



# Malawi energy storage industry

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Speaking at the launch of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Kanengo, Lilongwe, Chakwera emphasized the importance of reliable and sustainable energy supply in accelerating development.

The Malawi leader also expressed optimism that this project will pave the way for Malawi to eradicate power outages, expand electricity access, and stimulate development through various profitable ventures for households and businesses.

"My administration remains focused on increasing electricity access from the current 20 percent to 100 percent by 2030 with more than half the population connected to the national grid," he added.

Malawi is taking a significant step toward securing its energy future by constructing its first battery-energy storage system. This critical project aims to protect the nation's electricity grid from the impacts of extreme weather, including cyclones, which have severely disrupted power supply in recent years.

Malawi's energy grid heavily depends on hydropower, which accounts for over 60% of its 586MW installed capacity. This reliance makes the grid particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, which are intensifying due to climate change.

Malawi's first battery-energy storage system marks a vital step toward achieving a resilient and inclusive energy future. By addressing the dual challenges of climate change and energy access, the initiative holds the promise of transforming the nation's energy landscape while setting an example for other climate-vulnerable nations.

Malawi is one of the most energy-poor countries on the planet, with less than 20 percent of the population having access to a reliable source of electricity, and access remaining below 10 percent in rural areas. Because much of the country's existing capacity comes from hydropower, persistent drought has further strained access.

DFC financing is supporting a 20MW solar photovoltaic power plant and battery energy storage system developed by Golomoti JCM Solar Corporation Limited. As the first utility-scale plant in the region to use a battery storage system, the project generates energy to the national grid for use by homes and businesses. Its capacity to store up to 10MW of energy is helping reduce the country's frequent blackouts.



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