Hats Off
Issued by the Construction Industries Federation of Namibia
Building Namibia's Future
JULY 2026

CIF REMAINS OPPOSED TO CEMENT MERGER APPROVAL

The Construction Industries Federation of Namibia (CIF) remains opposed to the ministerial approval of the Whale Rock Cement (Pty) Ltd and Schwenk Namibia (Pty) Ltd transaction relating to Ohorongo Cement.

The decision by the Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy, Modestus Amutse, was published in Government Gazette No. 8965. It overturned the earlier decision of the Namibia Competition Commission and approved the transaction subject to conditions relating to employment, post-merger monitoring, the continued existence of the Cheetah Cement plant and an increase in local ownership to at least 40%.

CIF first raised its concerns during the Competition Commission's stakeholder process in June 2025. The Commission subsequently prohibited the transaction after concluding that it would change Namibia's cement market from a duopoly to a monopoly and could result in higher prices, reduced output and quality, and fewer choices for downstream customers.

The published conditions do not adequately address this central competition concern. Cement is a strategic input for public infrastructure, housing, commercial development and civil construction. A reduction in effective competition therefore has direct implications for contractors, SMEs, developers, public procurement and the wider economy.

Following publication of the ministerial decision, CIF conducted a member survey and received 38 responses from across the construction value chain. The results show strong concern about the effect of the transaction.

Almost 90% of respondents expect cement prices to increase significantly or moderately. Respondents also anticipate weaker service, unequal access to supply, preferential commercial arrangements and negative consequences for Namibian-owned contractors and SMEs. Although every survey respondent considered cement-price monitoring important, the conditions do not establish a clear and transparent price-monitoring mechanism.

The conditions also do not expressly prohibit discriminatory pricing, preferential supply terms or unequal treatment of different customers.

The requirement that the Cheetah Cement plant should continue to exist is similarly unclear. The continued legal or physical existence of a plant does not necessarily mean sustained production, employment, capacity utilisation or meaningful competitive pressure. An effective condition would require measurable production obligations, implementation timelines, reporting duties and enforceable consequences for non-compliance.

The requirement for at least 40% local ownership is important in principle, but ownership alone does not guarantee competitive pricing, fair access, local procurement, transparent governance or protection for SMEs and domestic contractors.

CIF is also concerned about the reliance on monitoring after the transaction has been implemented. Monitoring may identify harm only after contractors, consumers and public projects have already been affected. It cannot easily replace the protection provided by genuine competition.

This decision comes at a time when Namibian-owned contractors are already struggling to participate meaningfully in major infrastructure projects. Greater concentration in the supply of a critical construction material could further weaken domestic businesses and Namibia's long-term construction capacity.

CIF therefore calls for the ministerial approval to be reconsidered in the interests of fair competition, local enterprise development, affordable construction and Namibia's future infrastructure delivery.

HOUSING DELIVERY STARTS WITH SERVICED LAND

Namibia's housing crisis cannot be addressed only by building more completed houses. Before construction can begin, land must be identified, planned, surveyed, proclaimed and connected to roads, water, sanitation and electricity.

The national housing backlog is estimated at more than 300,000 units. Slow and costly land-servicing processes continue to restrict supply, while many urban households remain unable to access formal housing.

Average house prices have risen to approximately N$1.44 million, placing home ownership beyond the reach of much of the population. At the same time, thousands of additional households settle in informal areas each year.

A stronger national housing response must therefore begin with bulk infrastructure and serviced-land delivery. Once secure tenure and essential services are available, households can often construct and improve their homes progressively.

This approach would create opportunities throughout the construction value chain, including land surveying, town planning, roads, stormwater systems, sewerage, water networks, electrification, building-material supply and residential construction.

Namibia's housing backlog is consequently also an infrastructure backlog. Accelerating the delivery of serviced land would make housing construction easier, improve living conditions and create a more sustainable project pipeline for local contractors.

Source: *https://www.namibian.com.na/our-housing-backlog-begins-with-land-delivery/*

NAMIBIA'S ECONOMY SET FOR MODERATE GROWTH

The Bank of Namibia's March 2026 Economic Outlook projects the domestic economy to grow by 2.6% in 2026 and 2.9% in 2027, following estimated growth of 1.7% in 2025. Growth is expected to be supported by construction, electricity and water, wholesale and retail trade, financial services, public administration and uranium mining.

However, the outlook has been revised downward from earlier projections, mainly due to weaker expected performance in parts of the primary sector, particularly metal ores and diamonds. External risks remain, including geopolitical tensions, commodity price volatility, exchange rate movements and higher costs for imported inputs such as fuel.

For construction, the outlook confirms continued relevance as a growth-supporting sector, but within a broader economy that remains exposed to both domestic and external pressures.

Source/URL: https://www.bon.com.na/Informations/Media/Media-Releases/2026-Media-Releases/Articles/Economic-Outlook-March-2026.aspx

NAMIBIA–EU FORUM STRENGTHENS INVESTMENT PIPELINE

The second Namibia–EU Business Forum attracted more than 1,000 registrations and over 400 in-person participants, bringing together government representatives, investors, financiers and businesses.

Discussions covered infrastructure, green industrialisation, critical raw materials, renewable hydrogen, agribusiness, automotive manufacturing and creative industries.

Namibia–EU trade has doubled over the past decade to approximately N$17.6 billion. The European Union estimates that nearly 47,000 Namibian jobs are linked directly to exports of goods to the EU.

Eight large green-hydrogen projects with estimated investment potential of around N$390 billion are currently in the pipeline. The central challenge will be converting this investment interest into bankable projects, local procurement, skills development and sustainable opportunities for Namibian companies.

Source:
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/namibia/namibia%E2%80%93eu-business-forum-drives-investment-trade-reaches-n176-billion_en

GOVERNMENT CLARIFIES INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROCESS

The Ministry of Finance has clarified that government infrastructure projects cannot be financed through unsolicited proposals submitted by private individuals, companies or intermediaries claiming to represent investors.

Public borrowing and infrastructure funding must follow the National Planning Commission Act, the State Finance Act and the Public Procurement Act. Proposed development projects must be assessed through established government systems, while the appointment of contractors must follow lawful and competitive procurement processes.

Investors wishing to provide funding to government have been encouraged to participate in Treasury bill and bond auctions conducted through the Bank of Namibia or in occasional international bond issuances.

For contractors, the clarification means that project financing and contractor appointment cannot be privately packaged outside government's planning, borrowing and procurement systems.

Source: *https://www.namibian.com.na/investors-advised-to-participate-in-treasury-bill-auctions-to-fund-govt-projects/*

RCC MODEL RAISES CONCERN OVER LOCAL CONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION

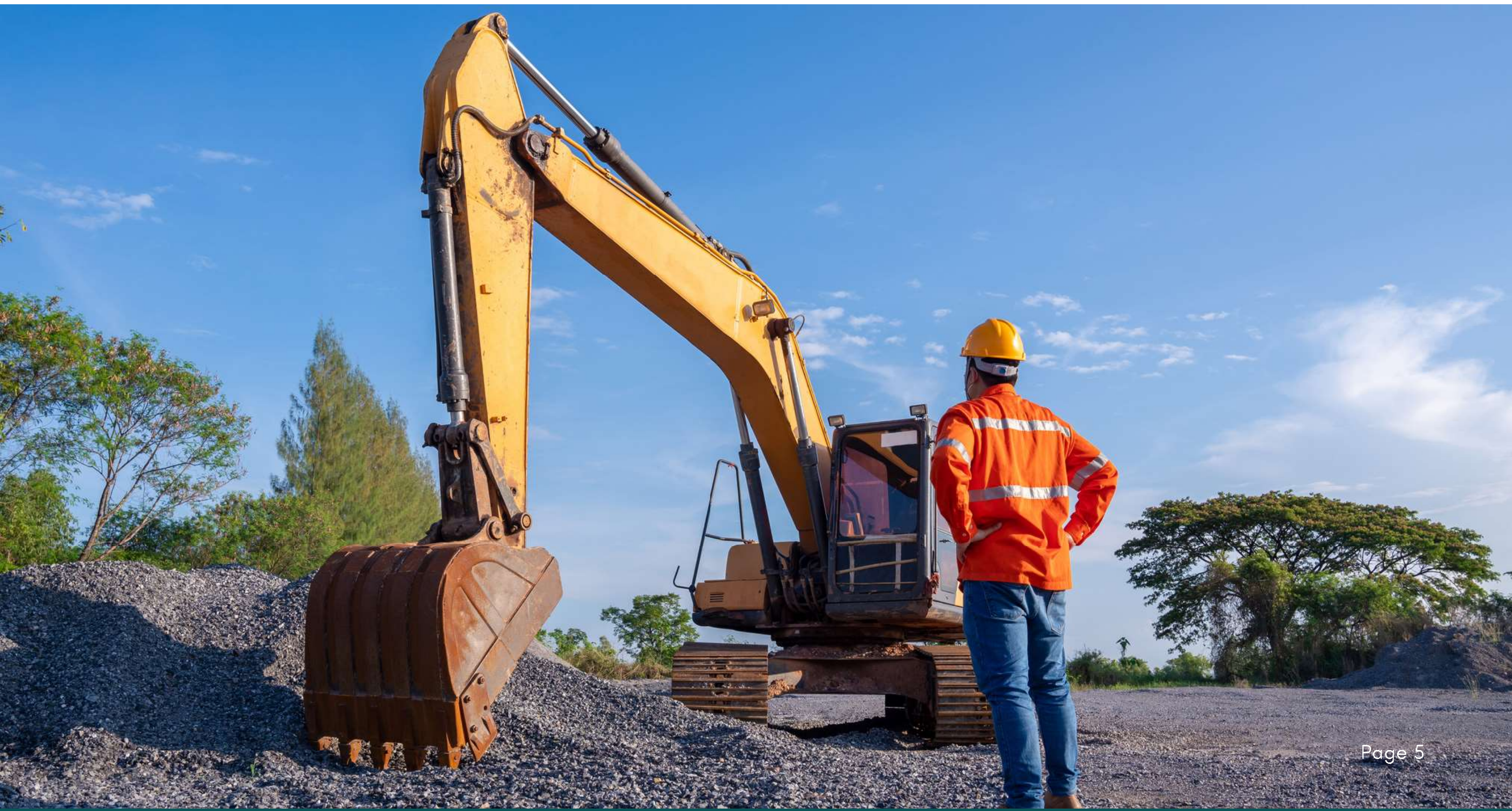
The CIF has warned that the Roads Contractor Company's contractor-participation model may prevent capable Namibian companies from competing at the level for which they have the technical experience.

The model categorises contractors according to capacity but also applies financial requirements relating to liquidity, guarantees and access to capital. CIF is concerned that these requirements may favour large or externally financed businesses while pushing domestic contractors into smaller categories or subcontracting roles.

A contractor may have the required personnel, equipment and project experience but still be unable to meet financial thresholds that do not reflect the realities of Namibia's construction market.

The wider concern is how public infrastructure work is structured and allocated. Routing work through a single state-owned entity, with participation determined internally, may reduce open competition and limit direct access to public contracts.

Infrastructure expenditure should expand domestic capacity rather than leave capable Namibian firms dependent on work passed down through longer contracting chains. Transparent procurement, realistic financial requirements and fair opportunities for local companies remain essential.

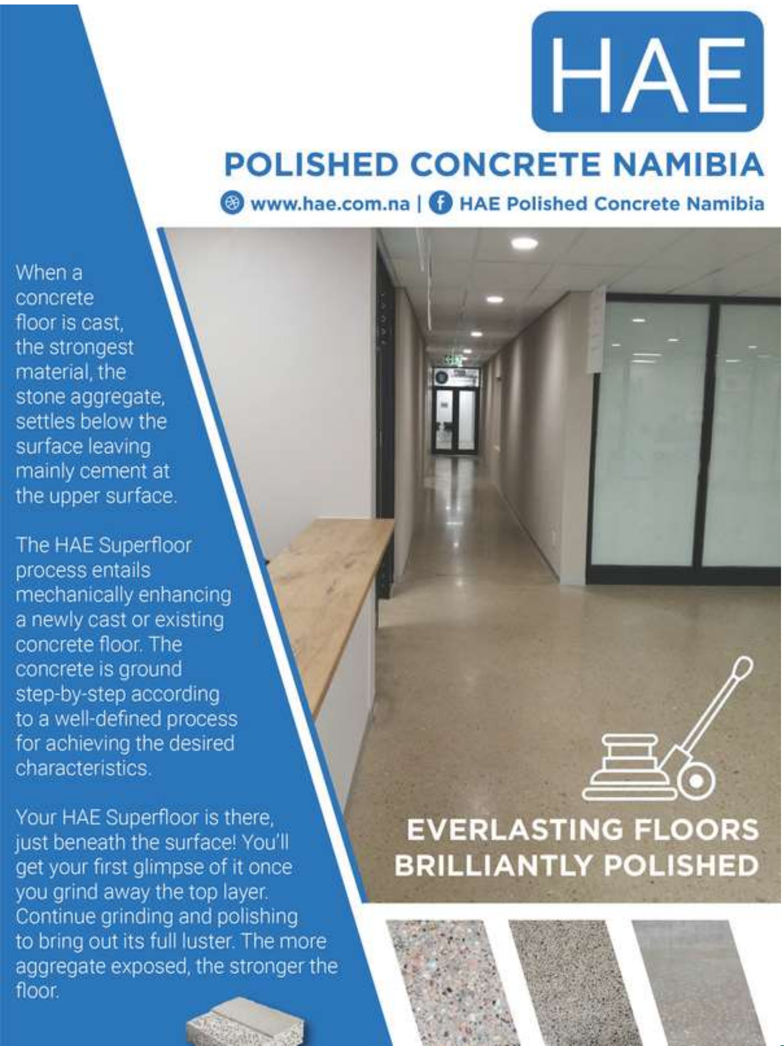


N$393 MILLION TUMAS CONTRACTS AWARDED TO NAMIBIAN-OWNED CONTRACTORS

Two Namibian contractors have secured major civil and concrete work for Deep Yellow's proposed Tumas Uranium Project. Contracts valued at approximately N$392.6 million were awarded to Namibia Construction and Nexus Building and Civils Contractors following a competitive tender process.

Mobilisation is expected to begin in August 2026, with the two contractors anticipated to employ around 500 people between them. The awards have been made as Deep Yellow prepares for a possible final investment decision on the project later this year.

The significance extends beyond the value of the contracts. The appointments demonstrate that established Namibian companies possess the technical expertise, organisational capacity and workforce required to execute substantial mining-infrastructure packages.



For the wider construction industry, the awards provide a positive example of how major resource projects can strengthen domestic capacity when capable Namibian contractors are given meaningful access to the principal works rather than being restricted to minor subcontracting opportunities.

Source: *https://www.namibian.com.na/deep-yellow-awards-n393m-contracts-to-local-firms/*
https://miningandenergy.com.na/deep-yellow-awards-n393m-tumas-construction-contracts-to-namibian-firms/

LANGER HEINRICH PLANS CAPITAL PROGRAMME OF UP TO N$577 MILLION

Paladin Energy plans to invest between N$477.9 million and N$576.8 million at the Langer Heinrich Uranium Mine during the 2027 financial year.

The programme follows the completion of the mine's operational ramp-up and will focus on longer-term production, infrastructure improvement and operational efficiency. Planned expenditure includes the design and construction of tailings-storage facilities, plant-improvement studies, resource drilling and selected exploration activities.

Uranium production is expected to reach between 5.1 million and 5.6 million pounds during the financial year, although scheduled maintenance will affect output during some quarters.
The investment is relevant to construction and engineering companies because established mines continue to require substantial work after their initial development. Tailings facilities, plant alterations, earthworks, mechanical installations, maintenance, environmental infrastructure and resource development can create recurring opportunities for contractors and specialist suppliers.

Early engagement and proper supplier registration remain important if Namibian companies are to participate fully in these operational capital programmes.

Source: *https://miningandenergy.com.na/paladin-earmarks-up-to-n577-million-for-langer-heinrich-expansion/*

ETANGO EARLY WORKS REACH MAJOR MILESTONES

Early construction activities at Bannerman Energy's Etango Uranium Project continue to progress in line with the approved programme.

The contractor workforce exceeds 560 people across four Namibian contractors. The project has recorded approximately 1.1 million working hours without a lost-time injury.

Bulk earthworks are around 92% complete, while more than 10,800 cubic metres of concrete have been placed across the first construction packages. Phase one of the permanent water-supply pipeline is approximately 87% complete.

Local contractors are delivering earthworks, civil construction, aggregate production and infrastructure works. Selected smaller packages have also been allocated to Namibian-owned SMEs.

Bannerman is progressing a strategic financing transaction of up to US$321.5 million. Completion is expected during the third quarter of 2026, with a final investment decision targeted thereafter.

Etango illustrates the potential demand created by mining developments for civil works, concrete, pipelines, power infrastructure, port facilities, engineering and specialised services.

Source: *https://nsx.com.na/etango-construction-early-works-update/*

NAMWATER PLANS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HAIB COPPER PROJECT

NamWater is seeking environmental clearance for water abstraction, supply and storage infrastructure to support Koryx Copper's proposed Haib copper project in the //Karas Region. The proposal includes an off-channel storage dam of up to 25 million cubic metres.

The project is expected to require around 20 million cubic metres of water annually, with the Orange River identified as the preferred supply source. Proposed works include abstraction infrastructure of 2 cubic metres per second, pipeline routes of 8km to 45km, a terminal reservoir, booster pump stations, access roads and transmission lines.
The project could create up to 3,500 jobs during construction and around 1,350 during operations. For contractors, it signals potential demand across civil engineering, pipelines, electrical works, roads and water infrastructure.

Source/URL:
https://miningandenergy.com.na/namwater-proposes-25-million-cubic-metre-dam-for-haib-copper-project/

WIA GOLD ADVANCES KOKOSEB PROJECT

WIA Gold plans to raise approximately US$65.8 million to advance its Kokoseb gold project in Namibia. The funds will support feasibility work, engineering, permitting, environmental approvals and early project activities.

A definitive feasibility study is expected in the second half of 2026. Kokoseb could eventually produce up to 177,000 ounces of gold annually, with construction costs currently estimated at about US$358.8 million. The project still requires technical studies, permits and full construction financing before moving into development.

Source/URL:
https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-industry/2105-55781-australia-s-wia-gold-seeks-65-million-to-develop-kokoseb-gold-project-in-namibia

DAURES PROJECT PREPARES FOR FERTILISER PRODUCTION

The pilot phase of the Daures Green Hydrogen Village has been completed, with first local fertiliser production expected in late 2026 or early 2027. Located near Uis, the project aims to use solar-powered green hydrogen to produce ammonia for ammonium sulphate fertiliser.

Phase one includes horticulture production, while phase two will introduce on-site fertiliser production. The project has received UNIDO support and initial funding of N$230 million through Namibian–German cooperation. The traditional authority and conservancy hold a 10% shareholding, with local SMEs and residents participating in construction and operations.

Source/URL:
https://daures.green/the-pilot-phase-of-the-daures-green-hydrogen-village-is-complete-with-the-first-local-production-of-fertiliser-expected-in-late-2026/

HYPHEN TARGETS N$54 BILLION IN LOCAL PROCUREMENT

Hyphen Hydrogen Energy has indicated that approximately N$54 billion could be spent with Namibian businesses over the life of its proposed green-hydrogen project.

The commitment reflects a local-procurement target of around 30% for a project with an estimated investment value exceeding US$10 billion.

Potential opportunities extend across engineering, civil construction, renewable energy, logistics, manufacturing, operations and maintenance.

More than 400 Namibian companies have already been assessed as part of Hyphen's enterprise and supplier-development work.

However, local participation will depend on more than a numerical target. Companies must be able to satisfy demanding financial, safety, technical and procurement requirements.

Hyphen, GIZ and other partners are developing programmes intended to improve tender readiness, technical capability and access to project supply chains. These interventions will be important if the local-procurement commitment is to translate into contracts for Namibian enterprises.

Sources: *https://miningandenergy.com.na/hyphen-targets-n54bn-local-spend-as-namibia-hydrogen-project-advances/*

GREEN HYDROGEN MUST BUILD NAMIBIAN INDUSTRY

Namibia's green-hydrogen programme should be judged not only by future production and export volumes, but also by the industries, skills and businesses it creates within the country.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation has emphasised that green hydrogen should support domestic value addition, skilled employment and stronger local supply chains.

For construction companies, the opportunity extends beyond hydrogen-production facilities. Projects may require renewable-energy installations, transmission infrastructure, desalination and water systems, access roads, storage facilities, industrial buildings and worker accommodation.

Meaningful local participation will require early information about project packages, realistic qualification requirements, supplier-development support and access to appropriate finance.

Green hydrogen should provide a platform for lasting industrial and construction capacity rather than operate as an isolated export industry dependent primarily on imported technology and contractors.

Source: *https://neweralive.na/green-hydrogen-must-create-jobs-and-industries-in-namibia-unido/*

HYIRON TARGETS EARLY 2027 CONSTRUCTION START

HyIron Green Technologies is targeting the first quarter of 2027 for the start of construction on the second phase of its green-iron project.

Engineering and design work is being finalised, after which the project is expected to move into detailed implementation. Construction is anticipated to take approximately two years, although parts of the plant may be commissioned progressively as work advances.

The expansion is intended to increase annual production from approximately 15,000 tonnes to more than 200,000 tonnes of green iron. Supporting energy infrastructure would include an additional 375 megawatts of solar-generating capacity and approximately 400 megawatt-hours of battery storage.

If the programme proceeds as planned, it will involve far more than the industrial plant itself. Potential requirements may include earthworks, concrete, structural steel, electrical infrastructure, renewable-energy installations, storage facilities, roads and supporting services.

The project provides an important early indication of how renewable energy could support new value-adding industries and future construction demand in Namibia.

Source: HyIron project update, July 2026.
https://miningandenergy.com.na/hyiron-targets-early-2027-construction-start-for-major-green-iron-expansion/

NAMIBIA AND SOUTH KOREA PARTNER ON GREEN PORT TRANSITION

Namport has announced a partnership with South Korea to support the Namibia–Korea Green Port Strategy Programme, part of Namibia's ten-year green port transition plan.

The initiative will be supported through the South Korean government-led International Port Development Cooperation Programme.

The partnership is expected to support port modernisation, environmental performance and alignment with future green industrial and logistics requirements. For construction and engineering firms, the programme may create opportunities linked to port upgrades, energy systems, environmental infrastructure and specialised technical services.

Source/URL:
https://www.portstrategy.com/environment-and-sustainability/namibias-green-port-transition-backed-by-south-korea/1508567.article

WINDHOEK SOLAR CENTRE COMMISSIONED

The City of Windhoek has commissioned a new Solar Centre to improve access to affordable and sustainable energy solutions. Funded through the Windhoek–Berlin partnership with €212,750, the centre will provide independent consultations, training and awareness on solar technologies.

The centre responds to the need for practical renewable energy information, especially in areas not yet connected to the electricity grid. For construction, it reinforces the growing relevance of solar technology, decentralised energy and installation capacity in urban development.

Source/URL:
https://economist.com.na/106311/human-resources/windhoek-commissions-solar-centre-to-improve-access-to-sustainable-energy-solutions/

VENUS OIL PROJECT MOVES CLOSER TO INVESTMENT DECISION

TotalEnergies has indicated that it is technically ready to proceed with the proposed Venus offshore oil development, subject to the conclusion of its discussions with the Namibian government.

The company has reported that the main contractors have been selected and that the parties are working towards a final investment decision. Government approval of the proposed licence transaction involving TotalEnergies and Galp has removed another procedural step.

A final investment decision would mark the transition from exploration towards project development. It should not, however, be interpreted as confirmation that general construction contracts are already available.

Over time, an offshore development of this scale could generate demand for port facilities, logistics bases, warehousing, accommodation, roads, utilities, fabrication, maintenance and specialised services.

The extent of the benefit to Namibia will depend on the ability of domestic businesses to meet the required technical and safety standards and on the transparency of future procurement processes.

Source:
https://miningandenergy.com.na/totalenergies-targets-july-fid-for-venus-project-subject-to-govt-talks/

NAMPORT SEEKS PARTNER FOR GATE AUTOMATION PROJECT

Namport has invited proposals for an implementation partner for the gate-automation and truck-port development project at the Port of Walvis Bay.

The assignment covers consultancy, advisory and implementation services. Interested bidders must register on Namport's supplier portal and express interest in the procurement to access the bidding documents.
Bid reference: CS/RFP/NAMPORT-3740/2026
Closing date: 17 August 2026 at 12:00
Source:
https://www.namport.com.na/procurement/916/

78 GREEN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SHORTLISTED

The Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme received 148 project proposals from Namibian entities across the green industrialisation value chain, with 78 found to align with Climate Investment Fund requirements, and were shortlisted for further consideration and engagment.

Eligible proposals cover cement and concrete, iron and steel, chemicals and fertilisers, zero-emission shipping, metals, glass and ceramics, clean technology supply chains, circular manufacturing, agriculture and bioeconomy innovation.

The Programme is working with transaction advisors to assess bankability, identify technical and financial gaps and design interventions. The aim is to develop a pipeline of bankable projects for Namibia's Sectoral Transformation Investment Plan.

Source/URL:
https://www.thevillager.com.na/top-stories/2026/78-of-148-submissions-eligible-for-cif-funding/

DBN LAUNCHES CLIENT PORTAL

The Development Bank of Namibia has launched a Client Portal to improve access to services, streamline communication and support digital client engagement. The platform forms part of DBN's five-year strategic plan and is designed for existing clients with active loans.

Clients can manage personal or business information, view loan details and communicate with DBN portfolio analysts. Future functionality will include loan application tracking. For businesses and project developers, improved access to development finance services may support communication and implementation.

Source/URL:
https://nambusinessexpress.com/?p=13727

LOCAL FIRMS NEED A CLEARER ROUTE INTO OIL AND GAS

As Namibia's offshore petroleum projects move towards possible development decisions, attention is shifting from exploration to practical local participation.

The Presidency's Upstream Petroleum Unit has highlighted that many Namibian businesses remain uncertain about supplier registration, certification, technical standards and the compliance systems expected by international operators.

The Namibia Oil and Gas Conference, scheduled for 18 to 20 August 2026, will include a dedicated local-content programme. Namibian businesses will have opportunities to engage operators, engineering contractors, financiers and industry specialists.

Construction companies should use the preparation period to document their project experience, strengthen occupational health and safety systems, identify certification gaps and establish partnerships where specialist capacity is required.

Local participation will not happen automatically. It requires transparent information from operators, appropriately structured contract packages, practical supplier-development support and deliberate preparation by Namibian companies.

Source:
https://miningandenergy.com.na/presidency-pushes-local-content-agenda-ahead-of-namibia-oil-gas-conference/

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GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING TO EXCEED US$150 TRILLION

PwC forecasts global infrastructure spending to rise from US$4.4 trillion in 2024 to US$6.9 trillion by 2050, reaching cumulative investment of US$151.1 trillion. Transport and power will dominate investment, while data centre buildings are expected to grow sharply from US$113.8 billion in 2024 to US$251.8 billion in 2027.

Africa is projected to record the fastest infrastructure investment growth, with annual spending expected to rise nearly 1.8 times by 2050. PwC warns, however, that capital alone will not guarantee success. Execution risk, fragmented planning, supply chain vulnerability and outdated delivery models could limit impact.

Source/URL:
https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/news-room/press-releases/2026/pwc-2026-global-infrastructure.html

PAYMENT DISPUTES RISE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Payment disputes have become the leading source of construction adjudications in South Africa, overtaking extension-of-time and variation claims. MDA Attorneys reports that unpaid amounts and incorrect payment certification now dominate disputes.

Common causes include delayed certification, poor handling of variations, unclear contract wording, incomplete tender information and failure to respond to claims.

Although the article focuses on South Africa, the issue is also relevant to Namibia because delayed payments affect subcontractors, suppliers, financing arrangements and project delivery across the construction supply chain.

Source/URL:
https://www.sabuildingreview.co.za/construction-news/payment-disputes/

OIL PRICE VOLATILITY RAISES CONTRACTOR RISK

South African contractors are facing cost pressure as global oil prices affect fuel, transport and material costs. MDA Attorneys has warned that standard contract mechanisms may not always provide sufficient protection.

Under many FIDIC contracts, price adjustment clauses may account for longer-term cost trends but not sudden price spikes caused by geopolitical conflict.

Contractors need to understand cost escalation clauses, force majeure provisions and notice requirements. Accurate records and early engagement with employers are essential to preserve claims and reduce financial exposure.

Source/URL:
https://www.crown.co.za/construction-world/marketplace/36277-rising-oil-prices-leave-south-african-construction-contractors-exposed-with-no-safety-nets