

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Namibia Summary 10 June 2026

Government signs a deal with Swiss company Vitol, granting it exclusive access to provide Namibia with its entire fuel supply between June and August 2026, prompting criticism and allegations of 'fuel capture'. The deal is announced without any clear indication of how government chose Vitol as the supplier and how the procurement process took place. China extends its China-Africa Economic Partnership for Shared Development Agreement to 2028, providing economic opportunities to Namibia. State-owned Telecom Namibia announces a modernisation programme to replace copper internet cables with fibre cables and increase internet speed following months of disruptions to consumers nationwide.

Speculations about fuel capture

Energy minister **Modestus Amutse** [announced](#) on 30 May that the government has signed an exclusive fuel-supply deal with **Swiss** company **Vitol**, granting the company sole mandate to import **Namibia's** entire fuel requirements from June to August 2026. Opposition parliamentary members and civil society have sharply criticised the three-month contract, which is valued at approximately N\$2.4 billion (\$49.85m) per month, citing concern over the process of selection used and the absence of competitive bidding.

Amutse justified the deal with Vitol by claiming it would save the government N\$1 billion (\$20.77m) over three months and that Vitol's offer was the best received from multiple suppliers. However, no public information was released on the selection process, competing bids, pricing comparisons, or evaluation criteria, details that would be routine in transparent government procurement.

Notably, in March, the **Competition Commission** [approved](#) local fuel retailer **Nasan Energies'** acquisition of 52 petrol stations, making it the country's third-largest fuel retailer. However, this acquisition was approved under the condition that Nasan may not source fuel from Vitol for five years. This condition is specifically designed to prevent market dominance by any single supplier. While Nasan's appeal of this fuel-sourcing ban sits unresolved with the energy minister, the contract with Vitol effectively nullifies the regulator's protective ruling through executive fiat.

These developments come against a background of rising [concerns](#) that a small elite has captured the country's oil industry. Nasan Energies was co-founded by businessman, **Miguel Hamutenya**, and his father, **Mathews Hamutenya**, who co-owns **Validus Energy** with Vitol, holding 35% through **Millennium Investments** against Vitol's 65%. Millennium also co-owns a farming business with President **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's** (2024-present) son, **Ndeli Ndaitwah**. Consequently, Nasan Energies' large acquisition of petrol stations together with Vitol securing the exclusive fuel-supply deal gives rise to increasing speculation that a small group might be favoured within this industry. Corruption is still a serious concern in Namibia; in **Transparency International's** 2025 **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**, Namibia's score fell to 46/100, its lowest score since 2012 and three points below its 2024 score (*see ARC Briefing Namibia Feb 2026*).

While there is no direct evidence to support these allegations, the timing of this decision does reflect poorly on the government and at a time when government decision making is supposed

to inspire confidence in investors, the lack of transparency and accountability does the opposite. This fuel deal circumvents standard procurement processes and sends a poor signal about whether rules of law apply consistently in Namibia or only selectively when politically convenient.

China extends the CADEPA programme and its impact on Namibia

The **Chinese** government has [extended](#) its tariff-free access programme, the **China-Africa Economic Partnership for Shared Development Agreement (CADEPA)**, to 30 April 2028, giving tariff-free access to imports from all 53 African countries. Even though the CADEPA programme avails economic access to the entire continent, it also allows for deeper engagement between China and Namibia.

African leaders naturally welcomed the decision, as they have been [advocating](#) for greater market access and trade openness between China and Africa. The renewal also places China in a favourable light with African leaders as the country is perceived to be listening to African leaders and opening its trading borders while other western countries, such as the **United States (US)**, have increasingly closed theirs.

The renewal of CADEPA also further deepens China's influence over the Namibian economy. China is one of Namibia's largest export destinations and [accounted](#) for 22.8% of exports in 2024, followed by **South Africa** with 15.9% of exports. Namibia's main exports to China include uranium, thorium and nickel ore. In 2025, [trade](#) between the two reached approximately \$1.85 billion, with a notable trade surplus in favour of Namibia – Namibia exported goods worth approximately \$1.26 billion while China exported goods worth approximately \$587m to Namibia.

China is largely considered to be Namibia's primary strategic economic partner, after South Africa, with the country heavily investing in Namibia's mining industry and developing a large [portion](#) of the country's critical infrastructure. The renewal of CADEPA also allows China to create a development ecosystem and benefit even more. Namibia's main exports to China are minerals, which are mined at mines that Chinese companies often own or Chinese companies helped develop. Increased trade between the two helps create more opportunities for China to invest and develop industry and infrastructure.

However, Namibia's increasing reliance on Chinese funding to develop its economy and critical infrastructure places the country in a vulnerable position. Namibia is not monetarily capable to develop critical infrastructure and mining ventures by itself and in turn relies on China's foreign direct investment (FDI), which in 2025 notably [declined](#) to N\$4.1 billion (\$248m) from N\$10 billion (\$605m) in 2024.

While it is not feasible or necessary to deny these investment opportunities from China, including projects under the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, Namibia must work on bolstering its own developmental capacity to prevent becoming a vassal state or placing itself in an unnecessary vulnerable position should investment continue to decline.

Telecom Namibia launches network modernisation programme

State-owned **Telecom Namibia** [announced](#) on 8 June that it will undertake a comprehensive network modernisation programme following months of service disruptions that have affected customers across the country. The programme addresses both the technical obsolescence of the network and a growing security threat that undermines infrastructure resilience - a combination of aging infrastructure, failures of critical network hardware, instability on certain international connectivity routes, and a rise in criminal activities involving copper theft and vandalism caused the network disruptions.

The modernisation initiative represents a significant technological shift toward fibre-optic infrastructure with Telecom Namibia planning to replace and upgrade end-of-life network equipment. This includes upgrading the national backbone network from 10 Gigabits per second (Gbps) links to 100 Gbps capacity which significantly expands international connectivity gateways and modernises core mobile infrastructure supporting data services.

Additional measures include enhanced network monitoring systems, strengthened redundancy across key routes, accelerated fibre network expansion, and increased security protections against vandalism and theft. The company expects customers to see noticeable improvements by October 2026, with major backbone upgrades completed by December 2026 and full programme completion targeted for June 2027.

Telecom Namibia has similarly announced that it has [partnered](#) with Namibian company, **Demshi Investment Holdings**, to accelerate fibre service rollout to replace copper networks. Under the arrangement, Telecom Namibia will leverage Demshi's open-access fibre network to deliver high-speed internet services to residential and business customers, while Demshi assumes responsibility for network deployment, maintenance and installation of passive fibre infrastructure.

The partnership reflects an important strategic recognition that copper networks are vulnerable to organised theft that has become a persistent operational liability. By transitioning critical infrastructure from copper to fibre, Telecom Namibia simultaneously solves a technology capacity problem and a security problem created by illicit copper markets by removing the economic incentive for infrastructure vandalism.

The modernisation programme addresses a critical vulnerability in Namibia's digital economy at a time when the country is seeking multibillion-dollar foreign investment in oil and gas and mining sectors. A telecommunications operator unable to provide consistent, reliable service creates friction for all downstream economic activity and deters investment in digital infrastructure. The partnership with Demshi as an open-access network provider positions Telecom Namibia as a customer of neutral infrastructure rather than sole provider, potentially improving competition and service quality while reducing the operator's exposure to security threats in its own network.

Planner

25 July 2026 **(Namibia)** Business Summit Namibia

18 – 21 Aug 2026 **Swakopmund (Namibia) Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) Uranium Conference**

9 – 10 Sep 2026 **Swakopmund (Namibia) African Green Industries Summit**

Chronology

8 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (Cran)** receives 624 public applications requesting a reconsideration of its March decision to reject **United States**-headquartered **Starlink's** operating license

8 Jun 2026 **Kavango West (Namibia)** *IndexBox*. Mining company **ReconAfrica**, headquartered in the **United Kingdom (UK)**, in collaboration with **National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR)** and **BW Energy**, headquartered in **Bermuda**, starts with testing in the **Kavango West** to assess the commercial aspects of the **Damara Fold Belt**;

8 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *IOL*. The government calls on nationals residing in **South Africa** to be cautious regarding intensifying xenophobic violence;

4 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. The international relations minister, **Selma Ashipala-Musavyi**, receives a courtesy call from the **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)** managing director, **Dan Barnes**, on a country assessment mission;

4 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **Mineworkers Union of Namibia (MUN)** announces that the assets held through its investment structures, **Namitvest** and **Nammic**, have grown to exceed N\$900m (\$49.3m);

4 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. International Relations executive director, **Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robbiati**, holds a meeting with a delegation from the **Japan Organisation for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC)** and the **Toyota Tsusho Corporation**, who brief Nghipondoka-Robbiati on the progress of the **Lofdal Heavy Rare Earths Project**;

3 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **United States (US) State Department** is cutting down the number of visa-issuing consulates and embassies in **Africa**, which may force Namibians to travel to **South Africa** or **Angola** to apply for US visas;

2 Jun 2026 **New York (United States)** *NBC Digital News*. Namibia's delegation to the **United Nations General Assembly** calls for efforts to address persistent funding challenges and strengthen transparency and results-based management in the **United Nations Development System (UNDS)**;

2 Jun 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. The **Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill**, which seeks to grant prime minister **Elijah Ngurare** authority to oversee state-owned enterprises, sparks division in the **National Assembly**, with opposition lawmakers warning it centralises power and weakens institutional accountability;

1-2 Jun 2026 **Seoul (Korea)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. Namibia's head of multilateral relations and cooperation with the international relations ministry, **Julia Imene-Chaduru**, leads a delegation to the **Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting**;

28 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC)** announces a N\$625m (\$38.28m) capital investment plan for the 2025/26 financial year to upgrade Namibia's network infrastructure and expand coverage;

26 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Chamber of Mines of Namibia** reports the mining sector contributed N\$7.8 billion (\$432m) in taxes in 2025, representing a 39% increase from the previous year driven primarily by strong gold production and favourable commodity prices;

26 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. International relations minister, **Selma Ashipala-Musavyi**, urges Africans to "*buy African*" to promote industrialisation under the **Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)**;

22-24 May 2026 **Kruger National Park (South Africa)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. The international relations deputy minister, **Jenelly Matundu**, attends the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Foreign Affairs Minister** retreat to discuss the current geopolitical developments in the region;

22 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board*. Namibia and **China** continue to strengthen economic cooperation through the **Namibia-Shandong Province Business Engagement Forum**, bringing together government and business leaders to unlock new trade opportunities;

22 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. The international relations minister, **Selma Ashipala-Musavyi**, receives a courtesy call from the **Philippines** special representative of the foreign affairs secretary, **Marie Charlotte**, to reaffirm the two countries good bilateral relations;

21 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Bank of Namibia** (central bank) governor **Ebson Uanguta** warns that the domestic economy faces significant risks from weak diamond prices, severe drought, and tight fiscal constraints despite a projected recovery driven by uranium and energy investments;

21 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. **Bank of Namibia** (central bank) governor **Ebson Uanguta** warns that the domestic economy faces significant risks from weak diamond prices, severe drought, and tight fiscal constraints despite a projected recovery driven by uranium and energy investments;

18 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *The Namibian*. At the conclusion of the second **Namibia-European Union (EU) Business Forum** in Windhoek, the EU pledges N\$100m (\$6m) to support Namibia's green transition and long-term economic transformation;

11-13 May 2026 **Windhoek (Namibia)** *Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation*. The second **Namibia-European Union (EU) Business Forum** takes place under the theme 'Towards Stronger, Greener and More Diversified Economies: Catalysing Business and Trade Opportunities between the EU and Namibia' and focuses on green industrialisation, manufacturing and cultural and creative industries;

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