

MOZAMBIQUE 473

News reports & clippings

23 March 2018

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Mocimboa da Praia occupied

Mocimboa da Praia was occupied by insurgents this morning (Monday 23 March) and at 18h00 this afternoon was still under their control with no military response, report Estacio Valoi and Nazira Suleimane of *Moz24Horas*. <https://www.moz24h.co.mz/> In two press conferences today, the spokesperson for the General Command of the Mozambican police, Orlando Mudumane, confirmed the attack. He told reporters in Maputo that the insurgents had attacked and occupied the barracks of the defence forces, where they hoisted their black flag. Apparently senior and more experienced officials had recently moved to the main base in Mueda, leaving newly arrived officials in charge in Mocimboa. The police commander Bernardino Rafael made a flying visit with press last Monday (16 March) to show the press everything was in control. President Nyusi visited Mueda on 13 March. (AIM, @Verdade, O Pais, 23 Mar; CDD 22 Mar) The town of Mocimboa da Praia was occupied for a day in the first action of the civil war, on 5 October 2017.

Insurgents apparently arrived by both sea and land, and also attacked the police station, freeing prisoners. Houses have been burned and a school and other infrastructure destroyed. Dozens of people have fled in panic to the local hospital and mosques, assuming them to be safer. The invaders have built barricades on the main roads leading into the town, which they control.

First covid-19 case; 695 in quarantine

The first person to be officially infected by the Covid-19 virus in Mozambique is a 75-year-old Mozambican who had recently arrived from Britain, health minister Armindo Tiago announced Sunday. Checks were made on 338,427 passengers arriving in Mozambique, or whom 1248 were sent into quarantine and 695 remain in quarantine. One of those is Maputo Mayor Eneas Comiche, who on 10 March attended an event in London and sat next to Prince Albert II of Monaco, who has since tested positive for Covid-19.

All visas have been cancelled. All schools and universities have been closed, but all other people are expected to go to work. No event can have more than 50 people.

Mozambique does not have the capacity to stop the spread. Most people do not have enough soap and water to wash their hands more frequently. Travel to work in Maputo and other big cities is in jam packed mini-buses. The health service has only 34 functional

ventilators and 2500 test kits. (Lusa, @Verdade 23 Mar)

Mozambique has appealed for \$700 mn in budget support from donors.

South Arica now has 402 cases, and has imposed a 21 day lockdown.

Except for key workers, no one can leave their homes except to seek medical care, buy food, medicine and other supplies or collect a social grant. All shops and businesses will be closed, except for pharmacies, laboratories, banks, essential financial and payment services, supermarkets, petrol stations and health care providers. Companies that are essential to the production and transportation of food, basic goods and medical supplies will remain open.

Exxon Mobil is likely to delay its final investment decision (FID) on its \$30 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Mozambique as the coronavirus disrupts early works and a depressed gas market makes investors wary, Reuters reported Saturday (21 Mar). Covid-19 is causing a global recession which is reducing demand for gas, just as Russia and Saudi Arabia are in an overproduction battle and are pushing down oil prices.

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ELECTION OVERLOAD? - You are subscribed to two newsletters, the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin election newsletters* (published by CIP), and *Mozambique News Reports and Clippings* (published by Joseph Hanlon and not linked to CIP). If you want to receive this newsletter but not the election newsletters, just reply to this e-mail with "no election" in the subject line.

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Background reading

Special reports

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - Pt - CIP - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz-full>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

Eight books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)
Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014)
Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)
Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)
Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)
Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996)
Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)
Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

Two more will be available shortly to download:

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986)
Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)
Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)
Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)
Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)
Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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