

INP MOÇAMBIQUE · MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique cabinet approves new petroleum operations rules

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Mozambique's Council of Ministers has approved two decrees strengthening the regulatory framework governing the country's petroleum sector. Passed at the 29th Ordinary Session on 13 October 2026, the decrees establish a Petroleum Operations Regulation and a new Organic Statute for the National Petroleum Institute (INP), consolidating INP's role as the country's petroleum regulatory authority.

The dual approval signals a deliberate effort by the Mozambican government to sharpen institutional oversight of petroleum activities and close gaps in the existing legal architecture. By formalising INP's mandate through an updated Organic Statute, the government is defining more precisely the authority's powers, structure, and responsibilities — changes that directly affect how operators, contractors, and service companies interact with the regulator on a day-to-day basis. The Petroleum Operations Regulation, meanwhile, is expected to set clearer procedural rules for exploration, development, and production activities across the country.

For international companies active in, or entering, Mozambique's upstream sector, updated regulatory instruments of this kind carry immediate practical weight. Compliance requirements, permitting procedures, local content obligations, and inspection regimes are typically embedded in operational regulations, meaning that contracts already in force — as well as those under negotiation — may need to be reviewed against the new framework. The timing is notable given the ongoing development of Mozambique's large LNG projects and the broader effort to attract fresh investment into the basin.

The article does not specify the detailed content of either decree, nor does it indicate whether the new instruments introduce substantive changes to existing rules or primarily consolidate and reorganise current provisions. The exact scope of INP's expanded or redefined authority, and whether the regulations introduce new local content thresholds, environmental requirements, or fiscal provisions, remains unclear from the available text. Companies operating in-country should obtain the full decree text directly from INP or the Mozambican Official Gazette to assess the practical implications.

For Norwegian service companies, this regulatory update is a monitoring and relationship-building moment rather than a procurement trigger. A clearer, better-resourced INP creates a more predictable operating environment, which over time lowers entry barriers and reduces compliance uncertainty for foreign contractors. Firms with existing Mozambique exposure — or those tracking the country's LNG and upstream development pipeline — should engage local legal and government-affairs advisors to map out how the new instruments affect ongoing and planned activities.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a regulatory development, not a signed contract or open tender, so direct procurement outreach is premature. Norwegian service companies with Mozambique exposure should commission a legal review of the new Petroleum Operations Regulation and INP Organic Statute to identify any changes to permitting, local content, or inspection requirements that affect existing or planned engagements. Firms not yet active in Mozambique should monitor INP communications closely, as a strengthened regulatory authority typically precedes renewed licensing activity.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Review new petroleum operations procedures to confirm whether offshore development permitting or inspection regimes affecting FPSO deployments have changed under the revised regulation.
- **Drilling:** Assess whether the updated INP statute introduces new well-consent or drilling-permit procedural requirements that affect rig scheduling and operator relationships in-country.

- **LNG:** Track how INP's reinforced regulatory authority interacts with existing LNG project concession agreements and whether new operational compliance layers are introduced.
- **Pipeline:** Monitor whether the Petroleum Operations Regulation covers onshore and midstream pipeline infrastructure, which would affect planned gas transport and gathering projects.
- **Service:** Engage Mozambican legal counsel to determine whether the new framework adjusts local content, subcontracting, or registration requirements for foreign well-services and oilfield-services providers.

[Original source: INP Moçambique →](#)

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