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# Namibia studies Guyana's oil and gas model



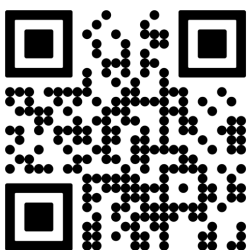
## FINANCIAL MARKETS

### Exchange Rates

N\$ – US Dollar:	17.73
N\$ – British Pound:	23.06
N\$ – Euro:	20.29
N\$ – Aus dollar:	11.54
N\$ – Yen:	0.12

### Commodities

Gold:	3 357
Silver :	36.20
Palladium:	1310.74
Platinum:	1468.68
Brent crude:	69.09



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Scan the QR code to step into Joyce Nghiishililwa's journey — where every mile carries a story, every post feels like home, and travel becomes a celebration of Namibia's soul.

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**Business Express is a Namibian quality journalism publication aimed at giving consumers cutting-edge business content with key focus on business and economic news.**

Established in 2022, our premium weekly virtual newspaper (e-paper) has distinguished itself as an in-depth, analytical and discursive medium that helps readers make sense of the headlines. We provide daily news and popular multi-media content on our digital and social platforms. As an independent, non-partisan business, we see ourselves as, and pride ourselves in being, a critical alternative platform.

Our target market comprises of business oriented individuals as well as diplomats, foreign communities, policymakers, industrialists and businesses, among other key constituencies.

As a digital-first media, we are available on all major platforms such as website <http://www.nambusinessexpress.com>, on WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn among others. Each week, we are able to reach thousands across these platforms making us one of the fastest growing media in Namibia. We are proud of the success and grateful for the support and custom of our various stakeholders.



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**Business Insights**  
*Weekly...*

## **NIP's 24-hour labs: A lifeline for Namibia's healthcare system**

***The Namibia Institute of Pathology's (NIP) decision to launch 24-hour laboratory operations marks a critical step toward strengthening the country's healthcare system. By introducing a multishift system at key facilities—including the National Reference Laboratory in Windhoek and regional hubs in Oshakati, Rundu, and Onandjokwe—NIP is addressing a long-standing gap in diagnostic services. This move is not just about extending working hours; it is a lifeline for patients, doctors, and public health at large.***

For years, Namibia's laboratories have operated on limited single shifts, forcing hospitals to outsource tests at high costs and endure delays that compromise patient care. With testing volumes rising and no proportional increase in capacity, the system has been stretched thin.

The new 24-hour model changes this by maximizing equipment use, reducing backlogs, and cutting turnaround times—factors that can mean the difference between life and death in critical cases. Faster diagnoses lead to quicker treatments, easing pressure on hospitals and improving outcomes for patients with conditions ranging from infectious diseases to cancer.

The Hub-Spoke-Node model, with its specialized Centres of Excellence, will further decentralize services, ensuring that even remote regions benefit from efficient testing. By reducing the need to transport specimens across long distances, the risk of delays or compromised samples diminishes. Moreover, the focus on specialized disciplines like Molecular Medicine will elevate Namibia's diagnostic capabilities, fostering research and better disease surveillance.

Critically, NIP has emphasized compliance with labor laws, ensuring staff well-being while expanding services. This balance between operational efficiency and employee welfare sets a commendable standard. As Chief Strategy Officer Niita Evaristus notes, this initiative is about more than logistics—it's about building a resilient, patient-centered healthcare future.

In a nation where timely medical intervention can save countless lives, NIP's 24-hour labs are a noble and necessary leap forward. This is not just an upgrade in operations; it is a commitment to equitable, efficient, and life-saving healthcare for all Namibians.

>>>HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION VISITS GUYANA

# Namibia takes notes from Guyana's Oil and Gas Model

*Business Express Writer*

*Namibia is turning its attention to the small but rapidly growing South American nation of Guyana as it seeks to develop its own burgeoning oil and gas sector. Following significant offshore discoveries in recent years and under the leadership of a new government, Namibia is keen to learn from Guyana's successes and challenges in managing its hydrocarbon resources. Namibia is particularly interested in how Guyana has structured its regulatory framework, managed revenue inflows, and ensured that oil wealth translates into tangible benefits for its citizens.*

In a recent exclusive interview with OilNOW, Kornelia Shilunga, Special Advisor on Oil and Gas to Namibia's President, revealed that a high-level delegation had undertaken a benchmarking visit to Guyana to study its oil and gas governance model. "The President, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, feels we need to put up a structure, and also to put up a legal framework that will govern that structure for us to be able to manage our oil and gas

"This move underscores Namibia's commitment to establishing a robust and transparent system before full-scale production begins, ensuring that the sector's development aligns with national priorities. "



sector," Shilunga explained. This move underscores Namibia's commitment to establishing a robust and transparent system before full-scale production begins, ensuring that the sector's development aligns with national priorities.

The Namibian delegation engaged with key Guyanese officials, including the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Finance, to gain insights into revenue management, local content policies, and broader economic transformation strategies. "We were learning more on how revenue is accrued, how it is managed, how it is benefiting the Guyanese, and



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how it translates to transformational development in the country,” Shilunga noted. These discussions were particularly valuable for Namibia, which is still in the early stages of structuring its oil and gas governance mechanisms.

One of the critical areas of focus for Namibia is local content—a policy framework designed to ensure that Namibian businesses and workers benefit from the oil and gas sector. Shilunga confirmed that Namibia has already approved a local content policy, which has undergone extensive review processes and received Cabinet approval. “What is left for us to do now is just to take it to the different regions of Namibia to explain to the Namibian people,” she said. This step is crucial in fostering public understanding and support, as the government seeks to ensure that the sector’s growth translates into job creation and skills development for local communities.

Another key area of interest for Namibia is the management of oil revenues through a sovereign wealth fund (SWF). While Namibia already has an SWF in place, the government is keen to refine its approach by learning from Guyana’s experiences. Guyana’s Natural Resource Fund, established to manage oil revenues transparently and sustainably, has been a focal point for Namibian officials. Shilunga emphasized that Namibia intends to adopt best practices to ensure that its SWF not only preserves wealth for future generations but also supports immediate socio-economic development.

The relationship between Namibia and Guyana extends beyond oil and gas, with the two nations sharing long-standing diplomatic ties. These historical connections provide a strong foundation for technical cooperation in the energy sector. “When it comes to oil and gas, we are just going to build on the foundation that was created already by our forefathers and by the leaders that have led Namibia and Guyana,” Shilunga said. She also highlighted previous engagements, including a visit by Namibia’s former Minister of Mines and Energy last year, which laid the groundwork for the current collaboration.

Namibia’s interest in Guyana’s model comes at a pivotal moment for both countries. Since ExxonMobil’s first major discovery in Guyana’s Stabroek Block in 2015, the country has emerged as one of the world’s fastest-growing oil producers, with reserves exceeding 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent. This rapid development has brought both opportunities and challenges, particularly in terms of ensuring that

oil revenues drive broad-based economic growth rather than exacerbating inequality or environmental risks. Namibia, which is still in the exploration phase, is keen to avoid some of the pitfalls experienced by other resource-rich nations by implementing strong governance structures from the outset.

For Namibia, the oil and gas sector represents more than just an economic opportunity—it is seen as a catalyst for national transformation. President Nandi-Ndaitwah’s administration has placed a strong emphasis on job creation, particularly for the youth, with an ambitious target of generating 500,000 new jobs. The government’s broader development plan includes vocational training programs, expansion of public health and education services, and investments in agriculture and creative industries. The oil sector is expected to play a central role in financing these initiatives, provided that revenues are managed effectively.

The recent discoveries by Shell and TotalEnergies in Namibia’s Orange Basin in 2022 have positioned the country as one of the most promising new exploration hotspots in the world.

These finds have drawn comparisons to Guyana’s own rapid ascent in the global oil market, prompting a surge of interest from international energy companies. With major players rushing to secure exploration rights, Namibia is under pressure to finalize its regulatory framework to ensure that the sector develops in a way that maximizes national benefits.

As Namibia moves forward, the lessons from Guyana will be invaluable. Guyana’s experience highlights the importance of strong institutions, transparent revenue management, and a clear local content strategy to ensure that oil wealth benefits the broader population. For Namibia, the challenge will be to adapt these lessons to its unique context, balancing rapid sector growth with long-term sustainability.

The collaboration between the two nations marks an important step in South-South cooperation, where developing countries share knowledge and expertise to navigate the complexities of resource management.

As Namibia continues to refine its policies and prepare for the next phase of its oil and gas journey, the insights gained from Guyana will play a crucial role in shaping a sector that could transform the country’s economic future. With careful planning and strong governance, Namibia has the potential to avoid the so-called “resource curse” and instead use its hydrocarbon wealth as a springboard for inclusive and sustainable development.



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# Residential projects dominate Namibia's construction sector amid economic shifts



**By Business Express Writer**

***Windhoek and Swakopmund's construction landscapes are being shaped overwhelmingly by residential developments, as recent data reveals a stark contrast between housing demand and sluggish commercial activity. According to the latest building statistics from Simonis Storm, residential projects accounted for 73% of all approved building plans in Windhoek and a staggering 96% in Swakopmund in June 2025, underscoring a persistent focus on housing needs even as broader economic challenges slow large-scale developments.***

The numbers paint a clear picture: Windhoek saw a 17% month-on-month decline in approved building plans in June, dropping to 158 from 191 in May. While this dip could reflect administrative delays, analysts suggest it also signals a maturing construction cycle after an active first quarter. Swakopmund, however, bucked the trend with a 22% monthly increase in approvals, rising from 64 to 73, alongside a 16% year-on-year growth. This divergence highlights regional disparities, with the coastal town benefiting from stronger developer confidence and targeted infrastructure investments.

A deeper look at quarterly figures reveals broader challenges. Windhoek retired 677 building plan applications in Q2 2025, approving 436 and completing just 126. Over the first half of the year, completions plummeted to 224—less than half the 577 recorded in the same period in 2024. The

widening gap between applications, approvals, and completions points to systemic bottlenecks, likely driven by high construction costs, financing constraints, or logistical hurdles. Swakopmund fared slightly better, with 205 approvals and 117 completions in Q2, but even here, completions dropped year-on-year, reflecting nationwide pressures in turning plans into finished projects.

## **Residential demand outpaces commercial growth**

The dominance of residential projects is unmistakable. In Windhoek, 115 of June's 158 approvals were for residential additions—typically home expansions or upgrades—while new housing developments made up just 6%. Commercial projects lagged at a mere 4%, with activity concentrated in suburbs like Khomasdal, Katutura, and Klein Windhoek. This trend suggests a market driven by incremental housing improvements rather than large-scale developments, possibly due to affordability constraints or cautious developer sentiment.

Swakopmund's figures are even more striking. Of its 78 approvals in June, 75 were residential, leaving commercial and institutional projects at less than 3% combined. The near-absence of non-residential activity indicates a market still heavily focused on private housing, with little momentum in retail, office, or industrial spaces. Analysts attribute this to





Continues from page 6

oversupply in certain segments, subdued investor appetite, or a wait-and-see approach amid economic uncertainty.

Despite the slowdown in volume, the value of completed projects in Windhoek rose to N\$441 million in the first half of 2025, up from N\$319 million the previous year. This suggests a shift toward higher-value residential upgrades or boutique commercial builds, even as overall completions decline. Quarterly data, however, reveals volatility: Q2 completions in Windhoek totalled N\$104 million (103 projects), a sharp drop from N\$538 million in Q1 (97 projects). This erratic performance underscores the challenges developers face in sustaining project pipelines.

Swakopmund mirrored this trend, with completions falling to 204 in the first half of 2025 from 294 a year earlier. The total value also dipped to N\$128 million from N\$164 million, signalling smaller-scale, lower-value projects. Yet, June brought a glimmer of hope: completions nearly doubled from May, and values rebounded to N\$49 million. While this may reflect delayed projects finally crossing the finish line, it offers cautious optimism for the sector.

### Swakopmund's strategic infrastructure push

Beyond residential demand, Swakopmund's construction outlook is being reshaped by strategic infrastructure investments. The town's airport upgrade—a key project approved by the municipality—aims to boost tourism and logistics, with adjacent land earmarked for industrial and commercial use. Road upgrades, such as Libertina Amathila Avenue, and public space enhancements like the Mole Cubicle project, are further priming the town for growth.

Land servicing initiatives in areas like Kramersdorf Extensions and Mondesa Heights are unlocking new residential zones, with public-private partnerships accelerating delivery. These efforts, coupled with streamlined municipal planning, could eventually diversify Swakopmund's construction mix,

drawing in commercial and industrial projects. For now, though, housing remains the undisputed leader.

### The road ahead

The residential sector's dominance reflects both enduring demand and broader economic headwinds. With high interest rates, rising material costs, and financing hurdles, developers are prioritizing smaller, lower-risk housing projects over large commercial ventures. For policymakers, the data underscores the need for targeted support—whether through streamlined approvals, incentives for affordable housing, or infrastructure investments to unlock new development corridors.

As Namibia's construction sector navigates these challenges, the focus on housing is unlikely to wane soon. But with strategic planning and sustained investment, the balance may gradually shift, paving the way for a more diversified and resilient built environment in the years ahead.



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Attendees will benefit from:

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- **Aligned organisational goals**
- **Informed decision-making**
- **Mitigated risks**
- **Transparency and Accountability**
- **Efficiency and streamlined processes**

**Date:** Thursday 31 July 2025

**Time:** 08h00 – 13h00

**Venue:** Oshakati Town Council Auditorium  
906 Sam Nujoma Road  
Oshakati

**Cost:** Free

RSVP at the below email address before or on Friday, 24 July 2025 by 13h00 and the agenda will be shared:

**Mrs. Vincia Katjindee**

**Procurement Officer**

**Contacts: +264 61 71 2015**

**Email: katjindeev@namwater.com.na**

**Water for All, Forever!**



## US Défense deal shines spotlight on Namibia's rare earths potential

*By Business Express Writer*

***The recent \$400 million investment by the US Department of Defense (DoD) in MP Materials, a leading rare earths producer, has drawn global attention to the critical minerals sector—and Namibia could be next in line for similar strategic partnerships. The deal, which includes a price guarantee for neodymium-praseodymium (Nd-Pr) and a commitment to purchase all output from a new magnet plant in Texas, underscores the growing urgency among Western nations to secure non-Chinese supplies of these essential materials.***

For Namibia, a country rich in heavy rare earth elements such as terbium and dysprosium, the US move highlights an opportunity to leverage its own resources. Namibia Critical Metals (NMI), a Canadian-listed company with a major project in the country, has already caught the eye of Japan, another nation keen on reducing its reliance on China. The company's Lofdal project, fully permitted and shovel-ready, is one of the world's largest known deposits of these heavy rare earths—key components in high-performance magnets used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, and defense systems.

**A strategic us move with global implications**

The DoD's agreement with MP Materials includes a minimum price guarantee of \$110 per kilogram for Nd-Pr, two light rare earth elements crucial for magnet production. This price floor, valid for a decade, ensures stability for MP Materials, even if market prices drop. Additionally, the DoD has committed to purchasing all output from MP's new "10X" magnet plant in Texas, which aims to produce 10 metric tons of neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets annually—enough to make it the largest producer outside China.

David Merriman, a rare earths expert at consultancy Project Blue, notes that this deal provides MP Materials with a safety net while allowing the company to benefit if prices rise above the guaranteed minimum. The agreement also ensures a minimum annual operating profit of \$140 million for the 10X plant, increasing by 2% each year—a significant incentive for domestic rare earth production.

### **Why this matters for Namibia**

While the US focuses on light rare earths like Nd-Pr, heavy rare earths such as terbium and dysprosium are even scarcer and more critical for advanced technologies. China currently



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dominates global supply, controlling over 90% of production. This has prompted Japan, the US, and Europe to seek alternative sources—and Namibia is emerging as a key player.

Namibia Critical Metals' Lofdal project, backed by Japan's Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC), is one of the few heavy rare earth deposits outside China with advanced development status. Darrin Campbell, CEO of NMI, describes the US DoD's move as a "fantastic development for the sector" and hopes similar support will extend to heavy rare earths.

"Terbium and dysprosium are essential for high-performance magnets, yet their supply is even more constrained than Nd-Pr," Campbell said. "With Lofdal fully permitted and ready for development, Namibia is well-positioned to become a strategic supplier."

### Japan's role in Namibia's rare earth future

Japan, a major consumer of rare earths for its electronics and automotive industries, has been actively securing supply chains outside China. Its partnership with NMI through JOGMEC includes funding for feasibility studies and exploration, signalling strong confidence in Lofdal's potential.

The project already holds a 25-year mining license and has completed all environmental approvals, putting it ahead of many global competitors. If developed, Lofdal could supply a significant portion of the world's terbium and dysprosium, reducing reliance on China.

A growing global race for rare earths

The US DoD's investment in MP Materials reflects a broader trend of Western nations scrambling to secure critical minerals. The European Union has listed rare earths as strategic materials, while the US has increased funding for domestic processing and recycling. or Namibia, this presents a major

economic opportunity. The country already produces uranium and diamonds, but rare earths could become another high-value export. However, challenges remain, including the need for further investment in processing infrastructure—something that partnerships like NMI's with JOGMEC could help address.

As the world shifts toward green energy and advanced technology, Namibia's rare earth resources may soon take center stage.

The US DoD's latest move has thrown a spotlight on the sector, and if similar support follows for heavy rare earths, Namibia could find itself at the heart of a new global supply chain.

For now, all eyes are on Lofdal—and whether it can deliver on its promise as a game-changer for both Namibia and the rare earths market.



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# TENDER



First date of publication: 07 July 2025

## TENDER NO: DBMNE0535 PROVISION OF SAP CONSULTANCY SERVICES MM

### DESCRIPTION:

Debmarine Namibia invites proposals from experienced service providers to deliver SAP Consulting Service for the Materials Management (MM) Module of the SAP system. The primary role for the Service Provider is to ensure integrity, reliability and development of Materials Management section of the SAP S4 Hana and the related Supply Chain processes.

### SCOPE OF WORK:

The service provider must perform the following services:

1. Configuration and support of the MM module
2. Identifying trends and user needs
3. Conduct and compile training material
4. Engagement of stakeholder's education and awareness plan
5. Recommendation of SAP standard solutions
6. Identify areas of business process improvements
7. Identifying and introduce enhanced functionalities
8. Knowledge of all other modules in SAP
9. Project Management

**CLOSING DATE: 15 August 2025 at 12:00**

### REQUEST FOR ELECTRONIC TENDER DOCUMENT:

Registered businesses interested in providing such services are requested to register at **Asite Marketplace:** <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to obtain a tender document with reference number **DBMNE0535 PROVISION OF SAP CONSULTANCY SERVICES MM**

### ENQUIRIES:

The Commercial Officer

Tel: +264 61 297 8481

Email address: [e-tender@debmarine.com](mailto:e-tender@debmarine.com)

Subject line: DBMNE0535 PROVISION OF SAP CONSULTANCY SERVICES MM

**Bidders must register on our electronic platform Asite Marketplace: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> to participate in this tender.**

### DISCLAIMER:

Debmarine Namibia shall not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this tender and furthermore reserves the right not to extend this tender into any future tenders, negotiations and or engagements.

Debmarine Namibia shall not accept submissions rendered after the closing date and time.

**DEBMARINE**  
NAMIBIA

# 5G ambition: Could Paratus Namibia beat mobile giants at their own game?

By Andile Masuku

**When during an African Tech Roundup Podcast chat I suggest Paratus Namibia's 5G ambitions might threaten mobile carriers, managing director Andrew Hall doesn't deflect. He grins.**

"Connectivity is a commodity, prices are going down, you need to make up for that revenue in other spaces," he states plainly with a chuckle. After over 22 years building networks across Namibia, Hall's experience has led him to conclude that long-term commercial sustainability requires poaching customers from adjacent industries. His fibre company wants mobile subscribers. Banks want payment customers. Mobile operators want banking clients. The territorial boundaries that once defined the telecoms industry are collapsing.

## Namibian market lab

Namibia offers a singular testing ground for this theory. With vast distances between sparse population centres, conventional infrastructure economics barely function. At 825 000 square kilometres with only 2.6 million people scattered across it, Namibia is one of the world's least densely populated countries. Hall describes the challenges bluntly: "If you drive down the road, you'll see three fibres running next to the road. If you're driving from one town to the other, you'll see two or three towers standing next to each other." What Hall sees as a suboptimal competitive dynamic among state-owned enterprises and private operators results in what he calls duplicated infrastructure, though he declines to detail whether regulatory requirements or technical considerations might justify the redundancy. Paratus Namibia has thrived by rejecting the status quo. Instead of competing purely on coverage, they pioneered open access services, allowing smaller ISPs without capital budgets to piggyback on their network. Whether the move actually enhanced competition as he claims or simply created new revenue streams for Paratus remains unclear, but Hall positions it as a preview of the boundary-crossing strategy now driving their 5G plans. The company's 2018 transition from Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) to fibre illustrates Hall's approach to technology timing. WiMAX is a wireless communication technology designed to provide high-speed broadband Internet access over long distances, typically up to 30 to 50 kilometers. Rather than sweating assets until inevitable failure, Paratus switched when customer bandwidth demands (4-10 Mbps was "just not sufficient anymore") threatened retention. The decision prioritised customer relationships over sunk costs.



Skills constraints Hall's territorial expansion faces a key challenge: constraints in Namibia's skills landscape. "We don't have the luxury of one person specialising in one specific thing," he explains. "You need to have a very broad understanding of the field that you're operating in because most times you need to cover more than one specific topic." He reckons that, by necessity, Namibian internet connectivity professionals develop a breadth of expertise: understanding network infrastructure, customer service, regulatory compliance, and business development simultaneously. Paratus is hoping to convert this limitation into a competitive advantage as they enter mobile markets. Hall believes that companies like Paratus, operating in resource-constrained markets like Namibia, could outmanoeuvre traditional specialists. Banks entering telecoms face steep learning curves around network management. Mobile operators venturing into financial services struggle with regulatory complexity. By this logic, firms built from necessity to understand multiple domains should move more fluidly between sectors.

## Revenue realities

The revenue pressures reflect broader challenges facing African infrastructure players. Connectivity pricing faces constant downward pressure while infrastructure costs remain fixed. Companies must either scale dramatically (particularly difficult in sparse populations) or diversify revenue sources (easier but requiring new capabilities). Covid-19 provided unexpected validation. Paratus's consumer



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business “did very, very well” in Namibia as connectivity shifted from convenience to necessity. People became “100% reliant, work-wise, education-wise, entertainment-wise” on internet access. The experience demonstrated that infrastructure companies controlling essential services can expand into adjacent markets during crisis moments. Now, even as oil discoveries are reshaping Namibian economics, attracting foreign investment and spurring a general sense of optimism across the country, Hall expects the country’s strict immigration laws to maintain critical skills development pressure on local businesses looking to acquire new customer segments.

## Dissolving

## boundaries

Paratus Namibia’s 5G ambitions represent more than technology upgrade; they signal what the company sees as strategic recognition that established telecoms boundaries no longer hold. Mobile operators built businesses around spectrum scarcity and handset control. But when fibre network operators can offer wireless services and banks can provide digital wallets, competitive advantages become temporary. The broader pattern extends across African markets. South African challenger banks-turned-market leaders like Capitec build mobile capabilities. Kenyan mobile operators create banking subsidiaries. Ethiopian fintechs partner with incumbent banks whilst competing for payment customers. Companies seem to be discovering that customer acquisition costs less than customer defence (which is often impossible anyway) when competitors cross traditional boundaries. Regulatory frameworks struggle to adapt. Most African telecoms and financial services regulation assumes clear distinctions between infrastructure providers, service operators, and financial institutions. But firms like Paratus blur these categories by design, testing regulatory dispensations and pressuring updates to industry policy. Execution test Doubtless, whether Hall’s territorial expansion succeeds depends on execution rather than strategy. He maintains that Paratus Namibia has built credibility through consistent infrastructure investment (“putting the money back into infrastructure”) and reliable service delivery (“growing off the back of competitors’ customer churn”). Their open access model demonstrated the ability to cooperate with competitors

when beneficial. And the company’s 75% enterprise, 25% consumer split has previously provided revenue stability during key transitions. But mobile markets operate differently from fibre networks. Customer acquisition requires different skills. Network management faces new technical challenges. Regulatory compliance becomes more complex. Success demands adapting those “jack of all trades” capabilities to unfamiliar contexts whilst maintaining core business performance. More broadly, Hall’s gambit tests how African digital infrastructure companies can successfully challenge legacy territories, or whether expansion dilutes focus and weakens core operations. One thing appears certain, though. Traditional divisions between infrastructure, services, and applications are dissolving under revenue pressure, consumer market shifts and from competitive necessity. Providers that adapt and execute effectively should be well-placed to thrive in the next phase of African digital connectivity development.

**Andile Masuku is Co-founder and Executive Producer at African Tech Roundup.**

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# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

First date of publication: 02 July 2025

## DBMNE0530 – CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

**SCOPE OF WORK:** Debmarnie Namibia, a joint venture marine diamond prospecting and recovery Company, owned in equal shares by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers, operates in the offshore Atlantic 1 Mining License area off the southern coast of Namibia at shallow water depths ranging from 80 - 140m. As part of the Company’s strategic objective to enhance its **Research and Technology Development** capabilities, Debmarnie Namibia invites expressions of interests from suitably qualified consultants and/or institutions to develop tailor-made technical and technological solutions across one or more defined research domains over the coming years, as follows:

- Sub-sea visualisation systems
- Sub-sea sampling systems
- Sub-sea diamond recovery systems
- Treatment plant systems for diamond recovery
- Ability to identify, investigate and propose mining rate and efficiency improvements concepts on current systems.
- On-going support through monitoring of sampling and production parameters to identify potential operational enhancements, causes of anomalous performances and improvement opportunities in current and future geology.

The consultants and/or institutions will be required to mature technology along part of and/or along the entire technology development path as described below:

- Basic Principle Investigation
- Conceptual Designs / Market Scans
- Experimental Scale Testing / Analytical Modelling
- Technology Demonstrations (Minimum Viable Product Demonstrations)
- Full Scale Mine Test Unit Development and Testing
- Industrialised Solution Development
- Commissioning and Operational Support

**DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT:**

1. Company profile, displaying years of operation, highlighting in which key industries services were rendered, with a display of previous clients and company footprint.
2. Completed bidder categorisation matrix, highlighting skills in research domains and technology development.
3. Track record: comprehensive detail of **Research and Technology Development** capability to find solutions for technical challenges. Specifically displaying from what level of maturity the solution was developed and to what level of maturity the solution was progressed as highlighted in the bidder categorisation matrix. With timelines of contract period(s); reference people and contact numbers (where applicable).
4. A demonstration of competencies and years of experience (via appropriate CV’s) for the overall provision of services. Highlighting skills in part or all of the research and technology development domains namely geophysical systems and interpretation, sub-sea visualisation, mining, mineral processing, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, automation / control and instrumentation, data science, geophysical systems, exploration and mining geology and project management capability. Including organogram of proposed project team showing responsibilities at all levels thereof.
5. Display of integrative linkages with other research institutions and industrial partners and how these augment the consultant(s) / research institutions capabilities.
6. Evidence of consistent use of rigorous R&D/technology development process and project management systems (new product development process, scheduling, estimating, cost control, risk management etc.)
7. Proof of relevant accreditation (associated with plant design and build) with ISO 14001, ISO 9001 & ISO 45001, Professional Engineers and/or another recognised institute.
8. Display through appropriate projects the company’s capability for simulations (CFD, DEM, FEM etc.) and modelling of designs.
9. Display company’s infrastructure for scaled testing of concepts.
10. Display through project examples the company’s capability for full scale solution development and operational support.

Registered businesses interested in providing such services must register on our electronic platform Asite Marketplace: <https://za.marketplace.asite.com/> in order to participate in the EOI as outlined in this documentation by: **29 August 2025.**

**ENQUIRIES:**  
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# Chinese vehicle brands gain foothold in Namibia as market dynamics shift



**By Business Express Writer**

***Namibia's automotive market is undergoing a quiet transformation as Chinese vehicle brands steadily expand their presence, challenging the long-standing dominance of established players like Toyota and Volkswagen.***

According to the latest data from Simonis Storm Securities, Chinese manufacturers such as JAC, Jetour, and Navara accounted for 68 units sold in June 2025 – a modest but growing share of the 1,313 vehicles purchased nationwide that month. While this represents just 5.2% of total sales, the upward trajectory signals a shift in consumer preferences and marks the beginning of what could become a significant reconfiguration of Namibia's automotive landscape.

The rise of Chinese brands comes against the backdrop of a robust recovery in Namibia's vehicle market, which saw sales surge by 29.9% month-on-month and 32.2% year-on-year in June 2025. This growth, driven by improved consumer confidence, easing interest rates, and stable inflation, has created fertile ground for new market entrants. Chinese manufacturers have been particularly successful in positioning themselves as value-for-money alternatives, offering feature-rich vehicles at competitive price points. Navara's Jolon model, for instance, accounted for 38 of the brand's 43 units sold in June, demonstrating strong appeal among cost-conscious buyers seeking reliable transportation without premium branding.

What makes this trend noteworthy is not just the numbers but the changing perceptions around Chinese automotive quality. Where once Chinese vehicles were viewed with skepticism regarding durability and after-sales support, improved build

quality and more generous warranty packages – some offering up to five years or 150,000 kilometers of coverage – are gradually winning over Namibian consumers. Local dealerships have complemented this by investing in service networks and spare parts inventories, addressing what has traditionally been a weak point for new market entrants.

The commercial vehicle segment tells a similar story. While Toyota's Hilux remains the undisputed king of Namibian roads with 328 units sold in June (more than all Chinese brands combined), brands like JAC are making inroads in the light commercial vehicle category. Their strategy mirrors global trends where Chinese automakers first target commercial and fleet buyers before expanding into the consumer market. Small and medium enterprises, particularly in logistics and agriculture, appear increasingly willing to consider these alternatives when balancing performance against purchase price.

This gradual acceptance of Chinese brands reflects broader changes in the global automotive industry, where manufacturers from China have evolved from producing cheap imitations to developing competitive vehicles with modern designs and technology. In Namibia, their growth has been particularly noticeable in the compact SUV and double-cab bakkie segments – categories that blend practicality with aspirational value for middle-class buyers. The JAC T6 and Jetour X70, for example, offer features like touchscreen infotainment systems and advanced safety equipment that were once exclusive to more expensive Japanese or European models.

However, the road ahead for Chinese brands



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Continues from page 12

remains challenging. Toyota's market dominance is deeply entrenched, with the Japanese automaker commanding 58.9% of total vehicle sales in June. Its reputation for reliability, extensive dealership network, and strong resale values create formidable barriers for newcomers. Similarly, Volkswagen's strong brand loyalty and competitive pricing in the passenger vehicle segment make it difficult for challengers to gain significant market share.

The evolving competitive landscape coincides with potential disruptions from an unexpected source: new U.S. tariffs on South African vehicle exports. As Namibia imports the majority of its vehicles from South Africa, the 30% tariff imposed by the United States could have ripple effects across the region. In the short term, this may lead to an oversupply of certain models in the Namibian market as South African manufacturers redirect vehicles originally destined for North America. Some analysts suggest this could benefit consumers through temporary price reductions and greater availability of higher-specification models.

Yet the longer-term implications are more concerning. If South African production lines scale back due to lost export volumes, Namibia could face reduced supply, narrower model choices, and potentially higher prices. This scenario might paradoxically benefit Chinese brands, as dealers seek alternative supply chains to mitigate dependence on South African imports. Already, some industry players are reportedly exploring direct import arrangements with Chinese manufacturers, a trend that could accelerate if South African supply becomes unreliable.

The financing landscape adds another layer of complexity. While overall household credit growth remains subdued at 2.5% year-on-year, vehicle financing has been a bright spot, growing at 14.4% year-on-year. This suggests that banks and financial institutions remain willing to extend credit for quality vehicles – a factor that could work in favor of Chinese brands as they establish their reputations. However, should economic conditions deteriorate or vehicle prices become more volatile due to supply chain

disruptions, lenders might become more cautious, potentially dampening the entire market.

Looking ahead, the growing presence of Chinese vehicles in Namibia represents more than just another brand choice for consumers. It reflects the changing dynamics of global manufacturing and trade, where emerging economies are increasingly competing on quality and innovation rather than just price. For Namibian policymakers and industry leaders, this evolution presents both challenges and opportunities.

On one hand, greater diversity in the vehicle market could lead to more competitive pricing and better features for consumers. On the other, it requires careful navigation of trade policies, standards regulation, and after-sales service expectations. The current situation also highlights Namibia's vulnerability to external shocks – whether from U.S. trade policies or global supply chain disruptions – underscoring the need for more diversified import strategies.



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# Effective communication key to Namibia's economic transformation, says Minister Theofelus

By Business Express Writer

**Emma Theofelus, Namibia's Minister of Information and Communication Technology, has underscored the pivotal role of strategic communication in driving the nation's economic recovery and long-term growth. Speaking to a diverse audience of government officials, business leaders, journalists, and communication experts, Theofelus positioned effective messaging as the linchpin for Namibia's success in critical sectors like green energy, oil exploration, and youth employment initiatives.**

The Minister's speech drew a direct line between Namibia's recent economic challenges—including the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global recession—and the urgent need for clearer, more hopeful communication strategies. "During our toughest times, when jobs were lost and uncertainty prevailed, many Namibians felt abandoned not by the absence of solutions, but by the absence of accessible information," Theofelus reflected. She cited the long-delayed passage of the Access to Information Act in 2022 as a turning point, emphasizing how this legislation now empowers citizens to "use information to improve their lives" but requires proactive efforts from communicators to maximize its impact.

Central to the address was the unveiling of a new Government Communication Strategy, designed to align all public messaging with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's economic agenda, including the much-touted "7 Pillars" of development.

Theofelus framed the strategy as a tool for national unity, urging communicators to act as "a well-oiled machine" to ensure policies translate into public benefit. "It's meaningless to allocate hundreds of millions for youth unemployment if a young person in Tsumkwe doesn't know how to access those opportunities," she asserted, highlighting the economic cost of communication gaps.

With Namibia poised to capitalize on emerging industries like green hydrogen and offshore oil, Theofelus warned of the risks posed by misinformation. "If Namibians are misled about how to participate in these sectors, we risk squandering our greatest economic opportunity in decades," she said, calling for truth-based reporting to build public trust. Her remarks resonated with recent concerns about foreign-led narratives dominating discussions



around the country's natural resources, which could marginalize local stakeholders.

The Minister also drew lessons from her tenure during the pandemic, when effective communication helped mitigate panic and coordinate relief efforts. She challenged attendees—including CEOs, journalists, and local government leaders—to adopt the same urgency in promoting Namibia's economic revival. "We are not just messengers; we are architects of hope," she declared, linking clear communication to investor confidence, social stability, and the success of large-scale projects.

As the conference opened, Theofelus's message carried broader implications for Namibia's economic trajectory.

By prioritizing transparency, accessibility, and innovation in communication, the government aims to bridge divides between policy and public action—a critical step for a nation navigating both unprecedented opportunities and persistent inequalities. For Namibia's communicators, the task is now clear: to turn information into empowerment, and words into economic progress.

# Namibia champions new era of Spain-Africa economic partnership

**By Business Express Writer**

***In a landmark address at the launch of the High-Level Advisory Council on the Spain-Africa Strategy 2025–2028 in Madrid, Namibia’s former President, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, positioned the southern African nation as a key player in advancing a transformative economic partnership between Africa and Spain. The event, hosted by Spain’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marked a strategic commitment to deepen ties in trade, investment, and sustainable development, with Namibia poised to leverage its role on the Council to bolster continental and bilateral economic opportunities.***

Dr. Mbumba underscored the historical foundations of Spain-Africa relations, noting their evolution from cultural and diplomatic exchanges to a modern framework prioritizing mutual economic growth. “Spain’s geographical proximity and renewed focus on Africa present unparalleled opportunities for collaboration,” he stated, emphasizing the strategy’s alignment with Africa’s Agenda 2063—a blueprint for inclusive development and structural transformation. For Namibia, this partnership holds particular significance as the country seeks to diversify its economy beyond traditional sectors like mining and fisheries, tapping into Spain’s expertise in renewable energy, agriculture, and infrastructure.

The Spain-Africa Strategy 2025–2028, hailed by Dr. Mbumba as a “testimony of a maturing partnership,” aims to expand trade, foster cultural exchange, and address shared challenges such as climate change and migration. Namibia’s inclusion on the High-Level Advisory Council reflects its growing influence as a stable democracy and gateway for European investment into southern Africa.

The former president highlighted the potential for Spanish investment in Namibia’s green hydrogen projects, logistics corridors like the Walvis Bay port, and value-added manufacturing—sectors critical to job creation and technological transfer.

Crucially, Dr. Mbumba framed the strategy as a catalyst for regional integration, urging Spain to collaborate with Africa’s Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to amplify impact. “Isolation is not an option if we aim for sustainable growth,” he remarked, invoking the African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This sentiment resonated with Namibia’s broader economic ambitions, including its role in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), where enhanced EU-Africa trade could unlock markets for



Namibian goods such as beef, grapes, and processed minerals.

The former president also welcomed Spain’s commitment to inclusive development, stressing the need for partnerships that prioritize local value chains and skills development. “This is not about aid, but mutual benefit,” he asserted, pointing to Namibia’s stable governance and strategic location as assets for Spanish businesses eyeing the continent. With Spain pledging to strengthen ties in renewable energy—a sector where Namibia aims to become a global leader—the partnership could accelerate the country’s transition to a green economy while addressing Europe’s energy security needs.

As the event concluded, Dr. Mbumba called on other European Union nations to emulate Spain’s “forward-looking engagement” with Africa, signaling Namibia’s readiness to champion win-win collaborations. For Namibian businesses and policymakers, the Spain-Africa Strategy offers a tangible pathway to reduce economic dependency on volatile commodity markets, attract high-value investments, and position the country as a hub for innovation and sustainable development.

In a world increasingly defined by geopolitical shifts and climate imperatives, Namibia’s proactive role in this partnership underscores a bold vision: to transform historical ties into engines of shared prosperity, ensuring that the “Africa We Want” becomes a reality—one Spanish-Namibian collaboration at a time.

# Cultural entrepreneurship key to Namibia's economic growth

*By Business Express Writer*

**Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, Dino Ballotti, has called for the formalization and commercialization of Namibia's cultural heritage as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation. Speaking at a training workshop for cultural entrepreneurs in Swakopmund on Thursday, Ballotti emphasized the untapped potential of the creative and cultural industries (CCIs) to drive sustainable development, reduce unemployment, and preserve national identity.**

The event, attended by entrepreneurs, financial institutions, government officials, and cultural stakeholders, highlighted the government's commitment to integrating CCIs into Namibia's economic framework. Ballotti stressed the need to move beyond viewing culture merely as a historical artifact, urging participants to see it as a viable business opportunity. "Cultural entrepreneurship transforms heritage, art, and tradition into economic opportunities. In Namlsh, we'd say it's about making money through culture," he remarked, drawing applause from the audience.

Ballotti pointed to Namibia's constitutional mandate under Article 19, which guarantees the right to practice and promote culture, as a foundation for these efforts. He also cited the Arts, Heritage, and Culture Policy, which recognizes culture as a driver of sustainable development. However, he noted that many cultural entrepreneurs operate informally, limiting their access to funding and growth opportunities. "We must formalize the hustle. Only then can our artisans, filmmakers, and designers access the finance and markets needed to scale their businesses," he said.

The Deputy Minister revealed that the Ministry has prioritized CCIs in the 6th National Development Plan (NDP6) and its strategic plans, signaling a shift toward treating culture as an economic pillar rather than a peripheral concern. This aligns with global trends where creative industries contribute significantly to GDP—a potential Namibia has yet to fully harness. Ballotti called for stronger partnerships between government, financial institutions, and the private sector to provide funding, mentorship, and



market access for cultural startups. He praised FNB and the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) for their focus on micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), urging aspiring entrepreneurs to leverage such opportunities.

The workshop also served as a platform for networking and knowledge-sharing, with presentations from banks and business leaders on support mechanisms for creative ventures. Ballotti emphasized the role of youth in this sector, encouraging them to innovate without waiting for permission. "Your next business idea might lie in your heritage," he said, citing examples like heritage tourism, fashion blending tradition with modernity, and digital storytelling as avenues for growth.

In a lighthearted yet poignant moment, Ballotti shared his personal passion for entrepreneurship and football, joking about his academic background in the field. He challenged educators to teach culture as a livelihood, leaders to invest in it as a strategy, and entrepreneurs to root their innovations in Namibian identity. "When culture thrives, communities flourish, jobs are created, and the soul of the nation is sustained," he concluded.

The event underscored a growing recognition of culture as Namibia's competitive edge in a globalized economy. With the right policies, financing, and collaboration, the creative sector could emerge as a key player in the country's economic diversification—turning heritage into "geld," as Ballotti put it, and ensuring that Namibia's stories are not only told but sold.



# AEC greenlights Youth in Oil & Gas Summit 2025



**By Business Express Writer**

***With first oil production on the horizon in Namibia, the country is on track for rapid growth across its oil, gas and broader energy sectors.***

This highlights a strategic opportunity for the country's youth, and the upcoming Youth in Oil & Gas Summit – taking place July 25-26, 2025, in Walvis Bay – seeks to position young professionals at the forefront of Namibia's energy development.

Held under the theme Drilling into the Future: Empowering Youth in Namibia's Oil & Gas Revolution, the second edition of the Youth in Oil & Gas Summit represents a vital platform for advancing youth-led innovation and inclusion. Offering a vibrant platform for dialogue, education and strategic collaboration, the summit provides an opportunity for meaningful engagement between youth and energy leaders, thereby positioning youth at the helm of Namibia's energy future. The African Energy Chamber (AEC) – representing the voice of the African energy sector – offers its full support and endorsement of the

upcoming summit. As a strong advocate for the role youth play in the oil and gas sector, the AEC considers this a vital platform for enhancing collaboration, fostering dialogue and advancing projects.

The Youth in Oil & Gas Summit comes at a critical time for Namibia's oil and gas industry. Having emerged as one of the world's most promising frontiers, the country has witnessed a series of exploration success across its offshore market in recent years.

The country is on track for first oil production by 2029, led by the TotalEnergies-operated Venus field, which anticipates a final investment decision in 2026. Other projects such as the Galp-led Mopane development are also driving this production timeline. The company has made a string of discoveries at its exploration wells at the Mopane field – situated in PEL 93 -, with the latest made in February 2025. These discoveries have revealed the potential of over 10 billion barrels of oil.



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## EX *Continues from page 18*

Additional exploration campaigns in the Orange basin include in PEL 85, where energy company Rhino Resources is exploring.

Energy services firm Halliburton announced the delivery of two exploration wells at Block 2914 in PEL 85 in May 2025. This follows a discovery made by Rhino Resources at the Capricornus-1X well in April 2025 and the confirmation of a hydrocarbon reservoir at the Sagittarius-1X well in February 2025. Other players such as Stamper Oil & Gas Corp and Pancontinental are also pursuing exploration projects, with interests in the Orange basin's Block 2712A and PEL 87, respectively.

Beyond the Orange basin, Stamper Oil & Gas Corp secured stakes in Block 2914B in the Lüderitz Basin in 2025, as well as Blocks 2213, Block 2011B and Block 2111A in the Walvis Basin. The Lüderitz asset is situated in the southern part of the basin, with drilling expected to start in 2025. Energy major Chevron also acquired an 80% operating stake in Blocks 2112B and 2212A in the Walvis Basin, highlighting the level of global interest in Namibian assets.

The country is also accelerating the development of the Kudu gas field – spearheaded by BW Energy. The field is situated in PEL 003 and, following completion, will be a key gas-to-power project in Namibia, utilizing a floating production unit to harness gas resources from the Kudu prospect. An appraisal well is set to be spud in late 2025, targeting the Kharaas Prospect in the north-west section of the Kudu formation.

Namibia is also making a strong play for onshore exploration, with campaigns led by energy company ReconAfrica. With stakes in the onshore Kavango basin, ReconAfrica is advancing its 2024 drilling campaign, targeting 3.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the Damara Fold Belt. Preparations are underway to spud a second exploration well. The company has since raised C\$18 million to finance exploration activities, including drilling the Kavango

West 1X well. The well targets 346 million barrels of gross unrisks prospective crude oil and 1,839 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Drilling is set to commence after rig mobilization – planned for June/July 2025, pending final permits.

These exploration campaigns have not only unlocked opportunities for domestic oil and gas production, but highlighted the level of commercial opportunity available in Namibia's oil and gas sector.

Beyond upstream, the country is also aligning investments with broader goals of enhancing fuel security through modernized infrastructure. Notably, Nigeria's Dangote Refinery is expected to construct a 1.6-million-barrel fuel storage facility in Namibia. A tripartite agreement was also

## EX *Continues on page 20*

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Khomas High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Cosmos High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
/Anes Secondary School (Rehoboth)	09:30-14:00
Oshakati Centre (Hospital Grounds)	10:00-18:00
Swakopmund Town (Ferdinand Stich Street No 4)	10:00-18:00

#### Tuesday, 22 July 2025

Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-18:00
Delta High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Eldorado Secondary School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Ondangwa Centre (Gwashamba Mall)	10:00-18:00
Walvis Bay Town (Behind Welwitschia Medi-park)	10:00-18:00

#### Wednesday, 23 July 2025

Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-16:00
Namibian Oncology Centre (Eros)	08:30-16:00
Augustineum Secondary School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Metro Kliene Kuppe (Windhoek)	09:00-15:30
Nillo Taapopi Senior Secondary School (Okahao)	09:00-14:00
Karibib Town (Private School Hall)	11:00-17:00

#### Thursday, 24 July 2025

Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-18:00
M&K Gertze High School (Rehoboth)	09:30-14:00
Westmont High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
St. Georges Diocesan School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Engedjo Secondary School (Omungwelume)	09:00-14:00
Omaruru Town (Central Hotel Hall)	10:00-18:00

#### Friday, 25 July 2025

Centre Tal Street (Windhoek)	07:00-16:00
Hage Geingob High School (Windhoek)	08:30-14:00
Grove Mall (Game)	09:00-18:00
Simona Storm Securities (Windhoek)	09:00-15:30
Okatana Secondary School (Okatana)	09:00-14:00
Navachab Gold Mine (Karibib)	10:00-15:30

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signed between the Namibian ports Authority and the respective national oil companies of Angola and Namibia to establish an integrated logistics base in Namibia. These introduce strategic opportunities for youth across the entire oil and gas value chain and the upcoming Youth in Oil & Gas Summit will outline opportunities, challenges and potential collaborations.

“This is our opportunity to promote youth and encourage them to be drivers of the future. Namibia is on track for rapid growth across its oil and gas, but without youth, it will fail to unlock the full potential of the sector.

This is the time to establish mechanisms that encourage participation, foster inclusion and place collaboration at the forefront of development,” states NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the AEC.



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# Namibia bolsters cybersecurity to fuel digital economy and job growth

By Business Express Writer

**Emma Theofelus, Minister of Information and Communication Technology has unveiled ambitious plans to fortify the nation's digital defenses while harnessing technology to tackle unemployment and economic growth. Held at Elcamponursery and Recreational Park in Windhoek, the event brought together over 70 cybersecurity experts, government officials, and industry leaders to chart a collaborative path forward in an era of escalating cyber threats.**

The Minister's speech underscored the economic urgency of cybersecurity, framing it not just as a technical challenge but as a cornerstone of Namibia's digital economy. "Cybercrime, scams, and digital fraud transcend borders and sectors," Theofelus declared. "To thrive, we need vigilance, innovation, and partnerships that bridge government, private sector, and civil society."

Her call to action resonated with Namibia's broader economic goals, particularly the need to create jobs through technology-driven solutions. "Where government must reform policies to unlock private-sector potential, we stand ready," she asserted, signaling a commitment to regulatory agility.

Central to the announcement was the launch of two pioneering initiatives: the CyberShield Magazine, a platform for cybersecurity thought leadership, and the Scam Report Namibia Mobile Application, a homegrown tool empowering citizens to report scams and access real-time safety alerts. Theofelus hailed the app as "investor-ready," emphasizing its potential to scale across the country while attracting capital to Namibia's tech ecosystem. "This isn't just about safety—it's about proving Namibia can develop solutions that marry innovation with grassroots impact," she said. The magazine, meanwhile, aims to amplify local and global insights, fostering a culture of knowledge-sharing to elevate Namibia's cybersecurity prowess.

The Minister also highlighted the Ministry's ongoing Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign, which offers weekly public training sessions and institutional workshops. These efforts, she noted, are critical to building a digitally literate workforce—a prerequisite for attracting tech investment and high-value jobs. Yet challenges remain, particularly in legal infrastructure. Theofelus admitted delays in finalizing the Cybercrime Bill and Data Protection Bill, citing a shortage of local expertise in cyber law. "We cannot compete in



the digital economy without robust legislation," she said, appealing for partnerships to build Namibia's capacity in ICT policy.

Ethics emerged as a recurring theme, with Theofelus announcing an upcoming Ethical Use of Social Media Campaign to combat online abuse and promote responsible digital citizenship. "Cybersecurity isn't just firewalls and codes; it's about the values we uphold online," she remarked, linking societal trust to economic resilience. Her message dovetailed with Namibia's aspirations to position itself as a regional hub for secure digital trade, where consumer confidence could lure cross-border e-commerce and fintech ventures.

The presence of Major General Annemarie Nainda, Interpol's Africa delegate, underscored the transnational nature of cyber threats—and opportunities. "Collaboration isn't optional," Theofelus stressed, urging experts in attendance to share knowledge and forge alliances. Her closing remarks struck an optimistic note: "Together, we'll build a Namibia where digital promise meets digital trust." For a nation grappling with unemployment and economic diversification, her vision offers a roadmap where cybersecurity becomes not just a shield, but an engine for growth.

As the conference concluded, the economic implications were clear: Namibia's push for cyber resilience could unlock new industries, safeguard existing ones, and position the country as a leader in Africa's digital transformation. With political will, private-sector engagement, and grassroots innovation, the seeds planted at this gathering may well yield a harvest of jobs, investment, and enduring economic significance.

# AEW 2025 to outline African block opportunities amid surge in 2024/2025 licensing rounds



**By Business Express Writer**

***Africa is gearing up to attract a wave of investment in exploration blocks, with a surge in oil and gas licensing rounds being launched during the 2024/2025 period.***

According to the African Energy Chamber's State of African Energy 2025 Outlook Report, these efforts are part of a broader strategy to unlock the continent's untapped energy potential, attract international investment and stimulate long-term economic growth. This year's African Energy Week (AEW): Invest in African Energies conference will spotlight Africa's licensing rounds, connecting operators to emerging blocks opportunities across the continent.

## **North Africa**

Libya launched its latest licensing round in March 2025, offering 22 onshore and offshore exploration blocks across the Sirte, Murzuq and Ghadames basins. The licensing round has already drawn interest from 37 prospective companies, with contracts with successful bidders expected to be signed by the end of the year. Representing the country's first licensing round since 2011, the initiative comes as Libya seeks to increase production to two million barrels per day. Algeria awarded five licenses in June 2025 as part of its latest oil and gas bid round. Launched in November 2024, the bid round featured six onshore blocks for competitive bidding and falls part of a broader multi-

year licensing strategy aimed at attracting global investment in exploration opportunities. The blocks span five basins and represents a core component of the country's strategy to invest up to \$50 billion into hydrocarbon projects over the next four years.

Egypt launched a new bid round in March 2025, comprising 12 investment opportunities. The bid round includes 10 offshore blocks in the Mediterranean Sea and two onshore blocks in the Nile Delta region and comes as the country intensifies exploration across undeveloped acreage.

## **West Africa**

Sierra Leone is preparing to launch a new licensing round in 2025 as part of its drive to fast-track exploration and become an oil-producing nation. The country currently has around 50 offshore blocks available for direct negotiation, spanning 63,000 km<sup>2</sup> and backed by a proven petroleum system.

The upcoming licensing round will further entice spending. Nigeria is set to launch a new oil and gas licensing round in 2025, focusing on undeveloped fields.

The upcoming round follows the successful conclusion



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of a 2024 tender, whereby 25 companies were awarded Petroleum Prospecting Licenses. Liberia also initiated a Direct Negotiation Licensing Round in 2024, with 29 offshore blocks available for investment in the Liberia and Harper basins.

The licensing round seeks to drive new investment in the country's frontier basins and is supported by an extensive library of multi-client subsurface data, including over 24,000 kilometers of 2D seismic data and more than 26,000 km<sup>2</sup> of 3D seismic data.

### East Africa

Tanzania is preparing to offer new oil and gas exploration opportunities with a licensing round launching in 2025. A total of 26 blocks will be made available, including three blocks in Lake Tanganyika and 23 in the Indian Ocean. The country's upstream regulator the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority has already identified the blocks and compiled the necessary data for the process. Following government approval for the Model Production Sharing Agreement, the licensing round will be launched.

The round represents the first in more than ten years. Additionally, Kenya is expected to

launch its inaugural oil and gas licensing round in September 2025, offering ten blocks for exploration. The blocks were selected using geoscientific data to ensure a transparent allocation process.

The licensing round is supported by comprehensive seismic surveys and geological reports, thereby supporting future exploration activities. Primary targets include the Lamu and Anza basins, both of which are known for their hydrocarbon potential. Uganda is also set to launch a licensing round during the 2025/2026 fiscal year, offering new areas for oil and gas exploration.

### Southern Africa

Part of its six-year licensing strategy, Angola is expected to launch its next licensing round in 2025, offering ten blocks for exploration in the offshore Kwanza and Benguela basins.

The bid round follows the successful conclusion of a 2023 tender, whereby nine companies qualified as operators and five qualified as non-operators. Namibia rolled out an open-door licensing system in 2024 to address its backlog of applications and streamline procedures. The system comes as the country experiences a surge in exploration interest following major discoveries made since 2022.

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## Northern Namibia ushers in new era of water security with major infrastructure project

*By Business Express Writer*

**A landmark water infrastructure project set to transform lives across northern Namibia officially commenced with a groundbreaking ceremony in Oshakati on 17 July 2025.**

The Oshakati Water Purification Plant Extension, a N\$743 million initiative financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), promises to nearly double the region's clean water supply capacity, addressing chronic shortages and unlocking economic potential for over 500,000 residents in the Oshana, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto regions.

Led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform in partnership with NamWater, the project marks a critical step toward achieving Namibia's Vision 2030 goal of "Water for All, Forever." Inge Zaamwani, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, hailed the initiative as a triumph of justice and opportunity, emphasizing its far-reaching impact. "This is not just infrastructure—it is about health, jobs, food security, and dignity," she declared during the ceremony.

The upgraded plant will add 50,000 cubic meters of treated water daily to the existing 40,000 cubic meters, leveraging advanced purification systems to meet national quality standards while supporting climate resilience.

The event, attended by regional governors, local officials, and community leaders, underscored the

project's role as a catalyst for development. Oshana Governor Hofni Iipinge described it as a direct response to decades of water scarcity, noting that reliable access would bolster livelihoods, agriculture, and small-scale industries. NamWater CEO Abraham Nehemia outlined the technical scope, including new storage ponds and effluent systems, while highlighting opportunities for local SMEs through compliant procurement processes. "This is engineering excellence in service of development," Nehemia stated, urging communities to protect the infrastructure and uphold payment systems to ensure sustainability.

Oshakati Mayor Leonard Hango framed the project as a symbol of regional transformation, transitioning the town from "scarcity to resilience." The plant's strategic location reinforces Oshakati's role as a water distribution hub, with complementary projects like the Ogongo-Oshakati Pipeline Replacement further strengthening the supply network. Scheduled for completion in 26 months, the extension aligns with Namibia's broader efforts to mitigate climate pressures and reduce inequality.

For northern Namibia—a region where erratic rainfall and aging infrastructure have long hindered growth—the project represents more than pipes and pumps. It is a lifeline for farmers, a safeguard against disease, and a foundation for future prosperity. As Minister Zaamwani reminded attendees, "This is your project. Built with you, for you." With construction now underway, the nation watches as a parched landscape prepares to reap the rewards of foresight, investment, and collective resolve.



# THE ENTERPRISE

NEWSLETTER

JULY



2025

## NHE hands over 30 houses in Omuthiya ...Invested N\$5.7 million and created employment for 70 locals from the Oshikoto Region

The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) marked another milestone in its mission to provide affordable housing by officially handing over 30 new houses to beneficiaries in Omuthiya. The ceremony, held on 02 July 2025, was attended by government officials, local leaders, and community members, underscoring the collective effort to address Namibia's housing shortage.

The project, spearheaded by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, offers affordable repayment plans tailored to low-income earners. Beneficiaries of one-bedroom houses will pay N\$400 per month, while three-bedroom units will require monthly instalments of N\$1,200. This initiative is designed to empower Namibians with formal housing opportunities, thereby improving their economic standing and fostering sustainable urban development.

In his keynote address read on his behalf by Samuel Shivute, Chairperson of the Oshikoto Regional Council, Minister of urban and rural development, James Sankwasa said: "The NHE is expected to continue with its usual projects such as the one we are celebrating today. I understand that this is the third time in the last few years that the NHE has implemented projects in Omuthiya, delivering 130 houses. The same has happened in Ondangwa with close to 90 houses delivered in the past two years. I am also informed that soon, more NHE projects will be kicking off in Ongwediva, Oshakati, Rundu, Keetmanshoop and Walvis Bay."

Highlighting the significance of the event in her statement, Toska Sem, Chairperson of the NHE Board of Directors noted that the 30 houses handed over complement the 50 units delivered in Omuthiya last year, bringing the total to 80 homes in the past 12 months. She emphasized NHE's commitment to scaling up its efforts, with a target of delivering 2,000 houses nationwide by April 2026 as part of the National Informal Settlement Upgrading Project.

Sem revealed that NHE has secured over 2,500 plots across various towns, including Swakopmund, Eenhana, Nkurenkuru, Rundu, Keetmanshoop, Mariental, and Katima Mulilo, to support its ambitious housing targets. She commended local authorities for their cooperation and reiterated NHE's readiness to collaborate beyond the Informal Settlement Upgrading Project to ensure housing solutions reach all segments of society.

The Omuthiya project, which cost N\$5.7 million, not only provided homes but also created employment for 70 locals from the Oshikoto Region during the construction phase. Sem praised Gongaleni Investment, the contractor, for completing the project ahead of schedule, aligning with NHE's renewed focus on operational efficiency.

Looking ahead, NHE has unveiled its 2025/26 - 2028/29 Integrated Strategic Business Plan, which prioritizes business growth, operational excellence, and customer-centric service delivery. The plan aligns with the government's directive for NHE to construct at least 2,000 houses annually over the next five years. The handover ceremony underscores NHE's pivotal role in addressing Namibia's housing crisis while stimulating local economies through job creation. As the Enterprise accelerates its efforts, the dream of affordable housing for all Namibians moves closer to reality.



## NHE Partners with Northern Town Councils to Address Housing Needs

The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the town councils of Ondangwa, Ongwediva, and Oshakati to collaborate on providing affordable housing solutions for residents in northern Namibia. The agreements aim to formalize informal settlements and accelerate the delivery of decent housing through the National Informal Settlement Upgrading Project (ISUP).

Under the ISUP, NHE has been tasked with constructing 2,000 housing units by April 2026. The initiative targets low-income earners, offering repayment plans as low as N\$400 per month for a one-bedroom house and N\$1,200 for a three-bedroom unit. This effort seeks to alleviate the housing scarcity disproportionately affecting low-income communities.

NHE has already secured over 2,500 plots at various stages of service readiness from partnering local authorities. The organization highlighted the success of similar projects in Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Otjiwarongo, expressing confidence in replicating these results in the northern regions.

The MoU signing ceremonies mark a significant step in fostering public-private partnerships to address Namibia's housing challenges. NHE called on other local authorities to join the initiative, emphasizing the transformative potential of collaborative efforts in improving livelihoods through affordable shelter.

"We are pleased to partner with Ondangwa, Ongwediva, and Oshakati to change lives through sustainable housing interventions," said an NHE representative. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that more Namibians, particularly low-income earners, gain access to dignified housing.

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# Namibia Executives and Secretaries: The unsung heroes who keep the wheels of business turning

By Amalia Shishiveni

***The Zambezi Summit and Business Expo is proud to announce the 2025 Annual Executive Assistants and Secretaries Conference Retreat, set to take place from 4–5 September in the picturesque coastal town of Swakopmund, in the Erongo Region.***

This highly anticipated two-day gathering, themed “Own Your Title – There’s No Such Thing as Just a secretary,” is more than a professional event, it is a celebration of the individuals who are often the invisible engine of every successful organisation: Namibia’s executive assistants, secretaries, and administrative professionals.

In today’s fast-paced corporate landscape, where precision, agility, and adaptability are essential, this conference retreat aims to spotlight and empower the very individuals who ensure the smooth running of office operations. Far from being “just secretaries,” these professionals are indispensable in supporting executives, managing communications, coordinating logistics, and holding together the fabric of everyday business life.

The retreat is designed to upskill participants in modern office management, digital tools, communication strategies, and organisational effectiveness. But it doesn’t stop there. Recognising the high-pressure nature of administrative work, the retreat also incorporates wellness sessions to promote work-life balance, mental health, and long-term productivity.

From personal assistants and executive secretaries to HR and office managers, this event invites professionals across sectors to learn, grow, and connect. Delegates will benefit from skill-building workshops, yoga and wellness classes, and dynamic keynote addresses from leaders who have walked the same path and know the challenges first-hand. These stories are expected to resonate deeply, inspiring participants to take pride in their roles and to view themselves as leaders in their own right.

The 2025 retreat will offer a unique blend of professional development and personal reflection, an opportunity for participants to sharpen both their soft and technical skills, improve time and stress management, and enhance their executive support techniques. The event also provides fertile ground



for cross-sector networking, mentorship, and the sharing of best practices.

With an impressive lineup of speakers, industry experts and interactive sessions, the Executive Assistants and Secretaries Conference retreat 2025 promises to be a transformative experience for all attendees. Registration is now open and organisations looking to stay ahead are encouraged to register and participate.

The Executive Assistants and Secretaries Conference Retreat 2025 is not just a break from the office it’s a powerful tribute to the unsung heroes who keep Namibia’s business wheels turning.

# Namibia launches financial inclusion survey to bridge economic gaps

*By Business Express Writer*

**The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), in partnership with the Bank of Namibia, has launched a pivotal pilot survey to assess and improve financial inclusion across the country.**

The Namibia Financial Inclusion Survey (NFIS) 2025, which kicks off on 21 July in the Khomas region, aims to gather critical data on how individuals and households access and use financial services, from banking and insurance to mobile money and informal credit systems. This initiative marks a significant step toward creating evidence-based policies that ensure no Namibian is left behind in the financial ecosystem.

Financial inclusion remains a pressing issue in Namibia, where disparities in access to formal banking and credit facilities persist, particularly in rural and low-income communities. The NFIS 2025 seeks to measure these gaps by collecting detailed insights into financial behaviors, barriers to access, and the prevalence of informal financial solutions. The survey will cover key topics such as savings habits, borrowing practices, insurance coverage, and digital financial services, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the nation's financial health. By comparing results with previous surveys conducted in 2004, 2007, 2011, and 2017, the NSA aims to track progress and identify emerging trends that could shape future interventions.

The pilot phase, running until 3 August, will focus on households in Windhoek East and Windhoek Rural constituencies. Trained NSA enumerators will conduct face-to-face interviews using digital tools, targeting individuals aged 15 and older who have been part of their households for at least six months. The data collected will remain confidential, protected under the

Statistics Act of 2011, and used solely for statistical purposes to inform policy decisions. Participants are encouraged to provide accurate responses, as their input will directly influence strategies to expand financial access and literacy nationwide.

One of the survey's core objectives is to uncover the root causes of financial exclusion, whether due to lack of awareness, affordability, or infrastructure. For instance, while mobile money services have gained traction in other African markets, their adoption in Namibia has been slower, and the NFIS will explore why. Similarly, the survey will assess the role of informal financial mechanisms, such as community savings groups, which often serve as lifelines for those without access to formal institutions.

The findings will guide policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners in designing targeted programs to address these challenges. Potential outcomes could include tailored financial literacy campaigns, incentives for banks to expand services to underserved areas, or regulatory reforms to foster innovation in digital finance. As Namibia strives to meet its developmental goals, ensuring equitable access to financial tools is critical for reducing poverty, empowering entrepreneurs, and driving economic growth.

Statistician-General Alex Shimuafeni emphasized the survey's broader significance, stating, "The NFIS 2025 is about you—your voice, your experience, your future." By participating, Namibians can play an active role in shaping a more inclusive financial system that unlocks opportunities for all. As the pilot unfolds, its success will pave the way for a nationwide rollout, bringing Namibia closer to a future where financial services are not a privilege but a right.



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