

JEUNE AFRIQUE ÉCONOMIE

Gabon Splits State Utility SEEG Into Separate Water and Power Entities

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Gabon's transitional government announced on 25 June in Libreville the formal separation of the Société d'Énergie et d'Eau du Gabon (SEEG) into two distinct entities — one focused on electricity and one on water services. The restructuring marks a significant shift in how the country manages its utility sector, which has long been criticised for chronic underperformance, aging infrastructure, and persistent supply deficits that hamper both households and commercial operations across the country.

The announcement, however, came with notable uncertainty. According to Jeune Afrique Économie, the legal and financial contours of the split remain undetermined. Key questions — including the ownership structure of each new entity, how existing liabilities will be distributed, the regulatory framework governing each successor company, and the timeline for full operational separation — have yet to be resolved. This ambiguity suggests the reform is still in its early political stages rather than approaching implementation.

The context behind the restructuring is important. SEEG has operated under a concession model and has experienced turbulent governance in recent years, compounded by Gabon's August 2023 military coup, which installed a transitional administration now steering the country's economic reform agenda. Energy access and reliability remain acute problems: Libreville and secondary cities regularly experience outages, and rural electrification rates remain low. The separation is framed by authorities as a means to create sharper accountability and attract

targeted investment into each sector independently — a rationale familiar from utility unbundling exercises elsewhere on the continent.

For the electricity segment specifically, the reform opens potential space for private participation in generation, transmission, and distribution. Gabon holds significant hydropower potential that has historically been underdeveloped relative to its resource base, alongside thermal generation assets. Any recapitalisation or concession process for a standalone electricity entity would likely require technical advisory support, infrastructure assessment, and eventually procurement of generation or grid equipment — all entry points for international service providers.

The trajectory of this reform will depend heavily on the transitional government's ability to establish a credible legal and regulatory framework quickly enough to attract investors, while managing the political sensitivities inherent in restructuring a national utility. Until the financial architecture is clarified, the reform remains a policy signal rather than a bankable opportunity. Norwegian and international energy service companies should monitor developments closely as the legal structure takes shape over the coming months.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is an early-stage policy reform with no confirmed procurement or concession process yet, meaning Norwegian companies should monitor rather than bid at this point. If a standalone electricity concession emerges, there could be openings for technical advisory, power infrastructure assessment, or generation equipment supply. Companies with utility restructuring or distributed power experience in frontier markets are best positioned to engage when the legal framework is confirmed.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Service:** Technical advisory firms can position early to support due diligence or grid assessment once the electricity entity's legal structure is formalised.
- **LNG:** A standalone power utility may eventually seek gas-to-power solutions to supplement intermittent hydro supply, creating an opening for LNG or gas infrastructure providers.

- **FPSO:** Limited direct angle at this stage; monitor whether power sector reform accelerates offshore gas monetisation linked to domestic energy supply mandates.
- **Pipeline:** If the electricity entity pursues thermal generation expansion, gas supply infrastructure linking existing producing assets to new power plants could become relevant.

[Original source: Jeune Afrique Économie →](#)

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