

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · LNG

Mozambique Names Rudêncio Morais as ENH Chief Amid LNG Revival Push

Saga deep read · 08 May 2026 · Score 58

Mozambique has appointed Rudêncio Morais to lead Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), the state hydrocarbon company, at a pivotal moment for the country's long-stalled liquefied natural gas ambitions. The appointment signals that Maputo is seeking both institutional continuity and fresh operational momentum as it attempts to revive projects that have faced years of delays rooted in the Cabo Delgado insurgency, financing difficulties, and force majeure declarations by major operators.

Morais takes the helm at ENH as the broader investment climate around Mozambique's offshore gas basins shows cautious signs of improvement. TotalEnergies' Mozambique LNG project at Afungi, the largest greenfield LNG development on the African continent, remains suspended following the declaration of force majeure in April 2021, but diplomatic and security progress in Cabo Delgado has prompted renewed discussions between the operator, lenders, and the Mozambican government about conditions for a restart. Meanwhile, ENI's Coral Sul FLNG — in which ENH holds a participating interest — has been producing and exporting LNG since 2022, providing the state company with both revenue and operational credibility that Morais can build upon.

The leadership change at ENH is widely interpreted as a confidence signal from the government of President Daniel Chapo, who took office in January 2025 following a contested election. Stabilising ENH's leadership and reinforcing its technical and commercial capacity is seen as a prerequisite for unlocking the next phase of gas monetisation, which includes potential expansion of the Rovuma Basin developments

and progress on the Rovuma LNG project led by ExxonMobil and CNPC. Both projects require ENH to function as a competent and bankable counterpart to international oil companies and their financiers.

For the broader supply chain, the appointment matters because ENH's institutional health directly affects procurement timelines, local content enforcement, and the pace at which engineering, procurement, and construction contracts will be tendered. Norwegian service companies that have been monitoring Mozambique from a distance — particularly those with FLNG, subsea, and LNG plant expertise developed in other African theatres — should note that a more confident and stable ENH leadership could accelerate decision-making on long-deferred scopes. The Coral Sul FLNG vessel, operated by ENI with Saipem as EPC contractor, has demonstrated the technical viability of the offshore LNG model in the basin, and a potential second Coral train remains under evaluation.

The security situation in Cabo Delgado, while improved relative to the peak of the insurgency in 2020-2021, continues to require careful monitoring. Rwanda's continued military presence and SADC mission activity have contributed to a more stable environment in districts adjacent to the Afungi peninsula, though full clearance for large-scale construction mobilisation has not yet been declared by TotalEnergies. Norwegian companies should use this leadership transition period to deepen relationships with ENH and local Mozambican partners in anticipation of a potential FID restart window in the 2026-2027 timeframe.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian FLNG, subsea, and LNG service companies should treat Morais's appointment as a signal to re-engage with ENH and position ahead of anticipated contract tendering if TotalEnergies Mozambique LNG moves toward FID restart. Companies with Coral Sul or West African FLNG references are particularly well-placed to present credentials to ENH as a technically capable and bankable partner. This is a monitor-and-engage phase, not yet a bid phase, but relationship capital built now will be decisive when procurement opens.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** Companies with FLNG or onshore LNG plant engineering experience should seek formal introductions to ENH's technical directorate to position for Coral Sul expansion or Mozambique LNG EPC sub-scopes.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Rovuma Basin subsea tie-back and flowline scopes remain undeveloped for future trains; Norwegian subsea contractors should map existing seabed infrastructure gaps and engage early with ENI and TotalEnergies local teams.
- **Drilling:** Appraisal and development drilling activity in the Rovuma Basin will accelerate ahead of any FID; Norwegian drilling contractors and well service firms should monitor ENH and operator rig tender schedules closely.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore gas pipeline infrastructure linking Afungi to the broader Mozambican grid remains a stated government priority; Norwegian pipeline engineering firms should assess partnership opportunities with local EPC players.
- **Service:** Local content requirements enforced through ENH make it essential for Norwegian service companies to identify credible Mozambican joint-venture partners now, before competitive tender processes formally open.

[Original source: African Energy Chamber →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN