

# Fake News Targets:



## Fake Press Release

### What Happened?

**April 1st, 2021**

Galp Energia, a major Portuguese company in the energy industry, listed at the Euronext Lisbon stock exchange (PSI 20) was hacked by Portuguese activists who distributed false information to media outlets.

At 8.34am, the activists sent a press release via email to several media outlets locally and internationally. Climáximo (a Portuguese activist group whom Galp believes that they are responsible for this) spoofed Galp's media email address and impersonated the Head of Communications.

The press releases were carefully crafted and presented with the site's graphic charter and the right contact information (email address and phone number).

They mentioned that Galp Energia was abandoning its involvement in northern Mozambique to pursue a "100% renewable future". A particularly unexpected information from an energy company.

The activists specified that the "climate of instability, terrorist violence and corruption in Mozambique, were the reasons invoked by Galp, for this decision".

The same day, a street marketing campaign was organized by Climaximo, an environment activists group, in order to draw the attention of the public on Galp's behaviour. (Climaximo stated later that they were not behind the fake press release)

### Denial

Galp reacted immediately –through a written note sent to Lusa –with this statement:

**"Galp categorically denies the news published on Thursday** morning about its alleged departure from a natural gas project in Mozambique. These news are based on a false statement to which Galp is unaware."

Statement made by the activists: "Lisbon woke up Thursday with several false advertising panels satirizing Galp, criticizing the closure of the refinery

## Fake Spokeperson

in Matosinhos and the natural gas extraction projects in Mozambique. The initiative was carried out as part of an international campaign that took place in 10 European countries.

Galp has already reacted, saying that it is the target of "a malicious action" and that it will take legal action against the perpetrators. The day was also marked by the sending of a false e-mail on behalf of the company, already denied."

If, on the one hand, the energy company has already denied the false statement, on the other, **Mariana Rodrigues (Climáximo spokesperson) denies that it was sent within the scope of #CleanGasIsADirtyLie, despite being "related in content".**

### Who got caught in disinformation?

The fake PR was picked up by several media outlets.



### What happened next?

Galp's communications team reacted quickly, refuted the information and denounced the hoax.

Articles of denial came between 11am and 11.40am from the media that were duped.

Galp stated that "appropriate measures are being taken to react to this situation", together with "the concerned parties".

### Seen on the news



Hoax alleges Galp withdrawal from Mozambique - Energy Voice



Hoax alleges Galp withdrawal from Mozambique - CrudeMix Africa



Galp mantém investimento no gás em Moçambique. Informação da saída baseada num comunicado falso - Eco Sapo



Comunicado falso". Galp desmente abandono do projeto de gás em Cabo Delgado - Jornal de Notícias

## Fake press release

From: Galp Press <[galp.press@galp.com](mailto:galp.press@galp.com)>

Sent: 01 April 2021 08:34

Subject: Press Release // Galp abandons gas in Cabo Delgado towards a 100% renewable future

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Hope this e-mail finds you well.

You can find in attachment our Press Release "Galp abandons gas in Cabo Delgado towards a 100% renewable future".

Best regards,  
Diogo Sousa

 Galp abandons gas in Cabo Delgado towards a 100% renewable future.pdf

### Galp abandons gas in Cabo Delgado towards a 100% renewable future

- Gas project in Mozambique, in partnership with Total, Eni and Exxon, poses too high a risk due to terrorist conflict and corruption of the Mozambican government

- Commitment to Mozambique's development will continue with support from the Portuguese government in the military intervention to ensure the safe exit of Portuguese workers from the region and no less than €4,500 in aid to affected communities

- Galp's investment created 220 temporary jobs, 52 jobs in cleaning the facilities and 23 in kitchen staff, which lifted several families out of poverty

- New commitment to 100% renewable production in the next 3 years will ensure the creation of thousands of new decent jobs around the Galp worldGalp informed today its shareholders of its decision to sell its stake in new gas exploration projects in Cabo Delgado, due to the climate of instability, terrorist violence and corruption in Mozambique.

The latest fact weighting in the decision was the illegal transfer for the purchase of weapons worth 2 billion dollars by Credit Suisse and VTB Bank to the Mozambican government, which it classifies as "intrinsically prone to corrupt transactions", and its lack of protection for the industrial complex.

Galp's investment allowed the creation of 220 temporary jobs, 52 jobs in cleaning the facilities and 23 in kitchen staff, which was crucial to lift several families out of poverty, build adequate houses, have access to decent jobs and develop Mozambique.

"Galp, as a responsible investor, always ensures that its transparent financial activities serve as an example for a corruption-free Africa and does not tolerate the disappearances, detentions and torture of journalists reporting on the gas industry in Cabo Delgado," assured Andy Brown, CEO of Galp's Executive Committee.

He further informed that "we await a response from local authorities, respecting the sovereignty of the Mozambican state, about these reports and the number of people displaced at Afungi LNG Park in Cabo Delgado that, as we recently learned, has risen to 550 families, instead of only three people who had initially been reported to us".

Galp also thanks "the people of Portugal for putting their country first, and for allowing the Portuguese military to fight alongside Mozambican soldiers and South African private security forces, trusting them fully to protect the safe exit of all Portuguese and help the most affected communities".

Given the global context of climate crisis, Galp takes this occasion to reinforce its commitment to the Paris Agreement and commit to 100% renewable production in the next 3 years and ensure that the next time Mozambique faces a fatal cyclone or other climate change related disaster, it will mitigate past impacts with no less than €4500 in aid.

The fair energy transition thus ensured and completed will include the retraining of all employees currently working in liquid fuel and natural gas production units, and the hiring of thousands of new local employees to ensure the achievement of the goal set today.



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