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AFRICA NEWSBRIEF

Week 50

Welcome to this week's edition of the Africa Weekly Brief

Each week, we bring you a selection of the most significant political, security, and economic developments across the continent. Key stories that reflect the dynamics shaping Africa today.

This week's topics:

1- MOROCCO UNVEILS MINING SECTOR OVERHAUL PLAN

2- SAHARA: UAE PLANNING MAJOR INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES

3- U.S. PARTNERSHIP POWERS TECH-DRIVEN MINING GROWTH IN THE DRC

4- MICROGRIDS SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

1. MOROCCO UNVEILS MINING SECTOR OVERHAUL PLAN FOCUSED ON SAFETY, INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Morocco's energy transition minister, Leila Benali, outlined an ambitious plan to reform the country's mining sector, pledging stronger worker protections, streamlined regulations and deeper integration of mining regions into the national economy.

The mining industry accounts for nearly 10% of Morocco's gross domestic product, 20% of export value and provides more than 40,000 direct jobs, making it a cornerstone of economic growth, Benali told MPs.
The overhaul includes a new mining law, Bill 72-24, replacing a previous draft withdrawn in 2021.

The legislation prioritizes worker safety, introducing a professional card to guarantee miners' rights. It also simplifies administrative procedures, promotes mineral processing, and creates a national committee for strategic minerals, she said.

The reforms aim to improve governance and strengthen local supply chains, Benali said, adding that mining regions such as Tafilalet, Figuig and Jerada will be integrated into the national strategy through modernization programs, technical support and specialized industrial zones. Jerada will also see a digital platform linking coal miners directly to the domestic market, she said.

Future plans include a national digital mining register in 2026 to consolidate more than 240 procedures and transforming the National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines into the National Office of Mining Industries under Bill 56-24, Benali added.

Infrastructure projects connecting Nador and Jorf Lasfar, along with initiatives to recycle mineral materials, are also part of the strategy, she said, noting that the reforms reflect Morocco's push for industrial sovereignty and innovation in a sector critical to its economy.

2. SAHARA: UAE PLANNING MAJOR INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES

After the United States and France, it's the turn of the United Arab Emirates to Invest massively in the Moroccan Saharan city of Dakhla, particularly in renewable energies. Dahamco, a joint Moroccan-Emirati venture, has unveiled lately a $25 billion green ammonia project at the Port of Dakhla to produce multi-million tons of ammonia annually.

According to press reports, Dahamco has already secured land rights and local authorizations for the project. The first phase, involving an investment of $4 billion, will produce approximately one million tons of ammonia annually. Dahamco President Tom Hanson said the project's design has been finalized, its co-investors and markets are defined. The initial phase is expected to be operational by 2031, with subsequent phases coming every 4 to 5 years.

Initial production will be exported to the Benelux region in Europe, with a focus on the marine fuel market. Later phases of the project could also supply the domestic Moroccan market, contributing to local decarbonization efforts.

Dahamco's green ammonia project represents a significant step toward sustainable industrial growth. It builds on other similar projects launched in the region, turning Morocco into a hub for green hydrogen and ammonia production, contributing to the decarbonization of local and international markets.

Dahamco project aligns with Morocco strategy of taping into the country's abundant solar and wind resources, strategic proximity to Europe, and established renewable energy infrastructure.

Moroccan Green Hydrogen Offer is attracting investors as it outlines an integrated green hydrogen value chain from renewable energy generation and electrolysis to derivatives like ammonia, methanol, synthetic fuels, and green steel. The goal is to meet domestic needs and export up to 4% of global demand by 2030. By December 2025, the Moroccan Offer has attracted over $32.5 billion in commitments, with projects advancing toward production starting in 2026-2027..

3. U.S. PARTNERSHIP POWERS TECH-DRIVEN MINING GROWTH IN THE DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is rapidly advancing its mining sector by integrating cutting-edge technology and formalizing strategic partnerships, most notably with the United States, to strengthen its global position as a leading supplier of critical minerals.

Strategic U.S.–DRC Partnership

In December 2025, the DRC signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the United States, under which American companies will deliver technical assistance, funding, and advanced technology to modernize mineral exploration and the broader mining value chain. This collaboration aims to improve efficiency, data availability, and responsible extraction practices across key minerals such as cobalt, copper, lithium, tin, and iron ore.

Technology Implementation Initiatives

To accelerate its tech-driven transformation, the DRC is deploying a range of digital and AI-enabled tools:

- AI-Based Geo-Mapping: Through partnerships with global tech firms (e.g., Japanese Solafune), AI solutions are being used to map mineral deposits more accurately and efficiently.
- AI-Enabled Drones: Used for real-time surveillance and data collection across mining concessions.
- Data-Driven Exploration: Collaboration with U.S. startup KoBold Metals is digitizing historical geological archives and enhancing exploration at high-potential sites like the Manono Lithium Project.
- Digital Traceability: The E-Trace platform has been launched to curb illicit mineral trading and strengthen sustainability and accountability across supply chains.

Worker Safety & Operational Efficiency

Technology is also enhancing workforce safety and operational performance. For example, mining operators like Glencore are using advanced proximity detection and collision-avoidance systems to improve underground safety.

Economic Impact and Future Outlook

With an estimated $24 trillion in untapped mineral reserves, and approximately 90% still undeveloped, the DRC's tech-enabled strategy aims to boost GDP growth, attract foreign investment, and establish the country as a global model for sustainable, efficient mineral production.

Looking ahead, the 2026 African Mining Week (October 14-16, 2026) will spotlight these technology-driven developments, convening global partners and industry stakeholders to further innovation and investment in the DRC's mining sector.

4. MICROGRIDS SUPPORT INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

Manufacturers and industrial hubs across Africa face persistent power reliability issues, with frequent outages, voltage fluctuations, and high energy costs severely impacting productivity, equipment health, and profitability. In many countries industrial growth is constrained by unreliable national grids, forcing firms to depend on costly diesel generators and resulting in significant economic losses.

Microgrids: A Resilience Solution

Behind-the-meter microgrids, on-site decentralized energy systems combining local generation (often solar), battery storage, and backup thermal generation, are gaining traction as a practical resilience strategy for industrial facilities. These microgrids operate independently or in tandem with unreliable grids, offering greater control over power availability and quality.

Key Benefits

- Reduced Grid Dependence: Microgrids lessen reliance on national utilities, cutting exposure to outages and theft-related interruptions.
- Improved Cost Predictability: By reducing emergency generator usage and enabling more efficient demand-management, industrial users gain more predictable energy costs.
- Enhanced Operational Reliability: Consistent power supports continuous production, lowers equipment wear from voltage fluctuations, and helps avoid costly downtime.
- Scalability & Flexibility: Microgrid systems can be sized and adapted to evolving demand, enabling firms to grow without proportionally increasing energy risk.
- Sustainability Gains: Integration with renewables (especially solar) reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with regulatory and buyer expectations on carbon footprints.

Cost & Investment Considerations

While microgrids require upfront investment, the escalating financial and operational risks of staying tied to unstable grids often outweigh initial costs. Companies incur losses not only from power outages but also from accelerated machinery wear, emergency fuel purchases, and production inefficiencies.

Resilience & Future Prospects

Microgrids provide manufacturers with greater control over their energy systems, mitigating one of the most unpredictable operational risks, power instability. As battery storage and renewable generation technologies continue to advance, these systems are expected to become even more resilient, cost-effective, and critical for industrial operations across Africa.

Conclusion

At Mogador Solutions, we see microgrids as a critical enabler of industrial resilience across Africa. Leveraging our extensive network of proven regional partners and technology enablers, we are well positioned to design, structure, and deliver tailored microgrid solutions, integrating renewables, storage, and

hybrid backup systems, to support mining, industrial, and remote operations with reliable, cost-effective, and scalable power.

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