THE NAMIBIAN · NIGERIA · PIPELINE

Namibia clarifies Dangote terminal lacks green approval

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Namibia's Office of the President has confirmed that President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's attendance at the launch of the proposed Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project does not constitute environmental authorisation for the development. The clarification was issued in response to reporting by The Namibian and underscores that the N$41-billion project must still complete mandatory regulatory processes before it can proceed.

The Office of the President stated that the president's participation in the official launch ceremony at Farm 58, Walvis Bay, represented the government's expression of support for strategic investment and the project's potential contribution to national development. The statement was explicit that this attendance should not be interpreted as environmental approval of any kind. The project, promoted under the name Dangote Namibia Tank Farm and Regional Pipeline Project, is associated with the business interests of Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote.

According to the Office of the President, the project is yet to undergo the required environmental impact assessment, public consultation process, and broader regulatory approval procedures that Namibian law mandates before such infrastructure can be sanctioned. These are standard sequential requirements for large-scale energy and industrial projects in Namibia. No timeline was provided in the statement for when these assessments are expected to commence or conclude.

The N$41-billion valuation — equivalent to a substantial capital commitment in the southern African energy infrastructure space — positions this as one of the more

significant proposed petroleum storage and pipeline projects announced in the region in recent years. Walvis Bay, Namibia's principal deep-water port, is a strategically located logistics hub on the Atlantic coast, making it a logical anchor point for a regional fuel distribution and pipeline network. The project's stated ambition is regional in scope, with the pipeline component suggesting cross-border distribution potential beyond Namibia's domestic market.

The presidency's clarification reflects a broader governance dynamic in which high-profile investment launches, often attended by heads of state to signal political backing, can be misconstrued as regulatory endorsement. By issuing a formal public correction, the Namibian government has reinforced that investment promotion and regulatory compliance are distinct processes operating on separate tracks. For the project to advance to construction and operation, Dangote's development team will need to navigate Namibia's environmental and planning approval framework — a process that, depending on the scope of assessment required, can extend over multiple years and involve substantive public participation requirements.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This project remains at a pre-feasibility and pre-approval stage; Norwegian pipeline, storage, and marine terminal specialists should monitor regulatory progress and track when an environmental impact assessment is formally commissioned, as that milestone will indicate whether the project is advancing toward detailed engineering and procurement. Relationship-building with Dangote's project development team and Namibian port and energy authorities is appropriate at this stage. No procurement outreach is warranted until environmental and regulatory approvals are granted and a contracting process is announced.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Pipeline:** Monitor environmental assessment progress; a regional pipeline of this scale will require detailed route engineering, materials supply, and potentially specialist pipeline installation services when it reaches FEED stage.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Walvis Bay's port infrastructure and marine terminal component may require offshore or nearshore mooring and marine engineering expertise as the project matures past regulatory approval.
- **LNG:** If the regional distribution scope expands to include gas products alongside liquid fuels, storage and handling technology providers should track the project's evolving product mandate.
- **Service:** Environmental and regulatory consulting firms with African project experience may find early-stage advisory opportunities as the mandatory impact assessment process is initiated.

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