

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

283 29 March 2015 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalDevelopment/research/mozambiqueElections/home.aspx>.

Guebuza resigns; Nyusi heads party and state

After a three month power struggle between Armando Guebuza as president of Frelimo and Filipe Nyusi as president of Mozambique, Guebuza unexpectedly resigned today (Sunday) as head of the party. It was the final day of the meeting of the Central Committee meeting, which then elected Nyusi as party president.

Guebuza had clearly intended to remain, and he opened Central Committee meeting Thursday in a combative way. He attacked those who criticised him as party members who wanted to "generate division and confusion among us". and weaken the party.

Jorge Rebelo, former information minister and still a respected member of the Frelimo old guard, was interviewed on the independent TV station STV on Thursday evening after the speech. He accused Guebuza, of "seeking to intimidate members of the Central Committee so that they don't debate relevant matters". He said Guebuza "is not open to discussion [and] blocks and represses debate, and now people are afraid of speaking up". He called on members of the Central Committee "is to speak up, and not just applaud". (AIM, CanalMoz, O Pais)

Rebelo clearly reflected the mood within Frelimo, where party members were becoming increasingly outspoken in their criticism of Guebuza's attempt to hold on to power. It had been repeatedly pointed out that in just the same situation, when Guebuza was elected president of Mozambique but former president Joaquim Chissano was still president of the party, that Chissano resigned at the start of the first Central Committee meeting in 2005. Guebuza apparently did not intend to follow that example, but came under pressure at the Central Committee meeting and finally stood down this morning.

Frelimo spokesperson Damiao Jose said Guebuza's announcement "took the members of the Central Committee by surprise [but] after consulting some party comrades, he reached the conclusion that now was the appropriate moment to resign". Guebuza will remain a member of the Frelimo Political Commission. This afternoon Nyusi was elected unopposed as party president.

Comment

More open government

Filipe Nyusi has started his presidency with a new, more open style of meetings including former key officials. These are not traditional meetings in which leaders hand down instructions, but much more open discussions in which people are free to speak and debate.

On Wednesday he chaired a meeting of ministers, vice-ministers, and present and former directors to discuss energy. The previous Wednesday he met with civil society leaders to talk about the tensions with Renamo.

Nyusi has also instructed ministers to hold similar meetings. Education Minister Jorge Ferrão held a meeting on 25 February with most former ministers of education as well as present teachers and others, in which there was strong criticism of low salaries, poor quality teaching, and other issues.

Nyusi had already put diplomats at ease in meetings by not lecturing them, but instead asking for their opinions. His shirtsleeve meetings with Afonso Dhlakama set a different tone. And his agreement with Dhlakama to have a parliamentary debate about Renamo's calls for decentralisation seemed so radical that Guebuza tried to organise the Political Commission to oppose it.

It is early days; the President and his ministers are still new. However, so far, Nyusi is proving to be his own man. *jh*

Election results data

A new website has been set up at the London School of Economics with all available election results from 1999. For 2004-2012, the results go to the level of individual polling stations. The website is

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalDevelopment/research/mozambiqueElections/home.aspx>

This is an unusual data set and we hope this will encourage researchers to analyse the Mozambican elections. We see this as a collective project and we hope researchers will share their work. We will continue to add data and update the website as material becomes available.

Joseph Hanlon

(As well as being editor of this newsletter, I am also a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics.)

EU criticises election but accepts result

The European Union electoral observer mission was highly critical about the conduct of the 15 October 2014 national elections, in its report released 17 February. (<http://www.eueom.eu/mozambique2014/reports>)

The EU was condemned the tabulation process, particularly in four provinces.

The EU noted "the incapacity of opposition parties to replicate the overwhelming national exposure of the ruling party in terms of posters, billboards and campaign materials". It pointed to police bias and biased coverage by TVM and Noticias and "the structure of a national administration that allowed the presence of public servants in marches and rallies during working hours."

But also pointed out that "opposition parties were unprepared and lacked organization." The EU continued: "It should also be noted that Renamo did not disarm before election day. The unfair advantage of the ruling party over its adversaries and the nonimplementation yet of the disarming clause of the peace agreement left the electoral process far from a level playing field."

Nevertheless, the EU implicitly accepted the result because "the parallel vote tabulation carried out by a civil society organization, considered serious and authentic by local electoral analysts, showed results compatible with the official provisional results announced by the CNE."

The EU has always opposed a large role for parties in the electoral administration and called for neutral professionals. But it has changed its opinion: "Consideration could be given to maintain the current CNE and STAE structure, with partisan representatives at national, provincial, district and polling station levels thus introducing confidence-building measures for the next general elections."

ProSavana: conspiracy or failure?

"So far there is no investment in ProSavana," Luis Siteo, adviser agriculture minister Jose Pacheco, told *Dollars & Sense* magazine. The article cites peasant protests, falling global commodity prices, and the huge difficulties in setting up large farming operations as having halted ProSavana. (<http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/24666>)

But a new study by GRAIN and UNAC does not agree. "Foreign companies, local businesspeople, and Mozambican politicians are conspiring to take the land of local peasant communities, violating the fundamental laws that exist to defend the rights of small farmers," they say. (<http://www.unac.org.mz/index.php/artigos/nacional/120-o-regresso-das-plantacoes-coloniais-a-mocambique>)

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Chickens and beer:

A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique

by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon

E-book for Kindle and iPad, for \$9.32 from US Amazon - <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NRZXXKE> - £5.14 from UK Amazon.

In pdf format, 6 Mb file, free on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento

by Teresa Smart & Joseph Hanlon. Copies are in Maputo bookshops or from **KAPICUA**, Rua Fernão Veloso 12, Maputo; Tel.: +258 21 413 201 or +258 21 415 451 Telem.: +258 823 219 950 E-mail: kapicuadir@tdm.co.mz / kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London. Please email j.hanlon@open.ac.uk.

Zimbabwe takes back its land

by Joseph Hanlon, Jeanette Manjengwa & Teresa Smart is now available from the publishers https://www.riener.com/title/Zimbabwe_Takes_Back_Its_Land also as an e-book and <http://www.jacana.co.za/book-categories/current-affairs-a-history/zimbabwe-takes-back-its-land-detail>

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by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart is now available in **paperback**, for £17.99 (+ p&p) from the publisher <http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13503>

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by Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, and David Hulme

Most of this book can now be **read on the web**

tinyurl.com/justgivemoney

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Also on the web: Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on
bit.ly/mozamb

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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

O Pais: www.opais.co.mz

On Facebook:

@Verdade: <https://www.facebook.com/JornalVerdade>

CanalMoz: <https://www.facebook.com/CanalMoz>

Macauhub English: www.macauhub.com.mo/en/

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

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

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