

## Energy storage investment trends pristina

PRISTINA, March 23 (Reuters) - Kosovo's government said on Wednesday it will build a battery storage facility with capacity of 200 MWh in to help cope with the country's energy crisis.

"This project is worth more than 200 million euros and for Kosovo this is the biggest investment that is done in the energy sector since the liberation" in 1999, said Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti during a government session.

Initially the donation was planned to be used in constructing a new gas pipeline with neighboring North Macedonia and building a gas-fired power plant. But Kurti's government said the project was not worth it because of high gas prices.

Around 85 percent of Kosovo's energy is produced from coal but in recent years some renewable capacity has been installed. The Balkan nation is rich in lignite and official figures show the country of 1.8 million people has the world's fifth largest lignite reserves of 12-14 billion tonnes.

The United States remains the biggest political and financial supporter of Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia in 2008 almost a decade after the war ended. (Reporting by Fatos Bytyci; Editing by David Gregorio)

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