

INP MOÇAMBIQUE · MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique ratifies new Petroleum Law

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Mozambique's Assembleia da República has ratified a new Petroleum Law, updating the legal framework governing petroleum operations in the country and strengthening the regulatory role of the national petroleum regulator, INP (Instituto Nacional de Petróleo). The legislation also consolidates the state's participation in the petroleum sector and introduces enhanced mechanisms for regulation, oversight, transparency, and maximisation of national benefits derived from hydrocarbon exploitation.

The new law represents a significant revision of Mozambique's upstream legal architecture at a pivotal moment for the country's LNG and broader hydrocarbons sector. By reinforcing INP's regulatory mandate and embedding stronger state-participation provisions, the government is signalling an intent to capture a greater share of value from its resource base — a move consistent with trends seen across sub-Saharan hydrocarbon producers seeking to update petroleum codes written before major offshore gas discoveries came into view.

For international operators and their service supply chains, the revised framework introduces both clarity and additional compliance considerations. Strengthened oversight and transparency requirements suggest that contract structures, local content obligations, and reporting standards will face closer scrutiny under INP's expanded remit. Companies already active in Mozambique — particularly those tied to the Rovuma Basin LNG developments — will need to assess how the new provisions interact with existing production sharing agreements and concession terms. The law's emphasis on maximising national benefits also raises the prospect of

tighter local content enforcement, which could affect procurement strategies across drilling, subsea, FPSO operations, and onshore infrastructure services.

The timing is notable. With TotalEnergies' Mozambique LNG project still under force majeure and ENI's Coral Sul FLNG producing, the sector sits at an inflection point where regulatory certainty — or complexity — will influence decisions on project restart, expansion financing, and new licensing rounds. A modernised petroleum law could, if implemented predictably, provide the legal foundation needed to unlock stalled final investment decisions and attract fresh capital. Conversely, expanded state participation rights and new fiscal or operational conditions will require careful legal and commercial analysis by all stakeholders.

INP has not yet published the full text of the enacted legislation, and key implementation details — including any transitional provisions for existing licence holders and the precise scope of state participation — remain to be clarified through secondary regulation. The industry will be watching closely for the accompanying regulations and INP guidance notes that will determine how the law operates in practice.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

Norwegian service companies with existing or planned exposure to Mozambique's LNG, deepwater, and upstream sectors should monitor this legislative development closely and engage local legal and regulatory advisers to assess compliance implications for current and prospective contracts. No immediate procurement or tendering opportunity is created by the passage of this law, but relationship-building with INP and active operators ahead of anticipated licensing activity or project restarts is prudent. Partners with local content or compliance expertise may find early engagement valuable as INP operationalises its expanded regulatory mandate.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **LNG:** Monitor how the new state-participation provisions interact with existing Rovuma Basin LNG concession terms and assess any renegotiation risk before next project milestone.

- **Subsea/FPSO:** Track secondary regulations for local content and procurement obligations that could affect subsea and FPSO contracting strategies on future Mozambique offshore developments.
- **Drilling:** Assess whether strengthened INP oversight and transparency requirements introduce new reporting or certification demands for drilling contractors operating under Mozambican licences.
- **Pipeline:** Follow implementation guidance from INP regarding infrastructure obligations and state participation rights that may affect onshore and offshore pipeline project structures.
- **Service:** Engage local legal partners now to map how enhanced national-benefit maximisation clauses may reshape subcontractor eligibility and local content thresholds across well services.

[Original source: INP Mozambique →](#)

Saga Advisory

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

STAVANGER · CAPE TOWN