

PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL · SOUTH AFRICA · SUBSEA

Dangote Plans 4,000 km African Pipeline Network Including 600 km Nigeria Offshore Line

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Dangote Industries has announced one of the most ambitious pipeline development programmes in African history, spanning cross-border land corridors and a significant offshore subsea component in Nigeria. Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote disclosed the plans during an interview in Qatar, confirming that construction on a natural gas and petroleum pipeline linking Djibouti and Ethiopia is set to begin imminently, marking the first physical step in a continent-wide infrastructure build-out.

The broader programme targets nearly 4,000 kilometres of pipeline infrastructure across Sub-Saharan Africa. A southern African corridor, stretching 2,650 kilometres across Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa, forms the largest single component and carries a disclosed budget exceeding \$3.5 billion. Associated tank farms and storage facilities are included in the scope. The strategic rationale is straightforward: replace expensive and logistically fragile road-based fuel distribution with fixed pipeline infrastructure, reducing landed costs across multiple markets simultaneously.

Of particular relevance to the Norwegian service sector is Dangote's planned 600-kilometre offshore gas-gathering pipeline in Nigeria. Devakumar Edwin, the group's vice president for oil, gas, and fertilizer, confirmed that engineering designs for the subsea line are complete and that construction is expected to start shortly. The pipeline will connect stranded offshore gas producers directly to Dangote's industrial complex near Lagos, unlocking gas reserves that currently sit capped due to a lack of viable export infrastructure. Edwin described the infrastructure gap plainly: when a

gas well yields primarily gas, producers cap it and wait. The new gathering network is designed to end that practice at scale.

The pipeline initiatives are embedded within Dangote's Vision 2030 strategy, which also targets a doubling of refinery throughput at the Lagos facility — from 700,000 to 1.4 million barrels per day within three years — and a fourfold increase in fertilizer production to 12 million tonnes annually. To partially fund this expansion, Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals is pursuing an initial public offering targeting approximately 2.15 trillion naira (\$1.62 billion) on Nigerian capital markets.

The scale and sequencing of these projects place Dangote Industries among the most consequential private infrastructure developers active in Sub-Saharan Africa today. With engineering complete on the offshore Nigeria line and cross-border land construction beginning, the window for early engagement by international service providers and technology vendors is opening now rather than at some future planning stage.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian subsea and pipeline contractors should treat the 600 km offshore gas-gathering line in Nigeria as an immediate tendering opportunity, given that engineering is confirmed complete and construction is imminent. The southern African land corridor — at \$3.5 billion and 2,650 km — warrants monitoring for pipeline integrity, logistics, and construction subcontracting angles as procurement timelines firm up. Partners with EPCI, pipeline installation, or subsea tie-in capabilities should initiate direct engagement with Dangote Industries and its engineering contractors without delay.



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- **Subsea:** Engineering completion on the 600 km Nigerian offshore gas-gathering pipeline signals near-term EPCI and installation contracting opportunities for subsea specialists.
- **Pipeline:** The 2,650 km Namibia-Botswana-South Africa corridor and the Djibouti-Ethiopia line represent large-scale pipeline construction and integrity management prospects worth early positioning.
- **FPSO:** Monetisation of stranded offshore gas in Nigeria may drive demand for floating processing or storage solutions to complement the new gathering infrastructure.
- **Service:** Tank farm and storage facility construction across multiple African corridors opens opportunities for Norwegian engineering and maintenance service providers with African project experience.
- **LNG:** Stranded gas volumes unlocked by the offshore gathering line could generate downstream LNG or gas-processing project opportunities tied to Dangote's Lagos industrial complex.

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