

AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT

GALP Appoints Deputy Country Manager as Namibia Development Approval Sought

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Portuguese independent GALP Energia has made a significant executive appointment in Namibia, naming Saave Nakashole as Deputy Country Manager for Public and Operational Affairs. The move signals that GALP is actively building its in-country institutional capacity as it pursues government approval for what is described as a high-stakes development project in Namibia.

The appointment of a dedicated deputy country manager with a remit covering both public affairs and operational matters suggests GALP is preparing for an intensive regulatory and stakeholder engagement phase. Securing host government approval for major upstream developments in Namibia typically requires sustained dialogue with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the national oil company NAMCOR, and local communities — all areas that fall squarely within the kind of portfolio this role is designed to manage.

Namibia has emerged as one of the most closely watched frontier hydrocarbon provinces in Sub-Saharan Africa following a series of significant offshore discoveries. GALP holds a material interest in Namibian acreage and, like its co-venturers, is navigating the pre-final investment decision environment that demands both technical advancement and political credibility. The appointment of a locally engaged senior executive is a standard industry move to demonstrate commitment to local content and national development priorities ahead of formal project sanction.

For the broader Namibian upstream sector, GALP's organisational build-out reinforces the trajectory toward development-phase activity. Multiple operators are currently working through appraisal, environmental authorisation, and development concept selection processes. The fact that GALP is reinforcing its government relations and operational affairs function indicates the company anticipates material decisions — and the workload that accompanies them — in the near to medium term.

From a supply chain perspective, the progression of Namibian offshore projects toward development approval represents a lengthening pipeline of procurement and contracting activity. Operators at this stage of the cycle are defining development concepts, selecting FPSO configurations, scoping subsea infrastructure, and beginning pre-qualification of service providers. Norwegian oil and gas service companies that have not yet established relationships with GALP's Namibia team should treat this appointment as a signal that the relevant decision-makers are now being put in place.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should monitor GALP's Namibia development closely, as regulatory approval would trigger procurement processes across subsea, FPSO, and drilling segments where Norwegian firms are strongly competitive. This is an appropriate moment to initiate or deepen contact with GALP's Namibia country team, particularly given the newly defined public and operational affairs function. Partners not yet pre-qualified with GALP on Namibian scope should prioritise that process now, before concept selection narrows vendor lists.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO:** GALP's move toward development approval makes this the right window to engage on FPSO concept discussions and position for future FEED and EPC scopes.
- **Subsea:** As GALP advances toward project sanction, subsea infrastructure design and equipment pre-qualification discussions will accelerate — Norwegian subsea firms should seek early engagement.

- **Drilling:** Development drilling planning typically runs in parallel with regulatory approval processes, making this a relevant moment for drilling contractors and well services companies to establish relationships with GALP's operational affairs team.
- **Service:** Local content requirements in Namibia are increasingly stringent; Norwegian service companies with established local partnering models should position their compliance frameworks with GALP's new deputy country manager.

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