

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Also in this issue:

Donor learning, banana fungus threat

Renamo allowed to keep an army until after elections plus new attack in Tete

Demobilisation will be spread over 135 days and this can be extended, Renamo and the government agreed at talks on Friday. With no agreement yet on demobilisation, this ensures that Renamo will still have an armed military force after the 15 October presidential and parliamentary elections.

But as talks continue, the small war also continues. There was a Renamo attack on a police car in Tete on 2 April. (see below)

Renamo had wanted 180 days with possible extension, while government had pushed for a single 90 day period. It was agreed that observers would be asked to be in Mozambique 10 days after discussions end, but there is no date for that. The observer team will have 70 national and 23 international observers from Botswana (chair), Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cape Verde, Kenya, Italy, Portugal, Britain and the United States.

The head of the Renamo delegation, Saimone Macuiana, told reporters that "no agreement has been reached about the function and tasks of the observers. In our understanding, the observers, in addition to supervising and observing the ceasefire, also have the task of verifying and accompanying the implementation of the decisions we may take on the dialogue agenda point concerning the defence and security forces". He made it clear that Renamo has no intention of starting to disarm. "Now we are solving the question concerning the ceasefire, and not disarmament", he said. "We are dealing with a prior question to do with a ceasefire, and this does not annul point two on the agenda, which is on defence and security". (AIM 5 April)

Other small war news

A group of Renamo guerrillas has been active in Tsangano, Tete since late March, particularly in the area of Moniquejeira, according to district administrator Ana Beressone. They have burned houses and stolen property, she said. On 2 April they attacked a police vehicle. One attacker was killed and two police people injured. (*Notícias* 5 April) Unay Cambuma on his Facebook page, reprinted by Macua.blogs, claims there was a military confrontations between Renamo guerrillas and the army on Friday 4 April. Both reports are unconfirmed by other sources. Tsangano is a district on the Malawi border south of Angonia and north of Moatize districts. There have been reports since the start of the year about an armed Renamo group near Nkoneddzi, Moatize district and *Notícias* reported that 2000 people had fled over the border to Malawi. (*Notícias* 26 February; *News Reports & Clippings* 239, 240)

Human Right League Head Alice Mabota says armed guerrillas represent her and have a right to armed action. Speaking on Thursday 3 April and quoted by @Verdade, she said the armed confrontation is the result of intransigence by the government. "Those who are in the bush ... represent the anxiety of all persons who are not at war. They represent 'my' interest, I would like to be included, I would like to pursue my political freely and am forbidden." Mabota is president of the Liga Moçambicana dos Direitos Humanos (LDH), and she continued: "There is political and economic exclusion in this country. Excluded people are not cattle or chickens; they know what they have to do." <http://www.verdade.co.mz/destaques/democracia/45297>

Renamo denies that it was responsible for the attack on the Vale coal train last week. And there is no confirmation of the CanalMoz claim of an attack on a second CFM train.

Four more civil society people have been named to the CNE, the National Elections Commission. The civil society representatives are chosen by parliament, and the choice was therefor political - one Frelimo, one MDM, and two Renamo. The new members are:

Jeremias Timana, general secretary of the National Confederation of Free and Independent Unions (CONSILMO), who sat on the CNE which organized the 2008 municipal and 2009 general elections. Supported by Frelimo.

José Belmiro, a prominent journalist working for the independent television station, STV, supported by the MDM.

Apolinário João, proposed by the Youth Association for Community and Development (a previously unknown NGO), supported by Renamo.

Salomão Moyana, one of the country's best known journalists and is now director of *Magazine Independent*, supported by Renamo.

All MPs voted for Timana, but around 70 did not vote for the others. AIM says "These were clearly ballots cast by Frelimo deputies who could not stomach the thought of voting for people effectively nominated by Renamo. This was a silent revolt against the string of concessions which Frelimo and the government have been making to Renamo since the beginning of the year." (AIM 4 April)

Will Afonso Dhlakama register to vote by the end of the month? He must do so in order to stand for election as Renamo candidate for President. He has not appeared in public since the attack on Satunjira on 21 October last year.

UK government study says:

Attitude that 'DfID does not fail' means DfID does not learn

DfID fails to learn from experience, does not listen to beneficiaries or contractors who know better than it does, and it is "clearly unacceptable" that "staff sometimes are asked to use evidence selectively in order to justify decisions" or support political priorities, according to a damning report by the British government's Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), published on 4 April. (<http://bit.ly/1e0H3aq>)

ICAI's reports are blunt and public and based only on research on the UK's Department for International Development, but their findings will sound familiar in many others of the aid organisations working in Mozambique.

"DfID staff often feel under pressure to be positive. This applies to assessing both current and future project performance," ICAI says. "This positive bias links to a culture where staff have often felt afraid to discuss failure. One head of department told us that "DfID does not fail'." Specialist staff are sometimes told they cannot say certain things because managers think it will be unacceptable higher up in the organisation. But ICAI goes on to note that "staff report that a factor that has made fear of failure greater has been the increased public scrutiny (not least from IDC [parliamentary International Development Committee] and ICAI)."

DfID does extensive research and evaluation, but "there are many examples of available knowledge not being used", ICAI found. DfID does not learn well as an organisation.

One reason is that staff do not have time to read all the reports and evaluations. "Organisational learning is not always seen as a priority objective in departments, given the pressure to deliver results and spend the aid budget." Staff often "feel overwhelmed by the knowledge available".

ICAI is particularly critical of DfID for not listening to "locally employed staff, delivery agents and, most crucially, the beneficiaries". Locally employed staff are not encouraged to give opinions. The report notes that "generalist, administrative and locally employed staff are not being listened to sufficiently by DfID's specialists. They often have much experience of how aid is delivered: know how." The report continues that "contractors delivering programmes generally have far greater insight and learning about their programmes than does DfID," but DfID staff do not listen to them, in part because of an attitude "of trying to manage or change others rather than listen to and support them."

The report also issues two warnings. One is against bureaucratising learning. It notes that in writing business cases for new projects, DfID staff are already expected to consult 120 guidance documents. It also notes that fear of failure discourages innovation; ICAI says DfID should innovate more and it should be accepted that innovation is "inherently risky" and will "inevitably lead to some failures as well as successes."

FAO warns: resistant fungus threatens banana exports

FAO warns that Mozambique is "under severe attack" from a resistant banana fungus *Fusarium wilt TR4*, which could destroy the export banana industry and affect many local banana varieties, in statements issued Thursday 3 April, and earlier on 27 February.

The FAO-organised World Banana Forum (WBF) warns that "Once present the disease cannot be controlled by common chemical or cultural management practices. Available methods for disease containment are not a guarantee; and alternative options are still in a stage of evaluation. The social consequences of *Fusarium wilt* can be severe: bananas are an important source of food, income, employment and government revenues in many tropical countries."

The fungus was found last year on the Matanuska banana plantation in Monapo, Nampula, and a formal joint statement was issued on 29 November by the Mozambique Department of Agriculture, Matanuska, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Stellenbosch University and Bioversity International. Serafina Mangana, Head of Mozambique's national plant protection organization, said that "the outbreak is limited to a few fields on the farm". All sites where the disease was found have now been isolated, the affected plants destroyed, and appropriate phytosanitary measures have been implemented to prevent the disease from spreading, the statement said.

But the fungus is very serious and reports of TR4 in Mozambique and Jordan are the first outside Asia, where it has severely damaged export banana production in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. In December 2013 the World Banana Forum set up a TR4 Task Force, and major banana producer Chiquita and the Task Force on Thursday released a document which warns that "the fungus' resting spores remain viable in the soil for decades".

Articles in *Nature* and the London daily *The Independent* say that the fungus has probably been brought to Mozambique by plantation workers from the Philippines.

In the 1950s, *Fusarium wilt TR1* (also called Panama fungus) virtually wiped out the export banana

industry by attacking the most common export variety, Gros Michel. This was replaced by Cavendish, which is resistant to TR1 and 2, but not TR4. Nearly all export bananas now are Cavendish. *The Independent* points out that "the world is paying the price for allowing the international banana trade to become a vast monoculture, rigorously managed to provide uniform, perfect bananas to consumers in the developed world." And it asks if this is "an opportunity to switch to a more sustainable model based on growing several banana varieties commercially rather than accepting the tyranny of a 'Cavendish'."

The best summary of the problem is a 5 February 2014 FAO document with photos and explanations: "Fighting banana diseases – the end of Cavendish?" <http://bit.ly/1huupvo>
There is a good article in the London *Independent* (5 April): <http://ind.pn/1hutVp2>

Other links:

Initial 29 November statement: <http://bit.ly/1mSETN2>

Nature (11 Dec 2013): <http://www.nature.com/news/fungus-threatens-top-banana-1.14336>

WBF & Chiquita 3 April: <http://bit.ly/1hUUFP>

FAO 3 April: <http://www.fao.org/foodchain/fcc-home/fcc-news-events/detail/en/c/219065/>

WBF 27 Feb: <http://www.fao.org/economic/worldbananaforum/fusarium-tr4/en/>

Budget support down

Aid funded less than 30% of the state budget in 2012, the lowest level in many years, because donors only gave two-thirds of the \$2.1 billion promised, according to the 2012 General State Accounts presented by government to parliament on 2 April. Of this, \$890 million was grants and \$510 mn loans. (Accounts go first to the Administrative Tribunal and thus are always a year behind when submitted to parliament.)

To meet the shortfall, government collected an extra \$160 mn in domestic revenue, and cut capital expenditure by 20%, with reduced spending on water, roads, and agriculture.

Urban development

Urban development proposals have been raised recently in Maputo and Nampula. The new mayor and municipal assembly in Nampula are calling for the railway to be diverted to no longer pass through the centre of the city. It is currently being rebuilt by Vale to carry coal to Nacala, and it is expected that 1.5 mn long trains will pass through the city every hour, causing congestion at grade crossings. A bypass would be about 45 km long and cost \$150 million. Vales is proposing a \$25 mn alternative of bridges over the railway. (*Notícias* 22 March 2014) The new mayor raised the issue at the recent Nacala corridor conference, clearly hoping to gain donor and government support. But MDM won control of Nampula in the recent local elections, so central government support seems unlikely.

Meanwhile, the Frelimo mayor of Maputo David Simango on 5 April launched a project to redevelop the inner suburbs of Polana Caniço A and B. This will involve improved roads, drainage, water, schools, etc and the construction of multi-story blocks of flats in place of the single or double story self-built houses there now. About 80,000 people live in the two dense neighbourhoods. Clearly people will have to move. But Simango made a new and strong commitment: "We will always avoid resettling people outside the neighbourhood." (AIM 5 April) This follows unhappiness about previous resettlements of people to peripheral areas far from the centre of the city. But there are already protests that this is not happening. *Correio da Manhã* (4 April) reported that former public works Minister João Carrilho has acquired the title to part of block 70 (Quarteirão 70) in Polana Caniço A and is evicting residents.

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The next book

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento

by Teresa Smart & Joseph Hanlon will be launched 2 July in Maputo.

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 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

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Also on the web: Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on

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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

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>

Good daily newsletters:

English: Mozambique Investor. Send e-mail to theinvestor@clubofmozambique.com

Portuguese: Mozambique Hoje. <http://mail.clubofmozambique.com/mailman/listinfo/mhoje>

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