

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

617 19 February 2023

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## In this issue

+ Insurgents hit only 2 roads north

+ More flooding forecast; cyclone may be on the way

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## Insurgents hit only 2 roads north

There are only two roads going north to Mueda and the gas near Palma, and both are under attack by the insurgents, who seem to be trying to cut road access north. The map on the next page shows how few main roads there are in this 150 km by 250 km war zone. The N380 is the only paved road north, and the R698 is a mostly dirt road north from Montepuez to Mueda which by this point in the rainy season is hardly passible. Armed escorts are in use on parts of both roads.

There were attacks on or near the R698. The biggest was an attack by a large group of more than 30 insurgents on a military base in Nairoto just before 1 am on 13 February. Five security force members were killed and the rest retreated. Weapons and ammunition were taken, and the base and five vehicles burned. District Administrator Isaura Maquina confirmed that no civilian infrastructure was targeted in the attack and no houses were burned. This seems part of a new insurgent strategy not to harm civilians.

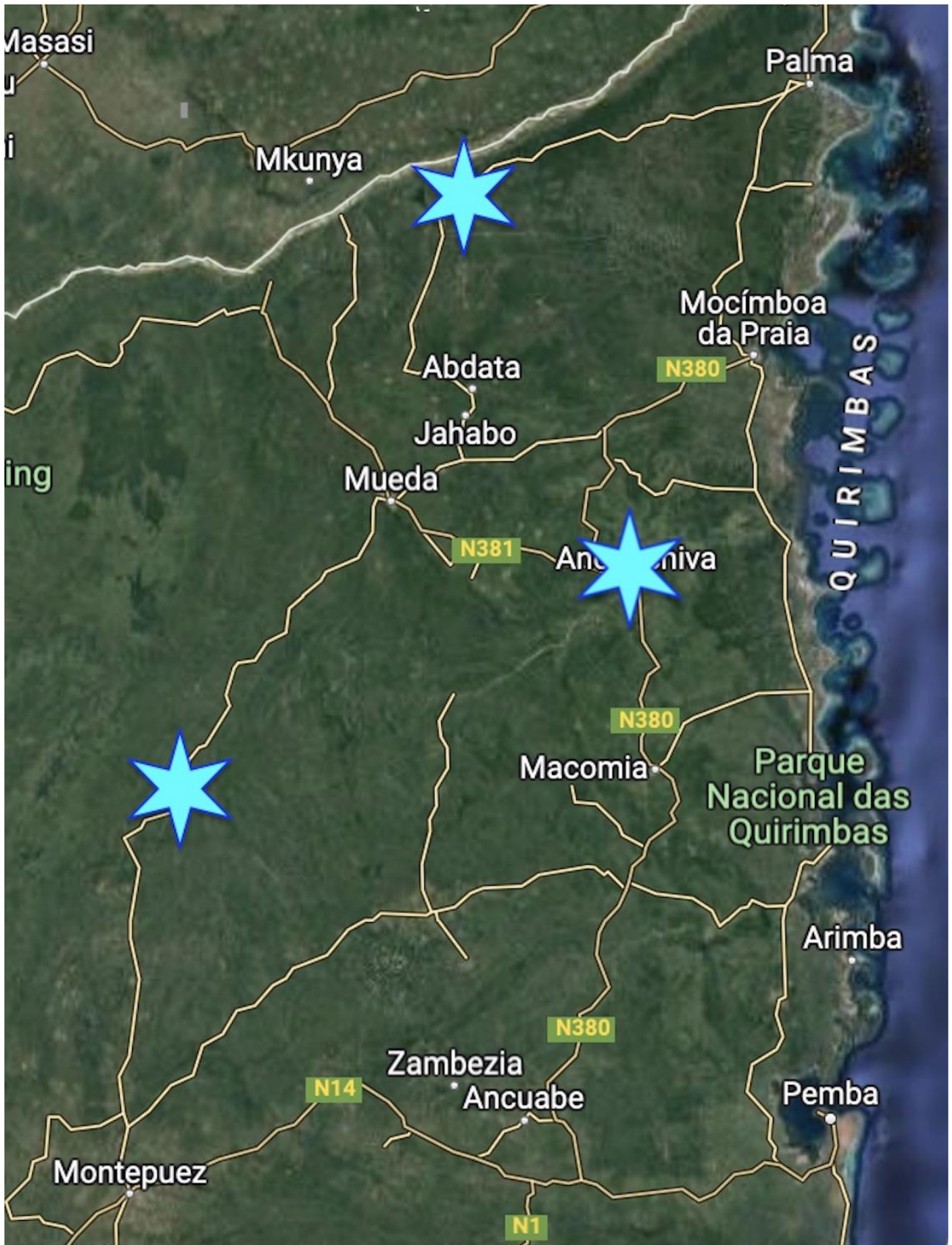
However earlier along the R698 there were two attacks on 24 January killing five people, on 4 February Namoro village was burned, and on 6 February the village of Mwirti was attacked.

A gold mine owned 75% by Gemfields and 25% by General Raimundo Pachinuapa was temporarily closed after the attack on the military base which is 15 km from the mine. They also own Montepuez Ruby Mining 80 km away.

Insurgents appear to be moving along the heavily forested Messalo River which at this point is about 10 km east of the R698. On 1 February 15 fighters of the local militia known as 'Naparama' were killed in a clash with insurgents around the village of Iba. Four insurgents were also killed. Naparama are a local militia who carry old rifles but believe a potion makes them impervious to bullets.

On the N380 on 1 February insurgents ambushed two vans and a minibus killing up to seven people, including a nurse, and injuring seven more. The three vehicles were left burning on the road. Three days later they ambushed several passing vehicles in the same area and at least one civilian was killed, a driver working for humanitarian NGO Médecins Sans Frontières. The N380 is also closed because flood waters from the Messalo River are going over the bridge.

The third star on the map is Nangade district on the Palma-Mueda road, where fighting continues. (*Zitamar* 14 & 16 Feb, *Cabo Ligado Weekly* 7 & 14 Feb, *Savana* 17 Feb)



## More flooding forecast; cyclone may be on the way

Most of the rivers of coastal Mozambique start in neighbouring states - South Africa, Eswatini, Malawi and Zimbabwe - and heavy rains there are already causing flooding in southern Mozambique and expected in the centre. Heavy rains in the north will cause more flooding there. And Cyclone Freddy may hit on Friday 24 February.

In the south, more water being released from the Corumana dam will cause flooding on the Incomati River and perhaps cut the main north-south N1 road. Increased releases from the Massingir dam will raise levels of Limpopo River, already rising with water from Zimbabwe and South Africa. And levels remain high on the Umbeluzi and Maputo rivers.

For general background, the Limpopo River Awareness Kit is good.

<https://www.limpopo.riverawarenesskit.org/>) *Daily Maverick* (<https://bit.ly/3ZfQfit>) has a good map showing flood zones in the north of South Africa. And for a report on flooding in South Africa <https://www.citizen.co.za/news/south-africa/no-work-school-floods-cause-havoc-limpopo/>

In the centre of the country, the main N7 road from Manica to Tete has been cut by a bridge washed out at Catandica, Bárue district; temporary works have allowed a partial reopening. Buzi and Pungue rivers are above flood level, and the Zambeze river has reached flood level.

In the north, warnings have been issued on the Lúrio, Megaruma and Rovuma rivers.

For those keeping a watch on flooding, we post the daily flood report on <https://bit.ly/Moz-Flood-2023> and Mozambique's Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia <https://www.inam.gov.mz/> does good daily forecasts and its morning report

[https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT\\_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao\\_Manha.pdf](https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao_Manha.pdf) gives rainfall levels at 50 weather stations for the previous 24 hours - for example 101 mm the night of 16/17 February in Maputo city.

**The best cyclone monitor** is Meteo France in Réunion <https://bit.ly/Reunion-cyclone>. It is currently monitoring **cyclone Freddy** which it says will cross Madagascar Wednesday 22 February and go into the Mozambique Channel on Thursday 23 February and become a possible threat to Mozambique.

### **More reading**

**Pioneering conflict-avoidance study asks elephants what works for them**, reports that pathfinder elephants have long distance trails that they use regularly, and are shown on a map. And human-elephant conflicts can be prevented but putting bees and plants the elephants don't like between their roads and human zones. (Daily Maverick 14 Feb <https://bit.ly/3YZlmd>)

**The trail of red rust that leads to the beginning of human culture**, reports on Lion Cavern in the hills north of the Eswatini capital of Mbabane, which is possibly the oldest mine in the world. The 50,000 year old ochre mine was opened by anatomically modern humans purely for the pigment for decoration. Ochre is haematite which is an iron-oxide compound, and the ancient mine is near holes left by the Swazi iron mine of 50 years ago. (Daily Maverick 8 Feb <https://bit.ly/3l4Rmez>)

### **Clarification**

**There are three Danas**. The air tickets fraud reported in the previous issue relates to Dana in Maputo which is part of the Portuguese Grupo Travelstore. It does not involve Dana Agency of Nelspruit nor Dana Tours of Maputo which are separate companies. On 12 February we reported a CIP report of 12 February that three senior people from Instituto Nacional dos Transportes Terrestre (INATTER, surface transport institute), now renamed Instituto Nacional dos Transportes

Rodoviários (INATRO, road transport institute), had been arrested and charged with corruption in buying air tickets from Dana and corruption in the contract with Brithol Michcoma to supply drivers' licences. CIP reports one Dana person was also arrested. The three companies have similar names because Dana Tours and Dana started as part of Dana Agency. The Maputo office was sold to Travelstore but kept the name Dana, and by 2018 Dana Tours had become a totally separate company owned by the local director. But until Thursday 16 February this year, the Dana Tours website said "Dana Tours has remained a partnership between today's previous owners of Dana Agency and Natalie Tenzer-Silva as the Director" of Dana Tours; that statement has now been removed.

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## Elections

**CIP Mozambique Elections Bulletin** is published by Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP) <https://www.cipmoz.org>; <https://cipeleicoes.org/eng/cip@cipmoz.org>.

To subscribe or unsubscribe: <https://bit.ly/MozBul-sub> Past election newsletters are on <https://bit.ly/CIP-EI>

**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>

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## Important external links

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

**Flood, cyclone and weather:** weather <https://www.inam.gov.mz/>

rainfall [https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT\\_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao\\_Manha.pdf](https://www.inam.gov.mz/images/DAPT_Previsoes/Manha/Previsao_Manha.pdf)

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

**Cyclone trackers,** <https://bit.ly/Reunion-cyclone>, <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

(which uses z time which is UCT - Coordinated Universal Time) and <https://www.cyclocane.com/>

**Two LSE working papers - World Bank questions its Mozambique 'success'** where oligarchs 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>

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

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>

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## Cabo Delgado

**Cabo Ligado** weekly report on civil war <https://www.caboligado.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](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)

### \$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](http://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)

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### 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).

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