

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Mozambique Summary 16 February 2026

The ruling Frelimo appoints new leaders to its central brigade in President Daniel Chapo's (2025-present) latest move to cement control over the party. Chapo presides over the official relaunch of the Mozambique LNG consortium's \$20 billion natural gas project on the Afungi Peninsula (Cabo Delgado Province). The Mozambique LNG consortium is led by French energy giant TotalEnergies. The Ahlu Sunnah wa Jama'ah (ASWJ) militant group attacks security forces in Cabo Delgado's Macomia district. Mozambique experiences its worst flooding in a generation, affecting at least 724,000 people and displacing over 76,000.

Ruling party makes internal leadership appointments

The ruling party, **Frelimo**, quietly implemented a [major reshuffle](#) of its internal leadership at a meeting of the party's political commission on 10 and 11 January, appointing new leaders to the party's central brigades, as generational shifts in the party continue taking place. The political commission is the party's most senior body outside the governing central committee. The central brigades oversee Frelimo's activity in all ten provinces, **Maputo City**, and Frelimo's presence abroad.

These new appointments are the latest incident in President **Daniel Chapo** (2025-present) and Frelimo Secretary-General **Chakil Aboobacar**'s efforts to stamp their authority on the party and enforce a generational leadership change. Indicative of this was the appointment of leading Chapo allies, including **Magarida Talapa** who serves as president of the **Assembleia da República** (Mozambique's national legislature).

Chapo is steadily cementing his control over Frelimo and further sidelining former president **Filipe Nyusi** (2015-2025) and his allies. This is essential for Chapo to push through his governing agenda and the reforms he envisions for both Mozambique and Frelimo. It also represents what may be the first major generational shift within Frelimo, away from those who joined the party during either the war for liberation, to those who have always known Frelimo as Mozambique's ruling party.

TotalEnergies relaunches major gas project

Chapo [presided](#) over the official relaunch of the **Mozambique LNG** consortium's \$20 billion natural gas project on the **Afungi Peninsula (Cabo Delgado Province)** on 29 January. **French** energy giant **TotalEnergies**, which is the project's operator and largest shareholder, leads the consortium. The Afungi Peninsula project is the largest approved LNG project in gas-rich Cabo Delgado. Development of the project was suspended in 2021 after TotalEnergies declared force majeure in response to the March/April 2021 militant attack on the town of **Palma** – the project is located within the Palma district, a short distance from the town. TotalEnergies stated that it would not resume development of the project until the security environment materially improved and the government provided security assurances.

The decision to impose the force majeure dealt a major blow to Mozambique's developing LNG sector. The TotalEnergies-led project was among the largest and most advanced LNG projects planned in Cabo Delgado, and, as such, was an anchor project that underpinned much of the industry. Total Energies formally [lifted](#) this force majeure on 24 October, which paved the way for the 29 January re-launching ceremony (see *ARC Briefing Mozambique Nov 2025*). TotalEnergies CEO **Patrick Pouyanné** revealed that the company plans for development to ramp up over the coming months and that the consortium had already dispatched the project's first offshore vessel, which will begin installing the

necessary offshore infrastructure in the coming weeks. According to Pouyanne, TotalEnergies still expects the project to begin producing LNG for export by the end of 2029. This is promising for Mozambique as this will result in a sharp increase in the country's gas exports and the resulting state revenue.

In the short term, the project's resumption will help resuscitate the LNG sector in Mozambique. Suppliers, subcontractors, and other secondary industries will begin returning to the area and restarting their own operations. The re-establishment of these operators will create a more inviting environment for other investors to enter the sector. Indicative of this, in his address at the relaunch ceremony, Chapo [expressed](#) optimism that the Rovuma LNG project – led by US oil giant **ExxonMobil** – will similarly begin construction within the next 12 to 18 months.

Mozambique's government has bet heavily on the success of its emerging LNG sector, and future gas revenue is viewed as critical for the government's ability to honour its future debt obligations. As such, the resumption of development of the Mozambique LNG project is a positive economic development for Mozambique that portends a significant improvement in the country's fiscus and current account balance in the medium-term.

Insurgents attack soldiers in Cabo Delgado

Although the security environment in the Palma district has materially improved, allowing for TotalEnergies to resume development of its LNG project, the **Ahlu Sunnah wa Jama'ah (ASWJ)** (also known as **Islamic State -Mozambique**) insurgent group remains active in the province. On 1 February, ASWJ [attacked](#) two Mozambican military camps in Cabo Delgado; the bases are located in the **Mascoma** district, where the insurgent group has its strongest presence. ASWJ claimed that it killed at least nine soldiers in the attack.

The insurgents attacked the bases in the **Catupa** forest, outside the village of **Namabo**, north of **Macomia** town. The attack was likely an effort to recapture the base, which has symbolic value for ASWJ, as the militant group had previously controlled the base before being ousted by security forces last year.

The insurgent group's capacity to directly target Mozambican security forces underscores ASWJ's continued strength and resiliency. This recent attack is noteworthy as there is typically a sharp decline in militant activity during Mozambique's rainy season. The heavy rains, tropical storms, and flooding that occur during this period create a more difficult operating environment for the militant group, especially near ASWJ's strongholds along the **Messalo River** in the Macomia district. As such, the group's capacity to carry out attacks during this period indicates a sharper-than-usual increase in activity once the rainy season ends.

Severe flooding in southern and central Mozambique

Mozambique has experienced its worst flooding in a generation during the current rainy season, with the worst flooding occurring in January in the country's southern and central provinces; the hardest-hit areas are the **Gaza** and **Maputo** provinces. The **Instituto Nacional de Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres (INGD)** (national disaster risk management institute) [latest](#) figures, released on 9 February, indicate over 724,000 people have been affected by the floods, of which over 76,000 were displaced and are currently being housed in 75 accommodation centres. These displacements have already eased as some of the flooding has receded; at the peak of the crisis, the **United Nations (UN) Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** [estimated](#) that nearly 400,000 people had been displaced. The INGD's [latest](#) official death toll from the flooding is currently 23. The total death toll from weather-related incidents since the start of the rainy season in October is over 125 people.

The heavy rainfall and floods have caused substantial economic harm and structural damage. On 27 January, the **Conselho de Ministros** (council of ministers) [estimated](#) that the state would need at least \$644m to repair and rehabilitate infrastructure damaged by the flooding. This includes over 1,336 kilometres (km) of road and at least four bridges that need to be repaired or rebuilt.

Mozambique will also need to contend with the damage to private property; an estimated 771 homes were completely destroyed, 3,447 partly destroyed, while around 155,000 were flooded. The widespread destruction and damage to people's homes mean that the displacement crisis resulting from the flooding will persist long after the floodwaters have receded.

Mozambique will face a serious challenge in managing the lingering effects of this crisis in the coming months. In addition to the immediate concerns around food shortages and housing and the large number of displaced people, there is an elevated risk of water- and mosquito-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and malaria. Illustrative of this, **Maputo** city has [recorded](#) a 40% increase in stomach illnesses and a 54% spike in malaria cases in recent weeks compared with the same period last year.

At present, the country substantial aid donations in both financial commitments and humanitarian supplies to assist with the crisis response have been pledged by the **European Union (EU)**, the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**, the **United States (US)**, the **United Kingdom (UK)**, **Portugal**, **Norway**, **Timor-Leste**, **Angola**, **Zambia**, **Switzerland**, **South Africa** and **Japan**.

The ongoing relief and recovery effort will likely face several setbacks in the coming weeks, and the impact of the floods will be exacerbated by further inclement weather in the coming weeks. Mozambique is still in the midst of its rainy season, and the country is also impacted by the Southwest Indian Ocean Cyclone Season, which typically lasts until late April. If any such tropical storms hit the flood-affected areas, they will cause further flooding and structural damage, compounding the challenges faced by the state and humanitarian aid agencies leading the relief effort.

These latest floods are the worst experienced by Mozambique since the 2000 floods, in which an estimated 800 people were killed. The lower death toll in these floods speaks to the improvements made by Mozambique to its storm infrastructure and disaster response capabilities over the last 26 years. However, the country is still ill-equipped to manage severe weather events. This is a concern given that such events are expected to become more frequent and severe in the coming years due to the effects of climate change. As such, severe flooding and strong storms should be considered part of Mozambique's baseline operating risk.

Planner

31 Aug 2026 – 6 Sep 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique) Feira Internacional de Maputo (Maputo International Fair) (FACIM 2026)**;

Mar 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique) Renamo** national council conference

Chronology

9 Feb 2026 **Nacala (Mozambique) Club of Mozambique. Japan International Cooperation Agency** signs a grant agreement with the government to provide \$23m for the construction of sediment control and drainage facilities, aiming to reduce damage from sediment disasters and improve urban infrastructure;

5 Feb 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique) Club of Mozambique. South Africa's Standard Bank** releases its **Mozambique Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)**, revealing that the index fell to the neutral level of 50 points in January, indicating a decline in business confidence;

5 Feb 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique) AIM**. Insurgents kidnap three children in an attack on **Mumo** village in **Mocimboa da Praia** district (**Cabo Delgado Province**);

4 Feb 2026 **New York (United States) AIM**. A United States (US) court rejects former Mozambican finance minister **Manuel Chang's** request for early release; Chang is in prison in the US for fraud and money laundering related to his role in Mozambique's 2016 secret debt scandal;

3 Feb 2026, **Washington D.C (United States)** *Club of Mozambique*. United States President **Donald Trump** signs a law extending the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)** – of which Mozambique is a beneficiary – until 31 December 2026;

2 Feb 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The **Swiss** embassy in Mozambique announces that its government will provide CHF 1.1m (\$1.44m) in financial support to assist flood victims in Mozambique;

2 Feb 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** delivers \$200,000 of aid to assist Mozambique's flooding response;

30 Jan 2026 **Nipepe (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. President **Daniel Chapo** inaugurates a new \$200m graphite processing plant in the Nipepe district (**Niassa Province**);

29 Jan 2026 **Guruè (Mozambique)** *AIM*. At least five suspected illegal miners die in a landslide at an illicit mine in the Guruè district (**Zambezia Province**);

29 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. Planning and development minister **Salim Vala** and the **United Kingdom's (UK)** international development and Africa minister, **Jenny Darling**, sign an agreement under which the UK government will provide around \$4.1 billion in investment support;

28 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. The central bank, **Banco de Mocambique (BdM)**, cut its main monetary policy rate by 25 basis points from 9.5% to 9.25%;

28 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. The **Anamola** opposition party announces that it has submitted a criminal complaint to the attorney general's office, accusing the Mozambican police of political harassment;

27 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. Leader of the Anamola opposition party, **Venancio Mondlane**, calls for an urgent meeting of the **Council of State** to address the impact of the flooding in the country;

27 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The **Angolan** government delivers 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Mozambique to assist with the ongoing flood relief;

27 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The government of **Timor-Leste** announces that it will donate \$2m to Mozambique to support the humanitarian response to severe flooding in the country;

27 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. Mozambique's legislature, the **Assembleia da República**, ratifies an extradition agreement with **Russia**, enabling the extradition of citizens of the other country wanted for crimes punishable by prison sentences of at least two years;

26 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. **World Bank** releases its **Mozambique Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** under which it plans to mobilise \$2.5 billion to drive job creation and economic growth in the country;

26 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. **Norwegian** government pledges \$2m in humanitarian relief to assist the flooding response in Mozambique, to be provided via the **United Nations (UN) International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**, the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, and the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**;

25 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. Insurgents kidnap a man in **Mocimboa da Praia** town;

21 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The **Anamola** opposition party announces it is suspending all political activity to instead focus on assisting with the flooding relief;

18 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Reuters*. President **Daniel Chapo** cancels his plans to attend the **World Economic Forum** in **Davos (Switzerland)** to attend to the flooding crisis;

18 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. **South Africa** deploys military units to assist in the response to flooding in Mozambique;

16 Jan 2026 **Lisbon (Portugal)** *Club of Mozambique*. Former prime minister **Luisa Diogo** dies following an illness for which she was receiving treatment in Portugal;

16 Jan 2026 **Geoje (South Korea)** *Eni*. **Italian** energy giant **Eni** launches the hull of the **Coral Norte** floating LNG (FLNG) platform that is set to be deployed in Mozambique's **Rovuma Basin**;

15 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. President **Daniel Chapo** reveals that the government is hoping to secure a new funding arrangement with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and may seek new debt restructuring deals once this agreement has been secured;

15 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. Officials detain five **Chinese** nationals in **Nampula Province** on suspicion of illegal mining and fraud;

14 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *AIM*. The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** approves a \$150m loan to support the Coral Norte floating LNG (FLNG) project being developed by the **Mozambique Rovuma Venture** consortium led by **Italy's Eni**;

14 Jan 2026 **Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)** *Club of Mozambique*. President **Daniel Chapo** met with his Emirati counterpart, **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, on the sidelines of the **Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week**;

12 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. The **Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE)** (national statistics institute) reveals that consumer price inflation in Mozambique averaged 3.23% in 2025;

9 Jan 2026 **Maputo (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. A group of dissatisfied members of the **Renamo** opposition party release statement demanding that Renamo **leader Ossufo Momade** resign within six months;

8 Jan 2026 **Quelimane (Mozambique)** *Club of Mozambique*. Quelimane mayor **Manuel de Araujo** dismisses the majority of his city council amid the **Zambezia Province** municipality's ongoing financial challenges.

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