

MOZAMBIQUE 176

News reports & clippings

7 January 2011

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Malangatana dies
Mozambique land – a request
Cash transfers reduce poverty
Researchers say support small farmers

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Attached files: this newsletter in pdf. AIM reports on Malangatana, and photos of Malangatana's 2009 monument in Barreiro, Portugal.
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Malangatana dies

Malangatana Valente Ngwenya, Mozambique's greatest painter, died on 3 January of "respiratory complications". The 74 year old artist had been staying at his daughter's house in the northern Portuguese town of Matosinhos, where he died. He is perhaps most famous for his large murals and paintings filled with faces.

Attached are copies of AIM articles, and photos I took (co-incidentally the day before Malangatana died) of his last major work, a monument of marble panels in Barreiro, Portugal, across the bay from Lisbon. (Non-compressed copies of the pictures available on request. May be reprinted citing the source.)

Mozambique land – a request

The next issue of the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin* will be on land in Mozambique – law, conflicts, grabs. A large number of articles have been written recently by consultants, NGOs, and others. *My request*: could readers please send me any recent articles, papers and reports on land in Mozambique? j.hanlon@open.ac.uk Many thanks. *Joe*

Old age grant means more food

Mozambique's grant to poor elderly people means more food for the entire family, according to a study by the UNDP's International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, published in December. The grant is called the Food Subsidy Programme (Programa Subsidio de Alimentos, PSA), but

93% of recipients are destitute elderly, so it is effectively a pension. In 2008 when the study was done, the grant went to 143,455 households, and was usually 100 meticaís (\$3) per month.

Despite the very small amount of money, the grant did have an effect. As the programme name implies, there was a significant increase in the consumption of food, particularly cassava and wheat flour. There was a reduction in malnutrition in children living in the household. In grant household, adults aged 18 to 55 were more likely to work – confirming a result found in other parts of the world that cash transfers do not make people lazy. But the study found that boys between the ages of five and nine did less work, and that elderly people did less farm labour in grant households.

Mozambique's system of identifying grant recipients is quite complex and bureaucratic, and is dependent on local officials called "permanentes" to identify recipients. The study found that the system identified extremely poor households "very well". Nevertheless, it also found that because it only worked in areas that had permanentes, coverage was not high, and that those in areas not covered were poorer than those in areas with grants. The study argues that it might be more effective just to give grants to elderly people living on the own or with non-working dependents.

And a November paper published by IESE (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Economicos) in Maputo pointed out that Mozambique has very little "financial social protection" such as the PSA, and thus most families depend on "demographic social protection", having many children in the hope that some will survive to take care of their parents. Three-quarters of Mozambicans have no financial assets, formal such as bank accounts, or even informal such as savings clubs (xitiques) and funeral societies. But the authors, Antonio Francisco, Rosimina Ali and Yasfir Ibraimo, reach a harsh conclusion: maintaining poverty is in the interests of the elites and those in power, because it encourages aid, and "those in power benefit more from aid than the disposed who most need aid."

+ International Policy Centre (IPC) for Inclusive Growth research briefs 17 (December 2010) and 14 (May 2010)

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPolicyResearchBrief17.pdf> and

<http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPolicyResearchBrief14.pdf>

+ IDEIAS_Nº32 – "Protecção Social Financeira e Protecção Social Demográfica: Ter muitos filhos, principal forma de protecção social em Moçambique?" by António Alberto da Silva Francisco, Rosimina Ali & Yasfir Ibraimo

http://www.iese.ac.mz/lib/publication/outras/ideias/ideias_32.pdf

Researchers say: support small farmers

"Small farm development is not just desirable for poverty reduction, but also feasible", concludes a special issue of the prestigious journal *World Development* in October 2010 on "The Future of Small Farms". There are "strong associations between agricultural development and poverty reduction, an association that tends to be stronger in Africa than elsewhere," the journal continues. "Raising growth rates of agriculture, it turns out, are much more efficient in reducing poverty than raising those of the manufacturing industry". In part this is because "small farmers are more likely to spend additional income locally so that consumption linkages that stimulate the rural non-farm economy may be greater." A concentration on food crops also does more to

reduce poverty than a stress on export crops – and in Africa there is a substantial market for food crops.

The journal notes that in the past the state provided support for small farmers, but this has largely been withdrawn. Small farmer development will require a much larger role for the state, particularly for agricultural research and extension, marketing and institutional development, credit, intervention in value chains, and reducing the risk for small farmers.

Meanwhile, a November 2010 paper from the UN University Wider by Channing Arndt and others compares Vietnam and Mozambique, noting that both are very similar, coming out of wars and with strong economic growth in the last decade, and a similar sectoral composition of the economy. They note that “economic growth has ... been far more ‘pro-poor’ in Vietnam than in Mozambique, despite similar levels of growth.” In part, this is because “agricultural growth was more rapid in Vietnam than in Mozambique”, and they cite the *World Development* special issue to say that agricultural growth is more poverty reducing than other types of growth. They go on to point out that in Vietnam, it is rural households which have benefitted from economic growth, while in Mozambique it is urban households which benefit.

The paper points to four differences between Vietnam and Mozambique that play a role:

- + Vietnam has created a “socialist-oriented market economy” while Mozambique has a pure market economy.
- + Vietnam has a much higher population density, which means food travels longer distances in Mozambique and thus transport costs are a larger part of the final price.
- + The main Mozambican urban consumer area, Maputo, is far from food producing areas and close to South Africa, so there are high imports, while the main Vietnamese cities, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, are close to domestic agricultural production zones.
- + Education levels are much higher in Vietnam.

The paper argues for more investment in agriculture in Mozambique, particularly in infrastructure to lower transport costs. It also suggests creating urban growth poles in the centre and north.

+ Wider working paper 122 “Poverty Reduction and Economic Structure: Comparative Path Analysis for Mozambique and Vietnam” by Channing Arndt, Andres Garcia, Finn Tarp, and James Thurlow. <http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2010/>

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Now in paper at a reasonable price
**Do bicycles equal development
in Mozambique?**

by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

is now available in **paperback**, for £17.99 (+ p&p)

from the publisher <http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13503>
and on

Amazon.com for \$27.95

Amazon.co.uk for £17.09

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**

<http://tinyurl.com/justgivemoney>

Two working papers on the web

Poverty is not being reduced in Mozambique

LSE Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper No. 74 (series 2)

Benedito Cunguara and Joseph Hanlon, June 2010

<http://www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/WP74.2.pdf>

Tambem em Portugues:

<http://www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/WP74.2portuguese.pdf>

Mozambique's Elite – Finding its Way in a Globalized World and Returning to Old Development Models

Joseph Hanlon and Marcelo Mosse September 2010

WP/105 UNU-WIDER: The Role of Elites in Economic Development project

http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2010/en_GB/wp2010-105/

Also on the web: Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on tinyurl.com/mozamb

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

This 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

Mozambique media websites:

Noticias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O Pais: www.opais.co.mz

Savana: www.savana.co.mz

Canal de Moçambique: www.canalmoz.com

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

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