AFRICA OIL+GAS REPORT · GABON · OFFSHORE

BW Energy restarts Gabon output after fatal rig incident

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BW Energy has resumed production from its MaBoMo offshore mobile oil production platform in Gabon following a three-day shutdown triggered by a rig incident that killed three people. The halt, confirmed by Africa Oil+Gas Report, represents one of the more serious safety events in Gabonese offshore operations in recent memory, and its swift resolution — production restored within 72 hours — signals the operator's priority to limit commercial downtime while managing the human and regulatory fallout.

Details of the incident's cause have not been disclosed in the source reporting, and it is not yet clear whether the fatalities occurred among platform crew, contractors, or visiting personnel. The three-day production suspension will have reduced BW Energy's output volumes from MaBoMo, though the total barrel impact has not been quantified in available reporting. BW Energy operates MaBoMo as a mobile production unit, a configuration that distinguishes it from permanently moored FPSOs and carries its own operational and safety profile.

The resumption of production is the immediate commercial headline, but the incident is likely to draw attention from Gabonese regulatory authorities and, depending on BW Energy's listed status and reporting obligations, from investors and ESG-focused stakeholders. Incident investigations of this severity typically involve the national hydrocarbon regulator, independent safety assessors, and in some cases international bodies if equipment or personnel of foreign origin are involved. The findings — whenever published — will be material to understanding whether systemic factors were at play or whether the event was isolated.

For the broader Gabonese offshore sector, the incident is a reminder of the persistent safety challenges associated with mobile production infrastructure, particularly as Gabon's mature fields require more intensive well intervention and production maintenance activity. BW Energy has been one of the more active independent operators in the country, pursuing incremental production growth through existing infrastructure rather than greenfield development.

Norwegian service companies active in West Africa should monitor this situation closely. The incident may prompt BW Energy to review or upgrade safety systems, emergency response equipment, and personnel training protocols on MaBoMo, which could open procurement conversations once the investigation has concluded and corrective actions are defined. Any formal tender or contract award relating to safety upgrades or platform inspection services would represent a clearer entry point for supplier engagement.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies with competency in offshore safety systems, emergency response, and mobile production unit inspection — such as those in well services, marine, or HSE technology — should monitor the investigation outcome before approaching BW Energy's procurement function. No tender or contract has been announced; the appropriate posture now is relationship-readiness rather than active outreach. Once corrective action plans are formalised post-investigation, there may be scope for Norwegian HSE and asset integrity specialists to engage.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO/Mobile Production:** Mobile production unit safety audits and structural inspection services may be required once BW Energy's incident investigation concludes and corrective actions are defined.
- **Well Services:** If the incident involved well operations or intervention activity, Norwegian well control and well integrity specialists should position for potential engagement as BW Energy reviews its operational procedures.

- **Subsea:** Monitor whether any subsea infrastructure connected to MaBoMo was affected or inspected during the shutdown, which could create demand for ROV or subsea integrity services.
- **Service:** Norwegian HSE technology and emergency response equipment suppliers should track the regulatory investigation for signals that BW Energy will upgrade safety systems on MaBoMo.

Original source: Africa Oil+Gas Report →

Saga Advisory

General: info@saga-advisory.com · saga-advisory.com

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN