THE BRIEF (NAMIBIA) · NAMIBIA · PIPELINE

Dangote pipeline project launches at Walvis Bay

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Namibia's President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah officially launched the Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project at Farm 58 in Walvis Bay, positioning the initiative as a cornerstone of the country's ambition to become a regional energy and logistics hub. The ceremony marks the formal start of a project that is expected to reshape fuel distribution infrastructure across southern Africa.

Speaking at the launch, President Nandi-Ndaitwah underscored the strategic significance of the project for Namibia's economy, citing its potential to centralise fuel storage and pipeline distribution for the broader region. Walvis Bay, already a key Atlantic port serving landlocked neighbours, is the chosen site for the tank farm, reinforcing the port city's existing role as a transit and logistics corridor for southern African trade.

Despite the optimistic framing of the launch, President Nandi-Ndaitwah issued a direct warning about bureaucratic delays, stating that slow regulatory and administrative processes continue to threaten the viability of major investments in Namibia. The caution signals that the government is aware of execution risks and is under pressure to streamline approvals and permitting procedures if the country is to attract and retain large-scale infrastructure capital. The comment is notable given that the project is associated with the Dangote Group, one of Africa's most prominent industrial conglomerates.

The project combines a tank farm facility with a regional pipeline component, suggesting that its ambitions extend beyond domestic fuel storage to cross-border

supply logistics. Namibia has been pursuing an accelerated infrastructure development agenda in parallel with its emerging upstream oil and gas sector, and projects of this scale are consistent with government efforts to build out the midstream and downstream capacity needed to support anticipated production growth. No project cost, timeline to completion, or pipeline route details were disclosed at the launch.

The Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project represents a significant downstream and midstream infrastructure commitment at a time when Namibia is drawing international attention for its offshore discoveries. The convergence of upstream exploration momentum and new fuel logistics infrastructure points to a maturing energy investment environment, though the president's warning about bureaucratic friction serves as a reminder that project delivery in Namibia still faces institutional headwinds that investors and contractors will need to factor into planning and scheduling.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a project launch event — no contract has been signed or tendered publicly, so the appropriate posture is monitoring and relationship-building rather than procurement outreach. Norwegian pipeline and tank terminal engineering firms should track the project's development closely, as the pipeline component will likely require specialist design, construction, and potentially integrity-management services once contracting begins. Establishing early contact with Dangote Namibia and Namibian port and logistics authorities would position Norwegian companies ahead of any formal tender process.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Monitor the regional pipeline route and specification announcements; early engagement with the Dangote project team could position pipeline engineering firms ahead of FEED and EPC tender issuance.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Walvis Bay's development as a fuel hub may require marine offloading and jetty infrastructure; track whether any subsea or nearshore mooring components are included in the pipeline project scope.

- **LNG:** If Namibia's upstream gas production materialises, a tank farm hub at Walvis Bay could anchor future LNG bunkering or small-scale LNG distribution — worth monitoring as a long-term market development.
- **Service:** Tank farm construction and commissioning will require inspection, testing, and integrity services; Norwegian service companies with downstream storage experience should identify local partners in Walvis Bay now.
- **Drilling:** No direct drilling angle, but Walvis Bay's emerging role as an energy logistics hub strengthens the case for establishing a regional supply and service base that could support offshore drilling campaigns off the Namibian coast.

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