

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Also in this issue:

Deaths of Marcelino dos Santos and Mario Machungo

Cabo Delgado:

Mine invasion, war, aid, media attacks, climate crisis

The civil war in Cabo Delgado is expanding, with government portraying the war as foreign backed and needing foreign military assistance and restrictions on media. But an invasion of a ruby mine by many artisanal miners points to the importance of lack of jobs.

Meanwhile torrential rains exacerbated by the climate emergency have affected the same areas hit by cyclone Kenneth, cutting off all roads to the north of the province and the gas developments.

800-1500 miners invade Gemfields

An estimated 800 to 1500 artisanal miners have invaded the Montepuez ruby mine in the past month. Soil softened by heavy rains has collapsed onto miners, killing 11. Zitamar cited other sources saying 30 dead and DW said 42, but Gemfields contacted Zitamar to say it was confident the death toll is only 11. (Zitamar 17,18 Feb, Deutsche Welle - DW -7 Feb, <https://p.dw.com/p/3XQwb>)

Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM) is 75% owned by Gemfields and 25% by Mwiriti, which is controlled by Raimundo Pachinuapa, a liberation war commander now on the Frelimo Political Commission. MRM is chaired by Samora Machel Jr. Pachinuapa's son Raime is MRM's director of corporate affairs. The mine area is 340 square kilometres. Hundreds of artisanal miners and farmers were displaced when MRM won the licence. (Mozambican land law gives priority to miners over farmers.) But MRM has never been able to fully control the huge area. Initially violence was used and a year ago Gemfields settled a London High Court action and agreed to pay \$8.3 mn to settle murder, torture and house burning claims. It also agreed to set up compensation funds to resettle those displaced and pay future claims. (See this newsletter 436 <http://bit.ly/Ruby-Moz436>) But Mozambican authorities late last year barred UK lawyers from Leigh Day who went to Mozambique to help set up the compensation funds. Gemfields this week was readmitted to the London Stock Exchange's AIM list, following a two year absence due to a take-over and management issues; the stock is already listed in Johannesburg and Bermuda.

Artisanal miner Júlio Ismael, from Muaja in neighbouring Ancuabe district, told DW "We work there looking for something to eat. For example, here, wherever you are working in terms of mining is

forbidden, they expel us. So, with this situation of hunger and poverty that we live in, we are entering there to get something to eat. "

Land given to ruby, graphite and other miners and to gas companies cover such large areas that there are reports from both the ruby and gas zones that it has become impossible to find new farmland for the displaced villagers. This is adding to tensions caused by the eviction of traditional artisanal miners, who are an important part of the Cabo Delgado rural economy. Reduced opportunities have combined with growing inequality and the obvious mineral wealth to create support for the insurgents.

The insurgents have been recruiting in neighbouring provinces with offers of jobs. On 9 February 36 young people were presented to the public in Muhaivire neighbourhood of Nampula city. Police had detained them in Erati on their way to Cabo Delgado. They had been told they would be given jobs as artisanal miners. The secretary of state for Nampula, Mety Gondola, urged parents not to let their sons be recruited because the promises are false - there are no jobs. It is a repeated refrain. In Alto Molocue on 27 November last year President Filipe Nyusi himself told young people not to be deceived by false promises of jobs. (AIM 28 Nov 2019, 10 Feb 2020)

Attacks in north, west, south

Three new attacks show the spread of the Cabo Delgado civil war. Nangololo in Meluco district was attacked on Saturday morning (15 Feb) with one person killed and houses burned. Nangololo is on the N380 road, which is the main road from Pemba to Palma. It is also halfway between Macomia and Bilibiza, which was attacked and suffered major damage on 29 January. It was announced Monday that the damage to the Agricultural Institute there was so serious that classes will have to be moved to lower level schools in the south of the province. Bilibiza was the southernmost attack so far.

Last week (12 Feb) two neighbouring villages in Nangade district, Chicuaia Nova and Litingina, were attacked. Two people were killed and houses and shops burned. There was a response from a nearby military base and the attacks were limited. Nangade is in the north of Cabo Delgado on the border with Tanzania and inland from Palma. Litingina had been attacked previously in November.

Also on 12 February there was an attack, apparently by the insurgents, in Mecula district of Niassa province (bordering Mueda, Cabo Delgado). This is the further west of any attacks so far. Police say they killed 8 attackers and injured 15. (*Carta da Moçambique* 17 Feb)

The 12 February attacks were a day after President Nyusi was in Pemba for a cabinet meeting to discuss the war.

Provincial authorities say that 156,000 people are affected by the war, and that 76 schools and 4 health posts have been destroyed or damaged. The Catholic bishop of Pemba, Luiz Fernando Lisboa, estimates that at least 500 people have died in the war.

Thousands have fled to the coast or to the provincial capital Pemba. Provincial authorities says 14,000 peasant households have abandoned their farms, and 2,000 fishermen have had to flee. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Andrej Mahecic, says number of displaced people is at least 100,000. (AIM 10 Feb)

At a meeting with the diplomatic corps in Maputo Friday (14 Feb) President Nyusi complained that countries have offered help to combat the insurgency, "but when we ask them how they want to help, they say nothing - there is nothing concrete." (Lusa 14 Feb, Zitamar 17 Feb) The only military help has come from Russia, but its Wagner Group mercenaries failed and were forced to withdraw.

Nyusi's praise singers call for 'extra-legal actions' against the press

"Extra-legal actions" should be taken by police, army and security services against journalists who report "despondent 'news' that demoralizes the Defence and Security Forces (FDS)" in Cabo Delgado. *Carta de Moçambique*, its editor Marcelo Mosse, and those who provide information to them "are not patriots", wrote Julião João Cumbane in an 11 February post. Their activities "must not be allowed or tolerated."

Cumbane is not an ordinary Facebook polemicist, but a backer of the President who has been rewarded for his work. And his call to intensify press restrictions in Cabo Delgado has brought widespread criticism. The Media Institute of South Africa, the Mozambican journalists union, and the Portuguese Language Journalists (FJLP) have all attacked what they see a call for violence against journalists.

Social media has become an important battleground and leaders have a modern form of "praise singers". President Armando Guebuza had a group called the "G-40" of about 40 commentators that state media were expected to use and who posted regularly on Facebook and other social media to praise Guebuza and fiercely attack his critics. Filipe Nyusi has followed that model, with his own praise-singing bloggers. Their importance during the elections was recognised when one of the most important of the G-40 who had moved to praise Nyusi, UEM physics lecturer Juliao Cumbane, was rewarded in November with the post as chair of the National Company of Science and Technology Parks (ENPCT). (*Savana* 29 Nov 2019) Two other Nyusi praise singers have also received government posts, Gustavo Mavie as a board member of the Matola grain terminal and Amorim Bila as deputy director of the Financial Information Office.

The government does not want the war reported by journalists or studied by academics. Several journalists have already been arrested and illegally detained for extended periods for reporting the war and there are restrictions on foreign journalists going to Cabo Delgado to report. *Carta de Moçambique* has the best correspondents and been the most effective in reporting the war.

No roads north

Exactly the area of central Cabo Delgado hit by the unprecedented Cyclone Kenneth in April 2019 has been hit by heavy rains a month ago and then again last week, causing high flood levels in the Montepuez and Messalo rivers, The January floods destroyed sections of bridges over both rivers on the N380 which goes from Pemba north to Palma. An attempt was made to build a temporary causeway (known as a "drift") across the Montepuez river, but that has been washed out by the more recent floods. Waters are falling but still above flood level and there is no chance of opening the N380 for at least two months. This section of road is also under regular attack by insurgents.

The only other, much longer, route north is via Montepuez and Mueda, but the dirt road is now mud and impassable for lorries. So there will be no overland cargo transport from Pemba to the gas developments for some time. Small passenger planes now fly Pemba-Palma, but cargo must go by barge.

This is the climate crisis

Ten months after Buzi, Sofala, was cut off by flood waters from cyclone Idai, it is cut off again, and floodwaters on the Buzi and Pungue rivers are still rising. Two other areas hit by Itai were hit again last week, with floodwaters cutting off Dombe and Mossurize, Manica. At least two bridges have been washed away in Manica and Sofala.

Meanwhile, reservoirs in the south are not filling, and there is a shortage of rain.

Both cyclones last year were unusual. There had never been a cyclone in central Cabo Delgado. And the way Cyclone Idai built up its power and rain content was unusual. Both were due to the rising temperature of the ocean, which fuels cyclones.

And all climate crisis forecasts for Mozambique have been for less rainfall in the south, while in the centre and north total rainfall will not change but it will come in more intense bursts. So what Mozambique is seeing is the predicted impact of the climate crisis - and it will get worse.

Marcelino dos Santos and Mario Machungo die

Marcelino dos Santos, one of the founders of Frelimo, died in Maputo on 11 February at the age of 90. He was born on 20 May 1929 in Lumbo, Mozambique Island, Nampula. He was a student in Lisbon from 1948 to 1951, and escaped the Portuguese political police, PIDE, to France where he worked with other exiled African nationalists. Dos Santos became head of the foreign relations department of Udenamo (National Democratic Union of Mozambique), which in 1962 merged with Manu (Mozambique African National Union) and Unami (National African Union for the Independence of Mozambique) to form Frelimo, under the leadership of Eduardo Mondlane. When Mondlane was assassinated by the Portuguese in 1969, Samora Machel was elected President of Frelimo and dos Santos Deputy President.

After independence, in 1975, dos Santos became Minister of Planning and Development in Machel's first government, and held various posts until he became speaker of Parliament 1986-1994. AIM comments that despite Frelimo's embrace of a market economy, dos Santos never wavered in his commitment to socialism. He remained a member of the Frelimo Central Committee until he died. Dos Santos was also a poet, writing under the pseudonyms of Kulangano and Lilinho Micaia.

Former prime minister **Mario Machungo** died of an illness in Portugal on 17 February. Machungo was born on 1 December 1940 in Maxixe, Inhambane, and studied in Portugal where he joined Frelimo. He was a member of the Political Bureau 1977-1991. In the transitional government set up after the independence agreement he was Minister for Economic Coordination. From independence, he was Minister of Industry, then Agriculture, then Planning. He was Prime Minister 1986-94 and agreed the introduction of World Bank structural adjustment. Before and after his political career he was a banker, and became the founder and chair 1995-2015 of the International Bank of Mozambique (BIM), which became the largest commercial bank in the country.

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Background reading

Special reports

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - Pt - CIP - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroina>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

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

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz-full>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

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

Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

Eight books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014)

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)

Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)

Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996)

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

Two more will be available shortly to download:

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)

Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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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>

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

Mozambique media websites, English:

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

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

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

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

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