

LUSAKA TIMES · ZAMBIA

Zambia Adds 1,476 MW as Government and Private Investors Expand Grid Capacity

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Zambia's installed electricity generation capacity has grown significantly over the past five years, rising from approximately 3,100 megawatts in 2021 to 4,576 megawatts, according to Ministry of Information and Media Director Spokesperson Henry Kapata. The expansion reflects a combined push by the Zambian government and private investors to meet the demands of a growing economy that has long been constrained by power shortfalls.

The capacity addition of roughly 1,476 MW represents a meaningful step for a country that has historically struggled with electricity deficits, partly driven by dependence on hydropower in a region increasingly exposed to drought cycles. The involvement of private investors alongside the state signals a broader policy direction toward mixed-ownership models in the power sector, a trend that typically opens procurement channels for international equipment suppliers, engineering contractors, and project developers.

For the wider Sub-Saharan African energy investment climate, Zambia's trajectory is notable. Reliable and expanding electricity infrastructure is a prerequisite for industrial growth, including the energy-intensive mining sector that underpins Zambia's economy — particularly copper production, which is central to the country's export revenues and increasingly relevant to global battery supply chains. As generation capacity grows, associated transmission, distribution, and industrial

power supply investments tend to follow, creating downstream opportunities across the energy services value chain.

While the article does not specify the generation technologies or project details behind the capacity increase, the scale of addition over five years suggests a pipeline of projects that would have required engineering, procurement, and construction services, as well as ongoing operations and maintenance support. Private investor participation also suggests that independent power producer frameworks are functional enough to attract capital, which is an important signal for companies assessing market entry risk in Zambia.

For Norwegian service companies tracking African energy markets, Zambia's power sector expansion is worth monitoring as a secondary indicator of broader economic activity and infrastructure investment appetite. A better-powered Zambia supports mining output, which in turn sustains demand for energy services and potentially reduces operational risk for companies already active in the country. The government's stated commitment to continuing capacity growth suggests this is not a one-cycle story but part of a longer infrastructure build-out with recurring procurement opportunities.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian companies should monitor Zambia's power sector expansion as an indicator of improving industrial energy infrastructure, which directly supports the operational environment for mining-linked energy services. While this article does not identify specific tenders or offshore opportunities, the scale of investment suggests active procurement pipelines worth tracking for engineering, equipment supply, and project development partnerships. Companies with grid infrastructure, power generation, or industrial energy capabilities should assess whether Zambia fits their Sub-Saharan Africa market entry criteria.

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- **Service:** Engineering and O&M service providers should map the new generation assets for potential long-term operations and maintenance contract opportunities as Zambia's mixed-ownership power fleet scales up.

- **Pipeline:** Expanding generation capacity may drive parallel investment in fuel supply infrastructure, including gas-to-power pipelines or LNG import terminals, worth monitoring for early-stage involvement.
- **LNG:** If Zambia diversifies away from hydro dependency, LNG or gas-fired generation could emerge as a procurement priority, creating openings for Norwegian LNG technology and supply chain players.
- **Subsea/FPSO:** Indirectly relevant — a more reliably powered Zambia supports copper mining output, which sustains the economic rationale for regional upstream investment that Norwegian subsea companies serve.

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