

Energy storage malawi

President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera launched the 20MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project at Kanengo Sub-station for the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) Limited on Monday, November, 25, 2024.

In his speech during the launch, Chakwera said BESS was among the projects his administration has undertaken to end frequent power supply outages and ensure grid stability.

"Sadly, some communities with electricity are being plunged into blackouts due to vandalism. This is happening in some parts of the country and it is not being done for commercial purposes. The only aim is sabotage. Two weeks ago, an ESCOM pole was vandalized outside the State residence," he said.

"I want to appeal to all Malawians to be vigilant against vandalism because ESCOM assets belong to all Malawians. I also call upon the Malawi Police Service to ramp up surveillance of these assets. We cannot have the rule of law if people who are committing these crimes are let scot-free. Doing so [ending vandalism], we will demonstrate to GEAPP that we do not take their generosity for granted."

In his remarks, ESCOM Board Chairperson, Mr. Morgan Tembo, said BESS would help ease instability challenges the grid experiences due to the integration of renewable energy sources such as solar.

"The launch of the project we are witnessing this morning marks a pivotal step in ESCOM's strategy to improve the reliability and accessibility of electricity across the nation," Tembo said.

"Energy lies at the heart of development. It is an enabler that powers industries. Energy is not just about turning on the lights. It is about powering dreams. With energy, schools can thrive and hospitals can provide services. BESS will stabilize Malawi grid to provide resilience against climate shocks. I thank ESCOM for your partnership and dedication," Nganga said.

Taking his turn, GEAPP Global Advisor, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, described BESS as the first of its kind in Africa and its implementation reflects the commitment of the country's leadership to provide energy solutions.

"GEAPP has always taken a view that any investment of any kind and any partnership of any type must have the commitment of its leadership. This project is the first of its kind in Africa because of the commitment of your [Chakwera] leadership," Osinbajo said.

(Bloomberg) -- Malawi is building its first battery-energy system, a technology that will help protect its grid from cyclones that have battered the southern African nation in recent years.



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The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, a fund that seeks to accelerate the shift to clean energy, is providing up to \$20 million for the project, according to a statement Monday. The Malawian government and the state utility ESCOM are also contributing, with the goal of completing the system sometime next year.

The project will back up power for households and businesses connected to the grid in the event of outages, such as those experienced after the country was hit by Cyclones Idai in 2019 and Ana in 2022. Last year, Cyclone Freddy left more than 1,000 people dead in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.

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