

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

543 11 May 2021

Editor: Joseph Hanlon ( [j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.hanlon@open.ac.uk) )

To subscribe or unsubscribe: <https://bit.ly/Moz-sub>

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

**Articles may be freely reprinted but please cite the source.**

Extensive links and privacy statement at the end of this newsletter.

---

## In this issue

### Palma

+ Hostages against the next attack

+ Fleeing to Tanzania, Pemba

+ Is major contractor pulling out?

### Protest

+ Opposition to \$1.8 mn in AR perks

---

## 20.000 still held hostage as shield against expected post-Ramadan attack

Hundreds of people are fleeing Palma but 10,000 to 20,000 are still being kept hostage in Quitunda as a human barrier against the attack promised by the insurgents after Ramadan, and Eid tomorrow (Wednesday 12 May). Quitunda is the resettlement village just outside the walls of Afungi and many displaced have congregated there.

The military will not let them leave. (*Guardian* 7 May) They are seen as a shield against insurgent attacks. Foreign and UN humanitarian aid workers are not being allowed into the Palma area. The UN and World Food Programme will not send food and medicines to Palma because the military will not allow them to distribute it. The Mozambican volunteer group Vamoz is being allowed to use local volunteers to distribute the last of its 30 tonnes of food delivered a week ago.

Zitamar (today, 11 May) reports that its sources say that insurgents are assembling in large numbers in Mocimboa da Praia for a new military offensive after Ramadan, which ends tomorrow. Target could be Palma (50 km to the north) or Mueda (90 km to the west). Mueda is the Makonde "capital" and now a military centre, so its occupation would be a bigger prize for the insurgents but it would probably be more strongly defended than Palma. Air force activity has been noted near the main road from Mocimboa to Mueda, probably to attack any major road movements.

The military admitted to the SADC mission that Mocimboa, the only city in the war zone and captured last year, has been turned into an insurgent base, and there are further insurgent bases, Syria and Mbau, in dense forest south of Mocimboa. And the insurgents are clearly digging in. It is reported that four heavy trucks used for hauling earth and rocks that were taken in the attack on Palma were moved to Mocimboa.

**People are arriving by boat in Pemba**, despite attempts by the military and police to stop them. Cabo Delgado Governor Valige Tauabo told reporters on 7 May that provincial authorities in Cabo Delgado are bracing themselves for the arrival over the next few days of more people from Palma. Some are in boats nearby he said. Prevailing winds in this season are from the south making it harder to sail to Pemba, but with wind speeds predicted to drop in the next few days more dhows will try to sail south. A place on a crowded boat costs from \$30 to \$75.

Boats sail in groups and it can take up to 10 days to get to Pemba. Larger boats go to Pemba, but smaller boats cannot make the journey around the peninsula north of Pemba bay, and so drop passengers on southern islands like Matemo.

There was an insurgent attack on boats sailing south last week, with four boats hit. Insurgents on the island of Makalowe, in Macomia district, took passengers to shore at Pangane. They were told to go and fetch cassava; instead they fled, and walked 80km to Macomia town.

**Hundreds are fleeing north to the Tanzania border**, trying to cross the Rovuma river in small boats. Some of them are on the island of Suavo, their boats having been rescued by the Tanzanian authorities. But the Tanzanians have reduced the frequency of their rescue missions, meaning the crossing is done increasingly at the refugees' own risk. Those who do make it across are promptly taken off to the Negomano border crossing, in Mueda district, where they are left on the Mozambican side of the border - far away but safe. (*Zitamar, MediaFax* 10 May)

**There are 36,288 people registered as displaced** from Palma as of 3 May, reported UN Migration (IOM), bringing the total displaced to 697,500.

## Major contractor perhaps removing all Afungi equipment

Major contractor TechnipFMC is pulling out all its equipment from Aungi. It has hired the South Africa firm Bridge Marine to dismantle and remove equipment including pipes it left behind in Afungi, reports *Africa Intelligence* (11 May). The newsletter points out that the costs of the dismantling and removal "suggest that the LNG project will not resume for a long time to come."

Meanwhile, on social media there has also been a denial of the *Africa Intelligence* report, saying that it had only planned to start on 1 April so no important equipment was yet at Afungi.

TechnipFMC is the main offshore contractor responsible for the pipes linking with gas wells with the LNG plants. It leads a joint venture with Japanese engineering company JGC and US company Fluor.

It is not clear if TechnipFMC is pulling out of Cabo Delgado completely, or only onshore work. It is also not clear what is happening to the shared operation base in Pemba, which was to be joint between Total, TechnipFMC and CFM (state rail and port company). In January TechnipFMC said it was looking to set up part of its logistics and planning base in Pemba and part in Mayotte, part of France 500 km off the coast of Cabo Delgado. (Lusa 28 Jan).

This also raises an issue about ENI's Coral South floating LNG platform, due to be delivered at the end of this year, with production starting in 2022. TechnipFMC is in a consortium with Japanese engineering company JGC and South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries for the engineering, procurement, construction, installation, commissioning and start-up of the Coral South FLNG facility.

Italian company Saipem is also pulling out its equipment, said *Africa Intelligence*. Saipem's \$5 bn contract is the company's biggest, and work was to start on 1 April. Saipem is said to have links to the family of former president Armando Guebuza.

## \$1.8 mn in new perks for parliament staff provoke protests

At a time of cuts in state spending and restrictions on civil service wages, parliament approved on 5 May \$1.8 mn in additional perks ("*regalias e privilégios*"). This provoked unusual anger in the

Maputo middle class over the weekend (a fun short video is on <http://bit.ly/Moz-AR-chega>) and demonstrations this morning.

The demonstration of only about 40 people, mainly students, was in Independence Square in front of the city hall, and was broken up by armed police with dogs. One student, Valdo Nhamuneque, was arrested, and the student sat in front of the police station where he was being held.

The Budget Monitoring Forum (FMO) and the Human Rights Network (RMDDH), both part of CDD, submitted a petition to parliament, but only after long discussions with the police who tried to block them.

**Extra pay for showing up for work** is one of the perks that staff of parliament (Assembleia da República) will have. [The law \(61 Mb!\)](#). They also will have private medical insurance and they and their family do not have to use state hospitals, except for minor illnesses. They get a free lunch, a clothing allowance, and extra holiday pay. Senior officials receive a car or the equivalent value in cash, and have diplomatic passports. [The \\$1.8 mn extra annual cost estimate](#) was made by the Ministry of Finance.

---

**ARTICLES MAY BE FREELY REPRINTED** but please cite the source: "Mozambique News Reports and Clippings".

To cite for academic purposes, treat as a blog or a newspaper. Normal citation format would be: "Mozambique News Reports & Clippings, number XXX", DATE, bit.ly/Mozamb, accessed XXX.

---

## Important external links

**Covid-19** daily updated data <https://www.facebook.com/miguel.de.brito1> and <https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/documentos-em-pdf/boletins-diarios/>

**Daily flood reports** - <http://bit.ly/Moz-flood21>

**Cyclone trackers**, <https://www.cyclocane.com/> and <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

**Cabo Ligado** weekly report on civil war <http://bit.ly/CaboLigado>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <http://bit.ly/MozNews2021> and [bit.ly/MozNews2020](http://bit.ly/MozNews2020)

**Downloadable books**: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books> Election data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

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

---

## Cabo Delgado

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>

### 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](http://bit.ly/MozGasEng)

Gás\_para\_desenvolvimento\_ou\_apenas\_dinheiro?\_2015 [bit.ly/MozGasPt](http://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](http://bit.ly/MozPoverty)

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

## **\$2bn secret debt - in English**

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](http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt)

**2018 Constitution** - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

**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>  
Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

**Nine 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)

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)

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)

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](http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz)

O País: [www.opais.co.mz](http://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).

---

This newsletter is distributed on dev-mozambique list by JISC. We hold only your e-mail address and never share our subscription list with anyone. **To subscribe or unsubscribe:** <https://bit.ly/Moz-sub>