

AFRICAN ENERGY CHAMBER · LNG

Mozambique Names Rudêncio Morais as ENH Chief to Revive Stalled LNG Projects

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Mozambique has appointed Rudêncio Morais as the new head of Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), the state hydrocarbon company, in a move the African Energy Chamber characterises as a decisive turning point for the country's LNG ambitions. The appointment signals institutional confidence at a moment when Mozambique's gas sector remains under considerable pressure following years of delays and security-related disruptions in the Cabo Delgado province.

ENH occupies a central role in Mozambique's upstream gas landscape, holding participating interests in the major offshore and onshore blocks that underpin the country's multi-decade LNG development vision. Morais's appointment is being read by industry observers as a statement of continuity — preserving the strategic direction established under previous leadership — while simultaneously injecting new momentum into a portfolio of projects that has struggled to reach final investment decision or restart construction since the TotalEnergies-led Mozambique LNG project was suspended in April 2021 following jihadist insurgent attacks.

The stakes are significant. Mozambique sits on some of the largest natural gas reserves discovered in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades, with the Rovuma Basin holding an estimated 100 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. Two flagship developments — TotalEnergies' Area 1 onshore LNG plant and ENI's floating LNG vessel at Coral Sul, which has been producing and exporting LNG since 2022 — represent different but complementary pathways to monetising that resource. A

second FLNG unit for the Coral Norte field has also been under discussion. Meanwhile, the US-backed Rovuma LNG project led by ExxonMobil on Area 4 remains at an advanced planning stage, awaiting clearer security and financing conditions before proceeding.

The leadership change at ENH comes as the security situation in Cabo Delgado has shown gradual improvement, supported by Rwandan and SADC military deployments, raising cautious optimism that TotalEnergies may reassess its suspension timeline. Any resumption of the onshore LNG construction effort would require significant re-mobilisation of contractors, marine logistics, and offshore support infrastructure — much of which Norwegian service companies are well-positioned to supply.

For the broader investment climate, executive stability at ENH matters. The state company's ability to negotiate, sanction, and co-fund upstream activities directly influences the pace at which international operators can advance drilling campaigns, FEED processes, and infrastructure procurement. A credible ENH leadership team reduces political and commercial risk for international partners and lenders, and increases the likelihood that stalled FIDs could be revisited within a two-to-three year horizon. Morais's track record and mandate will be closely watched by TotalEnergies, ExxonMobil, ENI, and their respective supply chains in the months ahead.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies should treat this appointment as a signal to re-engage Mozambique market intelligence and refresh relationships with ENH and the major operators. Companies in FLNG, subsea installation, and well services should monitor TotalEnergies' Area 1 restart timeline closely, as any resumption will trigger large procurement cycles. Partners with existing Coral Sul experience through ENI are best positioned to bid early on Coral Norte FLNG scope.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **FPSO/FLNG:** Coral Norte FLNG pre-FEED activity is a near-term entry point for Norwegian FLNG engineering and marine systems contractors with existing Coral Sul references.

- **Subsea:** A TotalEnergies Area 1 restart would require re-mobilisation of offshore pipeline and umbilical installation work, favouring Norwegian subsea contractors already familiar with Rovuma Basin water depths.
- **Drilling:** ENH's renewed institutional confidence may accelerate appraisal and development drilling on Rovuma blocks, creating rig and well services demand Norwegian drilling contractors should pre-position for.
- **LNG:** Norwegian LNG technology and process vendors should use this leadership transition to refresh direct engagement with ENH, which holds equity stakes requiring it to source and approve major equipment and service contracts.
- **Pipeline:** Onshore and nearshore pipeline scope tied to the TotalEnergies Area 1 plant remains largely unexecuted following the 2021 suspension, representing a significant opportunity once security conditions permit restart.

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

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