

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

285 20 April 2015 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

To subscribe: tinyurl.com/sub-moz

To unsubscribe: tinyurl.com/unsub-moz

Previous newsletters, more detailed press reports in English and Portuguese, and other

Mozambique material are posted on bit.ly/mozamb

This newsletter can be cited as "Mozambique News Reports & Clippings"

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

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/internationalDevelopment/research/mozambiqueElections/home.aspx>.

Para os leitores em Maputo: "De camponeses a Agricultores Comerciais: Uma Transição em Curso em Moçambique?" Teresa Smart e Joseph Hanlon: Conferência seguida de debate às 17.30 horas na 5a-feira 23 de Abril, no Anfiteatro da UDM (Universidade Técnica de Moçambique), Avenida Alberto Luthuli 408-438 r/c, Maputo.

Mozambicans react to South African xenophobia

Xenophobic attacks on foreigners in South Africa have killed two Mozambicans and displaced 500-1000 others, some of whom are living in camps trying to come home. The second Mozambican was killed in Alexandra, Johannesburg, on Saturday.

Last week saw a response in Mozambique. At the Vilankulo plant of Sasol, a South African state company, Mozambican workers went on strike and forced the expulsion of up to 250 South African workers. At the coal mines in Tete, Kentz Engineering, a South African company which services machinery for the mining companies, hired two aircraft to fly 433 South Africa workers back to South Africa, disrupting the mines, according to *Canalmoz* (17 April).

And on Friday afternoon, Mozambicans stoned South African registered trucks and buses on the road to the Ressano Garcia border post and also barricaded the main N4 road near the border post.

Comment: Many people were surprised that Kentz had so many South Africans, and asked why they were not training Mozambicans. No doubt Kentz uses South Africans trained on the mines, but there are tens of thousands of Mozambicans who were - and are - skilled workers in South African mines who could be trained to do at least some of those jobs. *jh*

Rejecting the IMF's education 'success'

Mozambique has the worst qualified teachers in a World Bank survey of seven African countries, reported at a press conference in Maputo 2 April 2015. It reflects the success of the IMF's campaign over more than a decade to curb education spending in Mozambique. (see newsletters 85, 94, 205, 251, 258, 274)

But the new five year plan, just approved by parliament, rejects the IMF cap. It sets a target for

recruiting 42,500 new teachers in the next five years. This will reduce the number of pupils per teacher in primary schools from 62 in 2014 to 57 in 2019.

The World Bank report on service delivery indicators (SDI) was based on interviews with 1000 teachers in 200 schools. It found the quality of Mozambican primary school teachers "shockingly" low. Only 65% could do the basic sum $86-55=$ and when given a letter written by a 4th class pupil with 20 errors of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and greeting, on average they only found 2 of the 20. And the report concludes that, not surprisingly, pupils learn less if they have poor teachers. (The SDI report is on my website: bit.ly/mozamb)

But this is a direct result of constant IMF demands to keep down the public sector wage bill (of which the largest part is teacher wages). In 2007 the government was forced to reduce teacher training from three years to just one year. Primary teachers need only 10th class (first year of secondary school) and one year of training, which means they have not even completed the equivalent of secondary school. The reason for this was that if they had three years of training, and thus the equivalent of more than secondary school, they would have to be paid more, so training was cut to keep down the wage bill. (*Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique?* p 75).

The Pedagogic University has an excellent teacher training programme. In 2012, the Ministry of Education admitted that for more than two years students who graduated with good qualifications from the Pedagogic University had not been hired because university graduates are paid more than those without degrees, so the Ministry hired those without degrees. (See *News Reports* 205.) This is still the case, with many good Pedagogic University graduates unable to get jobs, while the Ministry hires less expensive unqualified teachers. Thus the World Bank survey shows the success of IMF policy - to meet IMF targets, the best trained teachers did not get jobs, so education quality is low.

This also reflects an on-going argument between the Bank and Fund in Mozambique, with the Bank pushing for higher spending in education (reversing its policy of two decades ago) but the Fund sticking to its policy of curbing education spending.

Absent: The World Bank survey also found that "almost half (45%) of teachers were not in school during an unannounced visit and a further 11% were at school, but not in the classroom when they were supposed to be teaching." This is much worse than other countries in the study; the worst other country was Uganda with 27% teacher absence. The Ministry of Education on 11 April launched a campaign to reduce teacher and pupil absenteeism in the country's schools. "We are urging teachers to be present, and on time, in the classroom, because only then can we improve the teaching and learning process in our education system", said Deputy Education Minister Armindo Ngunza.

Economic slowdown

Falling oil and gas prices, the lack of a government budget, fear of Renamo violence and the possible bursting of the Maputo property bubble are combining to create a noticeable economic slowdown in Maputo.

Gas and coal companies have all reduced staff and deferred some projects. Reuters reported Friday, as it did in 2013 and 2014, that Anadarko is considering selling its Mozambican gas interests to Exxon Mobil or Qatar Petroleum. Africa Energy Intelligence reports that another reason (or excuse) given for the slowdown is the failure of ENI and Anadarko to agree the boundary between two adjoining gas fields. And Abdul Carimo, chair of the Zambézia corridor (Corredor de Desenvolvimento Integrado da Zambézia, CODIZA) admitted last week that no one is willing to finance the proposed 500 km railway to transport coal from the mines in Moatize, Tete, to a new port at Macuse, Zambézia.

Normally, the annual plan and budget is approved by parliament before the end of the previous

year. But every five years a new government takes office in January and must propose a new plan and budget - largely written by the previous government, but always with some changes. Thus the new plan has been approved by parliament, but nearly four months into 2015 it has not yet approved the new budget. Salaries and day-to-day bills are being paid but no new projects have been started this year, which is beginning to have an impact on the construction sector.

There was another kidnapping in Maputo on Thursday, the seventh of the year. Most are of people linked to the Asian business community. But the kidnappings and on-going threats of violence from Renamo have caused some business people to send families out of the country and some companies to reduce the number of foreign staff.

Maputo is still a city of cranes and multi-story buildings growing up like weeds. But there are indications that the bubble may be bursting. Two years ago flats were being sold for high prices "off plan", before construction even started. Now there a huge banners on partly completed buildings offering flats, and sales people are telephoning everyone on their lists offering substantial discounts. Work has stopped on several partly finished buildings. The system had been to sell flats of partly finished buildings to pay the rest of the construction costs, which may no longer be possible. Many of the flats in finished buildings remain empty, possibly bought as an investment or a place for illegal money, and it appears there is less hot money around.

In Maputo, many of the new restaurants run by Portuguese who fled a collapsing economy there are now offering cheap lunch deals and there seem to be fewer people in the more expensive restaurants. Taken together, there seems a noticeable decline in the Maputo economy. *jh*

In brief

Plan and Budget: The draft plan and budget for 2015 are posted on my website: bit.ly/mozamb

Cotton prices have been cut again. There is no free market in cotton. Concession companies have an exclusive right to sign contracts with peasant farmers in certain areas, and contracting peasants must sell to the concession company. In exchange, government, the cotton companies, and producers agree a floor price. For this year it is down to 10.25 MT/kg (\$ 0.30) for first grade and 9 MT/kg (\$ 0.26) for second grade. The minimum price for first grade was 11.25 MT/kg (\$ 0.38) in 2014 and 15 MT/kg (\$ 0.50) in 2013.

End of term corruption. There is already a backlash against people who grabbed what the could at the end of Armando Guebuza's term as President. The new Transport Minister, Carlos Mesquita, last week announced the sacking of the Ana Dimande as head of the Land Transport Institute (INATTER), which issues driving licences. *Savana* revealed that Dimande was paying herself a salary of 500,000 MT (\$ 14,700) a month when her official salary was 201,000 MT (\$5,900) per month. There has been a long running scandal, reported by CIP and the media, of corruption in INATTER which allowed people to buy driving licences. This was facilitated because 222 INATTER officials had access to the computer system, which Mesquita cut to 52. He also forced INATTER to close 75 of its 81 bank accounts

Government civil servants wages were raised 10% for those at lower levels (including teachers) and 5% for those in management posts.

Tax up or down? *Africa Confidential* and rumour in Maputo says that there is a \$900 million dollar shortfall in tax revenue, partly as a result of dubious tax reductions agreed by the previous government. But Finance Minister Adriano Maleiane said last week that preliminary data showed that in fiscal year 2014 record taxes of 156.2 billion MT (\$4.6 bn) were raised, or 102% of the planned fiscal target.

The number of women in parliament has fallen from 100 in the previous parliament to 96 now. There are 250 member of parliament.

Cholera: There has been a cholera epidemic in Tete, Sofala and Zambézia provinces, perhaps triggered by poor sanitation conditions in floods and heavy rains. The outbreak has been widely reported in the press. Officially there have been more than 8000 cases and 60 deaths, but the exact extent is unclear because Mozambique only reports cholera cases which are confirmed in a laboratory, and most are not. Cholera is usually accompanied by confusion and sometimes health workers are blamed for the disease and attacked. *O Pais* (20 April) reports that the cholera treatment centre in Quelimane was attacked and sacked, when it was falsely reported that organs had been taken from the body of someone who died of cholera.

=====

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique

by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon

E-book for Kindle and iPad, for \$9.32 from US Amazon -
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NRZXXKE> - £5.14 from UK Amazon.

In pdf format, 6 Mb file, free on <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento

by Teresa Smart & Joseph Hanlon. Copies are in Maputo bookshops or from
KAPICUA, Rua Fernão Veloso 12, Maputo; Tel.: +258 21 413 201 or +258 21 415 451
Telm.: +258 823 219 950 E-mail: kapicudir@tdm.co.mz / kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London.
Please email j.hanlon@open.ac.uk.

Zimbabwe takes back its land

by Joseph Hanlon, Jeanette Manjengwa & Teresa Smart is now available from the publishers
https://www.rienner.com/title/Zimbabwe_Takes_Back_Its_Land also as an e-book and
<http://www.jacana.co.za/book-categories/current-affairs-a-history/zimbabwe-takes-back-its-land-detail>

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>

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**
tinyurl.com/justgivemoney

=====

This newsletter can be cited as "Mozambique News Reports & Clippings"

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

=====

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

On Facebook:

@Verdade: <https://www.facebook.com/JornalVerdade>

CanalMoz: <https://www.facebook.com/CanalMoz>

Macauhub English: www.macauhub.com.mo/en/

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

Carlos Serra Diario de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

=====

This mailing is the personal responsibility of Joseph Hanlon, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Open University.