

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Not just heroin

Tonnes of cocaine pass through Mozambique each year

Mozambique has become a major transit centre for cocaine, following the same pattern as heroin and methamphetamine. The drug comes in by sea directly from Brazil, mainly "multi-tonne shipments arrive in shipping containers offloaded at Pemba and Nacala ports", according to a study published 15 December by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC).

"Beira and Maputo ports also see cocaine cargo arrivals. Shipments arrive as well by way of offshore exchanges from a 'mother ship' to smaller fishing vessels, which then transport the cocaine loads to beaches" in Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces, note GI-TOC.

The cocaine is moved to warehouses for storage, where it is often repackaged into smaller shipments for distribution by trucks moving through Nampula. "Johannesburg is a primary regional destination as it houses both the City Deep Container Depot and OR Tambo International Airport. Both facilities are notorious for high levels of corruption, and as places from which regular Mozambican cocaine loads are moved to markets abroad," reports GI-TOC. Other shipments head west to Malawi and its international airports – Kamuzu in Lilongwe and Chileka in Blantyre.

"A powder storm: The cocaine markets of East and southern Africa" by Jason Eligh, GI-TOC.
<https://bit.ly/Moz-cocaine>

The biggest shipment seized so far was five tonnes of cocaine for Mozambique in two containers of boxes of soap powder in Rio de Janeiro port on 6 October 2021. "Those responsible for the cargo did a very sophisticated job. They placed the cocaine inside the soap boxes with a weight identical to that declared in the shipping documents by the exporter," said the head of the Brazilian Customs Smuggling Repression Division, Augusto da Rocha.

Gilberto Aparecido dos Santos, (known as Fuminho) was arrested at the luxury Montebello Indy Village hotel in Maputo on 13 April 2020. He is an alleged leader of the São Paulo-based First

Capital Command (PCC) drug gang, and controlled both the local cocaine trade and much of the export to South Africa. He had been living in Maputo and Cape Town for some years, reported *Carta de Moçambique* (14 April 2020). The means his operation had high level support within Mozambique, as does the heroin and meths trade. He was expelled to Brazil without any indication of local questioning to discover who protected him in Mozambique. "That would not be surprising! Fuminho came to Mozambique because this country had already proved itself a protector of drug traffickers, some of whom continue to finance the Frelimo Party," commented *Carta* editor Marcelo Mosse at the time.

Cocaine is growing but heroin and methamphetamine (as crystal meth) and still the main drugs transiting Mozambique and are the second largest export (after coal). Cocaine is following the same routes. Some heroin comes in by containers to Pemba, Nacala, and Beira, but most comes by Dhow in one tonne lots which are separated into pieces and taken ashore by fishers. It then goes by road to Johannesburg.

And some heroin, crystal meth, and cocaine is consumed locally.

Allegations that a Frelimo member of the presidium of parliament is a drug baron involved in trafficking drugs through the port of Macuse, Zambézia, will be investigated by a special parliamentary commission. This was announced 28 December by the inquiry commission chair, António Niquice, who said it would report by 2 February. (*Carta de Moçambique* 29 December).

Council of Ministers told to cut top wages

There should be a "reduction in remuneration, which includes salaries, supplements and perks, for senior state leaders" as well as other directors, the Council of Ministers was told yesterday (10 Jan) by the commission created to sort out the fiasco of the Single Wage Table (TSU, Tabela Salarial Única) introduced in July and still not fully implemented because of errors and widespread protests.

The single wage table is an attempt to pull together 108 different wages tables and a whole range of supplements and subsidies, which covers everyone from the President of Mozambique to those on the civil service minimum wage - more than 350,000 civil servants. Subsidies for houses, cars and many other things and bonuses for education and long service vary hugely and are often more than half the told wage. The idea was to create a single wage table including all the extras, and to set the salary of senior figures as a percentage of the Presidential salary of 464,122.40 Meticaís (\$7250) per month.

The problem was that the Economy and Finance Ministry (MEF) created the TSU entirely in secret. It decided how doctors, head teachers, district administrators etc should be ranked compared to each other. There was no discussion of the fraught issue of whether to give a higher bonus for education or for experience. And it was decided to increase salaries most at the top. All was done in secret, so the inevitable explosion was surprising only to MEF. Doctors went on strike because they said their bonuses were being cut. The TSU created a complicated point system, which few understood.

A commission was set up to clean up the mess. It included MEF, the Ministry of State Administration (MAE) and others and it reported to the Council of Ministers yesterday. As well as cutting top salaries, it called for a closer analysis of how people are named directors and what they are paid, and that each person be given a clear explanation of how their salary is calculated.

The cut in top salaries may also be motivated by the September 2022 undertaking to the IMF to cut rather than increase the total government wage bill.

No 13th month for civil servants. It is traditional in many countries, including Mozambique, to pay an extra month's salary at Christmas, but in Mozambique is not in employment contracts. On

20 December President Filipe Nyusi told parliament that the 13th month would not be paid to civil servants, which hit the lowest paid very hard as they traditionally used the extra money for Christmas and to pay debts, and assumed it was guaranteed. Beira municipal council, governed by the MDM, has said it will pay its workers the 13th month.

The war continues

The war continues, notably along the N380 north-south road in Macomia and along the heavily forested Messalo river, which flows west to east. The river is the border between Macomia on the south and Mocimboa da Praia and Muidumbe districts to the north. Chai is where the N380 crosses the Messalo and has consistently been a centre of fighting. On 20 December insurgents raided a Mozambique Defence Force (FADM) garrison and captured a large quantity of munitions. A photo distributed through IS social media showed a stockpile of captured assault rifles, light machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and ammunition. There was a further incident near Chai on 5 January. In Muidumbe near the river there were attacks on four villages on 26, 30 and 31 December, with some villagers killed.

On 3 January the FADM announced Operation Vulcan IV to attack insurgent bases along the Messalo River west of the N380, with "friends". It appears that means the SADC force, SAMIM. <https://www.facebook.com/emgfadm/> And there have been clashes. On 8 January, a joint FADM and SAMIM force was ambushed and a drone and ammunition captured by insurgents. On 9 January there was a clash with casualties on both sides. Yesterday (10 January) just on the Muidumbe side of the river near the N380, in Xitaxi, an FADM base was attacked killing at least three soldiers. (Zitamar 11 Jan)

Cabo Ligado (10 Jan) notes that "stories of poor relations with locals keep coming, however. On the night of 27 December, a group of villagers in Namacande, in Muidumbe district, were beaten by unknown but uniformed assailants who stole their chickens. The following morning, they followed the footsteps of their attackers – which led them to the military barracks in the village."

Meanwhile, "arriving at the town of Palma is like arriving at an oasis in the middle of a desert of abandoned villages, created by the war. On the main street, commerce is exploding, hiding the scars of a violent attack at the end of March 2021," writes journalist Fernando Lima. On the main street you can buy "almost everything". Capulanas, salt, rice, corn flour, fresh eggs, cooking oil, agricultural tools, motorcycle parts, mobile phone credit and J3 condoms, he notes. TotalEnergies, through MASC, is supporting the return to business with tools and promoting local fishing and farming, and a stress on hyper-local content. (Free in Portuguese only <https://sol.sapo.pt/artigo/788862/20-meses-apos-a-ofensiva-jihadista-palma-de-relance>, in English on Zitamar only behind a pay wall.)

And Deutsche Welle (10 Jan) reports on Pemba, where the population has doubled to 400,000 with the influx of displaced people, overwhelming social services like hospitals, and pushing up prices, while the refugees struggle to survive and try to sell things on the street. <https://360mozambique.com/development/breakout-stories-in-cabo-delgado-the-changes-in-pemba/>

Other news

Police kill two to prevent lynching. In Mapinhane, Vilankulo, Inhambane police captured a man accused of kidnapping a child. An increasingly corrupt police are not trusted by the public and on 7 January a growing crowd demanded the arrested man be handed over to be lynched. Police opened fire, killing two protesters. (AIM 8 Jan)

World Bank predicts high growth. The World Bank estimated Mozambique GDP grew 3.7% last year (2022), will grow 5.0% this year, and 8.0% in 2024, the third highest growth in Africa, following Nigeria and Senegal. The Bank estimates sub-Saharan African growth last year was

3.4% and it predicts 3.6% for this year and 3.9% for 2024, significantly below Mozambique. But in its 10 January report, it warns for all of Africa about the increasing impact of the climate emergency and that "high levels of violence and conflict could escalate further if living standards continue to deteriorate."

TotalEnergies inflated 2019 costs by \$30.6mn auditors Ernst & Young reported . The auditor also questioned another \$138mn for which it said Total failed to provide documentation. Under the standard contract Total can recover its costs before it shares profits and pays taxes, and the auditor in effect accuses TotalEnergies of inflating its recoverable costs. (*Carta de Moçambique*, 10 Jan)

Alleged kidnap organiser arrested in South Africa on 7 January on a warrant from Mozambique. Esmael Ramos Nangy was arrested at his house in Centurion, near Pretoria. His lawyer says he is just a businessman doing transport between Mozambique and South Africa, and will fight extradition. Interior Minister Arsénia Massingue confirmed 13 kidnappings last year and said 33 people had been arrested. (*Carta de Moçambique*, 10 Jan) Meanwhile, director general of Mozambique's National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC), Nelson Rego, acknowledged on 9 January that some kidnapping cases in the country have involved staff from the institutions of the administration of justice. (AIM 10 Jan)

Mozambique became a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two year term on 3 January.

Reports and research

The end of the year always brings a flood of reports, and in January we will present a few of them.

CIP studies show gross provincial mismanagement

In Ribaué district, Nampula province, \$400,000 was paid to local contractors, without formal tender, to build toilets and washing facilities for schools by February 2022. None could be found in July. In three districts work had stopped or never started on new classrooms, or quality was so poor that they were already deteriorating. Studies were carried out by CIP (Centro de integridade Publica, Public Integrity Centre) on public and aid spending on schools and health posts in Niassa, Zambézia and Nampula and published in November (Portuguese only).

<https://www.cipmoz.org/pt/category/rastreio-da-despesa-publica/>

In response to a request for information by CIP director Edson Cortez, the Nampula governor issued a directive on 1 July 2022 that the provincial directorates of health and education "must not supply any financial information" to CIP.

In Niassa health posts had no water and no place to store medicines. Some health posts were built but never opened due to lack of medicines or lack of houses for technicians.

In health, "Zambézia has recently inaugurated health infrastructures (2020 to 2022) but they are already showing signs of degradation and the equipment is rusty and badly maintained." In education disorganisation meant that aid and government money was allocated to rebuild the same school. In Magnaja da Costa teachers did not show up and some schools were abandoned. At Chimbazo health centre in Luabo, the water pump only worked on the day of the inauguration and the building is already showing cracks. Police stopped CIP taking pictures of an abandoned project in Mopeia.

CESC-CDD: 'Communities hosting large projects do not benefit'

"The provinces of Zambézia, Manica and Niassa have enormous reserves of natural resources, but corruption, the exclusion of communities during the various phases of the projects, from research to production, together with the feeling that the resources benefit others and not the communities from which they are taken, lead to conflicts involving the communities themselves, the government and the companies, as well as the violation of human rights. Communities hosting large projects do not benefit from the dividends of their exploitation," conclude CESC (Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil) and CDD (Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento) in "Estudo sobre Exploração Mineira e o Risco de Conflito em Niassa, Zambézia e Manica". <https://lnkd.in/eWCBXFpq>

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Elections

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Past election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kq>

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 data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Important external links

Books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Minimum wage & exchange rate charts, tables 1996-2022 <https://bit.ly/MozMinWage2022>

Debt trial press clippings in English: <https://bit.ly/Moz-Debt-Map-Trial>.

Daily flood and monthly dry season reports - <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023>

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

Two LSE working papers - **World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success'** while oligarchs have brought high inequality, poverty and corruption - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-208c> and **How the IMF and World Bank caused a resource curse and civil war in Mozambique** - <https://bit.ly/Moz-LSE-209>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <https://bit.ly/MozNews2023> and <https://bit.ly/MozNews2022>

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

TSU_Tabela-Salarial-Unica - law, decrees, points system (2 Mb) <https://bit.ly/Moz-TSU>

Cabo Delgado

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

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>

Cabo-Delgado-Free-for-all. 20 Apr 2022. <https://bit.ly/Moz-593>

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

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>

Eleven books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <https://bit.ly/HanlonBooks>

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013) <https://bit.ly/Zim-takes-land>

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) <https://bit.ly/Peace-wo-Profit>

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991) <https://bit.ly/Shots-Moz>

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

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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