

THE BRIEF (NAMIBIA) · NAMIBIA

Namibia-Angola revive stalled cross-border infrastructure push

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Namibia and Angola are pressing to accelerate a stalled portfolio of cross-border infrastructure projects, with Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Trade Selma Ashipala-Musavyi citing weak coordination and inadequate accountability as the primary reasons bilateral commitments have not translated into delivery. The push covers four identified priority areas: the Baynes Hydropower Station, railway expansion, electricity interconnection, and water supply infrastructure.

The Baynes Hydropower Station is the flagship item in the package. The project sits on the Kunene River, which forms the border between the two countries, and has been under discussion for years without reaching financial close or construction. Its acceleration, alongside electricity interconnection upgrades, points to a shared recognition that energy infrastructure deficits are constraining economic development in both countries. Railway expansion and water supply round out a programme that, taken together, would materially improve the logistics and resource backbone of the region.

The ministerial statement does not announce a contract award, financing agreement, or final investment decision on any of the listed projects. What is on the table at this stage is a political recommitment to strengthen intergovernmental coordination and accountability mechanisms — the institutional scaffolding needed before procurement and construction can advance. Norwegian service companies should treat this as an early-stage signal: the commercial opportunity exists, but the gate between political intent and bankable project is not yet open.

For the energy sector specifically, the Baynes hydropower project is the most watch-worthy item. A large-scale run-of-river hydro scheme on an international waterway requires civil and electromechanical engineering, high-voltage transmission infrastructure, and environmental and social governance frameworks — all areas where European contractors and consultants have historically competed. The electricity interconnection component, which would link the Namibian and Angolan grids more robustly, similarly involves transmission line construction and substation work that could attract international engineering and equipment supply chains.

The railway and water supply elements are less directly relevant to oil and gas service providers, though improved logistics infrastructure in southern Angola and northern Namibia would reduce the operational friction that currently affects field development in both countries' upstream sectors. Angola's offshore basin remains one of Africa's most active deepwater environments, and Namibia's Orange Basin has attracted significant exploration interest in recent years. Better regional infrastructure supports the supply chain economics for both.

The two governments' stated intent to sharpen coordination structures is worth monitoring. If accountability mechanisms are formalised — for example through a joint implementation committee with defined milestones — the next step would be feasibility refinements and, eventually, procurement. That is the moment when commercial engagement becomes appropriate.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a political recommitment, not a contract or tender, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian companies with competence in hydropower, high-voltage transmission, or regional grid interconnection should monitor the Baynes project development closely and consider early relationship-building with Namibian and Angolan energy ministries and development finance institutions that may co-finance the scheme. When feasibility or EPC procurement opens, Saga can facilitate introductions.

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- **Pipeline:** Cross-border energy corridor development may create demand for utility pipeline and transmission route survey work as projects move toward feasibility.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Improved Namibia-Angola logistics infrastructure would ease supply chain access to Orange Basin deepwater operations — monitor as an indirect enabler for offshore service positioning.
- **Drilling:** No direct drilling angle at this stage, but regional infrastructure upgrades support mobilisation efficiency for onshore and nearshore drilling programmes in both countries.
- **Service:** Norwegian engineering consultancies with hydropower or grid interconnection credentials should engage with development finance institutions early, ahead of any future Baynes project tender process.

[Original source: The Brief \(Namibia\) →](#)

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