

SE Finance  
 HD **Paladin uranium mine shuts**  
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PALADIN **Energy** has bowed to persistently low **uranium** prices and moved to stop production at its Kayelekera mine in the southern African nation of Malawi.

The mine, which has been in production since 2009, has been bleeding money in recent years.

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The decision to put the mine on care and maintenance is expected to save Paladin up to \$35 **million** across the next two years but also leave it able to restart production quickly if **uranium** prices rise.

The decision has been complicated by the significance of the mine to the Malawi economy. The operation represented the first commercial **mining** venture in Malawi's history, and accounted for about 10 per cent of its gross domestic product.

About 60 per cent of the workforce will be cut as a result of the decision, with the 200 or so workers to remain on site processing stockpiles and maintaining infrastructure.

Most recently, the mine was producing **uranium** at a cash cost of \$US39.30 (\$43.94) a pound, compared with a prevailing **uranium** spot price of about \$US35.50 a pound.

Last month Paladin sold a 25 per cent **stake** in its flagship Langer Heinrich mine in Namibia to **China** National Nuclear Corporation for \$US190m, as well as debt refinancing.

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