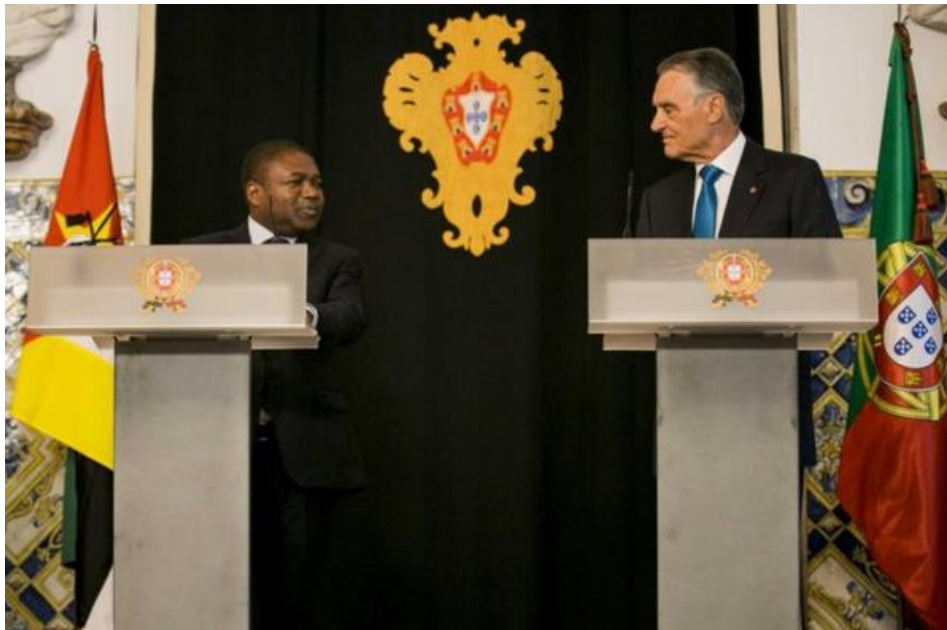


WEEKLY MEDIA REVIEW: 10 JULY TO 17 JULY 2015

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President Nyusi on working visit to Portugal (see page 38 for more).

Rhula Intelligent Solutions is a Private Risk Management Company servicing multinational companies, non-governmental organisations and private clients operating in Mozambique. The Rhula Mozambique Weekly Report is currently being distributed to over 25 embassies, 36 non-governmental organisations and 428 businesses and individuals in Mozambique. For additional information or services please contact:

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Rhula Intelligent Solutions

OBJECTIVE

Offering seamless solutions for asset protection in SADC political and security environment.

VISION

Providing a network of political and security risk advisers with first-hand knowledge of Mozambique and each country in the SADC.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Country Risk Management

- Country Risk Assessment
- Market Entry
- Due Diligence
- Research & Investigations
- Cultural Nuances and Understanding
- Health, Safety & Environmental Management
- Physical Site Assessment

Compliance

- Sanctions (US, EU, UK, Asia)
- Anti-Money Laundering (AML)
- Anti-Bribery / Corruption (FCPA, BBA, OECD)
- Litigation Support
- Know your Client / Source of Funds (KyC / SoF)

Specialised Security Services

- Corporate Security Planning
- Crisis Management
- Emergency Evacuation
- Executive Protection
- Kidnap and Ransom

AREAS OF OPERATION

SADC

KEY PERSONS

Dr. Leonardo Simão - Executive Chairman

Executive director of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation, Chairman of United Bank of Africa and Member of the SADC Mediation Team for Madagascar, Leonardo Simão served as Minister of Health from 1988 to 1994 and Minister of Foreign Cooperation from 1994 to 2005. Graduated in Medicine, Specialist in Public Health, he is a founding member of the Medical Association of Mozambique and member of the Mozambique Medical Council.

Nuno Tomas - Director

A career diplomat, Nuno Tomas is Senior Adviser to former President of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano since 2005. He has been involved in special political missions across Africa focussed on Conflict Resolution, Sustainable Development, Accountability and Good Governance.

Nigel Morgan - Director

For more than two decades, Nigel Morgan has advised multinational companies, financial institutions and private clients on political and security risk related to foreign direct investment in Africa. He served in the Irish Guards and at the Centre for Policy Studies in London during the premiership of Margaret Thatcher.

Joe van der Walt - Director

Former South African military officer, who has specialised in private-sector security in Africa and the Middle East, with particular expertise in the oil, gas and mining sectors and working experience in Angola, DRC, Liberia, Zambia, Somalia, Iraq, to name a few.

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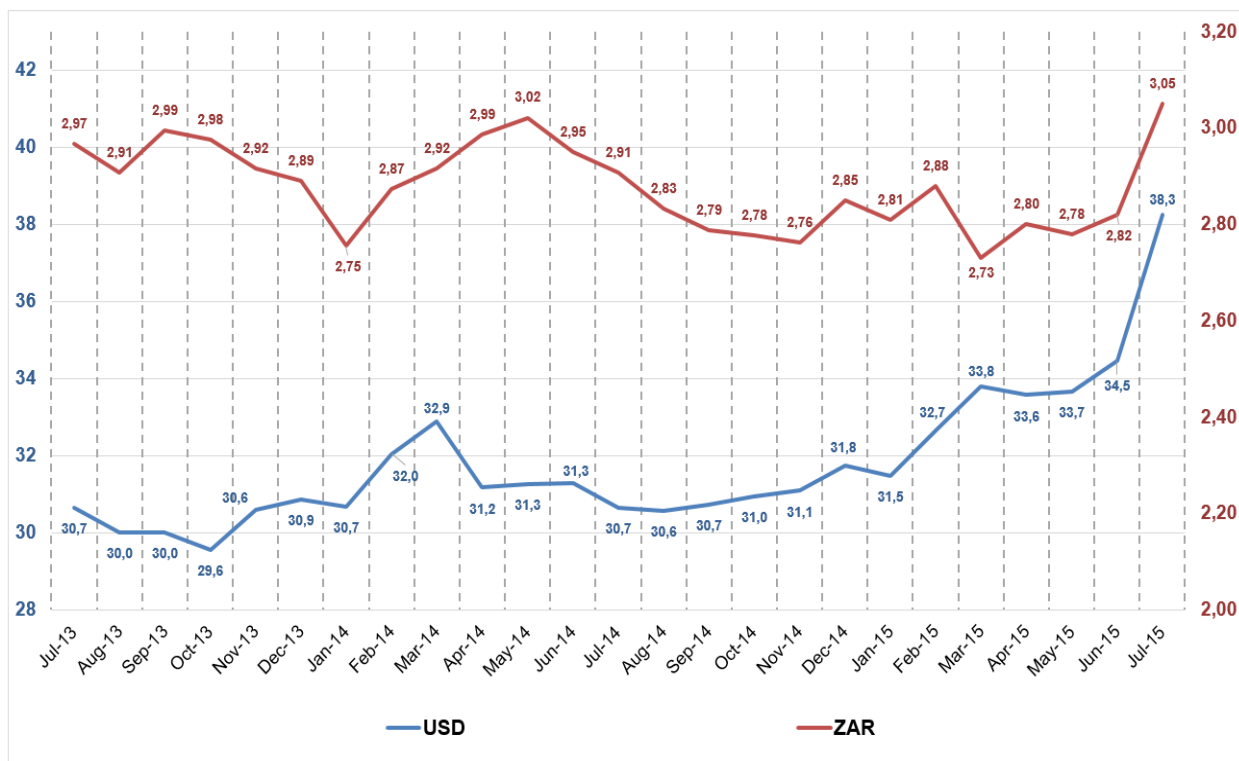
ECONOMY

Mozambique Exchange Rate and Fuel Prices: 16 July 2015

Mozambique Metical (MZN) Exchange Rate		
Currency	Buy	Sell
Euro (EUR)	41,51	41,73
U.S. Dollar (USD)	37,86	38,06
S.A. Rand (ZAR)	3,06	3,07

Mozambique Fuel Prices	
Fuel Type	Price Per Litre
Petrol	47,52MT
Diesel	36,81MT
<i>Prices only valid for Maputo, Beira and Nacala</i>	

GRAPH 1: MOZAMBIQUE CURRENCY EVALUATION



Mozambique central bank leaves key lending rate unchanged at 7.5%

Mozambique's central bank left its Standing Lending Facility (the interest rate paid by the commercial banks to the central bank for money borrowed on the Interbank Money Market) steady at 7.5%. The Bank of Mozambique maintained its rates this year after dropping by 75 basis points in November 2014, from the previous rate of 8.25%, which had been in force for the preceding year.

The bank, however, made a point of noting that the increased risks in the international financial markets and economy, along with the persistent strengthening of the US dollar and volatile prices of raw materials, resulted in an increase in the country's current account deficit.

In a statement from the bank, it was announced that the Standing Deposit Facility (the rate paid by the central bank to the commercial banks on money they deposit with it) remains at 1.5%, and the Compulsory Reserves Coefficient (the amount of money that the commercial banks must deposit with the Bank of Mozambique) is also unchanged at 8%.

This is despite a continuing fall in the value of the metical, which the committee blames on the strengthening of the US dollar on international currency markets, and the deterioration in Mozambique's balance of payments due to "an unfavourable international conjuncture in the price of raw materials".

At the end of June, the dollar was quoted on the Inter-Bank Exchange Market at MT39.03, representing a depreciation of the metical of 13.03% for the month, and of 23.55% since the start of the year

(2015). From 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the metical depreciated by 27.03% against the dollar.

In the commercial banks, the average exchange rate on the last day of June was MT39.96 to the dollar.

There was a slight recovery in the first fortnight of July. On Tuesday (14 July), the Interbank Exchange selling rate, published by the bank of Mozambique, was MT38.12 to the dollar. The selling rate of the largest commercial bank, the Millennium-BIM, was MT38.56 to the dollar.

Perhaps of more concern is the depreciation of the metical against the South African rand. The rate fell to MT3.21 to the rand at the end of June, a fall of 12.3% over the month, and an annual depreciation of 11.07%. Again, there has been a slight recovery this month, and the selling rate quoted by the Bank of Mozambique on Tuesday was MT3.05 to the rand.

The Monetary Policy Committee also decided to intervene on the Inter-Bank Markets to ensure that the monetary base does not exceed MT60.075 billion (US\$1.576 billion). In June the monetary base increased by MT1.601 billion to MT56.673 billion, which was MT1.556 billion below the ceiling for the month.

The statement noted that, according to the consumer price index for the three major cities (Maputo, Beira and Nampula), inflation in June was minus 0.46%. This was the third consecutive month of deflation. The falling prices between April and June mean that, as calculated by the National Statistics Institute (INE), inflation for the first six months of the year is only 0.93%.

Judging from previous years, negative inflation is likely to continue in the next few months, as the harvest comes in, before prices resume an upward trend towards the end of the year.

The Committee added that the country's Net International Reserves (NIR) increased by US\$146 million in June, to reach US\$2.6 billion — US\$50 million above the target for the period, reflecting purchases by the central bank totalling US\$147 million and disbursement of external funds in favour of state projects worth US\$43 million. These reserves are enough for 3.85 months of imports of goods and non-factor services, when the operations of the foreign investment mega-projects are excluded. This is an increase compared to May, when the reserves covered 3.65 months of imports.

Mozambique's current account deficit widened by US\$152 million, or by US\$351 million excluding major projects, to US\$959.6 million (or US\$621.3 million excluding major projects) in the first quarter of 2015 compared with the first quarter of 2014

In the first quarter of this year, Mozambique's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by an annual rate of 5.9%, down from 7.9% seen in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The general fall in international commodity prices is a mix of good and bad news for Mozambique. The fall in oil prices certainly cuts the country's bill for fuel imports (although, since these are denominated in dollars, the depreciation of the metical erodes this gain). The price of the benchmark Brent crude fell by 3.5% in June, and by 41.8% over the past year. Oil prices continued to fall in early July. The price of a barrel of Brent crude fell

from US\$63.26 to US\$58.30 between 30 June and 10 July. Mozambique will also benefit from the fall in the world market price of rice by 35.5% between July 2014 and June 2015.

But key Mozambican exports also saw their prices fall. Aluminium (still Mozambique's largest export) fell in price by 2.8% in June, and thermal coal by 2.6%. The price of natural gas rose by 6.1%, but over the past year the price was down by 36.4%.

Source: CentralBankNews.info/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambique to have budget deficit of 6.8% of GDP in 2015 – EIU

Mozambique is expected to post a budget deficit of 6.8% of GDP in 2015, a scenario favoured by the containment of public expenditure, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its latest macroeconomic report on the country.

Setting out a downward trend in the country's budget deficit of up to 5.5% of GDP in 2018, the EIU expects a gradual increase in government spending, and that this will be offset by growth in public revenue at the base of "robust economic growth" and increased tax collection from the exploration of mineral resources.

In its July macroeconomic review of the country, the EIU stated that Mozambican public debt would "remain high" in the period between 2015 and 2019, at an annual average of 53.2%.

However, despite considering that debt levels still allow for its management, the EIU warned of external risks, which pose a threat to debt sustainability, giving the example of a hypothetical decline in

demand for aluminium ingots or coal, which could have impacts on state tax revenues.

From a public spending point of view, the report signals the “weak financial position” of some state agencies and possible pressure from civil servants to increase their salaries.

Alongside this, also beginning in 2015, the repayments of the Mozambican Tuna Company Empresa Moçambicana de Atum (Ematum) debt, under a state guarantee totalling US\$850 million, will deteriorate debt sustainability indicators in a situation further aggravated by the depreciation of the metical, the EIU review said.

The EIU noted that the intervention of the Bank of Mozambique in the foreign exchange market has controlled the “pressure on the metical”, which has depreciated nearly 27% against the dollar in the last year, but hopes that this policy will not continue, as it has had an impact on the international reserves of the central bank, which are now US\$2.6 billion.

In terms of inflation, the EIU analysts indicate that it is expected to increase from 2.3% in 2014 to 2.9% in 2015, with the low prices of fuel and food products on international markets offsetting the depreciation of the metical and possible increases in electricity tariffs.

Source: Macauhub

Standard and Poor’s downgrades Mozambique

The Standard and Poor’s credit ratings agency has downgraded Mozambique’s long term rating from B to B-, largely due to the US\$850 million loan taken by

Ematum in 2013 on the Eurobond market, and guaranteed by the Mozambican government.

Standard and Poor’s, one of the world’s three major ratings agencies, was alarmed by last month’s statement in Parliament, by the Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, that the government is seeking to restructure the Ematum loan.

The Ematum accounts for 2013 and 2014, published in May, painted a grim picture of the company’s finances. The accounts showed that in 2014 Ematum made a loss of over MT850.5 million (approximately US\$24.9 million). The accumulated losses, from 2013 up to December 2014, were MT1.17 billion. Ematum’s own funds were thus deeply in the red, at minus MT1.16 billion.

Maleiane told Parliament that the loan carries the very high interest rate of LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) plus 6.5%. It is repayable over seven years, with a two-year grace period - which is about to expire.

Maleiane is seeking to re-negotiate the terms of the loan. The debt has already been split in two - the fishing assets, valued at US\$350 million, which are now the responsibility of Ematum itself, while the state is obliged to repay the other US\$500 million.

“Seven years is a short period to repay US\$500 million, even with a two-year grace period”, said Maleiane, “particularly at a high interest rate. We are trying to negotiate a longer repayment period and a lower interest rate, and our partners, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), agree with us”.

Standard and Poor's, however, regarded Maleiane's statement as heresy. "We understand that the government of Mozambique is considering restructuring a US\$850 million government guaranteed loan issued by a government-owned company, Ematum. While details are pending, we view the guarantee as the government's financial obligation under our criteria, and we expect to classify the restructuring as a distressed debt exchange", said a release from the agency.

A "distressed debt" is defined as the debt of companies that have filed for bankruptcy, or have a significant chance of filing for bankruptcy in the near future.

Standard and Poor's added that: "the financial difficulties of Ematum, established in 2013, raise broader questions about Mozambique's governance and public sector debt management, in our view", and, as a result, the agency has radically revised its previously optimistic assumptions about Mozambique's growth prospects.

"We no longer project that Mozambique will exhibit high per capita growth for a country at its stage of development", says the release. "In addition, current account deficits remain very high and fiscal deficits sizable. We are therefore lowering our long-term sovereign rating on Mozambique to 'B-' and placing the 'B-/B-' long- and short-term ratings on CreditWatch with negative implications".

A CreditWatch is an announcement by a ratings agency, that indicates that a credit rating is under review. It is usually followed by a credit downgrade.

Standard and Poor's added that: "We expect to resolve the CreditWatch as

soon as more information is available on the government's capacity and willingness to ensure full and timely debt service on the Ematum debt. We expect such information to be available within the next 90 days".

This is the second time this year that the agency has downgraded Mozambique's credit rating. In February, Standard and Poor's downgraded the country from B+ to B.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Economists concerned by Mozambique's debt rating slide

Economist Ragendra de Sousa says that the country's economic standing is not yet altogether disgraceful, and Standard and Poor's B- rating means that the country can still attract investors. However, its risk has increased significantly.

"It is true that B- is not good, because Mozambique is seen as a country of potential. We are in a new overall cycle and this lowering of the rating is a legacy of the previous government", said Sousa.

According to Sousa, the Ematum scandal (and the issues relating thereto) are the biggest contributor to the increased risk rating. "The first problem is the payment deadline. The second is that this is commercial debt with very short maturity and a high interest rate, meaning that Ematum has to produce large tonnages to be able to pay off the debt", he said.

However, Sousa stressed that, despite this situation, economic indicators remain positive overall, the proof of which can be seen in the fact that "some donors have

pledged to maintain or even increase their contribution levels”.

In turn, economist Antonio Francisco said that the B- level was of concern and warned that: “if the country falls any further, we may be in default, like Greece”.

Francisco believes that President Filipe Nyusi’s government began its term in office in a most regrettable fashion “because it has to suffer this blow at the very start of its mandate. The government will have to react in an intelligent and positive way to reverse the scenario”, he said.

Francisco warns that, in recent years, Mozambique’s credit rating had been on the decline and that the country’s current situation is contributing to speculation on its future. “From the point of view of attracting good, productive investment this is very bad, and from the point of view of attracting toxic, speculative investment, it is unfortunate. Those who want to speculate (negatively), have here a moment of opportunity”, he said.

Source: O País

Road freight levels are “inconceivable” - Chairman of the Millennium BIM bank

On Thursday (9 July) the chairman of the Millennium BIM bank, Rui Fonseca, said that it is “inconceivable” that 90% of the large loads in Mozambique are being transported via road, warning of the consequences of poor road maintenance.

“It is inconceivable that most of the heavy freight in the country is transported by road. You cannot do that. There is no road system in the world that can withstand it”, warned Fonseca, during the

Economic and Social Forum of the ‘Infrastructure and Logistics Challenges’ conference, which recently took place in Maputo.

The data presented by Fonseca, who previously acted as vice-president of the Board of Directors of the African Union of Railways, indicates that 90% of heavy freight in Mozambique is carried via road, which is contributing to the rapid destruction of roads, as well as constituting a great weakness in logistical flexibility.

“It is inconceivable that ferrochrome, coal and iron ore are transported by road”, said Fonseca, arguing that Mozambique should take advantage of its maritime potential, with some 2,800 kilometres of coastline and strong international maritime links.

It is estimated that the port of Maputo, the country’s largest, receives over 1,000 cargo trucks-worth of goods per day, mainly from neighbouring countries, with concomitant advantages vis-à-vis congestion levels.

“The sea is the cheapest route in the world, and we unfortunately make little use of it”, added Fonseca, highlighting the need for the country to adopt transport integration policies. He cautions that this is only possible after a “strict planning of the territory”.

“30% of all international trade generated by international shipping goes straight past our eyes, every year”, said Fonseca, referring to the Mozambique Channel, currently regarded as a high-intensity international maritime traffic zone.

During the conference, the Minister of Transport and Communications, Carlos

Mesquita, said that the government aims to adopt an integrated and sustainable transport policy in order to attract foreign investment and to increase the competitiveness of the Mozambican market at regional level.

“Given Mozambique’s geo-strategic position, it is critical that we step-up and facilitate sea-access for our landlocked neighbours. We must carry forward economic development plans efficiently both at home and in tandem with neighbouring countries”, said Mesquita.

Source: Lusa

CCMI inaugurated in Maputo

On Friday (10 July) a new Mozambique-Italian Chamber of Commerce (CCMI) was inaugurated in Maputo, as part of an effort to consolidate the ties of friendship between the two countries with the aim of extending business relations.

Bilateral chambers of commerce have proven successful in leveraging, and developing, business relations between entrepreneurs through the strengthening of dialogue and facilitation of business opportunities in both countries.

The CCMI is chaired by Simone Santi, while Maria de Assunção Abula and Niamoto Chipande both occupy the joint-position of vice-president.

During the inauguration ceremony, Santi stated that he was honoured by the confidence placed in him to lead the chamber. In addition, he highlighted the fact that business ties between Mozambique and Italy are predominantly comprised of small and medium enterprises. As a result thereof, the chamber will primarily serve as a platform

for the exchange of knowledge with respect to establishing business partnerships.

Source: Jornal Notícias

12 Portuguese companies employ 22,000 people in Mozambique

The 12 largest Portuguese companies present in Mozambique have invested over US\$1 billion, said the ambassador of Portugal in Maputo, José Augusto Duarte.

During a dinner last Thursday (9 July), at which President Filipe Nyusi was the chief guest, Duarte stated that the group consisting of the biggest Portuguese investors in Mozambique currently account for 22,000 jobs in various areas of activity.

The meeting served as a first point of contact between the new president of Mozambique and the Portuguese business community.

Overall, the ambassador said that the investment of Portuguese companies in Mozambique amounted to US\$1.7 billion, which created 44,000 jobs.

In 2014 Portugal was the fourth largest foreign investor in Mozambique, on a list led by the United Arab Emirate, Mauritius and South Africa.

Source: Macauhub

Portugal was the third largest investor in Mozambique in Q1

Portugal was the third largest foreign investor in Mozambique in the first quarter (Q1) of 2015, holding on to its position as one of the largest investors in the Mozambican economy, according to

figures from Mozambique's Investment Promotion Centre.

The data showed that, in the first three months of the year, Portugal approved 22 projects worth US\$55.9 million, after ending 2014 in fourth place with US\$336 million, almost double the US\$171 million recorded in 2013.

Despite the number of approved projects falling from 168 to 98, in 2014 Portugal had its biggest year since 2009, according to figures from the Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade of Portugal (AICEP) and the Embassy of Portugal in Mozambique.

According to the latest figures from the CPI, in Q1 of this year, the majority of Portuguese investment (45.5%) was channelled into the industrial sector, followed by services (30%) and insurance (14.5%), and concentrated in the South, in Maputo Province.

The list for Q1, totalling US\$500 million is led by Spain and China, although together they account for only eight projects, compared to 22 for Portugal, which remains the main foreign job creator, with 28 jobs per US\$1 million invested versus an average of 13 for all other countries.

Source: Macauhub

369 SMEs created since the introduction of PPPs in Mozambique

The Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, recently revealed that since the introduction of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) 15 years ago, 369 small and medium enterprises (SME) and 3,534 jobs have been created throughout the country.

With respect to turnover, the minister said that the SMEs had accumulated a total of MT4.4 billion, while the state had collected MT3.7 billion - consisting of:

- MT220 million in concession payments;
- MT1 billion in Taxing of Collective Entities payments; and
- MT2.3 billion in Taxing of Individual Entities payments.

According to Maleiane: "this performance is below our targets. We recognise that, with regard to public-private partnerships, much remains to be done to increase these returns".

The Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA) suggests that the participation of the private sector in PPPs could be one way to address the energy crisis that the country is currently facing.

However, for this to be possible, "there needs to be a greater co-ordination between the public and private sectors", argued Rogério Manuel, president of the CTA, who was speaking on Friday (10 July) at the opening of the first annual meeting of the National Business Council.

In this context, "access to information is crucial and we therefore look upon events like this as an essential way of providing economic actors with information to base their business decisions on", said Manuel.

"Many countries at a similar stage of development to Mozambique face, on the one hand, a problem producing energy in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs of the economy and on the other,

the high cost of access to electricity”, he said.

The National Business Council’s first meeting of the year, titled: “*Public-Private Partnerships, Large Scale Projects and Business Concessions in the Energy sector in the present five-year period*”, was intended to review the implementation stage of the Public-Private Partnerships Bill and discuss the private sector’s priority areas of concern.

Source: Domingo

Mustang Resources: update on the Save River Diamond Project

Highlights:

- A 2.6 carat gem quality diamond was recovered from ongoing near-surface (<3.5 meter) bulk-sampling activities;
- Surface bulk sampling continuing with preparations being made for larger volume bulk sampling targeting deeper gravels;
- All required equipment acquired for 1,000 ton per day bulk sampling operation; and
- Major items already being mobilised to the site.

Mustang Resources Limited is pleased to provide an update on exploration activities on its Save River Diamond Project, located in southern Mozambique.

A gem quality 2.6 carat white diamond, the largest diamond recovered at the site thus far, was recovered on 9 July, 2015. This is a very exciting and significant find

for the company as it was recovered from the shallow deflation surface gravels.

To date, some 12.5ct have been recovered from deflation surface sampling. The company has acquired all required equipment needed to begin with higher volume bulk sampling (1,000 tons per day), including the procurement of a FlowSort X-Ray final recovery plant.

Project Background:

The Save River Diamond Project is the collective name for the two concessions located in Gaza Province alongside the Save River in southern Mozambique bordering Zimbabwe, namely 4525L ($\pm 2,384.23$ ha) and 4969L ($\pm 21,700$ ha).

Mustang currently holds 78% of Save River Diamonds Pty Ltd, which in turn holds the rights to acquire a 65% interest in Licence 4969L. Furthermore, Mustang holds 74% of the issued capital of Sese Diamonds Pty Ltd with Sese holding 70% of Mozvest Mining Limitada, the holder of Licence 4525L.

Further Equipment Acquired:

The following list of additional equipment has been successfully acquired by the Company and is currently en route to the Save River Diamond Project:

- Dualstage FlowSort X-Ray recovery machine;
- Komatsu front-end-loader 470;
- Hitachi 870 excavator;
- 16ft rotary pan plant;
- Two separate conveyor feed bins;

- SAMil-mounted water truck;
- RC drill rig mounted on SAMil truck;
- 165 Massey Ferguson tractor;
- 140 kVA Generator; and
- 65,000 litre water reservoir.

The procurement of this equipment is significant, as it will allow the company to process a larger volume of diamond bearing gravel sand. In addition, via the introduction of the FlowSort final recovery plant the accuracy and volume of diamond recoveries should increase.

Furthermore, the larger 80-ton excavator will have the ability to break through the hard calcrete layer that has been encountered. This calcrete layer has, to date, limited the company in respect of testing only the shallower, deflation surface gravels (<3.5m).

The Directors are encouraged by the significant progress being made by the company in the exploration and development of its Save River Diamond Project in Mozambique.

Source: Finance News Network

Triton Minerals moves into high gear at Mozambique graphite projects

Triton Minerals is progressing with the development of its Mozambique graphite projects with the Nicanda Hill Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS); on track for completion by the end of 2015.

The DFS drilling programme is well underway with the use of diamond and

RC drilling rigs, while key environmental studies are on schedule.

At Ancuabe, the company is poised to start an initial drill programme to test 10 VTEM-based targets, confirming that graphite, and no other conductive material, is responsible for generating the larger VTEM responses.

Triton has also completed a small reconnaissance geological mapping and sampling programme, while a metallurgical and mineralogical test work programme is underway.

On the matter, Managing Director Brad Boyle stated that: “It has been an extremely busy period for Triton, with solid progress with the Nicanda Hill DFS which is on track for completion, together with the ESIA, by the end of 2015.

“Meanwhile, the company has also initiated the preliminary exploration programme and full ESIA at the Ancuabe graphite project together with an initial reconnaissance mapping and sampling programme at the Balama South graphite project.

“Triton is pleased with concurrent advancement of all the projects and we look forward to updating the market as the results from the various programmes become available in the coming weeks and months ahead”.

Nicanda Hill:

The environmental, social impact assessment is on schedule with Coastal and Environmental Services (CES), completing both the wet season and dry season baseline studies which are key components of the process.

The Ministry of Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) has completed its site visit at the Balama North project and the Environmental Pre-visibility Report and Scope Definition (EPDA), and terms of reference disclosure documents will be submitted to the Mozambican government shortly.

Public consultations have been completed in the five surrounding villages in the presence of government authorities and representatives from Triton and CES.

CES is aiming to complete and submit their final ESIA report to the government by early December, 2015.

Once submitted, the report will be reviewed accordingly and is expected to be finalised and approved by early 2016.

DUAT applications for the right to use and exploit land are progressing well as the public consultations with the surrounding villages have now been completed.

Triton expects the DUAT to be approved by the end of 2015.

The DFS programme is currently on time and within budget with Triton targeting completion by the end of 2015.

DFS drilling is well underway with the use of diamond and reverse circulation drilling rigs. This includes resource infill programme within limits of the Year 10 pit perimeter, drilling of Piezometers, test pitting, pit geotechnical, pit hydrology, sterilisation and water supply.

Results will be used to confirm the current resource interpretation and to establish the optimum grade control pattern within the limits of the Years one to 10 design pit.

Drilling will also provide sufficient information to underpin an upgrade in the resource classification of material significance, and thus form the basis of developing a substantial quantity of proven graphite reserves to both underpin the project economics and reduce the risk profile.

A number of other assessments have been completed at the site including packer testing, pump testing, magnetometer testing, down-hole orientation and geophysics; which are essential in the development of the resource, pit design and tailings storage facility design.

Work is also well underway with regard to the design for the graphite processing plant and site layout.

Metallurgical test work is well advanced with a bulk sample being processed, assessed and refined at the SGS laboratories in Perth.

The programme is intended to refine and enhance the flow sheet design to optimise the established high recovery rates and high graphite concentrate grades of the flotation process - which are to be adopted at the Nicanda Hill processing plant.

This will ensure that the most cost effective and efficient graphite recovery process is used during the large scale commercial production of the high quality graphite concentrate.

Triton continues to look to expand the TMG product range, and as such work is currently being undertaken by Independent Metallurgical Operations (IMO) to understand the full range of the graphite concentrate physical

characterisation properties, including electrical, thermal, density and laser sizing.

Moreover, the company is reviewing options to determine whether the Nicanda Hill graphite is suitable for the creation of spherical graphite.

Should these advanced tests produce positive outcomes, this will provide Triton with additional market avenues and create an opportunity for the company to become a leading supplier of high quality graphite products, to be used in the ever growing energy storage and electric vehicle markets.

Triton is also reviewing other metallurgical tests including whether TMG products will be suitable for creation of low cost graphene oxide and ultimately graphene products, which would create additional applications and diversification of the TMG concentrate, helping to expand Triton's market presence as a vertically integrated graphite company.

Ancuabe:

CES has completed the dry season review which is the first key component of the study at the Ancuabe project.

CES specialists are now completing further assessments of flora, fauna, natural resources and agriculture, water quality, fish, geohydrology, noise assessment and traffic and air quality.

Triton is now preparing to test 10 VTEM-based targets in the first pass "proof of concept" drilling programme.

The key objective of the programme is to confirm that graphite, and no other

conductive material, is responsible for generating the larger VTEM responses.

A diamond rig has been mobilised to the site for the initial drill programme. Subject to results, a second diamond and reverse circulation drill rig will also be mobilised to Ancuabe.

Balama South:

Triton has completed a small reconnaissance geological mapping and sampling programme on the Balama South project.

The programme was designed to confirm the presence of graphitic mineralisation as identified by the VTEM survey completed last year (2014). A number of rock chip samples were obtained from graphitic outcrops and have been sent to the Mintek laboratories in South Africa for analysis.

Metallurgical and mineralogical test work is being conducted to define the flow sheet for the graphite flotation and recovery process.

The tests are focused on the effect of milling times in the circuits and the graphite flake preservation in the early stages of the flotation process.

Triton expects to receive preliminary assay results and the subsequent flotation results from Mintek in the coming weeks.

Mining Law and Fiscal Regime:

Over the past few months, Triton has monitored the flow-on effects from recent changes in Mozambique's mining legislation and the associated fiscal regime, and ultimately the potential

implications for mining companies operating in Mozambique.

Triton is of the opinion that recent changes to the legislation will provide the company with a greater degree of certainty moving forward.

There are a number of sections within the new legislation that will need some additional clarity regarding how to apply some of the new provisions, which is quite normal when implementing these types of changes.

In addition, the company confirmed that the new fiscal regime, introduced under the new Mining Tax Law, provides for mining companies to benefit from a number of tax incentives to encourage companies to develop industry in-country, rather than sending the raw minerals and products overseas for further processing.

Mozambique has confirmed that these development incentives include substantial discounts on import and export taxes, including exemptions from custom duties for a period of five years, particularly in relation to the importation of capital and goods.

Furthermore, the regime allows for a 50% reduction of the Mining Production Tax and provides tax stability for a period of up to 10 years of operation.

Triton believes that the changes in the fiscal regime are particularly relevant and places the company in a unique position to take advantage of these and other incentives, which will help Triton with the rapid development of mining operations of the world's largest graphite deposit at Nicanda Hill, and the creation of a whole new industry concerning graphite enhanced products.

According to the new Mining Law, companies should give preference to goods and services either purchased or obtained from Mozambican individuals or entities. It also provides that mining companies must be listed on the Mozambican Stock Exchange within five years of commencing production.

An additional benefit, not previously available to companies, is the protection of property rights and activities granted under any mining permits for mining companies from undue and unfair expropriation without fair compensation and the protection of the transfer of funds outside of Mozambique.

In summary the benefits for Triton with the new mining and fiscal regimes include:

- Fiscal regime to apply to all mining companies in Mozambique;
- Tax incentives to encourage companies to develop industry in-country;
- Mozambique engagement and support;
- Access to additional local funding;
- Property rights protection; and
- Development incentives for value added to minerals.

Source: Proactive Investors

China buys US\$3.5 billion of graphite extracted in Mozambique

Graphite mining operations in Mozambique can now move ahead after Chinese companies signed long-term

purchase contracts worth US\$3.5 billion, according to the EIU.

The most advanced of these projects is run by Australia's Triton Minerals in Nicanda (Cabo Delgado Province), considered to be the world's largest graphite reserve, which recently signed a contract with Chinese raw materials trading company Shenzhen Qianhai Zhongjin, securing financing of US\$200 million.

In addition to the financing, split into equity in the project and credit, the Chinese partner has committed to buying 200,000 tons of graphite in the long term.

Triton had already signed a similar agreement with Yichang Xincheng Graphite Co. (YXGC), valued at US\$2 billion, and thus far has signed sales agreements totalling US\$3.5 billion for the next 30 years, along with US\$232 million in Chinese funding, said the EIU.

According to the EIU: "In addition to increasing export earnings and government tax revenues, the project could bring wider economic benefits", such as job creation.

YXGC and Triton Minerals also extended the partnership to invest in two graphite processing lines, with annual production of 10,000 tons of derivative products, with an estimated annual turnover of US\$30 million.

According to EIU, this project "will signal that Mozambique has the potential to develop a value-added production chain alongside the extraction of raw materials, which will be vital in ensuring that the country's mineral wealth supports broad development".

Headquartered in the region of Yichang (Hubei Province), YXGC develops products for various industries such as oil, chemical, metallurgy, machinery, automotive and aerospace, among others, present in the Chinese market, as well as in more than 20 countries.

Australia's Syrah Resources is another company developing graphite extraction projects and has also established sales agreements with a Chinese company, China Aluminium International Engineering Corporation (Chalieco).

The global demand for graphite has been growing and Mozambique has abundant reserves and low mining costs.

"If successful, these projects will establish Mozambique as a graphite producer with global expression and, although graphite mining continues to be much more limited in scale than other resources, it will contribute to the diversification of the country's export base and limit vulnerability to price shocks in the coal industry", the EIU said.

Given the considerable weight of the Chinese market in these projects, the EIU also warned of the risk that a slowdown in the Chinese economy is likely to have on their development.

The developments in mining and, in particular, investment in the mining sector, support projections of "robust economic growth" between 2015 and 2019, at an annual average of 7.4%.

Source: MacaHub

Nacala-a-Velha: 50 tons of coal ready for shipment

According to reports, approximately 50 tons of coal is ready and awaiting shipment at the terminal of the new port of Nacala-a-Velha (Nampula Province), in what is to be the first coal export from the port.

The coal belongs to the consortium led by Vale, in association with the Mozambique Ports and Railways (CFM). The project is estimated at US\$4.4 billion, for the export of coal extracted in Moatize (Tete Province).

The Integrated Logistics Corridor comprises of a 900 kilometre railway line, stretching between Moatize and Nacala-a-Velha, crossing over part of the Malawian border.

According to the director of the Nacala Logistics Corridor (CLN), José Ottoni, legal procedures are currently underway to ensure the handling of the first shipment to Nacala, owing to the fact that the vessel is licenced to load and dock at the Port of Beira.

Ottoni stated that normal coal shipments will be effective as of next month (August), at which time all the necessary conditions will be met for the distribution of ore.

According to Ottoni: “In 2017, when we reach the installed capacity of the port, we will export 22 million tons of coal per year. Until then, we will export 18 million tons of coal per year. At that time, we hope to be operating with 89 locomotives and 1,862 wagons. Each train operates, on average, for 103 hours, each carrying 63 tons of cargo”.

It is expected that the new port will dock 12 ships per day, or between 100 and 150 vessels per year.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Home stretch for auction of 13 blocks

With their consultants looking over their shoulder, majors and state-owned groups are putting the final touches to their bids for one of 13 exploration blocks put up for sale by the Instituto Nacional de Petroleo (NP) in Mozambique.

According to reports, Shell, ENI, ExxonMobil, Total, Statoil and Gazprom all purchased data for the blocks, as did certain Indian firms such as ONGC. **Error! Bookmark not defined..**

The deadline for bids is 30 July.

Source: Africa Intelligence

Anadarko Petroleum secures 60% of investment for gas project in Mozambique

US group Anadarko Petroleum has secured 60% of the investment required for a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Cabo Delgado Province, the group said in a statement issued on Tuesday (14 July) in Maputo.

In the statement, the group also reported that Chairman Al Walker was received by President Filipe Nyusi in a meeting held on Monday in Maputo.

The Anadarko Petroleum group also revealed that it would sign contracts for the purchase and long-term sale of eight million tons of gas per year, following the signing of non-binding agreements.

In May, Anadarko revealed that it had selected the CCS joint venture (JV) consortium, established by US corporation Chicago Bridge & Iron, Japan's Chiyoda Corporation and Saipem (a subsidiary of Italy's ENI), for the construction of a LNG terminal in Mozambique.

The Mozambican government expects that the liquefaction project concerning gas extracted in the Rovuma basin will require investments of over US\$22 billion and should begin in 2019, but the consortium involved in the project expects operations to begin after 2020.

In the meantime, reports suggest that ENI and Anadarko have yet to submit a final unitisation agreement to the government. However, Anadarko's 12 mtpa LNG project could still make a final investment decision (FID) by late Q3 or early Q4

Source: Macauhub/Interfax Energy

Kappa Oil Services sets up shop in Maputo

A French service firm that caters to the oil and gas industries, Kappa Oil Services (KOS), has set up an affiliate in Mozambique's capital under the name Kos Moz.

Already operational in Angola, the firm is opening its second outpost on the continent. Its operations in Mozambique will be supervised by its chief in Luanda, Radule Erakovic, who owns 10% of the new company.

KOS has also found a high-profile representative in Mozambique, lawyer Laurindo Francisco Saraiva from the LFS Advogados law firm.

Saraiva knows a lot about the country's oil and gas scene as he has held a stake in L&G Mozambique alongside businessman Gabriel Fossati-Bellani, who set up the logistics terminal at Pemba intended for gas projects in the Rovuma basin. Saraiva is also a shareholder in the mining consulting company, LL Mining Consultant.

Source: Africa Intelligence

Natural gas reaches Marracuene

On Wednesday (15 July) Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH) connected its natural gas pipeline to its first client in Marracuene district, north of Maputo.

The client in question is the factory Favos de Mocambique, which makes egg cartons. From this factory, the distribution of gas will be extended to shops, hospitals, hotels and restaurants in Marracuene.

Wednesday's ceremony marked the conclusion of the Maputo and Marracuene Gas Distribution Project, which began in November 2009, and has benefitted from funding of US\$38.2 million from the South Korean company, Kogas.

The gas comes from the natural gas fields at Pande and Temane (Inhambane Province). The South African petrochemical company Sasol treats the gas at Temane, and then sends it via pipeline to its chemical factories at Secunda in South Africa. At Ressano Garcia, on the border, a second pipeline branches off, carrying gas for use in Maputo, Matola and Marracuene.

"We have managed to establish a gas distribution network in Maputo and

Marracuene”, declared ENH Chairperson Nelson Ocuane. ““Last year we concluded the network of 60 kilometres within Maputo, and this year, we have built the extension of about 14 kilometres into Marracuene district”.

“From this factory, we will be able to extend the network throughout Marracuene”, continued Ocuane. “We want to reach the largest possible number of clients in this district”.

The Marracuene district administrator, Maria Vicente, said that the arrival of the gas pipeline marked a new stage in the history of the district. “Multi-sector partnerships” would now be needed to channel the gas to homes and to companies.

ENH wants to hire a private company to take charge of the domestic gas connection. The main issue remains the initial cost. Connecting the gas to a consumer costs between MT30,000 and MT90,000 (between US\$790 and US\$2,370), depending on distance. The cost is high because the valves and all the equipment used must be imported.

The advantages of using Mozambique’s own gas lies in the fact that it is cheaper than imported liquid fuels, and much cleaner than firewood or charcoal.

Source: Jornal Notícias/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Centre/North power line to be rebuilt

Reconstruction work on the Centre/North power transmission line, along the section in Zambézia Province destroyed by floods earlier this year, is due to begin in September (2015).

The reconstruction process, which will involve laying or repairing 10 towers (damaged by floods) and the placement of new guide tubes, is expected to be completed by December, before the peak of the rainy season.

Of the 10 steel towers along the line that begins in Songo (Tete Province) and supplies the provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa, one was completely destroyed, eight buckled to the ground and the tenth (located on the opposite bank) suffered damage only at the top.

An alternative line based on wooden porticos was built in the area to ensure the flow of electricity, whilst definitive reconstruction is being planned.

The spokesman for power company Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM), Luís Amado, said that preparation for the work to rebuild the power line, over an estimated distance of five kilometres, was well underway, and the contractor is already surveying the area and a new route has been chosen.

The line was destroyed on the night of 12 January, and as a result, power cuts were experienced in the provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa. The electricity supply was subsequently restored 27 days later, on 9 February.

Source: Macauhub

HCB exceeds goal for Q2

Mozambique’s Hydro Cahora Bassa (HCB) exceeded their energy production target for the second quarter by 6%, producing 4,245.56 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity.

According to a company statement, the increased production was the result of the implementation of the annual maintenance plans and the positive performance of their generating equipment.

During the period under review, the company also recorded significant progress in the implementation of the modernisation projects concerning the company's infrastructure (specifically the pre-rehabilitation of the substations and restoration of the unloaders and main transformers).

Source: Jornal Notícias

Zimbabwe's power utility clears Cahora Bassa debt

Zimbabwe's integrated power generation and distribution company, ZESA Holdings, has paid off its overdue debt to HCB.

The debt stood at nearly US\$30 million late last year, although it had initially been set at approximately US\$100 million.

Julian Chinembiri, the managing director of the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company, a unit of ZESA Holdings, told the Financial Gazette last week that the debt had been cleared.

"We have a firm agreement with HCB and actually, we are up-to-date, we don't owe them anything now", said Chinembiri.

It is understood that ZESA was forced to pay off the debt after it realised that HCB could cut supplies at any time, a move which would have significantly disrupted Zimbabwe's economic activities and possibly worsened a dire economic crisis.

Now that the local power utility has paid off its debt, it means that the country is guaranteed continued imports so that it can achieve security in terms of electricity supply, which is in line with the existing arrangements under a power purchase agreement with HCB.

The power utility, which has been struggling to generate adequate electricity for the country due to poor domestic power generation, risked losing electricity imports from its major electricity supplier.

However, last year ZESA inked a firm agreement with the Mozambican power utility to supply 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity into the country on a firm contract basis to augment low local generation capacity, which underlined the country's vulnerability.

A firm contract refers to guaranteed electricity supplies at a given time which must be generated to meet contractual obligations. ZESA has also taken steps to get other regional power utilities to supply the country with electricity on non-firm agreements.

These include: Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation and Eskom of South Africa.

Zimbabwe has been experiencing massive load-shedding across the country owing to low power generation from the country's five power stations.

The Zimbabwe Power Company (ZPC), another subsidiary of ZESA Holdings in charge of power generation, operates five power stations, namely: Hwange, Kariba, Munyati, Harare and Bulawayo.

More than a decade of economic collapse left the power stations in disrepair, with

generators operating well below their capacity.

The country is currently generating roughly 1,400 MW of power against a national demand of about 2,200 MW at peak periods.

In order to mitigate this deficit, ZESA has relied on electricity imports from regional utilities to supplement local supplies that are failing to meet demand.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Zambia will be able to export power to Mozambique and Malawi

Zambia will be able to export power to Mozambique and Malawi once the construction of the 330kV Zesco transmission line from Pensulo (Central Province) to Chipata's Msekera substation (in Eastern Province) is completed and commissioned by September this year, TBEA Company Limited Site Manager, Shih Shaokuang, said.

On Monday (13 July), during a visit from the Permanent Secretary and the deputy permanent secretary of the Eastern Province, Shih stated that the province would have enough power, adding that the country would be able to export the power to Mozambique and Malawi once the project was completed and commissioned.

"Eastern Province is going to have so much power, which means that Zambia will be able to export power to Malawi and Mozambique. We are projecting that come September 2015, the project will be completed and commissioned", he said.

Shih said that approximately 85% of the total construction work on the power line had already been completed by TBEA at the substation.

Source: Lusaka Times

Mozambique and partners spend US\$670,000 on seed capital

The government and its development partners have set out a budget of US\$670,000 for research currently being conducted by the Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM) in the Sussundenga district (Manica Province) concerning new and improved varieties of legume seeds.

The centre hosts a testing area of approximately four hectares, where 33 promising varieties of common beans, three of boer beans, five of nhemba beans and seven of soybeans are being tested.

The results of this research will be available to producers in 2017, and will (theoretically) contribute towards the increased production of vegetables - an essential component of one's diet, especially in the countryside.

Miguel Magalhães, head of training and information at IIAM's facility, said that the project would last for a period of five years.

"The studies currently being conducted are aimed at identifying the seed varieties that are tolerant to drought and low soil fertility, as well as identifying factors that limit agricultural productivity in almost all regions of the country", he explained.

Magalhães added that the seeds identified by the programme as having

good potential will need to demonstrate good productivity and be able to withstand varying climatic factors. In fact, he revealed that preliminary results already indicated 10 varieties of seeds that are able to adapt to drought and poor soil fertility.

Estimated production will be around two to three tons per hectare, however, this is dependent upon irrigation and fertilisation conditions.

The deputy minister of agriculture and food security, Luisa Meque, who was on a three-day working visit to Manica (specifically focusing on the districts of Sussendenga, Vanduzi and Báruè), said that it was possible to see a direct link between scientific research and rural production.

“Some provinces are experiencing serious drought-related problems, compromising agricultural production goals. It is important to increase agricultural production, and the government wants every farmer to produce as much as possible.

“This research not only helps us achieve our goals in the production of vegetables, but also in other crops, assuring the food and nutritional security of the entire population”, she said.

Source: Domingo

Nampula agricultural co-operatives receive funding

Six agricultural co-operatives in the northern province of Nampula are currently acquiring loans from a non-government organisation (NGO) for production and marketing; however, the loans come with a very high interest rate.

The loans, for a total of MT1.5 million (approximately US\$39,500), are being issued by the Mozambican Association for the Promotion of Modern Cooperatives (AMPCM), in partnership with a Norwegian development agency, Norges Vel (Royal Norwegian Society for Development).

According to the AMPCM co-ordinator for northern Mozambique, Natalino Barnete, the funds were distributed on the basis of the needs presented in the business plan of each of the co-operatives. The beneficiaries must repay the money within seven months, at an interest rate of 12.5%.

Barnete said that he hoped that, if the six co-operatives repay the loans on time, it will create “a favourable environment for other organisations that require financing to benefit in the near future”.

Barnete was speaking at a handover ceremony, during which the six co-operatives received the cheques for the loans. He said that the project seeks to help increase household income through promoting viable and sustainable co-operative enterprises in order to strengthen business initiatives and create wealth.

AMPCM has provided the co-operatives with advice and trained them in planning their business activities. This approach, said Barnete, culminated in the drawing-up of business plans and locating sources for funding. He claimed that micro-finance institutions are now beginning to take seriously the work of agricultural producers organised in co-operatives.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambique could increase exports

According to Ernst & Young, Mozambique could potentially export more products, specifically fertilizers, within the next three years following the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) implementation strategy for industrialisation.

The strategy was approved in April by the State and MPs with the aim of initiating the economic and technological development of the region.

For the National Director of Industry, Matthew Matusse, the benefits of this initiative (which commences in September), lies in job creation, the potential added-value in respect of the resource sector and the reduction of imports into the country.

Source: Folha de Maputo

European Investment Bank to open Maputo office in 2016

The European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to open offices in four more African cities, as it strengthens its foothold on a continent looking for financing to build infrastructure, said a senior official with the lender.

The EIB will open an office in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde, later this year, followed by Abidjan in Ivory Coast, Zambia's Lusaka, and Maputo in 2016, EIB vice-president, Pim van Ballekom, said in an interview.

"Africa is growing fast", Ballekom said on Wednesday (15 July) in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Economic growth across Africa is set to accelerate to 5% in 2016 from an estimated 4.5% this year,

when foreign direct investment will rise to US\$73.5 billion, according to the African Development Bank. The inflows may help narrow a funding gap for infrastructure development on the continent that the World Bank estimates at US\$93 billion a year.

The EIB has little exposure in Africa, directing just €2.5 billion to the continent out of €80 billion in annual investment pledges, Van Ballekom said.

"We could do €10 billion a year, but we are dependent on the will of the shareholders", he said. "The investment opportunities in Africa are huge".

The lender already has offices in South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia and Senegal, according to its website.

Source: Bloomberg

Diageo Mozambique exporting Smirnoff Spin

The Mozambican subsidiary of the British beverage company, Diageo, plans to dramatically increase its production of the alcopop, Smirnoff Spin, and export it to the rest of the SADC region.

According to a recent report, the Diageo factory in Marracuene, roughly 30 kilometres north of Maputo, began producing Smirnoff Spin in November 2014.

Previously the Smirnoff Spin consumed in Mozambique was imported from South Africa.

Diageo announced that, with an investment of over US\$20 million, it has increased the capacity of the Marracuene factory to 9,000 bottles of Spin per hour. It

initiated its first exports to other SADC markets in May.

“The challenge facing Diageo-Mozambique now”, said a company press release, “is to position itself in markets beyond the SADC area, so as to compete with other countries”.

In addition to Spin, Diageo is currently producing two other drinks in Marracuene: Gilbey’s gin and Master’s Choice blended whisky.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Prime Minister visits Mozambique’s largest insurance company

Mozambique’s largest insurance company, EMOSE, recorded a growth of 18% in 2014.

On Wednesday (15 July), during a visit by Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, EMOSE officials stated that the increased demand for insurance services led to profits of MT221 million (approximately US\$5.8 million) in 2014.

EMOSE emerged from the merger of the three insurance companies which operated in Mozambique during the colonial era, and was initially 100% state-owned. Currently the State holds 39% of the shares, the government’s Institute for the Management of State holdings owns 31%, and GETCOOP (the co-operative formed by EMOSE workers and managers) holds 20%. The remaining 10% was sold by the government on the Mozambican Stock Exchange in 2013.

During his visit, Rosario wanted to hear from the EMOSE workers. At their meeting with the Prime Minister, they took

the opportunity to call for better working conditions.

A representative of the EMOSE trade union committee, Jacinto Timoteo, speaking on behalf of the staff, claimed that the company’s managers isolate themselves from the rest of the employees. He said that there was a “lack of communication” and no space for dialogue in which the institution’s problems might be discussed.

He accused the management of “constant violations” of the workers’ rights, including failure to grant progression up the career ladder. He also called for a wage increase.

Chairperson, Antonio Carrasco, replied that since last November the company has been working to ensure career progression for the staff. He promised that forums for discussion in the company will be reinstated, to ensure dialogue between workers and management.

“I have been working with the executive commission to prioritise dialogue with the staff”, he said, “because we always want to be up-to-date with the daily situations facing our workers”.

Rosario advised Carrasco to keep in closer contact with his staff. He promised that he would delegate to the Labour Ministry, in co-ordination with the Finance Ministry, the task of assessing whether the workers’ complaints are being taken into account by the management.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Construction of new Matola municipality headquarters underway

The construction of the new Matola municipality headquarters recently commenced in an area of 1.4 hectares. The construction site is located near the Matola citadel. Currently the foundations are being laid for the eight storey building, due to be completed in 2016, according to the Minister of State Administration and Civil Service, Carmelita Namashulua.

The plan for the new building was presented and adopted at a recent session of the Municipal Assembly, following the realisation that it is imperative for all local authority services to conduct their activities from within the same building, in order to enable better institutional co-ordination, as well as to reduce the costs incurred through rent.

The authorities claim that the current building is already showing signs of dilapidation and that it does not have the capacity to accommodate all municipal services.

“To address this situation, we decided that it would be best to construct a new building from scratch, which will accommodate all services. This will facilitate better institutional co-ordination”, said Bernardo Dramus.

In a discussion with the contractor, Namashulua demanded compliance with the deadlines agreed upon between the two parties, namely the developer and the contractor. Meanwhile, the current headquarters will become a museum containing documents that record the vital components of the history of Matola.

Source: Domingo

Industry market briefing on labour relations, local content and workforce planning in Mozambique

On 25 and 26 August, the “*Mozambique Labour Relations, Local Content and Workforce Planning Market Briefing*” will take place in Maputo.

Members of government and their representatives, unions, HR directors, employee relations specialists, line managers and training and tertiary institutions from Mozambique will meet to discuss critical pieces of legislation and strategies related to labour relations, local content and workforce planning.

It is essential that investors and entrepreneurs understand the frameworks which their companies need to comply with and influence, whether through direct or indirect employment within the extractive sector, or in the supply-side sector.

The discussion forms part of a broader effort to understand the changing labour market in Mozambique, including the changing policy and legal environment.

Key presentations will include:

- The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security;
- The Ministry of Economy and Finance;
- CPI;
- SINTICIM; and
- SINTIQUIAF.

You are invited to register your attendance by visiting

<http://africaninfex.co.za/all-events/mozambique-labour>

For more information contact Christina Lopez, AIE representative

(christina@africaninfex.com) or call +27(0)81 777 0028.

Source: African Influence Exchange

POLITICS

“Police must defend the country, not their own interests” – Nyusi

On Thursday (9 July) President Filipe Nyusi warned newly trained members of the police force that their job is to protect the country and the State, not their own personal interests.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of a basic police training course at Matalane, just outside Maputo, from which 2,000 policemen and women graduated, Nyusi challenged them to dedicate their best efforts to strengthening public order and peace, in order to safeguard the interests of the State.

“Your oath is a solemn undertaking to defend the highest national interests and values”, he said. “Your own interests must not rank higher than the interests of our country at any time”.

He warned that any member of the police force who violates police ethics, and stains the reputation of the force, should be punished “in an exemplary manner”.

“We discourage all those who behave in an unethical fashion, and use the power the State has granted them to attain purposes for which it was not intended”, said Nyusi. “Such deviant behaviour, which calls into question the good name, prestige and dignity of the police

force and of the State, must be severely punished”.

“We want citizens to find in a member of the police someone who, above all, respects the law”, declared the President. “We want a policeman to be a friend and protector and not someone from whom citizens hide”.

By completing the course successfully, the graduates had won a battle, Nyusi continued, but a far greater battle was awaiting them - that of serving the Mozambican people with zeal and responsibility.

“Henceforth, total commitment and professionalism will be demanded from you”, he warned, “for the oath that you took before our flag is not a mere formality”.

“Given the challenges facing the police force, strengthening its capacity is an urgent matter, specifically provision to the police of more modern resources to fight crime”, added Nyusi. “Police training institutions must be organised in such a way as to train cadres who can deal with new types of crime”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Vice-president of Angola meets with Mozambican ambassador ahead of imminent presidential visit

On Thursday (9 July) the vice-president of Angola met with the Mozambican Ambassador to the country, Domingos Estevão Fernandes, in Luanda. The meeting primarily focused on reinforcing co-operation between Angola and Mozambique.

Speaking to the press at the end of the meeting, the Mozambican Ambassador announced that President Filipe Nyusi will be undertaking a working-visit to Angola in early November (timed to coincide with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Angolan independence). During his visit, President Nyusi will focus on strengthening relations and bilateral co-operation between the two countries, specifically focusing on economic activities.

President Nyusi is also scheduled to attend a number of Business Forums, which will be attended by business people from the two countries.

Ambassador Fernandes stressed the need to strengthen economic co-operation between the two countries, with the aim of facilitating better business relations between investors and entrepreneurs from both countries.

Source: Angola Press

Frelimo announces internal elections across the country

On Friday (10 July) Frelimo announced that a round of internal elections for party representatives, at the level of cells, circle and zone committees, will take place later this year.

“This is a decision by the Political Committee and, in accordance with the statutes of Frelimo, from 11 June until 29 October nation-wide internal elections will take place”, the spokesman of Frelimo, Damiao José, said at a press conference in Maputo on Friday.

The internal elections follow the accession of Filipe Nyusi, current head of state, to the presidency of the ruling party, succeeding the controversial exit of Armando Guebuza, who held the post for 10 years.

According to José, the elections will take place in three phases, starting with the election of party officials at cell level, to be held between 11 July and 30 August; followed by the elections of the circle committees, to be held between 5 September and 4 October; and, lastly the election of zone committees, to be held between 10 and 29 October.

“In Frelimo, internal elections are a time of celebration”, said the spokesperson, adding that, in his party, the internal electoral process is not “a mirage or a theatrical performance such as the one Mozambicans had the opportunity to witness some days ago”, he said, alluding to the recent celebrations of the 35th anniversary of Renamo Women’s Detachment.

Source: Lusa

Maria Guebuza resigns as president of OMM

Maria da Luz Guebuza, the wife of former president Armando Guebuza, has resigned as president of the Mozambican Women’s Organisation

(OMM), which is affiliated to the ruling Frelimo Party.

The resignation, announced late on Friday (10 July) at a meeting of the OMM National Council in the southern city of Xai-Xai, was unexpected. The day before the announcement, the Council's spokesperson, Maria Machule, told reporters that Maria Guebuza remained the president of the organisation.

However, she was not present at the Council meeting because, like the rest of the Guebuza family, she was in mourning for the death of the former president's mother, Marta Andre Bocota, who passed away on 3 July at the age of 103.

Guebuza's resignation precipitated a decision to advance the next OMM Congress to December, a few months before it is due (under its statutes, the OMM holds congresses every five years, and the last one was in April 2011). Only the Congress can elect the OMM President.

It is, however, widely expected that one First Lady will give way to another, as the Congress proclaims Isaura Nyusi, wife of President Filipe Nyusi, as the OMM's new President.

The National Council, accepting Guebuza's resignation, passed a motion praising her work over the years at the head of the organisation, particularly her defence of the rights of women and children. The motion noted her campaign work against the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and more recently on persuading women to be screened for cervical and breast cancer.

The Council expressed their gratitude for Guebuza's work, and declared that: "we would always like to count on your support and experience".

OMM General Secretary, Maria de Fatima Pelembe, ended the meeting with a call for unity amongst all women. "We need unity, placing the interests of the nation above our own differences", she stressed.

United efforts, she declared, are necessary in the fight against child marriages, pointing out that such premature marriages are one of the main obstacles to the empowerment of women, as they remove young girls from school.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Renamo's Peace Commission inaugurated in Beira

On Sunday (12 July) Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, inaugurated the "National Commission for Peace and Economic Development" in Beira (Sofala Province).

The commission was established in June during Renamo's National Council meeting.

The purpose of the commission is to contribute towards the consolidation of peace in the country and to develop actions aimed at maintaining the peace and welfare of all Mozambicans.

"We intend the commission to address, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, the chief concerns of Mozambicans, because the goal of peace cannot be achieved without

democracy, and democracy cannot flourish without economic and social development. These three dimensions are interdependent”, said Renamo spokesperson, António Muchanga, at the opening session of the commission.

According to Muchanga, the commission reaffirms Renamo’s commitment to peace.

“Renamo has always been committed to peace as well as acting in its own self-defence, and the establishment of the commission may be seen as another indication of the party’s commitment to such a precious thing such as peace”, said Muchanga.

On Tuesday (14 July) Dhlakama publically stated that he hopes that both Frelimo and the MDM would integrate themselves into the Renamo peace commission. In response to Dhlakama’s statement, on Thursday (16 July), President Filipe Nyusi stated that he will refer the matter to Parliament.

“I reserve my decision so that the matter can be taken up by Parliament”, said Nyusi during a press conference in Lisbon.

“When I took office I swore respect for the Constitution and in Mozambique Parliament has the mandate to decide”, said the President.

“What we’ll do is create conditions for keeping discussions flowing, so that all Mozambicans can respect each other”, added the President, who reiterated: “No violence!” when asked about the continuing instability in the country and Renamo’s peace commission proposal.

Source: Radio France International/Lusa

Government/Renamo dialogue skips over disarmament deadlock and focuses on economic issues

On Monday (13 July) the government and Renamo delegations in the ongoing dialogue entered into the fourth and final point on the agenda, focussing on economic issues, despite a deadlock on the key issue of disarming and disbanding the Renamo militia.

Following the 111th round of dialogue, the head of the government delegation, Agriculture Minister José Pacheco, said that Renamo “wants to share its ideas on the distribution of resources in our country”.

He believes that the government “will certainly have a different approach, but it’s a good step and we are on the final stretch in terms of our agenda”.

The head of the Renamo delegation, Saimone Macuiana, said that the Renamo proposal focused on “creating conditions so that the country’s existing resources can benefit the majority of Mozambicans”.

Speaking on behalf of the mediators, retired Anglican bishop Dinis Sengulane, said that the mediating team was encouraged by the deliberations on the final point of the agenda, and he appealed to the two sides to speed up their discussions.

With regard to the dialogue sessions, Sengulane suggested that there should be a countdown, so that in the near future the two delegations could focus on the “penultimate” and “final” rounds.

Sengulane claimed that: “the fact that we are entering on the fourth point

means that the dialogue is producing results”.

This optimism ignores the awkward reality that there is no consensus on point two - concerning defence and security matters - with Renamo still insisting on a share-out of senior military positions between itself and the government.

Furthermore, point three, on the separation of political parties and the State, is not entirely resolved, as Renamo continues to insist that the agreements reached should be rubber-stamped into law by Parliament.

The National Assembly is unlikely to accept this diktat, especially since the second opposition party, the Mozambican Democratic Movement (MDM), has already submitted a bill on the same subject, which is due to be debated in the current parliamentary sitting.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Government accuses Renamo of violating ceasefire

On Monday (13 July) the government accused Renamo of systematically violating the agreement on a cessation of hostilities which former president, Armando Guebuza, and Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, signed on 5 September, 2014.

Following the 111th round of the on-going dialogue between the government and Renamo, the head of the government delegation, Agriculture Minister José Pacheco, accused Renamo of launching armed attacks in

at least two provinces in early July, without causing any fatalities.

“On 3 July, in Tsangano district, in Tete Province, Renamo attacked a police unit”, he said, “and the following day it launched a second attack, causing damage to a vehicle that was transporting police officers. These are clear indicators that Renamo is not prepared to demilitarise”.

In the central province of Sofala, Pacheco added, a Renamo group kidnapped and assaulted a traditional chief, identified as José Paulo, supposedly because he was mobilising the locals to undertake productive activities in the context of publicising the government’s Five-Year Programme for 2015 to 2019.

In Pacheco’s view, these attacks give the impression that the government is faced with “a violent Renamo that is not interested in disarming”.

When journalists asked him about these attacks, the head of the Renamo delegation, Saimone Macuiana, said that he did not have enough information to comment on the matter.

“It is true that the government may have brought this matter forward verbally, but the Renamo delegation has demanded that it bring it in writing to the next dialogue session, so that we can understand what is happening”, said Macuiana.

Like all the preceding rounds that dealt with the matter, there was no progress on disarming and dismantling the Renamo militia. The government is still waiting for Renamo to submit a list of names of the people it wishes to see

recruited into the armed forces and the police. Without this list it is impossible to integrate the Renamo militia personnel into the defence and security forces or, in the cases of those who are too old or otherwise unsuitable, back into civilian life.

Renamo will not hand over the list unless the government appoints Renamo figures to senior positions in the military and the police. The government has rejected such a share-out of top positions, pointing out that dividing military positions on party political lines is in flagrant contradiction to Renamo's demand that the State and political parties should be separated.

In the meantime, on Wednesday (15 July), Dhlakama admitted to personally ordering the attacks in Tete. According to Dhlakama, the attacks were carried out in response to what he called "persecution" undertaken by the Defence Force (FADM).

"The reasoning is simple. We tried to avoid confrontation. However, since the signing of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in September (2014), government forces have constantly confronted our guerrillas. We are tired of running away and we therefore decided to attack those who are inciting us", explained Dhlakama.

In response to the allegations, earlier this week Frelimo denied the supposed botched ambush on a local Renamo base in Tete (see Rhula Media review: 3 July to 10 July).

According to Frelimo, the FADM and battalions of the Rapid Intervention Unit (FIR) and SISE were merely conducting

routine activities in the area, and not actively targeting Renamo bases.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique/O País/Canal de Moçambique

"State should tighten law on creation of political parties"

Mozambican lawyer Abdul Carimo has argued that the State should tighten up laws on the formation, registration and activities of political parties in the country. According to Carimo, this initiative would be in line with the provisions of the 2005 Constitution of the Republic, particularly with regards to discouraging the proliferation of political parties that are only politically active during election periods.

There are currently 60 political parties, and 14 political party coalitions registered in Mozambique. However less than 10 of these engage in any regular activity. The remainder tend to reappear only at election time, primarily with the intention of collecting state funding, made available to meet the cost of electoral campaigning. The lack of consistency in monitoring these public funds, and how they are utilised, means that leaders of phantom political parties see them simply as an opportunity to make money during elections.

Carimo also suggested that the monitoring of these activities, and the funding of political parties, should be transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Constitutional Council.

The lawyer, who was also deputy parliamentary speaker from 1994 to 1999, was addressing a meeting for the analysis of the Law on Political Parties adopted in 1992. The meeting brought

together representatives of political parties, the Mozambican Bar Association, the Electoral Observatory and the Institute for Multi-party Democracy.

Source: O País

Prime Minister inaugurates centre for victims of violence

On Wednesday (15 July) Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario inaugurated a centre for the integrated care of victims of violence in Mavalane General Hospital (Maputo Province).

The building from which the centre operates has been restored with the financial support of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The rehabilitation took four months to complete and cost approximately US\$50,000.

The centre is intended to expand the co-ordination and efficiency of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and to improve the availability and quality of services for the victims of gender-based violence.

Police and prosecution services are also available at the centre, as well as medical care.

Rosario stressed the need to step up efforts in combating violence in its various forms, and urged Mozambicans to take part in initiatives that seek to reduce violence.

The chargé d'affaire at the US Embassy in Maputo, Mark Cassayre, said that the centre would be an important tool, because it forms part of the government's efforts to provide

increasing support to the victims of violence.

"It's very important for us to have an integrated centre which helps people not only in terms of health care, but also with the police and prosecutors who can respond to needs", he added.

Cassayre said that US support for the fight against gender-based violence in Mozambique now amounted to roughly US\$9 million.

While at the Mavalane Hospital, Rosario met with hospital workers and expressed his concern at the poor standards of patient care.

With the necessary equipment now in the hospital's possession, there is no excuse for the failure to improve patient services.

"The condition and quality of material and equipment in this hospital are substantial", the Prime Minister said. "We are opening an epoch in which there will be ever better conditions for work and for providing services to the public".

During the meeting, workers complained about their low wages, a lack of progression amongst the professional careers, a lack of communication allowances, and the lack of transport.

Rui Machava, who has worked at the hospital for 16 years, accused the management of ignoring the workers' complaints, and he demanded the immediate dismissal of the Mavalane general director.

Rosario urged all workers who felt that they had suffered injustices, to contact

the relevant authorities - including the Minister of Health, and the Maputo City Health Directorate. But he warned them not to take their frustrations out on the patients.

The main aspect of caring for patients lies in a kind and caring approach. “When a patient arrives, and he is greeted with a smile, and is well cared for, that’s half the cure”, said Rosario. “The medicines do the rest”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

President Nyusi departs for working visit to Portugal

On Wednesday (15 July) President Filipe Nyusi departed for Portugal, where he will engage in a working visit, at the invitation of his counterpart Aníbal Cavaco Silva, until 19 July.

The visit is aimed at strengthening the existing ties of friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

During his visit, Nyusi will meet with President Silva and the Portuguese Prime Minister, Pedro Passos Coelho, to discuss the current state of bilateral co-operation between the two countries. In addition, new opportunities for strengthening relations between Mozambique and Portugal will be identified and discussed.

Nyusi is also scheduled to address a business seminar focussed on Portuguese investment in Mozambique. In addition, President Nyusi will visit various sites of social and economic interest, and meet with the Mozambican community residing in Portugal.

According to the Prime Minister of Mozambique, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, the working visit is also intended to focus on economic diplomacy with the aim of attracting more investment.

“Our country has Portuguese investments in various sectors, and this visit aims to strengthen these relations”, added Rosario, highlighting the long historical links between the two countries.

During his brief stay, President Nyusi will be accompanied by his wife, Isaura Nyusi; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Oldemiro Baloi; the Minister of Education and Human Development, Luís Jorge Ferrão; the Minister of Industry and Trade, Ernesto Tonela; the Ambassador of Mozambique to Portugal, Fernanda Lichale; the Assembly of Deputies and cadres of the Presidency and other state institutions.

In addition, approximately 150 Mozambican entrepreneurs, led by the President of the CTA Rogério Manuel, left for Portugal on Wednesday (15 July) in search of new business opportunities.

The main focus of the business delegation, which is accompanying President Nyusi on his first official visit to a European country, is the series of bilateral meetings with Portuguese companies that are due to take place during the week.

The CTA hopes that the visit will provide an important opportunity for Mozambican businessmen to form partnerships that will result in more business for the country and stimulate job creation.

On Thursday (16 July) it was revealed that President Nyusi and Prime Minister Coelho discussed ways to facilitate the movement of citizens between the two countries for the benefit of their economies, cultural institutions and educational systems.

The idea is to facilitate the movement of students and entrepreneurs, thus increasing trade and encouraging educational exchange. However, the model is not yet defined, as Portugal is party to the Schengen Agreement, and therefore bound by rules that cannot be overcome by bilateral agreements.

In addition, President Nyusi admitted to Portuguese reporters that Mozambique is in need of new legislation to promote private investment.

Source: Folha de Maputo/APA/Lusa/Rádio e Televisão de Portugal/Xinhua

Ruling party blocks parliamentary inquiry into EdM's businesses with leading Frelimo figures

On Thursday (16 July) the parliamentary group of the MDM once again called for the arrest of former president Armando Guebuza.

The spokesperson for the MDM parliamentary group, Venancio Mondlane, first made this demand on the floor of the Assembly on 17 June, in connection with the US\$850 million loan to Ematum, guaranteed by the government in 2013.

This time Mondlane demanded that Guebuza be detained in connection with contracts between the publicly owned electricity company EdM, and other companies in which Guebuza is a

shareholder. He alleged that the contracts were obtained without going through a proper tendering procedure.

The relations between EdM and service-supply companies, in which Guebuza and other leading figures in the ruling Frelimo Party have interests, are “promiscuous”, according to Mondlane.

He was speaking in a debate on an MDM proposal to set up a parliamentary commission of inquiry into the affairs of EdM. The MDM queried the legality of the contracts that EdM had signed with other companies, and claimed that EdM was currently running at a huge loss, owing roughly US\$50 million to its main supplier of power (HCB), which operates the Cahora Bassa dam on the Zambezi River.

The MDM also attacked the EdM rural electrification programme, claiming that almost none of the power generated was used to benefit the agricultural sector.

But the MDM proposal, backed by Renamo, ran-up against clauses in the Assembly’s standing orders, which state that the Assembly may not set up commissions of inquiry on any matter that is before the courts – and the finances of EdM are currently before the Administrative Tribunal, the body that inspects the legality of public expenditure.

Last year, the Finance Ministry sent the auditors into EdM. The General Inspectorate of Finance (IGF) undertook an audit and submitted the audit report to the Administrative Tribunal. The Tribunal informed the Assembly that it is currently working with the Attorney General’s Office to ascertain the truth of

the findings in that report. If there is evidence of financial wrongdoing, they will be added to the EdM's accounts for possible proceedings against those responsible.

For the Frelimo parliamentary group, this meant that the affairs of EdM were indeed before the courts, and so it would be against the Assembly's own statutes to set up the commission of inquiry demanded by the MDM.

The opposition, however, argued that an audit report before the Administrative Tribunal does not count as a judicial case. It is just "a normal procedure", said MDM deputy José Manuel de Sousa. Meanwhile, Eduardo Namburete of Renamo insisted that the IGF audit "does not prevent the Assembly from holding its own inquiry".

The opposition drew a distinction between an "administrative matter" and a "judicial case"; but Frelimo insisted that the very fact that the EdM finances were in the hands of the Administrative Tribunal meant that the MDM's demand was illegitimate, and would violate the separation of powers.

Frelimo deputy, Lucas Chomera, praised the government's decision to call on the IGF, "which shows its commitment to fighting mismanagement and corruption". A parliamentary commission, he argued, might interfere with the work of the Tribunal.

As for EdM's financial woes, Chomera said that they predated Guebuza's presidency by decades; they began in the 1980s when, during the civil war, Renamo repeatedly blew up pylons, downed power lines and murdered EdM workers.

At times the debate was embittered. Not only did Mondlane call for Guebuza's arrest; he also suggested that the government was "a criminal association", while António Muchanga of Renamo claimed that those who opposed a commission of inquiry "are allies of organised crime".

The Frelimo overall majority ensured that the MDM proposal was defeated. 133 Frelimo deputies in the chamber voted against it, while the 87 opposition MP's present voted in favour.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Attorney-General threatens to take action against her own staff

Attorney-General, Beatriz Buchili, recently announced that she is not pleased with the failure to comply with probation periods and preparatory instruction, as well as the lack of diligence on the part of judges and the Criminal Investigation Police (PIC) in Maputo Province. She has therefore threatened to initiate criminal proceedings against any staff within the country's legal system who deliberately stall cases.

Buchili toured Maputo Province last week, and was not pleased with what she found. Speaking to local residents she was repeatedly faced with complaints of delays with regard to cases coming to trial and of appeals being heard.

She found that the time limits for preventive detention were not respected. Under Mozambican legislation, the police cannot hold suspects for more than 48 hours before

presenting them before a magistrate to validate the detention.

The spokesperson for Buchili's office, Alberto Paulo, who is one of the assistant Attorney-Generals, told reporters that: "It is unacceptable that today we have members of staff who make no contribution to dynamism in the justice system"; yet that was what Buchili had found in the city of Matola, and in the Moamba, Matutuine and Magude districts.

"The Attorney-General left the message that these people must be held responsible", said Paulo. "What they do contributes to the slowing down of legal procedures". If Buchili's orders are not obeyed, he warned, action will be taken against these individuals.

Buchili also discovered that goods seized from criminals via court order are being stored in a haphazard manner in police stations, where they are deteriorating and are at risk of being stolen. She gave all police stations in the province a deadline of 15 days to turnover all the confiscated property to the Directorate of State Assets in the Finance Ministry.

Among the frequent complaints Buchili heard were claims that suspects released conditionally while awaiting trial are continuing to commit crimes, particularly stock theft. Buchili demanded more rigour from the courts in granting conditional freedom or bail.

She also met with livestock farmers and with community leaders to discuss measures that could be taken against stock theft and against poaching.

Following her visit, Buchili issued clear instructions that the magistrates and officers of the PIC redouble their efforts on processes currently being applied. In addition, Buchili recommended that the staff improve co-ordination efforts between the prosecution, the courts, the PIC and community leaders.

Source: Jornal Notícias/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Moamba resettlement project

The president of the Parliamentary Commission for Agriculture, Economics and Environment, Francisco Mucanheia, has urged the developers of the Moamba-Majordam dam construction project (in Maputo Province) to be very careful in observing the rights of the resident population in the areas affected by the construction. In addition, Mucanheia has urged the project leaders and developers to create basic conditions for the population, which contributes towards local cooperation.

The appeal was made during a working visit to the construction site. The aim of the visit was to allow commission members to observe the site first hand as to identify and familiarise themselves with the impact that the current issue, and possible future problems, could potentially have on the social, economic and cultural aspects of the surrounding population.

The government has allocated roughly US\$48 million for the approximately 600 families affected by the project. The funds will be utilised to build basic social infrastructure; for example, two health centres, two primary schools and access roads) for the resettled community.

The dam construction project will benefit the community, as it will see the creation of a new power generation facility with the capacity to produce 50 MW of electricity, and a water storage facility.

The project, which will take approximately three years to complete, will create thousands of jobs.

The dam construction project will cost an estimated US\$466 million, US\$350 million of which has been granted via credit arrangements with the National Bank for Economic and Social Development of Brazil. The remaining US\$116 million will be provided by the Mozambican State.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Matola municipality warns of possible DUAT cancellation in Tchumene

A total of 77 plots which have been granted to applicants in the Tchumene neighbourhood, Matola (Maputo Province), may revert back to the local authority if their owners do not demonstrate any intention to build homes or other projects within the next 30 days.

According to the municipal regulations, the Land Use Rights (DUATs) last for two years; however, they may be extended within reason. The municipality of Matola, however, published a notice in several newspapers on Tuesday (14 July) listing DUATs that are over 10 years old, where compliance with the land use plans have not been demonstrated.

In some cases, the DUAT holders have merely built perimeter walls around the

property. In other cases nothing at all has been done. The owners of some of the plots have applied for extensions, but done little or nothing all the same.

The announcement reads:

“Proclamations are running for a period of 30 days, counted from the publication of the current notice [Tuesday, 14 July] by presumption of abandonment and unjustified non-compliance with the usage plan of the plots of portion 3379 (Tchumene). If this presumption is not removed by the holders of such land plots within the deadline mentioned above, their DUATs will be deemed expired and reversed in favour of the Municipal Council of the City of Matola”.

This is not the first time the city council’s young leader Calisto Cossa has insisted on compliance with the municipal DUAT statutes, despite the controversy it occasionally entails. Recently, various municipal districts in Matola have seen unregulated construction blocking rainwater drainage ditches, resulting in flooding. In March, several factory and residential perimeter walls were demolished without compensation in an bid to clear the channels.

Tchumene is a new and prestigious residential area. Residential and other ventures built in the neighbourhood will be served by the Maputo ring road, when completed.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Study shows fear and youth discontent in Mozambican elections

An insightful study of the flawed presidential elections of 15 October 2014 raises questions regarding

discontented youth and the way in which Frelimo maintains power.

The study was headed by Luis de Brito of the Institute of Social and Economic Studies (IESE), with teams in Manjacaze (Gaza Province) and Murrupula (Nampula Province).

Both teams allegedly witnessed fraud and disorganisation. There were extra ballot papers in circulation in Manjacaze and a polling station located within the compound of a Frelimo official. Polling stations were also relocated in Murrupula.

The report also notes that the Secretariado Técnico da Administração Eleitoral (STAE) has been operating without substantial changes since 1994, and thus one would expect each election to be better run, but “in truth, the 2014 election shows that this is not the case”.

In Gaza, researchers were shocked by “the fear expressed by many citizens when asked for their opinions”. The power of Frelimo was enforced by means of intimidation and violence at the hands of groups of unemployed youth known as “shock groups”, who even succeeded in intimidating the researchers. Hostility towards Renamo remains very strong because of its brutality during the war. But the MDM appears to have gained more support. In both locations there was a strong presence of Frelimo-aligned community leaders.

In both areas, the teams commented on the discontented youth, with no jobs and increasing hostility towards the government. Some did not bother to vote, while others voted for the opposition.

Source: Joseph Hanlon

SECURITY

Hundreds flee Tete amid renewed fighting in Mozambique

Recent reports cited in the *Zodiak Malawi* indicate that hundreds of Mozambicans are fleeing Tete Province into Malawi’s Mwanza district amid growing hostilities between the government and opposition party, Renamo.

According to the reports, the affected areas include Mkondezi, Monjo and Angónia.

The Mwanza District Council has since raised the security alert, after receiving

roughly 700 people seeking refuge - most of them children.

The majority of the Mozambicans fleeing into Malawi are using unchartered routes, said authorities in an initial report, released on Thursday (9 July), by the district council.

“There are approximately 678 Mozambicans, mostly children (415) that have been recorded as seeking asylum, as a result of the civil unrest that broke out on Friday, 3 July”, said the report.

The refugees are predominantly camping out at Kasipe II, in the locality of Senior

Inkosi Kanduku, and are entering the country via Neno and Chikhwawa.

There are fears of increasing criminal activity as the Mozambican refugees do not have a source of income, and some are reported to have brought in weapons, said some sources at the council.

Speaking to *Zodiak* in an interview, Mwanza District Council Disaster Risk and Management Officer, Jarvis Mwenechanya, said that the major challenge facing the refugees is food and shelter.

He said that the poor conditions in which they are living have resulted in fears of a disease outbreak. Mwenechanya has called on volunteers and NGOs to help the 113 displaced families.

A visit by *Zodiak* reporters to the border villages in Thambani and Mpandasoni has confirmed the situation.

The district council has advised all chiefs and traditional leaders to register all displaced individuals for an authentic scope and scale of the mass entry of the Mozambicans into Malawi.

Source: Zodiak Malawi online

Deputies recognise inadequacies in the defence budget

On Friday (10 July) the Commission on Defence, Security and Public Order of the Assembly recognised that the budget allocated to the Defence Ministry does not meet all of its requirements.

The current annual budget for the ministry is MT5.12 billion (approximately US\$135 million).

Speaking to reporters during a visit to the ministry, the Commission's chairperson, Jeronimo Malagueta (who is a member of Renamo) said that the budget was not large enough; however, he recognised that this was in the nature of budgets.

"The budget is never enough", he said. "Even in the Assembly, our budget isn't large enough. So it's a normal situation".

He described the Commission's visit to the ministry as "interesting", and said that in the coming days members would visit barracks to inspect the conditions in which soldiers live.

Defence Minister, Atanasio Mtumuke, welcomed the Commission's visit, and suggested that in future the parliamentary deputies should make surprise, unannounced visits. "We use the funds the people grant us, and you monitor the use of funds", he said. "You want to know how we are using the budget, but this is just the first visit".

One member of the Commission, Geraldo de Carvalho, of the opposition MDM, walked out of the briefing, objecting to the seating arrangements. There were not enough places for all the deputies at the main table.

When Carvalho expressed his annoyance, Mtumuke replied: "these are the conditions we have here. Even our air conditioners don't work properly. We all know what the situation of our country is".

Outside the building, Carvalho told reporters that he had felt excluded. Deputies from the ruling Frelimo Party, and from Renamo, had been able to sit and write at the table, while he had been left standing. He thought this was outrageous and that all deputies should

enjoy the same working conditions. “There are no first class or second class deputies”, he exclaimed.

He protested that something similar had happened at the Ministry of the Interior, which the Commission had visited on Monday (6 July).

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Nyusi consolidating power within the military

On Friday (10 July) six FADM generals retired.

Two of the retired generals are prominent individuals within the military: major-general Jorge David Gune, head of the presidential guard (Casa Militar) and Rear-Admiral (contra-almirante) Patricio Cancuta Yotamo, former head of the navy and inspector of the armed forces since 2013.

As a result, two key posts will now be filled by President Filipe Nyusi.

At a ceremony at the police school in Matalana (Maputo Province) on Thursday (9 July) Nyusi confirmed that the police would be restructured and that older police officials would be retired.

Source: Joseph Hanlon

Monteiro calls on the police to redouble efforts in Nampula

On Monday (13 July) Interior Minister, Jaime Basilio Monteiro, called on the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) to redouble their efforts with respect to identifying and neutralising the criminal gangs that facilitate the outflow of

refugees from the refugee centre in Marratane (Nampula Province).

According to information passed on to the minister, these gangs both assist and abduct the refugees accommodated within the centre. The refugees are subsequently either trafficked or aided (for a substantial fee) into Maputo and South Africa. This has resulted in creation of an environment of insecurity and instability within the centre.

As of 30 June (2015) approximately 19,816 foreigners of various nationalities were registered as residing in Nampula Province, against 18,200 registered during the same period last year.

Upon leaving the province, the minister asked the local population not to harass or abuse the refugees currently living in the country. According to Monteiro, many of the refugees in Marratane have complained of harassment at the hands of locals.

Monteiro argued that Mozambicans should not forget their own history, in which many citizens became refugees themselves during the 16-year civil war. Monteiro stated that the refugees did not choose this life, and thus Mozambicans should learn to treat them with compassion.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Mozambique and Zambia to forge security ties

Zambian Home Affairs Minister, Davies Mwila, has called on security agencies in Zambia and Mozambique to find new ways of combating the threats posed by terrorism.

Mwila says that challenges posed by terrorist threats are worrying and have the potential to negate the economic gains attained in the two nations.

Mwila has further challenged security agencies to find new ways and approaches in tackling organised crimes.

Mwila was speaking on Wednesday (15 July) in Bilene (Mozambique), where he officially opened the 8th session of the Ministerial committee of the Mozambique – Zambia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and security.

Earlier, Mozambique’s Minister for National Security, Anastasio Salvado, urged security experts attending the three-day conference to discuss ways of finding strategic decisions to problems affecting the two countries.

The three-day Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security closed on Friday (17 July).

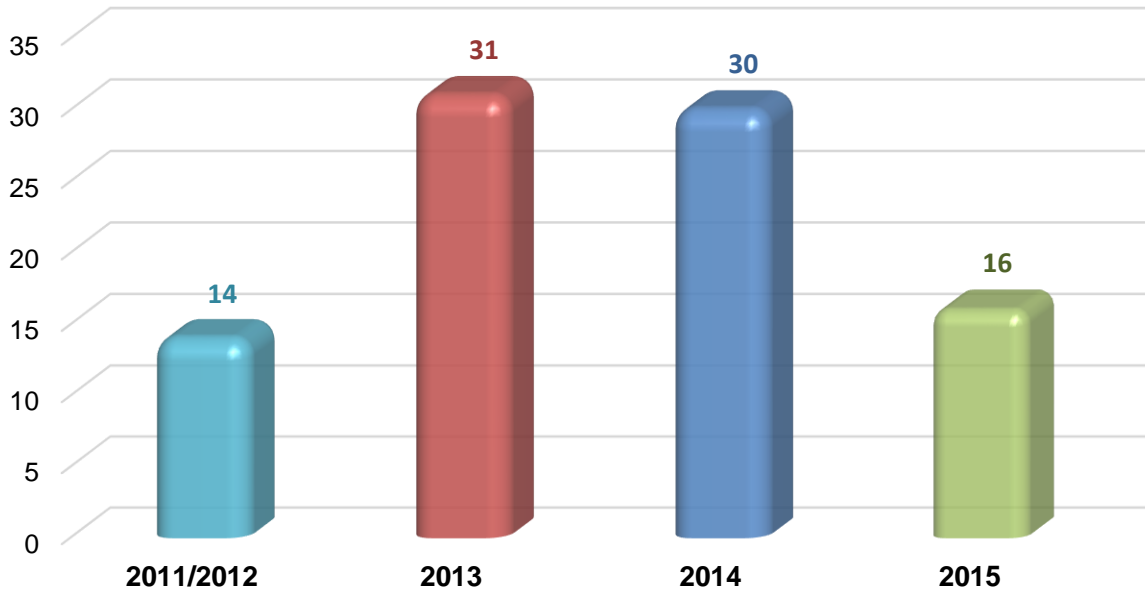
Source: Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

CRIME

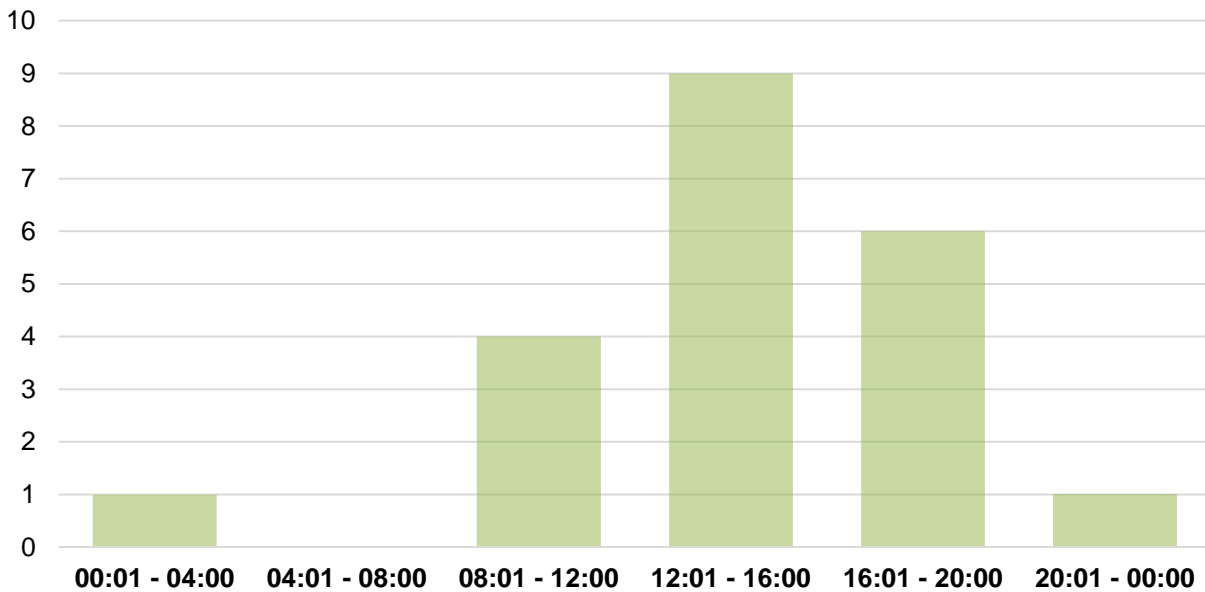
MAP 1: KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS IN CENTRAL MAPUTO 2014 & 2015



GRAPH 2: REPORTED KIDNAPPINGS PER YEAR

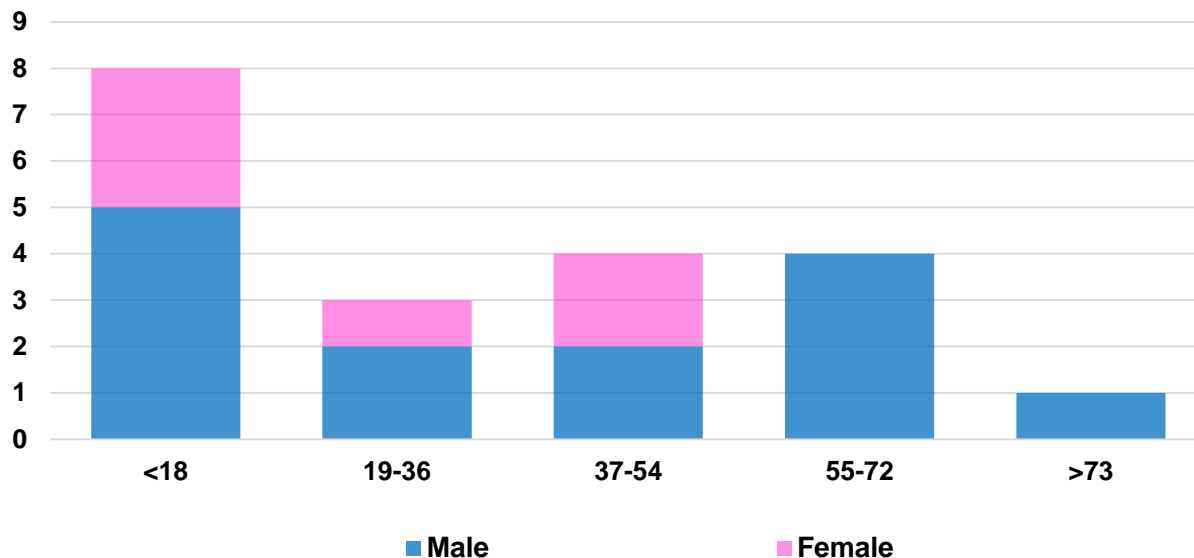


GRAPH 3: TIME OF KIDNAPPINGS 2014 & 2015



Note: This graph excludes kidnappings in which the time of the kidnapping was not reported

GRAPH 4: KIDNAPPINGS PER GENDER / AGE-GROUP 2014 & 2015



**Please note: the data present in the graphs and maps is not 100% accurate owing to the high number of unreported cases and irregularities in the documentation of these events. This graph illustrates the successful kidnapping incidents ONLY and not attempted/aborted/intercepted kidnappings.*

Seven people arrested for murder

During the course of last week (3 to 10 July) a total of seven individuals (six men and one woman) were arrested throughout the country (specifically Maputo, Inhambane and Sofala) on charges of murder.

Of the seven murder cases, three were related to domestic violence, whilst one of the cases involved infanticide. The seven detainees are aged between 24 and 60.

In the same week, three locals (identified only as Carlitos, Jaime and Jeremias) were arrested in Massingir (Gaza Province) on charges of conspiracy to poach. During the arrest, the PRM confiscated a Mauser Hunting Rifle and an unspecified quantity of 375 mm ammunition.

During the same period, 1,918 individuals were arrested throughout Mozambique. Of those detained, 1,821 were for border violations, 92 for the commission of various crimes and five for illegal immigration.

In addition, the Republic of South Africa successfully repatriated 270 Mozambicans (241 men and 29 women) for illegally entering and residing in the country.

Source: @Verdade

Authorities seize 15 tons of semi-precious stones en route to Tanzania

During the course of last week (3 to 10 July) the PRM in Cabo Delgado Province seized a truck transporting 15 tons of garnets from Mozambique’s Ancuabe district to Tanzania.

The truck was seized at the Silva Macua control post on the Namoto border. The driver of the vehicle, a Tanzanian national, was immediately arrested.

According to the PRM, the truck had been observed leaving the mining region of Ancuabe, which raised suspicions. On this occasion the truck was searched and the 15 tons of semi-precious stones were found.

“At this point in time, the driver is being held at a local police station. We are looking forward to the results of investigations being carried out by a multi-sectoral team including the police, Customs and the Directorate of Mineral Resources and Energy”, said police spokesperson Mamade Chaguro, adding that this is the first case involving such large quantities of semi-precious stones. Preliminary investigations indicate that the “owner” of the goods is also a Tanzanian citizen, who is currently at large.

“The illegality of this case lies in the manner in which the goods were being transported. Two days after the seizure, a document conferring the right to carry such goods was presented, but it is merely for transport via sea. This type of license is non-transferable, so its holder may run the risk of being banned from conducting business in the future due to the fact that he illegally transferred his licence”, the spokesman pointed out.

Source: O País

Two women raped in Maputo

On Sunday (12 July) two women (a 28-year-old and a 14-year-old) were raped by unknown perpetrators in the cities of Maputo and Matola.

The two victims were admitted to the José Macamo Hospital for treatment.

No arrests have been made so far:

Source: Folha de Maputo

One dead and six injured in clash with police

On Sunday (12 July) the PRM shot one person dead and wounded six others in a clash with a lynch mob in the town of Nhamatanda (Sofala Province).

The crowd attacked the police in an attempt to seize a man which they considered to be a “dangerous bandit” who had been “spreading terror” in Nhamatanda.

America Alberto, the brother-in-law of one of the injured members of the mob, told reporters that the crowd had every intention of taking the law into their own hands and lynching the alleged bandit.

Alberto said that: “the police accompanied a dangerous bandit whom the people have been seeking for a long time in order to lynch him. As an authority, the police tried to protect the bandit, subsequently the people began to throw stones to distract the police”.

The police responded to the stone throwing by shooting live ammunition at the crowd. One person was killed and six others were injured. Five were treated in the Nhamatanda rural hospital, while the condition of one of the injured was serious enough to warrant her transfer to the Beira central hospital.

Alberto said that, after the shooting, he had sought explanations from the

Nhamatanda police commander, but to no avail.

So far there has been no official comment from the police regarding the clash.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

PRM accused of killing 17-year-old in Malhangalene

On Monday night (13 July) a 17-year-old boy was allegedly shot dead by the PRM in the Malhangalene neighbourhood of Maputo Province. The family of the deceased have accused the police of intentionally killing the youth.

The teenager's body was found riddled with bullets on the roof of a house near the bull ring in Malhangalene.

According to the family, moments before the shooting the child had allegedly engaged in theft.

According to the sister of the deceased, he left the house at 21:00hrs on Monday night. Soon thereafter, four PRM officers arrived at their home with their nephew in handcuffs. The PRM explained that the two boys were caught stealing car parts; however, the deceased managed to flee the scene. Soon after, the young boy was shot and killed.

Source: O País

14 foreigners arrested in Bárue for illegal mining

On Tuesday (14 July) the PRM, working in collaboration with the environmental protection unit, arrested 14 foreigners of various nationalities (predominantly

Zimbabweans and Malawians) at an illegal mine in Bárue (Manica Province).

During the arrests, four kilograms of tourmaline and MT60,000 was seized.

The spokesperson of the Manica PRM, Belmiro Mutadiua, stated that: "We are not against the presence of foreigners in our province; however, we are against the depletion of minerals and wildlife resources".

The number of foreign and illegal miners has doubled in the area since a new, unbridled tourmaline deposit was discovered in a mining concession belonging to Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, approximately a month ago.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Customs staff accused of falsifying tax receipts

Seven staff members of the Mozambican customs service, in the central province of Sofala, have been charged with the theft of MT5 million (approximately US\$131,000), through the falsification of tax receipts, according to Bernardo Duce, the spokesperson for the Central Office for the Fight against Corruption (GCCC).

Speaking on Wednesday (15 July) at his monthly press briefing in Maputo, Duce said that: "what they did was, when they received certain amounts from taxpayers, they falsified the documents proving a receipt of those sums, writing down smaller values and pocketing the rest". The case has now been sent to court for trial.

In addition, Duce said that the GCCC is investigating the case of the head of the

social welfare department, in the Maputo Provincial Directorate of Veterans Affairs, who is accused of setting up a bank account in 2010 where she deposited large sums of money, derived from the falsification of documents for the payment of veterans' pensions.

“During the investigations her house was searched, in order to find documents linking her with the account”, said Duce. “Deposit slips, ATM receipts and other documents were found which proved that she was linked to the account”.

He added that documents were also found belonging to other people suspected of operating accounts through which public funds have been drained.

“We don't yet have an overall figure, since this case is still at the stage of preliminary investigation”, he said. “But I can say that this account was recorded in the system in 2010. Up to January of this year, the monthly allowance in the account was MT21,000”.

Investigations are still under way to establish exactly when the official started using this account to steal public funds. Over a one year period, at MT21,000 per month, the account would have accumulated approximately MT252,000 (US\$6,615).

In addition, in the central city of Chimoio, six officials of a public institution, which Duce declined to name, were charged with defrauding the state of roughly MT742,000.

“These officials had the power to attribute mobile phones and phone

airtime vouchers to other public functionaries, under the communications allowance envisaged in the law”, said Duce. “But instead they gave the phones and vouchers to other people who are not public employees and this cost the state MT742,000”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Elderly woman killed for practising witchcraft in Chibabava

During the course of this week (10 to 17 July) an elderly woman was beaten to death in her home, located in the administrative post of Goonda, Chibabava district (Sofala Province), after she was accused of practising witchcraft.

Two locals (identified as 55-year-old J. John and 41-year-old F. Albert) were arrested in connection to the murder.

Source: Notícias

Criminal network in Nampula targeting albinos

The increasing cases concerning the disappearance of albinos in Nampula Province has led the local PRM to believe that there is a criminal network active in the area, specifically targeting individuals with albinism.

According to the provincial commander of the Nampula PRM, Abel Nuro, of the three most recent cases, two of the victims have been rescued, whilst the third is believed to have already been sold to unknown buyers for the extraction and sale of organs for witchcraft.

According to the PRM, evidence in their possession suggests that the phenomenon involves a cross-border criminal network, stretching into Tanzania and Malawi (in Tanzania, as in Mozambique, body parts and organs of albino individuals are believed to possess magical properties).

Nuro argued that Mozambique, and other countries bordering the Great Lakes, must adopt new laws to protect albinos.

Another worrying factor, according to Nuro, is the high rate of grave robbing in Nampula, where human bones (specifically long bones) are stolen and sold for witchcraft.

In Nuro's opinion, it is highly possible that these thefts and abductions/murders are being co-ordinated by those residing in the Marratane refugee centre. Investigations are ongoing with regards to this claim.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Taxi drivers targeted by violent gangs

In the city of Chimoio (Manica Province) taxi drivers are being targeted by violent criminal gangs.

The majority of victims are severely assaulted, with some having been murdered, before being robbed.

In the most recent case, on Friday (10 July) three perpetrators, posing as passengers, abducted and shot a taxi driver, before fleeing with his Toyota Corolla.

Source: O País

Maputo sex workers accuse PRM of sexual assault

Sex workers operating in the neighbourhoods of Maputo have accused the PRM of rape and assault. According to the sex workers, some members of the police force have been known to rape and harass prostitutes during their late night security patrols.

According to the sex workers, these attacks are frequent and often very violent in nature. Some reports even suggest that the officers involved in such acts physically beat the sex workers before stealing their earnings.

Reporters questioned the spokesperson of the General Command, Pedro Cossa, to determine the validity of these claims. However, Cossa refused to address the matter at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday (14 July) as the matter was not on his list of talking points for this week.

Source: MMO Notícias

25 inmates still at large

Following the prison break at Chiúre Penitentiary (Cabo Delgado Province) on 29 June, where 34 inmates managed to escape, only nine escapees have been successfully recaptured.

According to the district administrator, Carlos Nampava, steps are being taken by the Defence and Security Forces to recapture the remaining 25 escapees.

According to Nampava, the situation is concerning as the prisoners are considered to be dangerous.

The provincial Deputy Director of the Civil Prison, Augustine Kalima, has

allegedly revealed that three prison guards have since been arrested and accused of facilitating the escape.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Sneakers worth ZAR12 million seized at Lebombo border

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) customs officials at the Lebombo Border Post in Mpumalanga (South Africa) recently confiscated a large quantity of undeclared sneakers, with an estimated value of ZAR12 million.

The alleged counterfeit goods, on-route to South Africa from Mozambique, were discovered by authorities, after they stopped a truck for inspection along the cargo bypass zone.

Documentation presented by the driver indicated that the truck was empty.

SARS spokesperson, Luther Lebelo, stated that officials subsequently discovered more than 14,000 pairs of sneakers hidden within the vehicle.

“They then discovered that the truck was not empty but contained over 2,948 pairs of Nike, 920 pairs of Puma, 3,415 pairs of Adidas and 6,884 pairs of All Star sneakers”.

The sneakers have been confiscated pending Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) verification by the various brand holders.

Source: Eye Witness News

Defamation trial over open letter to Guebuza set for 3 August

The trial of Carlos Nuno Castel-Branco and Fernando Mbanze has been set for Monday (3 August), and it will be a major test of freedom of speech and the press in Mozambique.

Castel-Branco is the co-founder of the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) and one of Mozambique’s most important academics, and Mbanze is editor of *MediaFax*, one of the oldest and most respected independent newsletters in the country.

The charges relate to an open letter that Castel-Branco published on his Facebook page in November 2013 and which was widely reprinted. The open letter is a very strong attack on the then president, Armando Guebuza, and starts: “Mr. President, you are out of control”. Castel-Branco’s letter resonated with the educated urban youth, and was widely circulated on social media.

Castel-Branco is accused of defaming the then president, which is a state security offense, and he has been charged under Article 22 of the State Security Law (lei 19/91). Mbanze has been charged with abusing the freedom of the press by publishing the letter.

Fernando Veloso, editor of *Canal de Moçambique*, was also originally charged for reprinting the letter, but he is ill and out of the country, thus he has not been called to trial. Lawyers for Castel-Branco have asked for a delay the trial to 31 August, as he will not be in Mozambique on 3 August.

The Amnesty Law passed by the Assembly in August 2014, as part of the agreement with Renamo, applies to all state security offences committed between March 2012 and August 2014, and thus should cover the Castel-Branco letter and its republication. But

the two defendants are not raising the issue, because they want to use the trial as a public defence of freedom of the press and of expression.

Source: Joseph Hanlon

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

Gorongosa hosts international symposium

Gorongosa National Park (GNP), in central Mozambique, recently held an international symposium on the topic of “disruptive” conservation - which is described by the organisers as “a new model for building community-driven conservation in some of the world’s most remote and biologically diverse places”.

The “*2015 Lost Mountain Next Gen Symposium*” brought together 40 university students, scientists and conservationists. The 12-day event, which began on Saturday (11 July), focused on conservation planning and management principles, leadership development models and “Leave No Trace” techniques, whilst examining the challenges facing conservation and development.

According to a press release from the symposium, the initiative follows on from the work of Majka Burhardt, who in May led a team to remote Mount Namuli in Zambézia Province, and its previously unexplored habitats. During this expedition, a new snake species was discovered, along with 40 ant genera and 27 herpetological specimens, many of which have yet to be identified.

The aim of the symposium is to examine how people and ecosystems can thrive together on Mount Namuli. Burhardt commented that: “at this point in the process it is imperative to bring future leaders into the discussion around conservation”.

Biologists and conservationists have identified Mount Namuli as a place of critical biodiversity. According to Burhardt, the area “provides an opportunity to model a new vision for wildlife preservation that integrates the wishes and needs of local people”.

“By bringing key conventional and unconventional players into the mix, we were able to create nimble, effective, and innovative solutions for conservation and development”, said Burhardt. “We are using the symposium to make real time decisions and action plans for our next steps with Mount Namuli - that is disruptive conservation”.

The Lost Mountain Consortium receives financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, which is a joint initiative of the French Development Agency (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility, the Japanese

government, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Kruger Park poachers: 80% Mozambican - 20 shot dead in 2013/14

Approximately 80% of the poachers arrested by the South African authorities in the Kruger National Park (KNP) are Mozambicans, according to William Mabassa, of the KNP's public relations service.

Speaking on Tuesday (14 July), at a seminar in the southern Mozambican city of Inhambane on "*The role of the media in the promotion of tourism and the fight against poaching*", Mabassa said that the South African authorities are seriously concerned at the number of Mozambicans crossing the border to slaughter wild life.

Some have paid with their lives. Wardens shot dead 13 Mozambican poachers in the KNP in 2013, and a further seven in 2014.

Mabassa urged the Mozambican government to invest more in communication, so as to raise community awareness in respect of the need to fight against poaching. Mabassa argued that local languages should be utilised to communicate with locals in a bid to ensure that communities understand that animals, such as elephants and rhinos, are worth more alive than dead.

"The media have an important role to play in raising awareness", he said, "particularly when the content is made

available in the languages that Mozambicans speak".

This was the consensual position of the journalists attending the seminar, who also argued that there should be specific government funding for this purpose. The seminar was organised by Radio Moçambique, as part of the celebrations of its 40th anniversary.

Meanwhile, the fight against poaching took a step forward with the appointment of one of the country's most prominent environmentalists, Carlos Serra, as National Director of the Legal Office of the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development.

"I accepted this new challenge after much thought and consultation", Serra wrote on his Facebook page. "I shall do my best in drawing up and revising legislation, and in training professionals in the sector".

He pledged that he would remain linked to environmental activism and to academic work, despite his new government responsibilities.

Serra was one of those who insisted that ivory and rhino horns seized from poachers must be destroyed, lest they once again fall into the wrong hands. The government eventually agreed, and on 6 July the authorities incinerated 2.4 tons of illicit wildlife produce seized from poaching gangs. 618 elephant tusks and 82 rhino horns were consigned to the flames.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

How many white rhino are left in the KNP?

The number of white rhino left in the KNP is becoming a hotly contested issue.

Respected wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Kobus du Toit, calculates that there are [possibly] between 1,500 and 3,000 white rhinos left in the KNP. He has since challenged ecologists to refute his figures.

According to Dr. Salomon Joubert, former managing executive of the KNP, calculations by Dr. Sam Ferreira, the large-mammal ecologist in KNP, quoted 10,621 white rhino in 2010, 10,495 for 2011 and 9,093 for 2012. The 2013 survey gave an estimate of 8,400 to 9,600 white rhinos, whilst a survey concluded in September 2014 suggested that there were between 8,000 and 9,290 white rhinos left within the KNP.

According to author Chris van der Linde, who wrote *Kruger National Park: Questions and Answers*, there were 10,500 white rhinos in the park.

However, Joubert estimates the number to be around 6,000. Recently the South African National Parks (SANParks) received the stamp of approval from the scientific community regarding its rhino survey for 2013 and the methods used. Counting exactly how many rhinos are in KNP is difficult. The method of cutting the entire landscape of the park up into blocks of three metres by three metres and determining an average is being utilised, rather than counting each and every rhino within the park.

“Determining numbers is becoming less feasible since the department decided earlier this year not to release official poaching figures on a monthly basis”, Du Toit added.

He is also of the opinion that the Kruger should be cleared of poachers by intelligence experts from the outside. He also said that: “the rhino horn should be removed from the smuggling basket that involves drugs, human trafficking, cigarettes, weapons and alcohol”.

During the official release of the latest rhino numbers, KNP managing executive Paul Daphne, said that: “SANParks has full confidence in the integrity of our rhino-counting methodology, and in the experienced team of scientists, counters and pilots who implement the rhino count”.

Different modelling techniques and numbers will be part of a civil court case, scheduled to be heard in the Pretoria High Court in September. In this case, two private rhino farmers, John Hume and Johan Kruger, with the assistance of Du Toit, will challenge environmental affairs minister, Edna Molewa, to lift the moratorium on trade in rhino horns in South Africa.

Source: Caxton News Service

Lichinga court hands down harsh jail sentences to elephant poachers

The Niassa provincial court has sentenced three poachers (two Tanzanian nationals and a Mozambican) to 10 years imprisonment for hunting and killing elephants in the Niassa National Reserve, the country’s largest conservation area.

The three poachers were arrested in possession of a firearm and ammunition and 12 elephant tusks, two of which weighed 32 kilograms and the others with weights ranging from four to 10 kilograms. It is believed that the group had been responsible for killing at least six elephants.

As part of the court's sentence, the weapons, the vehicle used by the poachers, and the tusks were all confiscated and reverted to the State.

A curious fact, noted by *A Faísca*, is that after the arrest, the defendants "mobilised their lawyers who came from Maputo city", which would, according to the same source "indicate a strong connection with a large criminal ring of poachers operating from Maputo".

There has been a major onslaught by poachers against the elephant herds in the Niassa Reserve in recent years. According to the latest elephant census, the total number of elephants in Mozambique declined by 48% in five years – from just over 20,000 in 2009 to 10,300 in 2014.

Most of the losses occurred in Niassa and the neighbouring province of Cabo Delgado, where the elephant population fell from approximately 15,400 to 6,100. The Niassa National Reserve was the hardest hit. Here the number of elephants fell from around 12,000 to an estimated 4,440. In the census, 43% of all elephants seen in the Niassa Reserve were carcasses.

Most of the poachers decimating elephant populations in the north come from Tanzania. The government is therefore working with the Tanzanian

authorities to bring about an end to this phenomenon.

In May (2015), the Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Celso Correia, and the Tanzanian Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Lazaro Nyalandu, signed an agreement in Maputo to protect the vast cross-border conservation area that covers the Niassa Reserve and Tanzania's Selous Reserve, an area of around 15,000 square kilometres.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique/A Faísca

Elephant poaching: European Union bans import of hunting trophies from Tanzania and Mozambique

The EU has banned the import of elephant hunting trophies from two African nations.

The decision is a major victory for the campaign to end the vile trade in poaching, which has driven some species to the brink of extinction.

EU leaders have ordered the ban on elephant hunting trophies from Tanzania and Mozambique because of the threat posed to the animals by poachers. There is already a ban on importing such trophies from Zambia.

The decision was taken by an EU scientific committee which rules on whether hunting trophy imports are sustainable.

Previously, Tanzania and Mozambique were each permitted to export tusks from 100 elephants every year into the EU as hunting trophies. However, both countries have seen a significant decline

in elephant numbers due to soaring levels of poaching.

The EU decision is the latest milestone in the *Sunday Mirror* campaign to crack down on the slaughter of thousands of rare beasts every year by poachers who sell ivory and skins for huge profits.

Liberal Democrat Euro MP, Catherine Bearder, who is supporting the campaign, said that: “I’m glad the EU is leading the way in stopping the slaughter of endangered animals for sport.

“Trophy hunting of elephants is not only senseless and cruel, it is wholly unsustainable.

“African elephants could be extinct in the wild within our lifetimes. We must do everything we can to prevent this iconic species from being wiped out”.

The European Commission is already meeting one of the campaign’s key demands by drawing up a Europe-wide action plan to step up the fight against wildlife trafficking.

The comprehensive plan will bring together environmental experts, police and trade officials from across the EU to crack down on the illegal trade.

It will aim to close loopholes which allow gangs to smuggle ivory and other illegal wildlife products into Europe.

The president and co-founder of the Born Free Foundation, Will Travers, welcomed the initiative.

He said that: “Poaching and trafficking of wildlife threatens the existence of many wild animal species.

“Born Free is lobbying the European Union to take much needed leadership on this issue and we will now focus on ensuring that the Action Plan effectively delivers better conservation of the world’s threatened wildlife”.

Source: Mirror Online

Can killing more elephants actually help to save them?

With nearly half Mozambique’s elephants wiped out by poaching since 2009, the World Bank’s decision to fund sport hunting is called into question.

Is killing an endangered animal for sport the best way to save the species from extinction? The World Bank—one of the largest sources of financing for biodiversity conservation projects in developing countries—thinks it is.

Late last year the World Bank approved a US\$46 million grant to Mozambique, one of the world’s poorest countries, to encourage tourism and alleviate poverty. Now, US\$700,000 of that has been earmarked to bolster trophy hunting of elephants and lions.

Mozambique’s elephants, poached for their ivory for the illegal trade to Asia, are in a precipitous decline. Between 2009 and 2014, their numbers fell from an estimated 20,000 to 10,300, according to a survey by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) as part of the Great Elephant Census.

In Mozambique—as well as other poor African countries, such as South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania—sport hunting has long been embraced as a way to help finance wildlife protection. (Hunting hasn’t saved

Mozambique's rhinos, however, which were declared locally extinct in 2013.)

By contrast, in the face of losses of their elephants and other animals, Botswana and Kenya have banned big-game sport hunting.

Opinions about sport hunting as a conservation strategy are sharply divided.

"When properly regulated, and when revenues are distributed to communities in and around parks ... hunting becomes an important tool for the sustainable management of parks and natural assets", says Madji Seck, a spokesperson at the bank's Washington headquarters.

Many opponents say that hunting revenues are not substantial enough to give poor communities a meaningful boost, especially if corrupt government officials line their own pockets with some of that money.

For Jeffrey Flocken, North American Regional Director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), it's also a moral issue. According to Flocken, given the gravity of the poaching crisis, authorities such as the World Bank "need to catch on to what the rest of the world already knows—that killing animals to save them is not conservation. It's just wrong".

Use It or Lose It:

Under the World Bank's Mozambique initiative, 80 hunting permits per year at US\$11,000 each will be issued for elephants and 55 to 60 for lions at US\$4,000 each. The bulk of the revenue will go to the Mozambican government,

but 20% is to be redistributed to communities living alongside conservation areas.

The World Bank "is driven by a utilitarian perspective on the consumptive use of wild species", said Phyllis Lee, a zoologist with the Amboseli Trust for Elephants, in Kenya.

The idea of consumptive, or sustainable, use of wildlife, which is written into the Convention on Biodiversity, a multilateral treaty with the objective of developing national strategies for the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity, is that it makes sense for humans to benefit from animals in ways that don't undermine their habitats and populations.

However, as Lee said: "it now appears to some conservation practitioners that sustainable use has been hijacked to represent [sport]hunting".

She points to the recent admission of the Dallas Safari Club into the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the world body that focuses on valuing and conserving nature by ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and the sport hunting club's controversial auction of a permit to kill an endangered black rhino in Namibia, as "the worst possible way of allowing a hunting voice to speak for conservation.

"It's obviously not speaking for species preservation", Lee said. "It's killing for revenue".

Ben Carter, executive director with the Dallas Safari Club, said that the US\$350,000 paid by a Texan hunter, who shot the black rhino in March, will

go directly to a conservation trust fund in Namibia.

“There’s a biological reason for this hunt”, Carter said. “It’s based on a fundamental premise of modern wildlife management: Populations matter; individuals don’t”.

Will Travers, President of the Born Free Foundation and Born Free USA, an international wildlife charity working to stop animal suffering and protect threatened species in the wild, counters that “individuals matter”.

“Each one may have survival knowledge to pass on or cultural intelligence, important for social cohesion”, he said. “But individuals also matter because they have a right to life. They are not the pawns of one species—our own—bent on playing God and dressing it up as modern wildlife management”.

In an interview with *CNN* in May, Flocken said that: “from a biological perspective, trophy hunting not only flies in the face of a precautionary approach to wildlife management but in some cases has also been found to undermine it”.

“Hunters are not like natural predators”, Flocken said. “They target the largest specimens, with the biggest tusks, manes, antlers, or horns”.

The Revenue Question:

A recently published briefing paper by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) shows that 80% of total annual sales in the tourist sector come from “non-consumptive” tourism—safaris, bird watching, trekking, marine encounters, and adventure travel.

In the US, a Synovate eNation poll in 2011 found that more than 70% of Americans would pay to view lions on an African game-watching safari and that not even 6% would pay to hunt them.

In Mozambique from 2012 to 2013, revenue from wildlife tourism tripled, to US\$3 million.

The World Bank believes that sport hunting will supplement these earnings. But Alejandro Nadal, an economics professor at El Colegio de Mexico who also co-chairs the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Theme on the Environment, Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, doubts that trophy hunting would bring any significant additional benefit to rural communities.

Nadal says that no thorough, credible studies have been done with regards to how much revenue would be generated, let alone the amount that would find its way past corrupt officials and end up in the hands of local communities.

Poachers and smugglers in Mozambique, meanwhile, have had unimpeded access to weapons, protected areas, and passage across borders and out of the country via ports and airports.

On 1 June, police detained five Chinese citizens in the southern district of Moamba district (Maputo Province) in possession of two large calibre firearms of the type used to kill elephants and rhinos. Two weeks earlier, on 14 May, authorities arrested two Chinese in Maputo with a cache of 65 rhino horns and 340 elephant tusks—the largest seizure in the country’s history.

Days later, however, it was discovered that 12 of the horns had vanished from the strong room in the capital, replaced by replicas made of cattle horns. 11 people, some believed to be government workers, have since been arrested.

Shifting Attitudes:

In April (2014), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced the temporary suspension of all imports of sport-hunted elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, citing concern that the two countries showed “a significant decline in the elephant population”.

The statement concluded that sport hunting of elephants in Zimbabwe and Tanzania “is not sustainable and is not currently supporting conservation efforts that contribute towards the recovery of the species”.

In March, USFWS made the ban on elephant trophies from Zimbabwe permanent.

Australia has banned the import of trophy-hunted lions, while the EU has

recently adopted stronger restrictions on trophy imports for a number of big mammals.

Recently, two airlines, South African Airways (SAA) and Air Emirates cargo divisions, announced embargoes on transporting elephant, rhino, and lion sport-hunting trophies.

They join Air France, KLM, Singapore Airways, and Qantas, which also have bans on tiger trophies. On 31 May, Lufthansa Cargo declared the immediate suspension of shipments of hunting trophies, and British Airways and Iberia Airlines cargo have just confirmed that they will not transport animal trophies of any kind.

On the question of sport hunting, IFAW’s Flocken said that: “When a species’ greatest value is as a dead trophy, its days will inevitably be numbered, just as they are when the value of their parts—like ivory tusks or rhino horn—makes protection from poachers nearly impossible”.

Source: Conservation Action Trust/National Geographic

NOTICE

In order to support the campaign to save the Rhino please support the FOCUS-AFRICA Foundation by liking the FOCUS-AFRICA Foundation Facebook Page at: [Focus-Africa Foundation](#) as well the FOCUS-AFRICA Foundation Website at www.focus-africa.org

OTHER

5.6 earthquake causes panic in Ilha de Moçambique

An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale rocked Ilha de Moçambique on Wednesday (15 July) causing panic among the population of Nampula - however, no injuries or damage to property was reported.

According to Ismael Amade, co-ordinator of Ilha de Moçambique Community Radio, the earthquake struck at 16:10hrs and “caused some people to panic, who then fled to the mainland side of the island, taking some of their possessions with them”.

According to the American Geophysical Institute, the quake took place in the Mozambique Channel at a depth of 15 kilometres, approximately 76 kilometres away from the Island of Mozambique and 202 kilometres from the provincial capital, Nampula.

Although announcements on *Rádio Comunitária* stated that the situation was safe, many residents nevertheless delayed their return home for fear of a tsunami.

Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, Ilha de Moçambique was the capital of the country during the colonial era, and has an estimated population of 52,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom live on the mainland side.

Source: *Lusa*

Governor claims limestone storage endangers health

The Governor of Sofala Province, Helena Taipo, has ordered that the site where limestone is stored in the town of Muanza, prior to its transport to cement factories, must be moved on environmental and health grounds.

This comes after Taipo received complaints from the local residents at a rally in Muanza regarding the manner in which the limestone is currently being stored.

The residents argued that the health problems allegedly caused by limestone dust are not new, and that locals have long complained against the practice of the company Cimentos de Mocambique (the Mozambican subsidiary of the Portuguese cement giant Cimpor) with respect to concentrating large quantities of limestone next to Mwanza station, awaiting transport by train to the cement factory in the nearby town of Dondo.

Taipo said that she did not really need to hear the complaints, since she could see the problem with her own eyes. “I have seen the houses covered with white dust”, she told the rally. “Even here at the rally, I’ve seen the dust, which shows that the situation is serious. We have to think seriously about the preservation of the environment”.

“They must relocate the limestone storage facility to somewhere else, because currently it is a danger to public health”, she said.

Participants at the rally also called for the road from Dondo to Cheringoma district, which passes through Muanza, to be paved. They also wanted the electricity grid to be further expanded, and complained of the lack of a market for the cassava they grow.

Taipo guaranteed that paving the road is one of the undertakings envisaged in the government's Five-Year Programme for 2015-2019. She was also confident that buyers for the cassava would be found, and urged peasant farmers not to stop growing this crop.

However, one of the more serious problems concerns a shortage of fertile land.

Taipo said that much of the fertile land near Muanza lies within GNP, which is a fully protected conservation area.

Taipo declared that: "there must be social justice so that all sides are satisfied", and promised that a solution would be found. But any proposal to take land away from the National Park is unlikely to prove acceptable.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Drought aids the spread of foot and mouth disease

An outbreak of foot and mouth disease has been confirmed in the south of Mozambique.

The village cattle were grazing in an area affected by drought, and were concentrated in a few water points. The drought is thought to be increasing the movement of susceptible animals and interactions with wildlife species.

25 cattle were infected, out of a susceptible population of 12,560 animals in the village. The infection was confirmed by various scientific tests from laboratories in the neighbouring countries of Botswana and South Africa.

In response to the outbreak, 6,500 cattle have been vaccinated in Maputo Province and 8,650 cattle have been vaccinated in Gaza Province.

Source: The Cattle Site News Desk

4,000 cases of malaria recorded in Maputo since the beginning of this year

According to a statement made on Tuesday (14 July) by the National Deputy Director of Public Health, Maria Matsinhe, at the launch of the Alliance Programme to Eliminate Malaria in Mozambique, poor sanitation and the impractical use of mosquito nets are the main causes behind the increase in malaria cases in many parts of the country.

According to Matsinhe, despite the fact that the health authorities have recently increased spray campaigns and the distribution of mosquito nets, as well as stepped up efforts to treat local ponds, malaria continues to be the leading cause of death and hospitalisation in Mozambique.

According to the Health Director in Maputo Province, Alcindo Cumba, since the beginning of the year, approximately 4,000 cases of malaria have been registered in the province.

In the period of reference, Niassa Province registered 192,000 cases of malaria, and 93 deaths. This is down

from 243,000 cases and 194 deaths recorded in the province during the first six months of 2014.

Cumba appealed to the locals to use the mosquito nets properly and not for fishing and construction purposes.

Source: Jornal Notícias/Folha de Maputo

Imported tobacco to be sealed as of 2016

Imported tobacco and alcoholic beverages, with the exception of domestic beer production, will be marked with seals from the first quarter of next year (2016), with the intention of combating the illicit trade and transport of such items (tobacco and alcoholic beverages are two of the most common items of smuggling and revenue evasion).

The Director-General of Customs, Guilherme Mambo, stated on Monday (13 July) that the process could be implemented from the first quarter of next year.

At a meeting with beverage and tobacco producers held on Friday (10 July) in the Mozambican central city and port of Beira, Mambo said that the law on the subject was approved and the regulations had been harmonised with various stakeholders, and now had only to be submitted for approval. According to Mambo, there was no room for informality in the tobacco and beverage sector. "Sealing will improve revenue collection and protect public health", he said.

"We have worked out the type and quality of the seals to be used. Right now we are 80% ready for tobacco and

drinks sealing", he concluded.

Mambo did not disclose the annual volume of drinks and tobacco imports. "Our plants mostly produce beer. Spirits are mostly imported, therefore we have excluded domestically produced beer. We can estimate that the volume of tobacco and beverage imports are high. We will be able to assess the numbers better when we implement the sealing regime".

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambican citizens seek extension of South African visas

Hundreds of Mozambican citizens are petitioning for the extension of South African entry visas from the current 30 day period to 90 days, in line with guidelines for citizens of other countries in the region. The ambassador of Mozambique in South Africa, Fernando Fazenda, believes that the extension request "is legitimate and reasonable".

Mozambique and South Africa signed an Abolition Agreement of Visiting Visas for normal passport holders in 2005, but left unchanged the condition stipulating that "each visitor can only stay a maximum of 30 days in the country visited".

Source: A Bola

Five dead as scaffolding collapses at Baixa building site

At least five building workers died, and a further six were injured when a scaffolding collapsed at a building site in downtown Maputo on Tuesday

afternoon (14 July), at approximately 15:00hrs.

The building where the collapse occurred is owned by the JAT group, and is intended to house the future offices of the National Social Security Institute (INSS). It is 17 storeys high, and most of those who fell to the ground during the collapse were working at a height of over 30 metres.

When the spokesperson for the fire brigade, David Cumbane, spoke to reporters in the early evening he could confirm three deaths - but at the stage the firemen and other rescue workers were still removing the dead and injured from the debris.

Before the fire brigade arrived, it was the construction workers themselves who began the rescue operations, trying to save the lives of their colleagues trapped under the scaffolding. Reporters noted that some of the building workers lacked basic protective clothing. They had no helmets, goggles or boots, which should be routinely supplied by any contractor on a building site.

One worker, speaking to reporters on the condition of anonymity, said that the scaffolding collapsed because of a defect in assembling it. He claimed that it was not the first time that an accident of this sort had happened.

“The same thing happened last year”, he said, “but that time we were lucky because nobody died”. The worker complained to reporters about the lack of safety equipment on the site.

“There’s no safety gear”, he protested. “We’re working under inhuman conditions. They treat us as if we were

slaves. There are even people on the site working in flip-flops”. The workers also complain of a lack of basic washing and sanitation facilities.

Immediately after becoming aware of the collapse, the government sent a team headed by Labour Minister Vitória Diogo to the site to investigate the cause of the accident. She ordered that all work on the site be suspended until the investigations have concluded.

“This is a very serious situation involving the loss of human lives”, said Diogo. “As the government, we shall do all in our power to find out what caused this accident. Work of this scale demands great attention and great responsibility from the contractors”.

According to a release from the Labour Ministry, the contractor in question is the Portuguese building company Britalar, which became notorious for its shoddy work whilst rehabilitating one of Maputo’s main thoroughfares, Avenida Julius Nyerere. Britalar headed the consortium hired to repair the road.

The avenue was severely damaged in the floods of 2000 which opened a massive crater at the northern end of the avenue. Rehabilitating the avenue was budgeted at US\$12.5 million, provided by the World Bank and the Maputo Municipal Council.

Britalar should have completed the road in February, 2014. However, the work ran months behind schedule. Worse still, cracks began to appear in the newly laid asphalt, and even to untrained eyes it was clear that Britalar’s work had been shoddy.

Samples of the materials used by Britalar were collected and sent to three laboratories, two in Mozambique and one in Portugal. All the laboratories agreed that the road had started to deteriorate because of the poor quality of the materials used.

The contract was eventually cancelled, and the Britalar-led consortium was ordered to repay the Municipal Council US\$1 million.

Source: Lusa/Radio France International/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

City Council removes informal vendors from Maputo's 'protocol routes'

The Maputo Municipal Council is currently in the process of removing informal vendors operating along the 'protocol routes' utilised by official motorcades.

The affected routes include: Eduardo Mondlane, Julius Nyerere, Kim Il Sung, Kenneth Kaunda, Joaquim Chissano and Acordos de Lusaka Avenues.

The measure, set in motion this week (10 to 17 July), arises from the desire to enforce municipal regulations, which have been disregarded for some time now, predominately by fruit, flower and food vendors trading from 'txova' (hand-drawn carts). According to Joshua Lai, spokesman of the Municipal Police, the carts hinder road traffic and a decision had to be taken to contain the problem along routes used by leading figures,

such as the head of state, before the phenomenon reached critical proportions.

The measure will gradually be extended to other Maputo roads with heavy traffic flow. A source also said that, in the course of enforcing the regulations, goods and carts had been seized in recent days.

Source: Domingo

The Mozambican Football Federation

The Mozambican Football Federation (FMF) will elect a new chairman on 13 August in Maputo. The looming elections are expected to be the most substantial to date, with four potential candidates competing for the post.

The first of such candidates is the former finance minister, Manuel Chang, who has expressed his plans to develop the entire federation by restoring all the football fields situated throughout the country. Chang's candidacy could, however, be threatened by the Ematum scandal that currently looms over his head.

Chang will be competing against former football player and journalist, Alexandre Rosa. In addition, the current president of the Mozambican Football League, Alberto Simango Junior, recently announced his candidacy. The fourth candidate is Teodoro Waty, a current member of the Frelimo bench in the National Assembly.

Source: A Bo

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