

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Namibia Monthly Briefing September 2025

Namibia Summary 4 September 2025

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) launches the second phase of the Youth Coding Initiative on 15 August. The launch comes as education, innovation, youth, sports, arts and culture minister, Sanet Steenkamp announces that government will release its plans for free tertiary education in September. Talks about developing nuclear power enter a new phase, with international relations minister, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, announcing that Namibia will apply to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). Government announces it will re-launch a national airline as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and not solely as a state-owned entity.

Opportunities for Namibia's youth

President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's** (2025-present) administration has recently encouraged the launch of various initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment and creating increased opportunities for youth in the country. Youth unemployment – youth defined as someone between the ages of 15 and 35 - has been steadily [declining](#) since 2020, from 40.11% to 37.27% in 2024. However, the rate still remains very high.

The first of the government's new initiatives is the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO)** [launch](#) of the second phase of the **Youth Coding Initiative**. The project aims to increase the use of technology in schools to prepare young people for a workforce that is increasingly dependent on technology and technological devices. The second phase of the initiative involves the handing over 200 tablets to eight pilot schools across the country. The second phase builds upon the first phase where the students and teachers of the eight pilot schools were trained on how to use the technology and incorporate it into their daily school activities. Education, innovation, youth, sports, arts and culture minister, **Sanet Steenkamp**, [remarked](#) at the hand-over ceremony at UNESCO's office in Windhoek on 15 August that this initiative reflects the current government's goals to invest in and empower the country's youth.

The phase two launch of the Youth Coding Initiative comes just before Steenkamp plans to announce the government's plans to make tertiary education in Namibia free. Nandi-Ndaitwah first [announced](#) the plans to remove university fees from 2026 onwards during her 2025 **State of the Nation Address (SONA)** in April. However, since the announcement in April, no concrete plans or timeframe has been given as to how this plan will be implemented and when it will start.

Steenkamp was questioned about the issue during a parliamentary session on 3 September, to which she [responded](#) that the government is going to outline its plans within the month of September. The minister elaborated that all eight ministries contributed to an in-depth report which assesses how free tertiary education would work and what the obstacles are.

UNESCO's coding initiative together with the discussions of free tertiary education reflects some of the major challenges the youth in Namibia face. Considering that youth [make up](#) one-third of the country's population, the lack of access to education and employment is a significant long term risk for this country – a large portion of the population is unable to contribute to taxes,

there is lower levels of economic output and social instability can increase, all of which harm economic growth.

Nuclear development picks up speed

International relations and cooperation minister, **Selma Ashipala-Musavyi**, announced on 9 August that Namibia will [apply](#) to be part of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**, the international body which governs the import and export of nuclear energy and technology. Cabinet subsequently approved the decision.

This announcement is part of the new administration's plan to develop Namibia's first nuclear energy plant, which Nandi-Ndaitwah [announced](#) during SONA. Considering that Namibia is the world's third largest uranium producer and its energy dependency on imports, the push to develop its first nuclear power plant comes as no surprise.

Namibia's continual announcements and plans to develop its first nuclear energy plant has sparked international interest in the uranium and nuclear sectors and led to increased developments. Indicative of this, **Canadian** mining company, **Critical One Energy (COE)**, announced on 2 September that it had [reached](#) a deal with fellow Canadian company, **Dark Star Minerals (DSM)**, whereby COE sold its exclusive stakes in the **Cobra North** and **Khan West** uranium projects to DSM in exchange for a 18.5% share in COE capital. The [trade-off](#) between COE and DSM sent COE stocks soaring, with a 16% increase from \$0.61 to \$0.73. The success of this deal placed Namibia's uranium mining firmly in the international spotlight, signalling further development in the industry.

In addition to uranium mining, international parties have also expressed interest in supporting Namibia's initiative of building a nuclear power plant. During Ashipala-Musavyi's announcement, she re-emphasised Namibia's interest in building the country's first nuclear power plant to become energy independent and a regional energy net-exporter.

Russia has [expressed](#) its interest to help fund Namibia's first nuclear plant through its state-owned enterprise, **Rosatom**. Rosatom has signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MoU) with African governments to help fund their nuclear power plants. Although Namibia has not yet clearly expressed or confirmed that it will indeed cooperate with Rosatom, if the Namibian government does do so, it will further expand Russia's nuclear diplomacy on the continent.

However, striking a balance between foreign investment and servicing the local market remains key. If Namibia allows too much foreign investment into its energy sector, the country is likely to face constraints to service its domestic markets. This is because international companies might require that more uranium or nuclear energy be exported at a higher cost than sold to domestic markets at a lower cost. The government is responsible for managing international trade in such a way that it does not discourage international investment through over regulation but also does not fail to service the domestic market.

Namibia announces its plan to re-launch national airline

Works and transport minister **Veikko Nekundi**, [announced](#) on 2 September that the country is working towards establishing a new national airline, noting that the re-launch would be a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and not a reinstatement of **Air Namibia**, and that the government is aiming to build a sustainable airline from the ground up.

Although Namibia has expressed its interest to reinstate a national airline before, this is the first time the minister has expressly stated that it would not be entirely state-owned. The announcement of a PPP being used to revive Namibia's national airline signals a significant attempt from the government's side to invest in public transportation infrastructure in an alternative way.

A PPP is a more sustainable investment method as it allows for the introduction of free market principles into the establishment and management of the airline. The chosen private sector partner is highly likely to act as an accountability mechanism against financial decisions which is likely to prevent corruption and mismanagement. Notably, Nekundu [attributed](#) the failure of Air Namibia to lack of accountability which caused serious mismanagement. Air Namibia was liquidated after years of financial mismanagement and financial losses in [2021](#). Air Namibia cost the country millions of dollars to keep the carrier afloat with the government allocating N\$698m (\$38.95m) in [the 2020/21](#) financial year alone.

Establishing a national airline is an important way for Namibia to promote ease of access both domestically and regionally. Nandi-Ndaitwah has previously [argued](#) that having a well-managed national carrier is beneficial for the country to [encourage](#) trade and development and encourage further integration between Namibia and the continent.

Planner

26 Nov 2025 (Namibia) Regional councils and local authorities elections
--

Chronology

<p>3 Sep 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>The Namibian</i>. United Kingdom-headquartered QKR Corporation's Navachab Gold Mine agrees to undertake a N\$ 4 billion (\$226.8m) underground expansion over the next four years, creating over 150 jobs and boosting local economic development through increased procurement and community investment;</p>
--

<p>1 Sep 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>Windhoek Observer</i>. International relations minister, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, co-chairs the European Union (EU)-Namibia Business Forum, focused on ways to strengthen economic and trade ties;</p>
--

<p>30 Aug 2025 Mariental (Namibia) <i>TRT Global</i> A head-on collision between a correctional service van and civilians on the B1 highway kills 16;</p>
--

<p>29 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>Ministry of International Relations</i>. International relations minister, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, addresses members of the diplomatic corps during which she announces Namibia's regional outreach programme to strengthen Namibia's regional diplomacy;</p>
--

<p>28 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>The Namibian</i>. Erongo Region health director, Anna Jonas, states that healthcare services in the region are struggling due to severe understaffing and shortages of essential resources;</p>

<p>28 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>The Namibian</i>. The latest African Wealth Report reveals that Namibia added 200 new individual millionaires to the country's population, indicating economic opportunity but also shedding light on the country's income inequality;</p>

<p>27 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>The Globe and Mail</i>. United Nations' experts allege that Canada-headquartered Dundee Precious Metals smelter in Namibia damaged the health of workers and community members during its 14 years of ownership;</p>

<p>25 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>The Namibian</i>. United States-headquartered Schlumberger Limited says reduced activity in Namibia and other deepwater markets has resulted in a 6% year-on-year decrease in its second quarter revenue, which reached \$8.55 billion;</p>

<p>22 Aug 2025 Windhoek (Namibia) <i>Ministry of International Relations</i>. International relations minister, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, meets with representatives from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)-headquartered Vinmart, a conglomerate of companies involved in</p>

mining, construction and manufacturing, to discuss opportunities to enhance cooperation in the corresponding sectors;

22 Aug 2025 **Yokohama (Japan)** *Ministry of International Relations*. Namibia's prime minister **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare** meets with his Japanese counterpart, **Ishiba Shigeru**, to reaffirm the bilateral relations between the two countries;

21 Aug 2025 **Yokohama (Japan)** *Ministry of International Relations*. International relations minister, **Selma Ashipala-Musavyi**, leads Namibia's delegation in their meeting with the **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** to discuss mutual interests which includes migration and development;

20 Aug 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. Windhoek-based **Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC)** launches the **Buffalo Project** to improve rural network coverage and service quality, following an audit of northern regions including **Outapi, Oshakati, Rundu** and **Katima Mulilo**;

20 Aug 2025 **Yokohama (Japan)** *Ministry of International Relations*. Namibia's prime minister **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare** attends the **Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)**;

19 Aug 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Nigerian** energy firm **Heirs Energies** is exploring investment opportunities in Namibia's oil and gas sector as part of its pan-African expansion strategy;

17 Aug 2025 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Ministry of International Relations*. President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** delivers a speech at the 45th **Ordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State Government**, addressing pivotal regional issues such as unemployment and food insecurity;

14 Aug 2025 **Windhoek Namibia** *UNESCO*. Namibia launches its first **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness Assessment** which highlights the country's progress and challenges to harnessing AI for inclusive and sustainable development;

10 Aug 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. Cabinet approves an application for Namibia to become a member of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**, a 48-country member association of nuclear supplier countries that works to prevent nuclear proliferation;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistle-blower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com

Follow us on Twitter: [@ARCBriefing](https://twitter.com/ARCBriefing)

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.

© Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)