MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

610 4 December 2022 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Daily reports

I am posting two daily reports.

- + As in the past, I am posting the government's **daily flood bulletin**, which is excellent with detailed reports on all main rivers, dams and rainfall. This will continue until the end of the rainy season. Daily on https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023
- + And since Wednesday Judge Efigenio Baptista has been reading out his 1388 page decision in the **secret debt trial**, which will probably take all of this week. As in the trial itself, we are posting daily detailed English press reports, on https://bit.ly/Moz-Debt-Map-Trial. So far the judge has only presented evidence and has not issued any judgements on the 19 defendants.

And my recent London School of Economics working papers have been posted: "How the IMF and World Bank caused a resource curse and civil war in Mozambique" https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-209

"World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success' - 'remarkable growth' and oligarchs have brought high inequality, poverty and corruption" https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-208

Damning evidence in secret debt trial

There is damning evidence against 10 of the 19 people accused in the \$2 bn secret debt trial, but no evidence against 9 lesser figures who had handled money but had no reason to know it was stolen, said Judge Efigenio Baptista in the first four days of delivering his verdict.

Total bribes paid by the Abu Dhabi based group Privinvest under Mozambique's "hidden debts" scandal amounted to at least \$55.6 mn. Baptista pointed out that this money did not really belong to Privinvest but had been stolen via the contracts signed with Mozambican state bodies. The accused, he said, had formed a criminal group "to defraud the Mozambican state".

The largest secret debt bribe was \$33 mn to Ndambi Guebuza, the oldest son of the then President, Amando Guebuza. Other significant bribes were \$8.5 mn each paid to Ndambi Guebuza's associates Teofilo Nhangumele and Bruno Langa; \$3.2 mn for Antonio Carlos do Rosario, the head of economic intelligence in the security service, SISE, and chairperson of all three fraudulent companies; \$1.6 mn for Renato Matusse, Guebuza's political adviser; and €750,000 euros for Guebuza's personal secretary, Maria Ines Moiane.

Baptista also said that the original contract was increased because of the refusal of Ndambi Guebuza to share the \$50 mn bribe with Gregorio Leao and Antonio Carlos do Rosario. "With the financing contract already signed, the only way they found to obtain additional bribe money was to alter the supply contract and hence the financing contract".

His summing up of the evidence suggests convictions and long sentences for a least some of the defendants, including Ndambi. He began is summing up Wednesday 30 November and continued with a Saturday session and will continue, with verdicts and sentences, during the coming week. I am posting daily press reports, in English, on https://bit.ly/Moz-Debt-Map-Trial.

Water looks OK in Mozambique, but not in Zimbabwe

Mozambique's main dams are at least half full and Cahora Bassa is 82% full, very good for this time of year, just before the rains. This comes from the daily *Boletim Hidrológico Nacional* of the Departamento de Gestão de Recursos Hídricos of the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Water. Excellent, detailed, important in the period of floods, and published daily - and posted by me on https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023.

The *Boletim Hidrológic* also shows that the Kariba dam, upstream on the Zambezi River between Zimbabwe and Zambia, is only 4% full. That is so serious that Zimbabwe has had to stop generating electricity at Kariba. Zimbabwe has suffered acute power shortages for several years, as global heating has led to successive droughts in the headwaters of the Zambezi and reduced flow in the river.

Cabo Delgado

As Rwandan troops hit 2500, Total may accept a security zone

TotalEnergies and France seem to be inching toward resuming work on the gas inside a protection zone run by Rwanda, while the war continues elsewhere in Cabo Delgado. TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné has said repeatedly he would not return until there is peace, but that seems increasingly unlikely, and he is under pressure to generate more gas to replace purchases from Russia.

The EU on 1 December for the first time agreed €20 mn "to support the continued deployment of Rwanda Defence Force in Cabo Delgado province". Meanwhile on 1 December Rwandan President Paul Kagame said more troops had been sent to Mozambique the previous week and the total has reached 2500 - up from the original 1000. The main goal now is to chase the insurgents in other places where they have gone when they were pushed out of Palma and Mocimboa da Praia by the Rwandan army said Kagame. He also said "There is no single country or organisation that has given us even a single coin to use in those operations. It is the money of our country that we use." (New Times Kigali 30 Nov, 2 Dec; European Council 1 Dec)

Webinar: How is Cabo Delgado? is organised by the two most important research organisations studying the Cabo Delgado war, OMR and ACLED. It is Wednesday 7 December at 15.00 Maputo-Johannesburg time (UCT/GMT +2). Thus 13.00 London, Lisbon, Accra and 14.00

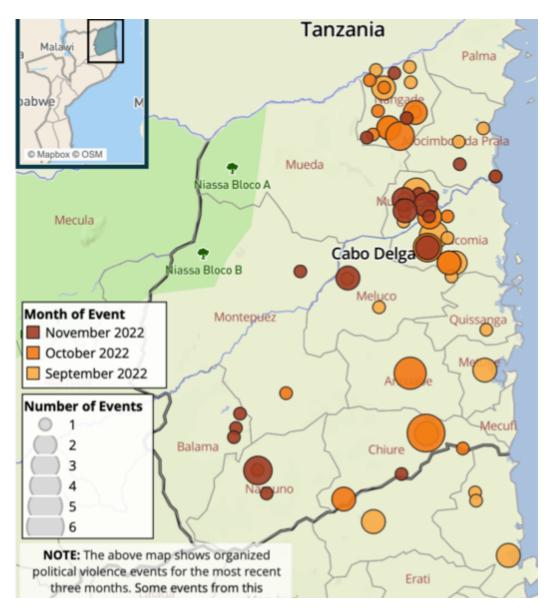
Paris, Lagos. Must pre-register: bit.ly/3gw0Jtz. Speakers Peter Bofin of ACLED and João Feijó of OMR. ACLED publishes Cabo Ligado. Both thoughtful and very well informed.

Special Report on Five Years of Conflict in Northern Mozambique, Cabo Ligado Monthly: October 2022 (23 November 2022) A very useful summary of five years of insurgency, with a discussion of ideology and collective local leadership. Useful background for the webinar. https://bit.ly/Ligado-5yrs

War continues with heavy fighting in Nangade and Macomia and spread south-west

The heaviest fighting continues in two places that will worry TotalEnergies. The map below shows insurgents have not been pushed far out of the two gas districts of Palma and Mocimboa da Praia, which TotalEnergies will want as its security zone.

In Nangade district on the Rovuma River border with Tanzania, battles have effectively closed the road from Mueda to Palma.



And in northwest Macomia district there is an insurgent presence along the heavily forested Messalo river and in mountainous areas to the south. "During the Mozambican War of Independence, this area was considered largely impenetrable by the Portuguese military," notes *Cabo Ligado* (29 Nov). This fighting disrupts the N380, the only paved road that links Pemba with the gas zone; several vehicles were ambushed on 20 November killing five people, including the Palma police chief of operations Manuel Truca, and a Mozambican worker for the French NGO Solidarités International.

Rwandan troops are keeping open the road from Mocimboa da Praia west to Mueda, which runs through a gap between two zones of fighting.

The map above from *Cabo Ligado* (29 Nov) shows attacks and fighting in the past three months, with November the darkest colour. The map also shows the increasing presence of insurgents in the west and south - Montepuez, Balama, Namuno and Chiure districts - which had been less affected by the war.

For example, in a demonstration of strength on 30 November, in Maravi, Namuno, a young man on his farm was captured by insurgents who took him to the nearby woods, showing him many more armed insurgents. Before beating the victim, the insurgents gave the man the following message: "Go to your village and say that we are here".

In Mocimboa da Praia district an estimated 72,000 displaced people have returned, the port reopened on 29 November, and there has been a partial return to normality. But the map shows a continued insurgent presence in the south of the district. In Mbau on 16 November at least two fishermen were beheaded. On 24 November 20 men, half armed with guns and the others with machetes, surrounded a vehicle and shot the driver dead before moving into the village of Calugo on the R762 road south of Mocímboa da Praia town. No one else was killed or injured, but they stole food from the market and asked the residents, "Who told you to return to Mocímboa?"

In Nangade, 300 Tanzanian troops arrived in October as part of the SADC mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and have been involved in heavy fighting. On 15 November, insurgents ambushed a Tanzanian convoy near Mungano village, wounding three soldiers and damaging three vehicles with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). Three insurgents were also killed during the altercation but the Tanzanians were not able to repel the insurgents and were forced to retreat, allowing the insurgents to seize weaponry and equipment. SAMIM announced that on 29 November in a battle in Nkonga village, they attacked a base and killed 30 insurgents and lost two, one soldier from Tanzania and one from Botswana.

On 22 November, the Naparama militia pursued 20 insurgents to Nairoto in Montepuez district, on the bank of the Messalo river. Equipped only with bows and arrows, the Naparamas clashed with the insurgent fighters while chanting hymns. Five of the Naparamas were captured and beheaded.

Two much-travelled second hand aircraft were delivered to the Mozambican Air Force on 14 November by the South African firm, Paramount Group, which has links with Dyke Advisory Group which earlier was providing air support for the for the Ministry of Interior in Cabo Delgado. The planes are a Czech LET L-410 and a Spanish CASA CN235, with 17 and 30 seats, respectively, for military operations and cargo transport, according to the commander of the Mozambican Air Force, Cândido Tirando. He said they have the ability to land on "unconventional runways and unprepared land," and both were "equipped to allow for greater deployment capability of special forces," including paratroopers. Paramount and its Dubai-based partner Burnham Global have supplied armoured vehicles, helicopters and training. The CN235 was built in 1987, flown by the Botswana air force until 2011, then passed through the hands of Togo, South Africa and Madagascar.

(Sources: Cabo Ligado, Pinnacle News, Zitamar, Focus Group, Carta de Moçambique, Noticias)

US-China battle for Cabo Delgado graphite continues with high profits but few jobs

With Chinese money, the Australian Triton Minerals will go ahead with its Ancuabe, Cabo Delgado, graphite mine, it announced on 1 December. In September Shandong Yulong Gold committed a further investment of \$3.4 mn and visited and approved the project on 22 November. Shandong Yulong appears to be part held by state and provincial companies in Shandong and part by private Chinese investors.

Triton Ancuabe is adjacent to the producing German-owned AMG Graphit Kropfmuhl (GK) graphite mine, 80 km west of Pemba. Both were attacked by insurgents in June and development work suspended.

Triton in a 2017 proposal said the mine would be so hugely profitable that it would pay back all its construction costs in just 3.7 years, and have a rate of return (IRR) of 37%. Constructions costs would be \$100 mn, and it would have a net profit of \$1.2 bn (before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization - EBITDA) over the life of the project. More than \$200 mn would be paid in taxes, the proposal claimed.

Graphite is essential for the anode of lithium ion batteries. The battery is charged by moving lithium ions from the cathode to the anode, where the ions are stored in spaces in the graphite structure. Thus graphite is in increasing demand for electric cars and other non-fossil-fuel systems. Suddenly Cabo Delgado is of high interest to the US and China. The US is subsidising Syrah, further west in Balama, to open a factory in Louisiana, in the US, to manufacture the anodes.

Anodes are not complicated and could be manufactured in Mozambique. But none of these mines will produce anything more than refined graphite to ship to China, US and Europe for processing - because the government has never demanded they create manufacturing jobs.

The original mining concessions was granted to Grafex, owned by Edson Tomas Sixpense and Dercio Lionel Alexandre Chiziane, who sold it to Triton in 2014.

http://tritonminerals.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/20221201-Triton-Re-commits-to-Large-Scale-Development-of-Ancuabe.pdf and https://www.tritonminerals.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/17 12 15 Ancuabe Definitive Feasibility 900.pdf

The Chinese mining company DH Mining is opening a graphite mine in Nipepe, Niassa. In 2019 the DH Mining contract was suspended due to lack of consultations with local people and lack of an environmental study, but was later able to resume. Equipment arrived this year from China. Triton is also expected to import equipment from China.

Numbers

Government domestic borrowing up \$900 mn this year - a 25% jump

Due to falling foreign aid and loans, government borrowed an additional \$900 mn from local banks and bondholders, reported Bank of Mozambique (BdM) in its quarterly economic report (2 Dec). Government domestic borrowing is \$4.3 bn, up 25% since December 2021, according to BdM. Domestic borrowing has doubled in three years - in December 2019 it was \$2.2 bn.

As a share of GDP, domestic borrowing has jumped from 14.5% three years ago to 26.6% now. Banks consider government debt safer and more profitable than lending to local businesses, so this huge increase in government borrowing squeezes out the local companies.

Half of government domestic borrowing is in bonds which are auctioned, most recently four year bonds with 21.51% interest rates. One quarter of borrowing is treasury bills of a year or less (currently 17.7%), and one quarter directly from BdM.

Interest rates up 0.1% to 22.6%

The prime interest rate rose 0.1% (10 basis points), the Bank of Mozambique announced on 30 November. The base rate (Taxa de Juro de Política Monetária, MIMO) was maintained at 17.25% but the Mozambican Banking Association has increased their prime rate (the interest paid to their most creditworthy customers) by 0.1% to 22.6%. The prime rate was 18.6% until March this year.

BdM reports inflation was 12% in September and fell to 11% in October, which means the prime rate is 11.6% above inflation, which for many businesses is prohibitive and less than their profit margins.

The Bank of Mozambique issues two key reports at the beginning of each month and one quarterly report (in Portuguese). The links are to contents pages: click on the top line for the most recent (currently 30/11/2022 or 2/12/2022)

MIMO: https://www.bancomoc.mz/fm pgTab1.aspx?id=1

Prime rate: https://www.bancomoc.mz/fm pgTab1.aspx?id=298 This also contains reports on spreads (which for microfinance go up to 50%) and lending conditions.

Economic report: https://www.bancomoc.mz/fm pgTab1.aspx?id=105 (published every three months)

Top 5 exports all mineral-energy - and dependence on extractives increasing

Export data for the first three quarters (Jan-Sep) shows how much Mozambique is now an extractive economy. Mineral-energy exports jumped \$2 bn compared to 2021. The top five official exports for January to September were coal (\$2,182 mn), aluminium (made with Cahora Bassa electricity, \$1,453 mn), electricity (\$385 mn), heavy sands (\$365 mn), and natural gas (\$316 mn).

Not mentioned nor officially recorded is heroin and methamphetamine, which probably is the third most important export, at \$600 mn in the first three quarters. This is a transit trade - Afghanistan via Mozambique to Johannesburg and on to Europe - but with substantial amounts of money remaining in Mozambique, adding to the local economy. (https://bit.ly/Moz-heroin and <a href="https://bit.ly/M

A Chinese factory processing heavy mineral sands in Chibuto, Gaza, was inaugurated by President Filipe Nyusi on Friday (2 Dec). Heavy sands are sifted for titanium and other minerals. The project has had a slow start, beginning in 2014. The Dingsheng heavy sands mine covers 3000 ha and the factory will cost \$700 mn. Nyusi said that when it is operating, the mine and factory will pay \$36 mn per year in taxes.

HIV infections still rising

The number of adults infected by HIV has risen by more than 350,000 in six years, according to the latest statistics released by the Ministry of Health on 1 December. Data is from the 2021 Survey on Assessing the Impacts of HIV/AIDS (INSIDA).

The Ministry proudly reported that HIV prevalence rate among adults aged between 15 and 49 fell from 13.2% in 2015 to 12.4% in 2021. But the ministry did not give actual numbers infected. Using census projections, the number of infected adults has jumped from 1.7 mn in 2015, when the previous survey was done, to 2.1 mn now.

Furthermore, while the national prevalence rate is 12.4%, among women it is much higher, at 15% of all women aged 15 and above. The prevalence rate among men is 9.5%.

Gaza, remains the province with the highest prevalence rate, with 20.9% of adults infected with HIV. But this is a significant drop from 24.4%. Zambézia is now second, with a major increase in incidence - 17.1% and up from 15.1% in 2015. Nampula has also seen a big increase, from 5.7% to 10.0%, and Tete jumps from 5.2% to 8.4%

The big decreases have been Manica, down from 13.5% in 2015 to 7.9% in 2021, and Maputo province, down from 22.9% to 12.4%. Rates have also fallen in Sofala, 16.3% to 13.2%, Cabo Delgado 13.8% to 10.5%, and Inhambane from 14.1% to 12.6%

Two provinces remain roughly unchanged: Maputo city 16.9% in 2015 and 16.2% in 2021, and Niassa, 7.8% up to 8.0%. (Ministério da Saúde reports, 2019 and 2022)

Four countries, all in southern Africa, have higher HIV rates: Eswatini 26.8%, Lesotho 21.1%, Botswana 19.9%, and South Africa 19.1%. (all figures % of adults)

Mozambique recorded 9.4 million cases of malaria in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 20% compared to the same period in 2021, Mozambique's health minister Armindo Tiago announced on 23 November. "In the first nine months of 2022 alone, 9.4 million cases of malaria were registered, compared to 7.8 million in the same period of 2021," he said. According to the minister, the rise in the number of cases was due to the "inevitable impact of climate change." (Lusa 23 Nov) According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report of December 2021, Mozambique is one of six sub-Saharan African countries which account for over half of all cases of malaria in the world.

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Elections

CIP Election Bulletin. Mozambique Elections Bulletin now published by Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP https://www.cipmoz.org; cip@cipmoz.org). To subscribe or unsubscribe: https://bit.ly/MozBul-sub Past election newsletters are on https://bit.ly/2H066Kg

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

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 started on 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-2023

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 <a href="https://b

Downloadable books: http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books Election data: http://bit.ly/MozElData

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

Cabo Delgado

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war https://www.caboligado.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

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 Beneficio: 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) https://bit.ly/Shots-Moz

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)

Beggar 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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