

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Raising questions at the top

Nyusi 1 - the high cost of economic liberalisation

"Economic liberalisation and the adoption of the market economy has led some to forget their main mission of defending the interests of the party and the people," President Filipe Nyusi told a Frelimo meeting on 24 August. They only satisfy personal interests, forgetting the need to defend the people. He was specifically looking back at changes made in the 1990s. (AIM, MediaFax 25 Aug)

In the early 1990s, at the end of Cold War, the IMF, World Bank said they would help Mozambique rebuild after the 1980s proxy war imposed by the US had killed a million Mozambicans and destroyed the economy. But the condition was that Mozambique accept the same "shock therapy" that was being imposed on the countries of the former Soviet Union. Greed and oligarchs were the result, in Mozambique as elsewhere. And Nyusi admitted this was having an impact, creating space for the war in Cabo Delgado.

Nyusi 2 - Free market hurts small farmers

The maize producer is paid \$180 per tonne of maize, but the price of maize meal in Maputo is \$900 per tonne, said President Filipe Nyusi at the opening a maize mill in Nampula city on 25 August. (AIM, 26 Aug) The free market means most of the final sale price is profit for millers and traders.

Indeed, \$180 per tonne is not enough to pay the costs of production. A tonne of maize needs 100 kg of fertiliser, now more than \$100, plus tilling and weeding of the land. Other countries such as Zimbabwe have a floor price for maize which keeps it above production costs and profitable for commercial production. There are no floor prices in Mozambique, so maize and rice have rarely been commercial crops in Mozambique.

Nyusi also opened an vegetable oil factory on 18 August in Cuamba which he said would reduce imports and stimulate agricultural production. (AIM 19 Aug) But 15 years ago we wrote about a factory in Chimoio producing oil from local sunflower seed which had stimulated production. But the factory was put out of business by cheaper imported palm oil. ("Do Bicycles equal development

in Mozambique?, by Joseph Hanlon and Teresa Smart, 2008, fn 13, p 171. Available free on <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books> but only in Portuguese. Still on sale in English.)

Without government support or protection, will another new factory close in the face of competing imports? This is how the free market works, and it is not enough to build factories for the president to open. Government must intervene in the market. *jh*

Reserve commander - army gives jobs to Frelimo instead of creating soldiers

“The army must recruit in order to wage war. But what happens today is that we recruit in order to give people jobs. I recruit my son because I can’t educate him, so I send him into the army or the police. Then, when I hear that he’s being sent to Cabo Delgado, I do everything to take his name off the list”, said David Munongoro, commander of the reservists in the Mozambican Armed Forces (FADM). He was head of the military police for 12 years, and also deputy commander of the Higher Institute of Defence Studies. He was speaking to reporters during a Scientific Conference in Maputo on defence and security.

Current procedures for recruiting soldiers to the FADM do not produce the kind of army needed in the fight against insurgents in Cabo Delgado. Instead of nepotism in military recruitment to create jobs, the army needs to recruit people to fight the war. It is up to the State to motivate the troops by providing them with decent conditions, Munongoro added. “There should be good quality food, good equipment, good pay. And when I speak of good pay, I’m not just talking about wages, I’m also including life insurance because in the event of his death, a soldier must be sure that his family will be well looked after”. (AIM 25 Aug)

Cabo Delgado war

Insurgency continues in 8 districts

Fighting continued in July and August with attacks in Palma and Mocimboa da Praia districts, near the district towns, in the gas zone which is supposed to be safe. Between 18 and 21 August, multiple incidents were recorded in Palma District, including an 18 August attack on the village of Nhica do Rovuma, 30 kilometres from Palma Town.

There have been other attacks in Meluco, Ancuabe, Macomia, Muidumbe, Montepuez, and Nangade districts. The number of incidents in June was the highest for two years. (Zitamar 30 Aug, Focus Group 26 August, MediaFax 23 Aug, Cabo Ligado monthly 16 Aug)

Displaced people and traders are slowly returning to Palma and Mocimboa da Praia.

Raids on riot police supply insurgency

The supposedly elite para-military riot police (UIR, Unidade de Intervenção Rápido) have been attacked so often in Nangade district that "a significant part of the insurgent weaponry in Cabo Delgado has been taken from the military and police", reports Armando Nhantumbo in a detailed article in *Savana* (26 August). Attacks frequently occur just when a base is being supplied with food, suggesting the information is leaking to the insurgents.

On 18 August insurgents attacked near Mocimboa da Praia town with mortars they had taken from a Mandimba, Nangade, army base, two weeks before. The Mandimba base had been attacked just as food was being delivered, and the soldiers fled when the attack started,; one soldier was killed, *Savana* reports.

On 19 August, the UIR base in Litingina village, Nangade, was told that by the local village head that insurgents were coming. So they fled. A ground of eight insurgents stripped the base, taking weapons, ammunition and food.

The UIR based in Namwembe, Nangade, has been raided three times. The 18 July attack was just when the UIR food supply truck was arriving.

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Important external links

Minimum wage & exchange rate charts, tables 1996-2022 <https://bit.ly/MozMinWage2022>

TSU_Tabela-Salarial-Unica - law, decrees, points system (2 Mb) <https://bit.ly/Moz-TSU>

Daily debt trial press clippings in English: <https://bit.ly/Moz-Debt-Map-Trial>.

Trial hearings over, judgement postponed to 30 November 2022.

Covid-19 daily <https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/documentos-em-pdf/boletins-diarios/>

Daily flood and monthly dry season reports - <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2022>

Cyclone trackers, <https://www.cyclocane.com/> and <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <https://bit.ly/MozNews2022> and <http://bit.ly/MozNews2021>

Downloadable books: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books> Election data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

My Mozambique archive: <http://bit.ly/Mozamb>

Cabo Delgado

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war <https://www.cabolidgado.com/>

Archive with reports, detailed maps, and census data <https://bit.ly/Moz-CDg>

Special reports on the war

Evolution of the war: global vs local. 27 Feb 2020 <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoOrigins>

Religion is shaping Cabo Delgado civil war. 30 April 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoReligion>

Intensifying argument over roots of war. 28 June 2020 <https://bit.ly/Moz-492>

Are the drums of war silencing any hope of peace? 26 July 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-496>

A history of violence presages the insurgency. 13 August 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-498>

Military & economic intervention. 3 Sept 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>

Cabo-Delgado-Free-for-all. 20 Apr 2022. <https://bit.ly/Moz-593>

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>

2001 first article- *Metical* - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 <bit.ly/MozGasEng>

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 <bit.ly/MozGasPt>

Background reading

Special reports

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

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

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Secret debt trial (Aug-Oct 2021) press reports <https://bit.ly/Moz-secret-debt>

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

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

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>

Ten 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) is on <https://bit.ly/Chickens-Beer>
Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)
Civil War Civil Peace (2006): <https://bit.ly/Civil-War-Civil-Peace>
Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)
Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)
Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)
Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996) <https://bit.ly/Peace-wo-Profit>
Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)
Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)
Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986) <available shortly>

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

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique (free): <http://clubofmozambique.com/>
Zitamar (paywall): <http://zitamar.com/>

Mozambique media websites, Portuguese (all with partial paywall):

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz
O País: www.opais.co.mz
@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>
Carta de Moçambique <https://cartamz.com>

Mozambique think tanks and pressure groups, Portuguese:

Centro de Integridade Pública: CIP <https://cipmoz.org/>
Observatório do Meio Rural: OMR <https://omrmz.org/>
Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos: IESE <https://www.iese.ac.mz/>
Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento CDD <https://cddmoz.org/> (some CDD in English)
Also CDD now controls Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento - FMO (main debt group) <http://www.fmo.org.mz>
and RMDDH - Rede Moçambicana dos Defensores dos Direitos Humanos (a human rights group).
To subscribe to all CDD publications: <http://eepurl.com/gO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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