NEW ERA (STATE DAILY) - BUSINESS (NAMIBIA) · NAMIBIA · DRILLING

Namibia Offshore Ops Demand Local Expertise, Says Analyst

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International oil companies and Tier-2 energy contractors operating in Namibia's emerging offshore sector face a structural challenge: global technical capability alone is insufficient without deep, ground-level Namibian operational knowledge, according to an opinion piece published in New Era, Namibia's state daily.

The argument centres on the operational tempo of frontier exploration. Exploration rigs, supply vessels, and onshore support bases consume substantial volumes of fuel daily, and project timelines are described as unforgiving. Any disruption to logistics, permitting, community relations, or local supply chains can cascade quickly into costly downtime. The piece contends that world-class offshore engineering, while necessary, must be paired with on-the-ground Namibian expertise to ensure continuity from the first day of operations.

The commentary reflects a broader debate across Africa's newer hydrocarbon provinces: how international operators integrate local content requirements not merely as a compliance exercise but as a genuine operational asset. Namibia has attracted significant attention following major offshore discoveries in the Orange Basin, and the country's regulatory environment is increasingly emphasising local participation across the value chain — from fuel supply and catering to technical services and project management.

For international contractors entering Namibia, the piece implies that hiring or partnering with Namibians who understand the specific logistical, regulatory, and social landscape is a competitive differentiator, not an afterthought. The pace at

which rigs and support vessels operate means that delays caused by unfamiliarity with local conditions — port procedures, customs clearance, community expectations, supplier reliability — translate directly into financial exposure.

The opinion does not name specific companies, projects, or contracts, nor does it cite production figures or investment values. It is framed as a principled argument for embedding local expertise at the operational core of offshore projects, rather than treating it as peripheral. The piece was published in New Era's business section, suggesting it is aimed at both the Namibian business community and the international energy companies establishing or expanding their Walvis Bay-area presence. As Namibia transitions from exploration toward development and potential first oil, the pressure to build a functional local supply chain and skilled workforce is intensifying, making the case for ground-level expertise increasingly urgent for operators managing complex, time-sensitive offshore programmes.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an opinion piece with no contract, tender, or FID — Norwegian service companies should monitor local content policy developments in Namibia and begin mapping credible Namibian partners now. Early relationship-building with Walvis Bay-based logistics providers, fuel suppliers, and local technical firms will be essential groundwork before procurement windows open. No supplier outreach to operators is warranted at this stage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Drilling:** Drilling contractors should identify Namibian rig-support and crew-logistics partners to satisfy local content expectations before mobilisation.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Subsea and FPSO operators should audit their Namibian supply-chain readiness, particularly for fuel, catering, and onshore maintenance services.
- **Service:** Well-services companies entering Namibia should consider structured local-hire and training programmes as a differentiator in future tender evaluations.
- **Pipeline:** Pipeline and infrastructure contractors should engage early with Walvis Bay port authorities and local civil contractors to understand logistical realities.

Original source: New Era (state daily) - Business (Namibia) →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN