

TotalEnergies aims to restart \$20bn Mozambique LNG project in 2022

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TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanne said on Monday, 31 January, the French firm aimed to restart a \$20bn liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in the north of Mozambique that was halted by an insurgent group with links to Islamic State almost a year ago.



Source: Reuters/Gonzalo Fuentes

The attack on the town of Palma, on the doorstep of the project and home to many gas workers, prompted TotalEnergies to withdraw all staff and declare force majeure, putting a halt to all works until security was restored.

"When I will see that life is back to normality, which means having some state services and population, then the project can restart," Pouyanne said on a visit to Mozambique on Monday.

"My objective is that we will restart in 2022."

TotalEnergies had intended for the project to produce its first cargo in 2024.



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More steps needed for sustainability

"A lot of progress has been done and frankly in a very short period of time," Pouyanne told reporters, after signing a deal to train 2,500 young Mozambicans in a way that will help them contribute to the project, such as growing vegetables which

they can then sell to feed workers on the project.

However, more steps needed to be taken to ensure these achievements were sustainable, he said, adding that this also included a return to normality in towns that were left largely abandoned, without any public services.

Pouyanne said he would like to visit these towns, including Palma and Mocimboa da Praia to its south, on his next visit.

The March 2021 attack prompted Mozambique to accept foreign troops from Rwanda and a bloc of southern African nations to help quell the insurgency, which had escalated across the southern African country's northernmost province of Cabo Delgado.

While these measures have helped Mozambique regain lost ground, clashes with insurgents and smaller attacks continue.

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