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ECONOMIC WRAP-UP
Southern Africa

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South African delegation led by Deputy President Mashatile at the France-South Africa Business Forum in Paris (French Republic)

From 20 to 23 May, a high-level South African delegation led by Deputy President Paul Mashatile visited Paris for a bilateral trade and investment conference. The Deputy President was received by French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister François Bayrou.

The visit was an opportunity to further strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, which will see French companies invest more than EUR 3 billion directly in South Africa by 2023 and 480 French companies set up operations in South Africa.

Co-organised by the South African Embassy in France, Brand SA, MEDEF International and the France-South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FSACCI), the forum was a key opportunity to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.

The forum was punctuated by five thematic panels bringing together South African public and private players in sectors where there are many needs in South Africa: manufacturing & value chains, energy infrastructure, transport, logistics & water management, human capital development and financial markets & access to finance.

The forum was also an opportunity for the South African delegation to discover several sites of excellence operated by French companies that could be replicated in South Africa. Mr Mashatile visited the Ivry waste-to-energy site of Suez, the world leader in sustainable resource management (water, waste) and one of the national leaders in waste management in South Africa. Visits were also organised to the RATP and Dassault Systems sites.

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Southern Africa

Inflation slows in April *(ZimStats, StatsBots, Namstats)*

This week, several national statistics agencies in the sub-region (ZimStats - Zimbabwe, StatsBots - Botswana, NamStats - Namibia) published their inflation data for April, showing a general slowdown in price rises. In Zimbabwe, inflation in US dollars slowed slightly in April (+14.4% year-on-year, compared with 15.0% year-on-year in March). The rise in prices in dollars continued to be driven by the 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' category (+22.8%, a positive contribution of 7.0 points to the rise in prices) and 'housing, water, electricity and gas' (+11.4%, a contribution of 3.2 points). Annual inflation in local currency (ZiG - Zimbabwe Gold) rose to 85.7% in April, from 84.5% in March. As a reminder, the ZiG has lost almost 50% of its value since its launch a year ago, accentuating inflationary pressures.

In Botswana, annual inflation fell to 2.3% in April 2025, compared with 2.8% in March. It continues to be driven mainly by 'food and non-alcoholic beverages' (+5.9%, a contribution of 0.9 points) and 'miscellaneous goods and services' (+7.9%, a contribution of 0.8 points).

In Namibia, price rises are also slowing: annual inflation stood at 3.6% in April, after 4.2% in March. This figure is slightly below analysts' expectations of 3.8%. This slowdown is due in particular to the contraction in prices in the transport sector (-0.3% year-on-year), linked to the fall in fuel prices (-50 centimes/litre for petrol, -80 centimes/litre for diesel). Although inflation in food and non-alcoholic beverages fell to 5.6% (from 6.2% in March), it remains the main driver of the overall index (contributing 1.1 points), followed by 'housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' (+4.1%, contributing 1.0 points) and 'alcoholic beverages and tobacco' (+4.9%, contributing 0.7 points).

South Africa

Trump - Ramaphosa meeting: tensions under control, no immediate risk for the markets *(RMB)*

The meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Cyril Ramaphosa on 21 May, although marked by unusual staging and tense exchanges, did not give rise to any concerns on the markets. Despite a provocative stance on the part of the American President, the discussions remained generally cordial. Sensitive issues, such as South Africa's relations with Iran and recourse to the International Court of Justice, were relegated to the background or played down. There were no concrete signs that the US was tightening its trade policy towards Pretoria, or calling into question current negotiations on a possible trade agreement.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa described the bilateral talks as 'robust and fruitful', underlining a new departure in relations between the two countries, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. The leaders made a renewed commitment to continue the dialogue on investment flows, tariff barriers and access to the US market via the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

On the economic front, President Ramaphosa reaffirmed his call for increased US direct investment, underlining the vital role of US companies in the South African economy. The two leaders discussed the potential for closer cooperation on strategic minerals and infrastructure, particularly transport and ports. Trump also promoted the purchase of American liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The South African president was also keen to defend the recent land reform as well as policies of positive discrimination and economic transformation aimed at correcting historical inequalities, notably through Black Economic Empowerment, unlike the American president, a regular critic of this type of positive discrimination policy.

In a spirit of compromise, South Africa's Minister of Communications, Solly Malatsi, this week published a draft policy guideline for the communications regulator (ICASA), with a view to relaxing the local ownership

requirements imposed on satellite operators, notably Starlink, owned by Elon Musk, a native of South Africa and close adviser to the US President.
The government is proposing an alternative regulatory solution known as 'equity equivalence', which would enable Starlink to circumvent the obligation to sell 30% of the capital of its local branch to BEE partners by instead investing in local infrastructure or supporting black-owned SMEs.
Finally, President Ramaphosa invited Donald Trump to attend the G20 summit to be held in South Africa, expressing his wish to hand over the presidency in person. President Ramaphosa described his visit as a 'great success', satisfied with the progress made in bilateral re-engagement.

South African Competition Commission gives green light to Canal+ and MultiChoice merger *(BusinessDay)*

On 21 May 2025, the takeover of South African pay-TV giant MultiChoice by the French group Canal+ reached a decisive stage, with the favourable recommendation of the South African Competition Commission (CCSA), subject to certain conditions. This decision brings Canal+ one step closer to completing its takeover of Africa's largest pay-TV broadcaster.
The Competition Commission found that the transaction would not substantially reduce competition in the market. However, it attached a number of undertakings to its approval for Canal+ and MultiChoice, including a ban on redundancies for three years after completion of the merger. Other conditions include continued investment in local content, particularly in the areas of general entertainment and sport, and increased support for the participation of companies run by historically disadvantaged people, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises in the South African audiovisual sector. These commitments should represent investments worth an estimated EUR 1.28 billion (ZAR 26 billion) over the next three years.
The case is now in the hands of the Competition Tribunal, which must issue a final decision. The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) has not yet taken a public position on the transaction. As a reminder, in March the two groups extended the deadline for finalising the deal, valued at €2.4 billion, from April to October 2025. Canal+ currently holds a 45.2% stake in MultiChoice.

Budget 3.0: fiscal discipline under political constraint and growth revised downwards *(National Treasury)*

On 21 May, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana presented a third version of the 2025 budget, the result of a compromise between the need to restore budgetary credibility and internal tensions within the Government of National Unity (GNU). While the planned VAT increase was abandoned under political and judicial pressure, the budgetary framework remains broadly intact, with a revised deficit of 4.6% of GDP for the 2025/26 financial year (compared with 4.5% previously) and a slightly higher debt peak of 77.4% of GDP (compared with 76.2%). However, the macroeconomic framework has been revised downwards: real GDP growth for 2025 is now estimated at 1.4% (compared with 1.9% in Budget 2.0) and CPI inflation at 3.7% (compared with 4.3% previously).

On the revenue side, ambitions have been revised downwards: only ZAR 18 bn of new measures are now targeted for the 2025/26 financial year (compared with ZAR 28 bn in the previous version), resulting in a downward revision of ZAR 61.9 bn in gross tax revenues over the medium-term budget framework, or an average shortfall of ZAR 20.6 bn per year. In the absence of further tax increases, this shortfall will have to be offset by improved collection efforts on the part of the tax authorities (SARS), to the tune of an additional ZAR 20 billion.

The main surprise came from spending, with a series of outright cuts. Planned investment in infrastructure has been cut by almost half (-6.2 billion ZAR by 2025 and -12.9 billion ZAR over the medium-term budget framework). A number of social and capacity-building programmes have also been scaled back, including funding for early childhood education, the recruitment of doctors and the digital modernisation of the Ministry of the Interior.

This budget, which is both prudent and realistic, is part of an ambitious trajectory. However, latent budgetary pressures (social grants, public companies, municipal debts) remain largely outside the framework and could compromise the target of reducing the deficit to 3.2% by 2027/28. The sustainability of this adjustment now depends on the GNU's political stability, spending discipline and progress with structural reforms.

The long-awaited national strategy on critical minerals and metals has been approved by the South African presidential cabinet *(BusinesDay)*

On 20 May 2025, the South African Presidential Cabinet took a major step forward by formally approving the National Strategy for Critical Minerals and Metals, accompanied by the publication of the Mineral Resources Development Bill (MRDB) 2025 for public consultation.

These documents were long overdue, given the difficulties facing the mining sector. By 2023, more than 2,500 mining applications had been submitted, but none had been granted, resulting in a potential loss of nearly ZAR 30 billion (EUR 1.5 billion) in terms of unrealized investments, according to the Mineral Councils. Between 1980 and 2024, the mining sector's share of the economy fell from 20% to around 6%, according to official statistics.

The strategy aims to stimulate investment, encourage local industrialisation and strengthen the South African value chain in crucial sectors such as green technologies, energy security, battery manufacturing, electric vehicles and defence.

Five minerals have been designated as 'highly critical' because of their strategic and economic potential: platinum (South Africa is estimated to have around 90% of the world's platinum resources), manganese (32% of the world's resources), iron ore, coal and chrome ore (35% of the world's resources). This classification is based on eight indicators, including export potential, contribution to employment, supply risk, local and international sales, and substitutability. Other sectors have been identified as moderately to highly critical: gold, vanadium, palladium, rhodium and rare earths. Finally, copper, cobalt, lithium, graphite, nickel, titanium, phosphate, fluorite, zirconium, uranium and aluminium have been designated as moderately critical.

Note that this classification differs from the French and European nomenclature, which do not consider coal, iron ore or chromium to be critical materials. The designation of coal as a strategic mineral sends out the wrong signal in terms of the country's energy transition, but is in keeping with the importance of the mineral to the country's economy (80% of the energy mix, main mineral export and 38% of workers in the mining sector). On the other hand, the designation of uranium as only moderately critical seems rather at odds with the efforts undertaken by Energy Minister Ramokgopa to revive the nuclear industry and strengthen the country's position in the value chain.

The strategy is based on six fundamental pillars for developing and adding value to these resources: strengthening geological mapping and exploration, promoting local processing to retain added value in South Africa, investing in research and development and training a skilled workforce, deploying strategic infrastructure and securing energy supplies, a robust fiscal framework and stable regulatory environment, and implementing incentive policies to increase mining competitiveness.

This strategy should be implemented through a draft law on the development of mineral resources (MRDB), designed to modernise the mining regulatory framework and simplify administrative procedures by aligning with environmental and water laws. The MRDB should also introduce a licensing regime for artisanal and small-scale operations, with the aim of formalising these activities and better combating illegal mining.

South African Transport Minister Barbara Creecy announces a future call for tenders for the passenger rail transport sector *(Business Day)*

The South African Department of Transport will be launching a Request for Information (RFI) in June with a view to increasing private sector participation in the passenger rail network, Minister Barbara Creecy announced this week. This initiative is intended to prepare the ground for a call for tenders scheduled for October, managed by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), the public company in charge of passenger rail transport. The areas concerned include signalling, depots, rolling stock and high-speed train corridors. Alstom is a long-standing supplier to Prasa, notably through its Gibela joint venture, which produces passenger trains locally.

This project is part of a wider strategy to introduce the private sector into the management of the national rail network, for both passenger and freight transport. It follows similar RFIs already launched earlier this year for five of the country's rail logistics corridors. Initial progress has already been made, including the establishment of a provisional regulatory authority - the Interim Rail Economic Regulatory Capacity (IRERC) - pending the creation of the Transport Economic Regulator, an independent authority.

Sasol cuts budget for 2030 decarbonisation strategy by 70% *(Engineering News)*

South African petrochemicals group Sasol, which is heavily dependent on coal, has announced a 70% reduction in its budget for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, which is now set at between ZAR4 billion and ZAR7 billion (EUR200 million to EUR350 million), compared with the initial ZAR15 billion to ZAR25 billion (EUR750 million to EUR1.2 billion). This decision comes against a backdrop of strong financial pressure and industrial underperformance. Despite this, Sasol is maintaining its objective of reducing its emissions by 30% by 2030, by radically revising its strategy.

In particular, the group is abandoning the option of reducing production at its Secunda coal site (Mpumalanga province), preferring instead to increase capacity from the current level of less than 7 million tonnes a year to more than 7.4 million tonnes. The emphasis is on improving the quality of the coal used, without increasing consumption. To this end, the neighbouring Twistdraai plant is being converted into a sorting and cleaning unit (desilting) capable of processing 10 million tonnes a year.

On the energy front, Sasol is raising its target for installed renewable capacity to 2 GW (from 1.2 GW previously), thanks to power purchase agreements (PPAs), notably with TotalEnergies, and its own projects. Nearly 575 MW have already been secured, mainly around the Secunda and Sasolburg sites.

However, Sasol is ruling out the option of replacing coal with liquefied natural gas (LNG), which it considers unprofitable. It does, however, support the import of LNG to supply South African industries after 2028, when Mozambique's Pande/Temane gas fields are exhausted. A transitional solution based on synthetic gas (produced from coal) is envisaged to cover the period 2028-2030. Despite this lip service, Sasol's new strategic direction raises questions about the viability of South Africa's strategy to secure gas supplies for other industrial customers. The group is also counting on new sources of revenue, such as sustainable fuels (SAF), biogas and carbon credits.

The French company Air Liquide has been involved in the decarbonisation of the Secunda site since the takeover of the 16 oxygen production units from Sasol in 2021, via a multi-year investment and modernisation plan and a much greater use of renewable energies. At the EU-South Africa Summit in March, the European Union pledged to support Sasol's decarbonisation.

Consumer price inflation to rise slightly in April 2025 *(StatsSA)*

According to the national statistics agency (Stats SA), consumer price inflation rose to 2.8% year-on-year in April 2025, compared with 2.7% in March. Inflation thus remains below the Central Bank's target range of between 3% and 6%. The main contributors to this inflation rate are housing and utilities (+4.4%, contributing 1.0 point), food and non-alcoholic beverages (+4.0%, contributing 0.7 point), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+4.7%, contributing 0.2 point), and restaurants and accommodation services (+3.0%, contributing 0.2 point). Despite this slight acceleration, inflationary pressures remain contained, thanks to the persistent fall in fuel prices (-3.2% over one month, -13.4% over one year) and weak domestic demand. Against this backdrop, economists are expecting two cuts in the key rate this year. However, the central bank is likely to maintain its key rate at 7.5% at its next monetary policy committee meeting on 29 May, in the face of global uncertainties and the domestic political situation.

Official unemployment rate rises to 32.9% in Q1 2025 *(StatsSA)*

According to the results of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), the official unemployment rate rose by 1.0 percentage point in the first quarter of 2025 to 32.1%, compared with 31.9% in the fourth quarter of 2024. The number of employed fell by 291,000 over the quarter to a total of 16.8 million, while the number of unemployed rose by 237,000 to stabilise at 8.2 million. This trend was marked by significant job losses in several sectors, notably trade (-194,000), construction (-119,000), personal services (-68,000), community and social services (-45,000) and mining (-35,000). On the other hand, new jobs were created in transport (+67,000), finance (+60,000) and services related to the public sector (+35,000). The decline mainly concerned the formal non-agricultural sector (245,000 jobs lost in Q1 2025 compared to Q4 2024). Conversely, employment in the informal sector rose slightly (+17,000 jobs), following an increase of 34,000 jobs in the previous quarter. Youth employment remains a cause for concern, with the unemployment rate among 15–24-year-olds now standing at 62.4%, 2.8 points higher than in the previous quarter.

Moderate decline in South African mining production in March *(StatsSA)*

South African mining production fell by 2.8% year-on-year in March, following a sharp decline of 9.7% in February. However, the decline was smaller than expected, with analysts initially anticipating a 4.6% contraction in March. Mining production continued to be penalised by the poor performance of platinum group metals (PGMs) - which include platinum, palladium and rhodium - which fell by 9.9%, a negative contribution of 3.0 points. Gold also weighed on the sector, falling by 11.1% (-1.5 points). Conversely, iron ore production rose sharply (+7.5% year-on-year, a positive contribution of 1.1 points to growth in the indicator).

Angola

IMF cuts growth forecast for Angola to 2.4% in 2025 amid falling oil prices *(Angonoticias)*

A presidential decree dated March 31 outlines the privatization of 15% of shares in Banco de Fomento Angola (BFA), Angola's second-largest bank. 1% of the shares will be reserved for the institution's employees. For context, IGAPE (the Institute for the Management of State Assets and Holdings) has been leading the government's asset privatization program, PROPRIV, since 2019. According to its President, the role of the capital markets is crucial to the success of privatization, as the goal is not only to attract large investors but also to allow smaller investors to access the capital of privatized companies. This strategy aims to democratize access to the capital markets and promote an investment culture among citizens. Through PROPRIV, several companies have been privatized via initial public offerings (IPOs), including BAI and BCI banks, the insurance company ENSA, and the stock exchange company BODIVA itself. The privatization process is also contributing to the development of Luanda's stock market, where only a handful of companies are currently listed. IGAPE is also selling 15% of Unitel's capital, Angola's leading mobile operator, via an IPO. Of this, 13% is for the general public and institutional investors, both resident and non-resident, while 2% is reserved for Unitel employees. Unitel's capital is currently 100% state-owned, with 50% held by IGAPE and 50% by Sonangol. Finally, 10% of the state's stake in Standard Bank Angola is planned to be sold on the stock exchange, while 15% will remain in government hands (IGAPE holds 49% of Standard Bank Angola).

JCDecaux wins the advertising concession for Luanda's new international airport *(JCDecaux)*

JCDecaux, the world leader in outdoor advertising, announces that its subsidiary, JCDecaux Angola, has won the advertising contract for the new Luanda Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto International Airport (AIAAN).

As part of this 5-year contract, JCDecaux will manage over 200 existing airport spaces, both static and digital, using its expertise to provide state-of-the-art digital assets and an impactful and innovative media offering. This new contract brings JCDecaux's portfolio of African airports to 19 and consolidates its presence in Angola, where it already operates digital and static billboards.

The Angolan government has postponed the date for the transfer of international flights to this airport, initially scheduled for June, until October.

TotalEnergies et ses partenaires posent la première pierre de la centrale photovoltaïque de Quilemba Solar en Angola *(Sonangol)*

The plant, on which work has already begun, is located near the town of Lubango in southern Angola. The first phase of this photovoltaic plant will have a capacity of 35 MWC, and is due to come on stream in the first half of 2026. The second phase was approved during the ceremony and will increase capacity to 80 MWC.

The project will therefore be the largest private photovoltaic power plant in Angola, and will help to decarbonise the country's energy mix. Quilemba Solar is a joint venture between TotalEnergies (51%), Sonangol (30%) and Maurel & Prom (19%).

Inflation in Angola reached 22.3% year-on-year in April, down for the ninth consecutive month *(Ango 24 Horas)*

According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), the national consumer price index rose by 1.34% month-on-month in April 2025. Year-on-year inflation stood at 22.3%, compared with 23.9% the previous month, maintaining the downward trend observed since August 2024.

Alcoholic beverages and tobacco recorded the highest monthly price increase, with a change of 1.94%, followed by 'clothing and footwear' (1.80%), 'hotels, cafés and restaurants' (1.65%) and 'health' (1.56%). The provinces with the lowest price variations are Luanda (1.10%), Malange (1.23%), Huambo and Namibe (1.31%). On the other hand, the provinces of Cabinda (1.91%), Cuanza Norte (1.90%) and Huila (1.81%) experienced the highest price variations over the period.

Government to assess suitability of new IMF programme due to pressure from high interest rates and falling oil prices *(Expansao)*

At this stage, the government is not in a position to finance the 2025 State budget due to the rise in interest rates on sovereign debt and the uncertainty on the markets, which has pushed the price of a barrel of oil below the level forecast for the construction of the budget (USD 70). This situation raises the question of negotiating a new financing programme with the IMF, a delegation of which was in Luanda this week. However, the approach of the general elections in August 2027 could prompt the executive to negotiate a less intrusive, shorter-term programme than the previous one. The IMF has reportedly offered the Angolan authorities technical support and financing under a so-called preventive arrangement. This would be a short-term financing programme, known as the SBA ('Stand-by Arrangement' credit line), lasting between 12 and 18 months. As a reminder, Angola benefited from a three-year Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme, which ended in 2021. The government's 2025 budget is based on an average barrel of oil of USD 70 and a budget deficit of 1.65%. The official Angolan budget report also forecasts three other average barrel price scenarios, of $65, $55 and $45, which would result in budget deficits of 3.3% of GDP, 4.83% of GDP and 7.73% of GDP respectively. The last two scenarios would be catastrophic for the country and would probably lead to default. It should be noted that these projections only take account of the price of a barrel of oil, and assume that the government will be able to finance itself with around USD15bn internally and externally, which at this stage is not certain and will lead to further budget restrictions. Another difficulty is the 4.5% year-on-year fall in crude oil production in the first quarter of 2025 to 1.049 million barrels per day, which will mean less revenue for the government.

The BNA maintains its key rate at 19.5% at its Monetary Policy Committee meeting *(BNA)*

At its meeting on 20 and 21 May, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the National Bank of Angola decided to maintain its main key rate at 19.5% and to reduce the national currency reserve requirement ratio from 20% to 19%. In its minutes of the MPC, the BNA gave the following information:

- The stock of international reserves stood at USD 15.48 bn, equivalent to 8.23 months' imports of goods and services.

- The monthly inflation rate slowed again, to 1.34% in April 2025, compared with 1.38% the previous month, or 22.32% at the end of April.

- The M1 aggregate in domestic currency rose by 2.23% in April, compared with the 3.99% contraction seen in March, reducing the cumulative contraction to 5.38%. Year-on-year.

Russian bank VTB Africa exits Angolan financial system (Expansao)

Russian bank VTB Africa will no longer be one of the commercial banks operating in Angola, declared Manuel Tiago Dias, Governor of the National Bank of Angola (BNA), in Luanda on 21 May. The reason was the capital increase required by the National Bank of Angola (BNA) since 2022, as the bank was unable to guarantee the minimum of AOA15bn (USD15m).

It was the only African subsidiary of the VTB group, Russia's second largest banking group, which began operations in Angola in 2006.The institution was 50.1% owned by VTB Moscow and 49.9% by businessman António Carlos Sumbula, former chairman of Endiama, the Angolan state diamond company.

This commercial bank operated in three specific areas: investment banking, corporate banking and retail banking. In recent years, the bank has faced major challenges as a result of the sanctions imposed on Russia in 2022, following the invasion of Ukraine, which led to the shutdown of the SWIFT system, essential for international banking transactions.

Malawi

Abandonment of IMF programme in Malawi: a call for urgent reforms to restore economic stability *(IMF)*

The IMF has announced that the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme granted to Malawi in November 2023 has ended automatically on 14 May 2025, in the absence of a review within 18 months. According to the Fund, this programme failed to restore macroeconomic stability in the country, which was unable to maintain fiscal discipline against a backdrop of increased spending pressures, insufficient revenues, and an exchange rate regime that did not allow for the replenishment of international reserves. The IMF also highlights the lack of progress on restructuring Malawi's external debt, which is necessary to ensure the country's financial sustainability.

The IMF recommends that Malawi strengthen its fiscal discipline and public finance management, adopt a restrictive monetary policy to contain inflation, continue restructuring its external debt and implement structural reforms to improve governance, increase productivity and diversify its economy. The IMF has also indicated that it will continue to support Malawi through its annual Article IV consultations, as well as by providing technical assistance and concessional financing through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, provided that the Malawian government demonstrates a clear commitment to implementing the necessary reforms. Subject to a demonstration of goodwill on the part of the government, negotiations for a new programme could begin after the next presidential elections, due to take place in September.

World Bank approves USD 350m grant for Malawi's Mpatamanga hydropower project *(Reuters)*

The World Bank has approved a USD 350m grant, via the International Development Association (IDA), to support the development of the Mpatamanga hydropower project on the Shire River in southern Malawi. The project involves the installation of 358.5 megawatts of generating capacity, capable of producing 1,544 gigawatt hours of electricity per year. Once completed, by 2030 according to predictions, the dam is expected to provide electricity to more than a million homes and support economic growth, doubling the electricity generation capacity of a country where only around 15% of households have access to electricity. The project will also diversify the country's energy mix by adding decarbonised energy and boosting exports, which are crucial to the country's foreign currency earnings.

The project is being developed by Mpatamanga Hydro Power Limited (MHPL), a joint venture between the national power generation company Egenco (30%), EDF

(27.5%), the International Finance Corporation or the World Bank (15%) and SN Malawi BV in which TotalEnergies is a part shareholder. Its total cost, including financing during the construction phase, is expected to exceed USD 1.5 billion. This subsidy from the World Bank should make it possible to finance the project.

This decision is in line with the World Bank's Mission 300 agenda, which aims to provide access to electricity for an additional 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030, through investments in renewable energies (solar, hydro, wind) and the improvement and expansion of electricity grids and alternative solutions such as mini-grids.

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