

THE TIMES OF AFRICA

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MAJESTIC PAST, DYNAMIC PRESENT & PROMISING FUTURE



A BLISSFUL SILVER JUBILEE



KANCHI BATRA
EDITOR, THE TIMES OF AFRICA

The sands of Namibia turn silver this year as the country celebrates its 25th Anniversary of Independence. This month (March) Namibia rejoices her jubilee that is 25 years of self-rule, political independence and the eventual collective appearance of the nation's right for self-determination.

The celebrations this year would be embellished with the arrival of the third phase government to be led by H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob. Namibia is in the news focus right now as recently the out-going President H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba was bestowed The Mo Ibrahim Leadership Prize, the most respected private award worldwide.

It might seem astonishing to describe a country so conquered by dry and arid landscapes as diverse. Namibia is a country of amazing exquisiteness and diversity hosting the oldest desert in the world, the astonishing Fish River Canyon, a vast range of Nature Reserves, including the popular Etosha National Park, and a stirring coast sculptured by the

roaring Atlantic Ocean. Namibia is also known as 'the land of contrasts' - a title well-earned if one takes the time to discover the complete space of its nature, culture and heritage. The country has made ground-breaking evolution in sustainable development: the first African country to embrace protection of its environment within its constitution, Namibia empowers local communities to contribute.

Namibia's flagship harbour, the Walvis Bay Port, links Namibia to the SADC region through various transport corridors especially the Trans Kalahari Corridor which links Namibia to landlocked SADC countries such as Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia and also South Africa, as well as the Trans Cuanene Corridor linking Namibia to the lucrative Angolan market and further beyond, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other northern states. Boasting an outstanding Air, Sea and Road Infrastructure as well as world class Telecommunications and IT infrastructure, the country is standing proudly to invite all the potential investors to its land.

Since Namibia is rejoicing 25 years of peace and stability, ToA sees the requisite to appreciate the role government and the nation has played in order for it to operate without any hindrance. Namibia is, without doubt, a democratic role model in Africa.

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H.E. Mr. Pius Dunaiski

High Commissioner of
Namibia to India

The Land of the Brave has reached a defining moment in its history as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee (25th year since Independence) on 21 March 2015. Namibians and their friends across the globe gladly join in this special celebration.

It is the right time for taking stock of our socio-economic development, clearly identifying failures and achievements alike. In the same vein, we look forward with much hope as all indicators have a positive ring to them as we stretch out to Vision 2030 through our National Development Plans.

I am proud to be in India as we celebrate this most important milestone. This publication is intended to give the reader a glimpse of Namibia as well as highlighting the bilateral relationship between Namibia and India.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the staff in the Mission and the staff of THE TIMES OF AFRICA, who tirelessly devoted their time and skills to have this special edition see the light of day.



REASON TO CELEBRATE

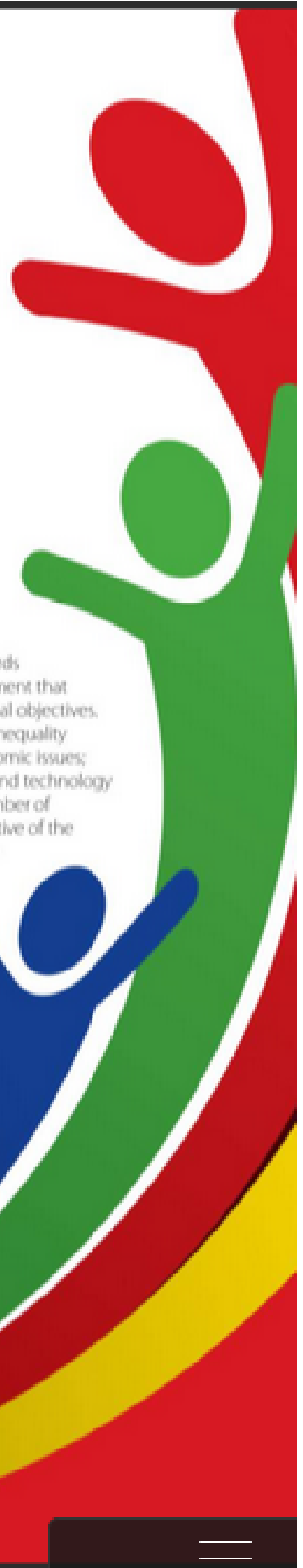
Namibians have reason to celebrate as they look back on how far the country has come towards accomplishing the goals of Vision 2030. In 2004, Namibia implemented Vision 2030, a document that evidently spells out the country's development programmes and policies to attain its national objectives. Vision 2030 focuses on eight issues to comprehend the country's long term vision which includes inequality and social welfare; human resources development and institutional capacity building; macro-economic issues; population, health and development; Namibia's natural resources sector; knowledge, information and technology

In the past 25 years, Namibia has relished a stable growth in its development agenda and a number of development pointers have registered extraordinary improvement since independence. The objective of the Vision is to mend the quality of life of the people of Namibia to the level of their counterparts in the developed world, by 2030.

The vision presents a rich vision of where Namibia is, where it wants to go from here, and over what time frame. It is a vision that will take Namibia from the present into the future, a vision that will guide the nation to make thoughtful efforts to develop the quality of life of the Namibian people. It is a unifying vision which will furnish direction to government ministries, the private sector, NGOs, civil society and regional and local government authorities.

The Vision is determined to transform Namibia into a healthy and food-secure nation, in which all preventable, infectious and parasitic diseases (including HIV/AIDS) are under secure control, people relish high standards of living, a good quality of life and have access to quality education, health and other vigorous services. All of these objectives translate into a long life expectancy and sustainable population growth.

Capacity building is being pursued with greatest potency by both the private and public sectors to support the objectives of Vision 2030. It will certainly renovate Namibia into a knowledge-based society and the changes in production and information technology will definitely revolutionize all aspects of the manufacturing process. Vision 2030 is also anticipated to reduce



the world.

One of the chief values upon which Vision 2030 is based is "partnerships", which is documented as a key prerequisite for the accomplishment of vibrant, efficient and sustainable development. This encompasses partnership between government, communities and civil society; partnership between different branches of government, with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and the international community; partnership between urban and rural societies and, eventually between all members of the Namibian society.

The Director General of National Planning Commission (NPC) Tom Alweendo has updated recently on how far the country has gone towards achieving Vision 2030. "We are making strides. We are getting there. We have recorded remarkable progress since our independence in 1990," said Alweendo.

He said since independence, the size of Namibia's economy has increased from N\$8 billion to N\$130 billion by the end of 2013, while the per capita income has increased from N\$5 000 at independence to N\$ 56 000 per capita in 2013.

He said the percentage of people living in poverty has declined significantly from 70% in 2001 to 28% in 2011. "We have more education and health facilities than before and the literacy rate has increased from 70% in 2001 to 98% in 2011," he said.

"We need to have economic growth that is inclusive and having the ability to create the needed jobs. We need to grow our economy at a higher rate and also on a sustainable basis," he said. "These sectors, such as mining do not create new jobs, because of mechanization," he said.

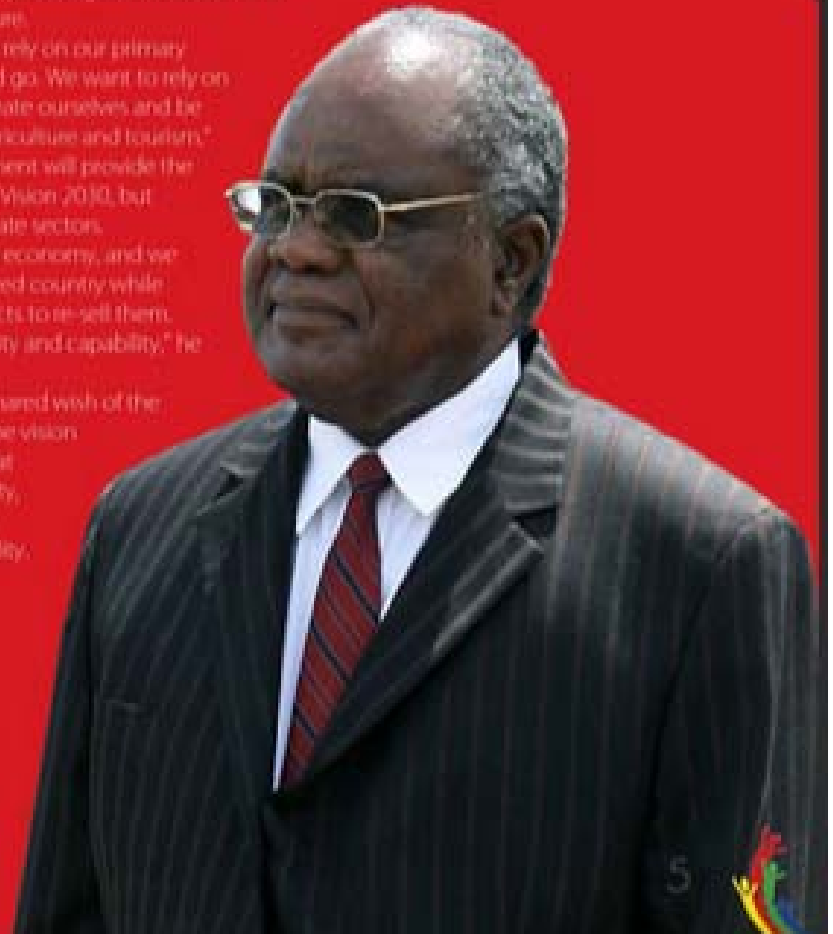
Alweendo said the government, through the 4th National Development Plan (NDP4) has made up its mind to invest more on sectors that will upsurge income equality, high and sustained economic growth and employment creation. These sectors include, agriculture, tourism, housing and sanitation and transport infrastructure.

"We do not want to rely on our primary sector, as they come and go. We want to rely on something which we create ourselves and be there forever, such as agriculture and tourism," he said. He said government will provide the environment to achieve Vision 2030, but the actors are in the private sectors.

"We cannot grow our economy, and we cannot be an industrialized country while we are importing products to re-sell them. Let us believe in our ability and capability," he said.

In essence, it is the shared wish of the Namibian people, and the vision for 2030 and beyond, that Namibia enjoys prosperity, interpersonal harmony, peace and political stability.

H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba
Outgoing President, Namibia





See Feel and Believe

NAMIBIA

Warm fresh air twirls around the open tracks of land with every single individual having a cheerful smile, excited to share their ethos and to learn from the visitors. This country has a profusion of magnetisms and advantages for foreign-owned companies looking for business opportunities. With solid foundations for democracy, good governance, peace and stability, this country has opened doors for all the potential investors. Welcome to Namibia, the country which is immensely endowed with an ocean of opportunities.

The colours on the Namibian national flag signify important natural and human features of Namibia: sunlight and the desert (yellow), rain and the ocean (blue), crops and vegetation (green), the bloodshed in war (red), and peace and reconciliation (white). This would be the first imprint when you deplane at Windhoek airport in Namibia.

Namibia officially the Republic of Namibia and previously South West Africa, is a country in Southern Africa whose western border is the Atlantic Ocean. It shares land borders with Zambia and Angola to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south and east.

It gained independence from South Africa on 21 March 1990, following the Namibian War of Independence. Its capital and largest city is Windhoek. Namibia is a member state of the United Nations (UN), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Commonwealth of Nations.

The Namibian economy has a modern market sector, which produces most of the country's

affluence, and a traditional subsistence sector. Namibia's average GDP per capita is comparatively higher amongst developing countries. Even though the absolute majority of the population engages in subsistence agriculture and herding, Namibia has more than 200,000 skilled workers, as well as a small, well-trained professional and managerial class.

The country's sophisticated formal economy is based on capital-intensive industry and farming. However, Namibia's economy is heavily dependent on the earnings generated from primary commodity exports in a few vital sectors, counting minerals, livestock, and fish. Furthermore, the Namibian economy remains cohesive with the economy of South Africa, as the bulk of Namibia's imports originate there.

Since independence, the Namibian Government has pursued free-market economic principles intended to endorse commercial development and job creation to bring underprivileged Namibians into the economic mainstream. To streamline this goal, the government has dynamically courted donor assistance and foreign investment. The liberal Foreign Investment Act of 1990 provides for

freedom from nationalization, freedom to remit capital and profits, currency convertibility, and a process for settling disputes equitably. Namibia also is addressing the delicate issue of agrarian land reform in a pragmatic manner.

In September 1993, Namibia introduced its own currency, the Namibia dollar, which is linked to the South African rand. There has been extensive acceptance of the Namibia dollar throughout the country and, while Namibia remains a part of the Southern African Common Monetary Area, it now relishes much superior flexibility in monetary policy.

Given its small domestic market but favourable location and an excellent transport and communications base, Namibia is the foremost advocate of regional economic integration. In addition to its association in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Namibia presently belongs to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) with South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Within SACU, no tariffs exist on goods produced in and moving



among the member.

Ninety percent of Namibia's imports initiate in South Africa, and many Namibian exports are destined for the South African market or transit that country. Namibia's exports consist mainly of diamonds and other minerals, fish products, beef and meat products, karakul sheep pelts, and light manufactures. In recent years, Namibia has accounted for about 5% of total SACU exports, and a slightly higher percentage of imports.

Namibia is in quest to expand its trading associations away from its heavy dependence on South African goods and services. Europe has become the foremost market for Namibian fish and meat, while for mining Namibia has purchased heavy equipment and machinery from Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. The Government of Namibia is vigorously taking advantage of the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which will provide preferential access to U.S. markets for a long list of products. In April 1994 Namibia also became a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and has acceded to the European Community/Union's Lomé Convention.

Namibia is often described as Africa's optimist – and with good reason. Not only does it enjoy one of the continent's most pleasant, peaceful and politically stable environments, but also an infrastructure to rival many developed countries. Namibia has an abundance of natural resources, among them, a wide range of mineral deposits including world class diamonds and uranium,



copper, lead, zinc, gold, semi-precious stones, industrial minerals, salt and fluor spar. Namibia is also endowed with an ocean. The cold Benguela current passes along Namibia's coastline and is largely responsible for the abundant high quality of fish produced in Namibia. However, this fish is largely exported to Europe, mainly Spain and Portugal. The remaining fish is processed on board and its share of contribution has significantly increased since 1980. This is largely due to government policy of adding more value to the natural resources.

In 1980, the contribution of fishing and fish processing on board was around 0.5 percent of GDP, this steadily rose and reached about 1.3 percent in 1990. By 2000, its contribution stood at 4.2 percent while it reached a peak of 4.7 percent in 2004.

Namibia's agricultural sector is also imperative to the country's economy with a thriving red meat industry and the cultivation of crops such as maize, wheat, pearl millet, groundnuts, beans and cotton. Namibia has a highly competitive incentive and fiscal regime which adds to its attractions for foreign investors, as well as creating an ideal business environment.

Why Invest in Namibia?

- Peace, stability and good governance
- First class road, rail and air infrastructure
- Excellent telecommunications network
- Wide inter-continental market access
- Liberal investment regime
- Stable labour environment
- Generous investment regimes
- Fast, efficient and transparent bureaucracy
- Low inflation
- Stable foreign exchange reserves
- Strategically located, low cost and efficient port
- Young and trainable labour force
- Good housing and recreational facilities



Sustainable commercial agricultural production is vigorous to the health and well-being of Africa's economy and people. Smallholder farming accounts for the absolute majority of African agricultural production, and subsistence agriculture - where farmers concentrate on fabricating what is required to feed their families - is still prevalent. In Namibia, for instance, agriculture bestows around 5% of the national Gross Domestic Product though 25% to 40% of Namibians rest on subsistence agriculture and herding. Primary products encompassed livestock and meat products, crop farming and forestry.

The country encompasses three main physiographic regions. The first is the western coastal plain of the Namib Desert, concerning 12% of the total, the second is the central plateau extending from the southern to the northern border and embracing more than half the country, and the third is the semi-arid Kalahari zone lying along most of the eastern portion of the country.

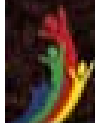
An estimated number of 4000 farms fit to farmers who farm cattle and sheep comprehensively and export the produced meat to South Africa. Some farms are effective in producing ostrich meat, chiefly for export purposes. Even though only half of the country's region is appropriate for farming and is extremely vulnerable to drought, agriculture still is a very important sector of the economy. The sector embraces two distinctive subsectors specifically the commercial and subsistence subsectors.

The commercial agriculture sector is concentrated in the southern and central parts of the country which



planting the

SEEDS OF GOLD



are relatively arid regions. Commercial farming in the north-central district is dominated by livestock ranching cattle, in the south by sheep (karakul and mutton) and ostriches, which account for 80% of total agricultural output. Livestock ranching on an average contributes well over two-thirds of commercial farming output.

The subsistence segment of agriculture is determined in the northern and in the communally held areas which are more fertile and more appropriate to the rain-fed farms. The production is largely towards the food oriented crops like maize and millet, while livestock are produced for local consumption. Due to the overgrazing by the cattle the produce in the north remains low on an average.

Agriculture and agricultural development is one of the basic beliefs of the Namibian government. The agricultural sector's success story is strongly reliant on weather conditions; therefore food self-sufficiency varies between 35 per cent and 75 per cent of total demand.

The government, in its endeavor has executed policies to implement a set of events to counter the consequences of climate change and rising food prices on the national food security situation of Namibia. Some of these are the usage of natural water courses for irrigation farming, the construction of national storage capacity for staple grains, improved long term production through title deeds and directed extensions, and targeted food assistance. Moreover, the government is supervising the import of staple food and horticultural products in order to upsurge food

security and achieve Namibia's agricultural production potential.

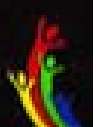
The Government is in course of discovering the possibility of creating a fertilizer mixing plant in Namibia. Presently, most, if not all fertilizers used in Namibia are sourced from outside, making it tough and costly for the farmers to access it. Fertilizers are made accessible by traders in the country. Due to relative low volumes, used in crop growing areas, fertilizers are not promptly accessible, at affordable prices. Therefore there is an opportunity to establish a fertilizer blending plant that can prepare various types of fertilizer and make use of locally available phosphates.

Presently, slight or no value is added to what Namibia produces, e.g. beef, sheep, goat, poultry, pearl millet, dates, grapes, medicinal plants such as hoodia, devil's claw, etc. Prospective investment opportunities exist in the regions of processing of these various products into finished goods. Opportunities also exist in canning, bottling, packaging methods of fruits and vegetables into products such as juices, jams, dried vegetables, fruits and fruit flavors for the beverage industry, grading, branding and processing facilities as well as distribution of the various agricultural

products.

With a clear mandate to endorse, improve, accomplish and utilize agricultural, water and forestry resources in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is dedicated to work hard with its interventions in this sector which are, without doubt, enormous. These embrace the establishment of Green Scheme Programme, the provision of veterinary services to safeguard animal and public health, improvement of rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure and advancement of sustainable utilization of forest resources.

The success in this sector is not due to luck; it is the blood, sweat and tears all the way.



A FRESH & JUICY PARTNERSHIP

Food has been processed and packaged ever since the earliest days of man's history on earth. Meat and fish were salted, smoked and dried. Herbs were dried and stored for use as medicines. Alcoholic beverages were made from fruits and cereals.

With Western civilization's swelling appetites and waistlines, the food industry has established means of supplying familiar products on a huge scale. Food processing applies the innovative perspective of the processor to change basic raw materials into a range of juicy and yummy products that deliver fascinating range in the diets of consumers.

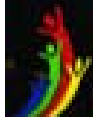
The production of fresh fruit and vegetables in Namibia is on the upsurge.

According to the statistics from Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), the national turnover of fresh produce augmented to N\$ 55million in the third quarter of 2013 to N\$ 87 million in the third quarter of 2014.

Throughout the period in 2014, 52 % of the fresh fruit and vegetables consumed in Namibia were produced locally, suggesting that only 48% of Namibia's fresh fruit and vegetable supplies needed to be imported. The foremost horticulture crops in Namibia are potatoes, onions, cabbages, carrots, green peppers, tomatoes and sweet potatoes.

According to facts and forecasts prepared and articulated by the Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB), these fresh-produce lines could turn out to be good earners for producers.

According to a press release issued by
Hayley Allen from
Head Space



Brands, the Namibian Market Share Promotion (MSP) currently stands at 41.5 % and is the threshold of how much all importers of fresh fruit and vegetables need to source locally.

"The aim is to increase the MSP from its current threshold of 41.5% to its maximum of 60%, says Fidelis Mwazi, the former National Horticulture Manager at the Namibian Agronomic Board. "We will never be able to achieve an MSP of 100% because we will always import commodities such as apples and pears. Our climate is just not conducive to growing such crops and there are of course the seasonality issues that need to be taken into account, for example while tomatoes is one of our top seven crops, we will still have to import them when they are out of growing season here in Namibia", he adds.

According to the statement, the projected production of cabbages stood at 1 600 tons and 1 265 tons for January and February 2015 respectively, while the actual production and average consumption of this special commodity was just 58 tons for both months in 2014.

While the production and consumption tonnages for cabbage continued to be comparatively low, as about 58 tons were traded during the same months of the previous year. The same trends are apparent for the production of tomatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes and green peppers in Namibia. For all these commodities, projected local production in 2015 far exceeds the sourced tonnage from the previous year.

Taking account seasonality for crop production, sweet potatoes were demanded to be imported to meet market demand during January and February 2014, although the projected local production for the same period in 2015 stands at below 80 tons and below 60 tons respectively.

In January 2014, locally sourced



sweet potatoes stood at just more than 5 tons. With the average consumption of this commodity at 30 tons, 60 tons needed to be imported.

In February 2014, local production rose to approximately 25 tons and import declined to approximately 35 tons.

"The dramatic difference between the 2014 scenario and what we predict for the 2015 production season can be attributed to many different things, says Mwazi.

"There was greater emphasis, for example, from our side at the NAB to encourage not only more, but better quality production because of the Namibian Market Share Promotion which encourages traders and all resellers of fresh fruit and vegetables to buy a certain minimum percentage of locally produced commodities."

The Namibian Agronomic Board has commanded the growth of an inclusive database of producers of fresh produce over the past three years. It will be utilized in the near future to cultivate a production plan for Namibia that sketches which crop can be grown where, when and by whom. The plan will be executed by the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) where Mwazi was lately appointed Senior Manager of Market Promotion and Research.

The national Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) has publicized that it has land accessible for business opportunities at its fresh produce hubs around the country. According to the

agency, government has done its part to create a firm based upon which the private sector can build a strong value chain network and system to benefit the national economy and people of Namibia.

The agency also makes available boardrooms for up to 20 people with state of the art technology at its sites, as well as training rooms, catering services and equipment rentals, including forklifts and trolley jacks. Interested parties are asked to direct their proposals to the Managing Director Lungameni Lucas, while the existing leasing policy is accessible to download from the agency website.

Namibia has a food-hungry neighbour in the form of crude oil producing Angola to the north, and links to the rising agriculture economy of landlocked Zambia through the Trans-Caprivi corridor. Both Angola and Zambia have conditions far more suited to fresh produce cultivation because of abundant water and land, and a more favourable climate. However, Namibia is advantageously situated to be an agricultural processing and trade/transport hub with its deep sea port of Walvis Bay, which is allied to four major corridors: the Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Cunene, Trans-Oranje, and Trans-Caprivi corridors. The Namibian government is enthusiastic to diminish this reliance on imports by cheering domestic production and value-added activities in the food processing sector in Namibia.



DISSEMINATING TECHNOLOGY

FEEDING FUTURE



Technology has played a beautiful role in formulating the agricultural industry. Today it is possible to grow crops in a desert by use of agricultural biotechnology. With this technology, plants have been engineered to endure in drought conditions. Through genetic engineering scientists have managed to bring together traits into prevailing genes with an objective of making crops resilient to droughts and pests.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), has recently officially opened the N\$36-million Rundu National Agricultural Technology Centre (NATC). NATC is the first of its kind in Namibia.

The facility was built over a period of 19 months and its establishing aim is to set up an all-inclusive agricultural machinery and equipment management system in order to support farmers at national green scheme projects as well as subsistence farmers in the whole country.

MAWF's agency, AGRIBUSDEV, would be functioning meticulously with the ministry's Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services and it will be at the centre and forefront in the co-ordination and regulation of NATC's activities, functions and services.

The government's accepted and agreed policy of public private partnership (PPP) would be documented and is foreseen to play a crucial role in the management of NATCs. The new centre would be involved in assembling, repairing as well as maintenance of all agricultural machinery and it will also do scientific research and expansion that can and will lead to the manufacturing and establishment of new and suitable agricultural technologies in Namibia.

This centre is all set to furnish maintenances, servicing of farm implements that would, for example, come in a knocked down or semi-knocked down form from various manufacturers, adaptation of implements and equipment to make them more suitable or user-friendly within the context of Namibia's local requirements and environments.

Moreover being involved in scientific research and technology development activities, the technical centre will also sell spare parts as well as manufacturing of accessories like bolts and nuts. So, farmers won't require to order these parts elsewhere. There is certainly no doubt that, with this centre in operation, farmers will be more suitably aided in terms of their valuable time and treasured money that they had to spend in travelling long distances to obtain those essential services.

But, it is important to note that the technologies set in hardware would be worthless unless they are escorted by knowledge and skills and consequently the government has insisted for vocational training centres and other institutions to work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Separately from the new facility, a similar centre is presently being constructed at Ongwediva in the Oshana Region and it is anticipated to be finished by November this year.



AGRIBANK

A REAL EAGER BEAVER



Agribank is working with an all-embracing aim to endorse agricultural activities by lending money to persons, which is to be used in association with agriculture; and to financial intermediaries, who or which in turn lend money to persons with a resolution to cultivate this sector further.

The Agricultural Bank of Namibia (Agribank), was actually, proclaimed in order to magnify the scope of business to take advantage of the opportunities in the market and renovate the institution into a more flexible and receptive to all stakeholders in order to meet the demands of the ever-changing business environment.

The Bank has recently assisted in the creation of 38 943 permanent jobs in the agriculture sector through the provision of financial support to farmers since its formation in 2003.

Apart from the permanent jobs, Agribank's CEO Amb. Leonard lipumbu said 77 886 temporary jobs have also been shaped in the sector to date. According to him, a total of 8 143 communal farmers have thus far profited from the bank's financial support, totaling to N\$400 million. This is in addition to the more than N\$1,4 billion in loans advanced to 3 391 commercial farmers during the same period. Agribank actually wants to catch more farmers to graduate from subsistence farming to commercial farming. The Agricultural Bank of Namibia approved loans to farmers have increased by 51% to N\$386 million this year from N\$256 million

recorded last year resulting in the expansion of the total loan book by an estimated 21% to N\$2.3 billion. According to Agribank these figures are demonstrating an increased demand for Agribank products and a remarkable growth of the institution which is indeed a major highlight of the bank's achievements for the year 2014. Agribank loans to small scale farmers increased by 159 % to N\$75 million under the National Agricultural Credit Program (NACP) in 2014 compared to to N\$29million from 2013, which in turn created and maintained 1,458 permanent and 2,916 temporary jobs.

"The uptake of loans under this programme remains high and continues to benefit the majority of communal farmers for sustained socio-economic development," said the Agribank's CEO Amb. Leonard lipumbu. Other highlights of the achievements attained by Agribank during the year 2014 include the extended loans under the National Land Reform Programme (NLRP). lipumbu said "Loans extended under

NLRP have also seen a growth of 125% to N\$157.7 million for 24 farms, purchasing 141,430.39 hectares of commercial land."

According to lipumbu, Agribank also replied positively to the worst drought in 30 years by furnishing relief to about 142 clients with a total of N\$41 million spent under the drought Relief Scheme that Agribank launched last year and this is another highlight of what Agribank did in 2014. Again in 2014 Agribank also focused on post-settlement support. Said lipumbu, "during the year under review, the Bank approved a total of N\$9.8 million under the post-settlement support funding benefiting 81 resettled farmers." "To date N\$53 million has been disbursed benefiting more than 738 resettled farmers," he added.

Another milestone lipumbu felt the bank had attained in 2014 is especially farmer's support project. Under the Farmers Support Project, the bank bestowed N\$5 million in addition to GIZ's N\$5.6 million during the financial year to contract 34 mentors for training and mentoring services to farmers country-wide. "As a result, 830 farmers south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence and 296 farmers in the Northern Communal Areas received training by September 2014," added lipumbu.

Agribank is also planning to improve product and service delivery to clients, in particular small-scale farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs in 2015.



Namibia is, without doubt, a resource-rich country with political stability and a very striking investment atmosphere. But today, Namibia stands on the edge of an epoch that could bring even superior change. The all-encompassing mineral exploration presently proceeding has the potential to lift the country's growth in so many areas, from unemployment to infrastructure and to health. To attain this, however, necessitate cautious, practical planning and coordination among corporations, Government, and local communities.

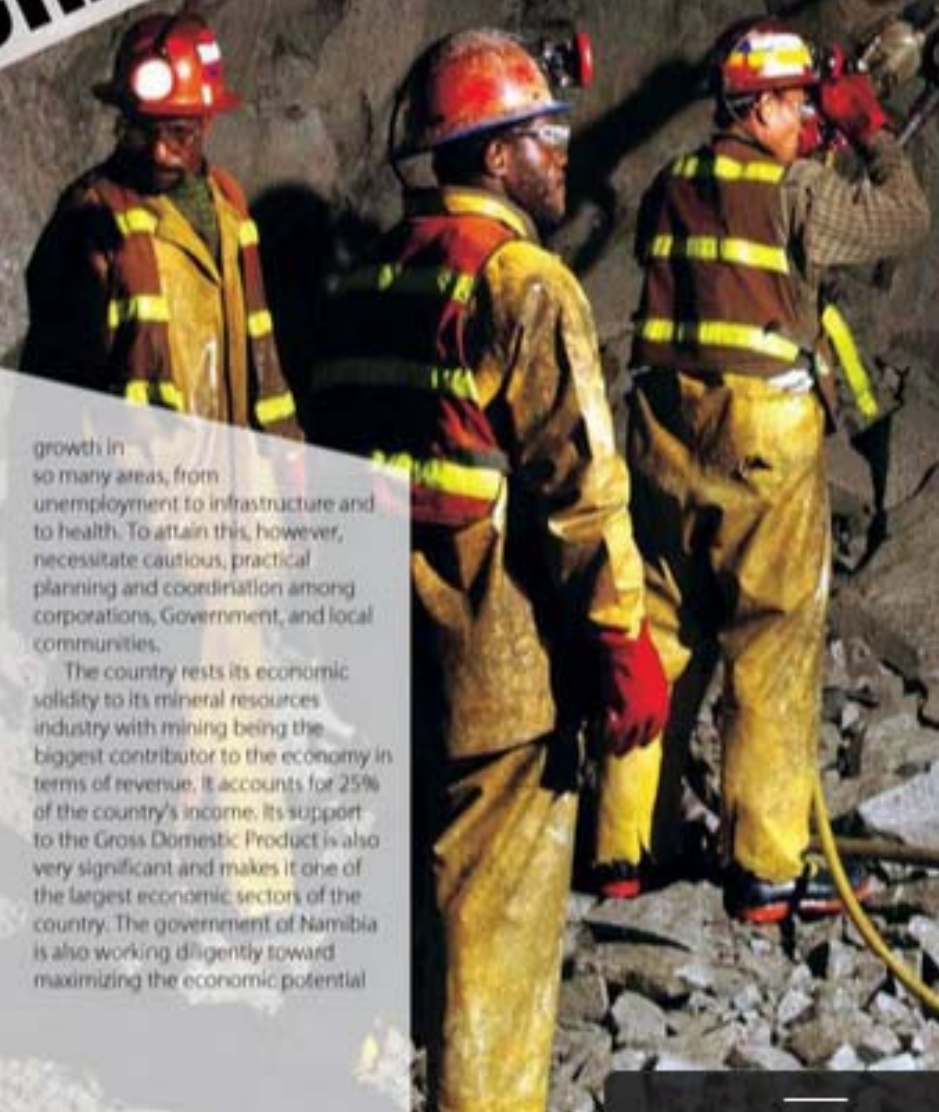
THE UNDISPUTED CHAMPION

The more you dig, the more you gain. Digging deep into the mines for those rewarding mineral resources is indeed worthwhile. The prospects are sunny for mining in Africa. Over 30% of the world's global mineral reserves are discovered in Africa, yet less than 5% of the total global mineral exploration and extraction budget is capitalized in the continent. The latent for a flourishing mining industry is enormous.

Namibia is, without doubt, a resource-rich country with political stability and a very striking investment atmosphere. But today, Namibia stands on the edge of an epoch that could bring even superior change. The all-encompassing mineral exploration presently proceeding has the potential to lift the country's

growth in so many areas, from unemployment to infrastructure and to health. To attain this, however, necessitate cautious, practical planning and coordination among corporations, Government, and local communities.

The country rests its economic solidity to its mineral resources industry with mining being the biggest contributor to the economy in terms of revenue. It accounts for 25% of the country's income. Its support to the Gross Domestic Product is also very significant and makes it one of the largest economic sectors of the country. The government of Namibia is also working diligently toward maximizing the economic potential



through the development of its mineral resources wealth.

Against this backdrop, Namibia is the top-ranked mining investment destination in Africa and 25th globally. This is as per the latest annual global survey released by the Canadian Fraser Institute. The institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2014, rates 122 mining areas around the world based on their geologic appeal and the extent to which government policies reassure exploration and investment. Globally, Namibia edged out Queensland in Australia, British Columbia in Canada and Colorado in the United States.

Namibia has panoptic mineral deposits. Its diamonds and uranium are world-class and so are its gold, copper, lead, zinc and other base metals, with a wide variety of semi-precious stones and many types of dimension stone which are also found in profusion.

In the 2013 survey, Namibia was appraised as the second best mining investment destination in Africa. According to the report, Namibia exhibited perfection in terms of its policy factors - moving up in this regard from being ranked 34th globally in 2013 to a ranking of 20th last year - based on its legal and tax environment and other factors such as infrastructure and costs. According to the report Namibia's open-door policy at all levels of government in most ministries is accompanied by perhaps one of the best and most co-operative geological surveys in the world.

It also spotlights the country's free economic style and the fact that all areas are open to mineral digging. The African continent as a whole improved its presentation from 2013 - lifted by policy score improvements in Angola, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Botswana. Botswana was ranked just below Namibia, while Zambia was ranked in third place on the continent. Though, South Africa has fallen out

of the top ten mining investment destinations on the continent and dropped 11 places to 67th globally. The survey was conducted between August 26 and November 15, 2014 and includes the responses of 485 mineral exploration and development company executives from around the world. Exploration budgets reported by companies participating in the survey totaled US\$2.7 billion last year and US\$3.2 billion in 2013.

According to a local investment group, Namibia will see a 5.7 percent economic growth this year, low inflation and higher mining output coupled with foreign investment. "For this year, we expect to see economic expansion of 5.7 percent driven by an ongoing construction boom in Namibia, which is likely to continue for a number of years, as well as major foreign direct investment inflows into the mining industry," IIG Securities Namibia stated in its economic preview.

"As the construction boom slows, a major boom in mining output is to be expected, as the new mines, currently under construction, start and ramp up to full production levels," IIG Namibia said. Inflation is set to "fall dramatically" through 2015 on account of cost-push factors deriving from tumbling oil prices, the publication noted.

Through the first half of the year, inflation is expected to slow

to 4.1 percent from the current 4.6 percent. According to IIG Namibia, the country's inflation will go down by around 4.7 percent in 2015, well below the 5.4 percent level seen in 2014. "Sustained low interest rates in South Africa are likely to keep rate increases on hold in Namibia through 2015, and the most likely scenario for the country sees interest rates flat until mid-2016," economic analyst Rowland Brown stated.

Abundant opportunities exist in this sector. Even though the Ministry of Mines and Energy has issued more than 100 EPLs only a limited number of these EPLs are active. Therefore many possibilities are present for exploration and other mining activities.

Value addition is an added profitable area for investment in this sector. Potential investors can put up processing and manufacturing plants to add value to various high value mineral products that are mined locally.

In terms of value addition in the area of diamond mining, Namibia now has 7 diamond cutting and polishing factories engaging a substantial number of people. Value addition is exhilarated in refining of base metals and other minerals, like manganese, processing of marble and granite, and cutting and polishing of precious and semi-precious stones. Good predictions for development of the jewelry industry exist and are cheered.



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Uranium

A Lucrative Resource

Uranium has been mined in Namibia since the 1970s. The worldwide increasing need for energy in the early 2000s has generated an augmented curiosity in Uranium exploration, repeatedly referred to as "the Namibian Uranium Rush".

Uranium deposits are discovered throughout Africa and presently, exploration is being carried out in 30 countries on the continent, 10 of which are members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Nevertheless, with the worldwide upsurge in the demand for uranium, there are a number of projects throughout the continent which are in a progressive phase of development, predominantly in Namibia. Regionally, Namibia seems to be popular amongst the exploration companies for a range of technical, financial and regulatory reasons.

Uranium was discovered in the Namib Desert in 1928, but was not apparent until intensive exploration got under way in the late 1950s that

much curiosity was shown in Rössing. Rio Tinto discovered numerous uranium occurrences and in 1966 took the rights over the low-grade Rössing deposit, 65 km inland from Swakopmund.

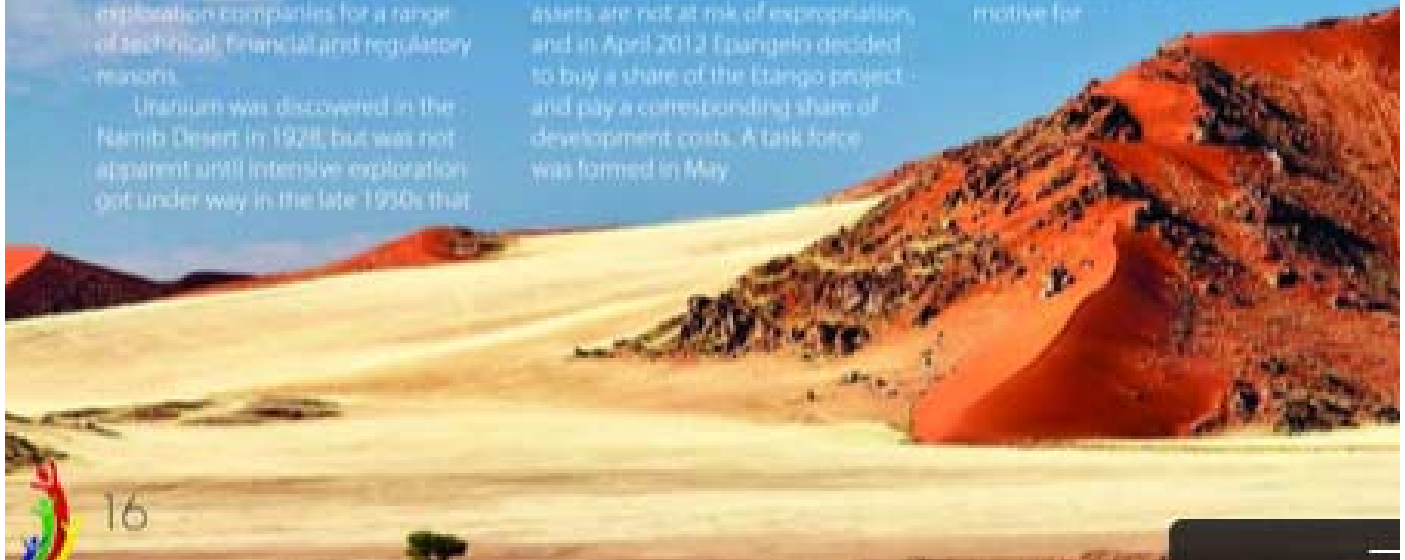
Two other substantial deposits found in early exploration were Trekkopje, a calcrite deposit 80km NE of Swakopmund and near Rössing, and Langer Heinrich, a calcrite deposit discovered in 1973 by Gencor, 80 km inland from Walvis Bay and 50 km southeast of Rössing.

In April 2011 the Namibian government publicized that its state-owned mineral exploration company, Epangelo Mining Ltd, would have exclusive control over new strategic minerals developments, comprising uranium. Conversely, this does not apply in retrospect or amount to nationalisation of current mines or leases. Paladin and Kalahari articulated confidence that their assets are not at risk of expropriation, and in April 2012 Epangelo decided to buy a share of the Etango project and pay a corresponding share of development costs. A task force was formed in May

2010 by Epangelo and Russia's ARMZ, which concisely appeared to threaten existing developments, but the government gave strong assurance then. New exploration licences will be granted only to Epangelo, and others interested will need to negotiate terms with it, to become joint-venture partners.

Over 2011-12, a Strategic Environmental Assessment was started over the whole uranium province inland from Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. This handled the whole region and all the projects, and is to result in a Strategic Environmental Management Plan to be implemented by the government and individual project companies.

Namibia is pitched to take advantage from its widespread deposits of low-grade uranium and is now considered as a region of global position for this energy resource. Nevertheless, this is no motive for



the industry to live by anything but the highest morals of environmental and radiation safety management. Safeguarding that, worldwide, Namibia continues to be held in high regard for the manner in which it mines its uranium and the standard of its health and environmental management must be a substantial driving force behind all uranium-related activities. Only then Namibia will be able to sustainably sell its uranium on the world market and hold up its domestic development.

The Namibian government intensely supports uranium mining. This took centre stage in April 2013 at a ceremonial ground-breaking at the new Husab mine site some 85 km east of Swakopmund. The Chinese state-owned company Guangdong Nuclear Power Company (CGNPC) Uranium Resources Co. Ltd. and Epangelo Mining, the Namibian government-owned mining company, acquired the Husab uranium mine owned by Swakop Uranium from the Australian-listed company Extract Resources at a cost of 19 billion Namibian dollars (US\$ 2.1 billion).

Rio Tinto's Hövöng Uranium and

Paladin's Langer Heinrich are currently Namibia's only two producing uranium mines, with production targets of up to 12 million pounds per annum. Rio Tinto announced both staff and cost reductions, whilst Langer Heinrich postponed its stage 3 expansion. AREVA Resources Namibia's Trekkopje mine, approximately 65 km north-east of Swakopmund is currently under "Care and Maintenance". The Trekkopje mine nevertheless is a strategic asset for AREVA and the group will reassess the economic situation on a regular basis.

Recently, China General Nuclear Power Holding Corp (CGNPC) has begun mining for uranium at the Husab mine, near Swakopmund in western-central Namibia.

CGNPC has capitalized a little more than US\$2bn into the Husab uranium mine, making it China's largest investment in Namibia thus far. When fully operational, the mine has the latent to produce 15mn pounds of uranium oxide, stated officials from CGNPC. The China-based company presumed ownership of the Husab mine after taking control of Kalahari

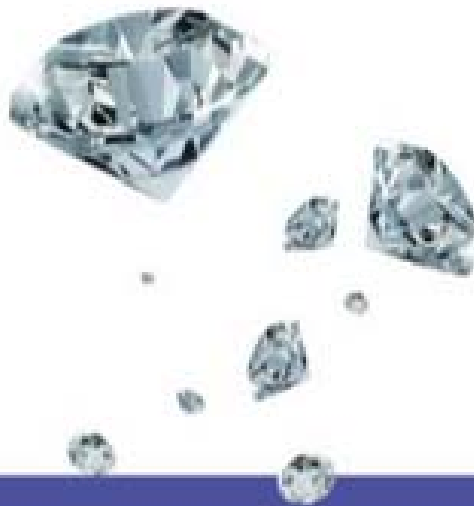


Minerals and Extract Resources.

Percy McCallum, spokesperson, CGNPC Namibia, said, "We have been clearing the overburden of sand and will start mining ore from May 2015 onwards. We hope to have stockpiled one million tonnes of ore by December 2015."

The China Guangdong Nuclear Power Company (CGNPC) owns 90 percent of Namibia's largest, high-grade uranium deposit and fourth largest uranium deposit in the world. The remaining 10 percent is owned by the Namibian government through its mining entity, Epangelo Mining.





They are forever. They are girl's best friend. They are the rarest things in the world. We all are fascinated by them. They are one of the precious stones on the Earth. They are bright, beautiful, valuable, and always in style. They are Diamonds.

A cut above the rest



Diamond has many matchless makings and is enormously inimitable amongst other minerals. The shine of Diamonds is exceptional. A Diamond unravels great fire and brilliance, which gives it a glossy, freshly polished look. Diamonds are indeed Namibia's most momentous mineral resource, accounting 70% of the total mineral exports. This country is one of the world's largest producers of gem quality diamonds, with about 98% of diamonds produced being gem quality. The country produced about 2% of the world's gem-quality diamond, which placed it as the eighth ranked producer of gem diamond in terms of value. Diamonds

contributed N\$2,5 billion (US\$235 million) in revenue to the government in 2013.

Namdeb is Namibia's largest diamond producer. Namdeb is an equivalent partnership with De Beers and the Namibian Government



and is accountable for onshore mining operations as well as marine operations. Other major producers include Namco (which went bankrupt), Afri-Can Marine Diamonds, which is attempting to evaluate and mine submarine river channels near Luderitz

and Diamond Fields International.

The agreement between government and international diamond giant De Beers is anticipated to be discussed in Cabinet after having been shelved for more than a year. Ministry of Mines and Energy confirmed recently that it will take the agreement to Cabinet but declined to provide further details on the date or terms in the agreement.

Details about the deal are unclear, but sources said the date of implementation of the new deal is 1 April this year. The preceding deal expired in 2013 and was extended to the end of March this year. The

Chamber of Mines of Namibia established its anticipations to confirm a Mineral Beneficiation Strategy by the end of this year. The strategy would be the projected final roadmap to guide Namibia to Vision 2030 in its industrialization drive based on the country's mineral resources.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of the chamber, Veston Malango, Namibia's mineral resources hold bountiful opportunities for value addition, which would result in the much-needed modification of both the mining sector and the national economy at large.

Beneficiation came at fore front towards mid-2011 when the Ministry of Finance publicized the intent to announce an export levy of five percent as an incentive for value addition within the mining sector and other natural resource-exporting industries. Malango noted that the chamber persuaded government that a five percent levy would be prejudicial to the mining industry after which the proposed levy was reduced to two percent.

In response to the announcement, the Chamber of Mines suggested the formation of a Joint Value Addition Committee, which was created in 2013 under the leadership of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. According to a report by the committee, which was presented in August 2014, further downstream value addition potential is available in the diamond, zinc and iron sectors. The report further identified diamonds, copper, zinc and iron ore as "low hanging fruits" on which a strong manufacturing base could be established.



Namibia's mining industry is regulated by the Diamond Act, 1999; the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 1992; and the Minerals Development Fund of Namibia Act of 1996.

The Government, in its greatest endeavour, is encouraging private sector exploration and development according to guidelines set out in its 2003 paper entitled "The Mineral Policy of Namibia." The Ministry of Mines and Energy and its Diamond Affairs, Energy, and Mining Directorates regulate Namibia's mining and petroleum industries, and the Ministry concerns itself with the provision of national exploration and mining databases and competitive exploration and mining policy and regulations. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is actually accountable for regulating manufacturing activity, which includes mineral beneficiation, the production of cement, and the processing of semiprecious stones; the Ministry also promotes resource-based development.



Namibia was placed as the most attractive African nation for mineral exploration investment, accompanied closely by Botswana, according to the Fraser Institute's annual report, released recently.



Ahead of the Pack

Namibia was placed as the most attractive African nation for mineral exploration investment, accompanied closely by Botswana, according to the Fraser Institute's annual report, released recently. Namibia overtakes Botswana as Africa's most attractive country for mining investment.

The study, which evaluates attractiveness by deliberating mineral potential as well as public policy factors, encompassed African countries Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, the Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, Lesotho and Uganda for the first time. No African nation made it into the global top 20, with Namibia and Botswana polling 25th and 26th respectively, and Sudan, Nigeria, Egypt and Kenya all in the bottom 10.

The Institute encountered replies from 485 exploration, development

and other mining-related firms around the world, who reported total exploration spending of US\$2.7bn in 2014 and US\$3.2bn in 2013 (down from US\$3.4bn and US\$4.6bn in 2013 and 2012, under the previous survey). Policy factors deliberated encompassed infrastructure quality, political stability, taxation, trade barriers, labour laws and other regulatory uncertainty.

Namibia is also blessed with a precious mineral resource i.e. gold. Gold is presently mined and processed at the Navachab mine situated a few kilometers outside the town of Karibib, in central western Namibia. The Navachab Gold Mine is wholly owned by Anglo Ashanti Gold (Pty) Ltd.

Navachab, which began operations in 1989, is an open-pit mine with a processing plant which includes a mill as well as CIP and electro-winning facilities, all with

a monthly capacity of 120,000t. In addition to the current operation, a Dense Media Separation (DMS) plant with a monthly capacity of 120,000t was commissioned during 2010.

Further potential exists for the discovery of new gold deposits; the Otjikoto, Onguatl and Otjimbojo occurrences have been found during recent years. The Otjikoto gold deposit, which is positioned some 300 km north of the Navachab gold mine, is testified to have a similar style of gold mineralization as Navachab.

Auryx Gold Corp has recently been granted five new prospecting licences covering an area of about 500,000 hectares by the Namibian Ministry of Mines and Energy. These licenses push Auryx's total to 11 prospective licenses covering about 900,000 hectares. Auryx has been granted a 92% interest in prospecting license 4309, which is part of the Otjikoto - Otavi exploration project, with its partner EVI Mining having an 8% stake. Auryx has a 100% interest in the



remaining four new licenses.

The 4309 license borders Auryx's main license 2410, which is 25 kilometres south of Auryx's Otjikoto gold deposit. The remaining licenses granted by the ministry, pooled with previously granted licenses will form two new projects – the Accretive Terrane and Top Hat. Both projects are positioned 250 kilometres east of the Otjikoto gold deposit.

Helio Resources Corp's Damara gold project is positioned in central Namibia. Licences are situated between 20-100km to the east and northeast of, and in the same geological terrain as AngloGold Ashanti's Navachab mine and roughly 150km southwest of Auryx's Otjikoto project.

Gold explorer B2Gold has recently broadcasted a considerably higher grade updated gold mineral resource estimate for the Wolfshag zone, located directly adjacent to the east and north-east of the company's new 90%-owned openpit Otjikoto mine, in Namibia.

The updated inferred mineral resource contained 675 000 oz of gold within 2.581-million tons, grading 8.14 g/t of gold using a 3 g/t cutoff.

This inferred resource was below a pit shell, encompassing an additional 1.03-million tons, grading at 2.81 g/t gold, or 93 000 oz of gold, in the indicated category. The previously released initial inferred resource estimate for the Wolfshag zone was 6.8-million tonnes, grading at 3.2 g/t gold, containing 703 000 oz of gold.

Engineering studies were currently under way to determine which portion of Wolfshag could be mined using the openpit mining method and which portion could be mined through underground mining. Openpit mining was due to start in 2016.

The company said in a statement that the conceptual plan would be to merge higher-grade material from



Wolfshag with ore from the Otjikoto pit, subsequent to an increase in yearly gold production at Otjikoto and enhanced project economics. The primary Otjikoto openpit deposit was 29.4-million tons at a grade of 1.42 g/t of gold, encompassing 1.34-million ounces of gold.

"In 2015, Otjikoto is expected to produce between 140 000 oz and 150 000 oz of gold at a cash operating cost of between \$500/oz and \$525/oz and all-in sustaining costs of about \$700/oz.

"Once the planned mill expansion is completed in the third quarter of 2015, increasing the yearly throughput at the mill from 2.5-million tons a year to 3-million tons a year, the company expects yearly gold output to increase to 200 000 oz in 2016 and 2017," B2Gold noted. The company planned to complete an updated mine plan by the end of 2015, which would further evaluate the use of openpit and underground mining at Wolfshag.

In the meantime, comprehensive metallurgical testwork was finalized in 2014 on drill samples from the northern portion of the Wolfshag zone using the Otjikoto feasibility study. These settings were used as the design basis for the Otjikoto process plant circuit. Gold recoveries for the master and variability composites ranged



The Otjikoto gold deposit, which is positioned some 300 km north of the Navachab gold mine, is testified to have a similar style of gold

from 94.9% to 97.8%, with overall master composite recoveries of 97.2%.

Mining has a long history in Namibia, with dross from copper smelting being more than 500 years old, the first formal mine, the Matchless Mine, opened in 1857, and the inhabitants inspecting tin for more than 100 years. This country has a comparative benefit in terms of conducive investment climate, regulatory frameworks in place and Export Processing Zones (EPZ's).



THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

Namibia has one of the finest health care systems in Africa, as evaluated by both its population-to-doctor and its population-to-hospital-bed ratios.

Namibia has an improved health care system than many other African countries, with a higher number of medical professionals. Mobile clinics operate in rural locations, though the quality of healthcare varies. AirStrip, a San Antonio-based company that offers wireless medical monitoring products, has joined hands with The Batswadi Group to launch sales of those goods in 10 African countries.

The Batswadi Group primarily will introduce the San Antonio company's AirStrip One mobile podium and the Sense4Baby wireless fetal and maternal monitoring system in South

Africa, then magnify the sales of those products to Namibia, Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mauritius and Rwanda. Sense4Baby is a wireless system that accomplishes nonstress testing for high-risk pregnancies. AirStrip acquired Sense4Baby's assets last year.

Emphasis is placed on primary and preventative services. For example, around four-fifths of babies are immunized against measles and tetanus. But further changes are required to prevent disease. While nine-tenths of people can access clean water, only around a third of Namibians have proper toilet facilities. Poor hygiene is hence a threat to health, predominantly for young

children.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a severe problem in Namibia. By 2000, one in five adults was infected. Many people found it tough to realize they could become ill from something which can't be seen. As a result of deaths from HIV/AIDS, 50,000 children (of the country's 120,000 orphans) have lost either one or both parents to the disease.

In 2003, free antiretroviral treatment became available. This has helped lower the number of infections. In 2010, UNAIDS assessed around 160,000 Namibians aged 15 or over (around 13% of the adult population) were living with HIV. Average life expectancy dropped



from 65 years in 2000, to just 45 years in 2004. Nevertheless, with more extensive treatment for HIV, life expectancy rose to 57 years in 2009.

Malaria is widespread as far south as Okahandja (65 km north of Windhoek), particularly during the main rains from January-April.

Women and children, being the most underprivileged groups, have received special consideration in social policy. In the case of women, ending legal and social discrimination and refining access to education, land, and employment are specified goals toward which some achievement has gained. The government has also sought to meet the child health, education, nutrition, and other goals

adopted by the 1990 World Summit on Children.

Namibia has 343 hospitals and clinics, as well as 1,150 smaller service points. Health care services in the country are refined but not always reasonably priced for the poorer part of the population. Certain services like dialysis and organ transplantations are only available from private medical centres, putting them out of reach for the majority of Namibia's citizens. The condition got wide coverage in 2010 when Jackson Kaujeva, Namibian singer and liberation hero, died from renal failure after not being able to afford private medical care, and thus not being put on dialysis.

The capital Windhoek has cardiac theaters at two different hospitals, the Windhoek Central State Hospital and the Roman Catholic Hospital. Both units were opened in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and have been used to perform open-heart surgery, partly with the assistance of foreign personnel.

There are four public referral hospitals in the country - in Oshakati, Rundu and Katutura whereas the Windhoek Central Hospital aids as the national referral hospital. There are outreach services in the form of clinics and mobile vans that reach a wider geographical dispersal of Namibians in terms of public healthcare access. Namibia has a well-organized private healthcare sector.

The private healthcare sector is principally based on numerous medical aid funds, medical administrators, medical service providers, private hospitals and private health professionals. The usual method for any sector including the

health sector is to function on a competition basis through pricing, costing, structures and conduct that safeguard a competitively effectual outcome providing cost sensitive and competitively priced medical service and/or medical products with high quality affordable and available health services. But Namibia faces a human resource crunch in the public health sector, which is categorized by a shortage of health professionals, high vacancy rates for all categories of staff, high attrition rates (mostly due to resignations), lack of a human resources retention strategy, staff burn - out (and incomplete implementation of the Employee Assistance Programme) and scarce capacity at local health academic institutions to bring forth the required number of needed health workers.

In the public health system, Human Resource Management comes under the Directorate of Human Resources and General Services whereas Human Resource Development is in the Directorate of Policy Planning and Human Resource Development.





INSIDE THE World OF PHARMA

Healthcare embraces an enormous gamut of products and services which are tough to outline as a single market. In the Namibian context, healthcare is chiefly defined as all those products and services allied with the health industry ranging from medical disposables to medical equipment and services as rehabilitation therapy. Within the global market for healthcare products, one of the largest market sections cover medicines.

The Republic of Namibia signifies one of the most diverse medical markets in the world principally because of the supremacy of the South Africa. Rich, urban areas of Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund etc. hold many of the high-quality amenities for the white population under the apartheid regime. Rural areas and black communities are only now slowly starting to cultivate many kind of modernized health service. Namibia is supplied and serviced through South Africa, which boasts the largest pharmaceutical market in Africa. Pharmaceuticals are in the first

top-10 imports of Namibia.

There is no production of pharmaceuticals in Namibia. Namibia is a member of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which applies a common external tariff (CET) on their imports from third countries. As such, SACU countries function as one market, working to synchronize their trade and industrial strategies for the shared benefit of all its members.

Local traders trust profoundly on suppliers in South Africa for inventory and technical expertise. The concentration of local distribution channels in the hands of a few family-run firms of European decent, has occasionally presented problems to foreign firms endeavoring to enter the local market. To enter the Namibian market, Indian pharmaceuticals would have to compete with imports from South African manufacturers or middlemen of multinational with subsidiaries in South Africa. These very imported products find their way into Angola and other countries in Southern Africa via Namibia. To avoid these traditional links which have survived for a long period of time, Indian importers should aim to build alternate

distribution networks or create joint ventures with evolving black owned firms.

There are a number healthcare products and services trade shows being held in Namibia, where interested suppliers can showcase their products. Conversely, since most Namibian wholesalers and distributors in reality acquire their stock via South Africa, it may also be worthwhile to attend South African trade fairs to target a wider audience with substantial influence in the Namibian economy. Indian pharmaceutical companies are well placed to provide generic medicines more cheaply to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, investor friendly countries such as Namibia can be used as a hub for manufacturing and to deliver research test-beds for new inventions within medicine. Progressively fewer diseases will remain to be subjugated for example, AIDS, many will be positively treated within the next two decades. As a result, more attention will be paid to drugs which mend life style, for example, mood changers, enhancers of sexual performance, and anti-ageing products.



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Windhoek
The capital city of Namibia

Namibia is home to vivacious town where people are enthusiastic about the future, while remaining profoundly allied to their rich, cultural past. It has a steady, democratic government, infrastructure that permits visitors to move assertively in this beautiful country.

The silent splendor of its landscapes can definitely penetrate one's heart and soul. Behind a hot, dry and sparsely populated land lies a treasure trove of wildlife, geological wonders, cultural diversity and legendarily pretty sceneries.

Namibia retains some of the most spectacular landscapes in Africa, and a trip through the country is one of the great road adventures. Natural miracles such Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sossusvlei, Skeleton Coast National Park, Fish River Canyon and the wildlife utopia of Etosha National Park gives an impression as a coffee-table book has come to life as sand dunes in the world's oldest desert meet the crashing rollers along the wild Atlantic coast. Among all

this, a German inheritance is apparent in the cuisine and art nouveau architecture, and in festivals such as Windhoek's legendary Oktoberfest and carnival.

Namibia is also the headquarters of adventure activities in the region, so whether you're a dreamer or love hearing the crunch of earth under your boots, travel in Namibia will stay with you long after the desert panoramas diminish.

Rockclimbing at Spitzkoppe

The curvy granite peak of Spitzkoppe towers 700m over the Namib plains of southern Damaraland like an illusion on the horizon - it's no wonder that it has been enticing rock climbers for three quarters of a century. The main summit, first reached in 1946, has seven different ascent routes that range in grades from 17 to 24 (AUS). The immediate area of Spitzkoppe has another 200 or so climbing routes of varying difficulties. Climbers need to be self-sufficient and carry their own ropes and equipment (there are no guides or suitable equipment to hire on site). There is an amazingly picturesque campground at Spitzkoppe.

Skydiving over the Atlantic Ocean and Namib Desert

Seeing the large swells of the cold southern Atlantic Ocean crashing into the delicate-looking dunes of the world's oldest desert is enthralling from wherever you are standing. Seeing it while falling towards earth at 220km/h is mind blowing. And the amazing aerial sights of the desert landscape and ocean during the 25-minute flight up to the jump zone in a tiny Cessna aircraft is reason enough for the trip (and price tag). The noisily thrilling free fall from 3000m lasts for around 30 seconds, before your parachute (and silence) takes over at 1500m. Ground Rush Adventures is grounded out of Swakopmund. It offers tandem jumps for beginners, as well as static-line courses and jumps, and accelerated free-fall courses.

Sandboarding in the Namib Desert

The steep sides of the Namib's dunes are more than just an attractive face to look at - they are challenging slopes to carve down on deeply waxed snowboards. If you've surfed or snowboarded before, the transition

It's not compulsory to be full of zip to be captivated by Namibia, because the exquisiteness of its desert decor, wildlife and national parks tends to stop most people in their tracks. Nevertheless, for those who aren't inclined to stop and stare, there is no scarcity of exhilarating activities to relish while taking in the astonishing surroundings.

PENETRATING HEART AND SOUL

is generally a quick one. If not, fear not - crashes encompass rather soft landings. And if speed is the eventual persuader, rather than elegant turns, try the lie-down selection on a greased-up sheet of Masonite. Much like tobogganing, participants zoom straight down the dune faces at up to 80km/h. If that doesn't get the heart pumping, the climb back to the top surely will. Alter Action runs trips out of Swakopmund most mornings. The four-hour expeditions include equipment rental, transport, instruction, lunch and a beverage.

Kitesurfing and Landboarding at Swakopmund

Connecting the supremacy of the winds along the Atlantic coast with a large kite is an electrifying challenge, whether on land or water. Beginners can first learn the ropes (literally) with powerkiting lessons, while those with the skills can take on kitesurfing courses (International levels 1-3) in the Atlantic or basic landboarding lessons on the Namib's sands. Paragliding courses along this section of coast is also a possibility.

Hot Air Ballooning over Namib-Naukluft National Park

The 23,000 sq km Namib-Naukluft National Park is home to some of the most enormous dunes on the planet, primarily in the area around Sossusvlei. Here, the winds have molded the bright orangey-red sands into graceful parabolic shapes hundreds of metres high. Watching this exclusive desert landscape from the air is a mesmerizing experience and early morning balloon rides are possible. Namib Sky Balloon Safaris operate the trips every morning at sunrise, weather permitting (trips don't run 15 January to 15 February due to heat).

Hiking the Fish River Canyon

A multi-day hike through the world's second largest canyon (only Arizona's Grand Canyon is bigger) is as stimulating as it is memorable. Positioned in the far south of Namibia, the shockingly stunning Fish River Canyon is 550m deep, 27km wide and 160km long. The intense 85km trail through it, which takes hikers through 1.5 billion years of geological history, is usually done over five or six days (7 to 8 hours of walking per day). The trail is reachable only from May to mid-September due to soaring temperatures the remainder of the year. Only 30 people per day are allowed on the trail (reservations need to be made with Namibia Wildlife Resorts).



Namibia never misses the mark to captivate its guests, to charge the fancies and thoughts of narrators in their efforts to aptly designate the many-faceted splendour and charming magnificence of this desert country. Having endured arid or semi-arid conditions for at least 55 million years, it is well thought-out to be the coldest desert on Earth.

The wildlife and flora and fauna here are captivating, and have adapted to life in unique and strangely attractive ways. A trip to this area is an extraordinarily fantastic experience.

In the Nama language, Namib means "vast," and here the desert conveys around 10,000 square kilometers, elongating 1,600

kilometers along the Atlantic coast of Namibia, wavering in width from 50 to 160 kilometers. It is sheltered by the Namib-Naukluft Park, a utopia of 50,000 square km of shifting sands and vibrantly-colored dunes. It is the world-famous Sossusvlei sand dunes that captivate the most attention.

The enormous ochre sand dunes at Sossusvlei are one of the most surprising sights in the world. Puffed into razor-sharp ridges by the sand-shifting winds, the impossibly dramatic red dunes are the highest in the world, towering some 300 meters into the air.

These splendid dunes are reachable to any self-driving visitor, and there is sufficient of remarkable accommodation in and around the

area. The good time to view Sossusvlei is close to sunrise and sunset, when the lively colors change continually, permitting pleasing photographic prospects.

One of the best ways to treasure the grandeur of this area is by light aircraft on a picturesque flight from Walvis Bay or Swakopmund, or by catching a balloon ride over the dunes, although it can also be entered overland by gravel roads.

Namibia's capital city, Windhoek, is laid-back, jazzy and diverse, and one of the safest cities in Southern Africa. Coastal Swakopmund is one of the most dreamlike and memorable

destinations in the country, with African and European inspirations having bonded exclusively and proposing a different kind of sand dune. A unit of dunes have been set aside for escapade such as sand boarding and skiing, quad biking, camel rides, and off-road driving. Swakopmund also offers diving, surfing, or simply lazing on the beach, and boat trips to see dolphins and seals. Neighboring the town is the Namib-Naukluft Park, one of the most charming desert wilderness areas in Africa.

Etosha National Park, meaning "place of dry water," is centered on a huge, flat pan of about 5,000 square kilometers. The pan provides a big, baked, silver-white backdrop of sparkling illusions to the semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. Comprising water for only a few days each year, the pan lures thousands of flamingos. Served by three well-established rest camps and a host of private lodges along its borders, Etosha offers visitors a wide choice of safari choices and a rich wildlife.

THE OPULENCE OF SPLENDID DESERTS





SECURING A PIECE OF THE TOURISM CAKE

As Namibia becomes more alluring to tourists from around the world, many people are trying to secure a piece of the tourism cake by starting new lodges or opening their own travel agency. Some designate this new career path as their joyful job, while others say it's a dream come true and more importantly, they have the energy to make it happen. Many people are getting fascinated to a career as a travel agent because of the perks, discounts on lodging, transport and the constant opportunities in this beautiful world.

Plentiful investment opportunities are available in this sector like the establishment of lodges across the country, professional hunting, eco and cultural tourism development, establishment of exclusive game hunting and golf estates and the development of luxury accommodation facilities for the high-end market.

The hospitality industry of Namibia has also experienced a record growth of nine percent in room and bed

occupancy last year, according to new statistics released. "The quarterly and annual room and bed occupancy statistics report compiled by the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN) reveals that the Namibian tourism accommodation industry experienced a growth of some nine percent in room sales last year compared to 2013," Gitta Paetzold, Chief Executive Officer of HAN, said.

The German-speaking European market still remains Namibia's biggest source market with about 21.1 percent coming from either Germany, Austria or Switzerland. South Africans made up 12 percent of tourists who reserved an overnight stay at accommodation establishments in 2014.

According to the World Tourism & Travel Council (WTTC) direct contribution of travel and tourism in Namibia contributed 3.12 billion Namibian dollars - three percent - to the country's economy in 2013. Namibia recently received another international award for best wildlife conservation and empowering rural communities due to its outstanding Community Based Natural Resource

Management Programme (CBNRM).

Namibia's success story comes from its programme for the conservation of wildlife which assisted to set the prospect for a conservation strategy in an independent Namibia. Namibia is among few African countries with an expanding, free roaming population of lion, giraffe and elephant and also has the largest cheetah population in the world.





NAMIBIA

The Republic of Namibia opened its Diplomatic Mission in New Delhi in 1994, but already established full diplomatic relations with India soon after the country gained its Independence in March 1990. Independence presented the Namibian people with the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choice and mandate that government to manage the affairs of the country.

India's relationship with Namibia,

however, goes back further than that. Prior to Namibia's Independence in March 1990, the country's liberation movement SWAPO was permitted to run a quasi diplomatic Mission in New Delhi, as they were recognized by the Government of India at the time, as being the true representatives of the Namibian people during the liberation struggle.

During the State Visit to India in 2009, H.E. Hifikepurye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, described India as 'a

true friend indeed'. During that visit, both countries signed 5 agreements, including one on the 'Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy'. Since that visit, Namibia and India have been co-operating closely to consolidate and expand upon their bilateral relations especially in the areas of trade, investment, human resource development, technology transfer, and cooperation in the military field. During that period, India also offered Namibia a Line of Credit. Indian companies which





INDIA

Bilateral Relations

have a presence in Namibia include Vedanta Resources (mining) TATA Motors and Mahindra, (motor vehicles) Gravita India Ltd, Emsure Pharmaceuticals, Kavish focus pipes, Vindhya Vasini Group of Companies, Kuku Agri and others.

The principal commodities of export from India to Namibia include drugs and pharmaceuticals, inorganic /organic agro-chemicals, glass and glass products, plastics, machine tools and machinery, rubber products and electronic goods.

Commodities that India imports from Namibia on a smaller scale include non-ferrous metals, ores and metal scrap, transport equipment. The volume of trade between India and Namibia remains small.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding which was concluded between both states, in the field of defence cooperation, the Government of India has offered a number of slots under the ITEC program to provide training to the Namibian Defence Force personnel.

Further cooperation has taken place in the supply of military hardware to the Namibian Airforce.

Under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation program, (ITEC) several hundred Namibians have already benefitted and continue to benefit from training given in India in various fields. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) continues to offer a number of scholarship to Namibians to pursue undergraduate or postgraduate programs in India.





Sitting in front from left to right

Mrs. Evangeline Helu, Second Secretary, Mr. Richard Froge, Counsellor, H.E. Plus Dunatski, High Commissioner, Mrs. Elizabeth Vanhees, First Secretary, Mrs. Selina Tjibero, Third Secretary

Back Row standing from left to Right

Mr. Ramdulare, Mr. Kushal Singh, Mr. Khadka, Mr. Raj, Mr. Bista, Mrs. Malik, Mr. Ram, Mrs. James, Mr. Prahlad Singh, Mr. Manzarussama, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Dinesh

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