



## STANDARD BANK NAMIBIA **COMMITTS TO TRAILBLAZING SOLUTIONS TO FUND THE COUNTRY'S MINING SECTOR GROWTH.**



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**Standard Bank Namibia's commitment to Namibia is evident in its purpose: Namibia is our Home, We drive Her Growth, and its reaffirmed commitment to supporting the country's mining sector by providing tailored financial solutions that address emerging opportunities and persistent challenges is a testament to it.**

Shetugwana Shipena, the bank's Mining and Metals Sector Relationship Manager, recently attended the 2025 African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa, where he highlighted the crucial role of alternative financing models in enabling Namibia's mineral wealth and driving economic progress. "Financing opportunities are emerging through sustainability funds and alternative financing models. Sustainability funds support projects with cleaner technologies and responsible environmental practices, whilst alternative models such as royalty and streaming agreements and project finance help secure capital with less debt. These tools bridge early-stage funding gaps."

Despite Namibia's vast mineral potential, junior mining companies struggle to secure initial capital for exploration and development. Shipena acknowledges this challenge, emphasising that Standard Bank Namibia is well-positioned to provide structured financing, project finance solutions and advisory services tailored to the industry's evolving needs; We understand the complexities of funding mining activities and are committed to supporting companies with solutions that are both innovative and sustainable."

The bank will continue to capitalise on insights gained at events like the Mining Indaba to strengthen its advisory services and inform clients about key industry trends. Shipena stresses that policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement would be a priority, particularly in promoting local beneficiation and value addition—"We will actively engage with industry stakeholders and policymakers to advocate for reforms that encourage local beneficiation, ensuring that more value is retained within Namibia's economy."

According to Shipena, a major takeaway from the Indaba was the growing emphasis on sustainability and digital transformation in the mining industry. This highlighted the increasing importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and technological advancements in shaping the sector's future. He noted, "It's becoming more important than ever to accelerate the adoption of innovative digital solutions, such as AI, automation, and data analytics, to improve efficiency and safety. Additionally, embedding ESG principles into business strategies is no longer optional. Companies prioritising transparency, community engagement and responsible environmental management will mitigate operational risks and attract long-term investor confidence and financing."

Namibia's mining sector remains stable, with considerable untapped potential in exploration. Shipena notes that critical minerals present a unique opportunity for the country to shift from raw material exports to value-added processing and refining. The country can benefit greatly by shifting its focus to raw material exports to capture more local value. Shipena also emphasises that investing in refining and downstream processing will improve economic growth and strengthen Namibia's global mineral supply chain position.

Another critical discussion at the Indaba was balancing resource nationalism and maintaining an investor-friendly environment. Many African nations, including Namibia, are exploring policies mandating local value addition while ensuring foreign investment remains attractive. Shipena stresses the need for Namibia to develop policies safeguarding local interest without deterring foreign investment and that a well-balanced regulatory framework will ensure the country can maximise the benefits from its mineral resources while maintaining competitiveness.

