

THE BRIEF (NAMIBIA) · NAMIBIA

Namibia and Angola push joint oil and gas processing

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Namibia and Angola are pursuing joint industrial development across mining, agriculture, fisheries, oil and gas, and energy sectors, with both governments committing to reduce dependence on raw commodity exports in favour of local manufacturing and value addition. Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah stated that the two neighbouring countries can no longer afford to export unprocessed natural resources while importing finished goods — framing the bilateral initiative as an economic necessity rather than an aspiration.

The push for joint industries represents a strategic shift in how both countries intend to manage their resource wealth. For Namibia, which is in the early stages of developing significant offshore oil discoveries, and Angola, which has long been a major African crude exporter seeking to grow its downstream footprint, the alignment signals political will at the highest level to capture more in-country value from hydrocarbon and mineral extraction. The joint-industry framework spans five sectors, suggesting a broad economic integration agenda rather than a project-specific arrangement.

At this stage, the initiative remains a heads-of-agreement level political commitment. No specific projects, joint-venture structures, licensing frameworks, or capital allocations have been publicly announced. The instrument here is a bilateral policy declaration — an important signal of intent, but upstream of any procurement, contracting, or investment decision. The absence of defined project structures means meaningful private-sector engagement is still some distance away.

Nevertheless, the direction of travel matters for the regional energy service market. A combined Namibia-Angola industrial policy — if translated into gas-to-power projects, LNG value chains, refining capacity, or petrochemical facilities — would create substantial demand for engineering, construction, subsea infrastructure, and operations services. Angola already operates a functioning LNG export terminal, and Namibia's nascent offshore sector has drawn major international operators. A coordinated downstream strategy between the two could accelerate the case for shared infrastructure, including pipelines or processing hubs serving both countries' production bases.

For now, Norwegian service companies should treat this as an early-watch signal. The political alignment between Windhoek and Luanda is notable, and building relationships with national oil companies, industrial development agencies, and trade ministries in both countries is the appropriate posture at this stage. Companies with downstream processing expertise — particularly in gas monetisation, refinery engineering, or petrochemicals — should begin mapping stakeholder landscapes in anticipation of more concrete project announcements.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a policy-level declaration with no signed contracts, tenders, or FIDs; Norwegian service companies should monitor developments and invest in relationship-building with Namibia's and Angola's national oil companies and industrial development bodies rather than pursuing procurement contacts. Companies with downstream processing, gas monetisation, or LNG value-chain capabilities are best positioned to engage early as the bilateral framework matures toward defined projects.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** A joint Namibia-Angola downstream strategy could advance gas monetisation and LNG value-chain projects; begin mapping stakeholder relationships with both national oil companies now.
- **Pipeline:** Shared infrastructure between two production basins could generate demand for cross-border pipeline engineering and construction — monitor for feasibility study announcements.

- **FPSO:** If Namibia's offshore discoveries feed into a regional processing strategy, FPSO operators and owners should track how production infrastructure decisions are shaped by the bilateral framework.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Early engagement with Namibian operators developing offshore blocks is warranted, as a joint downstream policy could influence field development concepts and subsea tie-back decisions.
- **Service:** Downstream industrial build-out in refining or petrochemicals would require specialist operations and maintenance services; companies with Angola onshore track records are well placed to expand into this space.

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