

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

315 31 March 2016 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon is on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

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No Renamo attempt to govern, but attacks increase

Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama admits there has been no attempt to launch Renamo governments in six provinces, as he promised to do this month (March). In an interview in *Canal de Moçambique* (30 Mar) he blamed an unexpectedly strong government military resistance. He admitted what he claimed were 4500 soldiers and "death squads" were enough to stop him. He again promised to take power, "soon". But faced with government military power, Renamo is returning to attacking road traffic.

Dhlakama also confirmed he had rejected the proposed mediation of Mario Raffaeli, the lead Italian mediator in 1990-92. But he said he would accept Italian government mediation.

Heavily armed police raided the Renamo national office and two houses of Afonso Dhalkama in Maputo Sunday (27 March). Maputo police chief Bernadino Rafael said they confiscated 40 AK47 assault rifles, of which only 12 were in working order, and seven operational pistols. Some of the AK47s were rusty and had been cannibalised for parts and were clearly useless. The police said they also confiscated army uniforms and suspected precious stones. Renamo claims they also took \$5000 and a laptop computer, but the police deny this. Renamo said two of its guards were arrested, while police say four Renamo guards were not arrested but were summoned to explain to police on 28 March why they had the weapons. The police did not have a warrant but did not need one, according to police spokesperson Inácio Dina, because the police were acting in the "best interests of Mozambicans" and were "carrying out their function of guaranteeing order, security, and public tranquillity." (@Verdade, O País, AIM)

Renamo on Monday 28 March attacked a government motorcade of dozens of vehicles on the main N7 road in Nhamatema, Honde, Barué district, Manica. Three police were injured. The delegation headed by Provincial Labour Director Mouzinho Carlos was returning from celebrations of the 99th anniversary of the Barue revolt against Portuguese colonial rule. (AIM Pt & En 29 Mar)

The Barué attack was the fifth in a month. The fourth was on 21 March when a Transportes 2002 bus was shot at and three people were injured. (AIM Pt 22 Mar) Renamo claims that on 22 March there was a confrontation between Renamo and government forces in Honde, Barué and that the army detained seven civilians. It also says that its political delegate in Chondzo, Inhazónia, Barué was kidnapped on 22 March. (A Perdiz 24 Mar)

There was a clash between Renamo and government forces in Murothone, Mugeba, Mocuba district, Zambézia on 24 March near the main road north of Mocuba, going toward Gurué and Nampula. *CanalMoz* says Renamo has a base in Murothone. (*Diário da Zambézia* 24 Mar, *CanalMoz* 29 Mar)

AIM (25 Mar) reports that a journalist from the German broadcaster DW said that on 23 March the bus he was travelling in, belonging to the private company Nagi Investments, came under fire on the N1 between Muxungue and the Save river, where traffic moves in convoys under armed escort. Two people suffered bullet wounds but no-one was killed. Lusa (24 Mar) reports the bus tyres and fuel tank were hit, and the bus was delayed for over an hour while those were repaired. The defence forces with the convoy drove the attackers into the bush, but 10 kilometres later there was a further burst of gunfire against the convoy.

Renamo dug three trenches across the main N1 road on the stretch between the Save river and Muxungué to slow down the convoys under armed escort. This is the third time Renamo has dug trenches across the road. The first was during the 1980-92 war when Renamo halted all road traffic between Maputo and Beira. Renamo cut trenches in the same place during attacks in 2013-14.

And in a mark of the confusion and tension, *Diário da Zambézia* (29 March) published a photo of a tree trunk placed across the main N1 on Sunday which was still there on Monday. Neither the roads administration nor the army tried to move it, apparently fearing it was a trap set by Renamo forces waiting to attack anyone who tried to move the tree. But traffic was able to move slowly around the end of the tree without any attacks.

<http://clubofmozambique.com/news/zambezia-the-tree-trunk-roadblocks-no-one-removes-for-fear-of-a-renamo-trap/>

<http://diariodazambezia.com/2016/03/29/supostos-homens-da-renamo-colocam-barricadas-na-en1/>

Renamo fighters forced trucks four trucks carrying maize from northern Mozambique to the drought stricken south to turn back. The drivers said Renamo gunmen had stopped the trucks on the N1 in Muxungué, Sofala, and threatened to kill the drivers unless they turned round and drove the trucks back Nampula. The trucks were later seen in Nampula selling the maize there. (Mediafax 25, AIM En 25 Mar)

Sofala Governor Helena Taipo accused Renamo of torturing and murdering five community leaders in Muxungué. She said one of the victims was an old woman who was tortured to death in her own home. (AIM, *Noticias* 24 Mar) She also said schools for 2100 pupils have closed around Marínguè because of the fighting. (*CanalMoz* 29 Mar)

VOA (Pt, 15 Mar) reports that seven bodies have been found in Manica. Three bodies of men about 25 years old were found in bush near Zimpinga, Gondola district. Four other men were found dead in bush near the Revue river in Sussendenga district. Renamo and the government have accused each other of kidnaps in that area.

Finances looking up: Ematum accepted, ENI sale promises capital gains tax

Holders of 81.7% of Ematum bonds accepted the government offer by the 29 March deadline, so the deal will go through on 6 April. Ematum bonds will be swapped for government bonds which mature in 2023, and pay annual interest of 10.5%. This makes the total cost \$35 million higher, but significantly reducing payments before 2023. It appears that about 10% of bondholders are refusing the offer and demanding immediate repayment. (Zitamar 29 Mar. O Pais 25 Mar)

Meanwhile there are reports by *Reuters* and the *Wall Street Journal* that ExxonMobil is close to buying a stake in ENI's Cabo Delgado gas block. ENI holds a 50% stake in Offshore Area 4 and is

proposing to sell 15-20%. ENI sold a 20% stake in Area 4 to China National Petroleum Corp. for \$4.2 billion in 2013, when oil prices were much higher. But the price would still be substantial, which means Mozambique would get a welcome hundreds of millions of dollars in capital gains tax. ExxonMobil has also been talking to Anadarko about buying part of Area 1.

Other news

New Justice Minister: Respected lawyer Isaque Chande has been named Justice Minister. He has been chair of its Jurisdictional Council of the Mozambican Bar Association. He replaces Abdurremane Lino de Almeida, whose management had attracted criticism. The full title is Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs.

Ex-Renamo in army: Maj-Gen Luis Dique has been named inspector of the Mozambican armed forces, moving from his post as commander of the air force. He is one of the highest ranking officers from Renamo still serving in the government military, having joined as part of the demobilisation in 1994. (AIM En 22 Mar)

Drought: 315,366 people are affected by food insecurity as a result of the drought in southern and central Mozambique, the government spokesperson, Deputy Health Minister Mouzinho Saide, said Tuesday 29 Mar. But northern Mozambique faces the opposite problem. Saide said that floods in the north have affected 32,243 people, and have destroyed 4,991 houses and 109 schools. The drought means that Mozambique is facing a serious grain shortage. The country has always had to import most wheat and rice, but it has at least been self-sufficient in maize. This is no longer the case: Saide put this year's grain deficit at 149,000 tonnes of maize, 267,000 tonnes of rice and 328,000 tonnes of wheat. (AIM 30 Mar)

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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

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London.
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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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