



Meat Board of Namibia

meat CHRONICLE



Courtesy visit by the Western Cape government

The Department of Agriculture from the Western Cape government recently visited the Meat Board of Namibia. The delegation had strategic engagements with various other Namibian organisations to discuss matters of interest to both countries. From left to right (front) are Dr Mogale Sebopetsa (Western Cape), Paul Strydom (Meat Board CEO) and Dr Gininda Msiza (Western Cape). At the back is Desmond Cloete (Meat Board) and Floris Huysamen (Western Cape).

What the Meat Board has done

Ethiopian delegation visits Namibia

The Meat Board of Namibia received a high level Ethiopian delegation, that included the Minister, Minister Advisor and Director General of Agriculture of Ethiopia on 24 November 2022. The aim of the visit was to examine the systems and processes of the Namibian meat industry. The delegation visited the FAN Meat, Stock brand and Ear Tag offices respectively. Visits were also made to the Directorate of Veterinary Services, Meatco and several agricultural unions.



Abattoir and slaughter hygiene training offered

The Meat Board presented its annual abattoir and slaughter hygiene training on 01 December 2022 at the Namatubis abattoir in Outjo. Training focused on abattoir and slaughter hygiene to make industry players aware of its importance because meat is a successful medium for bacteria and the second largest cause

of food-related diseases in the world. Eggs are number one.

During training, emphasis was placed on animal welfare which has a direct effect on meat quality. It is the responsibility of every producer towards the animal.

The Meat Board would like to thank Kock Pre-

torius and Johan Steenkamp of Namatubis abattoir for assisting with annual abattoir hygiene and slaughter technique training. A word of appreciation is also extended to Jason Weiss of Hygiene Solutions for his presentation on hygiene. For more information, Petrus Maritz can be contacted on 061-275 847.



Abattoir staff who attended the Meat Board's annual abattoir and slaughter hygiene training in December 2022 at the Namatubis abattoir in Outjo.

Producers requested to bring herd statements up to date

The co-operation of producers is requested to update their herd statements on the national livestock identification and traceability system (NamLITS). Animals that no longer exist reflect on the farm's herd statement, alternatively animals that are no longer on the farm appear on statements.

Producers who do not have access to NamLITS online, are requested to submit the following information to their nearest state veterinarian office as soon as possible:

- Latest contact details,
- Updated herd list and herd numbers
- Active stock brands per farm (establishment).

The intention is to bring the data on NamLITS up to date in order to improve the usability of the system. The Meat Board NamLITS Helpdesk can assist farmers in this regard. Contact them on 061-275 851 / 853/ 879 or 878.

Meat Board urges producers to submit animal health declarations on time

The Directorate of Veterinary Services requires every livestock farmer to complete an Animal Health Declaration every six months. This declaration is an official document and should have been completed and submitted before 31 January 2023 – for the period July to December 2022.

The data collected by submitting the self-declarations are used for animal disease control, monitoring animal disease trends as well as for mandatory reporting to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Producers who fail to submit declarations on time, may have their farms closed until the required documentation is submitted. The Meat Board encourages producers to submit declarations online via the NamLITS system.

Forms can be downloaded from the Meat Board's website and are available at state veterinarian offices. Producers submitting the forms to veterinary offices must insist on proof of receipt. If the form is submitted by email, it can be sent to animal.health@mawlr.gov.na, with request for acknowledgment of receipt.

Stockbrand administration fee increased

The Meat Board of Namibia performs the administration of stock brands, on a cost-recovery basis, on behalf of the Registrar Stockbrand who is also the Directorate of Veterinary Services. The fees are adjusted annually from 1 January with the official inflation rate. So to defray the costs of administering

stockbrand registrations, the fees have been set as follows:

Registration of a stockbrand: N\$163

Transfer of a stockbrand: N\$59

Issuance of duplicate certificate of stockbrand: N\$103

Appointments made to facilitate administration of stockbrands

The Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) wants to inform producers about the introduction of an appointment system to better facilitate the transfer of stockbrands.

The process was necessary to reduce waiting periods, submission of incorrect documentation and frustration at MBN offices.

The transfer of brands from one person to another is usually specific to each application. To facilitate the process and ensure that the transfer take place correctly, the MBN wants to evaluate the application during a scheduled appointment with the producer concerned.

Appointments for the transfer of stock-

brands will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the FAN Meat office in Windhoek. Available times will be 09:00, 10:00 or 11:00.

To schedule an appointment: Call 061-275 844 or send an email to fanmeat@nammic.com.na or WhatsApp to 081 767 4858 or 081 767 4851.

Statistics show beef marketing is slowly recovering

On a year-to-year basis, there was a 4,3% increase in cattle marketing with 183 000 cattle marketed in 2022. Cattle carcass prices during the third quarter were 9,82% better, compared to the corresponding 2021 quarter.

The weaner calf/B2 slaughter ox price ratio improved from 74% to 62%, while 44% of the total marketing of cattle took place at abattoirs.

Beef exports improved by 48% to just over 8 000 tonnes exported during 2022, despite export abattoirs slaughtering less.

Given historical trends, it would appear that weaner calf prices will be roughly between N\$40.49 and N\$41.82 per kg, while beef carcass prices will be around N\$61.97 and N\$63.13 per kg.

Namibia utilises Norwegian beef quota for 2022

Despite a decrease in beef marketing numbers during 2022, compared to the year 2021, Namibian beef exporters were able to make full use of the 50% share of the available Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Norwegian beef quota of 3 200 tonnes.

Seeing that the quota is jointly allocated to Namibia and Botswana, and that Botswana could not fully utilise its 50% share, Namibia was able to supplement part of that deficit with approximately 255 tonnes. The Norwegian market remains extremely lucrative for Namibia.

Sheep sector recovering quickly

The sheep sector achieved a growth of 38% with 459 542 sheep marketed during 2022. Most sheep were exported to Northern Cape abattoirs, which paid N\$7.38 per kg more for A grade lamb carcasses than Namibian abattoirs.

UNAM Veterinary School visits Meat Board

Second year veterinary students from the University of Namibia (UNAM) recently visited the Meat Board of Namibia's head office in Windhoek to discuss the intricacies of the country's multi-billion dollar meat industry.

The aim of the visit was to provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills required to be successful in the livestock sector.

The visit delved into managerial tools needed for effective livestock production, marketing channels and livestock by-products.

The students were also taken on a visit to the NamLITS office and attended a presentation on the Role and functions of the Meat Board as well as FAN Meat.



Amendments to permit and producer registration conditions approved

At its last meeting, the Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) approved amendments to the producer registration and permit conditions. The amendment was necessary to maintain a more orderly system in the

meat industry.

The amended conditions are available at the MBN offices (Tel: 061-275 854), e-mail (chiefims@nammic.com.na) and on the Meat Board's website (www.nammic.com.na).

com.na).

Producers, importers and exporters are requested to familiarise themselves with the new conditions which will be in force from 1 February 2023.

Seal of Quality awareness campaign

A Seal of Quality promotion campaign was launched in December 2022 with all participating retailers. The winners of the competition are:



Gobas Meat: C Gibson from Keetmanshoop



Hartliet Windhoek: Tuvenue Komomungondo



Biltong & Bites: Mario Otto

Meat Board has no aborocide in stock at the moment

The Meat Board would like to inform all producers that there is no aborocide in stock. Negotiations are still ongoing with suppliers to negotiate the best possible price. Once the process is complete, the necessary notifications will be shared with industry.

Visitors to Namibia? Do not import animal products for own use

Visitors to Namibia, especially during December and January, are requested NOT to import products from cloven-hooved animals for their own use.

The Meat Board has identified a "Meat

Route" that stretches across Namibia, where tourists can buy meat and meat products. These brochures are available at border posts as well as on the Meat Board of Namibia's website. Full co-op-

eration regarding these measures must be given to the Directorate of Veterinary Services. Any meat or meat products brought into the country without a veterinary import permit, will be confiscated.

Beef sector price trends 2022

Leigh-Ann Nehoya
Meat Board
Statistician: Research
and Development
For agricultural
commodities, 2022



has been a challenging year. During this period, geopolitical unrest in Eastern Europe impacted all input costs, inflation continued to rise and the sustainability of common markets was dubious. The shifts in consumer prices for meat from primarily farm-raised animals showed wide price differences.

Inflation, which refers to the increase in prices consumers pay for goods and services, has been commonly mentioned in conversations globally as most consumer goods experienced substantial price increases. The increase in food product prices in particular is of great importance to an individual's well-being, making inflationary pressures concerning.

To add more context to inflationary pressures experienced in 2022, figure one shows the annual change in the inflation rate in 15 major groups measured by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). Transport experienced the highest annual inflation followed by the food and non-alcoholic beverages industry. The food category, being the second highest to experience high inflation, is a cause for concern as it may force lower-income earners to substitute a healthy diet to make ends meet. The demand for these goods is relatively inelastic, forcing consumers to purchase goods regardless of the price level. A further dive into the subcategories within the food industry, as seen in figure two, will further identify subgroups that have experienced high inflation during 2022.

The meat, milk, cheese and egg categories recorded the lowest price increase. Statistics imply that the drivers of inflationary pressures are oils and fats, fruits, bread and cereals. Meat experienced its highest peak in January 2022 whereas bread and cereals experienced the highest peak in December. The oils and fats subgroup was relatively higher along with fruits, peaking in May 2022 whereas fruits peaked in July.

The drivers of meat inflation were mostly offal and meat waste followed by ham and pork. According to Meat Board statistics, pork offal and cooked and uncooked processed pork (including ham) are the largest imported products for pork meat. Pork offal accounted for 57,02% of imports whereas processed pork accounted for 19,39% in 2022. Additionally, high feed costs brought forward by the Ukraine war have increased pork input costs by large margins, resulting in a majority of farmers operating at a loss or just breaking even.

Zooming into products controlled by the Meat Board, volatility was seen in beef prices between the months of April to September. Additionally, pork prices showed a similar trend but rapidly increased in September 2022 when Namibia started experiencing

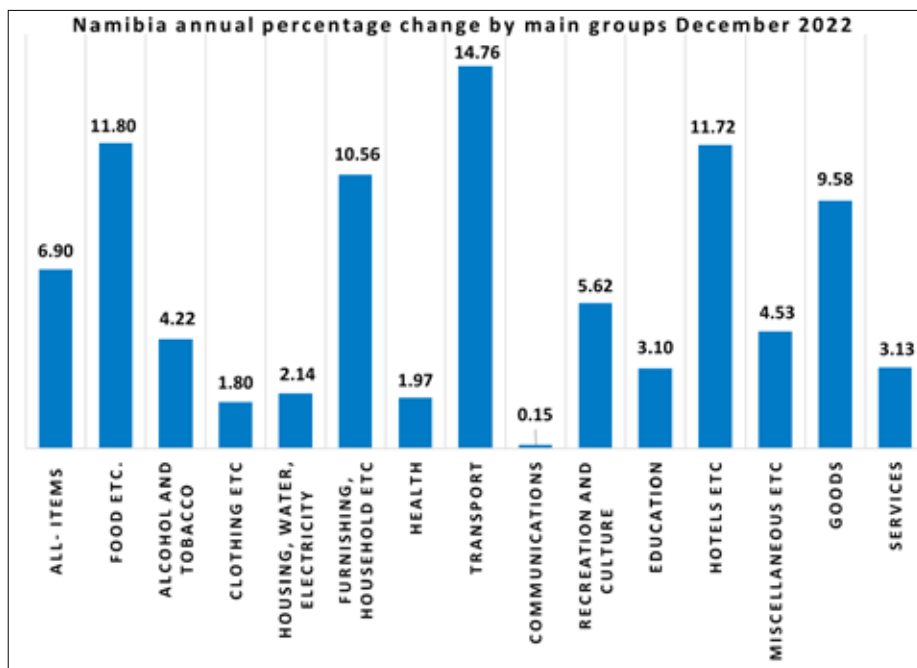


Figure 1: Consumer price index for major CPI groups (Source: Namibia Statistics Agency, 2023)

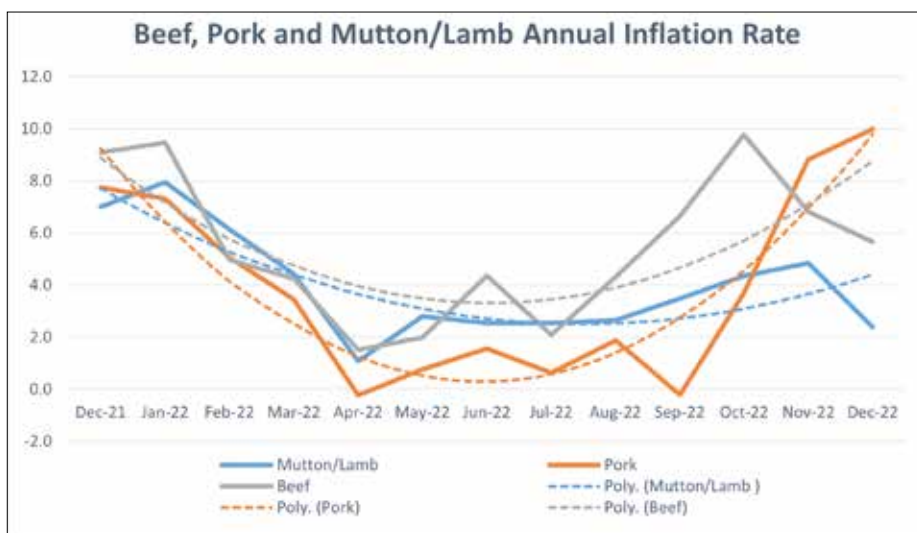


Figure 2: Beef, pork and mutton/lamb inflation rate. (Source: NSA, 2023)

pork supply limitations due to the closure of the South African border for fresh pork imports. Mutton experienced inflationary pressure but was relatively stable throughout 2022.

Looking at beef consumer prices recorded by the NSA from December 2021 to December 2022, price fluctuations varied depending on the type of beef cuts. Beef fillets experienced a growth of 67,09%, which accounts for a majority of the increase in the beef category whereas beef stew recorded a decline of 6%. Rump and brisket have both changed by less than 1%.

To conclude, the continuous fluctuation in consumable goods prices may lead consumers to substitute grocery basket preferences to accommodate tighter household budgets. Despite volatile price increases, the demand for beef remained strong throughout 2022, with consumers potentially shifting to beef from pork due to high fluctuations in pork prices.

Additionally, figure 2 shows that prices of beef have not fluctuated to levels of other proteins and food products, emphasising the resilience of beef prices during 2022. It is anticipated that these prices will continue to trend sideways and ease Namibian consumer budgets, should retail pork prices continue to rise due to supply constraints and rising input costs.

Livestock and meat industry

The livestock and meat industry recorded mixed results during the last quarter of 2022. Marketing activities, except for the cattle sector, continued an upward trajectory during the fourth quarter compared to the same period in 2021. This article reviews the performance of marketing in the cattle, small stock and pork subsectors. The review covers the fourth quarter of 2022 compared to the fourth quarter of 2021.

Cattle sector

Cattle marketing decreased in the fourth quarter of 2022. The drop in marketing was observable at B&C-class abattoirs while live exports and throughput at export-approved abattoirs performed better in comparison to the 2021's fourth quarter.

Production and marketing

- Year-over-year, the total marketing of cattle declined by 1,9% during the fourth quarter of 2022 where 56 852 animals were marketed compared to the 57 958 during the corresponding 2021 quarter.
- The notable decrease is owed to reduced marketing activities particularly during the last month of the year.
- From the total number of cattle marketed during the final quarter of 2022, 64,4% were live exports, 26,7% were taken up by export abattoirs while B&C-class abattoirs absorbed 9% of the market share. Compared to 2021, B&C-class abattoirs lost 7,5% market share towards live exports and export-approved abattoirs gained 3,4% and 4,1%, respectively.
- Up to 99,3% of all live cattle exported on the hoof were marketed to South Africa (36 337 heads) whereas Angola, Botswana and Zambia took up 0,4% (149 heads), 0,2% (171 heads) and 0,1% (31

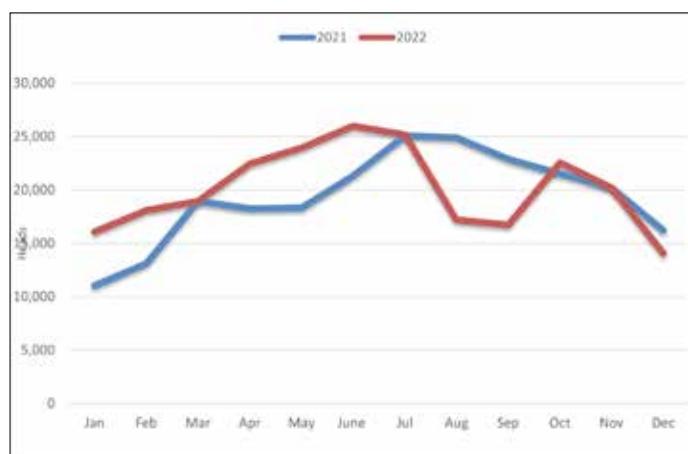


Figure 1: Total cattle marketed 2021-2022



Figure 2: Live weaner v B2 carcass prices 2021-2022

heads) of total live exports.

- Export-approved abattoirs slaughtered 15 160 heads of cattle during the fourth quarter of 2022 whereas throughput to export-approved abattoirs during the corresponding 2021 quarter stood at 13 084 heads of cattle – a growth of 15,9%.
- Although weaner prices in each month of the fourth quarter of 2022 remained lower than those observed in the same period of 2021, there was generally a sustained decrease in weaner prices during the period under review. On the other hand, slaughter prices improved by 7,6% and averaged N\$60.14 per kg during the fourth quarter of 2022.
- Domestic weaner prices dropped by 6,9% during the final quarter of 2022 compared to the same quarter in 2021. On average Namibian weaners traded at N\$38.21 per kg during the fourth quarter of 2022, N\$2.82 per kg higher than the 2021 level.

Sheep sector

The sheep sector performed relatively well during the fourth quarter of 2022 with all three marketing segments recording improved growths. The good performance is attributed to improved herd numbers after years of stock rebuilding.

Production and marketing

- Total sheep marketing during the fourth quarter of 2022 grew by 27,2% in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2021. The growth is attributed to improved activities across all three marketing channels.
- Live exports of sheep grew by 15,8% during the fourth quarter of 2022, recording 70 710 heads compared to 61 045 in 2021.

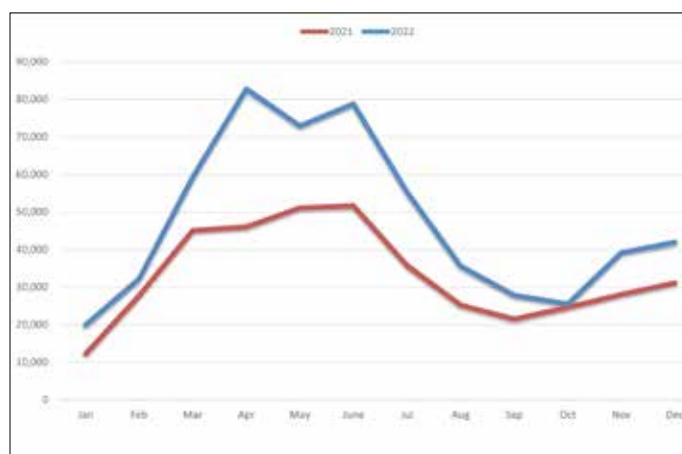


Figure 3: Total sheep marketed 2021-2022

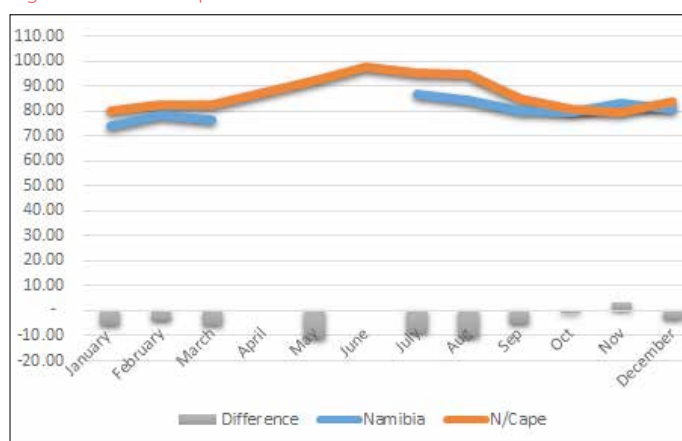


Figure 4: Namibia v Northern Cape sheep prices 2021: N\$ per kg

performance review

- Live exports lost a percentage of its market share, decreasing from 72,9% to 66,4% while export abattoirs and butchers increased their market share during the same period, accounting for 9,6% and 24% of total marketing, respectively.
- The market witnessed a growing trend towards the slaughter industry being dominated by butchers as opposed to export-approved abattoirs particularly during the 2021 and 2022 period.
- The resumption of slaughtering activities at the Farmers Meat Market Mariental abattoir has yielded positive results. Export-approved abattoirs increased their performance by 258,8% during the final quarter of 2022.
- Although minimal, price differences during the fourth quarter of 2022 remained between Namibian A2 sheep prices and those of the Northern Cape. An average difference of -N\$0.23 per kg was observed with Namibia A2 sheep prices averaging N\$81.15 per kg while Northern Cape prices averaged N\$81.38 per kg.
- Namibian C2 prices remained relatively lower than Northern Cape C2 carcass prices. The average Namibian C2 price for the fourth quarter of 2021 was N\$51.73 per kg, whereas the Northern Cape region paid N\$60.92 per kg, N\$9.19 higher than the Namibian C2 average price.

Goat sector

The goat sector performed relatively well in the fourth quarter of 2022. The good performance is owed to live exports and butchers that both recorded growths during the period under review.

Production and marketing

- Total goats marketing during the fourth quarter of 2022 increased by 28,2% in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2021.
- Live exports of goats grew by 27,6% during the fourth quarter of 2022 recording 44 760 heads compared to the 35 078 in 2021.
- From the total number of goats marketed during the last quarter of 2022, 97,1% were live exports while B&C-class abattoirs absorbed 2,3% of all animals marketed.



Figure 5: Total goats marketed Q4:2021-2022

Pork sector

Pork slaughtering activities at Meat Board-registered abattoirs recorded a growth during the period under review.

Production and marketing

- During the fourth quarter of 2022, a total of 11 944 pigs were slaughtered at Meat Board-registered abattoirs, a 3,5% growth compared to 11 540 pigs slaughtered in the fourth quarter of 2021.



Figure 6: Pork market share Q4 2022 (excluding processed meat)

- Local pork production serviced 38,2% of Namibian consumption requirements during the period under review, compared to 42% in 2021.
- A total of 1 797 tonnes of pork (excluding processed pork) was imported into Namibia representing 61,8% of local consumption. Total pork imports (inclusive of processed pork) amounted to 2 005 tonnes.
- The average Namibian pork ceiling price for the fourth quarter of 2022 averaged N\$47.49 per kg, up by 26,7% from the N\$37.49 observed in the fourth quarter of 2021.

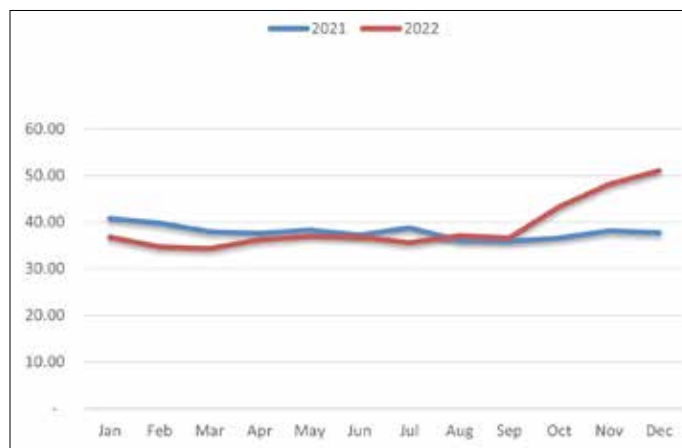


Figure 7: Pork ceiling price 2021-2022

Conclusion

The improved national animal herd post-drought has commenced restoration towards pre-2020 marketing levels. This has resulted in an increase in marketing activities across all three sectors. More weaners were exported to South Africa during the fourth quarter of 2022 at a lower average price compared to the fourth quarter of 2021.

Beef carcass prices remained high throughout the fourth quarter of 2022 and are expected to remain on a growth trajectory up to mid-2023 as export abattoirs are offering relatively better producer prices. Similarly, sheep prices have been on an upward curve during 2022, a trend that producers expect to witness in 2023 due to the possibility of accessing high-paying markets.

The ban on the importation of pork products from South African has had a negative impact on the supply of pork within the domestic market. The Namibian pork ceiling price which is based on the RMAA was subsequently affected by the ban since the RMAA has been decreasing as a result of the oversupply of meat in the South African market, a situation that has necessitated changes in the pork ceiling price formula to shield producers from further losses.

STAFF NEWS | **New appointments at the head office**



Bertha Paulus
Human Capital Officer
1 January 2023



Muje Uazeua
Accounting Officer
1 February 2023



Aina Iputa
Ear Tag Dispatch Officer
1 December 2022



Uazeri Kanaete
Border Officer Buitepos
1 November 2022



Keo Thataone
Compliance Officer
1 February 2023



Jenny Gouws
Admin Assistant:
Information Systems
1 February 2023



Maggy Ileka
Accountant
1 February 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Meat Board of Namibia is to promote a conducive environment for sustainable livestock production, market growth and diversification for livestock, meat and meat products; and to maintain standards and quality assurance by way of appropriate regulatory intervention.

WE LOVE OUR MEAT

Premium quality Namibian meat controlled and guaranteed by the Meat Board across the value chain based on high quality & safety standards.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Meat Board of Namibia is to be an internationally and locally recognised organisation that promotes a profitable, vibrant, quality-driven Namibian meat industry in local and international markets.

