



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MONTHLY UPDATE
MOZAMBIQUE



MAIN STORIES

**Portugal Pulls Out the
Stops to Safeguard Its
Influence in
Lusophone Africa**

**"Hidden Debt"
Scandal**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mozambique occupies a central position in Portugal's African diplomacy.
- Jean Boustani, a senior official of Privinvest, will not testify in the "hidden debts" trial.
- Mozambique was downgraded from 'obstructed' to 'repressed' regarding civic freedoms by CIVICUS Monitor due to restrictions on freedom of expression.
- Parliament approved the Economic and Social Plan (PES) and the State Budget (OE) for 2022.
- The insurgency has expanded into the Niassa province with worrying signs that Islamic State (IS) is providing training by veterans from IS war zones.
- Tension between internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities is increasing due to discrimination over basic resources.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) supports the liquefied natural gas (LNG) development due to Mozambique's low carbon footprint.
- Galp believes China could replace Western companies to fund gas in Mozambique should western nations stop funding the LNG projects.
- TotalEnergies opened an information office in Pemba to ease communication between interested parties in the LNG exploration project in the Rovuma basin.
- By 16 December 2021, the country had recorded 155 495 positive COVID-19 cases. Of these cases, 150 015 people have recovered while 1 946 people have died. The total number of tests carried out was 1 011 566. There are currently 3 534 active cases.
- The United States (US) will provide 2 016 000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine through COVAX to Mozambique.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Inflation in Mozambique for November was 0.99%, drawing on the consumer price indices for the three largest cities (Maputo, Nampula and Beira).
- Western Union suspended financial services in Cabo Delgado province without an explanation, adding to the hardships of the population.

