

Rwanda leads relocation of displaced people from Quitunda to Mocímboa da Praia to pressure the return of TotalEnergies

- It is almost a certainty that TotalEnergies will not return to Afungi this year, despite the restoration of security conditions. The return of IDPs to their areas of origin is one of the conditions imposed by the French oil company for the resumption of the Mozambique LNG project, so Rwandan troops are leading the removal of IDPs from Quitunda to the municipal village of Mocímboa da Praia.



- The seemingly long delay in lifting the “Force Majeure” declared in April 2021 seems to be making Filipe Nyusi desperate, to the point of stating that he does not know why TotalEnergies has not yet returned to Cabo Delgado. Nyusi even said that “terrorism does not end and life cannot stop.
- SADC extends the mandate of the regional troops for another year to consolidate the achievements in the fight against violent extremism, as well as to enable the implementation of the program for the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure and the return of the population to their areas of origin.

At least 2.630 people who were refugees in the internally displaced persons camp of Quitunda (Palma district) have already returned to their homes in the municipal village of Mocímboa da Praia, north of Cabo Delgado. The process of relocating people is led by Rwandan troops deployed to support the Mozambican forces in the fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado.

Located near Afungi - where the LNG project led by the French TotalEnergies was being developed - the village of Quitunda is home to 3.556 displaced people, mostly from the district of Mocímboa da Praia. A note from the Rwandan Ministry of Defense indicates that all the IDPs who are in Quitunda will be escorted to their areas of origin.

The displacement process began last June, when Rwandan military and police escorted a group of 123 people from Quitunda IDP camp (Palma district) to the village of Nanduandua (Mocímboa da Praia municipality)¹. In fact, the first movement of displaced people from Quitunda to Mocímboa da Praia had been scheduled by local authorities for March 6, but the central government ordered it to be interrupted due to the lack of minimum conditions in the areas of origin².

The most recent movement of displaced people from Quitunda to the town of Mocímboa da Praia took place on August 13. A total of 437 people were escorted by Rwandan troops and presented to the authorities in the village of Mocímboa da Praia. Thus, the number of people who have left Quitunda for their homes has risen to 2.630.

In addition to the village of Mocímboa da Praia, the Rwandan Ministry of Defense also reported the return of about 3.000 displaced persons to Awasse, a village in the Mocímboa da Praia district that was recovered by Rwan-



Credits: Ministério da Defesa do Ruanda



¹ <https://www.mod.gov.rw/news-detail/the-government-of-the-republic-of-mozambique-officially-returns-the-people-of-mocimboa-da-praia-city-to-their-homes>

² <https://cddmoz.org/governo-reconhece-falta-de-condicoes-para-o-retorno-seguro-das-familias-a-vila-da-mocimboa-da-praia-2/>

dan troops last year³. Besides the restoration of security, TotalEnergies is demanding the return of displaced communities to their areas of origin as a condition for the resumption of the Mozambique LNG project in Afungi, which was suspended in April 2021 after the attack on the village of Palma.

"I am optimistic that I can return to Mozambique, but next time not to Maputo. My next visit will be to Palma, Mocímboa da Praia, in Mueda, and when I see that life is back to normal, which means restoring state services and the population, only then can the project resume. My goal is still to resume in 2022", said Patrick Pouyanné, President of TotalEnergies, during his visit to Mozambique in January of this year⁴.

Despite having expressed interest in resuming the Mozambique LNG project this year, the fact is that TotalEnergies will not return to Mozambique before 2023. Recently, Saipem - the Italian giant that is part of the consortium responsible for building the LNG project in Afungi- said that the "Force Majeure" declared by TotalEnergies in April 2021 would not be lifted before 2023⁵.

The vagueness about the return of the French oil company is leaving the President of the Republic desperate. Earlier this month, Filipe Nyusi made it clear that he was not properly informed about the likely dates for the resumption of the Mozambique LNG project by oil company TotalEnergies. "I spoke with Rwandan President Paul Kagame and asked why Total is not coming back, since the situation is already calm," a revelation made at the African Agenda Business Meeting of the Community of Presidents of the Boards of Directors and Chief Executive Officers, held recently in Maputo.⁶

At the same event and in the same tone of desperation, the President of the Republic said that "terrorism does not end and life cannot stop. In a timid way, the population is there. The population and the companies



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have to start thinking about it. I was talking to President Paul Kagame saying that the work is being done and why the companies are not coming back. If you remember well, at the time when they left, for example, it was the time when there were still terrorist acts in other areas. But you never left and people were working. And the security that is there now is comparatively better than before but they were working. We have to start keeping in mind that acts like that don't end. They're not ending in the US, including in England, France, Italy, all over the world. But life doesn't stop"⁷.

The reference that Filipe Nyusi made about the return of the displaced populations to their areas of origin is a veiled response to one of the demands made by the President of TotalEnergies, namely that the French

company would only return to Cabo Delgado when the state services are functioning and the displaced population has returned to their areas of origin. The return of TotalEnergies is one of the assets Nyusi would like to bring to the Frelimo Congress scheduled for late September.

While the resumption of the Mozambique LNG project remains in an indefinite state, Nyusi can only be satisfied with the upcoming start of the export of natural gas from the Rovuma Basin. The British Mentor, the freighter that will transport the first liquefied gas extracted in the Rovuma basin to the United Kingdom, is expected to dock in the next five days at the Coral Sul field, whose offshore exploration is led by the Italian ENI. The gas from the Coral Sul FLNG project was bought by the British oil company BP.

³ <https://www.mod.gov.rw/news-detail/mozambican-civil-administration-in-mocimboa-da-praia-cabo-delgado-province-and-rwanda-security-forces-help-internally-displaced-persons-returning-to-their-homes>

⁴ <https://www.rfi.fr/pt/mo%3%A7ambique/20220201-mo%3%A7ambique-presidente-da-total-confiante-quanto-%3%A0-retoma-de-projectos-de-g%3%A1s>

⁵ <https://lngprime.com/lng-terminals/saipem-does-not-expect-mozambique-lng-work-to-resume-this-year/58265/>

⁶ <https://evidencias.co.mz/2022/08/18/falei-com-o-presidente-ruandes-para-perguntar-porque-a-total-nao-volta-filipe-nyusi/>

⁷ <https://opais.co.mz/nyusi-admite-que-terrorismo-nao-termina-e-diz-que-a-vida-nao-para/>

SADC extends troop presence in Cabo Delgado for one more year

In a month when the SADC troops complete one year in Cabo Delgado, the region's Heads of State and Government decided to extend the presence of the mission for another year. The extension of the mandate of the SADC military mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) was approved at the 42nd Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), country that assumed the rotating Presidency of the organization. The extension of SAMIM's mandate aims to continue consolidating the achievements made in the fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado, as well as enabling the implementation of the reconstruction program of the destroyed infrastructure and the return of the population to their areas of origin⁸.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as outgoing President of the SADC Organ for Cooperation on Politics, Defense and Security, said he was pleased with the progress made in the crackdown on insurgents in Cabo Delgado and assured the regional commitment to continue to support Mozambique in the fight against violent extremism. "The pleasing thing has been that the people who fled the various areas of Cabo Delgado



are now returning to their homes, with increased confidence that SADC has helped them bring peace," said Cyril Ramaphosa, whose country contributes the largest number of military personnel and equipment in the SADC mission in Cabo Delgado⁹.

⁸ <https://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/destaque/combate-ao-terrorismo-missao-militar-da-sadc-prorrogada-por-mais-um-ano/>

⁹ <https://www.defenceweb.co.za/featured/insurgents-being-pushed-back-in-mozambique-ramaphosa-says/>



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