

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

345 4 November 2016

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Following the donor-designed path to the \$2.2 billion secret debt <http://bit.ly/3WQ-Hanlon>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

Comment: something will turn up: <http://bit.ly/28SN7QP>

Oxfam blog on Bill Gates & chickens:

<http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/will-bill-gates-chickens-end-african-poverty/>

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique

by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon is on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

Gas for development or just for money? is on <http://bit.ly/MozGasEn>

Renamo provincial leader killed & Renamo election official shot; 2 Frelimo secretaries killed

Juma Ramos, head of the Renamo group in the Sofala Provincial Assembly where Renamo holds a majority of seats, was gunned down Sunday 30 October. He was also Renamo head of mobilisation in Beira. He was shot at about 20.00 at the informal stall he owned in the Beira neighbourhood of Palmeiras II. He died on the spot. According to witnesses, two armed men emerged from a car and shot Juma at point blank range. This is the 8th assassination of a senior Renamo figure this year.

Abílio Baessa, Renamo deputy director of the Zambézia Election Secretariat (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, STAE) was shot and seriously injured on 2 November as he walked near the police station in Mocuba.

Meanwhile, on Saturday 29 October Renamo gunmen kidnapped and assassinated two Frelimo circle secretaries, Arao Chiguemane and Antonio Macurreia, in Mutua, Dondo, Sofala. A third circle secretary in Mutua, Bernardo Gimo, was injured. The three were forced to walk through the bush then were tied up and shot. The Renamo group had 10 men, four with guns and six with machetes.

Renamo soldiers last week kidnapped and beat a "regulo" (traditional chief) in Ruele village in Manica district, Manica. He was dragged into the bush, where he was severely beaten, and rescued by police two days later. (AIM En 31 Oct, 3 Nov, *O País* 1, 3 Nov)

Meanwhile the police commented on the attack on the place where mediators were supposed to meet Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama. Police spokesman Inácio Dina said on 1 November that no one had told them about the meeting. In any case, the police "have a mandate to move throughout the national territory", and that its movements cannot be interpreted as ambush attempts. (Lusa, *O País* 2 Nov)

A newspaper and a radio station in Moatize, Tete have been vandalised and have lost all their equipment, and another radio station suffered an attempted robbery in the same district. Lusa (2 Nov) notes that "the three media outlets are known for their impartiality and for dealing robustly with cases of corruption and the current political and military crisis. They all reported on the issue of Mozambican refugees in Malawi earlier this year, which local authorities denied." Aparicio Jose from the weekly newspaper Malacha, which lost all its computer equipment, said "I think it's a media hunt. It's noticeable that there have been three robberies in less than a week."

Suspect in prosecutor murder escapes

One of the three men arrested in connection with the 11 April murder of senior prosecutor Marcelino Vilanculos escaped from a Maputo prison on 24 October. Abdul Tembe was accused of driving the car of the hit squad that murdered Vilanculos. Tembe was initially held in the cells of the Maputo Police Command, in the centre of the city, but was moved to the Central Prison, in the suburb of Machava. Security at the Police Command is much tighter than at Machava Prison. (MediaFax 2 Nov)

Vilanculo was investigating the wave of kidnappings of businessmen (mostly of Asian origin) which has hit Mozambican cities since 2011. In particular he was investigating Danish Satar, suspected of being one of the masterminds behind the kidnappings. Danish Satar fled Mozambique in 2012, but Interpol arrested him in Italy and in December 2015 he was deported back to Mozambique. Vilanculo was also looking into the assassination in March 2015 of the prominent Franco-Mozambican constitutional lawyer, Gilles Cistac.

Tobacco convention ratified

Parliament ratified the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on Wednesday (2 Nov), 13 years after Mozambique first signed the convention. Tobacco has become Mozambique's largest agricultural export, which causes a problem as the convention requires the government to find alternative work for people dependent on the tobacco industry. In introducing the proposal, Health Minister Nazira Abdula said this would mean alternative crops offering the same level of income to farmers as tobacco - which may be difficult to find without government support. Since signing the convention Mozambique has taken a number of measures to reduce smoking in public places. (AIM En 2 Nov)

20 million Mandraz tables (Quaaludes) weighing 23.5 tonnes and set for delivery to Mozambique were seized in India. (Club of Mozambique)

Electricity Prices up 27-40%

After being kept frozen by President Guebuza for five years, electricity prices have been raised substantially, but the state electricity company Electricidade de Moçambique (EDM) says it is still selling electricity at below production costs and at the lowest prices in the region.

+ Framers still have the lowest price; the increase is from MT (meticaïs) 2.68 to 3.4 per kilowatt hour (kw-h) for the first 300 kw-h (3.4 US cents to 4.4 US cents, up 27%), and rising to MT 5.3 (6.9 US cents) per kw-h for consumption in excess of 500 kw-h.

+ For households, the first 300 kw-h rises from MT 2.95 to 4.04 per kw-h, and between 301 and 500 kw-h a month from MT 4.17 to 5.72, and above 500 kw-h from MT 4.38 to 6. All increases are 37%. The "social tariff" for low income domestic consumers who use less than 100 kw-h a month remains unchanged, at MT 1.07 per kw-h.

+ For industries, trade, offices, shops, etc the price per kw-h rises from MT 4.16 to 5.8 (from 5.4 to 7.6 US cents, up 39%) for consumers on the low voltage general tariff who use up to 300 kw-h a month. Between 301 and 500 kw-h the price rises from MT 5.94 to 8.29 per kw-h., and above 500 kw-h a month, the increase is from MT 6.5 to 9.07.

The chair of the state electricity company, EDM, Mateus Magala, said that in other members of SADC (Southern African Development Community), electricity costs 12.5 US cents per kilowatt-hour. EDM spokesperson Luis Amado said EDM is still selling its power below cost, which is 8-9 US cents per kw-h. (AIM En, *O Pais* 1 Nov)

EDM became the first state company to hire its four top administrators through an international public competition. They were named 28 October; there were 90 applications. One director, Carlos Yum, was reappointed. Two new directors, Fatima Arthur and Aly Siloca Impija, come from within

EDM, and the new Finance Director is Noel Govene from G4S. (Zitamar 31 Oct)

Cimentos de Mozambique increased cement prices and also announced different prices in different parts of the country. Water prices were also increased.

Maleiane admits ignorance about secret debt

Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, was asked if he could guarantee that there were no more secret debts. He thought there were not, but added "naturally there could be one creditor who has some information that we don't have. We would be thankful to have this information ... so that we don't think we have finished when in fact we have not." He was questioned at an investment conference in Maputo this week organized by the *Financial Times* (FT).

He also admitted he did not know where the money had gone, and backed the audit of the £2 bn secret loans. "I am also a citizen so I have a right to ask this question." With the audit "we will end up knowing what really happened." (Zitamar 2 Nov)

Growth projection is down to 3.7%, Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, told the FT seminar. He noted that at the beginning of the year, projected growth for 2016 was 7%, which was cut to 4.5% in the June budget. And he admitted that even 3.7% is unlikely without peace. (AIM En 3 Nov)

Other news

First large scale solar power: An \$84 million solar energy plant to be built in Mocuba, Zambézia, next year will have a capacity of 40 megawatts and supply 175,000 houses. The project is owned by a Norwegian company, Scatec Solar (52.5%), Norfund (22.5%), and EDM (25%); 76% of the funding comes from the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank group. Another solar power project is being developed in Metoro, Cabo Delgado, by a French company, Neoen.

Three investment agencies were merged into a new Investment and Trade Agency (AIC) by the Council of Ministers Tuesday (1 Nov). The three are the Investment Promotion Centre (CPI), the Export Promotion Institute (IPEX), and the Office for Accelerated Economic Zones (GAZEDA). The merger reflects their relative lack of success in promoting investment and trade. Staff will be cut from 160 to 60. (AIM En 2 Nov)

Schoolchildren will sit on the floor because Nampula province does not have enough money to buy school desks, (AIM Pt 3 Nov) The Nampula government has also stopped free seed distribution to peasants.

5 tractors were given to a group of 502 farmers of the União de Agricultores de Gôndola by Manica governor Alberto Mondlane on 28 October. The tractors are paid for though the Fundo de Desenvolvimento Agrário (FDA). But it is unclear how 100 farmers will share a single tractor. (AIM Pt 3 Nov)

The digital migration contract has been awarded for the second time to Startimes Software Technologies Company. Startimes Media Company Mozambique is 15% owned by the Guebuza family company Focus 21, and the rest by Chinese interests. StarTimes was given the contract in 2014 but could not put together the money for the project, and on 29 June it was suddenly taken away, and the Instituto Nacional de Comunicações de Moçambique (INCM) announced a tender. On 2 November the \$156 mn contract was given back to StarTimes. In September another Guebuza company Intelec Holdings set up a new airline, Linhas Aéreas do Zambeze. (@Verdade 3 Nov, 31 Oct)

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"Mozambique News Reports & Clippings, number XXX", DATE, bit.ly/mozamb, accessed XXX.

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Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozElecData>

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Books by Joseph Hanlon

Bangladesh confronts climate change: Keeping our heads above water

by Manoj Roy, Joseph Hanlon and David Hulme Published by Anthem Press

<http://www.anthempress.com/bangladesh-confronts-climate-change-pb>

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon **In pdf format, 6 Mb file, free** on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

E-book for Kindle and iPad, <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NRZXXKE>

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: kapicuir@tdm.co.mz / kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London. Please e-mail j.hanlon@open.ac.uk.

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-it-s-land-detail>

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

is available 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:

One 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, Portuguese:

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O País: www.opais.co.mz

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Diário de Moçambique (Beira): <http://www.diariodemocambique.co.mz>

Carlos Serra Diário de um sociólogo: <http://oficinasociologia.blogspot.com>

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique: <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Rhula weekly newsletter: <http://www.rhula.net/news-announcements.html>

Zitamar: <http://zitamar.com/>

Macauhub English: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/>

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

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