



NamPPF
Namibia Public-Private Forum

TOPIC: Infrastructure and Connectivity

WG10

NAMIBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE FORUM | OCTOBER 2025

Presented by:

Mr Ralph Ruiters MD - Manica Group Namibia (Chair)

Mr Beatus Aamadhila CEO - PowerCom (Presenter)

Hosted by:



Republic of Namibia
National Planning Commission

Secretariat:



NIPDB
Namibia Investment Promotion
& Development Board





Scope & Focus

Transform Namibia as a strategic gateway, connecting SADC with the World.

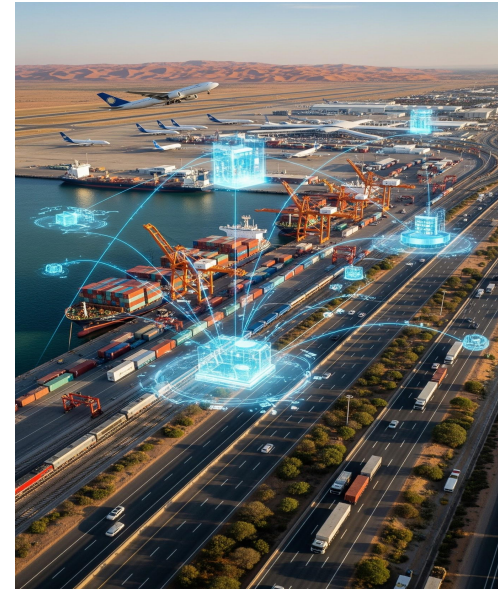
Focus Areas:

- Governance reforms & capacity building
- Infrastructure modernization
- Technology adoption & digital systems

Policy Alignment

Vision 2030 - NDP 6 - SMIP

- 3.2.1. Transport and Logistics
A safe, accessible, reliable, affordable, and sustainable transport Infrastructure, a world-class logistics hub connecting SADC to International markets
- 3.2.4. Digital Infrastructure, Technologies, Cybersecurity
Digitally empowered Namibia with universal connectivity, leveraging Technology as a key driver for economic growth

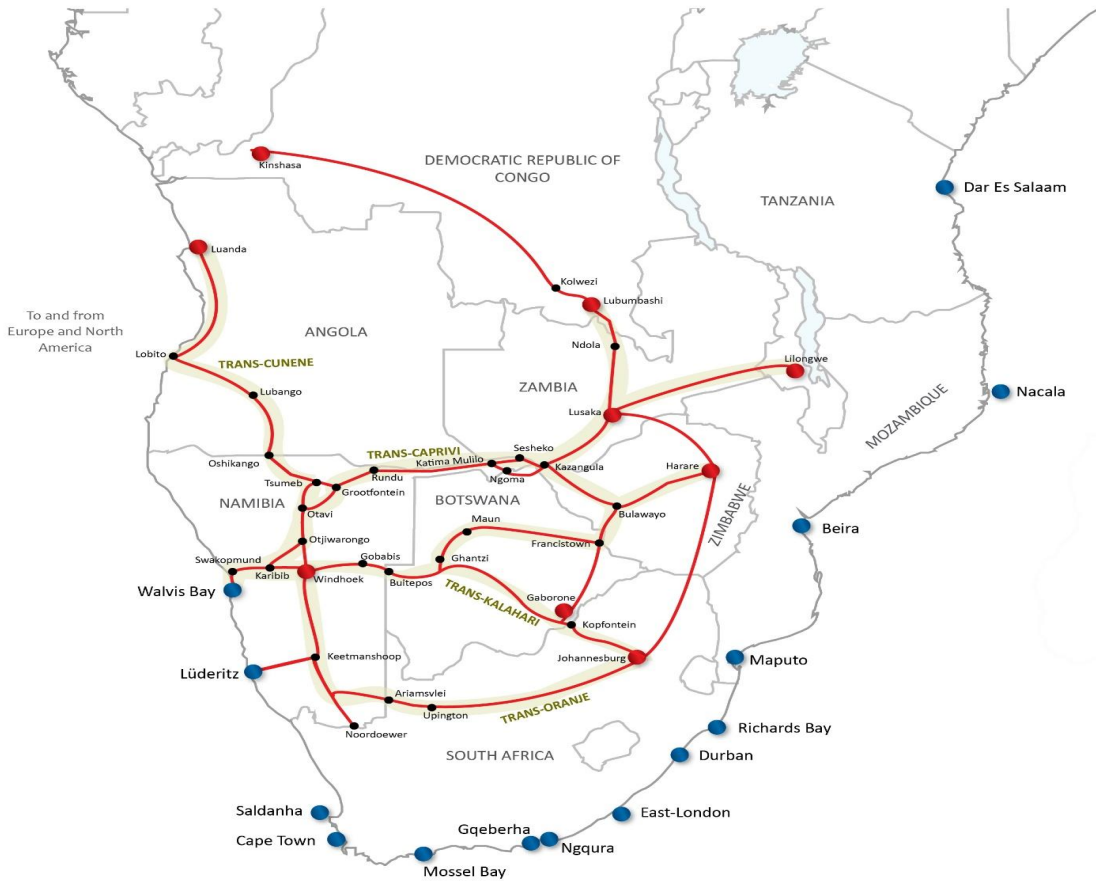




Connectivity - SADC

Work Done

- WBCG
- Time Release studies
- Coordinated Border Management





Private Sector Contribution – Logistics & Transport

Area	Existing Contribution	Potential Contribution
Regulatory Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participated in Time Release Studies (TRS) at Walvis Bay port & Trans-Kalahari border post - Participated in Coordinated Border Management (CBM) study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide resources / experts for policy review and timely completion. - Provide resources to assist with streamlining of processes. - Provide resources to assist in drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
Capacity Building & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offers accredited programs (FIATA, CATS, soft skills) - Partnered with Namibian universities to develop key industry skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avail subject matter experts to provide training public sector staff at no cost. -
Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment in warehousing facilities & equipment - Development of logistics parks & transport capacity on Corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invest in Northport & Luderitz seaports. - Invest in rail infrastructure and equipment (locomotives & wagons).
Digital Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participated in technical working groups for Single Window, TRS & CBM studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support with systems and automation implementations - Provide experts to upgrade & implement systems



Key Constraints

Constraint Area	Root Causes	Impact
Regulatory Bottlenecks	Outdated laws: Customs & Excise Act 1998, Agricultural Remedies Act 1947, Road Traffic & Transport Act 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hinders transit trade, increases costs, reduces competitiveness.• Hinders public servants service delivery.
Infrastructure gaps	Insufficient border facilities, ports, rail networks connecting SADC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delay in cargo movement, and limits trade facilitation
Veterinary Restrictions	Over regulation of transit goods (e.g Poultry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cargo lost to competing ports, hampers trade facilitation
Lack of coordination	Limited stakeholder engagement and operating in silos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hinders trade facilitation and creates unnecessary trade barriers.
Visas/ Immigration	Rejection of visas for skilled workers/Expatriates (O&G; Marine)	Skills gap in oil & gas, ship repairs; ships bypass Namibia



Recommendation – Logistics and Transport

Policy

&

Regulatory:

Amend outdated laws to enable ease of doing business and trade facilitation. Implement recommendations from the TRS and CBM. Avail the required resources for timely implementation.

Infrastructure

Investment:

Construct and expand seaports, airports, border posts, digital, and rail networks.

Technology:

Implement the Single Window project, modernise border posts with technology, upgrade Asycuda, and deploy RFID, ANPR, and biometric cargo tracking systems.

Other

- Capacitate NamRA and other state agencies.
- Local content: Allow for ownership structures to include staff and community trusts.



Opportunities – Digital Connectivity

There is a good opportunity to make Namibia the Southern Africa digital gateway and data-hub by 2030 by:

- Achieving near universal affordable connectivity;
- Operating a modern data centre ecosystem;
- And enabling new economy services such as cloud, fintech, e-commerce, e-health, e-agriculture) to fuel growth and jobs.

- **Digital infrastructure: Broadband penetration**
According to the World Bank, every 1% increase in broadband penetration can rise GDP by up to 0.25%
- **Expanding Connectivity (Network Towers and FTTx):**
Underpins e-Government, e-Education, e-health, e-Agriculture, and public service efficiency.
- **Local Data Center ecosystems: (National Data Centre, Data Protection & Digital Sovereignty):**
Expand the National Data Centre to host government and private data locally and enforce data localisation policies. Accelerate the Data Protection Act and create roles in data management, cloud, and cybersecurity can create hundreds of skilled jobs and attract fintech, AI, Cloud and BPO investments.



Key Constraints – Digital Connectivity

Constraint Area	Root Causes	Impact	Interventions / What would move the needle?
Regulatory Bottlenecks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdated laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinders delivery on ICT infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend. • Finalise all relevant bills.
Digital inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning in silos. • Delay in land approvals and clearance permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widened digital divide. • e-Government, e-Agriculture, e-Health, e-Commerce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate land and permits approvals.
Limited Data Center capacity or ecosystem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High infrastructure and operating costs. • Slow implementation of previous recommendations. 	<p>Hosting of our data outside the country leading to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased latency and costs for local businesses and cyber-sovereignty risks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise feasibility in a coordinated manner. • Targeted public private partnerships. • Create Anchor tenancy for e-Government services. • Cybersecurity and Data protection bills.
Fragmented Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of implementation or enforcement of Policies. (Infrastructure sharing Policies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High costs of capital. • High operational costs among operators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce policy implementation among the Operators.



Recommendation – Digital connectivity

Data Center Ecosystem: Cabinet approval or endorsement:

- National Digital Infrastructure Ecosystem Acceleration Framework.
- Establish a Digital Infrastructure Task force to champion the above (OPM, MICT, CRAN, Ministry of Finance, incumbent operators, private sector)
- Position the initiative under the Presidential or OPM “Digital Transformation Flagship” to signal commitment and attract investors.

Network Infrastructure: Business unusual

- Local Authorities to speed up land approval.
- Regulators to issue clearance permits within a three months period time-frame.
- Continue with the Universal Service Fund and make it sustainable.

“ Every network tower we put up, every kilometre of fiber we lay, and every megawatt of data-center capacity we build today, brings our citizens closer to opportunity, strengthens our sovereignty, and powers a future-ready economy”



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THANK YOU

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