

Rhula Intelligent Solutions

WEEKLY MEDIA REVIEW: 4 SEPTEMBER TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

www.rhula.net

Managing Editor: Nigel Morgan



Minister Pedro Couto and his newly sworn in team of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (*see page 20 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:

Joe van der Walt
Operations Director

Mobile (SA): +27 79 516 8710
Mobile (Moz): +258 826 780 038
Email: joe@rhula.net

David Barske
Operations Specialist

Mobile (SA): +27 76 691 8934
Fax: +27 86 620 8389
Email: david@rhula.net

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this report is intended to provide general information on a particular subject or subjects. While all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the accuracy and the integrity of information and data transmitted electronically and to preserve the confidentiality thereof, no liability or responsibility whatsoever is accepted by us should information or data for whatever reason or cause be corrupted or fail to reach its intended destination. It is not an exhaustive document on such subject(s), nor does it create a business or professional services relationship. The information contained herein is not intended to constitute professional advice or services. The material discussed is meant to provide general information, and should not be acted on without obtaining professional advice appropriately tailored to your individual needs. Your use of this document and the information it contains is at your own risk



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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ECONOMY.....	8
GRAPH 1: MOZAMBIQUE CURRENCY EVALUATION.....	8
AFI adopts Maputo accord and makes historic decision to expand its network at the 2015 Global Policy Forum.....	9
Central bank calls for support for small companies.....	10
Despite depreciation of metical – inflation remains low.....	11
Prime Minister encourages expansion in exports.....	11
Mosca forecasts worsening economic situation in Mozambique.....	12
China’s slowdown may threaten Mozambique's growth.....	13
CTA calls on entrepreneurs to boost food production against external shocks.....	14
BCI, IPEX and the EU-CPLP sign an agreement in support of internationalisation ...	15
Investor Conference.....	15
Chimoio hosts CTA business forum.....	16
CPLP banks discuss business continuity.....	16
Barclays cites Mozambique as one of Africa’s five “sleeping giants”	16
Mozambique scores poorly in the Open Budget Survey 2015	17
Chissano heads delegation to Angola: oil and gas on the agenda.....	19
New team sworn in at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy	20
LNG oversupply could impede FIDs	20
Sasol CEO stresses Mozambique as key to regional expansion plans.....	22
Petromoc restructures Board of Directors – Fernando Uache is the new CEO.....	23
Triton Minerals produces graphene from Mozambique graphite	23
Xtract Resources adjusts Manica purchase terms to limit future dilution	24
Manica Province wants 85 mining licenses cancelled.....	24
Grupo Videre just keeps growing	25
Mapai substation is ready	25
Zambia begins importing electricity from Ressano Garcia	26
Casimiro Nyusi’s new South African partner	26

Swazi port proposal via canal no hoax.....	27
President Nyusi praises Portucel for investing in rural Mozambique.....	28
Investors express interest in recovering Companhia do Buzi	30
European Union bans goat meat from Tete	30
Government and industry discuss the cost of plastic bags	31
Mozambique will have just three international airports.....	32
POLITICS.....	33
Chissano insists on meeting between President Nyusi and Dhlakama.....	33
“Mozambique is sitting on a ticking time bomb” – Raul Domingos.....	34
Dhlakama is “an enemy of the Mozambican people”	35
Maputo Archbishop calls for humility and tolerance amongst political leaders.....	36
President Nyusi and Prime Minister Rosário praise the role of Catholic Church in Mozambique	37
“There are still Mozambicans who think of a country cut into pieces” – Nyusi	38
Governor of Zambézia calls for defence of national unity	39
Milange district administrator defies Dhlakama.....	39
Government “sensitive to veterans” – President Nyusi	40
Speculation on Nyusi/Dhlakama meeting as President travels to Quelimane	41
President Nyusi rejects the imposition of conditions by Renamo	42
MDM condemns war of words between President Nyusi and Dhlakama	42
Renamo submits constitutional amendment	43
Major reshuffle in the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs.....	44
Directors take office in Ministry of State Administration	46
President Nyusi meets SADC executive secretary on political security in the region. 46	
Seven new foreign ambassadors present their credentials to President Nyusi.....	47
Minister Balói accuses Renamo of psychological violence	47
Macamo meets with Cassama to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau.....	48
Guebuza meets with vice president Yuanchao	48
Brazilian Minister of Culture on working visit to Maputo.....	48
Peruvian Ambassador to South Africa to also represent in Mozambique	49

Mozambican delegates observe Norwegian elections	49
II African Youth Conference on Democracy and Good Governance	49
Former US official reveals Mugabe’s key role convincing Dhlakama to negotiate peace	50
SECURITY	51
Dhlakama announces new police force and the creation of a second military headquarters in Milange	51
Dhlakama accuses government of derailing his rallies	52
FADM soldiers accused of excesses and rape in Gorongosa.....	52
War veterans appeal to Dhlakama to attend meeting with President Nyusi	53
Over 54 million square meters cleared of land mines in six years	53
CRIME.....	55
MAP 1: KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS IN CENTRAL MAPUTO 2014 & 2015.....	55
GRAPH 2: REPORTED KIDNAPPINGS PER YEAR	55
GRAPH 3: TIME OF KIDNAPPINGS 2014 & 2015.....	56
GRAPH 4: KIDNAPPINGS PER GENDER / AGE-GROUP 2014 & 2015.....	56
PRM neutralise sugar thieves in Gaza	57
PRM arrest three grave robbers in Malema	57
PRM neutralise armed gang in Chimoio	57
Mozambican man arrested in Malawi on charges of conspiracy to traffic children.....	57
Two Mozambicans sentenced to jail in Malawi for raping a minor	58
Minor raped in Maputo	58
PRM announce “encouraging clues” in Machava murder case.....	58
Five illegal immigrants held in Nampula.....	59
Three locals arrested on charges of kidnapping an albino in Nampula.....	59
South African child kidnapped by Mozambican nanny rescued in Machava	60
PRM recover weapons allegedly used by kidnappers in Maputo	61
PRM seize 500 kilograms of marijuana in Cabo Delgado	61
PRM concerned with the high levels of robbery and theft in Maputo	61

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION	62
Mozambican authorities investigate timber trafficking through Beira port	62
Sea turtle poacher caught red handed in Ponta Caldeira Island	62
Three poaching gangs clash with the police in Gaza	63
Mozambicans won't extradite poachers	64
Reduction in elephant poaching in Tete Province	64
 OTHER.....	 65
Dragões Segurança employees go on strike in Nampula	65
Government hopes for 300,000 new jobs this year	66
President Nyusi launches rotavirus vaccination campaign	66
Mozambique has 300,000 traditional medicinal practitioners – 120,000 not registered	67
Families of Matola victims to find closure.....	67
MT80 million needed to assist the population of drought-stricken Inhambane.....	69
Drought in Gaza and Inhambane: government seeks sustainable solutions.....	69
Residents refuse to leave poorly constructed homes in flood-prone area of Matola..	70
Mozambique ranked the third worst place in the world to grow old	70
 BUSINESS INDEX	
Aggreko	26
Anadarko	21
Auroch Minerals	24
Betaworks Consultoria e Construcao Civil	26
BP	21
CFM	23, 27, 57, 70
CMS	25
Companhia do Búzi, CB	30
Consolidated Oil and Gas Services	25
DP World	27
Electricidade de Moçambique EdM	25
Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, ENH	20
Engen	23

ENI	21, 22
Eskom	26
ExxonMobil	21
Gestores	27
Gigajoule International	20
Grindrod	27
Grupo Namatil	26
Grupo Videre	25
Matola Gas Company, MGC	19
OAo Rosneft	22
Palace Group	26
PETRONAS	21
Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique, CFM	27
Portucel-Soporcel	28
RHB Group	25
Sasol	22, 23
Shell	21
Shoprite	31
Sociedade de Desenvolvimento do Porto de Maputo, MPDC	27
Sonangol	19
Statoil ASA	22
Triton Minerals	23
Woodside	21
Xtract Resources	24
Yichang Xincheng Graphite Ltds	24
Zesco	26

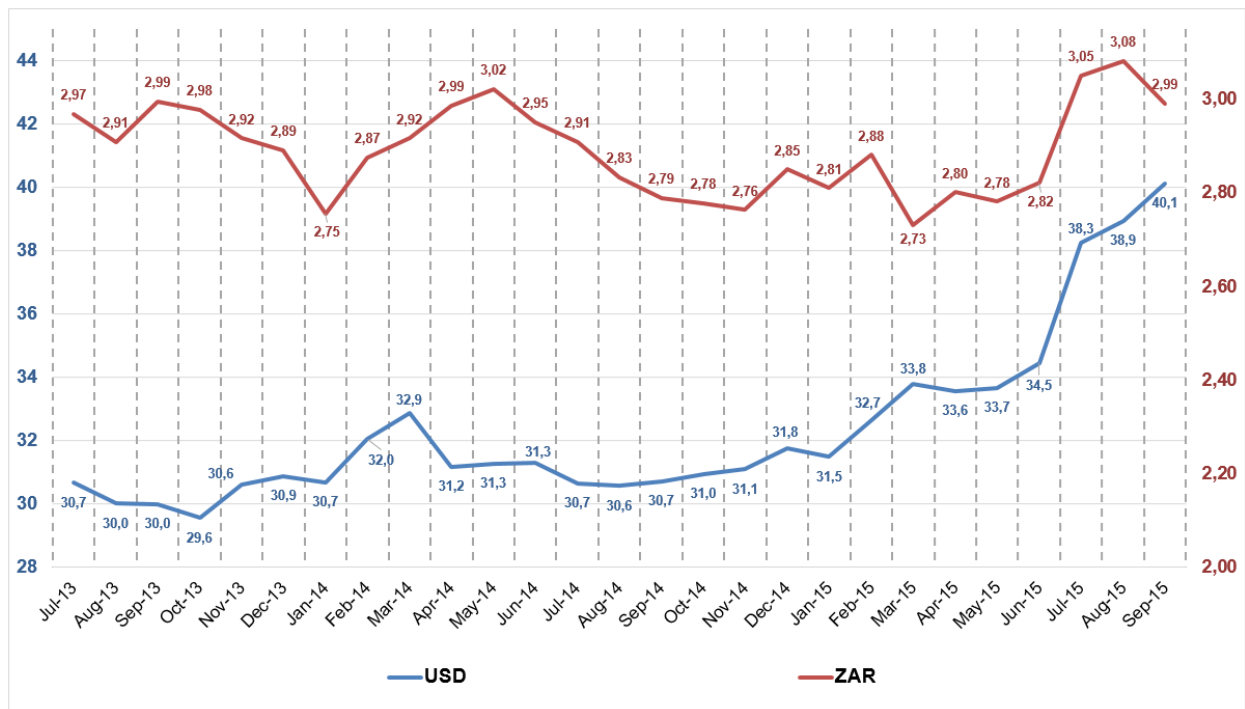
ECONOMY

Mozambique Exchange Rate and Fuel Prices: 10 September 2015

Mozambique Metical (MZN) Exchange Rate		
Currency	Buy	Sell
Euro (EUR)	44,70	44,92
U.S. Dollar (USD)	40,15	40,35
S.A. Rand (ZAR)	2,94	2,95

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



AFI adopts Maputo accord and makes historic decision to expand its network at the 2015 Global Policy Forum

Over 450 senior financial inclusion policymakers and regulators, along with leaders from international organisations and the private sector, converged in Maputo from 1-4 September for the 7th annual Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) Global Policy Forum (GPF). This year's GPF, "Inspiring Innovation to Advance Inclusion", is the largest and most diverse forum the AFI Network has ever held.

The opening ceremony included a welcome address by President Filipe Nyusi, who thanked participants for coming and noted that the presence of so many financial inclusion leaders in the city had "made Maputo the financial capital of the world".

The keynote address was delivered by Graça Machel, who spoke on the benefits of bridging the gender gap, noting that the impact would be equivalent to adding another China and India to the formal financial system. Machel also stressed that financial inclusion was more than just an issue of economic empowerment. "Entry into the formal economy sends a social message: it says this citizen counts", she said.

At the AFI Annual General Meeting, held the day before the GPF, members discussed the future of AFI as an independent organisation. Members agreed to open the Network to high-income emerging countries and accept regional organisations made up of current or potential AFI members. This decision was the result of the rising profile of financial inclusion and growing demand from countries and regional organisations

outside AFI's current structure of emerging and developing countries.

The Maputo Accord was proposed by Mozambique's governor of the central bank, Ernesto Gove, as an addition to AFI's Maya Declaration, the world's first set of measurable commitments to financial inclusion. The governor made a passionate case for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their role in driving employment, economic development and innovation. He noted that supporting SME finance would strengthen economic development, and that the Maputo Accord would benefit all AFI countries. Members unanimously adopted the Accord, making SME finance a priority.

Green finance and gender were two of the most prominent and well attended sessions. Members recognised that environmental risks are a growing concern of central banks and financial regulators, and learned that developing and emerging countries are leading the way in innovative financing of a green, sustainable economy. Members were also united in their recognition that societies cannot function properly if more than half the population is left behind, and bridging the financial inclusion gender gap needs to be a priority. In 2016, AFI will explore the appropriate platforms to address these new areas of interest.

As has become a tradition at the GPF, members made new and revised commitments to the Maya Declaration on the last day of the event. Several made specific commitments on SME finance in line with the Maputo Accord. The National Reserve Bank of Tonga, Central Bank of Suriname and Superintendencia General de Entidades Financieras (SUGEF) Costa Rica made new commitments.

Reflecting on the theme of the event, AFI Executive Director Alfred Hannig asked AFI members to drive innovation in financial inclusion by “embracing change, allowing space to experiment, and by continuing to have bold aspirations for financial inclusion goals”.

The GPF 2015 closed with the announcement that the Reserve Bank of Fiji would host the 8th AFI Global Policy Forum, to be held in Suva in September 2016.

Source: PRWeb

Central bank calls for support for small companies

On Thursday 3 September, the governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Ernesto Gove, argued that support for SMEs is crucial for the development of Mozambique.

Speaking in Maputo at the Seventh Global Forum of the AFI, Gove said that: “implementing strategies of financial inclusion, covering the greater part of the population, through the expansion of the banking network, guarantees greater development of the population, based on support for the projects of Small and Medium Enterprises, the main catalysts of the economic growth of Mozambique”.

“We should do everything to ensure that the SMEs are provided with financial solutions that ensure better conditions of operation, and guarantee continual efforts to do away with unemployment”, he added.

However, the targets mentioned by Gove are modest. By the end of 2022, he said, “no less than 35% of the active adult population of Mozambique should have

physical or electronic access to at least one financial service provided by a regulated financial institution”.

In other words, the central bank is resigned to 65% of the adult population still being deprived of banking services in seven years’ time.

Currently, only 20% of the population has a bank account, 4% have access to other formal forms of financial services, 16% use informal services and the majority of the population, 60%, are completely excluded from the financial system.

Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the only other SADC countries with a lower percentage of their citizens holding bank accounts – 14% and 12% respectively. But if other formal financial services are counted, the percentage of Tanzanians and Congolese covered rises to 57% and 36%.

In terms of the percentage of the population who are completely excluded, Mozambique is at the bottom of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) table.

According to the statistics presented by Gove, the number of bank branches in Mozambique has grown substantially in recent years – from 284 in 2007 to 583 this year. But almost half of them (262) are concentrated in Maputo city and province.

The most populous province, Nampula, has 65 bank branches, and the second most populous, Zambézia, has only 29. The two provinces undergoing mineral resource booms, Cabo Delgado and Tete, have 25 and 39 branches respectively.

There has, however, been significant expansion in mobile banking. According to the figures from the central bank, 26% of the active population has an e-money account, including 20% of mobile phone subscribers.

National financial inclusion policies, said Gove, included “ensuring availability, proximity and effective use of a range of appropriate financial services for businesses and individuals in rural and urban areas”, and “strengthening the security and efficiency of the national payments system”.

The financial education initiatives under way would “support financial inclusion by disseminating conditions of access to minimum banking services, and raise awareness of the importance of savings”.

Gove said that among the main challenges for the immediate future are “expanding and diversifying the network of access points, improving the legal and regulatory framework and oversight for the protection of financial consumers and developing a range of products for SMEs, low income population and farmers”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Despite depreciation of metical – inflation remains low

The depreciation of the metical against the US dollar has had little impact on the level of prices within the country.

According to the latest figures from the National Statistics Institute (INE), released on Wednesday 9 September, inflation in August (as measured by the consumer price indices in the three largest cities – Maputo, Nampula and Beira) was only 0.21%.

In the previous month (July) inflation was 0.1%, following three months of slight deflation. Inflation for the first eight months of the year was just 1.23%. This is despite the metical losing over 22% of its value against the dollar between 1 January and 31 July (according to the Bank of Mozambique).

Most of the price rises in August were for foodstuffs – maize rose in price by 14.1%, and maize flour by 1.3%. Other significant price rises were for fresh fish (3.3%), goat meat (3.2%) and rice (0.6%).

The prices of tomatoes, onions, coconuts and live chickens fell slightly. Taken together, the price of these items fell by 0.11%.

As for non-food items, the price of baby clothing rose by 10.8%, and that of second hand cars by 5%.

Inflation over the past year, since August 2014, was 2.28%.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Prime Minister encourages expansion in exports

On Saturday 5 September, Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário challenged Mozambican businesses to expand and diversify the products they export, and increase their level of processing.

He was speaking at the Maputo International Trade Fair (Facim), during an awards ceremony for the best exhibitors.

Prime Minister Rosário repeated the appeal made at the opening of the fair by President Filipe Nyusi, who urged companies to concentrate on activities

with the greatest potential for job creation and for added value – notably in agriculture, livestock, agro-industry, tourism and fisheries.

The Prime Minister also urged the Export Promotion Institute (IPEX), which organised the fair, to commit itself to seeking better ways to support Mozambican enterprises, stimulating productive capacities, and favourable conditions for exports.

From the goods exhibited at Facim, “it has been possible to gauge the real potential for increasing business opportunities and investment in our country, as well as the real achievements made in the affirmation of Mozambique as a competitive economy in the region and in the world”, he said. “The government reiterates its commitment to continue implementing the reform package, in order to provide a more attractive business environment”.

Prime Minister Rosário was also pleased by the increase in the number of foreign countries and hence the number of foreign companies exhibiting at Facim. 30 countries were represented, including newcomers such as South Korea and Vietnam.

The Prime Minister was optimistic that this would lead to the establishment of further business partnerships between Mozambican companies and foreign counterparts, which should also help to promote and diversify Mozambican exports. Such partnerships would allow an ever greater presence of Mozambique in international trade, he said.

Prime Minister Rosário stressed that increased exports of goods and services were crucial for the development of the

national economy, and for reducing the deficit on the balance of payments.

In his conversations with Mozambican exhibitors, the Prime Minister encouraged them to improve their productivity and competitiveness, with the end goal of improving Mozambican living conditions.

The prize for the country with the best exhibition at Facim went to Germany, followed by South Africa and France. But the country that brought the largest business delegation to Facim was Italy (followed by Portugal and Turkey).

Each of Mozambique’s provinces had its own exhibition. The prize for best provincial exhibition went to Maputo Province, followed by Inhambane and Manica.

Facim closed to the public on Sunday 6 September.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mosca forecasts worsening economic situation in Mozambique

On Monday 7 September, renowned economist, João Mosca, stated that the critical economic situation currently facing Mozambique could potentially be aggravated by the ongoing political-military tensions between Renamo and Frelimo.

According to Mosca, former president Armando Guebuza is accountable for the current situation, characterised by the contraction of foreign investments, the reduction of domestic production and declining exports. He also cites the devaluation of the metical and the high rate of public debt as additional stress factors.

According to the economist, despite the fact that the country has one of the highest rates of public debt in the world, 11% of the country's GDP is spent on state salaries or on investments made in the defence sector.

While Mosca warns that the economic situation will likely worsen in the near-future, other analysts argue that the country is experiencing strong economic growth, predominantly due to the country's booming gas and coal industry. However, the analysts caution that this sector only benefits a small portion of the population.

The analysts agree that if the country is able to consolidate and maintain peace, it would provide the necessary conditions for increased foreign investment.

Source: Agencia Informativa Latinoamericana

China's slowdown may threaten Mozambique's growth

A report written by UK based company Fathom Consulting warns that the Mozambican economy is likely to be hit by the slowdown in Chinese economic growth.

In recent years China has seen growth rates of above 8% and has used its strong economic position to invest in the African continent and purchase its raw materials. In addition, Africa has provided a useful market for Chinese goods.

According to Fathom Consulting, "for China, Africa provides many of the raw materials that are required to fuel its economic growth engine. Africa also provides a consumer-hungry market for its goods, with exports to Africa rising by nearly 15% in the 12 months to 2014. This

outstripped export growth to Asia, Europe and the United States".

The report continues: "for Africa, China's demand for its raw materials and the inflow of foreign direct investment has provided a source of additional income. More recently, as wages in China have risen, Chinese manufacturers have outsourced production to Africa. This has provided both employment for Africans and the opportunity to master new skills".

China's trade with Africa has risen from just US\$10 billion in 2000 to US\$220 billion today, which is more than three times the value of trade that the United States has with the continent.

However, since June shares on the Chinese stock market have plummeted and the government has devalued the national currency, the renminbi. This is symptomatic of fears of deep, structural problems in the Chinese economy.

There has already been a serious knock-on effect; figures produced in July show that there has been a 40% fall in the value of Chinese imports from Africa compared with a year ago.

Fathom Consulting has carried out an analysis of links between 19 African countries and China, and ranked them according to how exposed they are to China's slowdown. According to this analysis, Mozambique is the eighth most vulnerable country.

The three most vulnerable countries are Zambia, South Africa and Liberia.

The author of the report, Oliver White, told reporters that Zambia and Liberia were particularly exposed as foreign direct investment from China amounted to 7.5%

of domestic output. He added, “Zambia’s exports total 30% of its gross domestic product (GDP), whilst the figure for Liberia reaches 43%”.

Liberia is particularly under threat, as exports to China are the equivalent of almost 14% of GDP.

White explained that Mozambique is also closely linked with China, with exports to China equal to 9% of GDP and the country’s exports totalling 30% of GDP.

However, the country is less exposed than Zambia or Liberia because foreign direct investment from China only amounts to 2% of GDP.

White told reporters that the economic slowdown in China comes at a time when it is expected that the United States Federal Reserve Bank will tighten monetary policy by raising interest rates. This would have the effect of making the dollar more expensive and would suck investment away from the African continent. In addition, it would make debts measured in dollars more expensive to service.

Quantifying the effects of all these factors, the report forecasts that growth in sub-Saharan Africa will drop to 3% this year and 3.5% next year.

Mozambique is a member of the SADC and as a consequence thereof, it will be affected by problems in neighbouring South Africa, Zambia and Malawi, all of whom are higher ranked in the report. And if the world tips back into recession this will be a major factor in the country’s future prospects.

Mozambique’s economy proved very resilient in the face of the world recession

of 2007 and the sluggish growth rates in many countries since then. According to the World Bank, Mozambique’s GDP growth has averaged 7.4% over the last two decades.

Until the current doubts about the Chinese economic outlook, it was expected that Mozambique would continue with this impressive record. Speaking in Parliament in July, Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário said that Mozambique was on course to meet its target of an annual growth of 7.5%.

In May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that “over the medium-term, Mozambique is expected to remain one of the most dynamic economies in the continent, with growth rates that could average 8% over the 2016-19 period”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique/John Hughes

CTA calls on entrepreneurs to boost food production against external shocks

On Wednesday 9 September, the president of the Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA), Rogério Manuel, said that the devaluation of the metical would essentially necessitate a culture of domestic food production, proclaiming that he found the agricultural potential of Mozambique and its low productivity “intriguing”.

“The slide of the metical in the last few months imposes upon us the need to increase national production and productivity of goods and services, with a consequent increase in the availability of goods for both domestic consumption and export”, Manuel said at the opening of the

Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Forum in Gondola (Manica Province), remarking again on the paradoxical coexistence of Mozambique's vast agricultural potential and its dependence on food imports.

Manuel said that fragile agricultural production makes the country vulnerable to external shocks, and called for government policies that encourage agricultural financing on terms more suited to the sector.

He highlighted the importance of establishing "an effective link between the production areas and the consumption of what little is already produced", justifying Wednesday's meeting as a way of generating interest in the agricultural potential of Mozambique, exploring links among Mozambicans and establishing partnerships to promote food production businesses.

However, he also acknowledged the challenges that the sector faces and the need to define sustainable policies for increased productivity and competitiveness, maintaining that concerted action could boost the emerging raw materials and packaging industries.

Source: Lusa

BCI, IPEX and the EU-CPLP sign an agreement in support of internationalisation

Mozambican companies will now enjoy additional facilities to assist in the export of products and services to the markets of the Community of Portuguese Language Speaking Countries (CPLP). This comes after an agreement was signed during the course of the Facim for the internationalisation of companies.

The agreement was signed between Banco Comercial e de Investimentos (BCI), the Union of Exporters of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (EU-CPLP) and IPEX.

The initiative aims to ensure that all Mozambican companies, including SMEs, can access the markets within the CPLP, with more than 250 million potential customers.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of BCI, Paulo Sousa, the facilities encompassed in the agreement include support such as providing companies with export and investment advice; disclosure of export incentive schemes; identifying potential business partners; searching for and selecting potential suppliers; preparing market research plans and facilitating the promotion and introduction of products to overseas markets.

Source: O País

Investor Conference

According to the Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, the first Investor Conference, being held on 18 September in Nampula Province, will provide the opportunity for national and foreign businessmen to acquaint themselves with the potential that Nampula has to offer, specifically within the commercial agricultural sector.

"An Investor Conference is always important. It would be great for the people to participate to understand how to do business in Nampula. There are several areas of interest", he said.

The event is being held under the theme: "Investment, Path to Growth and Socio-Economic Development in Nampula". The

minister expects at least 300 people to participate in the event, including members of the government, businesspeople, academics and international co-operation partners.

The aim of the conference is to direct investments to the five priority areas, namely water supply, roads, energy, food security and land use.

The conference, organised by the provincial government of Nampula, is being held within the scope of the Provincial Development Strategic Plan for 2020.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Chimoio hosts CTA business forum

On Wednesday 9 September, the city of Chimoio (Manica Province) welcomed the Corporate Business Forum of Manica as an opportunity for business matching.

The event, organised by the CTA, afforded entrepreneurs the opportunity to interact with the government, to exchange experiences, share information and business opportunities and also establish partnerships.

Source: Notícias

CPLP banks discuss business continuity

On Wednesday 9 September, representatives of the central banks of the CPLP, gathered in Maputo to engage in a forum that seeks to share experiences that mitigate the impact of system failures on the continuity of banking institutions services.

The administrator of the Bank of Mozambique, Alberto Bila, who opened

the meeting, said that the business continuity system allows for the identification and management of current and future threats and also allows for the adaptation of proactive action that assists in mitigating the impact of incidents on systems in the functioning of institutions.

“The business continuity plans are increasingly taking on a crucial role in the survival of organisations in general and banks in particular. The central banks of the CPLP are exposed to threats whether derived from natural causes, human or technological errors and thus require proper training to maintain the robust levels of resilience”, said Bila.

In the late 1990s the Bank of Mozambique created the downtown business continuity system which focuses on information and communication technologies, and later added the business component.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Barclays cites Mozambique as one of Africa’s five “sleeping giants”

A Barclays bank economic analysis unit has identified Mozambique as one of the continent’s five “sleeping giants”.

“Barclays Africa Trade Index, which measures the opportunities and the openness to trade in 31 sub-Saharan economies, identifies a group of ‘sleeping giants’ who, after having gone through a significant phase of economic turmoil, are catching up and registering fast growth”, reads the research note distributed to British investors.

The five economies which the report says will see continuing economic development and an increase in private consumption in the coming years are: Ethiopia, the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Ghana and Tanzania.

With a total population of approximately 270 million people and an average annual growth of 7.3% in the last five years, “these five countries represent a significant business opportunity for British exporters in the coming years”, the report said.

“By 2020, these five countries will represent a population of about 325 million people, comparable to the United States’ population, and with economic growth rates that were previously exclusive to India and China”, said the director of the corporate banking business of Barclays, John Winter.

“Based on recent estimates, the expenditure of households in these countries should almost double, reaching over US\$1,000 per year in 2020; brands that start to settle in now will be well positioned for a rapid growth in 2020”, he adds.

In an index that registers unsatisfactory demand with the rapid expansion of value chains and the opening of markets, and reflects the absence of barriers to international trade, Angola is ranked seventh and Mozambique 15 in a list led by South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

Source: *Lusa*

Mozambique scores poorly in the Open Budget Survey 2015

According to the *Open Budget Survey 2015*, developed by the International Budget Partnership in association with the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP), Mozambique dropped by nine positions in the space of three years, earning the

country a spot on the list of the least transparent countries in the region in terms of public budget management.

Drawing on internationally accepted criteria developed by multilateral organisations, the Open Budget Survey uses 109 indicators to measure budget transparency. These indicators are used to assess whether the central government makes key budget documents available to the public in a timely manner and whether the data contained in these documents are comprehensive and useful.

Each country is given a score out of 100 which determines its ranking on the Open Budget Index – the world’s only independent and comparative measure of budget transparency.

Mozambique scored relatively poorly in the 2015 survey, putting the country behind Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Malawi and South Africa.

Mozambique scored 38 out of 100 in terms of transparency, indicating that the government provides the public with minimal budget information.

Mozambique’s score of 38 is moderately lower than the global average score of 45.

Moreover, the government has been inconsistent in which documents are made publicly available in a given year.

Since 2012, the government has increased the availability of budget information by:

- Publishing the Citizens Budget; and
- Improving the comprehensiveness of the Pre-Budget Statement.

However, the government has decreased the availability of budget information by:

- Failing to publish the Year-End Report in a timely manner; and
- Failing to publish a Mid-Year Review.

In terms of public participation, Mozambique scored 2 out of 100, indicating that the provision of opportunities for the public to engage in the budget process is weak. This is lower than the global average score of 25. The loan of US\$850 million contracted by Ematum and backed by the State without the approval of the public is the most relevant example of poor public participation in Mozambique.

In the budget oversight category, Mozambique scored 33 out of 100 by legislature and 42 out of 100 by auditor.

These results indicate that the legislature provides weak oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage of the budget cycle. The legislature does not have a specialised budget research office and, in both law and practice, the legislature is not consulted prior to the virement of funds in the Enacted Budget, spending any unanticipated revenue, and spending contingency funds that were not identified in the Enacted Budget.

The supreme audit institution provides limited budget oversight. Under the law, it has significant discretion to undertake audits as it sees fit. Moreover, the head of the supreme audit institution cannot be removed without legislative or judicial approval, which bolsters its independence. Finally, the supreme audit

institution is provided with insufficient resources to fulfil its mandate and has no quality assurance system in place.

The document makes the following recommendations:

Mozambique should prioritise the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish in a timely manner a Year-End Report and a Mid-Year Review; and
- Increase the comprehensiveness of the Executive's Budget Proposal by presenting more information on the classification of expenditures for future years and on the classification of expenditures for prior years.

Mozambique should prioritise the following actions to improve budget participation:

- Establish credible and effective mechanisms (i.e., public hearings, surveys, focus groups) for capturing a range of public perspectives on budget matters;
- Hold legislative hearings on the budgets of specific ministries, departments, and agencies as well as on audit reports at which testimony from the public is heard; and
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist the supreme audit institution to formulate its audit program and participate in audit investigations.

Mozambique should prioritise the following actions to strengthen budget oversight:

- Establish a specialised budget research office for the legislature;
- In both law and practice, ensure the legislature is consulted prior to the virement (*the process of transferring items from one financial account to another*) of funds in the Enacted Budget, the spending of any unanticipated revenue, and the spending of contingency funds that were not identified in the Enacted Budget; and
- Ensure the supreme audit institution has adequate funding to perform its duties, as determined by an independent body (e.g., the legislature or judiciary).

Commenting on the findings, Shamila Ali, deputy director for budget planning, said that the year 2015 was not typical, and considered it unsatisfactory as a study reference because of the post-election hiatus and the inauguration of a new government in the first half of the year, leading to delays at the level of defining and approving the State Budget.

“I do not agree with the study’s findings. The year 2015 was atypical and cannot be taken as a reference”, she said, while praising the study for its importance in assuring greater public participation in the country’s decisions.

For more information please visit:
www.openbudgetsurvey.org

Source: *O País/The International Budget Partnership/Lusa*

Chissano heads delegation to Angola: oil and gas on the agenda

On Monday 7 September, former president Joaquim Chissano arrived in Angola for a private three-day visit at the head of a Mozambican business delegation from the oil and natural gas sector. The delegation is seeking a market for natural gas produced in Mozambique and to exchange knowledge and experiences within the sector.

Chissano is scheduled to hold meetings with officials of the national oil company, Sonangol, which will focus on bilateral co-operation in the areas of oil and gas.

On Tuesday 8 September, a delegation of the Matola Gas Company (MGC) met with the Angolan Minister of Petroleum, José Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos, in Luanda.

The meeting was aimed at analysing a collaborative proposal on the development of the company.

After the meeting with Minister Vasconcelos, Chissano stressed that the MGC, which served only two industrial companies when it was established in 2004, currently has 38 clients.

“MGC currently has a power station and a centre for gas distribution in containers, which should get lower in number as the gas distribution network expands”, said Chissano.

The MGC is a Mozambican company that is dedicated to the transportation, distribution and sale of natural gas produced in Mozambique. Gas is used as a source of energy for several industrial units in Maputo Province.

MGC’s share capital is divided into a stake held by the Mozambican state,

through the state oil and gas company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, (ENH) and private Mozambican and foreign investors, in this case South African company Gigajoule International.

The company operates a natural gas pipeline of roughly 100 kilometres with a capacity of approximately eight million natural gas gigajoules per year through an established concession agreement with the government of Mozambique for distribution to Maputo Province.

Source: Angop/Macauhub

New team sworn in at the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy

On Wednesday 9 September, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Pedro Couto, swore in new senior members of staff as part of his overhaul of the ministry.

The new appointments are as follows:

National Directors:

- Moisés Paulino –National Director of Hydrocarbons and Fuels;
- Pascual Bacela –National Director of Energy;
- Eugenio Simbine – Director of Planning and Cooperation;
- Ilidio Bambo – Director for the Legal Office; and
- Dino Milisse – Director of the National Museum of Geology.

Deputy Directors:

- Marcelina Mataveia – National Deputy Director of Energy; and

- Almirante Dimas – National Deputy Director of Hydrocarbons and Fuels.

Ministry Advisors:

- Afonso Mabica; and
- Benjamin Chilenge.

Head of Departments:

- Laura Nhancale – Human Resources;
- Urbano Nhamússua – Administration and Finances;
- Gabinete de Ministro
- Pedro Langa – Minister’s Office; and
- Bruno Senguaio – Assistant to the minister.

The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (MIREME) was created by presidential decree number 1/2015 of 16 January as a result of a merger of the then Mineral Resources and Energy ministries.

Source: Folha de Maputo

LNG oversupply could impede FIDs

The two major projects for the construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in northern Mozambique could be delayed as the global market faces an impending oversupply, according to the energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Huge reserves of natural gas have been found in the Rovuma Basin off the Mozambican coast; about 200 trillion cubic feet of gas have been discovered by

consortiums led by the US company Anadarko and by ENI of Italy in adjoining areas. Anadarko intends to develop an onshore LNG facility on the Afungi Peninsula (in Cabo Delgado Province), while ENI intends to build a floating offshore LNG plant.

However, in an interview with *Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique*, Noel Tomnay, vice-president of global gas and LNG research for Wood Mackenzie, warned that: “there is a sense, with the downturn in the growth outlook for LNG, a window of opportunity may have been missed”.

Tomnay pointed out that key LNG purchasers in Asia are not in a rush to conclude new contracts since there will soon be an oversupply as projects already under construction come on-stream.

According to Wood Mackenzie’s research, global LNG supply is presently around 250 million metric tons per annum (mmtpa) and there is a further 140 mmtpa of capacity under construction.

Tomnay added that in the United States around 60 mmtpa of supply is currently under construction, with roughly 20 mmtpa still being marketed.

It is in this context that Anadarko is trying to tie up contracts for 12 mmtpa for its project which it hopes to bring online in 2020. It stated at the end of August that it has secured around 90% of the advance sales it needs in order to push ahead with the LNG project (through “heads of agreement”, or non-binding accords).

Interviewed by the news agency *Bloomberg*, the company’s country manager John Pepper said that the final investment decision (FID) “is predicated

on how quickly we can get the agreements from government”.

However, if Wood Mackenzie’s analysis is correct, global demand could also impact the timing of a final investment decision. Thus a delay in FID may not necessarily be down to the Mozambican government.

Tomnay told reporters that: “both companies remain positive that the final investment decision will be made by end of year. While that remains possible, it will be challenging to secure end user market for all the proposed LNG”.

He praised Anadarko, stating that it “has done a terrific marketing job and has achieved agreements over large swathes of its LNG output”. However, he warned that “buyers want to keep as many projects warm as possible”.

This may be less of a problem for the smaller ENI project, a proposed facility of between 2.5 and three mmtpa. The smaller volume could be underpinned by some portfolio players, intermediaries who trade LNG, matching supply and demand in markets around the world.

However, in a recent blog, Tomnay asked: “where are all the LNG project postponements?”

He pointed out that: “most companies continue to push ahead with their new LNG projects. Major project operators including Shell, PETRONAS, ENI, Anadarko, BP, ExxonMobil and Woodside all still claim that their projects will take FID before the end of 2016”.

For Tomnay, “some developers may be worried that a loss of momentum could favour their competitors and that a project postponement may be tantamount to a

cancellation. Postponement at some projects could invalidate contracts for the portion of LNG sold so far, and jeopardise hard-won stakeholder support, including from local communities”.

Low oil prices will also affect how the gas is used domestically. Tomnay told reporters that companies are conscious of the government’s desire to use some of the resource locally. He stated that some of these commitments could be met through developing fertiliser plants or power stations. However, he added that low oil prices make the economics of gas-to-liquid (turning the gas into products such as gasoline or diesel fuel) very difficult.

Tomnay pointed out that Canada and Mozambique are very much in competition over LNG supply, with many buyers weighing up the pros and cons of the two countries.

However, he was very positive about the long-term prospects for Mozambique, which “has a world class gas resource which will be developed, leading Mozambique to be one of the largest LNG producers in the world. It is a matter of when, not if”.

Commenting on the interest Mozambique received during the fifth licencing round for exploration and production of hydrocarbons in 15 blocks, Tomnay stressed, “I can understand why more and more companies want to hold a position in a resource rich country. But this is a long term plan”.

Seven companies applied to be operators including ENI, US giant ExxonMobil, the South African company Sasol, and the French company Total. *Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique/John Hughes*

Sasol CEO stresses Mozambique as key to regional expansion plans

Sasol Ltd appears to be focusing its spending power on Mozambique. Sasol, the world’s largest producer of liquid fuel from coal, has joined OAO Rosneft and Exxon Mobil in bidding for new exploration blocks in the southern African nation.

According to Chief Executive Officer David Constable, earlier in July Sasol partnered with Italy’s ENI SpA and Statoil ASA to bid for two of the blocks in the country’s fifth licensing round, while on a third it entered into a partnership with Mozambique’s state oil company. Sasol is also seeking approval for the development of two oil and two gas reservoirs, which could potentially supply a 400 megawatt (MW) power plant in the country.

Constable hopes that the government will approve its reservoir development plans before the end of the year, as Sasol plans on expanding its upstream resources in the region. The company’s other focus, as it conserves cash amid a slump in crude prices, is to have an ethane cracker in the US operational by 2018.

“Mozambique is very important for us”, said Constable. “We’re conserving cash as part of the response plan so that we can pay for the cracker and pay for Mozambique”.

Sasol is also supportive of South Africa’s programme to use natural gas to generate 3,126 MW of power, Constable said. The company’s involvement could range from sourcing LNG to building facilities to receive the imports, he said.

In addition to the government programme, “we’ve got commercial customers crying out for gas”, Constable said.

Source: Bloomberg

Engen’s new terminal in Beira port to boost regional fuel security

On Friday 11 September, Engen announced that it has opened a new 24,000 cubic metre terminal in Mozambique that will boost regional fuel security.

The terminal in Beira will supply petrol, diesel and lubricants to the southern African country where massive coal and offshore gas finds are stimulating economic growth, as well as neighbouring Zimbabwe and Botswana.

In November 2014, the company in charge of the construction works announced the expected improvement on the stability of fuel supply following the successful completion of the Engen Petroleum Depot Terminal Upgrade Project, located in the CFM Port in Beira (Sofala Province).

The upgrade project involved the implementation and connection of a pipeline from the Engen depot to the Companhia Do Pipeline Mozambique-Zimbabwe Limitada (CPMZ) Pump Station inside the port.

Source: Reuters/Media Ngage

Petromoc restructures Board of Directors – Fernando Uache is the new CEO

Fernando Uache has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of Petromoc, the Petroleum Company of Mozambique,

replacing Nuno de Oliveira, who has held the post since 2012.

The decision was taken by the shareholders of the company at a meeting on 26 August. Prior to his appointment, the company’s new CEO served as Director-General of Petromoc Sasol.

During said meeting it was decided to replace Eduardo dos Santos Magalhães as Director for Operations. He is replaced by Ovídio Rodolfo, the former Director-General at Inpetro.

Source: O País

Triton Minerals produces graphene from Mozambique graphite

Triton Minerals has successfully produced commercial grade graphene oxide from various graphite concentrate grades sourced from its projects in Mozambique.

Standard extraction methods readily allowed production of 250ml of high concentration graphene oxide solution from just 1.5 grams of Triton Mozambique Graphite (TMG).

Graphene oxide solution is sold commercially in a diluted form (concentration at 4mg/ml) and can sell for up to US\$400 for 250ml.

The government-sponsored laboratory in Singapore also successfully produced graphene powder by simply reducing (drying) the TMG graphene oxide solution.

These developments further expand the TMG product range. It also represents an opportunity for the company to carve a slice of a sector that is very much in its infancy.

In August, the company produced spherical graphite suitable for lithium ion batteries and energy storage applications as well as commencing trial production of enhanced graphite products at partner Yichang Xincheng Graphite Ltd's Dongyang factory in China.

Brad Boyle, managing director, commented: "The successful production of the Graphene Oxide and Graphene through standard industrial techniques, once again demonstrates the high quality and versatility of the TMG products.

"The remarkable properties of Graphene are well known and now that TMG has shown to be ideally suited to create the wonder material, this now creates further possibilities for Triton to expand their market presence and to explore an even broader client base and revenue streams".

With the recent discovery of a new zone with visible jumbo flake graphite, the company is well placed to expand its market presence and to explore a broader customer and application base and revenue stream.

Triton had US\$8.6 million in cash as at 30 June 2015.

Source: Proactive Investors Australia

Xtract Resources adjusts Manica purchase terms to limit future dilution

Xtract Resources has re-negotiated the terms of its acquisition of the Manica gold project in Mozambique to stop bigger than expected dilution from future share payments.

The price of the deal remains at US\$12.5 million, but vendor Auroch Minerals has agreed to take a set number of shares,

worth US\$4 million, to fix the potential dilution of Xtract's current share capital to 11%.

The cash consideration rises to US\$7 million, from US\$4.5 million. Of that, US\$2 million will now come from project finance with a further US\$1 million to be retained for any potential tax liability.

Xtract's Chief Executive, Jan Nelson, said that, in addition to reducing unnecessary dilution, the use of project finance would conserve cash resources.

Discussions with lenders are at an advanced stage, he added, with firm proposals expected over the next three months.

Manica includes the Fair Bride open pit, where a bankable feasible study (BFS) is due in six months and production a year later.

"We are also pleased to report that the Manica project remains on track to commence operations in 16 months, with gold production of 50koz per annum, in accordance with previous announcements", Nelson said.

Source: Proactive Investors

Manica Province wants 85 mining licenses cancelled

The Provincial Directorate of Mineral Resources and Energy in Manica Province has proposed the cancellation of 85 mining licenses so far this year, citing various irregularities.

These irregularities include: failure to provide information on production, inactivity in the concession areas and forfeiture of mining titles, among others.

Approximately half of the proposed cancellations pertain to Manica district, considered the most critical in the province in terms of exploitation of natural resources.

The Provincial Director of Mineral Resources and Energy in Manica, Olavo Deniasse, says that, of the 39 proposed cancellations in the district, 10 were cancelled due to lack of renovation, and 11 more may be cancelled in the near future.

Manica Province has 12 small-scale mining licenses, 27 mining concessions and 154 licenses to prospect and explore.

Source: Notícias

Grupo Videre just keeps growing

The Grupo Videre owned by a former minister and member of the ruling Frelimo party, Alcinda Abreu, and his two sons, Dingane Abreu Mamadhusen and Chivambo Mamadhusen, is forging ahead in Mozambique's energy sector.

The group has just incorporated a new subsidiary in Maputo under the name of Grupo Videre Mining, specialising in exploring and producing both minerals and oil and gas products.

Founded in 2012, Grupo Videre is already active in mining. It has a partnership with the American RHB Group, with which it founded the mining services firm CMS in Pemba in the north of the country. It also holds a stake in Consolidated Oil and Gas Services (COGS), the Mozambique affiliate of the South African firm Mining Oil and Gas Services.

Source: Africa Intelligence

Mapai substation is ready

The construction of the Mapai substation infrastructure is officially complete. The new substation has the capacity to connect more than 2,500 consumers in regions such as Dindiza, Combomune, Machaila, Massangena and Chicualacuala, amongst others located to the north of Gaza Province.

The project was funded by the government, in partnership with the Korea Exim Bank. The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$52 million, which was used for the construction of the substation and a feeder line at 110 kilovolts (kV) from Lionde.

The unit has two 110kV panels, seven 33kV panels and a new transformer with the capacity of 16 megavolt amperes (MVA).

Data from Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM) indicates that the Mapai substation has designated two lines of 33kV for Massangena and Chicualacuala. These lines have reportedly been completed and span a distance of 202 and 85 kilometres, respectively.

Owing to its strategic location, the substation will also have the ability to drain energy from the Kuvaninga Thermal Plant (40 MW), in the district of Chokwe. In the near future it is expected that the substation will also be able to redirect power from the Central Hídrica de Massingir.

The next step of this project will be to electrify the administrative posts.

The electrification of the northern areas of Gaza Province will significantly improve the lives of the locals. Medical units will

now have the ability to offer extended care hours and the education sector will officially launch evening classes. The retail and banking sectors are also expected to benefit from this project.

Source: Jornal Noticias

Zambia begins importing electricity from Ressano Garcia

On Wednesday 9 September, Zambia's power company Zesco began importing 148MW of electricity from a gas fired generator based in Ressano Garcia in southern Mozambique.

The gas is extracted from the Pande and Temane fields in Inhambane Province and piped to the Mozambique-South Africa border where the British based company Aggreko has its generator. The electricity is then transmitted to Zambia along the existing transmission lines of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

Zambia's decision to import the electricity is in response to a severe power shortage. This is not only affecting citizens, but is also hitting the key mining sector.

Strangely, the Zambian government previously claimed that the power Zesco is importing comes from an Aggreko ship moored at Beira.

This was the story given to the Zambian media on Tuesday 8 September, by government spokesperson, Vincent Mwale. However, when *Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique* contacted Aggreko, the company confirmed that the power comes not from Beira, but from Ressano Garcia.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Casimiro Nyusi's new South African partner

The Grupo Namatil, a firm in which Casimiro Nyusi (brother of Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi) has held a stake since January, has found two new partners.

In August the firm teamed up with South Africa's Palace Group, which acquired a 67% interest, and the Mozambican company based in Matola, Betaworks Consultoria e Construcao Civil (5%) to form a joint venture named Namatil Energia.

The venture will specialise in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity as well as in electrical equipment.

As for the Palace group, it was founded in 1987 by Mbuso Dlamini, who still runs the company. It specialises in civil engineering and construction and works primarily for the South African government (construction of hospitals, electricity sub-stations, etc.) and for the national power utility, Eskom.

For its part, Betaworks belongs to Mozambican national Yolanda Alberto Muchabjewho also works for Palace Group as its business manager. Grupo Namatil was set up in late 2014 by lawyer Antonio Salvador Nkamate; Muilene Lagos Lidimu, who is close to President Nyusi; and Simbili Alberto Puchar Mtumuke, son of general Atanasio Salvador Mtumuke.

Source: Africa Intelligence

Swazi port proposal via canal no hoax

Officials in Swaziland have set the record straight about plans for a ZAR30 billion inland port and a canal linking the country to the sea.

According to recent statements by Gideon Dlamini, the country's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Trade, the project is not a hoax. Admitting that the canal would be three times longer than originally announced, the minister also said that the undertaking was not to be a private project – as initially believed – but would be carried out in partnership with the government of Swaziland.

“Sceptics always look at the world through dirty glasses”, Minister Dlamini told reporters on Sunday 6 September.

Correcting initial reports, the minister said that the Swazi port is to be located 70 kilometres inland and not 26 kilometres from the Indian Ocean. He said that the facility would outshine the large and long-established port of Maputo, which is located only 50 kilometres or less from any possible Swazi canal which would open to the sea. According to the government, the Swazi port would also put the busy port of Durban (South Africa) to shame.

“The problem with the Maputo and Durban ports is their shallowness. These two ports are not deep enough to handle heavy ships and we have received reports that there are ships that face difficulty docking in these ports because they are not deep enough”, he said.

“The proposal for our seaport shows that it will be very deep and this would enable bigger ships that cannot dock in both Maputo and Durban to come here. The

seaport that we will have will be of first world status and will have better facilities compared to Maputo and Durban. The deeper the seaport the better, and ours will be better than Maputo and Durban”, Minister Dlamini said.

In March, the Maputo port's management company Sociedade de Desenvolvimento do Porto de Maputo (MPDC) commenced a dredging operation to increase the port's depth from 11 to 14 metres. Ships of 80,000 tons will be able to dock at Maputo. MPDC is targeting cargo movement of 40 million tons annually by 2020. MPDC is a private partnership between the Mozambique state port and rail company Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique (CFM), Grindrod of South Africa, DP World of the United Arab Emirates, and Mozambique's Gestores.

The port of Durban, Africa's busiest shipping terminal and the Southern Hemisphere's fourth largest container terminal, is 11.8 metres at its shallowest point. Development plans call for dredging to 15 metres to accommodate the world's largest container ships. Behemoth cargo vessels and cruise ships already regularly call on Durban, which like Maputo, has for centuries been a fixture on the world's sea lanes.

No known international investors or firms familiar with port and canal building and operations have been attached to the Swazi project, which has been proposed by two local businessmen. The Swazi government has dismissed concerns about the port's practicality and viability.

“Today we have mobile phones but people were sceptical when manufacturers announced the coming of this technology. Even with airplanes, people were sceptical about them, but

they turned out to be a tremendous success”, Minister Dlamini told reporters. He did not reveal where financing for the port and canal would originate.

The site selected for the port is centred in a protected conservation area that is home to two major game parks. Environmentalists say that the area would be devastated by the intrusion of major industrial development. An enormous canal at least 15 metres deep to duplicate the depth planned for Durban would have to be built, mostly on Mozambican territory.

Mozambique’s government has not been officially notified about the project, even though two-thirds of the massive canal would be dug through Mozambique, somewhere south of Maputo. Commenting on the proposal, *Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique* described the project as unnecessary and technically more complicated than proposers have acknowledged.

“Canals are fine for transporting goods over flat terrain – but if there are hills in the way, locks must be built, dramatically increasing the costs. Building a canal with a system of locks capable of holding ocean-going vessels would be a massive engineering undertaking”, the agency noted.

To raise and lower ships from the ocean to the port, which will be 275 metres above sea level, more than a series of locks is required. A lake mid-route is needed to facilitate the process. An artificial lake, Gatun Lake, was excavated to enable the Panama Canal to operate.

A lake does exist in Mozambique that could theoretically be used, the Pequenos Libombos Lake, west of Maputo.

However, to connect with the lake the Swazi canal would have to be diverted northward rather than moving in a straight easterly direction to the sea. The canal would also have to cross the Mbuluzi River that feeds the Pequenos Libombos. The large river would have to be diverted across a section of southern Mozambique or made to flow underground beneath the canal.

Minister Dlamini seemed unconcerned with these technical matters when he said, “The architects who presented the project to us demonstrated how this would be overcome and we were impressed. Surveys have been done and the steepness of the terrain will be dealt with”.

Source: The Citizen

President Nyusi praises Portucel for investing in rural Mozambique

On Tuesday 8 September, President Filipe Nyusi inaugurated the largest eucalyptus nursery in Africa, at Lua, in Ile district (Zambézia Province).

The eucalyptus trees grown in the nursery will eventually be used to produce paper in an investment by the company Portucel-Mocambique. 80% of the shares in this company are held by the Portuguese paper giant Portucel-Soporcel, and the remaining 20% are held by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank group which focuses on funding for the private sector in developing countries.

Portucel-Soporcel claims that this is its most modern tree nursery. It covers 7.5 hectares, and has an installed production capacity of more than 12 million plants a year. Currently it employs more than 130 Mozambican workers.

Total investment in the nursery was over MT300 million (approximately US\$7.5 million at current exchange rates). But Portucel says this is only the start. As the project is ramped up towards production, the total investment will increase to over MT96 billion meticaís (US\$2.4 billion).

This is expected to create at least 7,000 jobs in the provinces of Zambézia and Manica, where the trees will be planted. The plantations will cover 160,000 hectares in Zambézia and 270,000 hectares in Manica.

The project will take a long time to reach maturity. Portucel's factory producing cellulose, the raw material for paper, will not be complete until the end of 2023.

During the inauguration ceremony, President Nyusi told the crowd that: "this undertaking is yours, and you are the ones who are going to work here". The majority of jobs at the nursery are held by Mozambicans – President Nyusi said that he had only found one Portuguese technician training the Mozambican workers.

"If you learn quickly, he [the Portuguese technician] will go home to his family, and you will do the work yourselves", the President said.

President Nyusi praised Portucel for locating the nursery in a rural area. However, he was sure that some criticism would be raised on the grounds that: "Ile (*District in Zambezia Province*) is just bush" – but it was where the people lived, and he urged the residents to take good care of the nursery.

He warned that investors are unlikely to stay in Mozambique, if their projects are not safe. "If some smart guy, some

scoundrel, lights a match and burns this all down, will you have jobs?" President Nyusi asked.

He praised Portucel for its courage in investing in Mozambique, "particularly in this province which is in need of investment".

President Nyusi said that the Portucel forestry and paper project fitted perfectly into the government's Five-Year Programme for the 2015-2019 period, and would have "multiplier effects on the Mozambican agricultural and industrial fabric". The project "will certainly promote the modernisation and industrialisation of our economy".

The chairperson of Portucel-Soporcel, Pedro Queiroz Pereira, said that the company does not intend to displace any communities already living in the areas where the trees will be planted, and that a third of the area requested by Portucel will be allocated for community use.

The chairman of Portucel-Mozambique, Pedro Moura, said that over the next nine years the company plans to build a pulp factory in the Mocuba district of Zambézia Province. Plans also include the generation of electricity from the biomass produced via forestry and industrial activity.

According to Moura, the pulp factory will be built within the Mocuba Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Information issued by Portucel-Mozambique indicates that, once operational, this project should contribute approximately US\$1 billion to Mozambique's balance of trade.

The company is adopting a mosaic concept, where industrial forestry areas sit alongside blocks of native forest and share space with community farming activities, housing and environmental protection areas.

Source: Lusa/Macauhub/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Investors express interest in recovering Companhia do Buzi

A group of investors have expressed interest in recovering Companhia do Búzi (CB), located in Sofala Province, which has been at a standstill since 1994 due to the obsolete state of its equipment, said provincial governor Maria Helena Taipo.

The governor told reporters that the group of investors expressed their interest in the company during the Facim.

In addition to the interest shown in the recovery of Companhia do Búzi, which was once a major sugar producer in Mozambique, Governor Taipo also mentioned an investment in a factory for processing tomatoes, also in Búzi.

In 2011 an announcement was made that Companhia do Búzi would start producing sugar again in the first half of 2014 after a 15-year standstill.

The company's president, Jorge Petiz, said at the time that the business plan for this project, which would involve an investment of US\$120 million, was being drafted by Portuguese bank BPI, which will also negotiate and set up its financing operation, with an appropriate capital structure by the end of the year.

Açucareira do Búzi is one of six sugar factories that previously existed in Mozambique during the colonial period

and, if it is recovered, will increase the number of sugar factories in Mozambique to a total of five. Investors have yet to be found for Açucareira do Luabo, in Zambézia Province.

Mozambique is currently served by four sugar manufacturers, Maragra and Xinavane in the south, and Mafambisse and Marromeu, in the central region.

Source: Macauhub

European Union bans goat meat from Tete

Agriculture and Food Security authorities in Tete have accused the European Union (EU) of blocking the export of the province's goat meat to the European market by imposing excessive restrictions.

According to the Director of Agriculture and Food Security, Américo Conceição, EU member countries require, for example, that animals are not only vaccinated against foot and mouth disease, but also that they have never had it. "They also demand that the animals are fed only grass and never animal feed or synthetic foods", said Conceição.

The most obvious, added Conceição, was that the production surplus was to be exported, for example to Europe, as is the case in many African countries in general and Southern Africa in particular, specifically Botswana, but that cannot be due to EU requirements.

"Potential buyers of Tete goat meat even want to interfere with the slaughter, processing and transportation", which in Conceição's opinion is not justifiable. "No producer is able to meet the European demands fully", he said.

“The result is that many goat farmers and even cattle farmers in Tete remain poor, given that their prices are not competitive. Even large-scale producers and those processing the meat with modern means complain about the lack of a market capable of giving profits able to outweigh the investment”, he added.

Tete Province is known throughout Mozambique for its goat meat, which is consumed across the country. Farmers nevertheless have surplus to export.

Source: Notícias/Folha de Maputo

Government and industry discuss the cost of plastic bags

Mozambican consumers will have to pay for the plastic bags that were previously distributed free of charge in shops and markets, and the government is currently discussing a fixed price with the country’s plastic producers.

On Wednesday 9 September, the deputy minister of land, environment and rural development, Ana Senda, met with traders and plastic bag manufacturers in Maputo to discuss the government’s recently approved regulations to manage and control the ubiquitous bags. The government hopes to discourage the indiscriminate use of plastic bags and thus protect the environment.

Deputy Minister Senda said that the discussions sought to establish the cost of producing the bags, and on that basis a price will be set for selling them.

The government regulations, which will come into force early next year, six months after they were published in the official gazette, the *Boletim da Republica*, ban the free distribution of

plastic bags. The staff at shops and other sales outlets must now ask consumers whether they want plastic bags, and if they do, they must be charged for them. At the check-out, staff must inform consumers of the cost of plastic bags, and this sum must be shown on the receipts.

The government decree bans the import and sale of plastic bags that are less than 30 micrometres thick. Exceptions to this rule are the plastic bags used to weigh foodstuffs, and those specifically used to hold urban solid waste.

Recycled plastic is regarded as a health hazard. No plastic bag with a recycled content of more than 40% may be used in establishments that handle foodstuffs.

Deputy Minister Senda told the meeting that discussions are being held to make traders aware of the new regulations. “We are going to the markets with a programme to make them aware of the changes”, she said. “We are going to the large supermarkets and the small supermarkets. We shall also go to the bakers’ associations, since we know that many plastic bags are used in the bakeries”.

The government is encouraging, as alternatives, the use of bags or baskets made of other material (such as paper, straw or cloth). Deputy Minister Senda said there is great potential for expanding the use of straw baskets, which could encourage the growth of an artisanal industry.

Although the makers of plastic bags said they are willing to obey the new regulations, the South African supermarket chain, Shoprite, raised some objections. Shoprite representative Maria Rodriguez claimed that there would be

difficulties in limiting the use of plastic bags.

“We tried to sell plastic bags, but we had to retreat, and continue to give them away”, she claimed. “Since we will now have to sell the bags again, it would be very good to regulate this”.

The Shoprite supermarket in Maputo caters for approximately 3,000 clients a day, and on average they each take more than two plastic bags.

The deputy minister said the decision to restrict the use of plastic bags is “irreversible”. Indeed, were it possible, the government would have banned plastic bags completely. Instead, it had opted for gradual elimination, and compulsory sale of the bags, in the hope that this would raise citizens’ awareness of the need to protect the environment.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambique will have just three international airports

According to the Chairman of the state airport manager, Aeroportos de Moçambique (AdM), the country’s international airports will be reduced to three as the southern region will be

served only by Maputo International Airport, the central region by Beira Airport and the northern region by Nacala Airport.

Emanuel Chaves also said that the remaining airports – Nampula, Pemba and Vilankulos – will no longer receive international traffic.

The main aim of this measure is to transform Nacala International Airport into an international centre for passenger distribution, which will compete in the market with the airports of Johannesburg (South Africa), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).

Speaking at a Facim seminar to publicise Nacala Airport, Chaves stressed that Mozambique will not be the first country to take such action. South Africa and Ethiopia have been aware of the economic benefits of reducing points of international arrival and departure in their respective territories for some time now.

South Africa, for example, despite being a much larger territory than Mozambique and having much more international air traffic, only has three international airports, while Ethiopia has a single point of entry and exit by air.

Source: Folha de Maputo/Macauhub

POLITICS

Chissano insists on meeting between President Nyusi and Dhlakama

As mentioned in the previous Rhula Weekly Media Review, former president Joaquim Chissano has thrown his weight behind calls for an urgent meeting between President Filipe Nyusi and Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama.

Speaking on Thursday 3 September, at a Rádio Moçambique seminar, Chissano urged the public to continue efforts to convince Dhlakama to accept an invitation for a face-to-face meeting issued by President Nyusi on 24 August.

“He (Dhlakama) demanded an agenda and an agenda was presented”, Chissano pointed out. The President’s initial invitation simply asked Dhlakama to come to Maputo to discuss “matters of peace and development”.

When Dhlakama claimed that this was “too vague”, and insisted on a specific agenda, President Nyusi responded with a proposed agenda containing three points – analysis of the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities (signed on 5 September 2014), analysis of the dialogue between the government and Renamo (now suspended on Dhlakama’s orders), and “miscellaneous”.

Dhlakama rejected this proposal, and on 27 August he declared that: “There’s nothing! Forget it!”

However, for Chissano the agenda was not a problem. “The important thing is to hold the meeting and that it discusses everything”, he said. “They should clarify matters to each other, and take a

decision. We want peace. We don’t want to be cannon fodder, for bullets either of Renamo or of the government”.

Points on the agenda could be discussed and changed during the meeting itself, Chissano added. “An agenda is a piece of paper which people produce to give some indication of how to carry out discussions”, he said. “But when you want an open discussion, looking for solutions, the agenda can be corrected during the discussion”.

People should stop thinking that this was a question of two enemies talking, he urged.

“He (Dhlakama) calls me brother, and I call him brother. So it’s not a discussion between two enemies. It’s a family, and if the family is having a discussion, there’s no reason to say ‘this is the agenda’”.

He pointed out that, in the past, much of what Renamo brought to the discussion table had been accepted. “Even when this means moving the goalposts, this did not prevent the discussions taking place”. (*The most striking example of this was the government’s compliance with almost all of Renamo’s demands for sweeping changes in the 2014 electoral legislation*).

The key issue is preventing the loss of human life. Chissano recalled hearing Dhlakama say that: “it doesn’t matter if 20, 40 or 200 people die, that’s not important. What’s important is the objective”.

Chissano rejected this blatant disregard for life. “We have to value the lives of

each and every Mozambican”, he said. “And each Mozambican must do all in his power to ensure that nobody else dies”.

Chissano objected to Dhlakama’s description of the negotiations concerning the peace agreement, which the two men signed in October 1992, as “playing around”.

“I heard him say that he played with Armando Guebuza (the chief government negotiator in the peace talks, and later Chissano’s successor as president), and that he played with me. I didn’t know that he was playing with me”, said Chissano. “I thought that he was working seriously with me. I never thought about games”.

Hence today Dhlakama “should not meet with the President to play, but to work and to reflect”. Chissano acknowledged the fact that any meeting between President Nyusi and Dhlakama could potentially encounter ambiguity and differences in opinions and viewpoints.

However, he maintains that this should not be an obstacle, “because it is necessary to continue looking for consensus, since that’s what reconciliation is”. What is important, Chissano stressed, “is what unites us as Mozambicans, so that we minimise what divides us”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

“Mozambique is sitting on a ticking time bomb” – Raul Domingos

Raul Domingos, the former second-in-command of Renamo and negotiator for the Rome Peace Agreement, has

warned that, a year after signing the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, Mozambique is “sitting on a ticking time bomb”.

“One does not need to hold up a magnifying glass or be a political analyst to see what is clear: peace in Mozambique cannot be taken for granted, and the country is sitting on a ticking time bomb”, said Domingos, who is currently the president of the extra-parliamentary Party for Peace, Democracy and Development (PDD).

According to the Domingos, the negotiations leading up to the signing of the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities (on 5 September 2014) presented an opportunity, which has since been missed, for securing a lasting understanding of peace in the country.

“They were fruitless negotiations because the reasons that led to the conflict between 2013 and 2014 still prevail – in particular the lack of electoral legitimacy of political institutions and the fact that the country is a one-party state and two armed parties exist”, Domingos notes.

Domingos believes that the negotiations between the government and Renamo should have been used to rethink the political system and deepen local government processes as a way of easing the political tension.

“The elections have indicated that there is an important sector of the country that votes for the opposition because they do not feel that they are represented by political institutions. This is because the current political system is based on the principle of ‘winner takes all’. This

situation could be solved by returning power to the provinces,” he said.

In Domingos’ opinion, the definitive stabilisation of Mozambique is also being hampered by the fact that the current head of state, President Filipe Nyusi, has been “drifting” owing to the fact that he is attempting to deal with several factions fighting for power within Frelimo.

According to Domingos, “He is a new president of a Frelimo, who comes with all the vices associated with 40 years of one-party rule, and with two or three groups fighting amongst themselves for power. He is adrift, as can be seen in the inconsistency of his (*policy*) positions”.

The president of PDD believes that the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities was only reached for convenience, because the then-president, Armando Guebuza, wanted to give the impression that he had left office with the country at peace.

“Many advances that had eluded negotiators for months were achieved at meteoric speed as a result of pressure from a president who was leaving office, and needed to give legitimacy to the elections that were about to take place”, Domingos says.

Source: Lusa

Dhlakama is “an enemy of the Mozambican people”

On Friday 4 September, Frelimo declared that the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, is behaving like a terrorist, and is “the enemy of peace and the development of our country”.

During a press conference in Maputo, the Frelimo Central Committee Secretary for Mobilisation and Propaganda, Damiao José, described Dhlakama as “an enemy of the Mozambican people who wants to destroy the achievements of the people at all costs, just as he did during the 16-year war of destabilisation”.

Despite signing the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, “today Dhlakama refuses to accept that his armed men be unconditionally disarmed and integrated into the police and armed forces”.

José pointed out that it was completely unprecedented for a political party represented in the National Assembly to also possess armed men “who threaten citizens, and kidnap, beat and murder them”.

José claimed that Dhlakama is carrying out instructions from his foreign “bosses”. When asked who these “bosses” are, and who is providing Renamo with its money, weapons and other supplies, José declined to answer.

“Renamo knows where the money comes from”, he said, “Sooner or later Mozambicans will know who its bosses are”.

According to unconfirmed reports Dhlakama’s militia has been seen sporting new uniforms and weaponry. Additionally, José accused Renamo of obtaining a fleet of new cars.

Dhlakama certainly does not seem to be short of money. The cost of funding his private army and his constant movements across central and northern Mozambique would certainly be greater

than his one known source of income – the monthly subsidy Renamo receives from the State Budget by virtue of its parliamentary representation.

Asked why the government, which controls the borders, has failed or refused to stop Renamo from receiving new equipment, and why it has not frozen Renamo bank accounts, José declined to answer.

Renamo's latest threat against the rule of law involves the creation of what it calls "general staff headquarters" for its militia in Morrumbala district (Zambézia Province). On Thursday 3 September, Renamo spokesperson, António Muchanga, told reporters that the barracks had been established the previous day. He did not reveal the size of this new military installation, or how many men it holds.

Muchanga said that the creation of these military headquarters was decided, not by Dhlakama, but by the recent meeting of the party's demobilised fighters, held in Quelimane (Zambézia Province).

That meeting ended on 21 August. So, if the new Renamo barracks do exist, it cannot consist of anything more than a collection of flimsy huts as there has not been enough time to build anything more substantial.

José was unable to confirm Muchanga's claim. Since Frelimo certainly has members in Morrumbala, they should be able to confirm or deny whether Renamo has built any new installations. But when reporters put this to José, he merely replied: "what we know is what we heard. On the ground the people

responded with fear when they heard about a new barracks".

The Renamo claim was "a provocation against the defence and security forces", he said. "It is intolerable that, in a country ruled by law, there is a party with a force of armed men, whose leader threatens to set up new barracks".

José accused Dhlakama of being "allergic to dialogue". Nonetheless, he appealed to the Renamo leader to display some common sense, to look into his conscience "and forget, for the time being, his unbounded ambition for power".

Frelimo has not given up on dialogue, José added, since it has "a duty to do all in its power to create conditions for the well-being of Mozambicans". The party would thus continue to urge Dhlakama to accept President Filipe Nyusi's invitation for a face-to-face meeting.

José remains confident that "not all the followers of Renamo want war".

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Maputo Archbishop calls for humility and tolerance amongst political leaders

On Friday 4 September, the Archbishop of Maputo, Dom Francisco Chimoio, called on political leaders to be humble and tolerant in the search for lasting peace in the country, declaring that the Mozambican people are tired of suffering.

The Archbishop was speaking to reporters following a meeting with President Filipe Nyusi, to whom he was

addressing an invitation to attend the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Maputo, held on Sunday 6 September.

“For lasting peace in the country, we need to see the gift of humility and tolerance prevail amongst our leaders”, said Chimoio.

Chimoio pointed out that Mozambican Catholics are concerned with the uncertain scenario regarding peace in Mozambique and they call for a permanent solution.

“We are concerned, but hopeful that the situation will change”, said Chimoio.

The instability and uncertainty in the country is due to threats issued by Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, to govern by force in the six central and northern provinces of the country in which the movement claims victory in the general elections of 15 October 2014.

Dhlakama’s refusal to accept an invitation from President Filipe Nyusi to attend a face-to-face meeting in Maputo has reportedly heightened fears amongst the local population that peace is in the balance.

Source: Lusa

President Nyusi and Prime Minister Rosário praise the role of Catholic Church in Mozambique

On Sunday 6 September, President Filipe Nyusi praised the role of the Catholic Church in the preservation of peace and national reconciliation.

He was speaking at a mass held at the Catholic cathedral in the western city of

Tete, where, on Monday 7 September, he presided over the central celebrations of “Victory Day”, the 41st anniversary of the agreement on independence signed between Frelimo and the Portuguese government in Lusaka, on 7 September 1974.

President Nyusi noted that the Catholic Church recently called on the general public to value all people, particularly those who have been identified as being the most vulnerable and in need. “We are renewing our strength so that we can live in communion and reconciliation”, he said.

The President’s attendance at the mass in Tete coincided with celebrations in Maputo of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic Archdiocese of Maputo.

President Nyusi was represented at the Maputo jubilee ceremonies, held at the Machava stadium, by Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário, who called on all religious believers, and on society at large, to take concrete action to maintain and consolidate peace.

Prime Minister Rosário told the thousands of attendees that only with effective peace could all Mozambicans continue to “work wonders” in the coming years. He was referring to the theme of the Catholic celebrations, which was: “Give thanks to the Lord for the wonders achieved during these years”.

“I would like to invite all those present to exalt and put into practice the noblest values of believers, such as forgiveness, reconciliation, friendship, love for one’s neighbour and concord”, said the Prime Minister. “These are some of the pillars

for strengthening a stable, peaceful and united society”.

“My brothers, if we threaten and kill each other, we will gain nothing”, he warned. “With hatred, rancour, rage, and jealousy towards each other, there will never be harmony in our families or development in the country”.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to praise the Catholic Church for its role in educating the communities, demonstrating the importance of unity, peace, social well-being and mutual understanding.

The Archbishop of Maputo, Francisco Chimoio, said that national unity and the common good cover all members of Mozambican society, and nobody was exempted from co-operating. National unity is built every day with the participation of all Mozambicans, without exclusion, he declared.

“If socio-cultural and political inclusion are the pillars of national unity, the path to its consolidation is the sincere search for true dialogue, where each one feels free to express his own opinions”, professed the archbishop.

Source: Folha de Maputo/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

“There are still Mozambicans who think of a country cut into pieces” – Nyusi

On Monday 7 September, President Filipe Nyusi said he regrets that “there are still some Mozambicans who do not understand that only united are we the Mozambique that we are and that we want to be”.

Addressing a rally in the western city of Tete, at the central “Victory Day” celebrations, President Nyusi, in a clear reference to Renamo, said that: “there are still Mozambicans who continue to think of a country cut into pieces, as if a living being, such as our country, could survive without some of its limbs and vital organs”.

They are Mozambicans who do not understand that it was unity that led to Mozambican independence, he continued. It was unity that brought Mozambicans from across the country to fight on the Tete front against the colonial army in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In Tete, “the battle was fought that strengthened the idea that Frelimo was in fact a national body and Mozambicans of all origins came to express the will of the people to be free of the colonial yoke”, he declared.

Mozambicans fought against colonialism without discrimination of any kind, not only on the battle fronts, but also in the clandestine networks in the cities, or in the diaspora. Thus the benefits resulting from independence were not for any particular group “but for everyone, feeding the entire nation”, he insisted.

President Nyusi also paid tribute to “our natural allies, Zambia and Tanzania”, who had provided the rear bases from which the Frelimo guerrilla army could operate. They had proved “critical in achieving our objectives. If they had never opened their doors to us, we would have had enormous difficulties in carrying our message of liberation, embodied in our fighters, to Tete”.

But President Nyusi warned that there were also Mozambicans who live on the sweat of others, through “the exploitation of man by man” against which the Frelimo guerrillas had fought. Today that phenomenon is known as corruption and it is “an ally of the poverty of our people, an enemy of development, and responsible for social inequalities that cannot be justified”.

Today, 40 years after independence, “it makes no sense for Mozambicans to oppose each other and fail to reach an understanding”, said the President. “Nobody will be right, and not even I will claim to be right, if Mozambique does not live in peace”.

The only enemy that Mozambique must fight against is poverty, he insisted. “We fight against poverty through the work of all of us, with each one contributing through his or her skills. The best way we can celebrate the victory over colonialism is to commit ourselves to this work”.

“Nobody must exempt themselves from this challenge of the moment, under whatever pretext”, he urged.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Governor of Zambézia calls for defence of national unity

On Monday 7 September, the Governor of Zambézia, Abdul Razak, urged all Mozambicans to defend national unity, as a basic requirement for the preservation of peace.

He was speaking in the provincial capital, Quelimane, at a “Victory Day” ceremony.

According to Governor Razak, the country’s achievements are the result of independence and of the commitment and sacrifices made by Mozambicans. “Victory Day” should therefore be a time for reflection, about the construction of a common destiny for all Mozambicans without any exclusion.

The mayor of Quelimane, Manuel de Araujo, who is a leading figure in the opposition Mozambican Democratic Movement (MDM), has accused the government of following a policy of exclusion.

However, Governor Razak stressed that, in reality the government is committed to inclusion. When it builds a school, a hospital, a road or a power line, it is to serve all Mozambicans, he insisted.

“We urge everyone to be architects of peace in their families and in society”, said the governor. “We urge the leader of Renamo [Afonso Dhlakama] to agree to enter into dialogue with President Filipe Nyusi in order to preserve the peace which guarantees the development and well-being of all”.

Resorting to war only brings destruction, he warned. “Mozambicans want a united and indivisible Mozambique”, Governor Razak added. “We must continue to cultivate national unity and defend the integrity of our sovereignty”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Milange district administrator defies Dhlakama

On Monday 7 September, the administrator of Milange district (Zambézia Province), Alves Mathe,

publicly denied claims made by Afonso Dhlakama that he had run away from the district.

On 30 August, speaking in the town of Mopeia, Dhlakama boasted that he was beginning to take over governance in the six provinces where he claimed Renamo had won the October 2014 general elections – including Zambézia.

“All that remains is to expel the provincial governors and district administrators”, he declared. As for the police, he threatened that if any police commander “tries to obey Frelimo orders, takes up arms or provokes Renamo, we shall destroy him”.

When Dhlakama addressed rallies in Milange district during the week 28 August to 4 September, he allegedly claimed that Mathe “fled from the district and his whereabouts are unknown”.

Mathe denied this in the most public way possible – he showed up in person on Monday at Heroes Square in the town of Milange and addressed a crowd on the occasion of “Victory Day”.

It was possible for Dhlakama to hear Mathe’s speech, since both he and a Renamo delegation were at a nearby hotel, preparing to leave the town. Dhlakama’s motorcade subsequently arrived at the square and recorded Mathe’s speech before driving off to continue Dhlakama’s tour of Zambézia.

Mathe advised the Renamo leader “not to play with the Constitution of the Republic”, and urged him to respect the legally established government and state institutions, rather than incite his followers with talk of a return to war.

Mathe assured Dhlakama that he would never run away from the district that he had been appointed to by the legitimate government. He said that Mozambique only has one President, Filipe Nyusi, elected last October, and warned Renamo members that the government will deal with anyone who attempts to create disturbances in the district.

On Sunday 6 September, the local authorities refused to let Dhlakama use the Milange municipal sports field for one of his rallies. A strong police contingent was mobilised and blocked the Renamo supporters’ access to the field. Eventually, Dhlakama was obliged to hold his meeting at the local Renamo offices.

Last week, in the localities of Mongue and Dachadua, Dhlakama boasted that Renamo had set up “barracks” in Morrumbala and Milange districts. He also told the heads of administrative posts and localities to pack their goods and leave, otherwise they would be driven out.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Government “sensitive to veterans” – President Nyusi

On Monday 7 September, President Filipe Nyusi promised that his government remains sensitive to the situation of veterans of the national liberation struggle.

Speaking in the western city of Tete, at the “Victory Day” celebrations, President Nyusi said that: “We don’t want to turn our backs on our history. The veterans are the precursors of this country’s history. So we are designing various

models to make them more useful, because we will all gain from their self-sufficiency”.

But since independence there had been other wars. “Today we have veterans who do not come from the national liberation era, but we recognise that they too gave their sweat in defence of a cause”.

Implicitly, President Nyusi was granting veteran status to all those who fought in the war of destabilisation – not only in the government army (FADM), but also in the ranks of Renamo. “My government is committed to treating them as the Mozambicans they are, regardless of the disparity of the objectives for which they fought”, he said. “The government is instructed to look at Mozambicans in the same way, because they are citizens covered by our beautiful multi-coloured flag”.

They might have different professions, said the President, “but they are all united by the fact that they are Mozambicans, children of the same motherland, with the same constitutional rights”.

President Nyusi paid tribute to the veterans, who in the past had brought freedom and peace to Mozambique. The victory over colonialism, “is the fruit of your sweat, of your indescribable suffering, of your iron will to see us free, like other independent countries” he said. “It is the fruit of the blood shed by countless Mozambicans”. The country could never pay them back for the lives lost and the sacrifices made.

The goal of independence, President Nyusi said, was peace “without which it

is completely utopian to dream of other achievements”.

“We shall rely on your example”, he told the veterans, “so that we do not remain permanently poor, so that, from your example, we are able to step up our efforts on the front of production, and fight vigorously against the phenomena that hold us back”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Speculation on Nyusi/Dhlakama meeting as President travels to Quelimane

Late on Monday 7 September, President Filipe Nyusi arrived in Quelimane (Zambézia Province) in order to open the Third National Meeting of Religions, held on Tuesday 8 September.

Owing to the fact that Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, is also currently in the province rumours inevitably began circulating, suggesting that a meeting between the two men might be on the cards.

On 24 August President Nyusi invited Dhlakama to attend a face-to-face meeting to discuss “matters of peace and development”. Dhlakama initially reacted by claiming that the invitation was “too vague”, and demanded a specific agenda.

The President immediately responded with an agenda. However, Dhlakama subsequently rejected this as well and on 27 August he categorically refused to meet with the President.

Dhlakama is currently in Milange district. He could have easily travelled to Quelimane to meet President Nyusi, or

an arrangement could be made for a meeting somewhere else in the province.

As of the end of the week, no reports of a meeting in Zambézia have surfaced.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

President Nyusi rejects the imposition of conditions by Renamo

On Tuesday 8 September, President Filipe Nyusi said that peace in Mozambique requires a reconciliation of ideas and not the unconditional acceptance of an offer, reiterating his willingness to meet with Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama.

President Nyusi, who was speaking at the opening of the Third National Religious Conference, held in the city of Quelimane (Zambézia Province), highlighted the importance of religious denominations in maintaining peace in Mozambique.

The President called on all Mozambicans to promote tolerance and generosity, essential virtues for the country's welfare.

“The only way we can achieve and maintain peace is if there is a true nobility of spirit and character from all of us”, he said.

At a time when the country is under threat of a new war, President Nyusi reiterated his willingness to meet with Dhlakama.

“We are confident that our brother [Dhlakama] also craves peace and this gives us hope that he too will do everything so that Mozambicans can

benefit from this precious gift”, added President Nyusi.

Dhlakama recently declined a new invitation extended by the President to discuss peace in the country, claiming that he would only meet President Nyusi when the government fully complies with existing agreements, including the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed in 1992.

“There is no reason to spill more blood of Mozambicans ... We know how much it costs”, said the President, adding that “no one, including the President, may claim that reason is on his/her side until the country experiences effective peace”.

Source: Lusa

MDM condemns war of words between President Nyusi and Dhlakama

The country's third-largest political party, the MDM, has criticised the war of words currently being waged between President Filipe Nyusi and Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama. The MDM has demanded that the two sides return to dialogue with the aim of restoring peace and increased economic development.

The leader of the MDM, Daviz Simango, believes that both President Nyusi and Dhlakama contradict themselves by publically pronouncing that they are willing to sit down together, but in practice they continue to wage a war of words against each other to the detriment of peace and the welfare of the population.

During a recent interview MDM spokesperson, Sande Carmona, said that: “Any situation involving differences of opinion, of ways of living, must be resolved through conversation, through a permanent and ongoing dialogue involving all the active forces in the life of Mozambique”.

“For us, the MDM, there is no room in the country for people to turn their backs on each other over differences of opinion and of understanding, in any circumstance”, said Carmona.

“There is such a lack of intelligence on the part of the leadership, whether of Renamo or Frelimo itself, or the government, because they always keep these discussions going from a distance, and often there is a lack of coherence in how they address the differences between themselves”.

Source: Radio France International

Renamo submits constitutional amendment

Renamo has submitted a constitutional amendment to the National Assembly, which would strip the President of his right to choose provincial governors.

According to reports, the Renamo bill containing its constitutional amendments was submitted on 31 July, immediately before the close of a National Assembly sitting.

It has been distributed to the deputies, and to the National Assembly’s working commission, so that they can provide written opinions. The matter is therefore likely to feature on the agenda for the next National Assembly sitting which begins in October.

The Renamo amendment states that the provincial governors will be proposed by the elected provincial assemblies, and then formally appointed by the President of the Republic. Under the current system, the President’s hands are free, and he can appoint whoever he likes.

Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, has demanded the right to govern six northern and central provinces where he claims Renamo won the October 2014 general and provincial elections. But in reality, Renamo only won outright majorities in three of the 10 provincial assemblies (in Sofala, Zambézia and Tete). In those provinces, the assemblies could certainly be expected to propose a Renamo candidate as governor.

But in Nampula a tie occurred. Renamo and Frelimo each won 46 seats in the provincial assembly. This means that the sole assembly member from the MDM might decide who becomes governor, if the Renamo constitutional amendment is passed.

In Manica Province, although Dhlakama won a narrow majority in the presidential election, Frelimo won the provincial election, with 40 seats in the assembly to 39 for Renamo and one for the MDM.

As for the sixth province, Niassa, Dhlakama’s claim to victory is unsubstantiated. Frelimo won in the presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections. In the Niassa assembly, Frelimo holds 42 seats to 34 for Renamo and four for the MDM. The Assembly would therefore almost certainly propose a Frelimo candidate for governor.

In the other four provinces (Cabo Delgado, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo), Frelimo enjoys a comfortable majority in the provincial assemblies. Maputo City is both a province and a municipality; and because the Municipal Assembly covers the entire territory, there is no provincial assembly in the city.

The Renamo constitutional amendment also seeks to change the article on types of municipalities, adding the specific category of “provincial municipality”. A Renamo bill seeking to immediately establish “provincial municipalities” in the six provinces it claims was thrown out by parliament in April, on the grounds that the bill grossly violated the Constitution. The Renamo amendment seeks to remedy at least some of the faults in its earlier bill.

“The autonomy of local authorities does not affect the integrity of the sovereignty of the state and shall be exercised within the framework of the Constitution”, reads paragraph 2, article 8 of Renamo’s bill, in an apparent response to the plea used by Frelimo to reject the Provincial Authorities Draft Bill.

Strangely enough, neither Dhlakama, nor any other Renamo leader, has made any public mention of the proposed constitutional amendment in the weeks since it was submitted. Instead, Dhlakama has continued to threaten that he will govern the provinces he wants “by force”.

Renamo’s attitude to the Constitution has changed dramatically. In the late 1990s, there was an attempt to move away from a presidential to a semi-presidential system of government.

Frelimo and Renamo parliamentary deputies were united in proposing to separate the posts of head of state and head of government, reduce the powers of the president, and increase those of the prime minister and of parliament.

From 1996 to 1999 this was all undisputed until the Renamo parliamentary group, clearly acting under Dhlakama’s instructions, performed a volte-face, and demanded the reinstatement of all the presidential powers it had previously claimed were excessive.

Since changing the Constitution requires a two thirds majority, which Frelimo could not muster on its own, the 1999 draft amendments were aborted. In 2004, much more modest amendments produced the current constitution, leaving the powers of the President of the Republic unchanged.

In the last legislature (2010 to 2014), an ad-hoc commission was set up to draft constitutional amendments. Renamo submitted no amendments at all, and instead boycotted the commission.

Only now, in the wake of its defeat in the October 2014 elections, has Renamo decided it wants to amend the Constitution, and restrict presidential power.

Source: Lusa/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Major reshuffle in the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs

The Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, Abdurremane Lino de Almeida, has replaced a number of ministry directors as part of efforts to

restructure the institution following the approval of the new Organic Statute.

Minister de Almeida dismissed the following individuals:

- Amelia Machaieie Monjane from the Minister's Office;
- Carla Guilaze Souto from the post of National Director of Registries and Notaries;
- Ilda Tembe from the position of Human Resources Director;
- Paulo António da Graça as director of the now-dissolved National Directorate of Legal Advice and Legislation; and
- Jaime Bulande Guta as director of the Bureau of Criminal Records.

In a separate move, the minister appointed:

- Jaime Bulande Guta as National Director of Registries and Notaries;
- Samuel Salimo as director of the newly created Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs;
- Zaira Ali Abudala as director of Human Resources;
- Zita Maria Joaquim to the position of Director of Planning and Cooperation; and Judite da Conceicao Bila Zimba as Joaquim's assistant;
- Sérgio Raimundo Matule as chief of the Minister's Office;

- Paulo António da Graça as director of the new Legal Office;
- Ancha Mauricio Lazaro Manguel de Sousa to the post of Deputy National Director of Legal and Constitutional Affairs; and
- Silveira Sissora to the position of Head of the Procurement Department.

Reappointed to their respective positions were:

- Arão Asserone Litsure to the position of National Director of Religious Affairs;
- Albachir Macassar to the position of National Director of Human Rights and Citizenship;
- João Ernesto Nhaúle for the post of Director of Information Technologies and Communication;
- Nelson Celestino Siteo to the post of Director of Administration and Finance; and
- Manuel de Jesus Chitute Didier Malunga as Inspector-General of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Directorates of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs in Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Tete, Cabo Delgado and Niassa keep their directors: Feniosse Jossias de Amorim Cumbe, Marcos Jotamo Cumbane, Cecilio Moisés Bila, Bizé Amade, Álvaro Floriano Gonçalves Júnior and Anadia Statimila Estevão Cossa, respectively.

The position of Director of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of the City of Maputo is held by Sérgio João Soares Pinto, appointed last July to replace Fátima Suzete.

Source: Jornal Notícias/Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, press-office

Directors take office in Ministry of State Administration

On Wednesday 9 September, the Minister of State Administration and Public Service, Carmelita Namashalua, swore into office 18 national directors and deputy national directors, warning them that those who did not meet expectations would be replaced.

“I want to warn all staff of this ministry, and particularly those who have just taken up leading positions, that we have great challenges ahead of us, which demand total commitment from all of us”, said Minister Namashalua. “Only then will we be able to contribute to the success of the government programme”.

The national directors and deputy directors will be “under permanent assessment”, she said, and those who do not merit the trust placed in them will have to give way to others.

The country’s development agenda, resting on the pillars of national unity, peace and progress, demands greater dedication and responsibility in implementing short, medium and long term plans and projects, she added.

These included continual training and capacity-building for government members, local leaders, and members of the provincial assemblies, among

other officials, in matters linked to public administration.

Other tasks included updating the legislation on public administration, and building or rehabilitating the necessary facilities for central and local government bodies and for the municipalities.

Success, she continued, would depend on the careful management of the human, material and financial resources allocated to the ministry.

Minister Namashalua said that the newly sworn-in officials are expected to demonstrate an attitude of humility, modesty and respect for their subordinates.

They must also “observe the law in their activity, deal with requests from citizens in a timely manner, show good management of state assets, maintain labour discipline, and stimulate the functioning of leadership collectives”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

President Nyusi meets SADC executive secretary on political security in the region

On Wednesday 9 September, President Filipe Nyusi granted an audience to the executive secretary for SADC, Stergomona Tax.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the President on the political and security situation in the region. Mozambique currently chairs the SADC’s Defence and Security Cooperation Agency.

Source: Notícias/www.sadc.int

Seven new foreign ambassadors present their credentials to President Nyusi

On Thursday 10 September, seven new foreign ambassadors, who will represent their respective countries in Mozambique, presented their credentials to President Filipe Nyusi in Maputo.

The new ambassadors are:

- Rodrigo Soares of Brazil;
- Su Jian of China;
- Johnny Flento of Denmark;
- Álvaro Cavada of Spain;
- Jean Jhumun of Mauritius;
- Pascale Grothenhuis of the Netherlands; and
- Paul Lumbi of Zambia.

The diplomats were all accredited during separate meetings with the President, which provided an opportunity for initial discussions.

Source: O País

Minister Balói accuses Renamo of psychological violence

On Wednesday 9 September, Foreign Affairs Minister Oldemiro Balói said that the threats issued by Renamo constitute as psychological violence against the citizens of Mozambique. He emphasised the importance of peace for those who are still recovering from the trauma associated with the civil war.

“We are facing psychological violence, one of the most terrible things that can exist”, said Minister Balói on the sidelines of an accreditation ceremony of the seven new foreign ambassadors in Mozambique.

The Minister expressed concern over the threats to peace and stability in the country, maintaining that this climate creates an environment of uncertainty, affecting foreign investments. It is a view shared by the president of the CTA, Rogério Manuel.

“The uncertainty is never good for any country”, said the minister, adding that the situation adds to the residual psychological trauma suffered during the 16-year civil war.

“Threats to peace jeopardise everything. They are creating a climate of uncertainty that is affecting our country”, he said.

During a separate meeting on Wednesday in Manica Province, Rogério Manuel, who was addressing a corporate business forum, expressed his concern over the current political tension in the country.

According to Manuel, local entrepreneurs fear that the return to war, or even the threat thereof, will result in a reduction and/or retraction of foreign investments.

According to local entrepreneurs, the statements issued by Afonso Dhlakama pose a risk to the economic development of the country.

Source: RTP Notícias/O País

Macamo meets with Cassama to discuss the situation in Guinea-Bissau

Speaker of the House, Verónica Macamo, recently called on the people of Guinea-Bissau to recognise dialogue as the only, and most effective, method for the identification of solutions to the country's prevailing political situation.

These views were expressed during a courtesy meeting, that took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York, between Macamo and her counterpart of Guinea-Bissau, Cipriano Cassama.

During the meeting Macamo suggested that the two countries strengthen parliamentary co-operation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Source: Jornal Notícias

Guebuza meets with vice president Yuanchao

On Wednesday 9 September, the vice president of China Li Yuanchao met with former African leaders, calling for joint efforts to ensure the success of the China-Africa summit in December.

Botswana's former president Festus Mogae; Mozambique's former president Armando Guebuza; and South Africa's former president Thabo Mbeki were present at the meeting.

Hailing China and Africa as a community of shared destiny, Yuanchao said that China's Africa policy is characterised as being genuine, practical, close and sincere, with a future of enhanced co-operation.

"We are willing to work with African countries to make this year's Forum on China-Africa Cooperation [FOCAC] a success", Yuanchao said.

During the course of the week 28 August to 4 September, China and South Africa announced the sixth ministerial meeting of FOCAC, which is slated for 4-5 December in South Africa. The forum will be upgraded to a summit.

African state leaders will be invited to the summit, the second of its kind after the Beijing summit in 2006.

FOCAC aims at achieving common development and prosperity of China and Africa.

China is willing to strengthen party-to-party exchanges with African countries and promote state-to-state relations and the new type of China-African strategic partnership, Yuanchao added.

According to Yuanchao, China as a strategic partner of Africa, has assisted African countries with poverty eradication and peace and development efforts.

Source: Xinhua

Brazilian Minister of Culture on working visit to Maputo

On Friday 11 September, the Brazilian Minister of Culture, Juca Ferreira, arrived in Maputo to meet with his Mozambican counterpart, Minister Silva Dunduro.

The visit is aimed at strengthening ties of co-operation between the two countries in the field of arts and culture.

The meeting will also discuss future development actions for the inclusion of Mozambican culture in Brazil and other Latin American countries. The participation of Mozambique in the Bienal de São Paulo will also be discussed.

The two ministers are expected to sign an Action Plan for the promotion of cultural and artistic industries, and for the preservation of cultural heritage and tourism.

Source: A Bola

Peruvian Ambassador to South Africa to also represent in Mozambique

The Executive Branch of Peru recently appointed Nicolas Alfonso Roncagliolo Higuera, current Peruvian Ambassador to South Africa, to concurrently serve as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Peru to the Republic of Mozambique.

The Supreme Resolution notes that Roncagliolo took office as Ambassador to South Africa on 15 November, 2014.

Likewise, the Mozambican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation granted Roncagliolo corresponding authorisation to carry out his duties.

The credentials and full powers have been granted and signed by the Peruvian President Ollanta Humala Tasso and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ana Maria Sanchez.

Source: Agencia Peruana de Noticias

Mozambican delegates observe Norwegian elections

On Tuesday 8 September, a delegation of National Assembly deputies arrived in Oslo (Norway) to observe municipal elections in the European country.

The delegation consists of: the vice president of the National Assembly, Chomera Lucas; and parliamentary assistants Ezekiel Aramane and Emidio Guambe; as well of members of civil society organisations.

The parliamentarians will monitor the current municipal elections and will exchange experiences and processes with regards to municipalisation.

The delegation will return to Mozambique on 16 September.

Source: Jornal Notícias

II African Youth Conference on Democracy and Good Governance

The II African Youth Conference on Democracy and Good Governance (AYC), being held in Maputo from 22-25 September, will host at least five former heads of state as “guests of honour”.

The conference, held under the theme: “Africa Beyond 2015”, is being organised by the Parliamentary Youth Association of Mozambique.

So far confirmed guests include the former president of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano; the former President of the Republic of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya; the former President of the Republic of Sudan, Field Marshal Abdel Rahman Suwar al-Dahab; the global ambassador of the United Nations for

peace and social justice, Victor Ochen; the vice-president of the World Youth Assembly, Preye Ketebu-Brown; and the director of ZAYRAH-Africa, Amukelani Mayimele.

Approximately 500 young African leaders and activists are expected to attend the conference, which aims to address issues such as the legacy and lessons of African leaders; issues of peace and security in Africa; access to resources; the empowerment of women in Africa; the potential of the agriculture and mining industries in Africa; sexual and reproductive rights; sustainable development and the environment; and business and flow of illicit capital in Africa.

According to Salomao Muchanga, president of the association, “We will also adopt an action plan at the end of the conference on democracy and good governance, which will be connected to various African initiatives on the matter”.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Former US official reveals Mugabe’s key role convincing Dhlakama to negotiate peace

According to the novel *The Mind of the African Strongmen: Conversations with Dictators, Statesmen and Father Figures*, the President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, and the former president of Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi, both played a key role in convincing Afonso Dhlakama to negotiate a peace agreement with the Mozambican government in 1992.

This revelation is penned by former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen, according to

whom the United States held a parallel series of secret meetings with Dhlakama in Malawi with the same purpose in mind.

In his book, Cohen says that former president George Bush convinced the then Mozambican head of state, Joaquim Chissano, that negotiations were the only way to end the civil war.

In a meeting with Arap Moi, Cohen complained that Dhlakama was a leader with whom it was “not easy to communicate”.

According to Cohen, Dhlakama “was suspicious of relations between Western countries and the Frelimo government”.

At that meeting, Cohen recalled Arap Moi as saying that the reputation of Renamo in the West was “extremely negative”, due to its alleged violations of human rights, and consequently, gaining support for the negotiations would not be easy.

But Arap Moi dismissed the charges against Dhlakama, saying that he was an evangelical Christian.

He writes: “I was then certain of what our conduct towards Dhlakama would be”.

From then on, the former Kenyan minister of foreign affairs Bethwel Kipalagat was “our connection”, claims Cohen.

According to the former US diplomat, the discreet assistance from Arap Moi and Kipalagat was “essential” for organising meetings in Malawi, a country that South Africa used as a transit base for weapons and logistics sent to Renamo.

“In these meetings, I managed to convince Dhlakama that we were going to work for negotiations in which everyone would gain and which would lead to elections in Mozambique”, he writes.

However, in another chapter of his book, Cohen says that these secret meetings in Malawi “never managed to fully persuade him [Dhlakama] to accept the negotiations and enter political life”.

Dhlakama had “a great paranoia and expected to be killed by the Mozambican military should he enter political life”.

“The person who managed to convince Dhlakama was President Robert Mugabe”, says Cohen.

“I asked President Mugabe to carry out this task because he and Dhlakama are of the same ethnic group, the Shona”, Cohen writes, adding that “President Mugabe succeeded where many of us had failed”.

Cohen also reveals in his book that the Zimbabwean secret police foiled an attempt by then Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein’s agents to assassinate the American ambassador in Harare.

Zimbabwe transported the seized Iraqi agents to Cyprus to be interrogated by the Americans, writes Cohen, whose book was launched earlier this year in the United States.

Source: VOA Português

SECURITY

Dhlakama announces new police force and the creation of a second military headquarters in Milange

On Monday 7 September, at a rally in Milange (Zambézia Province) held in celebration of “Victory Day”, Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, announced that his party’s police force will shortly become operational.

Dhlakama declared that this move is in response to Frelimo’s breach of the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities, specifically Frelimo’s refusal to reintegrate Renamo men into the country’s defence and security forces.

“Within weeks we will form our Police of the Republic of Mozambique”, said Dhlakama, adding that: “we wanted to

put our men in the police, but because the police belongs to Frelimo and Frelimo does not want us in, we are going to create our own police”.

The Renamo leader said that this measure was also in response to the failure to implement the 1992 Rome Agreement, which was intended to establish unified police and military structures at the end of the 16-year civil war, integrated by the state military and the Renamo guerrillas. Dhlakama assured the crowd that this new police force, whose mission is to ensure the safety of Renamo leaders in the six autonomous provinces that the movement insists on creating in the central and northern provinces, will be made up of demobilised ex-fighters and active soldiers.

Dhlakama also announced the creation of a second military headquarters in Milange (216 kilometres from Morrumbala, in Zambézia Province) – almost a week after establishing a Renamo military headquarters in Morrumbala – which will also be used to train police agents.

The Renamo leader clarified that the creation of the new police force and military barracks “are not meant to attack or threaten war against Frelimo”, but to defend the people from the marginalisation by government forces complying with the orders of the ruling party.

Source: Folha de Maputo/VOA Português

Dhlakama accuses government of derailing his rallies

Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, has accused the government of “persecution and provocation” and of trying to derail Renamo rallies in the centre of the country.

“It is a good thing that we reject war. There are many provocations, most of them carried out by the anti-riot police”, said Dhlakama during a rally in Chimoio (Manica Province) on Wednesday 9 September.

According to Dhlakama, the presence of 15 Rapid Intervention Force (FIR) agents at a rally in Milange (Zambézia Province) forced the party to relocate the gathering to its headquarters. He claimed that on Tuesday 8 September, the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) cordoned off the Mocuba sports field, preventing his party and supporters access to the area. Additionally, Dhlakama claims that on

Wednesday a FIR contingent set up roadblocks along the main road in Nicoadala in an attempt to prevent the Renamo motorcade from entering the area.

“I am an adult, I am a general, am a leader and I have a lot of experience. If I wanted to respond to these provocations, they would be dead. In Nicoadala, Renamo could have killed more than 40 armed FIR agents on Wednesday”, said Dhlakama, who proclaimed that fresh clashes in Tete Province over the past week left 80 government troops dead as FADM forces attempted to take control of a Renamo base in Mucombedzi. According to Dhlakama, no Renamo casualties were reported.

Dhlakama told the crowd that he hopes that President Filipe Nyusi will apologise for his arrogance and implement the two existing peace agreements. “The current conditions in which we live is the result of the lack of compliance with the agreements of Rome (1992) and the Cessation of Military Hostilities (2014). When we were negotiating we already anticipated that the breach of the agreements would bring problems. The danger is that the problems that should have stopped in 1992 continue today, as if we had not signed anything”, argued Dhlakama.

Source: Folha de Maputo

FADM soldiers accused of excesses and rape in Gorongosa

According to unconfirmed reports, FADM personnel are being accused of raping women and children in Gorongosa (Sofala Province).

The accusations of sexual abuse are being levelled at government soldiers by the population of Casa-Banana, in an area garrisoned by government forces since the outbreak of the political and military conflict with Renamo in 2013.

A year after the Agreement on the Cessation of Military Hostilities was signed (on 5 September 2014), armed Renamo men and FADM soldiers continue to hold positions in the region, which is largely affected by the conflict.

“Women go to the river to bathe and the military go there (where the rapes usually occur)”, says Feliz Candeado, who adds that the forces stationed at the crossroads between Piro and Casa-Banana have been committing excesses.

Residents complain that the military, mostly wearing uniforms of the FIR, enter communities, commit excesses and threaten to torture or kill whoever responds to them or to their actions.

“They are military from the government. When they come in (to the villages) they start to take revenge and people are scared. We are not at peace. If challenged, they run to the barracks where they take up arms and they want to kill”, says Candeado.

Candeado also claims that: “When they go to the rivers they do not ask permission and the women usually bathe naked and that is when they take advantage of the situation”, he says, adding that: “Many times they rape our daughters”.

Baltazar Pita, another resident of Casa-Banana, accused the men positioned at the crossroads between Piro and Casa-

Banana of behaving with excess. Often, he says, the state military drink and do not pay the bills, threatening anybody who demands payment with imprisonment or death.

The people say they have no-one to turn to.

Source: VOA News

War veterans appeal to Dhlakama to attend meeting with President Nyusi

The veterans of the national liberation struggle, residing in Inhambane Province, have publically called for Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, to abandon his thirst for power and instead participate in dialogue in order to avoid further bloodshed.

Sebastian Dengo and Januário Nungoma accuse Dhlakama of purposefully creating situations which necessitate the use of force on the part of the government, referring to the recent attacks on defenceless citizens.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Over 54 million square meters cleared of land mines in six years

Demining processes in Mozambique are officially coming to a close. During the period from 2008 to 2014 an area in excess of 54 million square metres was successfully cleared of land mines.

On Tuesday 8 September, the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) discussed the implementation of the National Mine Action Plan (PNA). Speaking to reporters after the meeting, government spokesperson, deputy health minister Mouzinho Saíde, said

that the clearance occurred in 3,201 separate areas, where the fear of mines had prevented local people from undertaking economic and social activities.

Deputy Minister Saíde said that demining over this period had resulted in the destruction of 85,892 anti-personnel mines, 133 anti-tank mines, 5,148 other items of unexploded ordnance, and 83,792 pieces of ammunition of various calibres.

The overall cost of demining over the six year period was estimated at approximately US\$220 million, financed by the Mozambican government and its international partners.

Land mines had been planted during three conflicts – during the colonial war prior to Mozambican independence in 1975, during the incursions by the Rhodesian armed forces in the late 1970s, and during the 16-year war that ended with the peace agreement signed in October 1992.

There is no evidence that either side used land mines in the most recent conflict, concentrated in Sofala Province during 2013-2014.

Mozambique is a signatory of the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition and destruction of anti-personnel land mines. Mozambique joined the Convention in 1999, and had 10 years to complete the demining of the entire country. This proved impossible, and so Mozambique requested, and was granted, a five-year extension, bringing the deadline forward to 2014.

By the end of 2014, eight provinces had been declared free of land mines – Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula in the north, Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane in the south, and Tete and Zambézia in the centre of the country. They were joined by Sofala in August this year, leaving Manica, also in the central region, as the only province that has not yet been declared land mine free.

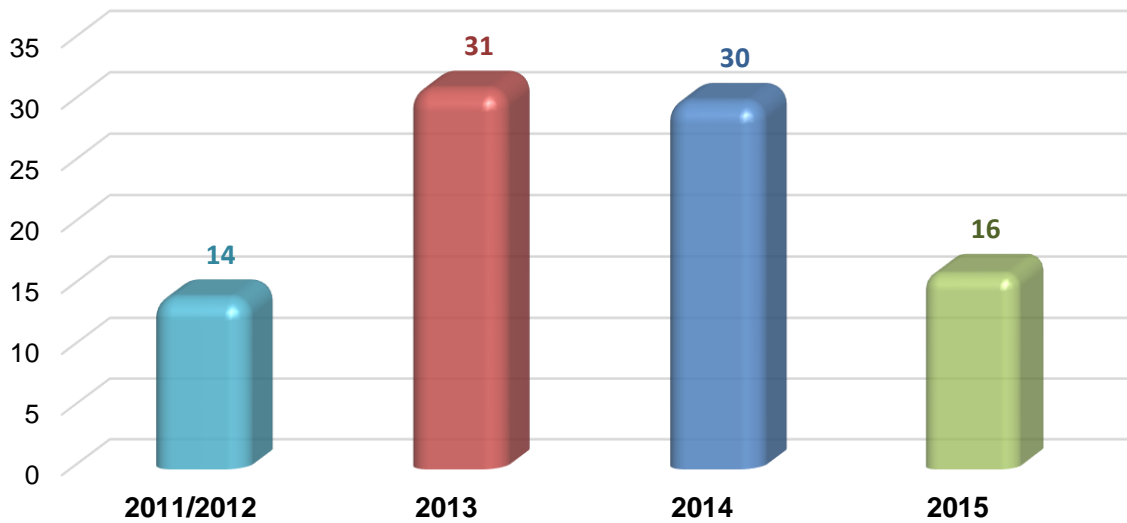
Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

CRIME

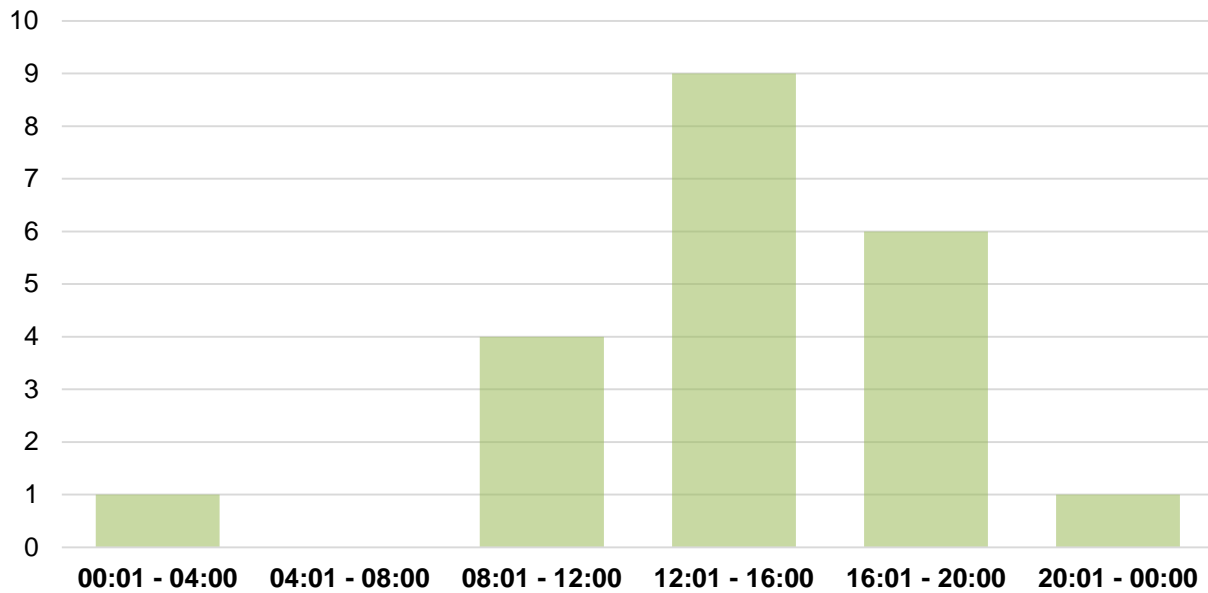
MAP 1: KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS IN CENTRAL MAPUTO 2014 & 2015



GRAPH 2: REPORTED KIDNAPPINGS PER YEAR

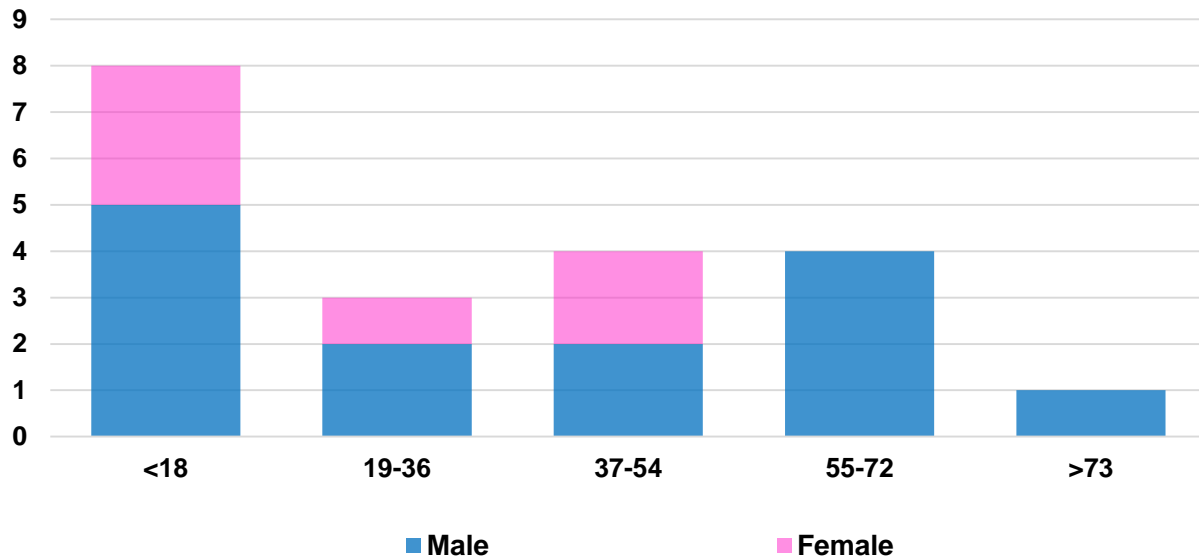


GRAPH 3: TIME OF KIDNAPPINGS 2014 & 2015



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.*

PRM neutralise sugar thieves in Gaza

During the course of the week 28 August to 4 September, the PRM arrested four individuals in Chicualacuala district (Gaza Province) in connection with the theft of nine bags of sugar, totalling 562 kilograms, from the local CFM station.

Of the four detainees, two are private security guards employed by G4S. The two guards, who are believed to have facilitated the theft, were posted at the train station at the time.

The sugar was on route from Zimbabwe to Maputo when it was intercepted and stolen.

PRM officers on routine patrol caught the two accomplices red-handed and the two security guards were arrested following an investigation.

Source: Jornal Notícias

PRM arrest three grave robbers in Malema

During the course of the week 28 August to 4 September, the PRM arrested three Mozambicans in the Malema district (Nampula Province) on charges of grave robbing.

According to the information received, the three men were found to be in possession of human bones at the time of the arrest. The human remains are believed to have been stolen from the grave of an albino, and the PRM are of the opinion that the men acquired the bones with the intention of selling them in Malawi.

According to unconfirmed reports, a family member of the deceased facilitated the theft by providing the three detainees with information regarding the grave in exchange for money.

Source: @Verdade

PRM neutralise armed gang in Chimoio

During the course of the week 28 August to 4 September, the PRM arrested four gang members and recovered a pistol, eight rounds of ammunition and two Toyota's during an operation in Chimoio (Manica Province).

According to the police, the four men are responsible for a number of armed robberies in the area.

Three of the detainees are being kept in holding cells, while the fourth gang member is receiving medical treatment, after he was shot in the leg whilst attempting to evade arrest.

Source: O País

Mozambican man arrested in Malawi on charges of conspiracy to traffic children

The Malawian Police in Machinga district recently arrested a 29-year-old Mozambican national amidst allegations that he planned to traffic two children and a young man from Malawi to Mozambique.

According to police reports, the suspect was identified as Christopher Rafael from Mandimba district (Niassa Province).

The Malawian police said that the suspect was arrested following a tip-off from UNECO's Community based educators in Machinga.

According to the police, Rafael approached his victims claiming to be the owner of a tobacco farm in Mozambique. Rafael subsequently offered his victims employment at his farm and arranged for them to return with him to Mozambique.

Rafael, who is currently in police custody in Nselema, has been charged with two counts of human trafficking and illegal entry into Malawi.

Source: Malawi 24

Two Mozambicans sentenced to jail in Malawi for raping a minor

On Thursday 3 September, the Ntcheu First Grade Magistrate in Malawi sentenced two Mozambican nationals to 14 years imprisonment with hard labour for gang raping a 12-year-old girl.

The spokesperson for the local police, Hastings Chigalu, told reporters that the two men (identified as 25-year-old Thomoson Dzonzi and 21-year-old Chimwemwe Lomao) were found guilty (along with a third accomplice who remains at large) of gang raping the 12-year-old girl on 26 July 2015. The offense took place at approximately 18:00hrs in the Mapira village.

The victim, who has not been named, was walking to her cousin's house when she was accosted and attacked by the three men. She was subsequently referred to the Ntcheu District Hospital where medical professionals confirmed that she had in fact been raped.

The police arrested both Dzonzi and Lomao shortly after a case was opened. The police are still searching for the third assailant.

During sentencing procedures the two defendants pleaded for leniency on the grounds that they are first time offenders and bread winners. The court refused and sentenced them to 14 years imprisonment each.

Both Dzonzi and Lomao hail from Mthawira village in Majawa, Villa Ulongwe, Mozambique.

Source: The Maravi Post

Minor raped in Maputo

During the early hours of Monday 7 September, 14-year-old J. Lúcia was raped by an unknown number of men in the city of Maputo.

The minor was subsequently admitted to the Gynaecology Department of the Jose Macamo General Hospital in the Zimpeto neighbourhood.

The case was referred to the PRM for due process.

Source: Folha de Maputo

PRM announce “encouraging clues” in Machava murder case

On Tuesday 8 September, the PRM announced that it is in possession of “encouraging clues” which could potentially lead to the identification and apprehension of those responsible for the murder of journalist Paulo Machava.

“The activities conducted so far are encouraging as we have uncovered certain clues and important information.

We believe that, based on this information and the possible leads, we may achieve success and bring clarity to this case”, said Inácio Dina, spokesman for the General Command of the police.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Five illegal immigrants held in Nampula

On Tuesday 8 September, the PRM of Nampula Province arrested five foreign nationals (two Nigerians, an Ethiopian, a Somali and a Malawian) for illegally residing within the country.

The five illegal immigrants were detained in Meconta district, where they were awaiting transport to the Montepuez district of Cabo Delgado Province, with the intention of seeking employment in the mining sector.

The five detainees were found to be in possession of four kilograms of precious stones, including tourmaline and a ruby, and an unspecified amount of money.

Two of the five detainees were found to be in possession of fake documents.

The illegal immigrants will be repatriated shortly following an in-depth investigation.

Source: @Verdade

Three locals arrested on charges of kidnapping an albino in Nampula

On Wednesday 9 September, three individuals were arrested by the PRM of Nampula Province on charges of kidnapping an albino with the intention of selling his hair.

The victim, identified as 33-year-old Rosário Rodrigues, was lured out of the city of Nampula with the promise of employment.

“They enticed me and when we got to the place they said they were waiting for a boss who wanted to buy my hair. I was surprised, because I didn’t know that hair could be sold, and I was afraid I was going to be killed”, said Rodrigues.

According to the three detainees, they planned to sell the victim’s hair to a Tanzanian national for MT450,000.

The detainees were arrested following an anonymous tip-off. During the arrests a fourth suspect managed to evade arrest and the PRM are actively seeking his whereabouts.

According to the three detainees, the victim’s family orchestrated the abduction owing to financial problems.

One of the detainees, Roque Mualinda, claims that Rodrigues’ mother and brother approached them and asked them to abduct the victim and to exchange his hair for money, which was to be divided between the four abductors and the two family members.

According to Mualinda his share of the pay-out was MT50,000.

The family strongly deny their involvement in the kidnapping. They said that, when they noticed that Rodrigues was missing, they went to the police since they were well aware of the kidnappings and murders of albinos that have occurred in Nampula.

So far this year seven albinos have been reported missing in Nampula. This

phenomenon originated from Tanzania, where at least 76 albinos have been murdered since 2000.

Source: O País/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

South African child kidnapped by Mozambican nanny rescued in Machava

The South African toddler (identified as Perfect Gift Msesiwe) who was allegedly kidnapped by her nanny and whisked off to Mozambique pending the payment of a ZAR500,000 ransom, was reunited with her parents on Thursday 10 September.

The three-year-old child was abducted from her home in East London on 4 August by the family's domestic worker/nanny, who is a Mozambican national. The family subsequently received a ransom demand of ZAR500,000 in exchange for the child's freedom. Following negotiations, the ransom was reduced to ZAR300,000.

South Africa's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), in partnership with the PRM and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), arrested three people linked to the case during the course of the week 28 August to 4 September.

Those arrested include the nanny, who was arrested in Gauteng (South Africa), and two relatives who were apprehended in Matola (Maputo).

Hawks national spokesperson Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi confirmed the arrest, revealing that the nanny was arrested in Gauteng's Daveyton

Township where she posed as a job seeker.

"We can confirm that three people have been arrested. The nanny was located in South Africa while the other two, who were harbouring the child, were arrested by Mozambican officials in Maputo", Mulaudzi said.

"The [nanny] was located and arrested at premises where she posed as a job seeker.

"She confessed that she had committed the offence (kidnapping) and clues to the whereabouts of the child in question surfaced".

The woman, who cannot be named until she has been asked to plead, has been charged with extortion, for being in the country illegally, kidnapping and human trafficking.

She made a brief court appearance in the Vosloorus Magistrate's Court on Monday 7 September, and is expected to appear in the Mdantsane Magistrate's Court next Tuesday, 15 September.

On Monday 7 September, South African authorities met with Mozambican police officers at the Lebombo Border Post and the girl was handed over.

During the ordeal, the child was held in a house belonging to the nanny's relatives in the neighbourhood of Machava-Socimol (Matola).

The two accomplices (identified as the nanny's uncle and cousin) claim that they did not know that the child had been abducted, and believed she was the kidnapper's daughter.

The child's mother (Zolelwa) is a municipal official in Mdantsane, while her father (Siyabonga) works at a local bank.

The 32-year-old nanny allegedly disappeared with the child just three weeks after being hired.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) are unable to release all the details regarding the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping due to the sensitive nature of the investigation.

The SAPS have since issued a stern warning to parents, emphasising the need to check identification documents and do background checks on domestic workers, especially those meant to look after children.

Source: Dispatch/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique/News24

PRM recover weapons allegedly used by kidnappers in Maputo

The PRM of Maputo recently recovered four firearms that were allegedly used by a kidnap gang in the commission of their crimes.

In addition to the four firearms (three pistols and an AK-47), the police arrested two individuals who are believed to be members of the gang.

Source: Folha de Maputo

PRM seize 500 kilograms of marijuana in Cabo Delgado

The PRM recently seized approximately 500 kilograms of marijuana (commonly known as 'soruma') in Chiúre (Cabo Delgado Province).

The drugs were hidden in bags of grain and transported in a truck on route to Nampula Province, where it was scheduled for distribution.

The owner of the truck, Acabito Cachote, told the police that he had purchased the marijuana in the district of Muidumbe for MT1,000 per bag.

Cachote was arrested along with an accomplice who attempted to bribe a police officer with MT18,000 in exchange for Cachote's release.

Source: O País

PRM concerned with the high levels of robbery and theft in Maputo

The PRM of Maputo City have expressed concern over the growing number of reported cases of theft and robbery in the capital.

This is according to the commander of the PRM in Maputo, Bernardino Rafael, who spoke during a meeting with district councillors, secretaries and community policing members, held on Saturday 5 September.

According to Bernardino, robbery and theft are the two most common types of crime in Maputo. However, he maintained that, for the most part, crime is under control in the capital.

According to data presented during the meeting, in the first six months of the year approximately 5,980 criminal cases were recorded in Maputo, compared to 5,797 cases during the same period of 2014.

Source: Miramar

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

Mozambican authorities investigate timber trafficking through Beira port

Authorities in Mozambique are investigating the illegal export of timber to China following the discovery of 70 containers of a wood, known as chanate, which were shipped from the port of Beira without authorisation.

The investigation is being conducted by the Provincial Office for Combating Corruption in Sofala, in co-ordination with the Mozambican Tax Authority (AT).

According to a report published by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in July, approximately 90% of the logs harvested in Mozambique end up in China. Data from the WWF indicates that illegal timber exports to China cost Mozambique US\$102 million in 2013. Additionally, while Mozambique reported official timber exports to China of 54,000 cubic meters in 2013, the Asian country reported imports of 346,000 cubic meters.

Illegal exporters can generate a profit of US\$2,340 from each container of timber sent to China by avoiding customs duties and forestry licenses, compared with US\$530 for a legal consignment.

Source: Notícias/Bloomberg/O País

Sea turtle poacher caught red handed in Ponta Caldeira Island

A man caught in possession of six live turtles was recently arrested by the PRM in Moma (Nampula Province).

The suspect acquired the turtles from the Ilha de Ponta Caldeira nesting area, which forms part of the Primeiras e Segundas archipelago environmental protection area. He was caught red-handed and was immediately detained.

The arrest was made possible with the assistance of a Navy unit of the FADM, which was on patrol in the Indian Ocean at the time.

Government officials in Moma said that the man (whose identity has not been revealed) could potentially lead the police to a group of individuals notorious for catching turtles and selling them in Nacala-Porto.

According to Moma administrator, Araújo Momade, the accused confessed to operating in collaboration with 20 other fishermen, with the latter responsible for capturing the animals.

Most of the islands in the environmental protection area, set up by the government in November 2012, are uninhabited. This aids the illegal hunting of turtles, whose meat is sought after on the black-market, especially in urban centres.

According to unconfirmed reports, shark fishing is also a popular practice in the area, with the fins being sold for exorbitant prices on the black market.

Citizens of Chinese origin living in Nampula allegedly buy shark fins for up to MT2,000 (roughly US\$50) per kilo for subsequent illegal export to Asian countries.

Recently, customs authorities in Nampula thwarted an attempted illegal shark fin export bid when they caught two citizens of Chinese nationality at the airport with the fin concealed within their suitcase.

Source: Notícias

Three poaching gangs clash with the police in Gaza

During the course of the weekend 4 to 6 September, the PRM neutralised three poaching gangs in three separate clashes in Gaza Province.

According to reports, the poachers had been operating within the Limpopo National Park and within South Africa's Kruger National Park.

The three successful operations are attributed to the work of the recently established police unit for the protection of natural resources and the environment, and to co-ordination between the police, other government institutions and the authorities of neighbouring countries.

According to a source in the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), the poaching gangs clashed with the police on three successive days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – inside the Limpopo National Park.

The first group, consisting of four poachers, was intercepted on Friday night, 4 September, at a police checkpoint. Despite the fact that the police waved the vehicle down, ordering it to stop, the poachers fled; driving through the checkpoint.

The police subsequently radioed ahead to the next checkpoint. Once again the poachers ignored the order to stop, but this time the police opened fire. One of the poachers was shot, but survived. Upon searching the vehicle, the police found a firearm typically used by poachers.

On Saturday 5 September, a group of seven poachers was ambushed by a joint force of Mozambican and South African police. Three of the poachers were arrested, but the other four managed to escape.

In a third operation, on Sunday, also between the police forces of the two countries, two poachers were arrested, while a third managed to escape.

In what appears to be a separate incident, a suspected poacher (identified as 34-year-old Winasse Mathevui) was shot and killed in a shootout with the police in the Limpopo National Park during the course of the week 28 August to 4 September.

According to the report, during a routine patrol the police unit stumbled upon two men who were walking through the park. The men immediately shot at the police, who responded by returning fire. Mathevui was shot in the abdomen and was evacuated to the nearest hospital where he later died from his wounds. Mathevui's accomplice managed to evade arrest.

According to police sources, the two men entered into the park via the Kruger National Park, where it is believed that they had been hunting for rhinos. It has not yet been established as to whether or not their hunting expedition in the neighbouring park had been successful.

Following the shootout, the PRM discovered a Mauser rifle (CZ 550), an additional (unspecified) rifle and ammunition hidden on Mathevui's person.

Before he died, Mathevui confessed to owning the two guns.

According to reports, the police are still searching for the second suspect who is known to live in Massingir.

Source: @Verdade/Jornal Noticias/Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambicans won't extradite poachers

On Wednesday 9 September, South African MPs heard that the Mozambican authorities are reluctant to extradite its citizens, who are suspected of poaching rhinos in the Kruger National Park (KNP), to South Africa.

"If the suspect is arrested in South Africa, we will try that suspect. The issue is once a suspect is known in Mozambique, they don't want to extradite their citizens", said SAPS head of detectives Lieutenant General Vinesh Moonoo.

"They blame us for killing their citizens. They say the rhinos are more valuable [to us] than their citizens. I explain it's not about killing their citizens ... it's only when our members' lives are in danger".

Moonoo and other members of the SAPS top brass briefed Parliament's portfolio committee on police efforts to curb rhino poaching in the KNP.

The KNP rhino task team attended to 882 scenes linked to rhino poaching in

Mpumalanga – 193 inside the park, and 49 outside the park from July 2014 to July this year.

Officers seized 57 rhino horns and 117 firearms during the operations inside the park during said period.

There are currently 112 cases on the court roll in Mpumalanga, with 212 defendants (of which 130 are South Africans, 80 are Mozambicans and two are Zimbabwean nationals). Charges ranged from illegal hunting to trespassing.

In Limpopo, police officers attended to 26 incidents inside the KNP and 60 outside the park from December 2014 to July this year. 15 suspects were nabbed inside the park, and 64 outside.

During the operations, 49 rhino horns were seized along with 19 firearms and 10 vehicles.

There are currently three cases of illegal hunting on the court roll, concerning four defendants (one South African and three Mozambicans).

A further 56 suspects face charges of conspiracy to commit a crime of rhino poaching in the province (of which 22 are South Africans, 29 are Mozambicans, one is a Botswana national, and one is a Zimbabwean).

Source: Independent Online

Reduction in elephant poaching in Tete Province

According to reports, the number of elephants poached for their ivory in Tete Province decreased during the course of this year. The report suggests that a

total of eight elephants were poached during the first six months of 2015, compared with 12 during the same period of 2014.

The elephants were killed in the protected areas of the Moatize district, Chiuta, Chifunde, Marávia, Macanga and Zumbo.

According to authorities in the area, elephant poachers typically resort to poisoning in a bid to attain the animal's tusks.

Of the eight pachyderms killed in the area this year, five were poisoned, while

eight of the 12 were poisoned during 2014.

The authorities say that poisoning has a devastating effect on the environment as a whole, especially on the surrounding communities who often steal the meat for consumption.

According to the local authorities, during the first six months of the year approximately 43 poachers were arrested in the area, of which 39 are Mozambican nationals and four are Zimbabwean nationals.

Source: Folha de Maputo

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

Dragões Segurança employees of go on strike in Nampula

During the course of the week 4 to 11 September, employees of the security company, Dragões Segurança, engaged in a one-day strike in the port city of Nacala (Nampula Province).

The strike action resulted from what employees called "work related stress".

According to a statement from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the situation was

brought under control as a result of mediation efforts that were carried out by the labour authorities, through the provincial Centre for Labour Mediation and Arbitration (Cemal) and the Labour Inspectorate (IGT).

270 employees of Dragões Segurança decided to embark on a strike as a result of lack of payment, despite the fact that several attempts were made to resolve the situation peacefully.

Labour authorities considered that the claims were legitimate, and engaged in

peaceful talks with the workers in order to find a diplomatic resolution to the problem. The negotiations resulted in the payment of salaries dating back to 2013, and the company promised workers that the payment of salaries for the years 2014 and 2015 will be made by Monday 14 September. As a result of the solutions presented and the commitment made by Dragões Segurança's management team in the presence of the labour authorities, the strike was called off.

The Dragões Segurança has a total of 279 workers in Nacala-Porto. The IGT in Nampula recently fined Dragões Segurança for breaching the employment and labour law.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Government hopes for 300,000 new jobs this year

The government is hopeful that roughly 300,000 new jobs will be created throughout the country by the end of this year.

This is according to the deputy labour minister, Oswaldo Petersburgo who was speaking on Thursday 3 September, during a visit to the labour recruitment agency CONTACT – part of the government's programme to reorganise the labour market. Licensed by the Labour Ministry, via the National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFP), private recruitment agencies are supposed to work closely with the government to ensure that companies' labour needs are met.

According to Deputy Minister Petersburgo, the recruitment agencies

form part of the organisation of the market, particularly in the component training. Their labour recruitment policies should follow the targets set by the government and the market demand.

“The participation of this sector in all stages of implementing the country's employment policies is indispensable”, said Deputy Minister Petersburgo.

He said that he was impressed with the work carried out by CONTACT in co-ordination with INEFP, and urged both organisations to intensify their partnership. He noted that some of the jobs declared by CONTACT are not registered by the INEFP, despite the fact that it is responsible for labour market statistics.

Deputy Minister Petersburgo believes that proper co-ordination between the government and other actors in the labour market could play an important role in implementing the government's Five-Year Programme for the 2015-2019 period. He hopes that such co-ordination will provide accurate and up-to-date statistical data, which will prove useful to investors.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

President Nyusi launches rotavirus vaccination campaign

On Friday 4 September, President Filipe Nyusi urged all citizens to actively participate in the national vaccination campaign against rotavirus, which is aimed at reducing diarrhoea-related deaths amongst young children.

Presiding over the launch of the vaccine in Maputo, President Nyusi said success will depend on the involvement of parents, siblings and even neighbours of the target children, who must be made aware of the fact that this vaccine can prevent many deaths.

According to the President, despite advances in health care in recent years, the rates of vaccination against childhood diseases remain disturbingly low in some parts of the country. The general level of vaccination is at its lowest (47%) in Zambézia Province, while in Tete and Cabo Delgado only 58 and 59% of children under the age of five are vaccinated.

The greatest vaccination rate, 88%, is in Maputo Province, with Maputo city lagging somewhat behind on 77%. These routine vaccinations are against diseases such as polio, measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria and whooping cough. Now the rotavirus vaccine has been added to the list. According to President Nyusi, the reduction in the level of potentially fatal childhood diseases is key to economic and social development which can only be attained with good health care.

“Children are our hope”, the President declared, “and we exist because we were once children, and somebody looked after us, fed us and protected us. We also need to protect the children who are the future of the nation”.

In a press release, the United Nations representative in Mozambique praised the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine into the national vaccination programme, describing this as a clear demonstration of the government’s concern with the health of the country’s

children. According to the release, the introduction of this vaccine, “is a key opportunity, not only to strengthen the routine vaccination system, but also to strengthen the strategies to prevent diarrhoea as a tool in the primary prevention of childhood deaths”.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambique has 300,000 traditional medicinal practitioners – 120,000 not registered

Mozambique is thought to have approximately 300,000 traditional medicinal practitioners, of which roughly 120,000 are not registered with the Institute of Traditional Medicine.

The Ministry of Health intends to register traditional healers and regulate their activity in an attempt to put an end to false promises of miracles in healing diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

In Mozambique, approximately 70% of the population resorts to traditional medicine for the treatment of ailments of the body, mind and soul. In addition to the collective beliefs, the appeal of traditional medicine is further reinforced by poor health service coverage, particularly in rural areas.

Source: O País

Families of Matola victims to find closure

The families of those who were killed in Matola during what has come to be known as the Matola Raid on 30 January 1981, will finally find closure.

The Matola Raid Monument and the Interpretative Centre was unveiled in Maputo on Friday 11 September. The programme commence at the Lhanguene Cemetery where President Filipe Nyusi and South African President, Jacob Zuma, laid a wreath at the grave site in memory of the struggle heroes who were killed during the raid. The two heads of state subsequently interacted with survivors and the families of the victims.

The wreath laying ceremony was followed by an official programme for the unveiling at the Matola Monument, led by President Zuma. On 30-31 January 1981, the South African Defence Force carried out a raid on ANC (African National Congress) houses in Matola. 16 South Africans and one Portuguese national were subsequently killed during the raid.

The proposal to construct a memorial in commemoration of the events of 1981 was approved in 2008 and a sod-turning ceremony was held in 2009. The Monument and the Centre form part of the South African government's "effort to redress the historical imbalances in heritage sites, and to promote social cohesion and nation building". They also form part of the Liberation Heritage Route which preserves South Africa's liberation legacy.

The route "recognises the people, communities, events and places which had a significant impact on our struggle for liberation and also stimulate much needed economic development and job creation for South Africa and its neighbouring countries".

In 1982, on the first anniversary of the Matola raid, the late president Samora

Machel called for this day to be declared as the day of friendship between Mozambique and South Africa. The two neighbouring countries share strong historical and fraternal ties dating back to the fight against colonialism and apartheid, states a presidential release.

To date, adds the same source, "the two countries share strong economic ties and have formed strong historic and strategic bilateral relations in the many areas of co-operation over the last two decades. Key in this regard, was the decision in 2011 to elevate our structured bilateral mechanism to an annual Bi-National Commission".

President Zuma will be accompanied on his visit to Maputo by families of the victims; the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane; the Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa; the Minister of Public Works, Thulas Nxesi; the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and the deputy minister responsible for military veterans, Kebby Maphatsoe.

The release points out that: "during his state visit to Mozambique in May 2015, President Zuma reiterated that the depth and extent of co-operation between the two countries was amplified by the existence of over 60 bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding covering a wide range of sectors including energy, transport, trade and investment, agriculture, environment, water, defence and security, immigration, science and technology, labour, communication, tourism, arts and culture, sport, to mention but a few".

Source: SAnews.gov.za/The Presidency SA

MT80 million needed to assist the population of drought-stricken Inhambane

The government of Inhambane requires approximately MT80 million to assist the 66,000 residents affected by drought in that region of the country.

Half of the required funds will be used to acquire nearly 50 tons of essential items such as corn, beans, cooking oil and sugar. The remaining funds have been earmarked for the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes and the small water supply systems and tanks.

The situation has been described as “critical” in areas such as Funhalouro, Mabote, Govuro, Panda, Massinga, Vilankulo and Inhassoro.

Source: Folha de Maputo

Drought in Gaza and Inhambane: government seeks sustainable solutions

Obtaining sustainable solutions to combat the effects of the drought affecting some districts of the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane, in particular, is proving to be a challenge for the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

It is estimated that more than 130, 000 people in the south are experiencing food insecurity as a result of the poor harvests and deficiencies in the distribution network. The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Ernesto Max Tonela, spoke of the need for increased agricultural trade, giving priority to links between centres of production and the market.

Speaking at the opening of the 13th Coordinating Council of the Ministry, Minister Tonela said other relevant institutions that can help mitigate the effects of drought on food security include the National Directorate of Industry and Trade and the Mozambican Cereal Institute.

Another concern for the Ministry is the approval of the technical standards for industrial products and the quality certification thereof. The training of small and medium-sized enterprises, to be revitalised by the Institute for Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (IPEME), in partnership with the Association of Accountants and Auditors of Mozambique, is another priority.

“We are pleased to see that from the actions outlined for this year, despite the lapse of time between now and the end of the financial year, amongst those that have been implemented, there’s been clear signs of success”, said the minister. According to Minister Tonela, the most notable achievement is the conclusion of the CTA’s public-private dialogue model, which is based on mutual accountability between the government and the association with actions aimed at improving the business environment.

The Coordinating Council is a forum that integrates the most senior executives of the Ministry in order to carry out a sector performance review during the course of the year and outline actions to be undertaken within the next twelve months.

Source: Jornal Notícias

Residents refuse to leave poorly constructed homes in flood-prone area of Matola

Those who have built flimsy homes on a flood-prone strip of land adjacent to the toll gate on the Maputo-South Africa motorway are ignoring calls by the Matola City Council for them to move.

The area is regarded as dangerous, and on Saturday 5 September, the Council gave the inhabitants an ultimatum to leave. Two days after the ultimatum was issued, reporters returned to the area and found no indication that anyone plans to move. The land, lying between the toll gate and the Mulauze River, is located along a railway and is reserved for use by the publicly owned CFM. The area is a corridor for storm waters flowing from several neighbourhoods, and the municipal authorities believe that it is not fit for human habitation.

Although the inhabitants built their shacks illegally, they are now demanding resettlement assistance from the Council. Their spokesperson, Evaristo Cossa, told reporters that they want the authorities to provide them with alternative plots of land and building materials.

It is unlikely that the Matola Council will accept this demand. When the City Councillor for Health, Social Welfare and Civil Society, Paula Jacude, visited the area, she said that the residents should leave unconditionally to end the drama they face every time it rains.

“Each one of you should go back to where you were living before you came and settled here”, she said. “These are not adequate conditions for habitation.

We are appealing to people to leave of their own free will”.

The rail director of CFM-South, Augusto Abudo, also urged the residents to leave, warning that they ran serious risks due to the proximity of the railway.

Source: Agencia de Informacao de Moçambique

Mozambique ranked the third worst place in the world to grow old

According to the annual Global AgeWatch Index, released to the public on Wednesday 9 September, Mozambique has been ranked the world's third worst place to grow old. Of a list of 96 countries, Mozambique was ranked 94th, followed by Malawi (95), and Afghanistan (96). The list had to rule out 54 African countries due to the fact that there was not enough data to assess them.

The Global AgeWatch Index measures the quality of life of the elderly across four categories, namely:

- Income security, consisting of indicators such as: pension coverage, old age poverty rate, relative welfare and gross national income (GNI) per capita;
- Health status, consisting of indicators such as: life expectancy at 60, health life expectancy at 60 and relative psychological/mental wellbeing;
- Capability, consisting of indicators such as: the employment rate of old people and educational attainment; and

- Enabling environment, consisting of indicators such as: social connections, physical safety, civic freedom and access to public transport.

Despite Mozambique “delivering a national policy on ageing in 2007, mainstreaming the care of older people in health and HIV, and including them in many social protection laws, quality of life continues to lag behind, with the country ranking low in most domains”, reads the report by Help Age.

According to the report, Mozambique does not have a consolidated universal social pension system, and as a consequence thereof, the majority of the elderly do not receive a pension. The prevalence of chronic diseases and HIV and AIDS is relatively high among older people in Mozambique, says Help Age.

This, “coupled with the limited availability of medication and care, is worsening the situation for the country’s older population”. The report stresses that, in Mozambique, “older people, especially women, often do not feel safe due to accusations of witchcraft, financial abuse including land conflict, and physical and sexual abuse”.

The report also points out how older people in African countries “experience many hardships, with few able to access basic services”. Despite the fact that “family ties remain strong”, the traditional support systems “are changing” and older people “are often left with the responsibility of childcare without any formal support”.

Additionally, the report claims that: “very few (elders) have pensions”, stressing

the situation of older African women, who “are often particularly poor because of discriminatory laws against them”.

Mozambique’s rating:

Mozambique ranks low in the Index with an overall position of 94. It ranks highest in the income security domain (84 or 22.8 out of 100), with a higher than average old age poverty rate for its region (19.1%) and second lowest GNI per capital (US\$1,018). In terms of pension coverage, only 17.3% of people over the age of 65 receive a pension.

The country ranks poorly in the health domain (94 or 18.9 out of 100), due to low levels of life expectancy at the age of 60 and healthy life expectancy at 60. It ranks low within its region in the capability domain (94 or 4.5 out of 100), with the lowest regional rate of educational attainment among older people (1%), while 70.4% of the population aged 55-64 are employed.

Mozambique ranks lowest in the enabling environment domain (96 or 45.1 out of 100), due to low satisfaction with safety (31%), civic freedom (60%) and poor levels of access to public transport (31%). In October the ‘Age Demands Action’ campaign will take place in Mozambique.

Please see www.helpage.org/global-agewatch/population-ageing-data/country-ageing-data/?country=Mozambique for the full report.

Source: Help Age

END