

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

309 15 February 2016

Editor: Joseph Hanlon ( [j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto: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://bit.ly/MozElecData>

**Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique** by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon is on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

**Gas for development or just for money?** is on <http://bit.ly/MozGasEn>

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**Also in this issue:**

**Drought in South**

**Inflation**

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## Back to war: new Renamo attacks on N1

Renamo returned to war with attacks Thursday and Friday on the N1, the main north-south road, in Sofala province. Eight cars were shot at; six people were injured but there were no fatalities.

Renamo action on the road was announced Monday 8 February at a press conference in Beira by Renamo head of mobilization in Sofala, Horacio Calavete. He said Renamo would set up armed road blocks and "control points" on the N1. He said the decision was taken personally by Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama, who is currently living in a Renamo base in Satunjira, Gorongosa, Sofala. The decision was taken at a meeting Saturday with Renamo generals and other military personnel, who, Calavete said, demanded "measures" be taken in protest in response to the murder and kidnapping of Renamo members and officials "every day". Renamo secretary general Manuel Bissopo was seriously injured and his bodyguard killed in a drive-by shooting in Beira on Wednesday 20 January. Dhlakama's convoy was shot at on 12 and 25 September last year.

From April 2013 until June 2014 Renamo attacked traffic along a heavily wooded 100 km section of the N1 between the River Save and Muxungué, in Sofala. Two of the attacks were in the same stretch of road, all on individual vehicles. On Friday morning 12 February gunmen attacked a car and truck, injuring two people. On Thursday morning 11 February five vehicles were attacked and three people injured. One of the vehicles attacked on Thursday was a Ministry of Health truck carrying medicines. *Canalmoz* claims that Ministry of Health vehicles, including ambulances, have been used to transport weapons.

The other attack was in a different area, Nhamapaza, Maringue, closer to Dhlakama's base. A vehicle carrying four people came under fire, and one person was injured.

There has also been an attack in the village of Nzero on the boundary between Mopeia and Morrumbala districts and on the N1 north-south road. Renamo has established its "General Staff Headquarters" at Sabe, Morrumbala, 20 km from Nzero and appears to be trying to clear police and government presence from around the base. On 28 January Renamo attacked a police and forestry position at Nzero, injuring three forest wardens. The attack was not on road traffic but did

disrupt traffic.

(AIM 29 Jan, 1, 9, 12, 14 Feb; Noticias 12, 13 Feb; Canalmoz 12 Feb)

+ There are now 4000 Mozambican refugees in Malawi, who have fled fighting between Renamo and the government in Tete, but who largely blame the government. However the Mozambican police say that on 5 February they arrested two soldiers who attacked a truck on 3 February and tried to rob it. They were using the army guns and wearing their military uniforms. (AIM 10 Feb)

+ An agent of the special protection unit for high officials in Chimoio (Forças de Protecção de Altas Individualidades - FPAI) has been arrested for being part of a gang of armed robbers. (AIM Pt 13 Feb)

+ Six Renamo gunmen shot a community leader, Cipriano Sineque, and his son in Bebedo, Nhamatanda, Sofala, on 5 February. The head of the Bebedo locality, Bernabe Ndapitaia, who accompanied the wounded men to the Beira hospital, said that Renamo is targeting traditional chiefs and community leaders, in an attempt to weaken these authorities. This was the fourth such incident in the area. "All the community leaders in that area no longer sleep at home, because they are afraid the Renamo men will come after them", said Ndapitaia. "The Renamo men have drawn up a list of their victims". "Fear has spread through the area", he added. "People are even afraid to go to their fields." (AIM, Noticias 8 Feb) Police report that four village chiefs in Sofala have been kidnapped by Renamo. (AIM 1 Feb)

+ Renamo guerrillas raided the town of Maringué, Sofala of 3 February, burning houses and injuring two people. After the end of the war in 1992, Renamo maintained a base in Maringué, with the tacit acceptance of the government. (AIM, Noticias 4 Feb)

+ Renamo spokesperson Antonio Muchanga, interviewed in *Noticias* (2 Feb), said talks between Dhlakama and President Filipe Nyusi are impossible because Dhlakama fears for his life if he leaves Satunjira.

+ Police claim Renamo guerrillas attacked and killed a tractor driver distributing water in drought affected Chigubo, Gaza, on 30 January.

## **Strong drought hits parts of Mozambique but is worse in neighbours**

One of the strongest El Niño events of the last 50 years has caused an intense drought in large parts of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho where the October to January rainfall has been the lowest in 35 years. This follows a 2014-2015 agricultural season that was similarly hot and dry, causing a 23% drop in regional cereal production. In Mozambique the drought is the worst in 35 years in Maputo province, southern Gaza and Inhambane, northern Manica, northern Tete, and western Zambézia.

By contrast, other areas north of the River Save, including key parts of Nampula and Zambézia, are expected to have a normal harvest. Indeed, heavy rain, floods and lightning strikes have killed 45 people so far in the north; 1200 houses have been destroyed by floods.

A joint UN statement is on <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/382932>

A UN news release contains two maps showing the regional extent of the problem, reproduced below. Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53222>

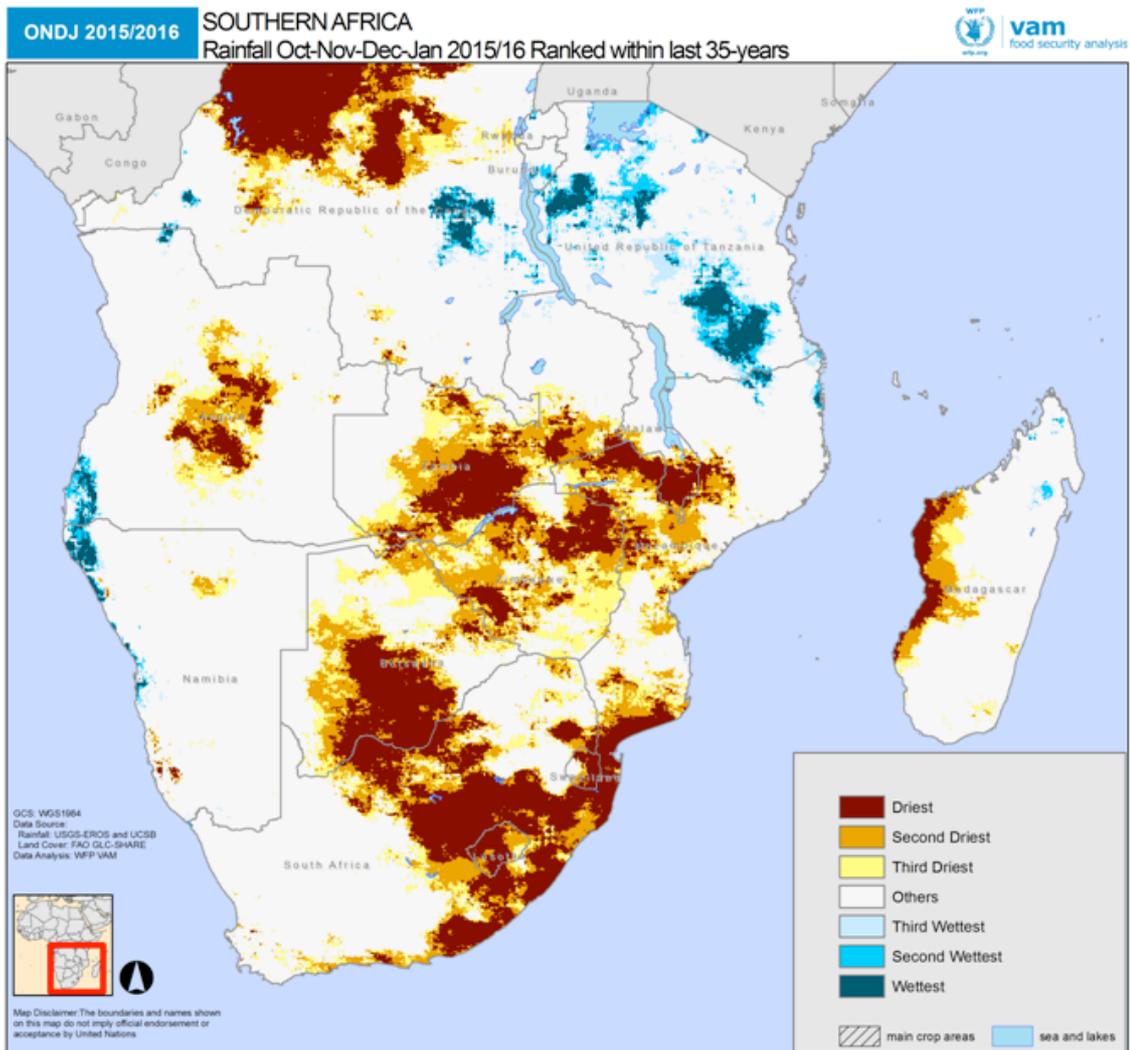


Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall October 2015 to January 2016 in Southern Africa ranked within the last 35 years. Note large areas falling within the three driest seasons since 1981. Areas where such extremes have not been reached have also registered significant rainfall deficits. WFP-VAM based on CHIRPS v2.0 rainfall data.

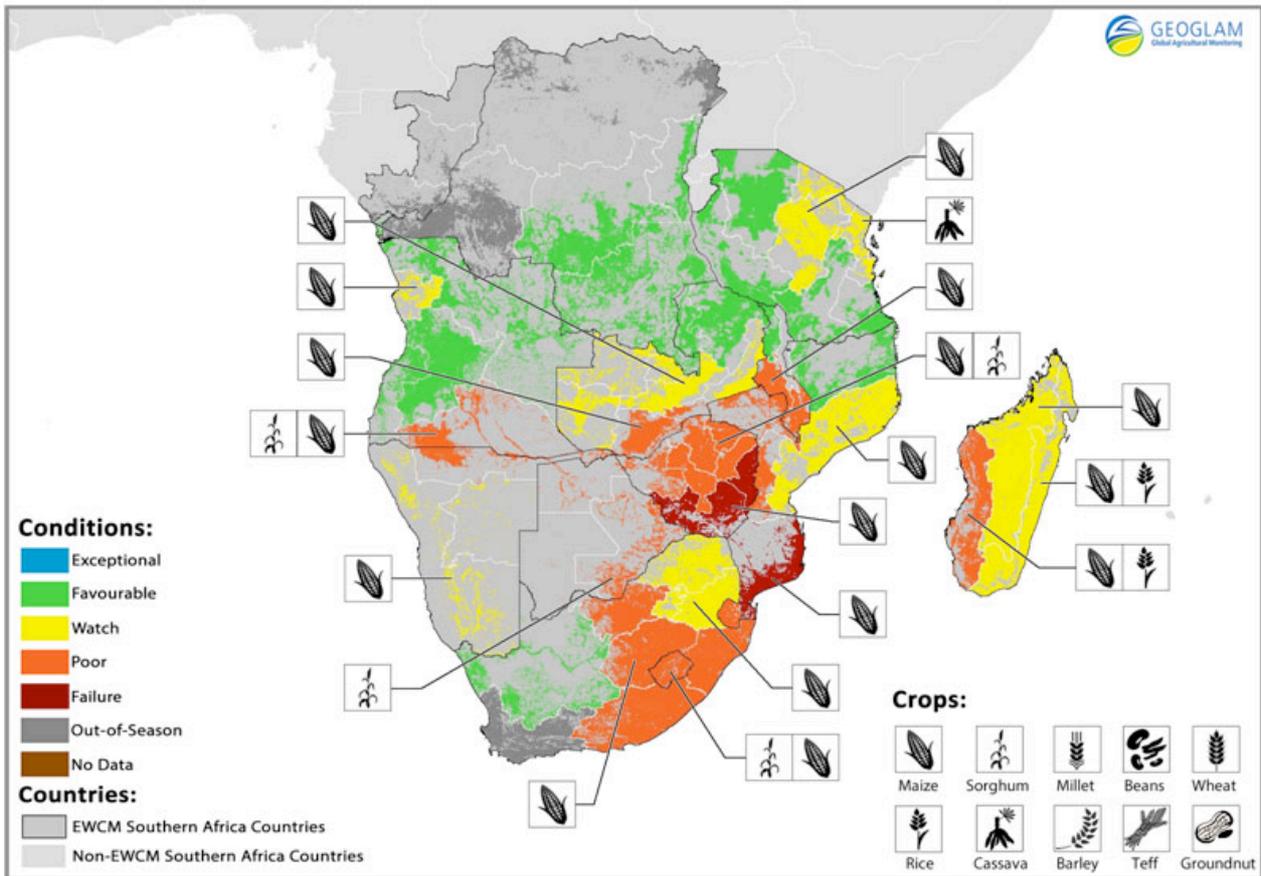


Figure 2: GEOGLAM multi-agency assessment of the Southern Africa maize harvest perspectives. Note considerable areas with projected poor or failure end of season production status. See more at: <http://cropmonitor.org/>

The flow in the Limpopo River is very low and on Friday 12 February it was reported that extra water is being released from the Massingir Dam (on the Elephants River, a tributary of the Limpopo) to provide water for rice in the Limpopo Valley.

The government estimates that 166,000 people are in need of food aid, and Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario has been touring the drought-stricken areas.

Meanwhile, Sofala governor Helena Taipo said the Provincial Disaster Management Technical Council (CTPGC) is incapable of responding promptly to emergency situations and had been giving her false reports. (AIM 29 Jan)

## Inflation up

Inflation as measured by the consumer price indices of the three largest cities (Maputo, Nampula and Beira) was 2.48% in January, the National Statistics Institute (INE) announced on Tuesday 9 February. Inflation in December was 4.76%. Inflation over the past 12 months was 11.25%. Most of the price increases in January were for foodstuffs: maize, rice, cowpeas, tomatoes, coconuts, and onions.

## New Frelimo secretariat

The Frelimo Central Committee elected a new secretariat at a special meeting in Matola on 5 February. President Filipe Nyusi said that members of the Secretariat should dedicate themselves full time to Party activities, so those in parliament or government left the Secretariat.

Nyusi is trying to both revive the party and reduce the influence of former President Armando

Guebuza. Interestingly, he also stressed that the Secretariat must control and add value to Frelimo's financial holdings "in the context of the ever growing market economy." Through its holding company SPI Frelimo has interests in a number of businesses, including half of Movitel, the best of the three mobile telephone companies.

Six secretaries resigned; four were also MPs and two had government posts, and they decided to keep those jobs in preference to the party ones. They were replaced by five new secretaries; AIM suggests that Frelimo only expected the four MPs to resign and not the two others.

Three members retain their posts:

General Secretary – Eliseu Machava

Secretary for External Affairs – Aida Libombo

Secretary for Parliamentary and Municipal Affairs – Jose Tomo Psico

Five are new:

Spokesperson and Secretary for Mobilisation and Propaganda – Antonio Niquice

Secretary for Organisation, Training and Cadres – Agostinho Trinta

Secretary for Administration and Finance – Esperanca Bias

Secretary for the Economic Area – Chakil Aboobakar

Secretary for the Party's Social Organisations – Helena Muando

Two of the new members are considered dynamic young rising stars in Frelimo, Chakil Aboobakar, who is administrator of Monapo, and Antonio Niquice, a member of parliament. In contrast to past spokespeople, Niquice has good relations with the media.

Esperanca Bias was Minister of Mineral Resources in the Guebuza government and is now an MP. Agostinho Trinta is governor of Inhambane and Helena Muando is an MP.

It is expected all five will resign their government and parliamentary positions. (AIM 5, 7, 8 Feb)

## **Fuel theft caused fire which killed 17**

Police and private security staff helped people to steal fuel from a pipeline running next to the Matola grain terminal in Maputo harbour. Fishing boats pulled up to the dockside and siphoned out the fuel. But on 13 December, working in the dark, someone lit a candle, resulting in an explosion which killed 17 of the thieves and caused \$2.4 million damage to the grain terminal. Council of Ministers spokesperson Deputy Health Minister Mouzinho Saide reported on 3 February that the grain terminal management had been suspended, because "the most elementary security norms were not observed, and that was deliberate".

## **Kenmare defaults**

The Irish company Kenmare Resources, which mines titanium-bearing heavy mineral sands in Moma, Nampula, has defaulted on its debts. Falling prices and output put the company in deep financial difficulty. Kenmare hopes to reduce its debts through an investment of \$100 million from the Omani sovereign wealth fund and a further \$75 million from existing shareholders. Lenders have agreed to give the company a new deadline of the end of February. (AIM 3 Feb)

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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  
Telm.: +258 823 219 950 E-mail: [kapicudir@tdm.co.mz](mailto:kapicudir@tdm.co.mz) / [kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz](mailto:kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz)

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London.  
Please email [j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto: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.rienner.com/title/Zimbabwe\\_Takes\\_Back\\_Its\\_Land](https://www.rienner.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>

***Now in paper at a reasonable price***

## **Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique?**

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>

## **Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South**

by Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, and David Hulme

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

[tinyurl.com/justgivemoney](http://tinyurl.com/justgivemoney)

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**Also on the web:** Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on [bit.ly/mozamb](http://bit.ly/mozamb)

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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

### **Mozambique media websites:**

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

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

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Diario de Moçambique (Beira): <http://www.diariodemocambique.co.mz>

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

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

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>

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