

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

216 17 June 2013 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Doctors abandon strike

Doctors abandoned their strike on Saturday, apparently without any concessions from the government. The Comissão dos Profissionais de Saúde Unidos (CPSU) dropped out on Friday. Jorge Arroz, head of the doctors association (Associação Médica de Moçambique, AMM), announced late Saturday afternoon that the strike was over. Government has not commented. The statement is on the AMM website:

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociacaoMedicaDeMocambique>
and reported on <http://www.verdade.co.mz/>

Doctors said that talks with government resumed on Thursday and Friday and that government had tabled a new offer, which was still unsatisfactory but was being considered. (AIM 15 June)

Talks had been stalled because government had said it would talk to AMM but not if CPSU, which it called a "ghost organisation", was present. AMM had refused to talk to government without CPSU. AMM said the CPSU was present at least on Thursday.

The strike had been strongest in Maputo and Matola, but Nampula governor Cidália Chaúque said that 20 of 48 doctors in Nampula central hospital were on strike. (Noticias 13 June 2013)

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health had suspended all postgraduate training due to a lack of "human resources"; in other words, it needed all the doctors to fill the gaps in the hospitals caused by striking doctors. In an angry statement, Aurélio Zilhão, chair (bastonário) of the doctors society (Ordem dos Médicos de Moçambique, OrMM), said this violated an agreement signed two years ago. Under the agreement, OrMM doctors did the teaching, but the students no longer had to spend two years in the districts in exchange for their state-funded training. (Noticias 15 June 2013) However, government's draft Statute of Doctors (which will be sent to parliament), says that any doctor trained in a public institution will be obliged to work exclusively in the national health service for at least as long as their training period.

In response to the letter two weeks ago from Pascoal Mocumbi, former Prime Minister and Health Minister, about health spending falling as a share of the state budget, the National Budget Director, Amilcar Tivane, blamed this on a fall in donor spending on health since 2010 and said government spending had risen 70% since 2008. (Noticias 14 June 2013)

Meanwhile the IMF representative in Mozambique made two seemingly contradictory statements on the strike. In the first on 12 June he said there was a need for "salary adjustments" and "obviously there is space for manoeuvre". And he noted that since 2009 the government has been steadily widening the wage gap by giving more to the better qualified. But a day later he stressed that "this year government spending on wages will increase from 10.3% to 10.8% of GDP, which is very high by regional standards and obviously limits what government can spend on other priorities, including public investment."

COMMENT: It is disingenuous to use civil service salaries as a share of GDP as a benchmark. The IMF has long promoted privatisation of state services; if doctors and teachers were being paid through the private sector the civil service wage bill would fall, even if the costs of health and education increased. Mozambique retains a commitment to a broadly based health and education service, which in a poor country is necessarily a state-funded service. Thus, Mozambique will have a higher civil service wage bill than countries with more privatised services. *jh*

Renamo stalemate continues - but Frelimo demands action

Renamo and government had their fifth round of talks on Monday 10 June, which started at 9 am and continued until 5 am the next morning without any changes in position. But Frelimo has instructed the government to find a way for Renamo to end its election boycott.

Monday's session was about electoral law, and both sides agree parliament must amend the law so a proposal should be submitted to parliament. Renamo demands what it calls "parity" in the National Elections Commission (CNE): members only from political parties, with 4 from Frelimo Party, 4 from Renamo, 4 from the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM) and 2 from extra-parliamentary parties. This would create an opposition majority on the CNE.

Government says Renamo should submit its proposal to parliament. But this proposal was already defeated by the Frelimo majority in parliament in December, as it would be if submitted again. Thus Renamo demands that government submit the proposal, so Frelimo would vote in favour.

The stalemate reflects a lack of negotiating space on both sides. Frelimo would not accept an opposition majority on the CNE, while Renamo president Afonso Dhlakama probably would not accept anything less. However, some note that money is one of the four negotiating points tabled by Renamo, which suggests that if there were enough money offered to Renamo leaders, agreement on elections might be possible.

In separate press conferences afterwards, the head of the Renamo delegation, Saimon Macuiane, said that the government had refused to discuss the content of the electoral law. But in his press conference, the head of the government delegation, José Pacheco said: "If Renamo says we did not have debate, it is not true. We did not have a day long meeting and simply look at each other, without discussing the material." (Noticias, O Pais 12 June 2013) Both statements could be true - long debates but not about content.

Government proposed 27 June for the sixth round of talks. Renamo rejected this and suggested 17 June. Government has now come back with the proposal of Monday 1 July.

The deadlock is showing divisions within Frelimo. Hardliners want to make no concessions to Renamo, and are content to see Renamo continuing to boycott the elections. But others want Renamo back in the contest, in order to divide opposition votes. They fear that on its own, MDM

could elect mayors in 4 to 8 municipalities - enough to make MDM a credible opposition in national elections next year. But if Renamo and MDM split the opposition vote forcing second rounds in mayoral contests in some municipalities and then do not cooperate on the second round, Frelimo could win nearly all.

In a press conference Wednesday, Mateus Kathupa said "it is not desirable for Renamo to not participate in the elections. It is not good. Therefore Frelimo has given instructions to the government to permit the participation of Renamo. Also, it has spoken with influential people to ask them to convince Afonso Dhlakama and his team to participate in the elections." (CanalMoz 14 June)

Kathupa is senior in the party. He is deputy chair of Frelimo's "central brigade" (vice-chefe da Brigada Central do partido Frelimo) which is supporting the selection of Frelimo candidates. He is also a Frelimo MP and member of the parliamentary permanent commission.

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With local elections soon

Metical falls below 3 to the Rand

The metical fell to 2.92 to the South African Rand on 11 June, a 7% fall in just two weeks, and has been below 3 since 30 May. This is the lowest level since it hit 2.4 at the time of local elections in November 2008, and is well below the September 2010 level of 5 that provoked riots in Maputo.

Much of the food and consumer goods for residents of Maputo and Matola is imported from South Africa, so a depressed exchange rate keeps down the cost of living - which is particularly important at time of municipal elections.

But it also means that local producers cannot compete with imported chickens, pigs, tomatoes and other fruit and vegetables. With the metical this low, South Africa goods are cheaper than local products even in places like Chimoio, which is more than 1000 km from South Africa.

[Graphs and tables of exchange rates and minimum wages](http://bit.ly/13H2LI3) for the last two decades are attached and are on <http://bit.ly/13H2LI3>. Tables include the new minimum wages from 1 April 2013.

OJM and OMM leaders dismissed

Frelimo has dismissed the leadership of its youth and women's groups, apparently because they were too independent of Frelimo central leadership. This could be seen as President Armando Guebuza taking tighter control of party bodies before local elections this year and national elections next year.

On 13 May Frelimo dismissed the general secretary, Basilio Muhate, of the youth organisation (Organizacao da Juventude Mocambicana, OJM). He had been elected at a conference in 2010. At a 31 May conference, Pedro Cossa was elected unopposed as the new general secretary. But there was a clear protest. Cossa received 51 votes, but there were 22 blank and spoiled ballot papers.

O Pais reported on 11 June that the most senior officials of the women's organisation (Organizacao das Mulheres Mocambicanas, OMM) have also been dismissed. Frelimo's response was confused, but not denying the article. Domingo (16 June) finally confirmed the dismissal. Some in the OMM have been supporting former Prime Minister Luisa Diogo as a presidential

candidate, while Guebuza clearly opposes her.

Macuacua becomes presidential spokesman

In a surprise announcement, on 13 June Edson Macuacua was named President Armando Guebuza's press spokesman. He had been marginalised after the Frelimo Congress last year after being sharply criticised his heavy handed treatment of the media.

At the Congress he ordered copied of O Pais and Savana to be confiscated, and he ordered live TV coverage of the Congress to be stopped during the speech of Jorge Rebelo. It was too much even for many in Frelimo. He failed to be elected to the Political Commission and he lost his Central Committee post of Mobilisation and Propaganda secretary - effectively media spokesperson for the party. Now he has been taken on by the President.

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New reports

Growth of small commercial farmers in Gúruè, Manica

In Manica province there are now several hundred small and medium commercial farmers (often called "emergent farmers"). In Gúruè district, Zambézia, about 100 farmers earned more than \$1000 profit from soya last year, and have become small commercial farmers. This growth of emergent farmers is new, and may point to an alternative development model.

There are two keys to the growth in the number of emergent farmers. First has been hands-on management and step-by-step progress. Second has been outside support, often linked to contract farming, over a long period – up to a decade and not the normal 2 to 3 years of donor projects.

So far, no large foreign agricultural investors have succeeded in Manica or Gúruè. Prio Foods, with 24,000 ha and €6 million investment, was the latest to fail, in January 2013 -- following the trail blazed by Sun Biofuels and others. Pouring in money and smart foreign managers has not, so far, been a recipe for success.

Two reports by Joseph Hanlon and Teresa Smart as part of research for their next book are now available:

[Soya boom in Gúruè](http://bit.ly/11qS0Xs): <http://bit.ly/11qS0Xs>

[Making money farming in Manica](http://bit.ly/18O9bKH): <http://bit.ly/18O9bKH>

Carbon credit fiasco in Sofala

The first project in Mozambique to try to use carbon credits has proved a failure. It "represents an extraordinary investment of money and time with little or no verifiable improvements in the lives of communities: life could even be considered to have got worse. The N'hambita project clearly indicates that forest offset projects in general do not deal with the real complexities and intricacies of communities and local livelihoods," concludes the report by Jutta Kill and FERN, a European NGO created to keep track of the European Union's involvement in forests.

The N'hambita Forest Carbon Offset Pilot Project in Sofala, near the Gorongosa park, is run by the company Envirotrade, and was initially funded by European Commission (EC) money.

The report will be released Monday in English and Portuguese:

[Carbon Discredited: Why the EU should steer clear of forest carbon offsets:](#)

www.fern.org/nhambita

[O Carbono Desacreditado: A razão pela qual a UE deve evitar as compensações de carbono florestal](#), <http://www.fern.org/pt-br/nhambita>

Resettlement must take account of livelihoods

A very detailed and critical report of resettlement in Tete by Human Rights Watch (HRW) argues that resettlement cannot simply be about alternative land, but also must provide livelihoods for the resettled people.

"Our research shows the resettlements, particularly the provision of poor-quality agricultural land and unreliable access to water, have had negative impacts on community members' standard of living... People resettled to the Vale resettlement village Cateme and the Rio Tinto resettlement village Mwaladzi experienced a major disruption to their livelihoods and are still struggling to re-establish their self-sufficiency. ... The choice in resettlement sites also had negative impacts on resettled households' access to non-farming livelihoods" from firewood, charcoal, brickmaking, and wild fruits.

"The Mozambican government's speed in approving new mega-projects has outstripped its development and implementation of adequate safeguards to protect the rights of affected populations," says HRW

The report has compiled dramatic and previously unpublished maps of all the Tete mining concessions. It says that "according to data from the Mozambican government's mining registry in October 2012, the government has approved at least 245 mining concessions and exploration licenses in Tete province, covering approximately 3.4 million hectares or 34 percent of its area. When factoring in all applications pending approval, the amount of land involved jumps to roughly 6 million hectares, or approximately 60 percent of Tete province's area. There has been little management and planning for the cumulative impact of numerous mining projects. And while not all exploration activity will lead to the development of mining projects, the high concentration of land designated for mining licenses in Tete province has profoundly limited the availability of appropriate resettlement sites for communities displaced by mining operations."

[What is a House without Food? Mozambique's Coal Mining Boom and Resettlements](#), by Nisha Varia, Human Rights Watch, May 2013: <http://hrw.org/node/115535>

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The new book

Zimbabwe takes back its land

by Joseph Hanlon, Jeanette Manjengwa & Teresa Smart is now available from the publisher https://www.rienner.com/title/Zimbabwe_Takes_Back_Its_Land

Now in paper at a reasonable price

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique?

by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

is now available in **paperback**, for £17.99 (+ p&p)

from the publisher <http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13503>

and on Amazon.co.uk for £17.09

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South

by Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, and David Hulme

Most of this book can now be **read on the web**

tinyurl.com/justgivemoney

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Also on the web: Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on
tinyurl.com/mozamb

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

This mailing list is used to distribute two publications, both edited by Joseph Hanlon. This is my own sporadic "News reports & clippings", which is entirely my own responsibility. This list is also used to distribute the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, published by CIP and AWEPA, but those organisations are not linked to "News reports & clippings"
Joseph Hanlon

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Mozambique media websites:

Noticias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O Pais: www.opais.co.mz

Macauhub English: www.macauhub.com.mo/en/

Savana: www.savana.co.mz

Canal de Moçambique: www.canalmoz.co.mz

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

Carlos Serra Diarrio de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

Good daily newsletters:

English: Mozambique Investor. Send e-mail to joaquim.fale@clubofmozambique.com

Portuguese: Mozambique Hoje. Send e-mail to moçambiquehoje@clubofmozambique.com

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