

# Mozambique: The Role of the Media in Energy Sector Development

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## Mozambique Facts

- Mozambique is situated in Southern Africa. In the east and southeast the country is bordered by the Indian Ocean, in the north by Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia, and in the west by Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland.
- Surface area: 800,000 sq.km. The distance from north to south is about 2,000 km.
- Population: 18 Million (1997 census); 98% African descent, 2% European descent
- Official language: Portuguese. A variety of local languages are spoken.
- Economy: GDP is generated from:
  - About 35% is generated from agriculture.
  - About 11% from industry including mining
  - About 54% from trade and services

## Post Independence (1975)

- ⇒ Mozambique was once one of the world's poorest countries.
- ⇒ 1977 – 1992: Socialist mismanagement and a destructive civil war worsened the situation.
- ⇒ 1987: GoM embarked on a series of macroeconomic reforms designed to stabilize the economy.
- ⇒ These steps, combined with donor assistance and with political stability produced by the first ever multi-party elections in 1994, have led to dramatic improvements in the country's growth rate. (GDP growth rate of 8.2% in 2004).
- ⇒ Mozambique remains dependent upon foreign assistance (40%) for much of its annual budget, and the majority of the population (70%) remains below the poverty line.

## Mozambique Today

- ⇒ Energy is helping alleviate poverty through the provision of jobs, rural electrification and the export of natural gas to South Africa. Mozambique's growth rate (7.1% 2003 and 8.2% in 2004) is now one of the highest in the world.

# The Energy Sector

## NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES

- ⇒ Only coal and natural gas are being exploited presently.
- ⇒ Some natural gas fields identified as potential sites for development.
- ⇒ High quality methane encountered with Moatize Coal deposits – potential future resource
- ⇒ Economic quantities of petroleum not yet discovered but:
  - ▣ There are indications of oil resources in the Rovuma Basin off the coast of northern Mozambique.
  - ▣ The south-east (Save-Limpopo Basin) and the north-west (Zambezi-Save Basin) areas are being explored for hydrocarbons by international interests.

# The Energy Sector

## Natural Energy Resources (contd.):

- ⇒ The Cahora Bassa Hydro-electric dam in the northern province is currently producing only 2000MW, most of it exported to South Africa. The dam has the capacity to produce 14,000MW but this is not happening because it has been under the control of the Portuguese government. Long running, stalemated discussions ended in December last year when the two governments signed take-over agreements. Mozambique now controls 85% of shares and Portugal 15%.
- ⇒ There are also plans to build another Hydro-electric dam in the northern-most region of the country, currently a feasibility study is underway.
- ⇒ Currently no special investigations of the geothermal potential have been done. Potential areas have been identified in the Rovuma Basin in the northern region.
- ⇒ The GoM is currently interested in tapping additional hydro resources that are available. GoM has expressed interest in solar energy but sees that resource in the future.

# The Energy Sector

## Policy & Legal Framework

- The country's electricity company, EDM, is publicly owned therefore it enjoys a monopoly and serves government interests.
- Power from the Cahora Bassa dam is exported to South Africa, then Mozambique buys it back ( "This may seem a bit complicated but I'll explain"). South Africa's giant petro-chemical company, Sasol, which is piping gas out of Mozambique is the majority shareholder .
- The gas field is 70 percent owned by Sasol and 30 percent by Empresa Nacional de Hydrocarbonetes (ENH), which is a Mozambican national oil company. The Central Processing Facility (CPF) is 100 percent owned by Sasol but the Mozambican government has an option to take up 30 percent equity. The total pipeline is 50 percent owned by Sasol while the governments of South Africa and Mozambique have options to take up the other 50 percent of shares.
- The government's policy has been to take the minority shareholding in private projects in order to render them productive.

## How Energy Helps

- Four Mega power projects have been put in place in strategically selected areas.
- Teachers and doctors are now accepting jobs in rural areas due to better electricity access.
- New technologies such as computers and mobile phones can now be used in remote reaches.
- Storage of medicines is now possible.
- Laboratories and technical schools can now operate.

## PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN FOR THE POPULATION AT LARGE:

- ⇒ Children and families face on-going insecurity and hardships resulting from chronic poverty and unequal gender relations.
- ⇒ Food insecurity is the most pressing issue in their lives. This is aggravated by weather patterns leading to hot and dry spells making it difficult to grow crops.
- ⇒ Occasionally, there are natural disasters such as droughts, floods and cyclones. In 2001 the flooding swept through, killing 700 people and damaging key economic infrastructure amounting to almost half a billion USD.

## CHALLENGES (Cont'd):

- ⇒ Some people in areas where projects are being undertaken are forced to work as labourers with food serving as their only payment.
- ⇒ As a consequence, the people who work do not have sufficient time to work in their own fields. Adults and children are often required to find other means outside of agriculture to provide for the household.
- ⇒ A child said "poor people are those who cannot find things such as food or clothing and they live in poor houses. They work for food and their children do not go to school."

## Impact on Communities:

- ⇒ Children are expected to work, sometimes at the expense of attending school if they live in households with unemployed or ill family members, or in households headed by women.
- ⇒ Now, because there are large groups of men working at energy project sites without their wives, a culture of sexual abuse and exploitation in the form of child prostitution has surfaced.
- ⇒ Many truck drivers who bring in construction material for the projects transform the community into a transit point for the transmission and spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS, which have become Mozambique's largest and most worrying social nightmare.

## Cosequences of large energy and other infrastructure projects on children and the community in general

- ⇒ On one hand, these energy projects have brought many benefits such as the creation of much needed jobs in the community. They have also injected outside capital and goods into the local economy. Electrical power has been provided to residents and demining programmes have taken place making fields more accessible. Projects also bring in large numbers of outsiders for both short and extended periods of time, mostly men who have more money than those in the communities. Some of the motorists and workers engage in activities that harm and take unfair advantage of the same community.
- ⇒ An 18 year old boy said that: " During the electricity plant construction, the workers used to go to the barracks to drink soft drinks and beer. They became involved sexually with our sisters. Some were left pregnant and now have children without fathers. Other girls and women were infected by HIV in that period. Other girls abandoned their parents houses and went to live at the camps in order to take advantage of the workers' presence."

## Risks of vulnerable children in a developing country\community trying to fast track economic development.

- The rational need for new investment is not in question.
- The negative consequences that these investments and previous energy and other infrastructure development projects have on children have raised concern among residents in the communities that the implementation period could fuel an already difficult and dangerous situation.
- Agencies advocating children's rights are concerned that the children may be given construction jobs involving heavy lifting and hazardous work, making them prone to injury.
- There will likely be an increase in jobs for children in the informal, small-scale trading sector which supplies workers with basic amenities.

## Risks of vulnerable children in a developing country\community trying to fast track economic development (Cont'd):

- Both scenarios could lead to increased school drop-out rates.
- Education authorities believe that children will be given jobs but not necessarily as workers on construction sites.
- "Contractors will hire children to be domestic workers and do other jobs not related with actual construction of infrastructure" (reducing opportunity for skills development).
- If this happens, more children may leave school. The government has laws about not hiring minors but they are not followed.

## Intentions of Government and its Partners on the Mineral Production of Mozambique

- According to the government, energy resources are now becoming a sound revenue earner, especially with coal, titanium and gas. Therefore it has announced that it will take precautions to help reduce some of the potentially harmful social impacts of these mega projects while donor agencies have echoed to support the mitigation of any negative impact.
- Both the GoM and donors have claimed to have concrete plans to reduce some of the negative impact for both workers and the local communities.
- The number-one stated priority is controlling the transmission and spread of HIV.

## Government Relations with the Media

- With multi-Democracy being achieved in Mozambique after 16 years of political isolation, freedom of the press is now quite evident.
- Joaquim Chissano ruled for 18 years and voluntarily stepped down after serving two terms as a democratically elected president.
- His executive office and the media had good relations and this created the opportunity for many private media houses to spring up.



## Government Relations with the Media- Challenges:

- A big problem we have in the Media fraternity is the love of conspiracy journalism, especially in politics, which results in a deficit in investigative journalism.
- Now, with poor logistics and lack of qualified human resources, some Media houses tend to follow the government agenda or sensationalist stories to feed the political agenda.
- In Mozambique, there is also a problem of illiteracy. The only big circulation paper has 12,000 copies a day to serve 18 million people, most of whom live in poor remote reaches.
- Radio Mozambique covers the whole country.

## Media still struggling:

Despite peace and stability, our economic boom and consolidated democratic values, Mozambique's Media are still struggling to gain a proper foothold, particularly the independent press, which faces tough competition from subsidized state Media due to lack of capital and management expertise.

## The Media Industry is Still Highly Vulnerable:

- Dependency on offset printing machines.
- Still some political connections relating to the ownership.
- There is no tradition in dealing with newspapers as a business.

## Vulnerability of Media (cont'd):

- All state Media houses are subsidised.
- They get government printing and distribution aid and free news provision from state and foreign agencies.
- Private Media, on the other hand, have to pay for all these costs and face tremendous problems distributing throughout the vast country.
- Mozambique stretches some 2000 kilometres from south to north and has poor communications.
- The result is a stiff competition between private and public Media.
- Mozambique was hit by natural disasters five years ago having an influence on the development of the newspaper market.
- The natural disasters affected the people's purchasing power so they now depend heavily on Radio Mozambique.

## Conclusions & Recommendations:

- Energy plays a major role in any developing nation, and especially for Mozambique that relies heavily on agriculture. This is very important to the short and long-term health and well being of communities.
- The Media plays an important role in helping communities protect themselves against the negative impacts of large projects.

## Conclusions & Recommendations (Cont'd.):

### **The Media can highlight opportunities for communities to engage in dialogue to ask for:**

- ▣ Activities promoting agriculture development; creation of schools and other poverty alleviation efforts to be part of any energy development program.
- ▣ Protection against food insecurity, high drop-out rates in schools, premature marriages and other negative social impacts.
- ▣ More funding and resources for local facilities to provide services to the community and projects to help young farmers, such as training in agricultural techniques.

## Conclusions & Recommendations (Cont'd)- Successful Communication Strategies in Mozambique Media

- Decentralisation of the Media/pluralism
- Establishment of community Media centers in rural areas
- Media centers assist in the development of a democratic Mozambique through improving the direct distribution of information and ensuring the people's participation in the development process.

## Conclusions and recommendations (cont'd)- The Role of the Media in Protecting the Community:

- Besides monitoring, the Media can ask construction contractors and their company to enforce codes of conduct prohibiting acts of child abuse or exploitation in any form.
- Media can press government departments to play their role in monitoring the situation throughout the implementation phases of these projects.
- Media can encourage the government and other stakeholders to create new spaces such as community centres, football grounds, children gardens and educational movie centres to help improve that situation.
- Media can present theatre and videos on HIV/AIDS prevention with community settlements.

Thank you

Questions