THE NAMIBIAN · NIGERIA · PIPELINE

Dangote launches $2.6bn pipeline linking Nigeria to South Africa

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Dangote Industries has launched a regional pipeline and tank farm at Walvis Bay, Namibia, marking the start of a $2.6 billion infrastructure project designed to move refined fuel from Nigeria through Namibia to South Africa. The launch took place at Farm 58, Walvis Bay, with Dangote Industries chief executive Aliko Dangote in attendance. The pipeline will also serve Botswana as part of a broader multi-country distribution network across the region.

At 1,700 kilometres in length, the pipeline represents one of the larger cross-border fuel transport initiatives announced on the African continent. Dangote stated that the investment will directly reduce shipping costs and, ultimately, fuel prices for Namibian consumers. The tank farm component at Walvis Bay positions the port city as a key logistics hub within the network, receiving refined product before onward distribution to landlocked markets.

The project is a downstream and midstream play, transporting already-refined petroleum products rather than crude. This distinguishes it from upstream pipeline infrastructure and places the commercial logic firmly in the fuel distribution and logistics space. For Namibia specifically, which currently relies on imported refined product transported by road or sea, a dedicated pipeline connection to a large-scale refinery — the Dangote refinery in Nigeria is among the largest in the world by stated capacity — could structurally alter landed fuel costs over time.

The multi-country routing — Nigeria, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa — raises significant engineering, permitting, and coordination questions across several

regulatory jurisdictions. No completion timeline or phased construction schedule was disclosed at the launch event. The instrument at this stage is a physical launch of the tank farm facility at Walvis Bay, with the broader 1,700-kilometre pipeline corridor representing the longer-horizon project component. Norwegian service companies and project developers should treat this as an early-stage infrastructure commitment rather than a shovel-ready contract opportunity.

For the region's energy security picture, the initiative aligns with broader African efforts to reduce dependence on seaborne refined product imports from outside the continent. South Africa and Botswana in particular face persistent fuel supply cost pressures tied to rand volatility and freight rates. A direct overland pipeline from a domestic African refinery, if completed, would partially insulate those markets from international shipping disruptions. The scale of the stated investment — $2.6 billion, equivalent to approximately N$41 billion — signals that Dangote Industries is positioning this as a flagship infrastructure legacy project, though execution across sovereign borders at this distance will require sustained political and financing commitment well beyond the launch ceremony.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

The project is at launch and early-infrastructure stage, with no open tenders or procurement processes disclosed; Norwegian pipeline engineering, construction, and project management firms should monitor progress and begin relationship-building with Dangote Industries' project development teams. As the pipeline corridor and tank farm scope are defined in more detail, opportunities may emerge for Norwegian companies with expertise in long-distance onshore pipeline design, corrosion protection, and pump station engineering. No procurement outreach is warranted at this stage — watch for EPC tender announcements or financing close as the trigger to engage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** A 1,700-km onshore multi-country fuel pipeline is a major EPC scope; Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should track project development and position early with Dangote's infrastructure division.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Limited direct subsea angle at present, but if offshore offtake or marine terminal infrastructure is added at Walvis Bay, Norwegian marine and terminal specialists could find a role.
- **Service:** Tank farm construction and commissioning at Walvis Bay may require specialist inspection, integrity management, and instrumentation services where Norwegian firms carry strong credentials.
- **LNG:** If Dangote later considers adding LNG or gas condensate streams to the pipeline corridor, Norwegian LNG handling and metering technology providers should be positioned for early dialogue.

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