

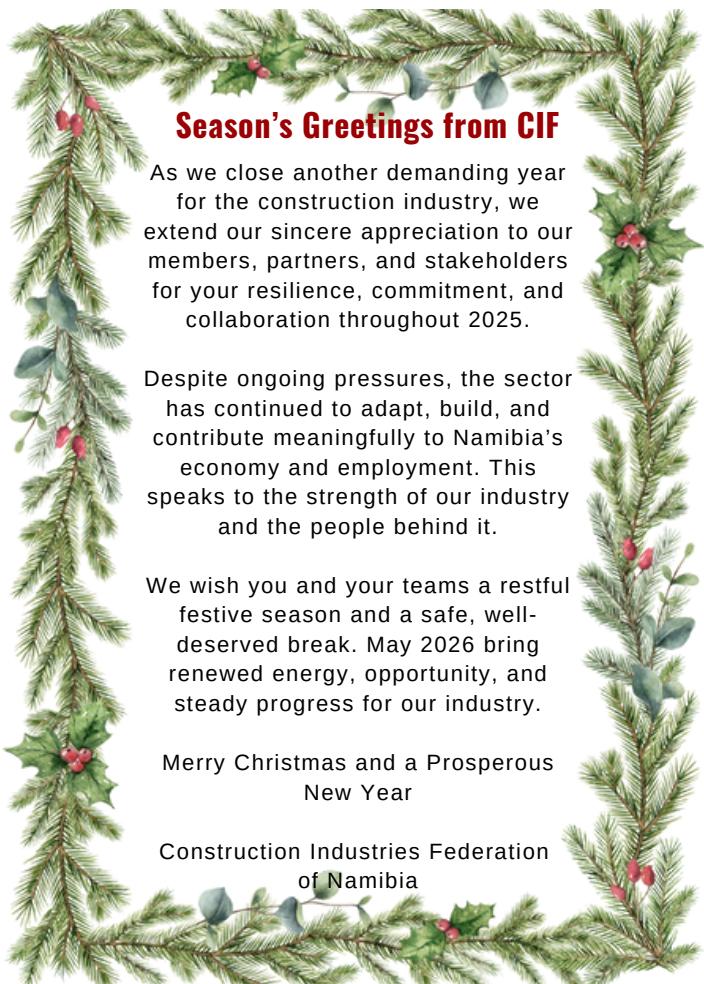


MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT COMMITS TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION SECTOR AT AGM

The 2025 AGM brought together 75 members to reflect on the CIF's progress, advocacy efforts and developments affecting the wider construction sector. A central part of the programme was the address delivered by Executive Director Jonas Sheelongo of the Ministry of Works and Transport, who spoke on behalf of the Hon. Minister Veikko Nedkundi. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to engage directly with the CIF and its members and emphasised that the Ministry values occasions such as these because they allow Government to hear the concerns of industry professionals and business owners first-hand.

In his remarks, Mr. Sheelongo acknowledged the long-standing effort to secure the establishment of a construction council. He explained that the process has been ongoing for years, and that the Cabinet Committee for Legislation's earlier engagement on the matter resulted in numerous questions that required clarification from the Ministry. This, he noted, contributed to delays. He stated that the Ministry now hopes the concerns raised and the clarifications provided will be sufficient for the bill to move to the next stage and that, depending on the Cabinet's next sitting, the version to be tabled before Parliament may be concluded.

He also discussed the difficulties faced by SMEs and other contractors, including challenges linked to the financial sector. He referred to recent engagements between the Ministry, financial institutions and other stakeholders, during which the institutions undertook to implement measures aimed at alleviating some of the financial constraints experienced by local construction businesses.



NEW MINIMUM WAGE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of collective bargaining with the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union (MANWU) for the 2026–2028 sectoral agreement.

Key Outcomes

- 5% increase in minimum wages in Year 1 (i.e. 20.43 per hour)
- 5% increase in Year 2 (i.e. 21.45 per hour)
- Service allowance adjusted modestly from 150 to 155 hours
- Living-away-from-home allowance increased from 12% to 15%

Under minimum protective clothing, safety helmet brims were included; and need to be provided where required.

It is important to note that the increases are solely increases for the minimum wage payable; they are not increases across the board. Many employers already pay more than the current minimum wages.

These outcomes reflect meaningful improvements for employees while remaining realistic and affordable for employers in a sector still under economic pressure.

The negotiations were led by CIF CEO Bärbel Kirchner, with committed support from Johann Stahl, Mario Teichmann, and Belinda Botes. The strong preparation, unity, and clarity of mandate enabled a swift and constructive engagement with MANWU.

The agreement will be signed and submitted to the Minister of Labour and Justice, with a request for gazetting and extension to the entire construction sector.

The intention is that the agreement will come into force after the expiry of the current agreement in June 2026 and will remain valid for two years thereafter.

CIF remains committed to fair and sustainable labour practices that support both workers and employers, and to strengthening the resilience of Namibia's construction industry.

LABOUR MARKET & REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

Labour rules are changing across the world. Many governments are updating their labour laws because of new technology, global competition and changing international standards. Namibia is also part of this trend. As discussions on reforms continue, the construction sector needs to watch these developments closely because they can have a strong impact on employers.

Internationally, many countries are making similar changes. Occupational safety and health has now been recognised as a basic right at work. This means countries are strengthening safety systems and making employer duties clearer, especially in high-risk sectors like construction. Governments are also reviewing social protection systems, which may lead to higher employer contributions or more administrative requirements.

A major area of reform is the rapid growth of digital technology and artificial intelligence in the workplace. Policymakers are creating new rules on data protection, workplace monitoring and how automated systems make decisions. These rules are meant to support fairness but can also create additional compliance duties for employers.

At the same time, governments are looking again at how different types of work should be classified, including temporary workers, agency workers and hybrid or flexible work arrangements.

...continued on page 3



... continued from page 2, Labour Market & Regulatory Developments

Many of these changes are influenced by international labour standards such as ILO Conventions on safety and health, social security and non-discrimination, but every country must shape them according to its own economic conditions.

For Namibia's construction sector, these global trends cannot be ignored. The industry already struggles with tight profit margins, high administrative demands and constant pressure to stay competitive. Any new labour rules — whether due to extended social protection, or whether related to safety, recruitment or technology — may increase costs, reduce flexibility and limit the sector's ability to deliver projects competitively.

If reforms are not practical or are introduced without considering the realities of the sector, they could slow investment, delay projects and negatively affect job creation.

It is therefore important that Namibia's labour reforms balance international standards with what is realistic for the economy.

Regulation must strike a careful balance — protecting workers' health and safety while ensuring that employers can operate efficiently, competitively, and sustainably. Overly rigid or costly regulatory frameworks risk undermining business viability, investment, and job creation.

CIF will continue to advocate for a pragmatic labour environment that upholds safety standards without imposing unnecessary administrative or financial burdens on employers, recognising that a viable construction sector is essential to sustainable employment and economic growth.



... continued from page 1 MWT commits to support construction sector

Procurement was another area of concern. Mr. Sheelongo stated that although the Procurement Act of 2015 was designed with positive intentions, its implementation has created difficulties for businesses, and that certain shortcomings in the law-making process have contributed to the challenges being felt today.

He further explained that the absence of finalised construction-industry legislation — for the establishment of a construction council - has created a vacuum that continues to affect the sector.

He reminded members that while Government plays a central role, not all challenges can be resolved by the Ministry alone. He emphasised that many of the issues raised by the industry require a collective effort between Government and sector stakeholders. He also reiterated the Ministry's responsibility to continuously listen, engage and act in response to the sector's realities.

He recognised the construction industry as a major contributor to national development — one that creates jobs for skilled and unskilled people alike and plays an important role in the broader economy, including in Namibia's greener-development ambitions.

Mr. Sheelongo closed by reaffirming that he conveyed the full commitment of the Minister. He described both the political and administrative agenda of the Ministry as being focused on addressing the challenges faced by the sector and serving the nation better. He thanked the CIF for the opportunity to engage and underlined the importance of ongoing dialogue as the Ministry continues its efforts to resolve long-standing issues and support the growth of the construction industry.

CIF PROJECTS



CIF GOLF CLASSIC 2025 - A NEW FLAGSHIP EVENT

The inaugural CIF Golf Classic, held on 25 July 2025 at the Windhoek Golf Club, marked a major milestone for the CIF. Bringing together 76 golfers across 19 teams and supported by more than 40 sponsors, the tournament showcased the construction industry's unity, professionalism and enthusiasm for strengthened collaboration.

The event's success was driven by exceptional sponsorship support. Hardrock Earthworks served as the naming-rights sponsor, setting the foundation for a premium tournament experience. They were joined by leading industry supporters including City Concrete, Ohorongo Cement, the Nexus Group and Momentum Short-Term Insurance, whose contributions elevated the event's visibility and status.

Numerous CIF members and partners further enhanced the day with enthusiastic sponsorship across categories.

Beyond competitive golf, the Classic created valuable networking opportunities in a relaxed, high-quality environment. Contractors, SMEs, suppliers, financiers and industry-associated partners connected throughout the day, forming relationships that extend far beyond the course. Financially, the event achieved a strong outcome, generating N\$360,000 to support CIF advocacy and member-focused programmes.

The overwhelmingly positive feedback confirmed that the Golf Classic will become a key annual event on the industry calendar.



CIF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FORUM SIGNALS A NEW ERA OF PIPELINE TRANSPARENCY AND LOCALISATION MOMENTUM

The CIF Infrastructure Development Forum, organised by the CIF with the support of co-operation partner, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and the sponsorship of other key stakeholders, was held from 14–16 October 2025 in Lüderitz, brought together more than 180 participants for three days of intensive, high-value engagement on Namibia's southern region's emerging infrastructure and industrialisation pipeline. With more than 35 speakers — including senior representatives from NamPower, Namport, NamWater, the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme, BW Energy and TotalEnergies — the Forum delivered an unprecedented volume of actionable project intelligence for contractors, SMEs, financiers, suppliers and other industry-associated stakeholders.



On the last day, the Forum produced practical recommendations to strengthen procurement discipline and ensure sustainable tendering. Discussions emphasised the need for professional quantity surveying, accurate costing, transparent evaluation criteria, enforceable Joint Venture clauses for skills transfer, and bankability mechanisms that support SMEs. These outputs provide a realistic pathway for construction businesses to participate meaningfully — rather than symbolically — in major infrastructure projects.

Delegates rated the event's content highly, noting that the Forum delivered clear and actionable project-pipeline intelligence while advancing critical discussions on procurement reform and SME readiness. For CIF members gearing up for Namibia's transformative decade of infrastructure expansion, the Forum has emerged as one of 2025's most strategically valuable engagements — prompting the decision to establish it as an annual event.



ECONOMIC ROUND UP

WINDHOEK BUILDING PLANS RISE SHARPLY IN VALUE DESPITE FEWER APPROVALS

The City of Windhoek recorded mixed building activity in October. The number of building plan approvals fell to 186 plans, which is 21 fewer than in September. However, the total value of these plans increased strongly to N\$486.5 million, mainly because of one large N\$300 million development in Klein Windhoek that includes 104 residential units.

So far this year, building plans worth N\$2.05 billion have been approved, about 16% more than the same period in 2024. Over the past 12 months, the City approved 1,976 plans worth around N\$2.5 billion.

Completions slowed, with only 32 projects finished in October, showing a big decline from last year.

Additions to properties remain the biggest category, with 145 additions approved worth N\$51.2 million. New residential units also slowed to 30 approvals worth N\$42 million.

Commercial and industrial plans were strong, with 11 approvals valued at N\$393.2 million in October.



BANK OF NAMIBIA CUTS INTEREST RATE TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMY

The Bank of Namibia lowered the repo rate to 6.50% after cutting rates by 25 basis points in October. The central bank made this decision to help support the economy, which has been slowing down, while inflation remains under control.

The interest-rate cut means borrowing could become slightly cheaper for households and businesses—depending on how commercial banks adjust their lending rates. It also helps the central bank maintain stability in the Namibian dollar, which is linked to the South African rand.

For the construction, business and SME sectors, the rate cut provides a bit of relief at a time when many companies face higher costs.

Source: Reuters – "Namibia central bank cuts main interest rate to 6.50%"

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/namibia-central-bank-cuts-main-interest-rate-650-2025-10-15>

NAMIBIA SECURES FUNDS TO REPAY US\$750 MILLION EUROBOND

Namibia has successfully secured all the funds needed to repay its US\$750 million Eurobond, which was due this year. The Bank of Namibia confirmed that Namibia repaid the bond in full and on time.

This is positive news because it reduces Namibia's foreign-debt risks and boosts investor confidence. By paying off the bond without taking new foreign loans, Namibia shows strong financial planning and responsible debt management.

The repayment also helps protect our currency and supports the central bank's efforts to keep the economy stable. With the Eurobond repayment handled—and interest rates easing—business confidence may improve going into 2026.

Source: Reuters – "Namibia has mobilised funds to redeem US\$750 million Eurobond"

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/namibia-has-mobilised-funds-redeem-750-million-eurobond-central-bank-says-2025-10-15>

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RFA ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS ON FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) has engaged industry stakeholders on its five-year Business Plan for 2026–2031, aimed at sustaining Namibia's road infrastructure while enhancing economic competitiveness and climate resilience.

Aligned with National Development Plan 6 (NDP6), the plan prioritises feeder roads, national corridor rehabilitation, urban road upgrades, and environmentally sensitive infrastructure projects. Despite declining government support and rising maintenance demands, the RFA reported solid financial performance, with revenue reaching N\$3.74 billion in FY2024/25, driven by stable fuel levy collections and improved compliance.

To address long-term funding challenges, the RFA is exploring phased adjustments to road user charges and potential tolling on strategic corridors, while reaffirming its commitment to collaboration with industry stakeholders.

Source:

<https://www.rfanam.com.na/rfa-engages-stakeholders-on-2026-2031-business-plan/>

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX UPDATE: Q1, Q2 AND Q3 SHOW STRONG VOLATILITY IN 2025

The Namibia's Producer Price Index (PPI) moved sharply in different directions across the first three quarters of the year, reflecting unstable cost conditions for producers.

In Q1 2025, the PPI fell 1.2% quarter-on-quarter, driven by a 10% contraction in the mining and quarrying index due to lower prices for salt, uranium, diamonds and zinc. Despite this, the PPI still grew 2.8% year-on-year, supported by strong gains in manufacturing, which expanded 11.1% YoY, led by meat processing, cement, diamond cutting and polishing, and beverages.

In Q2 2025, the downward trend deepened. The PPI declined 3.1% QoQ and 2.5% YoY. Manufacturing prices dropped 9.3% QoQ, mainly due to steep declines in diamond cutting and polishing (-40.5%) and cement (-29.9%).

Although the broader sector contracted, the mining and quarrying index showed a positive quarterly rise of 4.5%, driven by higher prices for salt (29%), gold (16%) and uranium (8.8%).

By Q3 2025, conditions reversed dramatically. The PPI surged 12% QoQ and 10.4% YoY, rising from 100.3 to 112.4 index points.

Manufacturing remained the key driver, increasing 7.9% QoQ, with exceptional spikes in onshore fish processing (47.9% QoQ; 75.8% YoY) and strong growth across other food, meat and beverage categories. Diamond cutting and polishing also rebounded with a 7.2% QoQ increase. Meanwhile, water supply remained largely stable, declining 0.3% QoQ and rising 0.1% YoY, indicating minimal cost pressure in utilities.

Overall, the combined quarterly data shows a year marked by steep declines in Q1 and Q2, followed by a sharp price surge in Q3. These fluctuations point to unstable input costs — especially in manufacturing, food processing and mining-linked materials — requiring careful pricing, procurement planning and margin management throughout 2025 and in 2026.

Source: Namibia Statistic Agency





PSEMAS SHIFT WILL DRIVE MAJOR UPGRADES IN PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES

Government's plan to require PSEMAS members to increasingly use public health facilities from 2026 is expected to trigger a significant surge in maintenance, refurbishment and upgrading across Namibia's health facilities network. The shift comes as many private healthcare providers withdraw from PSEMAS due to tariffs that no longer cover rising operational costs, placing pressure on government to redirect public servants to state services.

Labour unions and stakeholders have welcomed the principle but warn that public facilities, in their current state, cannot safely absorb the additional patient load. Recent assessments confirm widespread gaps: ageing infrastructure, malfunctioning equipment, weak infection control systems and overcrowded facilities, especially in major towns. These findings underline the urgency of strengthening the physical condition and operational capacity of state healthcare institutions.



For the Ministry of Works and Transport, this transition translates into a much heavier maintenance and repair burden. Hospitals and clinics will require reliable water and sanitation systems, upgraded electrical and mechanical infrastructure, functioning lifts and boilers, improved fire safety systems, and continuous support for critical equipment. The challenge is heightened by the fact that most facilities must remain fully operational while renovations take place.

Government's recent development budgets have already allocated substantial funding toward health infrastructure, signaling a pipeline of projects and tenders that will accelerate as the PSEMAS shift draws nearer. Success will depend on fast-tracking essential repairs, strengthening preventive maintenance systems, improving regional technical capacity, and coordinating upgrades carefully in live operating environments. If these efforts are prioritised, the PSEMAS transition could become a catalyst for much-needed long-term improvements in Namibia's public health system.

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- <https://mfpe.gov.na/medical-aid>

NAMPOWER BRINGS AFRICA'S FIRST FULLY DIGITAL SUBSTATION ONLINE

The commissioning of the fully digital Sekelduin Substation outside Swakopmund marks a milestone not only for Namibia but for the continent. This N\$394 million facility integrates advanced digital technologies that reduce copper cabling, improve grid reliability, and streamline remote monitoring. It also positions Namibia to adopt future artificial intelligence and machine-learning applications in grid management. Contractors and service specialists involved in power infrastructure may find new opportunities emerging as Namibia modernises its national grid and enhances coastal load-handling capacity.

Source: <https://neweralive.na/new-nampower-substation-a-first-for-africa/>

GOREANGAB MALL EXPECTED TO BOOST WESTERN WINDHOEK'S RETAIL ECOSYSTEM

The upcoming Goreangab Mall, set to open in May 2026, fills a long-standing gap in retail infrastructure for fast-growing communities in and around Goreangab and Katutura. Supported by a substantial financing package, the development will feature more than 40 tenants and aims to attract stable foot traffic to the area. The construction phase has created significant employment, while the long-term operational phase is expected to stimulate local entrepreneurship. The development reflects growing demand for retail and mixed-use facilities in underserved urban zones.

FARM 37 HOUSING PROJECT ADVANCES STEADILY

Walvis Bay's Farm 37—also known as Green Valley—continues to make progress under Phase 1, which includes the construction of 200 houses and the servicing of 1,500 erven. With both the municipality and the central government committed to funding and accelerating the project, Farm 37 is positioned as a foundational initiative to reduce housing shortages and formalise urban growth in the Erongo Region. Contractors can expect ongoing civil works, service installations, and follow-on housing phases as the project expands.



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HYDROGEN PROJECTS

HYPHEN HYDROGEN PROJECT FACES NEW CHALLENGES

The Hyphen green hydrogen project, one of Namibia's largest planned investments, is facing several setbacks that may affect its progress. This year, international media report highlighted concerns raised by Nama community representatives, who argue that the project's location in the Tsau //Khaeb National Park has deep historical significance and requires stronger consultation. Environmental organisations have also pointed to risks to fragile ecosystems and biodiversity within the park.

The project has also experienced commercial uncertainty after German energy company RWE withdrew from an early agreement to buy green ammonia from Hyphen. Although the agreement was not binding, the withdrawal created doubt about long-term demand and may influence financing and construction timelines.

Even with these challenges, the project continues to hold major potential for Namibia's construction sector—from renewable energy infrastructure to civil works, transmission lines and port upgrades. However, it is clear that project partners and contractors will face higher expectations around community engagement, environmental management and transparency as development progresses.

OHLTHAVER & LIST EXITS CLEANERGY: A TURNING POINT FOR NAMIBIA'S HYDROGEN AMBITIONS

Ohlthaver & List (O&L) has withdrawn from its 51% stake in Cleanergy Solutions Namibia, selling its shareholding to H2Infra NV, a CMB.TECH subsidiary. The company stated that the move aligns with its Vision 2029 strategy to refocus on core business priorities. The exit followed soon after German utility RWE withdrew from a major potential offtake agreement with the Hyphen hydrogen project.

Namibia still holds strong advantages — abundant renewable resources, port access and investor interest — but the departure of a major local partner signals that large-scale hydrogen projects will require firmer financing, stronger offtake commitments and more stable ownership structures. For contractors and suppliers, the opportunities remain substantial, yet project timelines may slow, and expectations around capability, compliance and local participation will likely increase. The development reinforces that Namibia's hydrogen sector will advance, but with greater scrutiny and the need for durable partnerships.

Sources (URLs):

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GERMANY DEEPENS SUPPORT FOR HYDROGEN INNOVATION

Germany's additional funding of N\$40 million for Namibia's green hydrogen initiatives strengthens the partnership between Namibia and Germany. The support is enabling practical demonstration projects — most notably the introduction of Namibia's first hydrogen-powered bus. Beyond infrastructure, the initiative places heavy emphasis on training, skills development, and professional readiness, acknowledging that Namibia's energy transition requires a competent workforce. Contractors operating in transport, energy, and specialised engineering should anticipate an evolving market with new demands for hydrogen-compatible systems and safety standards.

Source: <https://neweralive.na/germany-boasts-funding-for-namibias-green-hydrogen-drive/>





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ARANDIS PREPARES FOR MASSIVE GREEN AMMONIA DEVELOPMENT

One of Namibia's most ambitious industrial projects is moving closer to realisation. Cleanergy Solutions Namibia's planned N\$50 billion green ammonia plant will transform Arandis into a hub for heavy industry, leveraging exceptional solar resources to produce large-scale ammonia for export. Construction is set to begin late 2026 and will open thousands of employment opportunities, as well as demand for specialised engineering, civil works, power systems, hydrogen handling, and safety-compliance expertise. The long-term footprint of the project will reshape local supply chains and training needs.

Sources:

- <https://www.wsj.com/world/africa/german-firms-african-green-energy-project-runs-into-ghosts-from-past-b2faf960>
- <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/rwe-withdraws-10-billion-namibia-green-hydrogen-project-2025-09-29>

PLANS ADVANCE FOR GREEN HYDROGEN HUB AT LÜDERITZ PORT

Namibia is taking another major step towards becoming a global green hydrogen and critical minerals export hub, following the signing of a N\$13 million cooperation agreement between the European Union, the Port of Rotterdam, and Namport to support planning for the expansion of Lüderitz Port at Angra Point.

The initiative forms part of the EU's Global Gateway strategy and builds on earlier port development cooperation at Walvis Bay. The planned multi-user terminal will support exports of processed mineral ores and green hydrogen-related cargo, strengthening Namibia's role in sustainable global supply chains.

Namport officials highlighted that the project positions Lüderitz as a strategic gateway for green logistics, industrialisation, and job creation, supported by international technical expertise and investment partnerships.

Source:

- <https://neweralive.na/plans-advance-for-hydrogen-hub-at-luderitz-port>

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SKILLS DEMAND IN GREEN HYDROGEN – PROTECTING CONSTRUCTION CAPACITY

Namibia's green-hydrogen transition is rapidly increasing demand for specialised technical skills, many of which the construction sector already lacks. The CIF Skills Gap Analysis highlights immediate shortages in control and instrumentation technicians, automation technicians, renewable-energy technicians and SCADA specialists. Survey findings confirm additional shortages in engineering technologists, electricians, safety officers, heavy-equipment technicians, artisans, welders, civil and mechanical technicians, instrumentation staff and supervisors across all regions.

These same skills are being aggressively targeted by hydrogen, ammonia, desalination and renewable-energy projects. Without a coordinated response, the construction sector risks losing scarce talent to higher-paying hydrogen operations — slowing infrastructure delivery and weakening the very capacity needed to build hydrogen plants, power systems and supporting civil works. If a significant portion of these workers shift to large-scale hydrogen projects, construction companies may no longer have the capacity to deliver core national projects such as housing, municipal services, roads, water infrastructure and commercial developments. For many SMEs, the loss of even a few key technicians can disrupt delivery timelines, trigger penalties and create cash-flow problems.

To address these risks, CIF has launched a Construction Sector Skills Audit to quantify current shortages and anticipate future gaps. The aim is to expand Namibia's skills pipeline rather than compete for the same limited pool of technicians. Once the audit concludes, CIF will source and coordinate training providers to help members upskill staff in the most critical occupations. The federation also requires accurate data from its members to negotiate training support, advocate for retention strategies and secure stronger local-content commitments from hydrogen developers. Without reliable industry input, these interventions cannot be adequately shaped or defended.

As contractors prepare their budgets, tenders and staffing plans for 2026, they must factor in tightening labour competition, wage pressures and changes in skills availability. Planning now — and contributing accurate data — is critical to protecting the future capacity of Namibia's construction industry. The goal is clear: protect construction capacity while preparing Namibians for hydrogen-related opportunities, ensuring both sectors grow sustainably without undermining each other.

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MINING SECTOR

MINING SECTOR GROWTH - CATALYST FOR CONSTRUCTION DEMAND

Namibia's mining sector is gaining strong momentum across gold, uranium, and emerging exploration projects, reinforcing its role as a key driver of economic activity and creating substantial prospects for the construction industry.

The gold sector remains especially active. At Otjikoto, B2Gold continues underground mining through 2027, with the Antelope deposit offering potential extension to 2032. The Navachab mine has extended its life-of-mine to 2036, with processing expected until 2045, supported by more than N\$3.5 billion in ongoing investment. Meanwhile, the Kokoseb Gold Project is advancing rapidly toward development with a 2.93-million-ounce resource and an estimated N\$6.5 billion capital cost, positioning it to become Namibia's fourth major gold mine. Additionally, the Damara Gold Project has secured initial capital to accelerate drilling and early development activities.

In the uranium sector, the Etango project marked a major milestone by switching to live power, signalling decisive progress toward large-scale production. This reinforces Namibia's status as a global uranium supplier and opens sustained opportunities for civil works, power infrastructure, water systems and bulk earthworks.



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Overall, these mining developments point to rising demand for construction services, including access roads, processing facilities, underground works, accommodation units, utilities, and plant expansions. Local-content expectations remain high, favouring Namibian contractors who can offer competitive pricing, strong compliance and reliable project delivery.

Employers should, however, anticipate tighter competition for skilled labour and materials as mining activity accelerates, and incorporate flexible contract strategies to manage regulatory or licensing delays.

The outlook for the construction sector is positive: mining is entering a multi-year phase of capital investment, and firms that align early with project pipelines — particularly Kokoseb, Otjikoto, Navachab and Etango — stand to benefit from sustained work opportunities.

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STRAINED MARKET CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AFFECT REGIONAL SUPPLY CHAINS

South Africa's construction sector remains under pressure, with the industry likely to have shrunk to 0.5% in 2025 due to rising construction costs, declining private investment and continued weakness in residential building activity. The construction material price index increased 1.8% year-on-year, while the value of residential building plans approved fell 9.9% YoY.

Added strain comes from US tariffs disrupting global supply chains, causing material shortages and higher import costs for South African producers.

For Namibian contractors who rely heavily on South Africa for cement, steel, fittings and manufactured components, these conditions translate into potential price volatility, longer lead times and increased procurement risk. The environment reinforces the need for diversified suppliers, stronger inventory planning and early ordering to manage cross-border supply disruptions.

ZIMBABWE'S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE

Zimbabwe's construction environment continues to deteriorate due to hyperinflation, currency instability, unpredictable payment cycles, and the unwillingness of lenders to issue credit. Many local contractors are unable to complete projects or sustain operations, resulting in widespread delays.

While Namibia's conditions are comparatively stable, this regional crisis serves as a reminder of the importance of predictable public procurement systems and disciplined fiscal management.

Source:

<https://cwgrp.com/bmweeknew/materials-news/other/zimbabwe-s-building-industry-currently-facing-major-challenges>



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TITANIUM PROCESSING INVESTMENT STRENGTHENS REGIONAL INDUSTRIALISATION

The African Development Bank has approved a US\$75 million financing package for South Africa's Nyanza Light Metals project to build an 80,000-tonnes-per-year titanium dioxide plant in the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone. The project aims to break Africa's long-standing dependence on imported titanium dioxide by processing the continent's own raw titanium into high-value pigment. This investment is positioned to drive industrial transformation, support regional value addition, and diversify African economies. It is also a major employment catalyst, expected to create 2,400 construction jobs and 850 skilled permanent positions, with specific inclusion targets for women, youth and low-income groups.

The financing structure — delivered through the AfDB and the Africa Growing Together Fund (with the People's Bank of China) — reflects a coordinated regional commitment to beneficiation. For Namibia, the project signals rising regional demand for construction, logistics and specialised engineering services as Africa accelerates its shift toward processing minerals locally.

Source: [African Development Bank Group \(AfDB\) / Press release | South Africa: African Development Bank approves \\$75 million in Nyanza Light Metals to drive large-scale titanium processing](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Press%20Releases/2023/2023-03-28_African_Development_Bank_Group_(AfDB)_Press_release_|_South_Africa:_African_Development_Bank_approves_75_million_in_Nyanza_Light_Metals_to_drive_large-scale_titanium_processing)

USAKOS SME PARK DEVELOPMENT

Construction has begun on the N\$10 million Usakos SME Park, an initiative led by QKR Namibia Navachab Gold Mine Managing Director George Botshiwe. Developed in partnership with the Usakos Town Council, the project forms part of the town's five-year development strategy and aims to create a dedicated space for SMEs to operate, scale and integrate into regional value chains. The Park will support enterprises involved in services, light manufacturing, logistics and retail, strengthening economic activity along Namibia's central transport corridor.

The project creates opportunities for contractors and suppliers involved in civil works, utilities installation and SME-support infrastructure. More importantly, it aligns with national localisation goals by strengthening the network of small businesses that feed into major procurement pipelines and future infrastructure opportunities.

DBN EXPANDS EFFORTS TO SUPPORT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

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TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

NEW INTERNAL CURING CONCRETE ADDITIVE REDUCES WATER USE IN CONSTRUCTION

Asian Paints has introduced CureAssure, an internal-curing concrete additive that helps concrete retain moisture and reduces the need for traditional water-based curing. The additive uses specialised polymers to improve hydration, limit shrinkage and support consistent strength development under harsh conditions. It complies with international standards, including ACI 308, and is suitable for pumped, precast, high-fluidity, durable and ready-mix concrete.

For Namibia, where high temperatures and water scarcity often disrupt curing, the technology offers clear advantages. By lowering water demand and improving durability, internal-curing additives such as CureAssure could support more sustainable, climate-resilient construction practices as the sector adapts to environmental pressures.

<https://www.pbctoday.co.uk/news/mmc-news/worlds-first-internal-curing-concrete-additive-launched-in-uae/153920/>



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