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MOZAMBIQUE 212

News reports & clippings

24 January 2013

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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 =====

Water receding;

Now the clean-up

Water levels are falling in the Limpopo valley after the worst floods there since 2000. The Emergency Operations Centre (Centro Nacional Operativo de Emergência - CENOE) estimates that 140,000 people had to flee the flooding. There are warnings of possible flooding in the north.

The city of Chokwe was completely flooded on Wednesday 23 January and most people fled. Electricity and water have now been restored and 100 soldiers are helping in the

cleanup. Not everyone left Chokwe; many people with cement or brick houses simply moved to their roofs with food and water. (There is a picture in Noticias today: <http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz/pls/notimz2/getxml/pt/contentx/1586588>) A 25 year old woman, Lurdes Mulhanga, gave birth to a daughter on a roof in Chokwe.

The low part (baixa) of Xai Xai was flooded on Saturday. Water has receded but there are still no shops, banks, or offices open in the baxa of Xai-Xai. The main north-south road, EN-1, was cut at Chicumbane just south of Xai Xai where a raised section of the road was washed away. Temporary metal bridges were installed and the road was reopened on Monday.

The flood peak which reached the Combomune measuring station on the Limpopo river, 180 km upstream from Chokwe, on 22 January was 7 metres above the flood alert level. When it hit Chokwe the next day it was nearly 5 metres above the flood alert level and as deep as the worst floods of 2000. By the time the flood peak reached Xai Xai on 26 January it was only 2 metres above flood alert level and well below the levels of 2000.

The main difference between this flood and the devastating one of 2000 was that this was a peak which passed relatively rapidly; by contrast, in 2000 flood waters stayed very high for more than a month.

Part of my book "Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000" is readable on-line on http://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Mozambique_the_Great_Flood_of_2000.html?id=HWqjGAzoALYC&redir_esc=y

Go to the contents list and then clic on the chapter title.

I am posting the daily National Hydrological Bulletin on my website tinyurl.com/mozamb when the Bulletin is available. It gives excellent comparisons of present water levels with those of past floods.

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

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