

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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This is a personal project by Dr Joseph Hanlon, with no outside funding.

## In this issue

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- + 5000 half-built classrooms
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- + Maputo Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) OK

## Police chief who did not block authorised Quelimane Azagaia procession dismissed

Quelimane police chief Kapangula who refused to block the homage procession for Azagaia - which had been approved by the mayor - has been dismissed. (*Diário da Zambézia* 19 Apr) Police accompanied the peaceful procession in contrast to other cities where police attacked the

homages - in violation of both law and constitution. He is replaced by former Maputo chief Fabião Nhandololo who has been demoted because of his failure to curb kidnappings (which have police involvement). *Zitamar* (21 Apr) comments "the Zambezia police chief had to go - to be replaced by the hard man from Maputo, who may not be able to tackle the kidnappers, but knows how to stop a peaceful demonstration."



Secretly organised protests took place on 18 April, just a month after the processions were attacked. Dozens of young people held up handmade signs at traffic lights in Cabo Delgado, Zambézia, Inhambane, Sofala and Maputo. The placards referred to Article 51 of Mozambique's constitution, guaranteeing the right to freedom of assembly and demonstration. The protest was organised quickly with photos on social media, coordinated by a small group to keep it secret from the police so they would not go to traffic lights. In Maputo, three young people were arrested but later released after the intervention of a lawyer, who explained that the action did not require authorization from the authorities as people gathered in small numbers to take pictures and dispersed without creating any kind of incident. (DW, *Zitamar*, [@AllexandreMZ](https://www.facebook.com/GuirenganeQ); 18, 19 Apr)



## **Substandard buildings hit by Freddie and 5000 half-built classrooms**

More than 5000 classrooms supposedly under construction have been abandoned uncompleted by their contractors, said Daniel Baloi, Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Works, speaking at a contractors meeting 12 April. He went on to say that "The damage caused by cyclone Freddie in Zambézia is the result of poor design and construction. It is inconceivable that schools, hospitals,



roads, bridges and other constructions built recently collapse in a short time when bridges and buildings from the colonial era continue intact." This is because of improper tenders, low quality materials, and our inability to inspect, he said. (*Savana* 14 Apr)

But contractors at the meeting also cited politically connected people with fake companies who won tenders for which they were paid but did not complete. Others cited the failure of government to pay contractors, who were dependent on the money because high interest rates made borrowing impossible.

**Central government remains extremely short of cash** and is delaying paying bills, including for elections. Domestic borrowing from banks is now \$4.7mn, up \$400,000 since December. Government debt to fuel supply companies is \$46mn. (*O País* 17 Mar)

## **Star state companies crumble into bankruptcy; LAM has South African management**

Three decades ago Frelimo fought hard and successfully to prevent the privatisation of three well run, dynamic and key state industries: telecommunications (which from 1997 included the first mobile telephone company, Mcel), the airline LAM, and electricity. But the last 15 years has seen them slowly captured by Frelimo to serve other interests - providing services that state did not pay for, having supply contracts that were corrupt or party linked, and providing jobs for Frelimo families leading to weak management. *Canal de Moçambique* (12 Apr) reported that the state holding company IGEPE (Instituto de Gestão das Participações do Estado) has a list of more than 200 "Frelimists" who are supposed to be given jobs.

Both LAM and the merged telecom company Tmcel are technically bankrupt and badly run, and no outside company would buy them. On 5 April Transport Minister Mateus Magala announced that the South African company "Fly Modern Ark" would manage LAM, bringing some of its own aircraft and equipment to Maputo.

The Public Integrity Centre (CIP) in a 10 April report notes Fly Modern Ark is an aircraft leasing company which until now has not run an airline. It failed in 2017 to take over Air Zimbabwe and in 2017 and 2020 to take over SA Express. Its owner is politically influential in South Africa and gives 10% of profits to the African National Congress (ANC). LAM's debt in 2022 was more than \$100mn.

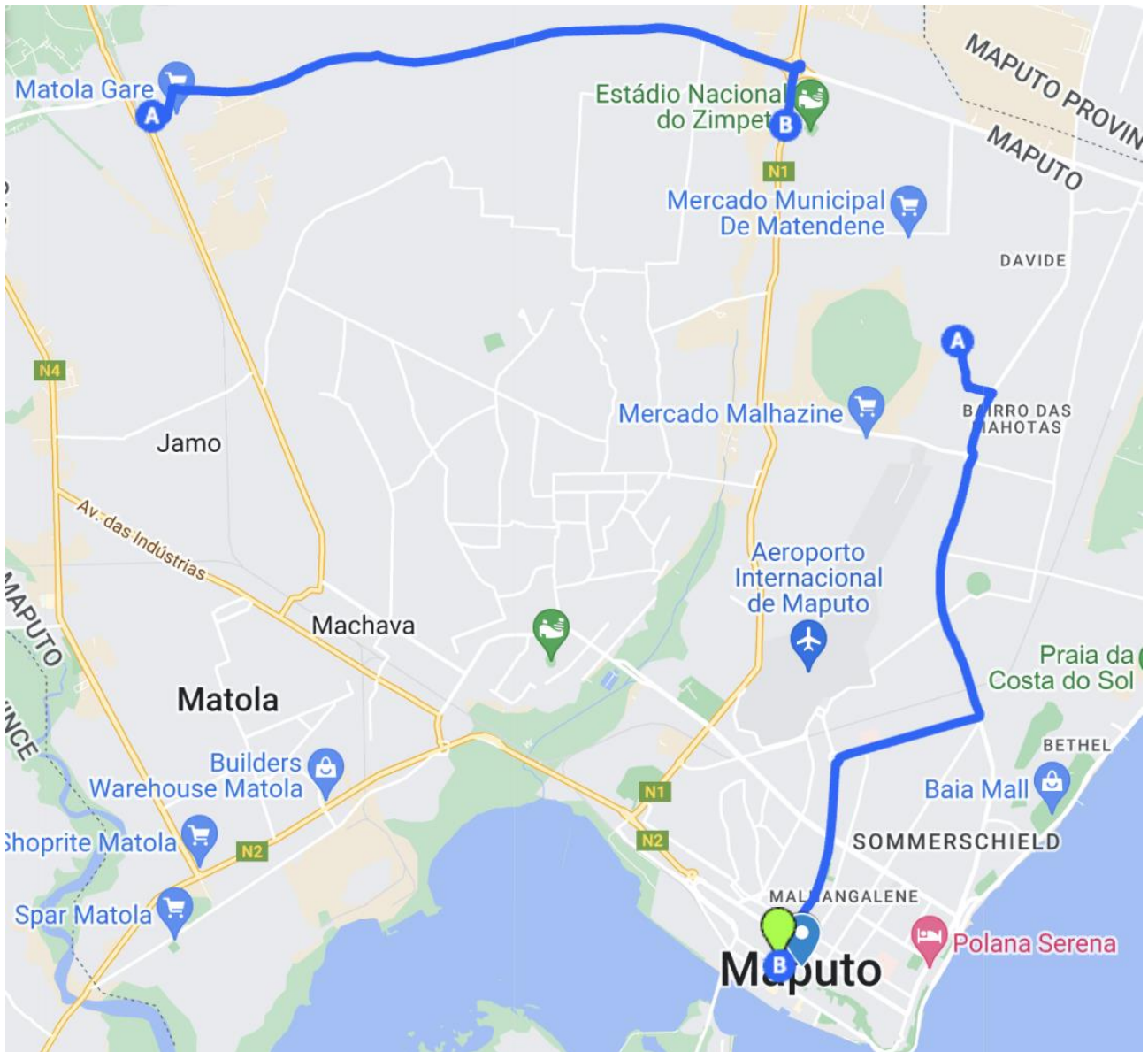
Tmcel is also headed for some sort of external management. It is long and short term debt of \$423mn including \$132mn to the Chinese Exim bank, \$23mn to local Mozambican banks and \$72mn to the state in unpaid taxes. State agencies owe \$15mn to Tmcel. (*Savana* 14 Apr)

## **Maputo Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to go ahead**

With \$250 mn from the World Bank, two BRT routes will be built in Maputo and Matola in the next three years by the Agência Metropolitana dos Transportes de Maputo (AMT, Maputo Metropolitan Transport Agency) which includes Maputo, Matola, Boane and Marracuene.

The first two routes will be Baixa-Magoanine in Maputo (a very heavily travelled route) and Zimpeto-Matola Gare along the ring road (linking Matola and Maputo, thus making it not just a Maputo city project).

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) involves exclusive high speed bus lanes with high platform, pre-pay stations as in a metro. The concept started in Latin America and has expanded to 300 cities including Johannesburg. The biggest problem is to keep minibuses, taxis and other traffic from the bus lanes. The bus lane corridors will have new pedestrian pavements and crossings and cycleways, as well as improved lighting and drainage.



The Maputo area has 70% of all cars in Mozambique and traffic is increasing, so there is need to promote public transport. The BRT was first agreed in 2014 with the Brazilian construction company Odebrecht funded with Brazilian aid money. Odebrecht was caught up in the lava jato scandal with large bribes paid for aid contracts, including the white elephant Nacala airport. The BRT was not part of the scandal but all Odebrecht projects were stopped.

**Battles for control of aid money and credit for projects** seem to be growing. In October Maputo mayor Eneas Comiche rejected the World Bank-funded BRT, so it has gone ahead with a regional agency, AMT. Another battle is over Beira coastal protection. Public Works Minister Carlos Mesquita visited Beira on 8 April to monitor implementation of the coastal protection and drainage projects and said they were central government projects, but on 12 April, Beira mayor Albano Carige said they had always been municipal projects, including after cyclones Idai and Freddy.

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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>.

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

## 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>

## 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](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/qO9l6v> (English or Portuguese).

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