareness campaigns, or enhanced national incident response capabilities.

Mr. Nesongano's commentary rightly concludes by highlighting the importance of the rural post office network for universal connectivity. This commitment to physical service provision is commendable. Yet, the digital equivalent—ensuring universal secure connectivity—demands equal, if not greater, attention. As Namibia strides forward, with data bundles promoting engagement and new networks enabling faster speeds, building a resilient digital society requires foundations that are not just widespread, but also robust and secure.

The CRAN bulletin, therefore, serves as both a progress report and a subtle warning. The rising graphs for broadband use and mobile traffic are indicators of opportunity and economic potential. The plummeting graph for reported cyber-threats, however, should not be misinterpreted as a victory. It is, instead, a signal to look deeper. It calls for a concerted national dialogue involving regulators, service providers, businesses, and the public. The focus must shift from merely counting incidents to continuously strengthening defences, promoting digital hygiene, and fostering a culture of proactive risk management.

Namibia's digital journey is clearly accelerating. The challenge now is to ensure that the vehicle driving this progress is not just powerful and fast, but also equipped with the most reliable brakes, airbags, and security systems for the road ahead. The true test of the nation's ICT growth in the coming quarters may not be measured in gigabytes consumed or subscriptions gained, but in its ability to convert this apparent lull in storm reports into a lasting fortress of cyber resilience. The full Quarterly Statistics Bulletin is available for public scrutiny on the CRAN website, a resource that all stakeholders in Namibia's digital future would do well to examine with a critical and security-conscious eye.

Namibia's horticulture trade shifts signal deeper market realities

By Business Express Writer

The latest Quarterly Agriculture and Fishing Indicators Bulletin from the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) reveals a year of robust growth in staple crop production and strong fisheries earnings. However, a more nuanced story lies in the horticulture sector, where shifting trade patterns and a significant decline in exports are raising questions about market dynamics, the effectiveness of import substitution policies, and the resilience of local value chains.

On the surface, the third quarter (July to September 2025) presented a positive macro picture. Controlled agronomy production (white maize and millet) skyrocketed by 367.4% compared to the same period last year, reaching 34,487 tons. The fishing sector continued to be a powerhouse, with exports fetching N$4.2 billion, maintaining its crucial role in the nation's trade balance. Yet, nestled within these headline figures is a contrasting narrative for horticulture—a sector often highlighted for its potential in job creation, food security, and diversification.

During the quarter, Namibia's export earnings from selected horticulture products fell to N$195.9 million, a notable 19.2% drop from the N$242.3 million recorded in the third quarter of 2024. This decline occurred despite the government's established framework, led by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), designed to protect and promote local producers through its Market Share Promotion (MSP) scheme and import restrictions.

A closer examination of the export breakdown is revealing. Tomato exports, while still the top product, nearly halved from N$94.6 million in Q3 2024 to N$58.6 million in Q3 2025. Onion exports remained relatively stable. Intriguingly, the export decline was not uniform; the value of dates exported held firm, and the category "other citrus fruit" saw a substantial increase. This suggests that the challenge is not a blanket downturn but may reflect shifting competitiveness, logistical hurdles, or changing demand in key markets. South Africa remained the dominant destination, absorbing 49.1% of exports, followed by Angola and the United Kingdom.

Parallel to the export slump, however, is a more dramatic 30.7% contraction in horticulture imports, which fell to N$211.3 million. The most striking change here is in potatoes—a staple import. Potato imports fell from N$42.0 million in Q3 2024 to N$38.2 million in Q3 2025, a significant reduction that followed even higher import levels in the preceding

quarters of 2025. This could be interpreted as a success for the MSP scheme, indicating increased domestic production substituting for foreign supply. South Africa overwhelmingly remained the source, providing 97.3% of imports.

This juxtaposition—falling exports and falling imports—paints a complex picture. It hints at a possible inward turn in the horticulture market. The government's policy appears to be curtailing imports effectively for some products, but the concurrent export decline suggests local producers may be focusing primarily on satisfying domestic demand shielded by import restrictions, rather than expanding aggressively into regional and international markets.
The bulletin itself underscores a critical data gap that complicates this analysis. In a telling footnote, the NSA states, "Data for locally purchased domestic fresh produce was not available at the time of the release of this quarterly bulletin." This missing metric is the very cornerstone for assessing the MSP scheme's success. Without knowing how much fresh produce is being sourced locally by formal buyers, it is impossible to gauge whether the policy is truly creating sustainable market linkages or merely creating a protected environment with limited growth incentives.

Industry observers suggest that the export drop could be attributed to several factors, including increased competition in traditional markets, the high cost of logistics and compliance for perishable goods, and possibly the diversion of quality produce to the now more assured domestic market. The sharp reduction

Continues on page 27

Continues from page 26

in potato imports, meanwhile, may reflect a concerted effort by local farmers to fill the gap, a positive step for food sovereignty.

"The numbers invite a necessary conversation," says an analyst familiar with the agricultural sector, who preferred to remain anonymous. "Is our horticulture strategy leading to a robust, export-oriented sector, or is it fostering a comfortable reliance on a protected home market? The decline in exports, while we simultaneously cut imports, should prompt a review of how we support producers to scale and meet international standards competitively."

SDG Namibia One Fund and Zhero Europe sign Development Funding Agreement

Namibia's dedicated energy transition and green hydrogen infrastructure fund, SDG Namibia One Fund, has announced the signing of a Development Funding Agreement with clean energy projects developer Zhero Europe to advance the development of an industrial-scale green ammonia facility, the Zhero Molecules Walvis Bay Project.

SDG Namibia One Fund (also known as Climate Investor Three Namibia) is managed by Climate Fund Managers (CFM), a climate-focused blended finance investment manager, in partnership with Dutch development finance institution, Invest International, and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF).

The Fund is backed by the European Union Global Gateway investment strategy and Invest International. It has committed up to $5.15 million in development funding to enable Zhero to complete the development and feasibility activities required to progress the project toward a final investment decision, targeted for 2027. Commercial operation is expected in 2030.

Zhero Molecule Walvis Bay, located near Walvis Bay in the Erongo Region on Namibia's central coast, is Zhero's flagship project in green molecules. Once operational, it is expected to produce 500,000 tonnes of green ammonia per year, avoiding approximately 1.2 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually. Alongside its contribution to the energy transition, the project will support Namibia's broader socioeconomic development - creating approximately 6,000 jobs during construction and around 500 permanent roles, while also generating opportunities for local businesses and service providers across the value chain. The project will be powered by an integrated renewable energy system comprising 3 GW of solar PV, 2.2 GWh of battery energy storage, a 1.6 GW electrolyser system and 110 km of new transmission infrastructure. A desalination plant is planned as part of the project's water supply solution. Green ammonia produced by the Project is expected to serve global decarbonisation markets, including fertilisers, maritime fuels and industrial feedstocks. Green ammonia is produced by combining green hydrogen, generated through electrolysis powered by renewable energy, with nitrogen extracted from the air. It is a zero-carbon fuel and chemical feedstock with applications across sectors including fertiliser production, maritime shipping and industrial processes. Green ammonia is particularly important for decarbonising these hard-to-abate industries, where few alternative zero-carbon solutions currently exist.

"Zhero's project aligns strongly with Namibia's ambition to build a competitive green hydrogen and ammonia industry, as well as with the mandate of our SDG Namibia One Fund" said Darron Johnson, Regional Head of Africa at Climate Fund Manager. "The site benefits from exceptional solar resources, ample land and direct access to deep-water export infrastructure at Walvis Bay, making it well-suited for industrial-scale green ammonia production. Through its blended finance structure, SDG Namibia One is providing early-stage development capital alongside Zhero needed to de-risk the project and prepare it for financial close, creating the conditions for private capital to invest at scale in the construction phase. We look forward to working with Zhero to bring this important project from development, through construction and into operation."

"This development funding from SDG Namibia One will be additive to our own development funding investment" added Paolo Gallieri, Chief Operating Officer at Zhero. "Given the deep understanding of the Namibian ecosystem that the team at the Fund bring and the blended-finance model they can augment, we very much regard this investment as pivotal to the success of this venture. Namibia has the natural resources, strategic location and national vision to become a global leader in green ammonia and hydrogen. With this support, we are strengthening our ability to deliver a world-class facility that can attract long-term investment, create economic opportunities for the country and contribute to global decarbonisation efforts."

A silent shift in Namibia's economic engine

By Business Express Writer

While the latest Quarterly Bulletin from the Bank of Namibia captures the expected narratives of slowing growth and easing inflation, a more subtle, yet potentially transformative, story is unfolding beneath the surface. It is a story not of massive GDP contractions or dramatic price spikes, but of a quiet rebalancing within the nation's financial system—one that could redefine the post-pandemic recovery's character and sustainability.

The third quarter of 2025 marked Namibia's eighteenth consecutive quarter of economic expansion, a testament to resilience. Yet, the pace is undeniably moderating. The real GDP growth rate dipped to 1.9% year-on-year, down from 2.1% a year earlier, dragged down by contractions in mining and agriculture. This slowdown in the primary sector, despite a uranium boom, and only marginal growth in secondary industries, frames the conventional concern. However, it is within the data on credit and money supply that a more intriguing plot emerges.

The Household Pulse Quickens

Annual growth in Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) rose in the quarter, a positive sign in an environment of slowing output. But the devil, as they say, is in the details. This increase was "driven mainly by an increase in credit advanced to households." This single line in the Bulletin is a beacon, illuminating a significant shift. Amid easier monetary policy conditions, it is Namibian families, not corporations, who are leading the charge in borrowing.

This trend suggests that domestic consumer demand may be "picking up momentum," as the Bank notes. After periods of uncertainty, households appear to be gaining confidence, potentially financing consumption, home improvements, or vehicle purchases. This consumer-led demand is crucial, as it provides a counterweight to the volatility of export-dependent sectors like mining. It signals an economy beginning to stand more firmly on its own internal feet, with its growth narrative increasingly written in the shops, dealerships, and living rooms of its citizens.

The Corporate Caution

Contrast this with the experience of businesses. While not explicitly negative, the lack of a pronounced surge in credit to corporations—particularly amidst a reported decline in construction and manufacturing—speaks volumes. The secondary industry's stagnation hints at a corporate sector that remains cautious. Businesses may be hesitant to embark on significant expansion

or capital-intensive projects, possibly waiting for more durable signals of recovery or navigating persistent challenges like global supply chain adjustments and input costs.

This creates a fascinating, and somewhat precarious, dichotomy. The economy is being buoyed in the short-term by household spending, fueled by accessible credit. Yet, for long-term, job-creating growth, investment from the productive sectors is indispensable. The question becomes: can the budding confidence of the consumer eventually catalyze the animal spirits of the investor?

The Fiscal and External Backdrop

This domestic credit story unfolds against a complex backdrop. Government debt continues its upward climb, reaching 67.2% of GDP, even as external debt modestly declines. The current account deficit has widened, pressured by lower regional customs union receipts and a growing merchandise trade gap. Furthermore, a drawdown on international reserves—though still adequate—and an appreciating Real Effective Exchange Rate point to underlying pressures on external competitiveness.

These factors underscore the high-wire act the economy is performing. Consumer demand is being encouraged through accommodative policy to stimulate growth, yet this must be carefully managed to avoid exacerbating external imbalances or fueling future inflationary pressures. The decline in

Continues on page 29

Continues from page 28

commercial banks' cash holdings, attributed to cross-border payments and tax outflows, further highlights the fluid and interconnected nature of these financial flows.

A Story of Transition

Therefore, the significant story of this quarter is not merely that growth slowed, but that its drivers are subtly changing. Namibia's economy is in a transitional phase. It is navigating away from the deep scars of the pandemic era, supported by a tertiary sector and now, increasingly, by household finance. The robustness of financial services, wholesale, and retail trade, as highlighted in the Bulletin, is no longer just a sectoral performance metric; it is the ecosystem enabling this household-led momentum.

The path forward hinges on whether this consumer confidence proves contagious. Will increased household spending and activity in services eventually convince businesses in construction and manufacturing to ramp up investment, turning marginal growth into robust expansion? Or will the slowdown in primary industries and corporate caution act as a persistent drag?

The Bank of Namibia's data provides the map, not the destination. It shows an economy at a crossroads, where the easy money finding its way to households is a vital stimulus, but not a permanent solution. The true significance of the December 2025 Bulletin lies in this quiet revelation: Namibia's immediate economic pulse is beating strongest on Main Street. The enduring task for policymakers will be to ensure that this vitality spreads decisively to the factories, mines, and construction sites that build lasting prosperity. The next few quarters will reveal if this silent shift is the prelude to a broader, more balanced recovery, or merely a temporary chapter in Namibia's ongoing economic story.

BIPA successfully procures landmark development of business registry

The Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA), in collaboration with the Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) and Beijing CSSCA Technologies Co. Ltd, has officially signed a bid agreement for the development of an online business registry aimed at improving business readiness in Namibia. The signing ceremony, held at the CPBN Head Office in Windhoek, marks the official commencement of a comprehensive five-year project to deliver the Integrated Business Registration System (IBRS).

Valued at N$39 million, this investment represents a strategic move towards integrated digital solutions that enhance the business registration process. The system will provide a seamless and accessible online platform for business registration and related BIPA services, replacing legacy workflows with a modern, interactive and easy-to-understand system. Through this initiative, BIPA aims to significantly reduce administrative bottlenecks and deliver a more efficient and expeditious registration experience for entrepreneurs and investors.

Under the terms of the five-year partnership, Beijing CSSCA Technologies, as the actioning agent will develop the system from the initial supply and implementation to long-term technical support and maintenance under BIPA's oversight. This will ensure that Namibia's business registry remains robust, secure, and abreast of technological advancements.

"This morning's milestone is a testament to our commitment to transforming the conducting of business for the end user in Namibia," remarked Ms. Ainna Kaundu during the ceremony. "By integrating world-class technology into our core services, we are ensuring that Namibia remains a competitive destination for investment and a fertile ground for local innovation."

Mr Idi Itope, Chief Executive Officer of the Central Procurement Board of Namibia, further highlighted the importance of the collaboration, noting that the successful procurement and signing of the agreement underscore the value of strategic partnerships in advancing national digital infrastructure. He added that the tripartite agreement ensures the engagement of the right partners and the execution of the project in line with best practice and excellence. The Board's role, he explained, is to monitor and evaluate the project's progress to ensure that it delivers on its intended objectives.

The implementation of the Integrated Business Registration System represents a major step forward in Namibia's digital transformation agenda. Through this initiative, BIPA reaffirms its commitment to improving service delivery, enhancing ease of doing business, and supporting sustainable economic growth. The IBRS is expected to play a critical role in strengthening transparency, efficiency and accessibility within the national business registration framework.

New scheduled flight circuit to transform tourism travel across Namibia

By Business Express Writer

In a significant boost for the tourism and hospitality sector, premier safari operator Natural Selection Namibia will launch a daily scheduled flying circuit across the country starting 1 March 2026. The innovative network, established in partnership with Wilderness Air, Desert Air and FlyNamibia, will seamlessly connect all its Namibian camps through coordinated air routes.

This new circuit marks a major shift from the current reliance on lengthy road transfers, charter flights, and limited flight coordination. It promises reliable schedules, competitive seat pricing, and a simplified booking process for travellers, who can book directly with the airlines or through Natural Selection.

The initiative includes the development of new airstrips to enhance access to some of Namibia's most remote and stunning landscapes. A key addition is the Sima Airstrip, scheduled to open in May 2026 alongside the new Hoanib Elephant Camp. This strip will be just a 20-minute transfer from the camp and slightly over an hour from Hoanib Valley Camp. Furthermore, guests can now fly daily into Westies Airstrip for a shorter 25-minute road transfer to the iconic Shipwreck Lodge.

Access to other properties will also be streamlined. Kwessi Dunes is served by Geluk or Keerweder Airstrip, while the Ongava Airstrip facilitates travel for guests staying at Etosha Mountain Lodge, Safarihoek Lodge, and Safari House, with a transfer to the Etosha Heights entry gate. Hoanib Valley Camp and Hoanib

Elephant Camp will continue to be accessible via Orutjandja Airstrip alongside the new Sima Airstrip.

The only property not initially included in the scheduled circuit is the forthcoming Nkasa Linyanti, set to open in May 2026, with access details still to be finalised.

Managing Director of Natural Selection Namibia, Anthony Collett, highlighted the circuit's importance, stating, "This is a game-changer for how guests experience Namibia. By eliminating long drives between camps, we are offering more comfort, efficiency, and time for exploration, ultimately elevating the entire safari experience."

The move is expected to set a new standard for luxury tourism logistics in Namibia, making the country's vast and diverse attractions more accessible than ever before.