Oryx Properties approves all AGM resolutions

Staff Writer

Oryx Properties Limited says all ordinary resolutions tabled at its annual general meeting (AGM) on 24 November were approved by a majority of linked unitholders, with 89.41% of total unitholders casting votes.
Unitholders unanimously adopted the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, approved the remuneration of non-executive directors for the 2026 financial year and endorsed the company's Remuneration Policy through a non-binding advisory vote. Each resolution received 100% support.
The resolution to reappoint the independent external auditors received 67.03% approval, while authorising directors to determine the auditors' remuneration was supported by 100% of voters.
Unitholders also voted to re-elect Jenny Comalie, who retired by rotation after 13 years but offered herself for re-election on a year-to-year basis. Her re-election gained 99.14% approval.
In its board update, Oryx said Roswitha Gomachas has retired as a director and as a member of the remuneration, nomination, sustainability and ethics committee, effective the day of the AGM. The board thanked her for six years of service.
Last month, the company said it had factored into its funding strategy the upcoming maturity of a N$248.5 million corporate bond in November.

Oryx Properties is busy with the Goreangab Mall development, a first-of-its-kind project in the Katutura area scheduled for completion in May 2026.
- Photo: Contributed

It said discussions with potential investors and arrangers are underway.
Oryx reported a net asset value of N$2.58 billion for the year ended 30 June 2025, down from N$2.77 billion in 2024.
The group had available funding of N$385 million, excluding its Domestic Medium-Term Note Programme of N$251.5 million and ring-fenced facilities of N$154 million for the Maerua Mall development and N$178 million for the Goreangab development.
The directors assessed the company's ability to continue as a going concern and found it had sufficient resources to meet obligations over the next 12 months.
Debt facilities amounted to N$2.76 billion, with N$448.5 million set to mature within the period. Oryx said it remained confident of refinancing these on favourable terms.
During the year, Oryx acquired Safari Investments Namibia (Pty) Ltd, the owner of the Platz am Meer shopping centre in Swakopmund.
The acquisition was funded through external financing and added to the group's asset base and long-term rental income potential. No disposals were recorded.
The carrying value of investment properties stood at N$4.6 billion for the group and N$733 million for the company. Due to changes in fair value, the group made N$98.6 million while the company lost N$25.3 million.
The group reported a deferred tax expense of N$278.4 million and a current tax expense of N$5.8 million, compared to N$18.9 million and N$1.6 million, respectively, in 2024.

Shekutaamba Nepembe, Standard Bank manager for employee value banking, with Karen van der Merwe, Standard Bank head for personal and private banking, and Josephine Theodore, acting head of HR at the City of Windhoek.
-Photo: Contributed

Standard Bank signs financial solutions agreement with City of Windhoek

Staff Writer

Standard Bank Namibia has signed a strategic financial services agreement with the City of Windhoek, strengthening its partnership with the municipality and expanding access to financial support for employees.
The agreement gives City of Windhoek staff exclusive access to tailored financial products and services aimed at improving long-term financial wellbeing.
These include Financial Fitness Academy sessions to boost financial literacy, home loan solutions at preferential terms, vehicle and asset finance at competitive rates, and personal loan concessions with faster processing. The initiative draws on the bank's Employee Value Banking, Corporate and Investment Banking and the Windhoek Branch teams.
Speaking at the signing ceremony, Josephine Theodore, acting head of HR at the City of Windhoek, said: "This agreement with Standard Bank is a direct reflection of our commitment to improving the lives of our employees. By providing access to personal loans and asset finance at reduced interest rates, we are taking the right step to ease financial burdens and improve quality of life of our employees. This is a smart partnership that will strengthen our relationship and enhance our ability to build a better Namibia. We look forward to the positive impact on our staff."
The head of personal and private banking at Standard Bank Namibia, Karen van der Merwe, said the partnership shows the bank's ability to provide solutions that support financial wellbeing.
"By combining financial literacy initiatives with preferential banking solutions, we are empowering City of Windhoek employees to achieve financial wellbeing and security. This is more than a transaction; it's a commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive financial future for Namibia."

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

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Proponent: Precious Kaoko Prospecting (Pty) Ltd
Project Location: Situated approximately 86 km south-west of Opuwo Town in the Kunene Region
Public Meeting Date: 5 December 2025
Venue: Otjiu- West @ the Clinic @ 10am
Environmental Consultant: Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc

We invite all Interested & Affected Parties to register with this study, submit your name and contact details with any issues, comments and/or opinions on or before 11 December 2025 to:

Eco- Wise Environmental Consulting CC
Cell: 0813826460
Email: info@ecowiseec.com

Larandja blows CoW trumpet

■ **Loide Jason**

OUTGOING Windhoek mayor Ndeshihafela Larandja said through teamwork and stronger partnerships, the city made progressive deliverables for the year.

She highlighted improvements in informal settlements, including the city extending electricity, adding more water points and sanitation facilities, continuing mapping of structures to support service access, and upgrading roads, as some of the achievements.

In an exclusive end-of-term interview with *New Era* last week, Larandja said the achievements show a new kind of leadership, one she described as "a city that listens."

Under her leadership, the mayor's office launched a Clean Skip Competition that trained 244 community members in waste management and encouraged ward-level participation.

She also oversaw the Backyard Gardening Project, which aimed to address food insecurity.

Fifty-five residents were trained and given starter kits, with each expected to train five others in their areas.

One of her most emotional achievements, she said, was delivering a modern sanitation hub at Babylon informal settlement.

"Residents cried for dignity. They shared one toilet per household. They spoke, and I listened. We built and handed over the first modern sanitation hub with eight toilets and two urinals. That is leadership that responds to dignity," she said. Other achievements include extending municipal debt relief to vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, child-headed households and orphanages, and opening the door for businesses to return to Ramatex, which had stood idle for years.

Challenges

Larandja admitted that serious governance challenges still remain.

She pointed to the abuse of delegated powers, saying some officials and councillors overstepped their roles.

She also raised concern about unlawful decisions passed "in the name of the majority", which she believes undermined the rule of law.

Another major challenge, she said, is the political competition between central, regional and local government, which she believes wastes resources and confuses residents about who is responsible for what.

She said years of partisan battles have created mistrust in the council, making it difficult to lead and implement policies smoothly.

According to her, city's last five years were marked by deep political division, sabotage, and weak cooperation between government structures. She said the situation slowed service delivery and created what they call "a nightmare council".

Larandja said the coalition council of six parties entered office with hope but soon crashed into the reality of inexperience and ideological conflict. "The first three years were years of a nightmare," she said.

"Most councillors were new, the political ideologies were different, and the levels of understanding were not the same. It caused misunderstanding, division and instability," she stated. According to her, these battles consumed time and energy that should have gone into fixing water, land, sanitation, traffic and housing challenges.

Progress... Windhoek mayor Ndeshihafela Larandja. *Photo: Contributed*

Larandja also criticised the lack of cooperation between central, regional and local government.

"There is no cohesion between the three tiers of government. Instead of working together, it often feels like competition. But this competition harms service delivery. The people suffer when leaders fight," she said.

She stated that the result was delayed decisions, duplicated projects and poor coordination on major development matters.

Larandja did not shy away from describing the council as deeply partisan.

"Partisan politics is the main weapon of destruction in the council. It kills morale, creates indecision and even gives room for some officials to manipulate council divisions," she described.

She said officials sometimes saw the political chaos as an opportunity to push certain interests through selected councillors.

Seats

Larandja recalled 2022 as a turning point when she opposed what she believed was an irregular CEO appointment supported by the majority.

"I called a press conference to inform the public what had happened. The 11 councillors who supported the appointment were not happy. After that, a vote of no confidence removed all IPC councillors from the management committee," she said.

She said IPC also faced backlash when it publicly revealed the city's "negative financial position", something she maintains was necessary for transparency.

-ljason@nepc.com.na

Thipanana Village gets borehole

■ **Rudolf Gaiseb**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform has begun installing a borehole in Thipanana village, Kavango East region.

This is after Member of Parliament Modestus Amutse last week Friday urged the government to move swiftly to install the delayed borehole.

Amutse's demand came after Ottilia Mbathera (47) from Thipanana village was attacked and killed by a crocodile after fetching water at the Kavango river and then attempting to bathe.

On Saturday, the directorate of water supply and sanitation coordination dispatched a technical team from Rundu to carry out urgent groundwork for the installation at the village.

The process includes digging foundation blocks, constructing three tank stands, installing three water tanks, and completing concrete works.

The ministry in a press statement issued on 15 August, said it went into the water-quality testing stage, and the procurement of installation materials followed.

According to the ministry, at this stage, a two-day curing period is required before the system is fully installed and commissioned.

"The ministry has prioritised the Thipanana installation to ensure immediate access to a safe and reliable alternative water source," it stated.

Meanwhile, in the region, in the last three months, at least four people died after crocodile attacks. The most recent being the demise of Mbathera.

Amutse, in the press release, stated that to prevent further loss of life and safeguard the well-being of vulnerable rural communities, the government must expedite and fully implement borehole installations in identified crocodile-prone areas.

"These attacks highlight the persistent threat faced by communities relying on river water for their daily needs," he said.

-rrgasieb@gmail.com

ARANOS TOWN COUNCIL

Aranos Town Council seeks the services of suitable qualified and experienced Namibian citizens who are dynamic and has proven abilities to administer and execute their duties and responsibilities within the framework of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992), as amended and other relevant legislation governing the operations of the Council in the following position:

EXTERNAL VACANCY

RE-ADVERTISEMENT
Position: Solid Waste Supervisor/ Foreman-C3

Job requirement(s)
- Grade 12, (at least 20 points) or Grade 10, (at least 25 points) with Trade Diploma plus
- Minimum of two (2) working experience in the Local Authorities environment of which (1) year should be in a supervisory capacity plus
- Physically fit and healthy,
- Training in Computer Literacy, Word/ Excel) and
- Valid CE driving license.

Salary Package
- Salary scale : N$ 216, 002.85XP- 224, 913.72
- Transport Allowance : N$ 10 512.00 per annum
- Housing benefit : 20%, (in case of not owning a house)
  40%, (in case of owning a house, bond registered)
- Pension : 21.7%, Council Contribution
- Medical Aid : 90%, Council Contribution
- Annual Bonus : 13th Cheque

Note: Candidates with foreign qualifications must attach proof of evaluation of such qualification from Namibia Qualification Authority (NQA). Fax and E-mail applications will not be considered. Applicants must be a Namibian citizen. Applicants should apply on the Governments' application form (156043), including health questionnaire form (156094), and applications must be accompanied by CV, and a minimum of two (2) professional references; as well as certified copies of ID and educational qualifications not older than twelve (12) months and should be submitted:

To: The Human Resources Practitioner, Aranos Town Council
P O Box 157, ARANOS

Tel: 063- 272051, Mr. Diedrich //Hoëbeb

Closing Date: Friday, 12 December, 2025

Note: Only short listed candidates will be contacted and no documents will be returned.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

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Proponent: Precious Kaoko Prospecting (Pty) Ltd

Project Location: Situated approximately 86 km south-west of Opuwo Town in the Kunene Region

Public Meeting Date: 5 December 2025

Venue: Otjiu- West @ the Clinic @ 10am

Environmental Consultant: Eco-Wise Environmental Consulting cc

We invite all Interested & Affected Parties to register with this study, submit your name and contact details with any issues, comments and/or opinions on or before 11 December 2025 to:

Eco- Wise Environmental Consulting CC
Cell: 0813826460
Email: info@ecowiseec.com

PROPERTY

NOTICE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environclim Consulting Services cc hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for the following:

PROJECT NAMES:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Construction and Operation of a Fuel Retail Facility, Convenient shop & associated facilities at Gibeon, Hardap Region

PROJECT LOCATION: The project will be located at Farm Hobby Garden/ or a Portion of ERF HOBBYG100003

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The project involves conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Construction and Operation of a Fuel Retail Facility, convenient shop & associated facilities at Gibeon district, Hardap Region

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:

Proponent: Naftal Trading Enterprises

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP): Environclim Consulting Services cc

REGISTRATION OF I&APs AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: In line with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012), all I&APs are hereby invited to register and submit their comments, concerns or questions in writing via: Email; environclim@gmail.com on or before Monday 22nd December 2025.

A public participation meeting will be held as follows:
Place: Gibeon Village Council Hall
Date: 6th December 2025
Time: 10h00.
Contact: +264 815955643
Email: environclim@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
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Eco- Wise Environmental Consulting CC
Cell: 0813826460
Email: info@ecowiseec.com

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/COMMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT (ESA FOR THE PROPOSED HARVESTING OF ROSEWOOD AND KIAAT ON SMALL-SCALE FARM UNITS No.1472,1399, 1419, 1478 AND 1508 MASHARE AND UNIT 1611 IN GCIRIKU CONSTITUENCY: KAVANGO EAST REGION

The public is hereby notified that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed project is a listed activity in the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an EIA Study.

Name of proponent: Nondunge Brands And Investment Cc

Name of the Environmental consultant: Savannah Environmental Consultants Services CC

Project location and description: The environmental Assessment will identify the pontential impacts, that are likely to occur during the on Harvesting of Rosewood (*Guibourtia coleosperma*) and Kiaat (*Pterocarpus angolensis*) on Small-Scale Farm Units No.1472, 1399, 1419, 1478 & 1508 and unit 1611 Gciriku and Mashare constituency in the Kavango East Region: Namibia. The harvesting will occur only in the listed farms.

Interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register in terms of the assessment process to give input, comments, and invited for the public consultation meeting at a later stage. Registration requests and comments should be forwarded to

Ms. Aili Iipinge , an Environmental Assessment Practitioner at Savannah Environmental Consultants Services CC on or before the 12 December 2025; Email: info@savannah.com.na / aili@savannah.com.na

Protecting your home and future: Why sufficient insurance matters more than ever

For most South Africans, owning a home is a major financial milestone, often representing up to 80% of a family's total wealth.
But while it's a powerful investment, it can also be a major vulnerability. Rising natural disasters, increasing crime, and a fragile economy mean many homeowners are dangerously underinsured. Fires and floods destroy around 20,000 homes a year, while 10,000 geysers burst monthly - proving that sufficient cover isn't a luxury, but a necessity.
Despite these risks, many South Africans remain underinsured, exposing both their homes and families. According to the 2025 ASISA Insurance Gap Study, the national life insurance shortfall for death, disability, and critical illness was estimated at R50.4 trillion by the end of 2024. On average, individuals have a R3.1 million shortfall in cover, and over 85% of breadwinners lack critical illness protection.
"Approximately 651 South African breadwinners lose their ability to provide for their families every year due to death, disability, or serious illness," says John Wessels, Executive: Product and Analytics at BetterSure Financial Consultants. "Even with rising living costs, having sufficient cover ensures loved ones can remain financially secure - and keep their homes - during life's most unexpected events."
Also known as building insurance, this covers the structure of your home against damage caused by fire, water, floods, lightning, landslides, or malicious acts. It's required by banks, ensuring that if your property is damaged or destroyed, you can repair or rebuild instead of paying off a loan for a home that no longer exists.

Home contents cover
This protects everything inside your home - furniture, clothing, electronics, and valuables - against theft, fire, or disasters. You can also specify high-value items such as jewellery or laptops to extend protection outside the home, whether you're at work or travelling.

The hidden risk
Homeowners with bonds are usually required to take out insurance, yet 49.8% of bonded households lack short-term insurance, according to the National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS). Cash buyers face even greater risk, as no bank enforces cover. Consulting a financial adviser and reviewing your cover regularly is essential to avoid being underinsured.
5 smart insurance habits to keep in check

1. Understand your cover
According to Vera Nagtegaal, Executive Head at Hippo.co.za, homeowners should review their building insurance yearly. Rising building costs and declining house prices can create a gap between your property's market and replacement value. Always declare home upgrades and ensure they're certified - undeclared changes can lead to claims being rejected.

2. Update your home inventory
Revisit your household contents list annually. If you've purchased new electronics, jewellery, or furniture, ensure your policy limits are updated so everything is fully covered.

3. Report life changes
Marriage, divorce, a new baby, or a job change can affect your life and home insurance needs. Review your policies after major life events to adjust coverage and beneficiaries.

4. Include home improvements and security upgrades
Extensions, renovations, or new security features should be added to your policy. These upgrades can increase your home's replacement value and may even reduce your premiums.

5. Cover new purchases
From entertainment systems to appliances and clothing, all new items should be reflected in your contents insurance. Replacing everything after a fire or flood without cover can be financially devastating.
Insurance may feel like an extra expense, but it's your financial safety net. Keeping your home, possessions, and family protected means securing not just your present comfort - but your future stability.
- Property 24

170 buildings burn in Japan city

TOKYO – One person was killed as a major fire damaged 170 buildings in a residential area of the Japanese city of Oita, the local government said on Wednesday.

Firefighters were still struggling to extinguish the blaze in the southern city as it spread to a nearby forested mountain.

Footage showed firefighters hosing ferocious flames as they ripped through houses on Tuesday night, while people were taken to a makeshift evacuation centre.

"The flames rose high, turning the sky red. The wind was strong. I never thought it would spread so much," one man in the city on the southern island of Kyushu told public broadcaster NHK.

"I was shaking with fear. I've never seen a pillar of fire like that," said another man.

At least 170 buildings were damaged in the blaze, which broke out late on Tuesday, with 188 people evacuated from their homes, the regional government said in a statement.

It confirmed one death without giving further details, while NHK reported that police officers searching for a missing 76-year-old man found a body at his home.

Mayor Shinya Adachi who visited the site said "the situation may be brought under control by Wednesday if the source of the fire can be put out," according to Kyodo News.

But "it will likely take several more days for the fire to be fully extinguished," he said.

NHK reported that the fire rapidly spread, possibly due to little rainfall, dry air, and densely packed wooden houses in the area,

-Nampa/AFP

Vietnam beauty queen jailed for fraud

Jailed... Vietnamese beauty queen Nguyen Thuc Thuy Tien. *Photo: Nampa/AFP*

HANOI - A court in Vietnam sentenced a former beauty queen to two years in jail yesterday for falsely promoting gummies as rich in fibre on her social media channels, state media reported.

The judges found Nguyen Thuc Thuy Tien guilty of deceiving customers, saying she was aware the fibre content of the candy was low at just 0.935%, VnExpress reported.

A former winner of the Thailand-based Miss Grand International beauty competition, Tien received a certificate of merit from Vietnam's prime minister.

She promoted Kera Supergreens Gummies along with fellow social media influencers Pham Quang Linh and Hang Du Muc, both of whom also received two-year sentences.

"They committed the offense intentionally and gained a large illicit profit, so strict punishment is necessary," the court said of Tien and her co-defendants, according to VnExpress.

The court said Kera Supergreens Gummies was a joint venture between Tien and a company set up by the two other influencers, with Tien holding a 30% stake.

Last December, Tien promoted the product with the other two as a healthy candy containing the equivalent of a plate of vegetables per gummy.

Investigators said the gummies contained more than 30% sorbitol, an artificial sweetener with laxative effects, along with undisclosed additives.

The court said more than 129 000 packs had been sold to over 56 000 customers for more than US$650 000, with the three influencers netting a US$473 000 profit.

Tien gained popularity in Vietnam after winning the Bangkok beauty pageant in 2021 and received advertisement deals with brands.

-Nampa/AFP

UAE faces online boycott calls over Sudan war

DUBAI – The UAE is coming under increasing fire on social media over claims it is embroiled in Sudan's civil war, with calls to boycott its crown jewel: the financial and entertainment hub of Dubai.

Abu Dhabi has repeatedly denied supporting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), despite accusations from the Sudanese government, UN experts, and international groups.

Posts blaming the UAE for "funding genocide" and "killing Sudanese" have snowballed in the weeks since the city of El-Fasher fell to the RSF, with reports of mass atrocities being committed in the city.

Public figures, including climate activist Greta Thunberg, have endorsed a campaign that analysts say threatens to taint the reputation of a country that has long sought to polish its overseas image to attract foreign professionals.

Reports of mass killings, rape, and other atrocities have emerged since the RSF seized the Sudanese army's last stronghold in the Darfur region in late October, just the latest horror in more than two years of war.

"Dubai in particular has a reputation as a soft power magnet that may be damaged," he said. Campaigners are pushing the phrase "habibi boycott Dubai", a reference to the viral "habibi come to Dubai" campaign promoting the city. It's a targeted swipe at the UAE's flagship city, which has become synonymous with flashy influencers, wealth and success.

Habibi boycott Dubai

Thunberg and rapper Macklemore, who combined have more than 20 million followers, shared a post titled "habibi boycott Dubai", describing the RSF as "the UAE's hand in Sudan".

Others have joined in, with more users calling for a boycott of the entire country. X user Anis Mansour accused the UAE of being "the main financier of genocide in Sudan", while Bint Khalifa, another user, blamed it for prolonging "the Sudanese tragedy, under the guise of humanitarian aid".

Commenting on the campaign, the Emirati foreign ministry told AFP it had seen "a marked increase in unfounded accusations and deliberate propaganda from the so-called Port Sudan Authority," referring to the army-aligned Sudanese government.

Analysts agree that it's too early to tell whether the damage would extend beyond a reputational hit because of limited international pressure so far.

"Now they're experiencing perhaps some reputational backlash, which they tend to be averse to," said Emadeddin Badi, a researcher at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime.

Before the city's fall, there was only limited political backlash, with some US lawmakers calling for a halt in arms sales to the UAE.

But they stopped short of condemning the RSF, with Gargash decrying "fake news" about the UAE's alleged involvement in Sudan.

Ulrichsen said with enough political pressure, the UAE may shift its policy or tone on Sudan. But it "will likely be done quietly and communicated through signalling and messaging rather than an acknowledgement of a policy that has gone wrong or is in need of adjustment," said Ulrichsen said. *-Nampa/AFP*

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