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President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (2024-present) dismisses deputy prime minister and industries, mines and energy minister, Natangwe Ithete, for allegedly violating a presidential moratorium.. The African Development Bank (AfDB) pledges to further bolster the Namibia Revenue Agency's (NamRA) institutional ability to cover compliance gaps and capacity weaknesses. NamRA has been instrumental in providing Namibia with a balanced income stream but some challenges such as a narrow tax base. The illegal fuel trade on the Namibia and Angola border reaches new heights.

Ndaitwah dismisses deputy prime minister

President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** (2024-present) [fired](#) deputy prime minister and industries, mines and energy minister, **Natangwe Ithete**, on 26 October for reportedly violating a presidential moratorium on oil deals. Ndaitwah and Ithete are said to have had an understanding under which no new oil blocks would be approved or renewed without her consent or consultation. However, Ithete reportedly approved the renewal of an expired oil block without a license or Nandi-Ndaitwah's [approval](#). Additionally, Ithete reportedly discussed matters on Namibia's oil sector during a [recent](#) state visit to **Angola** in the beginning of October, without the president's knowledge or consent. The presidency has [officially](#) not commented on the reason for Ithete's dismissal.

Nandi-Ndaitwah had insisted that Ithete as industries, mines and energy minister discuss the matters of oil and oil renewal licenses with her to ensure enhanced oversight and equitable benefit distribution. As a consequence, upon Ithete's dismissal, Nandi-Ndaitwah [assumed](#) the responsibility of the industries, mines and energy minister. On 28 October, Nandi-Ndaitwah appointed defence and veteran affairs minister **Frans Kapofi** to oversee the portfolio on an interim basis. It is assumed that a more permanent appointment will be made.

While his dismissal could have been due to the clashes with Nandi-Ndaitwah, she has also made public comments about how she feels certain ministers are not working hard enough, which could have played a role. At the **Namibia Public-Private Forum** in **Windhoek** on 29 October, Nandi-Ndaitwah commented that she was disappointed that so few ministers attended such an important opportunity to strengthen the ties between the public and private sector, [adding](#):

"I am disappointed that I cannot see many ministers here. Very much disappointed. It is hard for me too if the private sector is tired or frustrated by civil servants."

Based on reports and the above comments, Nandi-Ndaitwah was either unhappy with the decisions being made, or felt Ithete was underperforming, leading to his dismissal. Either way, any instability in this prominent portfolio at a critical time in Namibia's oil and gas development will leave investors cautious.

African Development Bank further bolsters the Namibia Revenue Agency

The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** released a [statement](#) on 3 November, announcing new strategies to further improve Namibia's domestic revenue mobilisation through support of the **Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA)**. The AfDB's objective is to further bolster NamRA's revenue collection abilities through assisting the agency to conduct specialised audits of key

economic sectors, capacity building for NamRA staff and increasing the entities data analytics capabilities.

NamRA has welcomed the AfDB's [announcement](#) as NamRA has contributed significantly to domestic revenue collection. Since the official establishment and operationalisation of NamRA in 2021, the entity has collected N\$275.8 billion (\$15.8 billion) in five years, which is a 67% increase in domestic revenue mobilisation. This strong performance in domestic revenue collection has a substantial impact on Namibia's fiscal position as it [enables](#) the government to invest in public services, infrastructure, and other essential areas such as healthcare, education and poverty alleviation programs.

The strengthening of NamRA's collection capabilities is also a significant breakthrough for Namibia's domestic income as the country has historically over relied on tax receipts from the **Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**. In 2024, SACU receipts accounted for N\$28 billion (\$1.6 billion) of the country's [revenue](#) (see *ARC Briefing November 2024*). SACU [contributed](#) to 28% of Namibia's revenue in the 2023/24 financial year with value-added tax contributing 23%, income tax contributed 24% and company tax only 13% of the same financial year.

Strengthening NamRA's revenue collection abilities will decrease Namibia's reliance on SACU receipts and trade taxes. This is especially pertinent as SACU's revenue to Namibia have steadily been [decreasing](#) due to the global downturn in commodity prices.

Although NamRA and NamRA's bolstered revenue collection capabilities are critical, the agency does still face significant risk in the form of Namibia's narrow tax base and compliance challenges. Namibia struggles with increasing income inequality, meaning that there are few individuals and companies which earn enough income in the formal sector to be able to be taxed by NamRA.

In conjunction with the country's narrow tax base, tax compliance also presents a challenge. The informal sector in Namibia [accounts](#) for roughly 58% of the workforce but the sector largely remains unregulated and untaxed as most small to medium enterprises operate outside of any formal regulation system. NamRA and the Namibian government have not been able to establish sufficient regulations and compliance measurement to tax the informal economy.

The AfDB's further investment into NamRA's institutional capacity will be positive as it aids in placing the country on a more fiscally sustainable path over the medium term.

Illicit fuel trade between Angola and Namibia

National Energy Fund (NEF) director Anna Libana has revealed that the illicit fuel trade along the Namibian and **Angolan** border is costing the state N\$300m (\$17m) per year in lost levies. This was revealed as part of an investigation in the increasingly prevalent trade. Citizens told the media investigation that they engage in the illicit trade as local fuel prices are too high, making it too expensive for their businesses to remain profitable if they buy Namibian fuel.

In [Namibia](#), petrol is sold for N\$20.37 (\$1.16) per litre and diesel N\$19.92 (\$1.14) per litre; while in Angolan is sold for N\$10 (\$0.57) per litre and diesel N\$9 (\$0.5) per litre. This large disparity has led small business owners and individuals, such as taxi drivers, and local communities, to rather buy illegal fuel smuggled in from Angola.

Although informal businesses and individuals mainly purchase the smuggled fuel, the illegal trade has grown to such an extent in the past five years that Namibian fuel consumption has [decreased](#) by between 30% and 40%. This has devastating [consequences](#) to fuel resellers in the Namibia, with many legal petrol stations closing down. The owners of these establishments have largely blamed the government for not doing enough to stop the illegal fuel smuggling.

However, the increasing smuggling of illegal fuel over the Namibian-Angolan border also holds implications for the bilateral relations between the two countries. Namibian authorities have [accused](#) Angola of having a role in the illegal fuel trade, whether through negligence or complicity, as Angolan authorities have failed to arrest complicit sellers on its side of the border. These accusations could create friction and even be perceived as an active attempt to undermine Namibia's sources of public revenue and create domestic unrest. Friction between the neighbours could undermine existing cooperation between the two countries, such as [discussions](#) to establish a new rail link to enhance cross-border trade and logistics, but also undermines the possibility of the two countries working together to resolve the illegal fuel trade, as continuous accusations against one another are likely to create feelings of mistrust.

However, Namibians have also accused local authorities of shifting blame away from their own inefficiency. There have been increasing [accusations](#) that Namibian police officers who confiscate the illegal fuel, re-sell it and use the profits for their own benefit. Namibians have [demanded](#) that the police start seriously addressing the illegal fuel trade with more attempts on raids and arrests instead of continuously making empty promises to solve the problem.

Planner

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

Chronology

10 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Observer24*. President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** says Namibia will require about \$15 billion, to achieve its climate mitigation and adaptation goals by 2030;

5 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibian Sun*. **Windhoek's** strategic executive for infrastructure services, **Rowan Adams**, announces that Windhoek needs N\$2.6 billion (\$148,) to reach acceptable standards for the quality of roads, as most roads are now beyond the capabilities of routine repairs;

4 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *World Health Organisation*. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** launches **The Namibian Responding to Violence Against Children: A Clinical Handbook for Health Professionals in Namibia** in an attempt to further bolster existing strategies to end violence against children;

4 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Investing.com*. **Malaysian** company **Yinson Production**, which specialises in leasing and operating floating production and storage offloading units for energy firms, says Namibia is one of the new energy markets wherein the company will be investing – other mature energy markets include **Brazil, West Africa** and **Southeast Asia**;

4 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibian Sun*. Namibia's red meat industry is on high alert as foot-and-mouth disease in **South Africa** significantly spreads and threatens regional livestock trade and market stability;

3 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibian Sun*. President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** clarifies that the government's recent announcement of free tertiary education only covers tuition and registration fees and does not constitute a universal free education policy;

2 Nov 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. Namibia's **Government Institutions Pension Fund** faces a potential N\$1 billion (\$58m) loss after several offshore investments underperformed, including an "irrecoverable" N\$815m (\$47.3m) placed with **South Africa's Signal Structured Finance Fund**;

22 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibia Economist*. The **Security Association of Namibia (SAN)** hosts the **Private Security Conference** to try and establish a unified industry compliance framework;

22 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. Finance minister **Ericah Shafudah** notes that Namibia faces a budget shortfall of N\$3.2 billion (\$182.4m) in the 2025/26 fiscal year, with economic growth projected to slow to 3.3%;

21 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. Finance minister **Ericah Shafudah** announces tax policy reforms aimed at improving fairness, competitiveness and economic growth;

21 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *TechAfrica News*. The **Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN)** reinforces its commitment to national cybersecurity by engaging in a strategic meeting with the **Namibia Police Force (NAMPOL)** to increase protection of the country's cyber space;

15 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Angolan** fabrication company **Sonamet** plans to expand into Namibia's growing oil and gas sector, exploring opportunities with the government for tax incentives and free-zone arrangements to establish a competitive presence;

15 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *SABC News*. **Bank of Namibia (BoN)** (central bank) governor, **Johannes !Gawaxab**, calls for an extension of the royalty discount to the state-owned diamond mining entity, **Namdeb**, to assist the entity through a protracted global market downturn;

15 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *World Health Organisation*. Health and social services ministry in partnership with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, launches two health policies to advance the well-being of women, children and adolescents –**National Strategy for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent health and Nutrition (RMNCAH&N)** and the **Triennial Report on the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths, Stillbirths, and Neonatal Deaths**;

13 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** calls for the removal of barriers to cement and charcoal trade between Namibia and **Botswana**, highlighting the potential to create jobs, boost exports and enhance regional integration;

8 Oct 2025 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibia Economist*. The **Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN)**, acting on behalf of the **Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater)**, officially awards a contract of N\$191m (\$10.9m) to the **China State Engineering Corporation** in partnership with local firm, **Adaptive Building Land Construction**, to upgrade the **Naute-Keetmanshoop Water Pipeline Replacement** project;

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