

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Kidnapping industry gained \$35 mn in ransoms this year

The kidnapping industry moved \$35 mn in the first 11 months of the year, according to the Vice President of the Confederation of Mozambican Economic Associations (CTA), Prakash Prehlad, speaking on 7 December. Since then there has been another kidnapping of a businessman.

Hayyum Alimamade was kidnapped at gunpoint in front of his family in front of his ice cream shop in Matola Wednesday afternoon (14 Dec). The kidnapping took only 30 seconds, and a video of the kidnap from a security camera is on <https://bit.ly/Moz-kidnap>. Two pictures from other security cameras also show the kidnap; Alimamade is in a white t-shirt sitting. (All posted by Anti Raptos Beira on their Facebook page) His sons are said to have been subject to a kidnapping attempt earlier.





He owns a shopping centre in Matola, the Kids R Us chain in Maputo, and Vanilla Gelado, with shops in Matola and on Av 24 de Julho in Maputo. The ice cream at Vanilla is excellent - the best in Maputo.

Prehlad was speaking at a Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing workshop in Maputo. And he pointed out that the \$35mn will be moved out of Mozambique through money laundering, which is another reason to try to curb kidnapping. (360 Mozambique, 8 Dec)

The kidnappings have been going on for more than a decade and are largely of Asian-origin Mozambique business people and their families. They are having an impact on investment, and some businesspeople are leaving.

Carlos Camurdine, one of Mozambique's most successful business people, was abducted outside his wine store in the centre of Maputo on 3 April 2019 by three men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and held for two months until a ransom was paid. In June this year (2022) he bought the Fontecruz Lisboa Hotel, on Avenida da Liberdade, Lisbon, for €42mn, and is apparently moving his business interests there.

Mozambique issuing e-visas

In an important simplification of the visa system, Mozambique has opened an e-visa platform <https://evisa.gov.mz/>. As well as tourist visas, the system can also be used for "business" visas which includes business, research, and attending a meeting or conference. If the visa is approved, the visa comes via email in PDF format with a barcode to be read by the immigration officer at the port of entry, where a physical visa will be printed and attached to the traveller's passport on payment of the fee.

Claim police want to interview Frelimo leader over drug trade

The police investigation unit, Sernic, has asked parliament (AR) for permission to question a Frelimo deputy (MP) who is on the AR permanent commission (presidium) and is suspected of

involvement with a drug trafficking case in Zambezia, Renamo MP Venancio Mondlane told the AR on 1 December. The request follows a drug seizure on 5 November in Macuse, on the Zambézia coast north of Quelimane.

Mozambique is a transit route for heroin, and more recently methamphetamine, from Afghanistan. The drugs are landed by boats in Mozambique, sent by road to Johannesburg, and then moved on to Europe. Drugs are Mozambique's third largest export, after aluminium and coal. (See this newsletter <https://bit.ly/Moz-610>)

The trade and the involvement of high level Frelimo people has been public knowledge for more than two decades, but the international community keeps mum because they do not want to upset their relationship with the ruling party.

The drugs are brought by seagoing jebot dhows which can carry up to 1 tonne of drugs. They stop 30-40 km off shore, and transfer the drugs to fishing boats which bring the cargo to the coast. Traditionally drugs were dropped in northern Cabo Delgado, but the war stopped this and the dhows now travel further south. Nacala and Angoche, Nampula, and Macuse have become the main drug ports. The 5 November seizure included the arrest of an officer at the local naval base said to be the owner of two boats used for the transfer to the coast and a local teacher responsible for the land transfer. (Integrity-Mozambique 22 Nov, 2, 4 Dec; Zitamar 5 Dec; CDD 11 Dec)

World Bank cuts disaster aid, blaming misuse

The World Bank has suspended its funding for the Disaster Management Fund (FGC), saying that \$500,000 had been misused. The fund is operated by the National Disaster Risk Management Institute (INGD).

The World Bank informed the Minister of Economy and Finance, Max Tonela, of the suspension in August, saying the Bank will not resume its support until all the missing money is returned to the FGC. The FGC cannot use World Bank money to buy vehicles or finance public works. But the Bank's letter to Tonela said that the FGC in 2020 spent \$280,000 on purchasing vehicles, \$200,000 on water and sanitation infrastructures, and \$20,000 on building a bridge over the Muecate river in Nampula province. (*Carta de Moçambique* 30 Nov)

INGD says it is \$115mn short of the money it needs to cover the probable costs of the 2022/2023 rainy season, which could affect around 2.2 million people, the institute's director general, Luísa Meque said on 15 Nov. Its forecast costs are \$195mn but it has only \$80 mn. (LUSA 15 Nov)

The balancing act with the US

The United States is Mozambique's largest bi-lateral donor and clearly wants a bigger role in the Cabo Delgado civil war, while Mozambique continues to want to keep the US at arms length. On Cabo Delgado the choice of Rwandan troops to play the central role is about keeping both the US and South Africa from playing too large a role.

US President Joe Biden's US-Africa summit this week (13-15 Dec), with 42 African heads of state including Filipe Nyusi, is an attempt to rebuild links with Africa after the continent was largely ignored by the previous President Donald Trump. And US Secretary of State (effectively Foreign Minister) Antony Blinken stressed Mozambique's increased importance as a member of the UN Security Council.

Cabo Delgado was clearly high on the agenda. In a short press briefing, with Blinken on 14 December, Nyusi said "I had now – just now – a meeting with ExxonMobil to try to discuss what we can do more." He did not expand, but "try to discuss" suggests it was not easy, and clearly the question is what Mozambique has to do to get ExxonMobil to return to the gas project.

At the Peace, Security and Governance Forum at the summit on 13 December, with Blinken and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, Nyusi highlighted the support of Rwandan and SADC forces, saying that Mozambique has created “an environment where there is involvement of the region”. This is an example that “for African problems we must first seek solutions within the continent itself”. The US and EU can help with training, but the response must be African. (The 4 minutes video of his intervention is on <https://youtu.be/UrATk5AIEiE>)

In his brief statement with Blinken, Nyusi also unexpectedly said "And the Portuguese, together we have to discuss about the security of Mozambique." Which seems a reminder to the US that they are not the only foreign player in Cabo Delgado.

Meanwhile on 7 December the US handed over a 10-meter coastal patrol boat, valued at \$700,000. The high-speed boat is for interdictions and maritime boarding operations. It will be useful for naval patrols in Cabo Delgado and be more appropriate than the boats bought a decade ago as part of the secret debt and mostly never used.

News Shorts

Renamo names first female secretary-general. Clementina Francisco Bomba, deputy head of the Renamo parliamentary group, was named the party's secretary general at the Renamo National Council meeting Monday (12 Dec). She is the sister of Adriano Bomba, the Mozambican Air Force pilot who on 8 July 1981 flew his MIG-17 to South Africa and joined Renamo. AIM (13 Dec) notes that he and his brother, Boaventura, were executed by Renamo two years later, apparently on suspicion of involvement in the murder of the then Renamo secretary-general, Orlando Cristina. (AIM 13 Dec)

The first floods of the rainy seasons are on the Maputo river near the border with South Africa. The floods are caused by heavy rains in South Africa and Eswatini (Swaziland), plus the previously announced decision of South Africa to release water from the Pangolapoort dam to create more storage capacity. We are posting the government's detailed daily flood reports (Boletim Hidrológico) on <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023>

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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 <http://bit.ly/2H066Kq>

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>

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>.

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 <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.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 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) <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/qO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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