

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

409 30 April 2018 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Also in this issue:

Islamist attacks

Nyusi on schoolgirl pregnancy

Is Mozambique different from its neighbours?

Minimum wages rise, but still much below 2014 peak levels

Minimum wages have been increased 6-15% in Metical terms and 17-30% in dollar terms, but are still significantly below 2014 levels in dollar terms. There are 16 different minimum wages, and new levels were announced on 25 and 26 April.

There have been increases in Meticais every year, but the sharp devaluations in 2015 and 2016, triggered in part by the secret debt revelations and aid cuts, meant substantial falls in the minimum wages in real terms.

Our annual tables and graphs of minimum wages and exchange rates since 1996 are attached to this mailing and available on <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

Minimum wages range from a low of \$66-70 per month (kapenta fishers, farm workers, civil servants) to \$76 for bakers and \$89-109 for hotel, construction and industrial workers. There are two higher wage rates: \$135 for miners in large companies and \$196 for those in the financial sector. Minimum wages were highest in dollar terms in 2014, and are now 19-33% lower. Civil servants, farm workers, and bakers have taken the biggest hit, with minimum wages 29-33% down.

The dollar exchange rates had been steady at \$1 = MT 25-30 or two decades, but in 2015-6 jumped, reaching \$1 = MT 78 in late 2016. By mid 2017 it had fallen back to \$1 - MT 60 and has remained there. The exchange rate to the South African Rand is important because so much of what is purchased in Maputo is imported from South Africa. This rate fluctuates more because of shifts in the Rand against the dollar. It was R1 = MT 3 in 2013-5, jumped to R1 = MT 5.6 in late 2016, and has stayed around R1 = MT 5 since mid-2017.

New Islamist attacks in Cabo Delgado

Four new Islamist attacks were reported in coastal northern Cabo Delgado. There have been on-going incidents, mainly in Mocimboa da Praia district where the first attacks against police took place on 5 October.

The first attack was at 1 am on Sunday 15 April, when a group attacked the village of Ncumbi, in Palma district. According to *MediaFax* the raiding party consisted of about ten men, one armed with a machine gun and the others carrying machetes. When a local trader refused to let them into

Recent reports

Special report on social protection <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Mozambique corruption articles 2016-7 <http://bit.ly/2upF8XI>

Secret debt documents and report:

Kroll full report (80 Mb!) <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz-full>

Kroll audit Executive Summary <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete, in Portuguese) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

Key points from the Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Mozambique should not pay the hidden debt <http://bit.ly/Moz-do-not-pay>

Following the donor-designed path to the \$2.2 billion secret debt <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

Other books and reports:

Government's detailed flood reports: <http://bit.ly/flood-17>

Local media monitoring of Mozambique elections (background of election newsletters)
<http://bit.ly/LSE-newsletter>

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique book by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon, **free** English download <http://bit.ly/chickens-beer>

Há mais bicicletas - mas há desenvolvimento? book by Joseph Hanlon and Teresa Smart, **free** Portuguese download <http://bit.ly/Mais-bicicletas>

Gas for development or just for money? <http://bit.ly/MozGasEn>

Minimum wages & exchange rates 1996-2018 <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on bit.ly/mozamb

his stall, they burned it down and took a machete and disembowelled the trader. Then they attacked a second shop and stole all the produce sold there. The attack came on the final day of a visit to Cabo Delgado by President Filipe Nyusi, and just hours before he visited Palma town.

The next attack occurred on Friday 20 April on the village of Diaca Velha, Mocimboa da Praia, near the boundary with Nangade district. Food and other goods were taken, with several people reported killed.

The next day Mangwaza village in Palma district was attacked, with one person killed, four houses burnt down and more food taken. The following day the group returned to Diaca Velha, and the local population abandoned their homes, fleeing to the nearby village of Awassi. Three people are missing, believed to have been kidnapped.

The attacks were reported in *MediaFax* (in turn republished by Aim En and Rhula). *MediaFax* reports security forces pursued the group and captured 30 people.

Shortly before the new attacks, the Cabo Delgado provincial attorney's office reported that it had remitted to the provincial court the case against 234 people arrested after the earlier attacks, 32 of whom are Tanzanian nationals. They are accused of crimes including first degree murder, mercenarism and the illegal possession and use of firearms; 155 of the accused are in preventive detention, while the other 79 have been released conditionally and are awaiting trial at home.

Police spokesperson Inacio Dina on 24 April dismissed the reports of the recent attacks, saying there has only been "criminal" attacks and not Islamist incidents. But two days later Defence Minister Atanasio M'tumuke declared that it is imperative for Mozambique and Zambia to direct their attentions to the fight against terrorism, before the current terrorist nuclei become "active cells" that can spread throughout southern Africa. M'tumuke told the meeting of the Mozambique-Zambia Joint Defence and Security Commission in Bilene, Gaza, that terrorism "is currently the most significant threat to national and continental security". (Aim En 25 & 27 Apr)

Nyusi tells Chatham House schoolgirl pregnancy is contagious

Mozambique has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the world, and President Filipe Nyusi told Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International Affairs) in London on 17 April that the best way to reduce this is to not allow pregnant schoolgirls to attend normal day schools, but to go to night classes instead. But it is a view which is challenged in two recent academic papers.

"There is a resolution of the UN that pregnant girls should not be excluded from school, and we have not yet ratified it," Nyusi said. "We listen to the people, and not only international declarations. In Mozambique there are no girls who cannot attend school. Pregnant girls move on to night school. Why have we not moved urgently to sign this declaration? Because there are girls, mothers, and grandparents who say that having pregnant girls in school promotes early pregnancy and we in Mozambique have the problem that children of 15-16 years old are pregnant We have to balance. [Should we] move forward on this and encourage children 15 years old to become pregnant just because of an international resolution?"

In a 2015 survey by the health ministry, 46 per cent of Mozambican girls, 15 to 19 years old, were either pregnant or already mothers. The Minister of Education in 2003 [issued an instruction 39/GM/2003](#) which said that pregnant girls could not attend day school and had to attend at night. It also says that school staff who impregnate girls in the same school are dismissed, and that student fathers of the children, if they are in the same school, are also expelled from day school, although it appears that this rarely happens.

The issue is raised in a new article in the journal *Gender and Education* (vol 30, no 4, pp 494-512, 2018) by Francesca Salvi, who did fieldwork in Maputo. Salvi's interviews with education officials show that they argue that pregnancy is "behaviourally contagious" and that if pregnant girls are allowed to attend class without punishment, other schoolgirls will consider it to OK to get pregnant, so pregnant girls must be punished to set an example. The 2003 instruction says that "it is essential to adopt measures of prevention and censure" and Nyusi follows that line.

But Salvi stresses that girls are punished by losing their education. Night school is more difficult to get to in Maputo, and in the suburbs many people are afraid to go out at night, so many girls simply drop education.

Salvi also notes the broader issue that schoolgirl pregnancies are seen as unwanted and unplanned, but it is more complicated. She points out that childbearing is seen as "the main source of a woman's respect" in many areas and also as the transition to adulthood, and thus is likely to often have support from the extended family. Moving pregnant girls from day to night school also reflects this, as most students at night are working adults.

The issue is also raised in an article in [The Conversation \(21 Jan\)](#) by Kate Pincock of Oxford, who argues that "Punishment won't stop teenage pregnancies ... because 'bad behaviour' isn't the cause." Her research in Tanzania showed pregnancy is an "understandable response to poverty and restricted options." Girls reported being forced to trade sex with teachers for good grades or having boyfriends who would pay for food and school supplies so they could stay in school. "The important thing was that this happened in secret and therefore did not affect girls' reputations. But the clandestine nature of the arrangements means that there are no real opportunities for girls to seek information about preventing pregnancy."

She compared Tanzania and Kenya. Tanzania has a policy similar to Mozambique, while "neighbouring Kenya has taken the opposite approach. Girls are actively encouraged to stay in school for as long as possible and steps are taken to support their re-entry after they give birth. Tanzania's approach isn't working. According to government data, the number of pregnancies in girls aged between 15 - 19 continues to rise – increasing from 23% in 2010 to 27% in 2015. This is higher than it was 20 years ago. Neighbouring Kenya has not seen such rises, and teenage

pregnancy rates have stayed at around 18% for the last five years."

(A tape of Nyusi's full speech and Q&A is on <https://www.chathamhouse.org/event/fostering-sustainable-peace-democracy-and-inclusive-development-mozambique> and Nyusi's response to the question is at 1.06 hours.

(The Salvi article is available only through university links or by paying, but available free to Mozambicans - contact j.hanlon@open.ac.uk).

Comment

Is Mozambique different from its neighbours?

Cyril Ramaphosa in South Africa this year, Emmerson Mnangagwa in Zimbabwe last year, and John Magufuli in Tanzania in 2015 were all named as transforming leaders by their own predominant parties, which had all grown out of liberation movements - the ANC, Zanu, and CCM. And while keeping their parties united, they are challenging their own greedy elites. These were internally driven changes, by party activists who feared they would lose the next election without a new activist leader seen to be correcting mismanagement and corruption.

Frelimo in its time has taken strong stands, for example preventing Joaquim Chissano from standing again in 2004 and refusing to change the constitution to allow Armando Guebuza to stand again in 2014. But the choice of presidential candidate in 2013 was a compromise who would not challenge the party elite, and who is not a Ramaphosa or Magufuli. Critically, Frelimo marginalises those who are skilled and dynamic but do not pay enough attention to personal benefits to the party hierarchy - from Eneas Comiche not allowed to stand again as mayor of Maputo in 2008 to Jorge Ferrão sacked as Minister of Education in 2016 and the current campaign against the successful mayor of Matola, Calisto Cossa. Mozambique is in an underdevelopment trap largely of its own making - growing poverty and inequality, high birth rates and teenage pregnancy, no job creation, and no future for small farmers. Instead, Frelimo opened the door to the resource curse, dreaming of wealth from coal and gas.

Mozambicans are disenchanted with the development that has not happened, and the greed and corruption they see everywhere around them. The 2014/15 Afrobarometer survey showed that Mozambique is more corrupt than its neighbours. And it is becoming dysfunctional, from the \$2 bn secret debt down to school teachers insisting on money from parents and not showing up to teach.

Renamo is likely to be the only serious opposition in coming elections, and the brutal history of the 1982-92 war means that an older generation will never vote for Renamo. Frelimo depends on that memory, and party patronage, to ensure another pair of victories. But the second round in Nampula probably showed that Frelimo's disenchanted voters are staying home and not voting at all, while a younger generation thinks that for the first time a vote against Frelimo might have an impact and thus casts its vote. The unexpected marginal victories of Trump in the United States and Brexit in the UK exemplify a broader trend - to vote against an establishment that enriches itself without creating jobs or reducing poverty. Can this happen in Mozambique?

Predominant parties from Mexico to India survive for decades by constant change that keeps them in contact with the electorate, and are defeated when they become comfortable and stop transforming. Is there a Magufuli or Ramaphosa inside Frelimo, who could make the essential changes without breaking the party? Magufuli, Ramaphosa, and Mnangagwa were all promoted by activist groups within the party who saw the need for change, often for personal interest - not only because they were likely to lose the next election, but also because the spoils were being captured by an ever smaller group. Is it too late for Frelimo to change? Will Frelimo charge blindly ahead assuming it always wins, and risk a Trump or Brexit? *jh*

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"Mozambique News Reports & Clippings, number XXX", DATE, bit.ly/mozamb, accessed XXX.

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

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Other books and reports by Joseph Hanlon

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

Comment: something will turn up: <http://bit.ly/28SN7QP>

Oxfam blog on Bill Gates & chickens:

<http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/will-bill-gates-chickens-end-african-poverty/>

Bangladesh confronts climate change: Keeping our heads above water

by Manoj Roy, Joseph Hanlon and David Hulme Published by Anthem Press

<http://www.anthempress.com/bangladesh-confronts-climate-change-pb>

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique by Teresa Smart and Joseph Hanlon

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

E-book for Kindle and iPad, <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NRZXXKE>

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento

by Teresa Smart & Joseph Hanlon.

Copies are in Maputo bookshops (Karibu at airport, Livaria UEM, Bazar Pariso, Mivany) or from

KAPICUA, which recently moved to Av de Maguiguana (nr Lenine), Maputo; Tel: +258 21 413 201.

Telm.: +258 823 219 950 E-mail: kapicuadir@tdm.co.mz / kapicuacom@tdm.co.mz

Outside Mozambique, we have a few copies we can send from London. Please e-mail 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-it-s-land-detail>

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

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

Há mais bicicletas - mas há desenvolvimento? free download of Portuguese edition (5 Mb)

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 be **read on the web** tinyurl.com/justgivemoney

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

One 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

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Mozambique media websites, Portuguese:

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O País: www.opais.co.mz

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Diario de Moçambique (Beira): <http://www.diariodemocambique.co.mz>

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

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique: <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Rhula weekly newsletter: <http://www.rhula.net/news-announcements.html>

Zitamar: <http://zitamar.com/>

Macauhub English: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/>

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

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