

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

310 21 February 2016

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London Public Lecture Wed 16 March, LSE

Fraud at polls: can journalists and statisticians check?

The Mozambican experience

Joseph Hanlon, Johan Ahlback

Wednesday 16 March 2016; 6.30-8pm

Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House, Aldwych, LSE

In every Mozambican election, Frelimo won, and Renamo cried fraud. Now it appears Renamo has gone back to war.

But who really won the elections? This is a first report on a unique project to put journalists and statisticians together - and test the official outcome of five presidential elections.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/events/2016/03/20160316t1830vHKT.aspx>

<http://bit.ly/1LzpeLc>

<http://bit.ly/MozElecData>

Return to war:

Attacks, convoys, travel bans and increased tension

Military convoys returned Wednesday on the 100 km section of the N1 main north-south road between the River Save and Muxungué in Sofala province, following Renamo attacks. This is the same section of road where there were convoys in 2013-4. But most of the recent Renamo attacks have been further north on the N1, between Gorongosa and Caia (on the Zambeze River). Some international agencies have banned travel in the centre of the country.

Meanwhile Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama has repeated his commitment to take seize control next month (March) in the six provinces in which he claims to have won elections, and there are unconfirmed reports of Renamo cadres having been mobilised in some of those provinces under the command of Renamo generals.

On Wednesday 17 February there were five attacks on civilian vehicles on the N1 in northern Sofala, between the districts of Maringue and Caia. This is outside the area of previous attacks.

- One of the vehicles attacked on Wednesday belonged to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- At 11.00 a truck transporting a Caterpillar vehicle was stopped and the truck and Caterpillar set on fire; an unconfirmed report says a person inside the Caterpillar could not get out in time and was burned to death.
- One car was shot at and the five occupants injured.
- At least one other vehicle was burned.

AIM reports that a father and son of Guinean nationality were in one of the trucks stopped by Renamo. Interviewed by STV, they said they had heard the gunmen discussing whether to kill them or not. They said there were about ten men who staged the ambush, wearing Renamo's standard green uniforms, and spoke freely about Renamo. (AIM En 18, 19 Feb, AIM Pt 18 Feb)

Also on Wednesday Renamo attacked at police control post on the N1 just outside Gorongosa town at 01.00; one soldier and one Renamo guerrilla were killed.

On the early morning of Monday 15 February shots were fired at traffic near Muxungué but no one was injured. Military convoys started Wednesday and there are two convoys a day, leaving River Save at 07.00 and 14.00 and Muxungué 09.00 and 17.00.

The US embassy said on Thursday 18 February that embassy officials are restricted from traveling on the N1 between the Save River and Caia (on the Zambeze River) and on the N6 between Beira and Chimoió. UN's Department of Protection and Security announced Thursday that UN vehicles will circulate in Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambézia provinces only for essential tasks and only with permission of the Department of Protection and Security. This follows the attack on an FAO vehicle. (O Pais 18 Feb)

Nyusi and Dhlakama take hard lines

President Filipe Nyusi called a halt to disarming Renamo by force on 19 November 2015, as part of an attempt to reduce military and police pressure on Renamo. But he effectively reversed that speaking to the party on 10 February. He said his patience and tolerance was exhausted, and he could no longer accept that the opposition party was armed. (O Pais 11 Feb)

On the other side, for Dhlakama negotiation is over. Renamo will return to negotiations only after it has named governors and established a Renamo government in the six provinces where it says it won the elections (Niassa, Nampula, Zambézia, Tete, Sofala and Manica), Afonso Dhlakama said in a long interview with journalists on 12 February, published in *O Pais* (15 February). Even then, there could only be negotiations if they are mediated by the Catholic Church and South African President Jacob Zuma.

Governing does not mean occupying the government offices - "I am directing Renamo from a house made of straw and sticks," Dhlakama said. "To be governor or administrator does not mean having the physical space; that is to say, it does not signify entering the office of my sister Helena Taipo [governor of Sofala]. ... But if the present government resists our government or if the army questions our new government, then we have no choice to push them - at least a little way - outside the office and put our people there."

The interviewer points out that this violates the constitution. Dhlakama makes several responses. First, Renamo won the election so under the constitution it should form the government. It is not constitutional for Frelimo to rob votes and then become the government. Second, he accepts that it is not in the constitution that the majority party in a province should form the government there, but the constitution should be changed: "Peace and political stability cannot be hostage to a paper written by ordinary people."

He stressed that he feared for his life. He pointed out he had been attacked three times, and "if I am not dead, it is because God is with me."

O Pais interview Dhlakama in his bush headquarters at Satunjira. Access was difficult: first cars, then tens of kilometres on motorcycles on a track, and then walking. He was in a small house made of poles and mud (pau a pique). He looked older and thinner, said *O Pais*.

Other war news

- A Renamo member of the Sofala provincial assembly and head of one of its commissions, Manuel Furtunato, said he was arrested at home at 01.00 and thrown in jail, and held for three

days and questioned about the shooting of the party secretary general, Manuel Bissopo. The police wanted to know the whereabouts of two people who had been in the car with Bissopo, and with his bodyguard, who died in the attack. Assembly members enjoy limited immunity: if the police wish to detain an Assembly member, they must first seek authorization from the Assembly, which was not done. But the police deny that the incident happened. (*O Pais, CanalMoz*, AIM 17 Feb)

- Police accuse six Renamo gunmen of shooting and killing Manecas da Silva, a Frelimo secretary and a judge in the Chidassicua Community Court, Nhamatanda, Sofala on Monday morning, 15 February. His wife, Dorca Benjamin, was seriously injured. (*Noticias*, AIM 16 Feb)

- Government and UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, are arguing over the 6000 refugees in Malawi. UNHCR says the current Kapise camp is “crowded” and wants Malawi to open a new camp. It accuses the Mozambique government of applying pressure on the refugees to return. Refugees have told reporters that they are in Malawi to escape attacks by government forces who accuse them of backing Renamo – and that they cannot trust promises from the Mozambique government to guarantee their safety in Mozambique. Foreign Minister Oldemiro Balói visited the camp and did urge the refugees to return home, and he accused the local UNHCR representative of trying to persuade the refugees to stay. In a statement published on 18 February, the UNHCR said Mozambique and Malawi should respect the refugees’ right to asylum. (*Zitamar* 19 Feb)

- In Gondola, Sofala, police captured two armed robbers with police uniforms. One said he had been given the gun by a Renamo fighter. (AIM Pt 19 Feb)

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India fails to find coal

State-owned Coal India, which claims to be single largest coal producer in the world, is ending exploration in Tete. Its wholly-owned subsidiary, Coal India Africana, is relinquishing exploration concessions and instead wants to buy mines in South Africa, reported *Africa Mining Intelligence* (16 Feb). The company had decided in July last year that it would relinquish 75% of its concession area, keeping just 54 sq km of the 205 sq km concession. After spending \$80 million in exploration, a senior official that the coal was found to be of very poor quality, and contained insufficient carbon to be called coal. It is of too poor quality even for thermal use. This is linked to the continued difficulties getting coal to Beira port and the government's decision to double the charges of holding the blocks, in order to provoke just this action - releasing exploration areas which were not being exploited. Now Coal India has apparently dropped the last quarter of the concession.

The Indian newspaper *The Economic Times* reported in July: “Mozambique’s coal rush is officially over . . . the coal boom has come apart at the seams, hobbled by low prices, overblown expectations and a rail and port network that remains woefully inadequate.” It reported that the Mozambique government had granted 124 exploration licences in Tete and approved 11 mining concessions. But only four operating licences had been issued.

This apparently does not affect the former Rio Tinto Benga mine in Tete, operated by International Coal Venture Private Ltd (ICVL), part owned by Coal India. The company announced in July last year that it planning to boost annual production at its Benga mine from 5.3 million tonnes to 13 million tonnes per year within five years - but this was before the further fall in coal prices. At the time, ICVL's director Nirmal Chandra Jha said he was aware that the existing railways would not be able to handle such an output hike.

Meanwhile 1400 workers at the Vale Mine in Tete have gone on strike after Vale announced it would not pay the regular bonus. Vale said the bonus is a profit sharing system and there was no profit this year so the bonus was not being paid to any of its workers in the world.

Danish pension funds bought Ematum bonds

Four Danish pension funds hold \$8 mn in Ematum bonds, the Danish daily *Information* revealed (20 Feb). The four funds are Unipension, PensionDanmark, Industriens Pension and Nordea Liv & Pension. <http://www.information.dk/562368>

Meanwhile the price of Ematum bonds has fallen to its lowest level. Yields (effectively the inverse of price) have risen from 7% a year ago to 13.5% earlier this month as investors await details of a restructuring proposal from the government. (Bloomberg 9 Feb) Samantha Singh of Standard Bank Group said in an emailed note to clients that the rise in yields also reflects “some nervousness” before the next interest payment, due from Ematum on 11 March.

On Wednesday (17 February) Finance Minister Adriano Maleiane told parliament that rescheduling negotiations were still under way, and that the debt was guaranteed by the state and the March payment would be made. (O Pais 18 Feb)

Failure to elect lay judges

Election of lay judges to the supreme and appeal courts collapsed in parliament Thursday 18 February. The election was to fill 14 vacancies – for one full and eight supplementary judges on the Supreme Court, one full and one supplementary judges on the Beira appeals court, and two full and one supplementary judge on the Nampula appeals court.

Unlike most elections in parliament, none of the candidates was nominated by a political party. Instead, there was a public tender and 26 candidates applied. Parliament's Commission on Constitutional and Legal Affairs rejected four as ineligible. MPs from both sides told AIM that none of the parties had any candidates in the election, and the vote was therefore free. This was a secret ballot election, with three ballot papers. Voting was complex. MPs voted for three names for the Supreme Court; the person with the most votes would become the full judge, and the next eight names would be the supplementary judges. Since there were 200 MPs in the chamber, this meant that 600 votes would be cast for the Supreme Court.

But after the vote, Renamo said it could not understand how 200 people could cast 600 votes. “How can you explain that the total number of votes is more than 100 per cent?”, asked Andre Majubire. Renamo refused to accept the result, so the election was cancelled. (AIM En 18 Feb)

Interest rates up

The Bank of Mozambique on 15 February once again increased its interest rates. The Standing Lending Facility (the interest rate paid by the commercial banks to the central bank for money borrowed on the Interbank Money Market) rises from 9.75% to 10.75%. This is the highest interest the Bank of Mozambique has charged since September 2012. The Standing Deposit Facility (the rate paid by the central bank to the commercial banks on money they deposit with it) rises from 3.75% to 4.25%. The Compulsory Reserves Coefficient - the amount of money that the commercial banks must deposit with the Bank of Mozambique – remains unchanged at 10.5%.

However Zitimar (16 Feb) points out that an IMF study shows Mozambique interest rate changes have no impact on inflation, because banking is dominated by a handful of large clients. <http://zitamar.com/bank-of-mozambique-tightens-again-despite-imf-warning-its-actions-are-futile/> The IMF report starts on page 9 of <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2016/cr1610.pdf>

Biofuels going down

Biofuels have proved largely unsuccessful in Mozambique and are further hit by falling oil prices. Tata Chemicals of India has agreed to sell its 95% interest in Grown Energy Zambeze for \$5.5

million to the holder of the other 5%, Rademan Janse van Rensburg. (Rhula 12-19 Feb, citing SeeNews Renewables) Oscar Monteiro also has a small shareholding.

Other blogs and articles of interest

Joseph Hanlon, "Mozambique: Nyusi grapples with Guebuza's toxic legacy one year on," *African Arguments* (15 Feb 2016) <http://africanarguments.org/2016/02/15/mozambique-nyusi-grapples-with-guebuzas-toxic-legacy-one-year-on/>

Douglas Mason, "After Mozambique's Spending, the Reckoning," *The Africa Report* (16 Feb 2016) <http://www.theafricareport.com/Country-Focus/after-mozambiques-spending-the-reckoning.html>

Corinna Jentsch, "Here are 4 reasons why Mozambique isn't a post-war success story," *Washington Post* (2 Feb 2016): <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/02/02/here-are-four-reasons-why-we-should-question-mozambiques-post-conflict-success-story-narrative/>

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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 / kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz

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Please email j.hanlon@open.ac.uk.

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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

@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/

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

Carlos Serra Diario de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

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