



Restricted resumption... Ambulances wait in line at the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing with the Palestinian Gaza Strip, in north-eastern Egypt on the first day of the evacuation of some 50 Palestinians, at the Rafah crossing yesterday. Photo: Nampu/AFP

Gaza's Rafah crossing makes limited reopening

RAFAH - Gaza's key Rafah border crossing was reopened to Palestinians yesterday, an Israeli security official said, but Egyptian state-linked media said only 50 people would be allowed to cross in each direction in the early days.

The resumption of operations comes after Israeli forces seized control of the gateway to Egypt in May 2024 during the war with Hamas.

A partial resumption of operations began on Sunday in a tightly restricted pilot phase that did not involve people traveling, following months of appeals from aid groups.

"As of this time, and following the arrival of the EUBAM teams on behalf of the European Union, the Rafah crossing has now opened to the movement of residents, for both entry and

exit," the Israeli official said, referring to a European border assistance mission.

Egyptian state-linked media reported that 50 people were expected to cross in each direction in the first days of the reopening.

AlQahera News, which is linked to state intelligence, reported, citing an unnamed source, that "fifty people will depart Egypt for Gaza and fifty people will come from Gaza, in the first days of the operation".

A source at the border told AFP a few dozen people arrived on the Egyptian side on Monday, awaiting entry into Gaza.

However, Israeli state broadcaster Kan reported that around 150 people were expected to leave Gaza for Egypt on Monday, including 50 patients.

The report said around 50 others were also expected to enter the territory, adding that the crossing would be open for about six hours daily.

"The Rafah crossing is a lifeline," said Mohammed Nassir, a Palestinian who had his leg amputated after being injured early in the war.

"I need to undergo surgery that is unavailable in Gaza but can be performed abroad," AFP images from Sunday showed ambulances queued up on the Egyptian side, preparing to receive medical evacuees, who were expected to be the first groups allowed out.

An official at Gaza's health ministry, which operates under Hamas authority, said about 200 patients were waiting for permission to leave the territory. - Nampu/AFP

Iran denies receiving Trump 'ultimatum'

TEHRAN - Iran yesterday denied it had received an ultimatum from president Donald Trump to reach a nuclear agreement, after the US leader said he had given the Islamic Republic a deadline to enter talks and threatened military action.

Asked at a news conference whether Iran had received a precise ultimatum from the United States, foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Bagheri said Iran "is a country that always acts with honesty and seriousness in diplomatic processes, but it never accepts ultimatums."

For that reason, such

a statement cannot be confirmed.

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities have arrested four foreigners of undisclosed nationalities for "participation in riots", state television reported yesterday.

"These individuals were apprehended during a raid on their hideout" in Tehran province, national television said, without specifying the date of the arrests.

"During a search of one suspect's bag, four homemade stun grenades, used during the riots and unrest in the area, were discovered," it added.

Iran also yesterday said

it had summoned European ambassadors stationed in Tehran after the EU's designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group.

On Sunday and yesterday, "representatives of all EU member states that have an embassy in Tehran were summoned to the foreign ministry", foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagheri said.

"This is the smallest of measures," before other moves are announced, Bagheri told a foreign ministry press briefing that AFP journalists attended. - Nampu/AFP

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NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

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Case No: 12/2025

In the matter between:

JOHANNES KAMBO
ACCUSED / DEFENDANT
LEONARD TPOPE
PROSECUTOR

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NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE LEGAL NOTICE

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a 20MW Solar Power Plant near Namutoni Lake in the vicinity of Otjomuho (Karas Region)

Notice is hereby given to all interested and affected parties (IPAPs) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commission in terms of the Environmental Management Act 2002 (Act No. 1 of 2002) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2012 (Regulation No. 1 of 2012).

Project description:

A 20MW Solar Power Plant is proposed on an allocated area of approximately 50 ha, located at 10 km north of Otjomuho and 40 km south of Windhoek along the B1 road. The site is accessible via the B1 road from Otjomuho to Windhoek, with a smaller gravel road accessible via an informal gravel road. The proposed project is to construct and operate a solar power plant that will generate up to 20 MWh of electricity.

Proponent:

JCM Power Corporation

Invitation to register and comment:

All IPAPs are invited to register as stakeholders and submit written comments on or before:

15 February 2026

Registration and enquiries (EIA Practitioner):

Augite Environmental Consulting

Dr. B. Kanyemba
 Email: b.kanyemba@augite.co.za
 Cell: 081 706 7622

Please include your full name, contact details, and any project-related comments in your registration.

AUGITE JCM POWER
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY CC

Police issue over N\$560 000 in traffic fines in a month

JUSTICIA SHIPENA
Staff Writer

Traffic fines worth N\$562 250 were issued during a nationwide crime prevention operation conducted from 30 January to 2 February.

Inspector general of the Namibian Police, Joseph Shikongo, released the results of the month-end operation, code-named "Wilya Shikongo's Tala Pombada", which was carried out across all 14 regions.

Thomas issued traffic summons worth N\$114 750 and arrested 15 suspects.

Oshana issued N\$124 750 in traffic fines and confiscated eight firearms, the highest number of firearms seized in a single region. The operation was launched in response to rising cases of robbery, drug dealing, stock theft, poaching, illegal hunting, and financial and online crimes reported in different parts of the country. It aimed to reduce crime during the month-end period, increase police visibility, raise public awareness, and ensure that Namibia remains safe for citizens and visitors.

Police conducted foot and vehicle patrols in urban and rural areas, enforced road traffic laws, monitored liquor outlets, and carried out ATM surveillance in malls and shopping centres.

In total, 212 suspects were arrested for minor and serious offences. Police confiscated drugs valued at

N\$90 840 and illicit goods, including cigarettes, fuel and alcohol, worth N\$163 813. Suspected stolen property valued at N\$84 500 was recovered. The livestock theft cases were reported.

Fifteen unlicensed firearms were confiscated and two firearms were seized for safekeeping, bringing the total firearms removed from circulation to 17.

Hardap recorded 51 arrests, the highest number of suspects arrested in one region, and confiscated five firearms.

Oshana arrested 46 suspects and seized illicit goods valued at N\$18 535. Oshana issued N\$124 750 in traffic fines and confiscated eight firearms, the highest number of firearms seized in a single region.

Karas recorded stolen property worth N\$82 000, the highest value of recovered goods in one region. Zambesi issued traffic summons worth N\$40 000 and confiscated one firearm. Shikongo said the operation faced challenges such as poor mobile network coverage in some areas, a shortage of patrol vehicles and limited manpower. He said the operation achieved its objectives and will continue in all regions.

Speaking during a debriefing parade at the Israel Patrick Iyambo Police College on Tuesday, Shikongo also announced the temporary transfer of the Tourism Protection Subdivision from the regional command structure to the Office of the Inspector-General with immediate effect.

He said the move aims to strengthen command and control, improve national coordination and ensure a uniform approach to protecting tourists and tourism sites across the country.

Officers will be appointed and transferred to serve under the subdivision based on experience, professionalism and suitability for tourism protection duties.

The Tourism Protection Subdivision is tasked with safeguarding tourists, tourism infrastructure and the country's tourism industry. Shikongo also raised concern over the arrest of 13 police officers since January 2020 on various charges.

Three officers were arrested for possession of cannabis and remanded in custody, while one officer has an outstanding case involving attempted murder, kidnapping and a sexual assault on bail.

Three officers were arrested on corruption and extortion charges, with two remanded in custody and one granted bail. Another three officers were arrested under the Anti-Corruption Act and the Stock Theft Act and were granted bail.

Three officers were arrested for corrupt use of office and extortion and remain in custody. A student constable was arrested for forgery and contravening the Education Act and was granted bail. Shikongo said the arrest of police members is regrettable and undermines the integrity and image of the force.



Joseph Shikongo - Photo: Contrasto

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CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a 30 MW Solar Power Plant near Otjomuise Sub-station, in the vicinity of Rundu (Karas Region)

Public participation is a key element of the Environmental Assessment Process (EAP) and an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commission in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 1987 (Act No. 7 of 1987) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010 of 2010).

Project description

A 30 MW Solar Power Plant is proposed on an alluvial area of approximately 30 ha, located 400 km north of Rundu and 200 km south of Windhoek along the R8 road. The site is accessible via the R8 road from Rundu or Windhoek, with a gravel access road available via the R8 road from Rundu. The proposed intake to construct and operate a solar power plant that will generate up to 20 MW of electricity.

Proponent

JCM Power Corporation

Declaration to register and comment

All stakeholders are invited to register as stakeholders and submit written comments on or before 16 February 2020.

Registration and enquiries (EIA Practitioner)

Angela Environmental Consulting

Dr. K. Kanyemba

Phone: 081 200 0000

Cell: 081 200 0000

Please include your full name, contact details, and any professional credentials when registering.



ANGITE

JCM

Shoprite sales grow by N\$9.2bn in six months

Staff Writer

Shoprite Group reported higher sales for the six months to end of December 2019, with merchandise sales from continuing operations rising 7.2% to about N\$ 136.8 billion.

This compares with restated sales of N\$127.6 billion in the same period last year. The increase represents an extra N\$9.2 billion in sales during the interim period.

The group's Supermarkets South Africa segment contributed most of the growth.

The segment accounted for 84.3% of total group sales and recorded sales growth of 7.1%, adding N\$7.7 billion over six months.

The group said its pricing approach continued to support affordability. Internal selling price inflation averaged 0.7% for the period, well below official food inflation of 4.7%. Selling price inflation eased through the half year and moved into deflation during the November to December 2019 trading period.

Like-for-like sales in Supermarkets South Africa increased by 1.9%, reflecting the lower selling price inflation.

Within the segment, Shoprite and Uave, including Shoprite LiquorShop, grew sales by 5.1%. Internal selling prices showed deflation of 0.1% at Shoprite and 0.7% at Uave. Shoprite LiquorShop increased sales by 10.1%.

Checkers and Checkers Hyper, including Checkers LiquorShop, reported stronger sales growth of



The Shoprite Group said its pricing strategy continued to support customer affordability. - Photo: Contributed

8.9%. Internal selling price inflation averaged 1.9% at Checkers and 1.1% at Checkers Hyper.

Checkers LiquorShop grew sales by 12.7%.

Supermarkets South Africa expanded its footprint over the past year, opening a net 262 stores to reach 2,747 outlets. These included 50 Shoprite, 42 Uave, 32 Checkers, four

Checkers Hyper and 81 LiquorShop stores. New-format stores accounted for 53 net openings. Petalshop Science added 45 stores, bringing its total to 173.

Outside South Africa, supermarkets non-South Africa increased sales by 12.1% in rand terms and contributed 8.4% to total group sales. In constant currency terms, sales rose by 9.5%.

When a personal loan makes sense

NATASHA WINKLER

Personal loans often get a reputation they do not deserve. They are blamed for over-spending, financial stress and long repayment cycles. The truth is simpler.

A personal loan is a tool, and like any tool, it only causes harm when it is used for the wrong job.

There are moments when a well-priced, well-managed loan can protect your stability, create opportunities and save you money over the long term. The key is to pause before signing and ask the right questions.

The first question is about purpose. Is this a need, a want or an emergency?

Needs are the essential parts of life that keep everything else moving. A car repair that gets you safely to work. A medical gap that cannot wait for payday.

A fridge that stops working when you have a family to feed.

Emergencies are the surprises that cannot be postponed. Wants are the nice-to-have items that can be saved for. Loans are made for needs and emergencies; they are rarely the answer for wants. When you use debt for a want, you pay a premium that steals from your future self.

The second question is about cost. A loan should never be taken in isolation. Compare the interest rate, fees and repayment term to your



Natasha Winkler

other options. If the loan replaces more expensive forms of debt, overdrafts, store accounts, and revolving credit, you may end up paying far less overall. Consolidating costly debt into one structured loan with a fixed term can create a clear finish line and reduce the pressure of scattered repayments. The aim is not just affordability today but efficiency over time.

The third question is about impact. A good loan should make your life better, safer or more stable. Repairing a leaking roof before the rainy season can prevent thousands in damage later. Funding a short

course that boosts your earning power can change your income path. Setting an overdraft bill that could escalate into legal action is not indulgence; it is protection. When a loan strengthens your position rather than weakening it, it becomes part of a healthy financial strategy.

The final question is discipline. Borrowing is a commitment you make to your future self. Only take on an amount you can repay comfortably. Set the debit order for the day your salary arrives. Do not pair the loan with new spending that cancels out the benefit. If the numbers feel tight, the solution is not a bigger loan; it is a smaller plan.

The loan should create breathing room, not pressure. Honesty in this step is what separates smart borrowing from stressful borrowing.

A personal loan is not a life raft or a lifestyle upgrade. It is a bridge: a temporary structure to help you cross a difficult patch or reach an opportunity you cannot access on your own.

Used with intention and discipline, it strengthens your financial footing. Used carelessly, it becomes the very hole you were trying to escape. The difference is not the product; it is the purpose.

Keep your future self in the conversation and choose the path that brings you closer to stability, not further from it.

*Natasha Winkler is the finance managing director at Old Mutual Namibia.

CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a 20 MW Solar Power Plant near Nampunha Sub-station, in the vicinity of Rehoboth (Karas Region)

Notice is hereby given to all interested and Affected Parties (A/Ps) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 1 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIR 19 of 2012).

Project description

A 20 MW Solar Power Plant is proposed on an allocated area of approximately 90 ha, located 4.8 km north of Rehoboth and 470 km north of Windhoek along the B1 road. The site is accessible via the B1 tarred road from Rehoboth or Windhoek, with a smaller portion accessible via an informal gravel road. The proponent intends to construct and operate a solar power plant that will generate up to 20 MWh of electricity.

Proponent

JCM Power Corporation

Intention to register and comment

All A/Ps are invited to register as stakeholders and submit written comments to it before 15 February 2020.

Registration and response (EIA Practitioner)

Anglo Environmental Consulting

Dr. K. Kung'u

Email: kungu@angloec.co.za

Cell: 081 196 9627

Please include your full name, contact details, and any project-related communication when registering.



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