

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

244 4 March 2014 Editor: Joseph Hanlon ([j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.hanlon@open.ac.uk))

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## War and talks continue

Government-Renamo talks have moved on to military issues, and both sides are trying to bolster their position with military actions. Government is continuing patrols and Renamo is continuing to attack the patrols.

On Sunday morning Renamo attacked a military base at Mussicadzi II, killing four border guard soldiers. The location is 500 metres from the main north-south N1 road, and 60 km north of Gorongosa town. And on Monday last week (24 February) Renamo attacked a three vehicle convoy at Vunduzi, near the former Renamo headquarters of Santungira, injuring five soldiers. The base is now occupied by government troops and the convoy was bringing supplies. (*O País*, 26 February and 4 March)

Meanwhile, the normal weekly Renamo-government talks took place Monday at the Joaquin Chissano conference centre. Having agreed electoral issues, the talks have moved on to security matters.

**COMMENT:** The issue appears to be how to integrate Renamo officers and soldiers into the army. Frelimo wants a loyal army that would not threaten military coups, and thus it marginalised former Renamo fighters after the 1994 integration of the military. Renamo says this cannot happen again, while Frelimo does not want an armed opposition. *jh*

## No agreement on names and dates

There are continued inconsistencies in spelling and dates, even of the Frelimo presidential candidate. The Ministry of Defence spells his name Nyusi (with one s) while the Council of Ministers and the Frelimo Central Committee on the ballot paper spells his name Nyussi (with ss). Notícias used both spellings on its front page 1 March and today switched to Nyusi.

The Ministry of Defence gives Nyusi's birth date as 9 February 1959.(which we think is correct), while Notícias says 9 February 1958.

The former Renamo base is called Satunjira, Santunjira, and various other spellings. The location of the attack last week is called both Vunduzi and Vanduzi, which should not be confused with an agricultural town in Manica province called Vanduzi.

## Cabo Delgado governor elected Frelimo Secretary-General

Cabo Delgado governor Eliseu Machava was elected Frelimo Secretary-General by the Central Committee Sunday. He had been named governor by President Armando Guebuza in 2007. O

*País* (3 March) described him as a "strong man in the party apparatus who worked on organization" and as "close to Guebuza" with links going back some years.

Initially, there were three candidates, Machava, Environment Minister Alcinda Abreu, and Political Commission member Sérgio Pantie, but Pantie dropped out at the last minute. Machava won 131 votes (67%) and Abreu 63 votes (32%). There was one invalid vote.

Machava gains a seat on Frelimo's most powerful body, the Political Commission, since the Secretary-General is ex officio a member. Nyusi does not yet have a seat on the Commission.

Details are now available for the two rounds of voting for the Presidential candidate.

First round:

1. Filipe Nyusi (Defence Minister) - 91 votes (46%)
2. Luisa Diogo (Prime Minister 2004-2010) - 46 votes (23%)
3. Alberto Vaquina (current Prime Minister) - 37 votes (19%)
4. Aires Ali (Prime Minister 2010-2012) - 19 votes (10%)
5. Jose Pacheco (Agriculture Minister) - 3 votes (2%).

Second round, between the top two candidates:

Nyusi 135 votes (68%)

Diogo 61 votes (31%).

In both rounds there was one invalid vote, cast by a Central Committee member trying to vote for two candidates.

**COMMENT:** Armando Guebuza has maintained control over the party, with his people as Presidential candidate and Secretary-General. But the vote showed that one-third of the Frelimo party elite do not support him. And high votes for the opposition MDM in urban areas, notably Maputo and Matola, show that Guebuza is losing support from the young and urban.

Thus Guebuza is following a high risk strategy. Nyusi is completely unknown to the general public and Frelimo has seven months to make him a known and credible presidential candidate. Luisa Diogo is well known and popular with women and urban residents, and would have been a better candidate to face MDM's Daviz Simango, at least in urban areas. Guebuza is assuming that Frelimo members will vote for any candidate the party presents and that the party machine can turn out the vote in rural areas, where most voters live. *jh*

## Was EDM culpable for Beira power cuts?

A prolonged electricity cut in the Beira corridor from 29 January to 10 February was caused by a failure of EDM (Electricidade de Moçambique) to maintain key equipment, according to an investigation by *Canal de Moçambique* (26 February).

The cut was caused by damage to a transformer at Chibata in Manica, with links the Cahora Bassa power line with the Beira corridor power line. *Canal* reports that there are normally three transformers (one for each line of three-phase AC) plus a spare, to be used in emergency. It says the spare had been out of order for some time. One of the remaining transformers had only two or eight cooling units working, which meant the alarm which indicates overheating sounded repeatedly. So the alarm was disconnected; the transformer overheated and burned out.

The Public Integrity Centre (Centro de Integridade Pública, CIP) has written to Attorney General Augusto Paulino calling for a criminal investigation.

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**NOTE OF EXPLANATION:**

This mailing list is used to distribute two publications, both edited by Joseph Hanlon. This is my own sporadic "News reports & clippings", which is entirely my own responsibility. This list is also used to distribute the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, published by CIP and AWEPA, but those organisations are not linked to "News reports & clippings"

Joseph Hanlon  
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**Mozambique media websites:**

Noticias: [www.jornalnoticias.co.mz](http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz)

O Pais: [www.opais.co.mz](http://www.opais.co.mz)

Macauhub English: [www.macauhub.com.mo/en/](http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/)

Savana: [www.savana.co.mz](http://www.savana.co.mz)

Canal de Moçambique: [www.canalmoz.co.mz](http://www.canalmoz.co.mz)

AIM Reports: [www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news](http://www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news)

Carlos Serra Diario de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

Good daily newsletters:

English: Mozambique Investor. Send e-mail to [joaquim.fale@clubofmozambique.com](mailto:joaquim.fale@clubofmozambique.com)

Portuguese: Mozambique Hoje. Send e-mail to [moçambiquehoje@clubofmozambique.com](mailto:moçambiquehoje@clubofmozambique.com)

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