



NAMPOWER BOOSTS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AT COAST

NamPower has invested in a multi-million-dollar substation in the Erongo region to meet the current and future electricity supply in the region. NamPower briefed the media with regards to the ongoing project on the 09 April 2022. The Sekelduin substation, is located about 4 kilometers from Swakopmund, on the backroad to Walvis Bay.

According to the power utility, the Sekelduin substation is one of the many investments NamPower has made to build, strengthen and maintain the national grid to ensure an efficient, reliable and effective national transmission network.

Speaking at the briefing, chief operating officer of NamPower Fritz Jacobs said Sekelduin is a new indoor substation and forms part of the ongoing upgrade of the NamPower bulk electricity supply to Erongo Red.

"This will enable the utility to meet the current and future electricity demands due to socio-economic growth in the region. The substation will become the main transmission supply to the existing NamPower Swakopmund and Tamariskia substations, the NamWater South bulk water supply scheme feeding the new Husab Uranium Mine, and the Erongo Red medium voltage reticulation", Jacobs explained.

According to him, the construction cost of Sekelduin substation building is approximately N\$65 million, while the design and construction of the two overhead power lines is estimated at N\$60 million.

He added that installation and commissioning of all high voltage equipment, power transformers and protection as well as automation and control system equipment are estimated at N\$180 million. Also speaking at the briefing, Erongo Red chief executive officer Fessor Mbango said they are delighted to see the progress, as the substation is of utmost importance for the regional power distributor.

"It will assist us in meeting the current and future demands as our economy grows, especially with the provision of electricity in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay", he said. The substation is expected to be completed by January 2023, while the two parallel lines will be completed in February 2024.

Source: <https://neweralive.na/posts/nampower-boosts-electricity-supply-at-coast>

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CENSUS OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT

The Census of Business Establishments was conducted from October 2019 to April 2021. It covered all business establishments countrywide with a fixed location, irrespective of the number of employees except for open market and communal farming activities.

A total of 61,502 establishments were contacted during the enumeration period of the census. Establishments were mostly concentrated in Omusati region (18.0%), Ohangwena region (15.6%) and Khomas region (15.0%). Omaheke region recorded the least number accounting for 2.0 percent of the total establishments. More than half of the establishment are situated in rural areas (56.9%).

Based on the MSME classification of the size of a business which is based on the number of employees, the census revealed that the majority of establishments are categorized as micro establishments of about 55,804, followed by small establishments at 3,918 and medium establishments at 1,435. Only 345 establishments accounting for 0.6 percent are considered to be large.

The census revealed that, 63.0 percent of establishments (38,725) were sole proprietors while 20.2 percent (12,396) were close cooperation. Establishments with ownership status of sole proprietors were mainly owned by male with a share of 53 percent. Nearly 50 percent of establishment were in 'accommodation and food service activities' sector while 'wholesale and retail trade sector accounted 25.2 percent of total establishments.

During the census period, establishments reported to have 348,822 employees. Most of employees were recruited in 'wholesale and retail trade' (66,770 employees) and 'accommodation and food service activities' (54,840 employees) sectors. In relation to nationality, the census revealed that 98.0 percent of the employees were Namibians while 2.0 percent were Non-Namibians. Non-Namibians employees were prominent in education and 'wholesale and retail trade' sectors.



KEETMANSHOOP EYES SEWAGE WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

THE Keetmanshoop municipality has called for water reclamation proposals.

Reclaimed sewage water can be used for agricultural purposes, and for watering parks, stadiums, gardens and public spaces.

About 4 946 cubic litres of sewage water reaches the sewerage ponds on any given day, which is available for reclaiming and commercial reuse.

Keetmanshoop municipality strategic executive for economic development Jegg Christiaan said the municipality foresees the production of animal feed as the best option.

"There is a huge market for that, if a person can utilise the opportunity to produce lucerne, maize and oats-particularly in a country where rain patterns have become unpredictable", said Christiaan.

The municipality foresees the venture being implemented on an agricultural real estate model, whereby the municipality would create plots around the sewer ponds, which users can purchase/lease.

Currently, approximately 300 hectares of land are available around the 12 sewer ponds being used for the town of Keetmanshoop.

One operator is already reclaiming waste water through using centre pivots to irrigate lucerne, maize and oats across three blocks measuring 15 hectares each.

"It is important for us to address the environmental challenge of sewage water seeping into the ground and contaminating the underground water tables. Plus, the challenge of surface water that runs off can cause environmental pollution. Water reclamation and reuse would mitigate, reduce and possibly even eradicate these risks", said Christiaan.

Source:

<https://www.namibian.com.na/110856/read/Keetmanshoop-eyes-sewage-water-for-agriculture>

SOLAR PLANT PROJECT NEAR USAKOS

An investment entity with interests in renewable energy, Alpha Namibia Industries Renewable Power Limited (ANIREP), seeks to increase the commercial installed renewable energy generation in Namibia from the current 150 Megawatts (MW) to 760 MW by 2025.

The announcement was made on Tuesday at a groundbreaking event of the 20 MW Khan Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Independent Power Producers (IPPs) project near Usakos.

"This project contributes significantly towards the realisation of NamPower's increased generation capacity," said NamPower managing

director, Kahenge Haulofu, in a statement. According to Haulofu, one of the many positive aspects of the Khan Solar PV is that it will offer the lowest tariff in the country at 49,05 cents per kilowatt-hour, therefore contributing to lowering electricity tariffs.

"The 20MW Khan Solar PV IPP project supports national policies which target the sourcing of 70% of Namibia's energy from renewable energy sources by 2030.

Furthermore, this project will contribute towards achieving the

energy policy's 'self-sufficiency targets of 80% in the near future," he added.

Meanwhile, ANIREP said the project will assist the country to reduce electricity imports, creating a sustainable green energy future for Namibia.

"This is ANIREP's third solar plant, but the first that is being constructed from the ground up", ANIREP added.

Source:

<https://economist.com.na/69336/mining-energy/solar-plant-project-near-usakos-to-feed-more-electricity-to-national-grid/>

REPO RATE INCREASES FROM 4.0 TO 4.25 PERCENT

On 11 and 12 April 2022, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Namibia held its bi-monthly meeting and decided to increase the repo rate by 25 basis to 4.25 percent.

This rate is now on par with the one set by the South African Reserve Bank. Bank of Namibia Governor Johannes !Gawaxab said the latest repo rate stance is appropriate to safeguard the one-to-one link between the Namibia Dollar and the South African Rand while meeting the country's international financial obligations.

"This monetary policy stance is also a step towards normalising the current negative real interest rate environment and establishing a positive real interest rate that is conducive to long-term economic growth", !Gawaxab said.

!Gawaxab said although most monitored central banks tightened their monetary policy stances, overall monetary policy stances remained generally accommodative.

Meanwhile, domestic inflationary pressures are building up as inflation averaged 4.5 percent during the first two months of 2022, compared to 2.7 percent in the corresponding period of 2021.

!Gawaxab said the rise in inflation was mainly driven by an increase in transport inflation, on account of a rise in international oil prices.



Bank of Namibia governor Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab

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Bank of Namibia governor Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR UPDATES

No significant improvement for the construction sector can be anticipated for 2022. Although the predicted contraction of 2% by the Bank of Namibia is far less than the drastic contractions since 2016. Fortunately, there seems to be light at the tunnel as the Bank of Namibia anticipates a moderate growth of 2.5% in 2023 for the sector. However, this prediction was before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.

The sector was hard hit due to the Namibian government's fiscal consolidation and the lack of significant spending on infrastructure projects since 2015; and then was further strained by the two-year pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Currently, the non-payment by Government of infrastructure projects has also led to projects being suspended, which has led to further retrenchments in the industry.

The war in the Ukraine, is likely to have detrimental effects on the global as well as the Namibian economy. It can be anticipated that the construction sector will experience severe supply chain problems. The increase of oil and gas prices can impact the cost of production and transportation of equipment and materials. This in turn can lead to delays and an overall increase in building and construction cost.

The resulting increase in fuel as well as food prices will once again mean that households will have less money to spend. A possible overall inability or reluctance by the private sector to invest will mean that the demand for building and construction services is unlikely to increase in the short term. It also appears that the government is unlikely to be in the position to increase capital spending.

Although there is an enormous demand for low-cost housing in Namibia, which in principle could be an opportunity, the current related cost would make it nearly impossible to build something that that this market segment can afford. Delays due to bureaucratic inertia also have a big impact on building cost and hinder the optimisation of delivery of low-cost housing units.

There may well be an opportunity due the future production of green hydrogen but that is unlikely to be in the short term. However, once development and construction of the plants were to commence, it would lead to the creation of employment.

Ultimately, the biggest opportunity would be if majority Namibian-owned businesses were given explicit preference when awarding Government contracts – even though spending has reduced. treatment should not only consider supporting the youth, women and previously disadvantaged persons. On the contrary, all Namibia-owned businesses need to be given preferential treatment.

The phenomenon of tenderpreneurs, middlemen or agents, should also no longer be tolerated, as this often leads to joint ventures with foreign companies. This hinders the maintenance and continued development of Namibia's overall construction capacity. Every effort should be made to focus on job creation and that the money remains in circulation in Namibia. Foreign companies are less likely to pay corporate and employee taxes. Indeed, there is also an opportunity for Namibian companies to create joint ventures.

It remains of critical importance that a Namibian Construction Council (NCC) will be established as soon as possible. This would mean that every business in our sector is registered with the council, irrespective of whether it is a SME or a large-size contractor. Once every business in Namibia is registered with the NCC, there will also be a complete understanding of the actual capacity of the Namibian building and construction sector. Accordingly, the size of projects can be aligned to that. At the same skill development can very targeted.

The biggest opportunity would lie in greater Namibianisation. At the same time, with limited financial resources in Namibia, it is critical Namibia's investment climate would be of such a nature that it attracts foreign and domestic investment. For that to happen, it remains important that related government policies are prudently reviewed to ensure investor confidence both in the short and the long term.

Source: Article by CIF, April 2022



10 WAYS TO PREVENT CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS

Construction accidents can easily occur common on job sites if necessary precautions are not taken. These sites have different safety hazards, which stand as the possible cause of several severe injuries and fatalities in some extreme cases. However, many of them are entirely avoidable.

These construction sites typically have a combination of equipment, trucks, materials, machinery, and various personnel performing their duties simultaneously. There is also the potential for debris falling and the presence of uneven or unsafe work surfaces.

Although these sites pose severe hazards to workers, some strategies can be implemented to ensure injuries are maintained to the minimum level. The following are tips on preventing construction accidents and creating a safer environment for everyone:

1. Daily Safety Meetings

Employees have to be briefed about the various safety measures at every specific job site. As the construction project progresses, the hazards change as well. The team leaders and project managers must ensure that everyone on the job site gets the appropriate instructions and keep track of the changing regulations.

2. Reduced Night Work

Late construction hours and dark environments significantly increase the possibility of various accidents occurring. Therefore, try to minimize the amount of work done at night or limit the construction to a low-risk area if possible.

3. Proper Safety Equipment

Construction sites are known for unforeseen safety hazards and unpredictable accidents. To avoid these tragic incidents, require your workers to wear proper protective equipment at all times, which include harnesses, hard hats, eye protection, and hearing protection.

4. Reflective Clothing

These are essential in reducing vehicle-related accidents. All employees should wear reflective or highly visible fabric on the job site.

5. Regular And Frequent Breaks

Enforcing regular and frequent breaks is vital for productivity and safety since they allow the working personnel to re-energise themselves by resting, drinking fluids, and eating. This helps the workers stay alert and focused and prevent exhaustion and mistakes due to fatigue.

6. Clear Signage

High voltage spots and wires should have markings, and turning off the electricity when not in operation is another aspect that can prevent accidents. Areas should have barriers like ropes and pylons to deter individuals from accidentally going to regions with the probability of gravitating debris and other potential hazards.

7. Introduce Calisthenics Or Warm-up Exercises

Before starting the construction duties, workers should begin with calisthenics or warm-up exercises to keep their bodies agile and ensure that they are fit for all the physical activities.

8. Avoid Sunlight

Exposed skin has to be concealed. More specifically, your workers should use long-sleeved shirts, wide-brimmed hats, and other skin protectors. Keep in mind that direct sunlight stands as one of the major causes of fatigue.

9. Practice Defensive Parking And Driving

For machine operators and vehicles, warning probes need to be put in place to warn the approaching drivers. Moreover, barrels, towers, daytime running lights, and safety spotters are required. Drivers need to be directed to reduce the pace and refrain from backing up if possible. A spotter has to be assigned if backing up seems necessary.

10. Encourage Healthy Eating

Energy drinks and carbonated sodas should be replaced by citrus beverages, water, and electrolyte replacements. These drinks help hydrate the workers, increase concentration, and reduce fatigue.

source;

<https://www.worldconstructiontoday.com/news/10-ways-to-prevent-construction-accidents/>



Contributions

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BUILDINGS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Today's best performing buildings in the area of sustainability are energy, water or waste neutral. Beyond the current concepts of best practice however lies a whole new approach to development in the built environment. Buildings which actively improve their surroundings – be it from a single neighbourhood to entire cities.

To confront tomorrow's needs, development must steer towards buildings that uplift their surrounding locales, says an expert from Except Integrated Sustainability, a Dutch consulting firm. During the next century, society will begin to see the effects of climate change, population growth and urbanisation putting strain on cities. To combat the increasing stress on urban civilisations, uplifting the sustainability of existing infrastructure is becoming pertinent.

"The majority of the infrastructure that is going to house people this century has already been constructed. So the challenge is not to build new sustainable buildings, but to 'sustainify' the buildings that already exist", says Except's Director, Tom Bosschaert.

"For some that's doable, but most buildings, especially residential houses, won't experience such major renovations within the next 15 years. This leaves us with a major design flaw in an integral timeframe. The solution is building buildings which act as a catalyst", he continues.

"For some that is doable, but most buildings, especially residential houses, won't experience such major renovations within the next 15 years. This leaves us with a major design flaw in an integral timeframe. The solution is building buildings which act as a catalyst", he continues.

The term catalyst has been deduced from science and is defined as: an agent or compound for change, that is added to a process to make a chemical reaction happen more quickly. However the catalyst itself is not consumed in the catalysed reaction and can continue to act repeatedly.

"A catalytic building is a building which enhances the resilience of the existing urban environment that it inhabits", Bosschaert says. "They are the formula one of high performing buildings. They go beyond the limits of leed platinum or bream outstanding and become a vital organ in the fabric of their surroundings".

"Catalytic buildings give direction to the aim of performance of smart cities", he says. "If you start thinking about the system as a whole, and the building as a part of that system, you begin understanding the potentials for a neighbourhood approach to urban development. You don't need to rewire the entire city for it to make a large impact."

The sustainability expert foresees that real estate professionals and city municipalities could consider using a building as a tool. "A catalytic building leverages what a neighbourhood has to offer and actively improves it. They do this in a physical sense, but also in a social and economic sense", Bosschaert says. "This is about bridging gaps between urban planning and architecture, as well as going beyond the physical core of the building. Catalytic buildings open up new, innovative business models for investors and developers which are just waiting to be tapped".

source; <https://www.consultancy.eu/news/2381/buildings-can-contribute-to-sustainable-urban-development>



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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA'S TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) offer various short-courses to its members and non-members in the construction sector.

The training programs provided are as follows:

- Scaffolding erectors
- Scaffolding inspectors
- Safety representative
- Working at heights

All training includes:

- Brötchen & coffee
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- Training materials
- Attendance certificate

For bookings or if you need any further information, then please contact:

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