

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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WHO says 43,000 died of Covid-19 in Mozambique

WHO estimates that 20 times more people died of Covid-19 than the number of official deaths reported by the Ministry of Health. In a 5 May report, the World Health Organisation published estimates of Covid-19 deaths for most countries of the world, based on estimates of excess deaths. For Mozambique their figure is 43,000 Covid-19 deaths in 2020-21 compared to the Health Ministry number of 2,006.

The WHO study is on <https://www.who.int/data/sets/global-excess-deaths-associated-with-covid-19-modelled-estimates>. The Ministry of Health publishes a daily newsletter which includes cumulative deaths on <https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/documentos-em-pdf/boletins-diarios/>

The worst hit large country is Russia, with 734 deaths per 100,000 people in the two years, according to WHO. South Africa is highest in the region, with 400. Mozambique is at 134 per 100,000 and other neighbours are in the same range, going down to Malawi at 88. The US and most European countries are in the range from 200 to 300.

WHO estimates that the United States reports 91% of its Covid-19 deaths and Russia only 29%. In the region, South Africa reports 38%, Zimbabwe 27%, Malawi 14%, and Mozambique only 5%.

South Africa has gone into its fifth wave with new cases rising in the past month from 1350 to 6601 per day, and a fifth wave is predicted for Mozambique. Cases are increasing in the US but still falling in Europe.

WHO estimates of Covid-19 deaths, 5 May 2022

	Covid-19 excess deaths 2020-21	
Country	Per 100,000 population	Total
South Africa	400	238,671
Botswana	312	7,413
Lesotho	186	3,982
Mozambique	134	42,731
Zambia	126	23,553
Zimbabwe	124	18,632
Malawi	88	17,113
Angola	68	22,685
Kenya	22	12,351
Russia	734	1,072,326
USA	280	932,458
Italy	266	160,801
United Kingdom	218	148,897
Portugal	200	20,447
Cuba	160	18,160
Sweden	112	11,255
Pakistan	104	230,440
Bangladesh	86	140,764

Max replaces Celso as dauphin, as battle over Cabo Delgado causes and \$ continues

Max Tonela has clearly replaced Celso Correia as dauphin, or favoured son, and President Nyusi's confidante. Max Tonela was named Minister of Economy and Finance in March and presided as chair of the 29 April meeting of ADIN (Agência de Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte, Integrated Development Agency for the North). Celso Correia, who orchestrated Nyusi's dubious landslide election victory in 2019 and was then named super minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, had also taken control of the huge pot of money for Cabo Delgado reconstruction, but now has been unceremoniously pushed aside.

Meanwhile funding remains an issue. A Cabo Delgado Reconstruction Plan was approved by the Council of Ministers in September last year, but on 6 May the secretary of state of Cabo Delgado, António Supeia, admitted, in an understatement, "we are a little behind schedule, especially in the area of infrastructure reconstruction." (LUSA 6 May)

President Nyusi formally announced the Mozambique Support Trust Fund on 5 May, to mobilise donor funds to "combat terrorism" in Cabo Delgado. Money would be channelled through ADIN.

(Noticias 6 May) This had been presented to donors some months ago, and had been rejected because most donors cannot put money into a fund that supports the military as well as development.

The alternative is a plan written by the EU, World Bank, and African Development Bank last year, with government participation, but in the time of Celso Correia. The ERDIN (Estratégia de Resiliência e Desenvolvimento Integrado do Norte de Moçambique, Integrated Resilience and Development Strategy for the North) was submitted to government in October last year, and government has refused to give it to the Council of Ministers for consideration. An increasingly annoyed EU quietly posted it on the web in the past few weeks, on <https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/system/files/2022-02/Mozambique.pdf>

The issue is the insistence, by some key people in Frelimo, that the war has no internal causes and is entirely external terrorism. ERDIN is not acceptable because it says (page 11) "The internal factors of the conflict include socio-economic asymmetries and the frustration of social expectations related to the exploitation of natural resources, especially among local youth, in an extractive economy with a weak relationship with the local economic fabric and little job creation. This is in addition to the perception of political and economic exclusion, aggravated by the slow progress of decentralisation and inefficient mechanisms of participation." This simply cannot be said at a high level in Frelimo.

But there is clearly internal disagreement. "Today, as many people know and say very well, the solution in Cabo Delgado is not the military solution," ADIN spokesperson, João Machatine, said on 5 May. He sees ADIN promoting the essential social and economic development. (LUSA 6 May)

IMF returns, with its tail between its legs

The IMF Board Monday 9 May agreed a new \$456 mn loan, with \$91 mn available immediately. The money must be repaid over 10 years, with no interest. Details of conditions have not been released, but they appear to be weaker than in the past. It seems the IMF is anxious to get back into Mozambique.

In April 2016 the IMF led the donor strike cutting off substantial aid when the full size of the \$2 bn secret debt was revealed. IMF head Christine Lagarde and many ambassadors felt seriously offended because they had been personally told by Mozambican ministers that there was no further secret debt. Thus the donor strike began as personal vendettas to punish Mozambican ministers for lying to them. Aid direct to the government was cut. Only the EU and World Bank did not join the strike.

The economic damage to Mozambique was massive and the Metical lost half its value. Ordinary people and local businesses suffered, but the elite survived, the economy partially recovered, and Frelimo made no concessions. Donors and ambassadors began to realise that they had used their last weapon - cutting aid - and now had no power. Gas was coming on line and embassies were told to stress investment. As part of the normal rotation, ambassadors for whom it was a personal issue left and were replaced by others briefed to be nice to Frelimo, and normal relations were restored, albeit with a lower level of aid in some cases.

Eventually the IMF was the last holdout, and Christine Lagarde had left the fund in 2019. Historically the IMF had imposed the strongest conditions, including civil service wage caps. Slowly, the shoe was on the other foot. The IMF wanted an agreement with Mozambique but the Frelimo elite was in no hurry. In April 2019 the IMF gave a Cyclone Idai credit of \$118 mn with only one condition, writing "a diagnostic report on governance and corruption challenges." In April 2020 the IMF made \$309 mn Covid-19 loan with limited conditions. But still no formal programme.

The IMF made a serious push from December 2021 ending with a staff-level agreement on 28 March this year on a three-year programme. This has now been approved by the board. Unusually, full details have not yet been released. But it appears that the only serious IMF demand is the creation of a Sovereign Wealth Fund. There is also the normal demand to curb civil service wages, and it appears a wage rise for civil servants has been delayed until after the IMF Board meeting.

On 28 March, after the staff agreement, mission head Alvaro Pires noted other conditions: "In the area of governance, the publication of the COVID audit report, submission to parliament of amendments to the Public Probity law and legislation on Anti-Money Laundering". The Covid audit has already been released. Another requirement is reduction in VAT exemptions.

Importantly, the IMF will allow Mozambique to spend more on social protection through the National Institute for Social Action (INAS).

So major concessions on the IMF side. After six years, the IMF has returned - chastened and with its tail between its legs.

Declining health care due to unregulated private training, says health minister

Poor training by unregulated private schools and institutes partly explains the poor quality of care in some health units, Health Minister Armindo Tiago told parliament on 20 April.

For a government minister, it was an important recognition of the outcome of two decades of government higher education policy. Frelimo came under pressure from two important lobbies. Faced with increasing competition for university and higher education places and falling quality in public primary and secondary education, the middle class, particularly in Maputo, demanded an expansion of private schools and universities. And a Frelimo elite, often with dubious sources of money, saw private institutes and universities as a highly lucrative industry. So the rapid growth of unregulated private higher education followed.

Tiago said the quality of health training had declined. "There has been a proliferation of educational institutions in the health area without adequate conditions to guarantee good quality training, including infrastructures, laboratories, internships and competent teaching staff".

He added that "that the poor care to the public is also the result of a gradual loss of values in our society and in the health sector. ... We are losing such basic values as respect, empathy and compassion".

Tiago was speaking at the annual parliamentary session of questions for ministers.

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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.

\$2bn secret debt trial: Daily press clippings in English on <https://bit.ly/Moz-Debt-Map-Trial> .

Important external links

Exchange rates 2006-21 & minimum wages 1996-2021 <https://bit.ly/Moz-Exch-wage-2021>

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 and monthly dry season reports - <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2022>

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

Cabo Ligado weekly report on civil war <https://www.caboligado.com/>

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

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
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>

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>

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)
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

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/gO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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