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The passing away of Theo-Ben Gurirab, one of SWAPO's most respected political leaders, highlights a growing divide between the party's veteran leadership and its youthful cadre. Fisheries and marine resources minister Ben Esau modifies proposed reforms to the allocation of long-term fishing rights in the face of industry opposition. The Bank of Namibia (BoN) (central bank) forecasts modest economic growth of 0.6% in 2018, increasing to 1.9% in 2019. However, the Namibia Statistics Agency reports gross domestic product contracted by 0.1% in Q1 2018. Diamond and gold production see an increase in the second quarter. United Kingdom-listed Weatherly International halts production of copper cathodes at its Tschudi copper mine following water ingress. The National Consumer Price Index reports year-on-year inflation increased to 4.0% in June, largely as a result of the higher global oil price driving increased transport costs.

Veteran Theo-Ben Gurirab passes away

The death of Namibia's first foreign affairs minister, former prime minister and **National Assembly (NA)** speaker **Theo-Ben Gurirab**, at the age of 80 years on 14 July has highlighted the increasing attrition of **Namibia's** first generation of political leaders. Most, like Gurirab, were exiled members of the national liberation struggle against **South Africa's apartheid** rule of Namibia during the 1960s to 1980s.¹ His passing has also thrown into sharp relief a growing divide between Namibia's older generation of politicians, to which 77-year-old President **Hage Geingob** (2015-present) also belongs, and the post-independence generation of would-be leaders of the ruling **SWAPO Party**, the so-called 'born-frees'.

Gurirab served Namibia over a period of 25 years. Born in the former railway town **Usakos (Erongo Region)**, and – like Geingob – a member of the **Damara** community originating in west-central (Erongo and **Kunene** Regions), he left Namibia for exile in **Tanzania** in 1962, becoming SWAPO representative to the **United Nations** in **New York** from 1972 where he established a reputation as a highly-competent diplomat and negotiator.² Namibia's first president, **Sam Nujoma** (1990-2005), appointed him as foreign affairs minister at independence in 1990. Gurirab oversaw the negotiations for the return of **Walvis Bay** and the **Penguin Islands** to Namibia, which was achieved in 1994. Gurirab succeeded Geingob as prime minister in 2002, and was NA speaker from 2005 to 2015 under immediate past president **Hifikepunye Pohamba** (2005-2015), his last political office.³

While Geingob described Gurirab as "a giant of the Namibian struggle for liberation",⁴ fellow former prime minister **Nahas Angula** claimed the new generation of youth in SWAPO did not understand his contribution to the national liberation struggle and had betrayed him:

¹ The Namibian, 16 Jul 2018.

² "Guide to Namibian Politics by Graham Hopwood, Including A-Z of Political Personalities", 2006 Edition- Revised and Updated, Namibia Institute for Democracy, Windhoek.

³ "Guide to Namibian Politics by Graham Hopwood, Including A-Z of Political Personalities", 2006 Edition- Revised and Updated, Namibia Institute for Democracy, Windhoek.

⁴ Namibian presidency press release, 17 Jul 2018.

*"He was betrayed by the newcomers in Swapo. The free-riders. He died a sad person because he felt betrayed at the electoral college. He had hoped to get elected so he could have resources to write his book."*⁵

Geingob had been a lifelong member of SWAPO's central committee, but in 2014 the party's electoral college did not place him sufficiently high on the party list for that year's NA elections, meaning that he ceased to be a member of parliament. In a similar comment, **Windhoek** mayor **Muesee Kazapua** also spoke on the lack of literature on veteran politicians and stressed the need for the youth to close the gap between themselves and the older generation.

*"The youth should create an intergenerational dialogue so they can also tap into their experience, and build the culture of writing books, even of Theo-Ben Gurirab."*⁶

Geingob conferred the honour of **National Hero** and a state funeral on Gurirab.⁷ A state memorial service was held on 20 July and he is to be buried at the **Heroes' Acre** national monument in **Windhoek**.

Fishing rights reforms modified amidst controversy

Fisheries and marine resources minister **Bernard Esau** has extended the deadline for applications for fishing rights from the initial cut-off point of 31 July to 31 August.⁸ The extension prolongs several months of controversy over revised procedures for applications for fishing rights. Fishing associations and other stakeholders in the sea fishing industry had raised concerns during a series of workshops held across all Namibia's 14 regions to consider the proposals. There was strong opposition to Esau's proposal that applications for new rights could only be made through proprietary limited companies, or that applicants should be shareholders in such companies, and already own a fishing vessel.⁹ This ruled out applications by '**close corporations (CCs)**', legal entities that **South African** company law recognises and which enable firms to be registered without publicly divulging details of shareholdings, share capital or the requirement to file annual returns.¹⁰ CCs were usually chosen for smaller businesses, but under South Africa's new **Companies Act of 2008**, they can no longer be registered and will be phased out over time.¹¹

Many companies operating in Namibia's fishing industry are close corporations, and Esau's move was evidently intended to increase transparency. Namibians who have become partners in the formerly foreign-controlled fishing companies since independence under the various '*Namibianisation*' policies introduced by the government during the 1990s often do not disclose their interests even if public office holders. Esau told **The Namibian** on 31 May that he wanted to plug the loopholes used by close corporations, and that he did not need to consult the **Confederation of Namibian Fishing Associations (CoNFA)** on that decision. Esau noted that the ministry could not control the "*cooking of financial books*" by close corporation fishing companies because they are not obliged to have audited financial statements:

*"The current fishing quota system is also being abused by people who want to enrich themselves by elbowing their partners out of companies."*¹²

However, Esau has been obliged to backtrack partially. While close corporations, trusts as well as individuals, are now all eligible to apply for new fishing rights, they must convert their holdings into

⁵ Nahas Angula quoted in *The Namibian*, 18 Jul 2018.

⁶ *The Namibian*, 18 Jul 2018.

⁷ Namibian presidency press release, 17 Jul 2018.

⁸ *The Namibian*, 6 July 2018.

⁹ Source, Namibia analyst, London

¹⁰ Republic of South Africa Close Corporations Act 69 of 1984

¹¹ www.michaelsons.com, Close Corporations or CC, What is it?

¹² Bernard Esau quoted in *The Namibian*, 31 May 2018

limited companies before the fishing rights are actually allocated. In addition, Esau ruled that holders of fishing rights expiring in 2020 "are not eligible to apply for (new) rights".¹³

Fishing remains an important economic activity in Namibia. It provides approximately 10,000 jobs on vessels and shore-based processing factories.¹⁴ In 2017, fish and crustacean (lobster and crab) exports ranked second in value at N\$9.0 billion (\$0.7 billion) after exports of diamonds, gold and precious metals (N\$20.8 billion, \$1.6 billion), respectively 14% and 33% of total exports, according to official statistics.¹⁵

BoN projects resumed GDP growth this year...

The **Bank of Namibia (BoN)** (central bank) forecasts that Namibia's real GDP is set to grow by 0.6% this year, increasing to 1.9% in 2019.¹⁶ The BoN bases its forecast on the expectation that the large, 90% **Chinese-owned Husab** uranium mine will have ramped up to full capacity output of 6,800 tonnes per year of uranium oxide by 2019, although this is by no means certain. BoN strategic communications and financial sector development director **Emma Haiyambo** said the growth projections represent an improvement on last year when real GDP contracted by 0.8%.¹⁷ For this year, GDP growth would be underpinned by real value-added increases for mining, manufacturing, electricity and water, transport and communications, with both construction and the wholesale and retail sectors recording a more modest rate of contraction:

*"In 2019 and beyond, GDP growth will be supported by the good performance of uranium mining, and improvements in the construction, wholesale and retail trade sectors."*¹⁸

However, Haiyambo acknowledged that risks to domestic growth include a slow recovery in Namibia's trading partners, and low uranium prices along with a weakening in global demand and volatile commodity prices. Continued weak uranium prices are a major concern for the central bank and the government. They have already put paid to the **Langer Heinrich** mine, which has been incurring mounting losses on spot-market sales of yellowcake. In mid-May **Australia-based Paladin Energy**, which owns 75% of the mine with **China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC)** owning 25%, ceased processing ore from stockpiles last year and began running down the operation in preparation for putting Langer Heinrich into care and maintenance in September.¹⁹ In contrast, Namibia's other producer, the **Rössing** mine (68.6% owned by **Anglo-Australian** diversified resources group **Rio Tinto**), has been able to expand output since the start of 2018 as it benefits from delivering to customers under higher-priced so-called 'legacy' contracts (see below). Uranium purchases by nuclear power utilities in western industrialised countries have remained subdued as most continue to hold elevated inventories that are sufficient to cover nuclear fuel requirements for the near- to medium-term. While the spot price has risen modestly in recent months to just over \$23 per pound uranium oxide as of mid-July, it remained below the \$28 per pound three-year average.²⁰ At this level many operating mines remain uneconomic, and production cuts continue to be made by the largest producers, such as **Kazakhstan's** state-owned **Kazatomprom** and **Canada-based Cameco**, in an effort to restore equilibrium to the market.²¹

¹³ The Namibian, 6 July 2018.

¹⁴ Namibia Statistics Agency, Annual Trade Statistics Bulletin 2017.

¹⁵ Namibia Statistics Agency, Annual Trade Statistics Bulletin 2017.

¹⁶ Bank of Namibia, Economic Outlook, July 2018

¹⁷ The Namibian, 9 July 2018.

¹⁸ Bank of Namibia, Economic Outlook, July 2018

¹⁹ Paladin Energy, Quarterly Activities Report for Period Ending- 30 June 2018.

²⁰ Source, uranium industry analyst, London

²¹ Paladin Energy, Quarterly Activities Report for Period Ending- 30 June 2018; Deep Yellow, Corporate Presentation, July 2018.

...but GDP contracted fractionally in the first quarter

Although the economy continued to contract in the first quarter of 2018, real GDP decreased by only 0.1%, a stronger performance than the 1.5% contraction recorded in the final quarter of last year and 0.4% fall in the first quarter of 2017.²² This was largely owing to a 24% expansion in construction real value-added, following eight consecutive quarters of negative growth by the sector, while the wholesale and retail sector contracted by just 1.3%, the lowest fall since real value-added began decreasing in the third quarter of 2016. However, public administration, which had recorded weak growth in the final quarter of 2017, plunged by 2.9%, while mining growth slowed to 4.7%, down from 13.1% in the final quarter of 2017 and 14% a year earlier. Manufacturing contracted by 2.1%, a sharp improvement on the 12.5% decrease recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The ongoing water shortages in central Namibia (Windhoek and its surrounding area), the most industrialised part of the country, will continue to depress manufacturing output. The state-owned **Namibia Water Corp. (Namwater)** has called for consumption restraint by major users to help eke out supply and bridge the next three rainfall seasons to April 2021.²³ Current surface water levels in the area's three dams are only one-third of total storage capacity, which together with reclaimed and ground water sources would only be sufficient for the next two seasons in the absence of above average precipitation levels. According to Namwater corporate communications manager **Johannes Shigwedha**, Windhoek and three other towns – **Karibib**, **Okahandja** and **Okakarara** – will need to implement water demand management. Namwater is targeting an 8% consumption saving for the latter three towns this year, up from last year's 5% savings target.²⁴ **Namibia Breweries (Nambrew)** and abattoir firm **Meatco** are amongst the area's largest water users.²⁵ However, Meatco has already implemented water saving measures, reducing its consumption from 4.7 million cubic metres in 2011/12 to 3.2 million in 2014/15. Due to the ongoing water shortage, Nambrew is unable to expand the current capacity of its Windhoek-based production site and is examining alternative options, such as setting up new plants in areas of lower water risk. It has also managed to steadily reduce water consumption, from 4.9 litres of water per hectolitre of beer/beverage production in 2014 to 4.3 litres in 2017.²⁶

Second quarter mineral production expands...

The mining sector contributed towards higher GDP output in the second quarter of 2018. Production of most main minerals by value expanded, following a good first quarter (see *ARC Briefing Namibia May 2018*). **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**-listed **Anglo American Corp (AAC)**, which owns an 85% interest in the **De Beers Group** (the **Botswana** government owns the remaining 15%), on 19 July reported a 32% increase in Namibian rough diamond output to 515,000 carats for April-June 2018 compared to a year earlier, and a 21% rise in first six months' production to 1,044 carats.²⁷ That is 58% of annual production of 1.8 million carats last year. The 50:50 government/De Beers joint venture **Namdeb Holdings**, the country's sole diamond producer, recovers mostly gem-quality carats both onshore and offshore. While offshore recoveries by **Debmarine Namibia** accounted for just over two-thirds of Namdeb's total output in the first half of 2018, the strongest performance was by land-based mining operations. Onshore recoveries within the so-called **Sperrgebiet** ('prohibited area'), comprising Mining Area 1 immediately to the north of **Oranjemund** and inland along the **Orange River**, rose by 131% to 166,000 carats in the second quarter of 2018 compared to a year earlier, and by 99% to 330,000 carats in the first six months.²⁸ This was the highest level for four years (first half 2014 onshore output was 336,000 carats):

²² Namibia Statistics Agency, Gross Domestic Product First Quarter 2018.

²³ The Namibian, 29 Jun 2018.

²⁴ The Namibian, 29 Jun 2018.

²⁵ The Namibian, 29 Jun 2018.

²⁶ The Namibian, 29 Jun 2018.

²⁷ Anglo American, Production Report for the second quarter ended 30 June 2018.

²⁸ Anglo American, Production Report for the second quarter ended 30 June 2018.

“[The increase] was driven by access to consistently higher grades at the land operations and technology-led optimization of the marine drill fleet.”²⁹

First half output across all De Beers-operated mines (Botswana, Canada, Namibia and South Africa) rose by 8% (to 17.5m carats) *“to meet stronger demand”*.³⁰ Higher production going forward in Namibia and elsewhere within the De Beers’ mining stable continues to be supported by strong consumer demand for retail diamond jewellery in the largest markets, the **United States (US)**, followed at some distance by China. Rough diamond sales volumes by De Beers were 10 million carats from three sales cycles in the second quarter, up from 5.9 million carats from two sales cycles in the same quarter of last year.

“[Sales volumes benefited] from positive sentiment in the midstream (diamond cutting) following growth in consumer demand for diamond jewellery in late 2017, and a continuing positive outlook.”³¹

The first half 2018 average rough diamond sales price was stated to have risen by 4% to \$162 per carat, reflecting an increase in the average rough price index and an improved sales mix. Namibia’s mainly gem-quality diamonds are worth considerably more, averaging \$519 per carat in 2017, the highest per carat value of any global diamond producer, according to the **Kimberley Process** diamond certification scheme.³²

Namdeb H1 production 2017/2018 ³³							
('000 carats)							
	2018			2017		% change	
	Q2	Q1	H1	Q2	H1	Q2/Q2	H1/H1
Offshore	349	365	714	319	697	9	2
Onshore	166	163	330	72	166	131	99
Total	515	528	1,044	391	863	32	21

Gold was another star performer. Canada-based **B2 Gold** reported record quarterly production due to strong performances by its three main mines – **Masbate** in **Philippines**, **Otjikoto** in Namibia and the new **Fekola** mine in **Mali**. Otjikoto is 82% owned by B2Gold and 8% by Namibian empowerment entity **Evi Mining**). Otjikoto’s second quarter production was in line with budget at 40,678 ounces and 3% above budget at 80,177 ounces in the first half of 2018, although this was 4% less than the same period of last year.³⁴ During 2018, B2 Gold is sourcing ore mainly from the Otjikoto open pit while second phase development of the **Wolfshag** pit is underway, from which higher-grade ore recoveries are planned to start in 2019. Production guidance for 2018 remains 160,000 to 170,000 ounces of gold.³⁵

Rio Tinto’s Rössing mine uranium output rose by 8% year-on-year to 613 tonnes of uranium oxide in the second quarter of 2018 and by 16% to 1,174 tonnes in the first six months (equivalent to 56% of the 2017 annual output of 2,110 tonnes). Rio said the second quarter increase was due to higher mill

²⁹ Anglo American, Production Report for the second quarter ended 30 June 2018.

³⁰ Anglo American, Production Report for the second quarter ended 30 June 2018.

³¹ Anglo American, Production Report for the second quarter ended 30 June 2018.

³² Kimberley Process, Annual Global Summary: 2017 Production, Imports, Exports and KPC Counts.

³³ Anglo American, Production Report for the first quarter ended 31 March 2018.

³⁴ B2Gold, B2Gold Reports Continued Very Strong Second Quarter & First-Half 2018 Gold Production, 11 July 2018.

³⁵ B2Gold, B2Gold Reports Continued Very Strong Second Quarter & First-Half 2018 Gold Production, 11 July 2018.

grades although these were partially offset by reduced ore throughput due to water supply interruptions.³⁶ Rössing's performance more than offset a 53% fall in output to only 161 tonnes in the second quarter by the Langer Heinrich uranium mine (see above), where processing operations were suspended in May at the start of a three-month transition to care and maintenance when no uranium will be produced.³⁷

Although not a high-value product, salt from Walvis Bay brine pans provide the largest-volume source of solar sea salt in **sub-Saharan Africa**, much of it exported to the South African chemicals industry, as well as other **African** countries.³⁸ Operating company **Walvis Bay Salt Holdings**, a subsidiary of **Chlor-Alkali Holdings**, part of South Africa's **Sentrachem** group, is investing N\$90m (\$6.8m) in a new wash plant due to come into operation in October 2019. This is the biggest investment in the company's 54-year history and will expand washed salt capacity from some 900,000 tonnes per year to 1.1 million tonnes:

*"The rapid expansion of our business during the last few years has necessitated this investment in the latest technology to keep up with the higher demand."*³⁹

... but Weatherly suspends cathode copper production

One adverse development has been the partial flooding of the **Tschudi** copper cathode mine near **Tsumeb**, which obliged UK-listed **Weatherly International** to halt underground mining operations.⁴⁰ This has had an inevitable impact on Namibia's mining value-added output. The firm suspended its listing on London's **Alternative Investment Market (AIM)** at the start of June and after its chief financial backer, **Orion Mine Finance (Master) Fund**, indicated it was "*unlikely*" to permit further drawdowns under the existing uncommitted loan facility, and initiated the process of seeking administration.⁴¹

Weatherly had steadily expanded production at Tschudi since completing the mine in late 2016. In the first quarter of 2018 it produced 4,161 tonnes of copper cathode.⁴² This was 98% of nameplate (full capacity), although less than the previous quarter's 4,739 tonnes.⁴³ Because copper prices soared during 2017, Tschudi's output value increased exponentially. The **Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)** reported in its quarterly trade statistics bulletin that copper cathode exports were worth N\$5.3m (\$0.4m) in January-March 2018, with China and **Belgium** the biggest markets.⁴⁴ There must have been export sales of accumulated inventory given that production decreased slightly in the first quarter of 2018 and exports were worth half that level at just over N\$2.0m (\$0.15m) in the final quarter of 2017 (see *ARC Briefing Namibia June 2018*).⁴⁵

Inflation ticks up again

The higher global oil price was the main factor boosting domestic inflation last month, with transport accounting for a quarter of the increase. Measured by the **National Consumer Price Index (NCPI)**, year-on-year (y/y) inflation notched up to 4.0% from 3.8% in May (and 3.6% in April).⁴⁶ Even so, June inflation was still only two-thirds the level of a year previously (6.1%). But inflation for transport (14.3% weighting in the NCPI goods basket) accelerated to 7.2% from 5.6% in May. The cost of operating vehicles spiked by 8.9% from 6.6%, while vehicle purchase cost inflation stayed unchanged

³⁶ Rio Tinto, Second quarter operations review, 17 July 2018.

³⁷ Paladin Energy, Quarterly Activities Report for Period Ending- 30 June 2018.

³⁸ Source, Namibia analyst, London

³⁹ Walvis Bay Salt Holdings Managing Director Andres Snyman quoted in The Namibian, 11 July 2018.

⁴⁰ Weatherly International, AIM Regulatory Release, Suspension of trading and operational and financial update, 1 June 2018

⁴¹ Weatherly International, AIM Regulatory Release, Suspension of trading and operational and financial update, 1 June 2018

⁴² Weatherly International, AIM Regulatory Release, Tschudi Operational Update, 21 May 2018.

⁴³ Weatherly International, AIM Regulatory Release, Tschudi Operational Update, 21 May 2018.

⁴⁴ Namibia Statistics Agency, Quarterly Trade Statistics Bulletin, First Quarter of 2018

⁴⁵ Namibia Statistics Agency, Quarterly Trade Statistics Bulletin, First Quarter of 2018

⁴⁶ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index June 2018.

on 6.6%. The mines and energy ministry increased fuel prices by N\$0.60 (\$0.05) in early June, lifting the Walvis Bay pump price to N\$12.30 (\$0.92) per litre of unleaded petrol and to N\$12.63 (\$0.95) per litre of diesel. Explaining the need for the June fuel price increase, mines and energy minister **Tom Alweendo**, said:

*“The results of the latest fuel price review indicates that the oil importers paid more than the prices set by the government to bring fuel products into the country. The final figures recorded are way above the prices set by the government and these pricing under-recoveries are huge enough to trigger upward adjustments in the local pump prices in order to create a balance between the government-determined prices and the oil market-determined prices”.*⁴⁷

However, fuel prices were left unchanged for July. While Windhoek stockbroker **IJG Namibia** expects further domestic fuel price increases towards the end of this year, it noted that the global oil price remains volatile following the decision by the President **Donald Trump** (2017-present) administration to re-impose economic sanctions on **Iran**.⁴⁸ The benchmark **Brent Crude** price registered a 7% decrease in mid-July, the biggest drop in two years.⁴⁹ A resumed weakening in the global price may result in lower domestic fuel price increases than would otherwise be expected, according to IJG. Inflation for housing and utilities, with the biggest NCPI basket weighting at 28.4%, remained subdued at 3.2% (3.3% in May), mainly due to a slower increase in costs for maintenance and repair of dwellings, while inflation for electricity gas and other fuels decreased, for the third consecutive month, to 4.9% (from 5.5% in May). Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages – with the second largest basket weighting of 16.5% – decelerated fractionally to 3.8% in June, despite higher prices for bread and cereals, meat and fish.⁵⁰

It remains unlikely that Namibia’s inflation will track up significantly during the rest of the year, with mainly incremental increases anticipated. South African inflation has risen from a seven-year low of 3.8% y/y in March to 4.6% in June although this is still at the lower end of the **South African Reserve Bank’s (SARB)** (central bank) target band. As Namibia imports most of its products from South Africa, this will continue to help moderate inflationary pressures, as will the continued stability of the foreign exchange value of the South African rand, to which the Namibia dollar is linked at par. This traded only fractionally weaker at R1= \$0.075 (\$1= R13.3) as of 18 July compared to a month earlier, thereby preventing an unsustainable increase in the cost of Namibia’s imports, including food and consumer goods.⁵¹

⁴⁷ New Era, 4 June 2018.

⁴⁸ IJG Namibia, NCPI- June 2018.

⁴⁹ IJG Namibia, NCPI- June 2018.

⁵⁰ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index June 2018.

⁵¹ XE Currency Converter, 18 July 2018,

Planner

15 Aug 2018 **(Namibia) Bank of Namibia** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting;
 15 Aug 2018 **(Namibia) Namibia Statistics Agency** July 2018 National Consumer Price Index; Annual National Accounts 2017 (revised);
 September 2018 **(Namibia)** National Land Conference
 November 2019 **(Namibia) National Assembly and Presidential Elections**

Chronology

22 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) New Era**. **Jamaican** prime minister **Andrew Holness** expected to land in **Namibia** for bilateral talks;

19 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) NBC**. Deputy information minister **Engel !Nawatiseb** states Namibia will hold further consultations on the proposed **Southern African Customs Union** revenue sharing agreement;

18 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) The Namibian**. The **African Development Bank** approves a \$3 billion Namibian dollar (\$226.3m) loan to support Namibia's national budget;

16 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) defenceWeb**. The **Namibian Defence Force** and **Botswana Defence Force** begin **Exercise Tshwarangano II** joint military exercises until 30 July with a focus on peace support operations;

6 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) EWN**. The **Bank of Namibia** (central bank) forecasts 0.6% economic growth in 2018 and 1.2% in 2019 after a recession in 2017;

3 Jul 2018 **Windhoek (Namibia) The Namibian**. The **Bank of Namibia** (central bank) states that the current account deficit dropped to N\$521m (\$38m), a year-on-year drop from N\$814m (\$59.4m) in 2017;

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