



NAMIBIAN URANIUM MINERS EAGER TO RESTART, ANTICIPATE PRICE RECOVERY TO TRIGGER OPERATIONAL REVIVAL

Finance minister Iipumbu Shiimi said uranium miners in Namibia are waiting for prices to recover to revive projects suspended when prices reached unsustainably low levels. Since 2012 and through much of 2021, uranium prices traded under the key US\$50 a pound level, falling as low as US\$18.

However, in September 2022, the spot price for uranium shot up to a nine year high of over US\$50 a pound. Namibia is Africa's biggest uranium producer, which is needed for nuclear power in a world shifting away from fossil fuels. To support a resurgence in uranium mining, Namibia is planning a second desalination plant to supply mines in the uranium-rich Erongo region.

This, according to Shiimi, is in anticipation of higher uranium prices attracting investors. Speaking to Bloomberg News on Thursday, 28 May 2022, at the World Economic Forum, Shiimi said: "There are a number of uranium projects in the pipeline just waiting for the price to recover. If the price reaches US\$65 to US\$70 a pound, then that will trigger more investment in uranium".

A revival in nuclear power demand was triggered since Russia's invasion of Ukraine as nations scramble to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

This spurred a rally in uranium prices, which more than tripled to US\$63.75 a pound in April from a historic low in 2016.

According to Trading Economics, which provides historical data on economic indicators for over 200 different countries, recession fears and higher interest rate worries could dampen the demand for energy, which also pressured uranium prices downwards.

Source: <https://neweralive.na/index.php/in/posts/namibian-uranium-miners-eager-to-restart-anticipate-price-recovery-to-trigger-operational-revival>

CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Namibian uranium miners eager to restart, anticipate price recovery to trigger operational revivalpage 1

City of Windhoek continues to bridge housing gap - 100 affordable houses handed over to informal settlement dwellers page 2

N\$107m building plans approved in Windhoekpage 2

Construction industry needs to adopt sustainable alternatives - study..... page 3

Global news..... page 4

AFFORDABLE HOUSES HANDED OVER TO INFORMAL SETTLEMENT DWELLERS

The City of Windhoek (CoW) officially handed over 100 houses under the Informal Settlement Upgrading Affordable Housing Pilot Project (ISUHPP) at an event held in Freedomland on Wednesday, 08 June 2022.

Since the launch of the project in 2020 in partnership with Namibia Housing Enterprise (NHE), mayor of the City of Windhoek, Ms Sade Gawanas said they have completed the construction of 410 houses, while a further 40 houses are currently under construction.

“Addressing housing affordability is the most cost-effective way of lifting people out of poverty-reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic mobility because having affordable housing development in the neighbourhood does not only positively impact the surrounding communities, but also reflects our effort in restoring dignity for our people”, she added.

The minister of urban and rural development, Mr Erastus Utoni called on the project partners to redouble their efforts and work in unison to provide affordable housing to the residents of Windhoek. “I want to call on you to remain focused and committed to the project and do everything possible to overcome challenges”, he emphasised.

One of the beneficiaries, Michael Nghishiti thanked the project partners for taking them out of shacks into formal housing.

To date over 400 affordable houses have been constructed under the project in the various informal settlement areas, including Havana Proper, Havana Extension 1, Onyika No. 2, Goreangab Extension 4, Greenwell Matongo, Otjomuise Extension 8 and 9 and Freedomland A and B.

The ISUHPP project is an initiative of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the City of Windhoek, the National Housing Enterprise and the Khomas Regional Council. Interested residents living in the targeted informal settlement should contact Ogone Thataone (CoW) at 290 3417 or Tjitemisa Virgina (NHE) at 276122.

Source: <https://economist.com.na/70927/general-news/city-of-windhoek-continues-to-bridge-housing-gap-100-affordable-houses-handed-over-to-informal-settlement-dwellers/>

N\$107M BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN WINDHOEK

A total of 188 building plans with a combined value of N\$107,6 million were approved in Windhoek during April 2022, compared to 247 in the prior month, realising a drop of 23,9% month on month(m/m), and 268 in April 2021 for a 29,9% drop year to year (y/y).

The approved plans include 114 additions, one commercial plan, 58 houses and 15 walls.

According to a Simonis Storm Securities analysis, Windhoek is off to a weaker start in 2022 than 2021, in terms of construction activity, which has been on a declining trend over the last three months. “Year to date, 478 building projects have been completed, compared to 550 in 2021 and 361 in 2020 for the same period”, said the analysis.

“We might see more commercial projects taking off in future as annual growth in corporate mortgages has been trending upwards year to date, whereas annual growth in household mortgages are trending downward” Simonis observed.

Additions continue to take the majority share of new building plans being approved. Home additions or improvements might have resulted from certain households creating home offices or upgrading their homes, due to being more housebound. In the last two years, Klein Windhoek (monthly average of N\$8,1 million), Khomasdal (N\$5,5 million), Pionierspark (N\$3,9 million), Kleine Kuppe (N\$3,1 million) and Otjomuise (N\$2,9 million) recorded the highest average value in home additions per month.

The outlook on construction activity seems to be declining in Windhoek, whereas construction activity at Swakopmund might increase based on the year to date trend of plan approvals.

Source:

[https://www.namibian.com.na/112723/read/N\\$107m-building-plans-approved-in-](https://www.namibian.com.na/112723/read/N$107m-building-plans-approved-in-Windhoek#:~:text=A%20TOTAL%20of%20188%20buildi)

Windhoek#:~:text=A%20TOTAL%20of%20188%20buildi ng,58%20houses%20and%2015%20walls.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEEDS TO ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES - STUDY

According to the findings of a recent study from the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University, improving the sustainability of activities in the construction industry is key to mitigating the negative impact of the industry on the environment. But for this to happen, industry stakeholders should be more enthusiastic about adopting and implementing sustainable practices in their projects.

Ralmar Marsh and Profs Alan Brent and Imke de Kock conducted the study looking at the barriers to and drivers of sustainable construction practices by construction industry stakeholders. They asked industry professionals to complete questionnaires about the need to improve their capability, opportunity, and motivation to facilitate the adoption of sustainable construction practices.

The researchers say there is a need to change the current behaviour of stakeholders in the construction industry to ensure the sustainability of the industry by adopting sustainable alternatives throughout the life cycle of construction projects.

Motivation plays a determining role

According to the researchers, the survey results indicated that motivation plays a role in determining the likelihood of participants engaging with sustainable construction.

"Participants felt that stakeholders in the construction industry need to change their current behaviour and adopt sustainable alternatives to design and construction methods and processes".

They indicated that sustainable construction was beneficial to the development of their careers and that it could have a positive long-term impact on the economy, the environment, and society.

Participants also agreed that they would adopt sustainable construction if they had the skills to do so. They had strong intentions to develop their knowledge of and skills regarding sustainable construction and encourage the education and training thereof.

"They also wanted government to support and encourage sustainable construction through incentives, tax relief, subsidies and access to funding for projects that incorporate sustainable principles and practices".

The researchers point out that the major barriers to and drivers of sustainable construction practices include awareness and knowledge of and information about sustainable construction.

Recommendations

In their study, the researchers also make a few recommendations that could help facilitate the adoption and implementation of sustainable construction.

"Organisations should provide stakeholders with access to education, training, and upskilling through continuing professional development courses to improve their awareness, knowledge and skills, influence their behaviour, and boost their confidence in implementing sustainable construction practices.

Furthermore, policies and legislation which govern the adoption and implementation of social construction should be developed and regulated by government to emphasise the need to change the current trajectory of the construction industry.

Source:

<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/640/228327.html>



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAN PROVIDE FOUNDATION FOR SA'S UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

For years, South Africa's public and private sectors have talked about transformation as the key to unlocking economic growth and job creation.

Yet in Q4 of 2021, the national unemployment rose to 35.4%, with youth unemployment remaining at a dangerously high level of 66.5%.

Aubrey Tshalata, National President of the National Federation for the Building Industry (NAFBI) says the days of rhetoric must stop. Unless South Africans act now, he believes the end result of this gross unemployment will be a revolution of a very different nature, with last year's looting in Kwa-Zulu Natal serving as an ominous taste of things to come.

"The construction sector is well-positioned as a catalyst for job creation," Lindiwe Nkosi, Programme Director at dmg events claims. As one of the only sectors that welcomes job seekers across the spectrum of skills and expertise – whether you have a Grade 8 or matriculation pass or Business Science degree – as long as you can hold a pick or shovel and are willing to be upskilled, there is an opportunity for employment and to build a long-term career".

Roy Mnisi, Executive Director at leading industry body Master Builders Association South Africa says that for many years, the construction industry has been at the forefront of creating employment in South Africa and across the globe, particularly for youth.

"The current state of the country's aging public infrastructure, as well as that which was damaged in last year's riots and by the recent floods, gives rise to a good opportunity that will benefit our unemployed youth".

However, he warns that in order to successfully implement new projects to develop infrastructure, which will result in creating jobs for many of the country's idle youth, a strong partnership between the government and the construction sector is required.

Source: <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2022/05/25/construction-industry-can-provide-foundation-for-sas-unemployed-youth>

NEW CEMENT PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN AFRICA MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO HIGH TRANSPORT COSTS

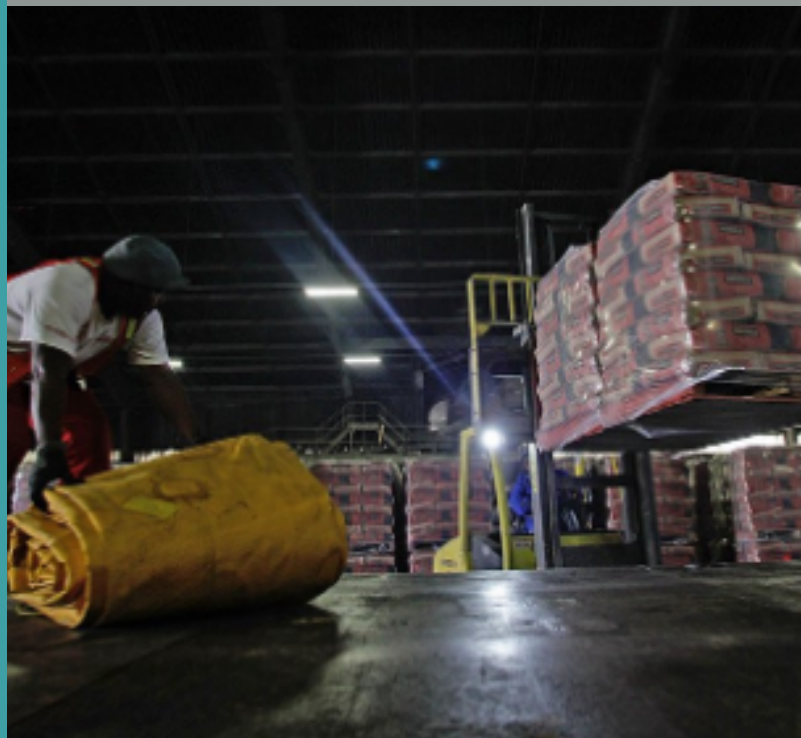
The rapidly rising cost of transport means that adding additional cement production capacity in Africa might be worth considering going forward.

Before the outbreak of Covid-19, a long-term decline in shipping costs and the relative price of imported cement, which was also expected to gradually fall, had eroded the rationale for adding more cement production capacity in Africa, Gordon Institute of Business Science Centre for Africa markets and management research associate Francois Fouche said at the African Smart Cities Summit, in Midrand, on June 8 2022.

However, a "massive reversal" of transport costs meant that perhaps these previously held views should be reconsidered, he stated. Cement has a low value to weight ratio, which makes land transport significantly more expensive than if you were to do it by sea. Pre-pandemic, it was cheaper to cross the Atlantic Ocean with 35 000 t of cement than it was to transport it 300 km by truck.

"However, the cost of moving goods by sea has changed significantly," he said. Africa has long been a net importer of cement, with domestic demand outstripping supply in most countries.

Source: <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/new-cement-production-capacity-in-africa-might-be-preferable-to-high-transport-costs-2022-06-10>



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
- Lunch & refreshment
- Training materials
- Attendance certificate

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

CIF - Construction Industries Federation of Namibia
Corner Stein/Schwabe Str. Klein Windhoek
P. O. Box 1479
Windhoek
Namibia
Tel.: +264 (0) 61 – 417300
Fax: +264 (0) 61 - 224534
www.cifnamibia.com



NBWPF
NAMIBIA BUILDING WORKERS
PENSION FUND

@ info@nbwpf.com

PENSION FUND

A BETTER FUTURE IS POSSIBLE