

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

256 22 May 2014 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Also in this issue:

Renamo, land grab protests

Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco to be questioned Monday

Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco was today summoned to appear Monday morning for questioning by the Maputo city Attorney-General's Office (Procuradoria-Geral da República) with respect to a Facebook posting last year in which he sharply criticised President Armando Guebuza. (See *News Reports and Clippings* 237 and 255).

He is being questioned under that law on Crimes Against State Security. He will be questioned as an "arguido"- someone who is has been formally named as a suspect, but has not been arrested or charged. After the questioning, the Attorney-General's office response can be anything from saying there is no case to answer and removing the arguido status, through to immediate arrest.

Castel-Branco was one of the founders of the highly respected research institute IESE (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos; Social and Economic Studies Institute). On Monday 12 May the state buildings agency APIE gave IESE just 15 days to move from the headquarters building on Av Patrice Lumumba in Maputo it has occupied since 2007.

IESE has found new premises on Av Tomas Nduda, nearby in Maputo, and is currently moving its library and offices.

IESE this week made a formal petition to APIE to be allowed to stay, but has been told informally that the building had been sold before IESE was evicted and so there is no chance to stay. IESE has filed a formal protest with the ombud, the Provedor de Justiça, claiming that an eviction in 15 days violated administrative rules.

IESE assures us that its conference 27-28 August will continue as planned, despite the disruption.

Renamo steps up military demands

Renamo is demanding a complete restructuring of the military, including parity in the military in the same way it has gained parity in the electoral system. In the 58th negotiating session on Monday 19 May Renamo introduced yet another new demand - that the international observers become "advisors" to the restructuring of the military.

At the press conference after the session Monday, the Mozambican observers, headed by Anglican archbishop Dinis Sengulane, expressed frustration at the slow pace of the talks. Although Sengulane added, "we are not losing hope". The deputy head of the government delegation,

Transport Minister Gabriel Muthisse, accused the Renamo negotiating team of stopping the national mediators/observers from talking to Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama. But the head of the Renamo delegation, Saimone Macuiana MP, said it was the government which was forcing Dhlakama to hide so he was not attacked.

COMMENT: Renamo is attempting to return to the 1992 peace accord which called for the two sides to contribute equally to a national army. The government did marginalize the Renamo members of the joint military but there was no protest, as the former Renamo officials were kept on salaries or pensions. It may seem a bit late to try to reverse this, but Dhlakama appears to be under pressure from his military who feel they are getting nothing from the new resource boom.

But Frelimo wants a loyal and non-coup-oriented military, and it seems highly unlikely that it will give in to Renamo on what would be, in fact, a complete restructuring of the military. Dhlakama is not a good long-term strategist but has proved himself to be a good short-term tactician. We suggest three possible tactical options he may be following:

Option 1: No one (including me) thought Guebuza would collapse completely and give Renamo (and MDM) everything it asked for on elections. But after combined military and political pressure, Guebuza reversed himself and gave Dhlakama all he wanted. So Dhlakama may believe if he pushes hard enough again, he could get what he wants. Might he be right?

Option 2: Dhlakama has been under pressure from his own military. Is he now pushing for what the military is demanding? Does he know that Frelimo cannot accept this, but needs to keep pushing in order to get a strong rejection from government that allows him to negotiate alternatives with his own military, and then return to talks with government.

Option 3: Will demanding the impossible, perhaps backed up by military action and possible disruption of the elections, finally force government to offer a better deal than would be on the table otherwise? This might involve jobs, money and higher status for Dhlakama and his generals. *jh*

First spill in gas drilling

In what is apparently the first environmentally important accident in the Rovuma gas fields, Anadarko reports that a drill spilled 30,000 litres of oil sludge. The incident occurred 10 May, 46 km off the coast of Mocimboa da Praia. The mud spill consists of 53% oily lubricants, 30% water, and 17% solids from the ground being drilled, which includes barite, chlorides and calcium. The spill is being classified as of low toxicity, and there is no sign of the spill on the surface of the water.

Land grab protests

Police disrupted a protest march Tuesday against Wambao Agriculture, a large Chinese rice farm near Xai Xai, according to CanalMoz (21 May). Gizela Zunguze of Justiça Ambiental claims that 80,000 peasants unfairly lost land, to give it to Wambao in 2012, and they have not been compensated.

And the National Peasants Union (União Nacional de Camponeses. UNAC) at its general assembly in Nampula 29 April -1 May again totally rejected the ProSavana programme and announced a national resistance campaign. They noted that there has been no reply to the open letter to Presidents of Mozambique and Brazil and Prime Minister of Japan, so there was no other option than stepping up their protests.

The statement continued: "We, men and women peasants, denounce and repudiate the acts of persecution, intimidation, bribing and manipulations against individual man and woman peasants, and peasant leaderships in the districts affected by ProSavana ... today communities are once again immersed in a setting of oppression by companies and by Government. One [district]

administrator said he would send those who contested ProSavana to jail.”

UNAC says that In the districts of Gurué and Alto Molocué peasants are already being pushed off the land.

UNAC also criticised "the marginalization and total exclusion of peasants from the definition and prioritization of national development policies."
<http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/23474>

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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.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>

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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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 Diarrio 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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