

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING**Namibia Monthly Briefing September 2017**

Namibia Summary 27 September 2017

President Hage Geingob (2015-present) postpones the second national land conference scheduled for September until an unspecified date, sparking opposition calls for more transparency over beneficiaries of the resettlement programme. Namibia is involved in a muddle over an anti-genocide motion at the UN General Assembly. Deputy prime minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah confirms that Namibia has terminated all contracts with North Korean firms in compliance with United Nations (UN) sanctions against Pyongyang. Gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 1.7% in the 2017 second quarter, as it did in the first, despite a rebound in agricultural and mining output. The ramp-up of the Husab uranium mine is occurring more slowly than anticipated. Inflation remains subdued.

Land conference is postponed amidst fears of disunity

President **Hage Geingob** (2015-present) called off the second national land conference, due to have taken place from 18-22 September (see *ARC Briefing Namibia August 2017*), at the last minute. Geingob announced on 31 August that the conference was postponed until 2018, on the grounds that various interest groups had raised concerns about not having sufficient time for consultations.¹ In early September, the **DTA of Namibia** leader, **McHenry Venaani**, criticised the government in the **National Assembly (NA)**, stating that it had provided no clear reason for the postponement, and the lack of consultation explanation was not feasible.² Venaani accused the ruling **SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)** of playing politics with national issues, because it wanted to finish its internal party elective congress first.³ He also accused the government of allowing corruption in land allocations.⁴ As Venaani suggested, the SWAPO leadership is preoccupied with the run-up to the congress in November, although since most of the party's regional organisations and affiliated groups, including the radically-inclined **SWAPO Youth League (SYL)**, have endorsed Geingob as new SWAPO president, the congress seems unlikely to be the reason. However, the DTA is Namibia's official opposition, so Venaani's criticisms carry weight.

A more likely explanation for the postponement is the SWAPO leadership's alarm at the widespread calls by leaders of the **Ovaherero** and **Nama** communities – including some SWAPO members – for the conference to discuss the restitution of ancestral lands from which Namibians south of the so-called “Red Line” within the “Police Zone” – which demarcated the **German** colonial territory – were largely expelled over a century ago (see *ARC Briefing Namibia August 2017*). A knowledgeable Namibian source told ARC the government was advised to “steer well clear”. The issue is divisive, as it is accompanied by claims that most of

¹ The Namibian, 1 Sep 2017.

² The Namibian, 5 Sep 2017.

³ The Namibian, 5 Sep 2017.

⁴ The Namibian, 5 Sep 2017.

the Namibians resettled on commercial farms purchased by the government under the willing-buyer, willing-seller land reform programme have been **Oshivambo**, the northern community that is Namibia's most populous ethnic group and provides SWAPO's political bedrock. The government has not helped matters by refusing to disclose the identities of those resettled, fuelling suspicion they are in fact predominantly northerners. In late September, SWAPO members of parliament (MPs) blocked **Usutuaije Maamberua**, the sole MP of the **South West African National Union (SWANU)**, from tabling a motion in the NA to discuss procedures used for the allocation of land to historically disadvantaged Namibians (HDNs) under the resettlement programme.⁵ Land reform minister **Utoni Nujoma** claimed the issue was covered in a proposed land bill – which was withdrawn last year – and so the motion should not be tabled.⁶ Maamberua stated that parliament could not wait for the land conference since it was postponed to an undisclosed date, and accused Nujoma of blocking the motion because he wanted to hide the identity of beneficiaries.⁷ NA speaker **Peter Katjavivi** asked MPs to vote on whether the motion could be tabled or not. The motion was easily defeated as over 50 SWAPO MPs opposed it, while ten (of 19 opposition MPs) backed the motion.

The fact that SWAPO felt this was too sensitive a matter to be openly discussed shows how difficult it has become to have a balanced debate about the merits or otherwise of the current land reform policies. This is an issue that will not go away, and will resurface if, and when, the national land conference is reconvened.

...Namibia gets into a muddle over a UN motion to tough anti-genocide provisions

Geingob spent most of September attending the 72nd session of the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA)** in **New York (United States)**, accompanied by a large delegation including his wife, First Lady **Monica Geingos**. The size of the delegation did not go unnoticed in Namibia's independent media, with some criticism directed at Geingos for allegedly taking family members with her to New York.⁸ *The Namibian* reported on 20 September that she faced accusations on social media that the government had paid for her family members' visit to the United States. The **Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)** Namibian chapter's former director, **Natasha Tibinyane**, was reportedly amongst those raising the issue. In response, Geingos said her son was with her, but she had paid for his trip, while denying her parents had gone with her.⁹

The criticism is symptomatic of popular suspicions that despite its pro-poverty agenda, life at the top for Namibia's political elite remains the same as before Geingob came to office in March 2015. More substantively, despite the high-powered delegation, Namibia appeared to make a hash of its position on a motion proposed by **Australia** and **Ghana**, entitled "Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes against Humanity", for inclusion on the UNGA agenda. The motion was intended to compel UN member states to uphold principles and norms which safeguard humanity against genocide as defined in a UN resolution of December 1948, as well as holding those who have committed crimes against humanity accountable. When the motion was put to the vote, 112

⁵ The Namibian, 21 Sep 2017.

⁶ The Namibian, 21 Sep 2017.

⁷ The Namibian, 21 Sep 2017.

⁸ The Namibian, 20 Sep 2017.

⁹ The Namibian, 20 Sep 2017.

countries backed it, but Namibia joined 21 countries in opposing it (a further 21 abstained).¹⁰ This put Namibia in the company of **Syria, Myanmar, North Korea** (see below) and **Zimbabwe** amongst others. This seems somewhat extraordinary given Namibia's own experience of the genocide perpetrated by the German colonial administration in suppressing the national uprising led by the Ovaherero and Nama communities in 1904-08 and the ongoing bilateral consultations by Namibia and Germany on appropriate compensation.

The deputy prime minister and minister of international relations and cooperation, **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, maintained that Namibia had not voted against the principle of the motion but against the procedure involved.¹¹ But it was also claimed that the whole thing was a mix-up, and the vote was an error. Namibia is a member of the **Group of 77 (G77)** developing countries who had decided to back the motion as a bloc (although Zimbabwe and others dissented). Namibia's representative was supposed to have voted in favour, but voted against by mistake. Namibia's ambassador to the UN, **Neville Gertze**, refused to confirm or deny the report.

The prime minister, **Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila**, gave assurances in the NA on 21 September that negotiations between the Namibian and German governments on the unresolved issue of genocide were continuing and that the public would be informed about the outcome of the negotiations once completed.¹²

North Korean contracts have been terminated to comply with UN sanctions...

Namibia's position on complying with UN Security Council resolutions imposing comprehensive economic sanctions on North Korea appears to be clear. In a 13 September interview with Namibian media in New York, Nandi-Ndaitwah said that all contracts between the government and North Korean firms had been terminated:

*"In order to satisfy the sanctions committee [of the Security Council], we have invited them to come to Namibia any time to show them that we have complied."*¹³

Namibia regards North Korea as a friend for having provided weapons to its **People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN)** guerrilla force fighting **South African** troops occupying Namibia before the UN-led independence process of 1989-1990. As a result several North Korean companies have worked in Namibia during the past two decades. These include the state-owned **Korea Mining Development Trading Corp (Komid)**, which allegedly earns cash for the North Korean government by arms dealing, and construction firm **Mansudae Overseas Projects**.¹⁴ North Korean firms have built public works, including **Heroes' Acre**, a **Stalinist**-style commemoration of SWAPO freedom fighters, the official presidential residence, **State House**, between **Windhoek** and the **Hosea Kutako International Airport**, and the national history museum.¹⁵ Nandi-Ndaitwah said that contracts to maintain and renovate these had been ended, as had ones for the construction of a new defence ministry headquarters and a munitions factory,¹⁶ a project shrouded in secrecy. Last year, Nandi-Ndaitwah visited **Pyongyang** to convey a message from Geingob

¹⁰ The Namibian, 20 Sep 2017.

¹¹ The Namibian, 20 Sep 2017.

¹² New Era, 25 Sep 2017.

¹³ The Namibian, 15 Sep 2017.

¹⁴ The Namibian, 1 Sep 2017.

¹⁵ The Namibian, 15 Sep 2017.

¹⁶ The Namibian, 15 Sep 2017.

that his government values the long-standing friendship between both countries' peoples.¹⁷ The several thousand North Korean 'guest workers' in Namibia should also now have to leave as the latest UN sanctions resolution stipulates that there should be no foreign employment of North Koreans.¹⁸

Second quarter GDP contracts by 1.7%...

The **Namibia Statistics Agency's (NSA)** 2017 second quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers published on 21 September contained a mix of bad and good news.¹⁹ The headline figure was a 1.7% contraction in overall GDP, the same as the revised negative growth figure for Q1, which the NSA originally estimated at -2.7%. This corresponds with the improvement ARC had predicted (see *ARC Briefing Namibia August 2017*). However, Namibia remained in recession, although fourth quarter 2016 growth is now estimated to have been fractionally positive at 0.3% in contrast to a 1.4% contraction previously.

The main reductions in real-value added were for construction (-51.9%), the sixth successive quarter in which this sector has shrunk; wholesale and retail trade (-8.2%), a third successive quarter of negative growth; and fishing (-9.8%), due to a fall in catches after positive growth in the previous two quarters.²⁰ The value destruction in construction, caused by the cessation for now of major capital projects for new mines and reductions in government capital outlays, is unprecedented. At constant prices, construction's real value-added has fallen from a record N\$2.0 billion (\$141m) in the 2015 fourth quarter to N\$606m (\$46m), a 70% decrease, in the 2017 second quarter. It was slightly less in US dollar terms because the rand is stronger than 18 months previously, with a 67% decline to US\$46m. Hotels and restaurants, a proxy for the tourism industry, recorded contractions (-3.0%), along with public administration and defence (-2.3%), reflecting government spending cuts.

Real GDP growth Q2 2017 (% change) ²¹			
	2017		2016
	Q2	Q1	Q4
Agriculture	17.0	-11.2	-12.5
Fishing	-9.8	1.1	35.0
Mining & quarrying	25.8	18.7	3.4
Manufacturing	2.9	-2.5	11.9
Construction	-51.9	-45.0	-36.9
Electricity & Water	-1.1	7.7	21.6
Wholesale & retail trade	-8.2	-7.5	-3.0
Hotels & restaurants	-3.0	-7.3	5.3
Transport & Communications	3.5	1.2	5.3
Financial services	0.9	0.2	2.2
Real estate and business services	0.4	0.9	1.4
Public administration & defence	-2.3	1.4	9.2

¹⁷ The Namibian, 15 Sep 2017.

¹⁸ CNN, 12 Sep 2017.

¹⁹ Namibia Statistics Agency, Gross Domestic Product Second Quarter 2017.

²⁰ Namibia Statistics Agency, Gross Domestic Product Second Quarter 2017.

²¹ Namibia Statistics Agency, Gross Domestic Product Second Quarter 2017.

FSIM ²²	-1.7	-9.5	4.8
All industries at basic prices	-1.2	-1.3	0.3
Taxes less subsidies on products	-6.3	-6.6	-0.1
GDP at market prices	-1.7	-1.7	0.3

Both agriculture and mining output rebounded in the first two quarters of 2017, while manufacturing recorded 2.9% growth in the second quarter in contrast to contractions in the previous quarter and a year earlier. The diamond cutting and polishing sub-sector continued to record strong growth (37.0%), reflecting the greater volume of rough stones being made available to local processors. The post-drought recovery in commercial agriculture was also noteworthy, with the crop growing sector recording 32% output growth due to good rainfall this year, which benefitted cereal crops in particular. Cattle processing by abattoirs and local butcheries grew by 4% compared to a decline a year earlier, although growth in exported cattle to South Africa and **Angola** slowed to 9% versus 43% a year earlier. However, the high portion of live cattle exports to South Africa is a concern according to the **Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)** “as it means that domestic stock levels are not being built up after losses due to the drought” which may mean Namibian commercial farmers are unable to meet local demand in coming years.²³ Mining output grew by 25.8% (versus a 19.4% fall a year earlier), following a 18.7% uplift in the first quarter. The recovery was driven by higher diamond and gold output. Diamond real value-added rose by 33.2% in the second quarter (-30.0% a year earlier), reflecting a 32.0% increase in the volume of carats mined offshore by **Namdeb Holdings**, the government/**De Beers** 50:50 joint venture. The metal ores sub-sector grew by 20.8%; the NSA highlighted a 38.1% rise in zinc concentrate production (refined zinc production is classified as a manufacturing activity), rather than higher gold output. The **Otjikoto mine** (in which Canada-based **B2 Gold** owns a 90% equity interest and local empowerment group **Evi Mining** 10%) near to **Tsumeb** in the northeast, produced 41,200 ounces of gold, 14% higher than a year earlier.²⁴ This took year to-date-production to 83,900 ounces, 17% higher than the first half of 2016. As a result, B2 Gold raised its annual guidance range for Otjikoto to between 170,000 to 180,000 ounces for 2017.²⁵

...and another interest rate cut is likely next month

If diamond and gold output meet current expectations and agriculture continues to recover, this should lift annual GDP growth to around 2.0-2.5%, compared to revised up 1.0% growth in 2016. The **Bank of Namibia (BoN)**, central bank) is also likely to cut its repurchase (repo) rate one more time this year, probably by 25 basis points (bps) at the 25 October monetary policy committee meetings. This would be in concert with further expected rate cuts by the **South African Reserve Bank (SARB)**, and would provide a fillip to domestic demand. There is scope for further monetary policy loosening as inflation remains subdued in both Namibia and South Africa and is set to remain so for the rest of this year (see below). Windhoek stockbrokers **IJG Namibia** commented:

“Low inflation, coupled with subdued economic growth in South Africa and Namibia, provides both central banks with room to consider further rate cuts...(although) risks of

²² Financial intermediation services indirectly measured

²³ IJG Business Climate Monitor July 2017, Institute for Public Policy Research.

²⁴ B2 Gold Corp, 2nd Quarter 2017 Results. 2017.

²⁵ B2 Gold Corp, 2nd Quarter 2017 Results. 2017.

higher inflation remain, attributable to exchange rate volatility of the rand, to which the Namibia dollar is pegged.”²⁶

Husab mine output is ramping up more slowly than anticipated

One major factor that could adversely impact GDP growth prospects in 2017-18 is the slower than anticipated production ramp-up of the large **Husab** uranium mine commissioned at the end of 2016 (see *ARC Briefing Namibia January 2017*). Husab has encountered operational difficulties, according to Namibian industry representatives attending the **World Nuclear Association (WNA)** annual conference in **London (United Kingdom)** from 14-15 September. This means it is unlikely to be at or near capacity to the planned production of 5,770 tonnesU until the latter part of 2018. The mine is operated by **Swakop Uranium**, which is owned 90% by **Hong Kong-based Taurus Mineral**, a joint subsidiary of state-owned **China General Nuclear Power Corp (CGN)** and **China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund)** another **Chinese** government-owned concern, and 10% by Namibia's state-owned **Epangelo Mining Co**, which has virtually no working capital and whose interest is free-carried, meaning it does not have to contribute proportionately to mine expenses. It is not known how much uranium has been processed from the ore mined to date, but the ore grade, predicted to average 0.05% uranium – higher than the 0.03% average for the long established **Rössing** uranium mine (68.6% owned by **Anglo-Australian** resources group **Rio Tinto**) – has been much more variable than anticipated. Both are hard rock (alaskite), open pit mining operations. This has caused problems with ore processing operations and probably means the plant has required some modifications.²⁷

It is also understood that the operating costs at Husab are currently exceeding \$50 per pound of uranium oxide, which is more than double the prevailing spot market price of approximately \$20 per pound. This is not a problem for Husab's Chinese owners as most of its uranium is shipped to China for conversion into nuclear fuel for the country's expanding fleet of civil nuclear power stations. However, it does mean that the mine is economically unviable at current prices; originally the plan was to sell approximately 20% of production to the global market. This may still be the intention, but Swakop Uranium would then incur a loss on any such sales, at least while spot prices stay low.

The WNA's biannual nuclear fuel market report launched at this year's conference, covering forecast generating capacity, demand and supply for uranium to 2035, was not encouraging reading for those operating or planning to build new uranium mines.²⁸ The latter include Australia's **Bannerman Resources**, which has advanced its 90%-owned **Etango** project, which adjoins the Husab mining area in the central **Namib Desert**, to the advanced development stage.²⁹ The prevailing low uranium price reflects tepid demand and an excess of nuclear fuel supply. Although global generating capacity is continuing to grow, it is now expected to do so more slowly than in the WNA's previous (2015) report. Under its reference (baseline) case, capacity would increase from 359 gigawatt electrical (GWe) in 2017 to 482 GWe in 2035, a 34% increase, of which China would account for 141 GWe (+281% and a 29% share) and the US 91 GWe (-8% and a 19% share). Nuclear fuel demand would correspondingly grow, from 65,014 tonnesU in 2017 to 93,592 tonnesU (up 44%). But

²⁶ IJG Namibia, NCPI- August 2017.

²⁷ Namibian industry sources at WNA, 14 Sep 2017.

²⁸ World Nuclear Association, The Nuclear Fuel Report, Global Scenarios for Demand and Supply Availability, 2017-2035, 14 Sep 2017.

²⁹ Bannerman Resources, June 2017 Quarterly Activities Report, 27 Jul 2017.

because secondary supply will continue to provide around 10,000 tonnesU annually for the next five to six years, additional mine supply (assuming all current mines continue to operate, including Husab) will not be needed until about 2023 to 2025. This also takes account of a decision by the largest global uranium producer, **Kazakhstan** state-owned **Kazatomprom**, which has steadily increased its relatively cheap to produce uranium production during the past decade, to cut production by 10% this year.

At WNA, mine developers said that the current uranium price is not sufficient to incentivise new capacity or persuade boards to approve new mine developments.³⁰ So when a shortfall does emerge, this could cause the uranium price to soar rapidly. This may be too late to have new mines in operation to meet the expanded demand. But for the next few years at least the uranium price looks set to remain below the operating cost of most proposed new mines, although Bannerman has carried out detailed pilot plant and other test work in the past 18 months to bring down the capital and operating cost of an Etango mine development (planned output would be 1,600 tonnesU per year).³¹

Inflation stays subdued

Year-on-year (y/y) inflation remained at 5.4% in August, unchanged from the previous month and the lowest increase since January last year, according to the NSA's latest **Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI)**.³² Inflation averaged 6.6% during the first eight months of 2017, just above the 6.5% average for January-August 2016, so a further decrease would push annual inflation lower than last year's 6.7%.³³ Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages (at 16.5%, the second-largest weighted component of the NCPI basket) increased by 4.6%, from 4.3% in July, but prices for bread and cereals further contracted, by 0.5%.³⁴ The price of vegetables, including potatoes, fell by only 0.2% (1.8% in July), although prices of meat and fruit continued to trend higher.³⁵ Inflation for transport (14.3% of the basket) decreased to 2.0% from 2.4% in July, as the increase in the cost of purchasing vehicles fell to 4.2% (6.4% previously), although the cost of operating vehicles rose slightly, by 1.9% (1.6% previously).³⁶

Housing and utilities remained the largest contributor to overall inflation at 8.3% (down from 9.1% in July), as it has the biggest NCPI basket weighting at 28.4% and because of an unchanged 9.6% annual increase in rental payments for private dwellings, IJG Securities said they were likely to remain that high for the remainder of this year.³⁷ However, inflation for the water supply, sewerage and refuse collection service sub-sector slowed by one percentage point to 8.4% and for electricity gas and other fuels by a further five percentage points to 1.8%,³⁸ reflecting lower prices for gas, paraffin and other fuel products used for domestic cooking and heating and because the July inflation figure had included a 6.6% water tariff increase that **Windhoek Municipality** had passed on to consumers. The other big increase on the horizon is a pending 10% electricity bulk tariff hike that the **Namibia Power Corp. (Nampower)** has lodged with the **Electricity Control Board (ECB)**; if, as expected,

³⁰ WNA Annual Symposium, off-record briefings to ARC.

³¹ Fuel Cycle Week, 22 Sep 2017.

³² Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

³³ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

³⁴ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

³⁵ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

³⁶ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

³⁷ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price index August 2017.

³⁸ Namibia Statistics Agency, Namibia Consumer Price Index August 2017.

this is approved, most of the increase would be passed on to consumers, keeping housing and utilities inflation relatively high near-term.³⁹

Planner

23 Nov 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** Sixth session of parliament ends.
2019 **(Namibia)** General election planned.

Chronology

26 Sept 2017 **Kombat (Namibia)** *Press release*. **Canada-based Trigon Metals Inc** receives environmental approvals required to commence exploration for possible open pit mining;

26 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Germany** announces it will provide N\$2 billion (\$149m) in development spending focused on sustainable development, transport and logistics, and natural resources management;

25 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *New Era*. The prime minister, **Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila**, confirms that negotiations with **German** government continue over reparations;

21 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *New Era*. President **Hage Geingob** tells **United Nations General Assembly** the old political guard of the **Tanganyika Group** would transfer power to new generation of **SWAPO Party of Namibia** leaders “very soon”;

21 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Sub-Sahara Africa Today*. The **Namibia Statistics Agency** publishes data showing that the economy contracted 1.7 % in the second quarter;

21 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *New Era*. The **Development Bank of Namibia** resumes financing of small and medium enterprises following the suspension of the **SME Bank**;

20 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. SWAPO members of parliament block proposed debate on ancestral land and details of beneficiaries of the government’s resettlement farms programme;

19 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *NAMPA*. National level consultation on proposed **African Continent Free Trade Area (CFTA)** concludes Namibia is not ready to join the initiative;

18 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibia Economist*. Private equity fund manager **IJG** publishes data showing that year-on-year inflation remained unchanged at 5.4% in August;

15 Sept 2017 **Offshore (Namibia)** *Press release*. **Canada-based Africa Energy Corp** acquired one-third stake in subsidiary of **Pancontinental Oil & Gas NL** which holds 30% interest in petroleum exploration licence 37;

14 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **Ovaherero Traditional Authority** secretary general, **Mutjinde Katjiua**, says it may demand Germany pay N\$800 billion (\$59 billion) in reparations to Namibia;

11 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibia Economist*. Sixth session of parliament resumes and will close on 23 November;

5 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *FinFeed*. **Australian Securities Exchange-listed Celsius Resources** increases its stake in the **Opuwo Cobalt Project** to 95%;

4 Sept 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **Bank of Namibia** announces that private sector credit increased by 6.9% year-on-year;

³⁹ IJG Namibia, NCPI-August 2017.

- 31 Aug 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Commonwealth** secretary-general **Patricia Scotland** commends Namibia as one of the most orderly countries in **Africa** and the world;
- 29 Aug 2017 **London (United Kingdom)** *Offshore Mag*. **United Kingdom** (UK)-based **Chariot Oil and Gas** refuses to renew its exploration licence for two offshore blocks in southern Namibia;
- 28 Aug 2017 **Harare (Zimbabwe)** *Daily News*. The Namibian government expatriates Zimbabwean engineers after pressure from militant labour groups;
- 28 Aug 2017 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Engineering News*. **Canada**-based **B2Gold** appoints **United States (US)**-based **Caterpillar** and **South Africa**-based **Barloworld** to supply a seven megawatt (MW) solar power plant at the **Otjikoto** mine;
- 26 Aug 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *New Era*. **China**'s first deputy premier of the state council, **Zhang Gaoli**, begins a four-day official visit to Namibia;
- 22 Aug 2017 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Reuters*. China reportedly considers limiting its restrictions on Namibian beef imports.

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