Summary

- For the period of 1 to 15 October 2017, there were 46 critical incidents in Mozambique, resulting in 63 deaths and 112 arrests. The share of Human & Social-related incidents was 28.26%, followed by criminality with 19.57%.

- The first half of October 2017 was a particularly challenging period for Mozambique, with a new security risk emerging from home-grown terrorism unrelated to the RENAMO rebel group. Nineteen people were killed on 5 October in attacks by a domestic Islamist militant group based in Cabo Delgado, with most of those killed being the attackers. Four policemen have also been killed in a string of attacks on police stations in a small town in the north of the country. Dozens were arrested and authorities continue to analyze and investigate the incident.

- Regarding the security environment, border guards on the Mozambican side of Lake Malawi confronted a group of their Malawian counterparts on 5 October, after the Malawians allegedly raided a camp of Mozambican fishermen and fired shots in the air. The Malawians were repelled back to Malawi. Authorities did not report any casualty figures.

- On the political front, Filipe Nyusi was re-elected president of FRELIMO, and is now standing for re-election as President of the Republic in 2019. Nyusi will square off with RENAMO opposition party leader Afonso Dhlakama as campaigning for the presidential elections heats up.

- Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Mahamadou Amurrane, the mayor of Nampula city, the country’s third largest city on Wednesday, 5 October. Residents of Nampula took to the streets to protest, and police used rubber bullets and teargas to prevent rioting. Meanwhile, an unidentified gang broke into the Gaza headquarters of the opposition party, the Democratic Party of Mozambique (MDM) on 6 October and set it on fire.

- Moderate to high-risk flooding is predicted to hit Mozambique in the first quarter of 2018, particularly affecting parts of the south, central and northern provinces. In Maputo province alone, more than 42,000 people could be affected by natural disasters during the rainy season just starting.

- Police in Tete have confirmed twelve deaths in an accident involving a minibus in the district of Tsangano. Eleven of the victims were Malawian migrants traveling toward South Africa.

- A one-year-old albino boy was abducted from his village in Mecanhelas district, Niassa on 10 October. Mozambican police said they detained an individual who may be implicated in the crime.

- The Mozambican police admitted killing four people on 2 October when they opened fire on rioters in the town of Mandimba, in Niassa. The crowd had marched to the district police command to demand an explanation for the murder of a man who made his living out of informal currency trading.

- The Mozambican government will run a $1.26 billion deficit next year. It hopes to borrow $300 million more domestically and $700 million more externally, with foreign aid of $340 million expected to fill the remaining gap. The government formally admitted that the debt in 2016 was 102% of GDP.
Significant Events: 1 - 15 October 2017
Mozambique Bi-Weekly Summary

Lake Malawi: 5 October 2017: Mozambique border guards clashed with Malawi agents over fishing rights.

Cabo Delgado: 5 October 2017: Nineteen killed in armed clashes with Islamist extremists in Mocímboa.

Cabo Delgado: 8 October 2017: Police restore order in Mocímboa da Praia, following attacks by suspected Islamic extremists conducted on 5 October. 52 arrested.

Niassa: 2 October 2017: Four protesters killed by police in Niassa riots.

Nampula: 10 October 2017: One-year-old albino boy kidnapped in Maico.

Nampula: 9 October 2017: 10 police officers charged of extortion in Nampula.

Manica: 10 October 2017: Bad weather leaves one dead and destruction in Chimoio.

Nampula: 5-6 October 2017: Nampula Mayor murdered, leading to violent protests repressed by police. Four protesters killed.

Tete: 8 October 2017: Eleven illegal immigrants from Malawi killed in road accident in Tete.

Gaza: 6 October 2017: Police found three burnt bodies in Chizavane.

Nampula: 10 October 2017: 109 cases of cholera in Memba, outbreak “under control” says government.
Filipe Nyusi re-elected president of FRELIMO, to stand for re-election in 2019

The Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO) President Filipe Nyusi was re-elected with 99.72 percent of a total of 2,115 delegates voting on the fourth day of the 11th Congress of the ruling party in Mozambique, which started on Tuesday, 25 September. His re-election as FRELIMO leader means that Filipe Nyusi, who is the current President of the Republic, will be the candidate of the ruling party to the presidential elections of 2019, having competed and won the 2014 presidential elections. Of the total 2,115 votes counted, five were blank and one was considered null. Nyusi’s re-election is a sign that Mozambique is looking for continuity in its efforts to end the state of conflict involving the government and the RENAMO rebel group. RENAMO opposition party leader Afonso Dhlakama will be Nyusi’s political opponent as the two square-off after years of fighting between government forces and RENAMO supporters following the disputed election three years ago.

Nampula: Nampula mayor murdered, protests erupt

Unidentified gunmen have shot and killed Mahamadou Amurrane, the mayor of Nampula city, in Mozambique’s northern province of Nampula on Wednesday, 5 October. In response to the apparent assassination, people in Nampula, Mozambique’s third biggest city, took to the streets to protest and to call for action to be taken, blockading streets and burning tires. According to the police, the mayor was shot three times as he left his private residence where he had been working with contractors.

Amurrane’s MDM party had won Nampula city and three of the nation’s four largest cities in local elections in 2014. Amurrane, a known anti-corruption crusader, had been using private security after dismissing officers assigned to him by the state. Since his election as mayor of Nampula, Amurrane has embarked on a quest to root out corruption in the city’s administration and revitalise public infrastructure.

RENAMO leader accuses “squads” and Mozambican police of having assassinated Amurane

The RENAMO leader, Afonso Dhlakama, said he suspects that squads tied to powerful elites would have taken advantage of the feud between Amurane and his political party, the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM), to kill him. Dhlakama ruled out any role from the head of MDM, Daviz Simango, who he said does not have the capacity to set up a death squad and kill the mayor.

Dhlakama believes the killers are linked to the police and ‘political powers’, and suspects that the squads took advantage of the crisis between Mahamadou Amurane and his party.

Speaking to German news agency DW, Dhlakama said “We have already become accustomed in this country to seeing death squads assassinate people like António Siba-Siba Macuácua, Carlos Cardoso, Gilles Cistac, Jeremiah Pondeca and many others, even members of FRELIMO and RENAMO, but to this day, the state has been unable to identify the culprits.” Dhlakama blamed "people connected to the police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM). In a country with functioning institutions, groups of thugs appear to be able to shoot,
kill and then disappear without government comment."

**Gaza: Opposition party MDM offices in Gaza attacked**

Vandals broke into the Gaza headquarters of the opposition party MDM on 6 October and set it on fire. Party members are now improvising a meeting place, working in the open as they have been waiting for the police to collect evidence. The arsonists struck at dawn, when the premises were empty. A party spokesman says “The vandals broke the window and entered our facilities. Then they gathered all the furniture in the conference room and set it on fire. The flames spread to other rooms and burned everything in their path.” The spokesman also accused the police of not following up on the matter. The MDM believes that the ransacking of its headquarters was politically motivated and intended to intimidate the party.

**RENAIMO chief pledges peace but insists on integrating his forces in Mozambican military**

On Wednesday, 4 October, Mozambique marked the 25th anniversary of the country’s General Peace Agreement, with Afonso Dhlakama declaring that on the RENAMO side there will not be any weapons fired,” Dhlakama said. Dhlakama did however demand an agreement on the placing of his combatants in the Defense Forces of Mozambique (FADM), or the country would have two armies, one the state’s and the other RENAMO’s.

**Sofala: President’s visit to RENAMO base in Gorongosa was kept secret**

President of Mozambique and FRELIMO Filipe Nyusi admitted that his visit to the Gorongosa mountain range to meet RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama was organized in secrecy and without informing the provincial secretariat of the party and local government. Nyusi said he had done so because he feared officials in FRELIMO and in government would prevent him from going, and said the Defense and Security Forces, when they learned of his intention, also initially opposed the idea. Nyusi stated that his trip to Gorongosa was however nothing out of the ordinary, as he went as president of Mozambique and Gorongosa was part of Mozambique. “I am not the president of Maputo, but of the whole country,” Nyusi said.

**Human & Social**

**Moderate to high-risk of flood in Mozambique in 1Q2018, Maputo residents at risk**

Mozambican meteorological services (INAM) forecast moderate to high risk of flooding between January-March 2018, particularly in parts of south, central and northern provinces of the country. Normal to above normal rainfall will affect the central regions of Tete, Zambezia and large parts of Manica and Sofala, and normal to below normal for Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and north of Cabo Delgado provinces. Mozambican authorities and aid agencies will be working to strengthen their emergency preparedness for floods and cyclones.

In Maputo province alone, more than 42,000 people could be affected by natural disasters during the rainy season just starting, the
National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) says. Risks include floods, strong winds and intense heat. Provincial INGC head for Maputo, Wilson Manhique, says the figure features in a contingency plan that will be presented to Maputo provincial government soon. “We are currently finalizing the contingency plan for government approval. By 2017/2018, we are talking about normal rains, which tend to be above normal,” Manhique said.

Maputo: Over 3,000 illegal migrants deported from Mozambique

The spokesperson for Mozambique’s National Migration Service (SENAMI), Cira Fernandes, says her department repatriated 3,072 foreign nationals from January to September this year due to illegal immigration. Those repatriated were found to be staying in the country illegally or had lost their Foreign Residents Identification Document. Fernandes said the highest number of deportees was recorded in the province of Cabo Delgado where 2,053 people were repatriated followed by Tete (397) and Nampula (224) immigrants. Most of the immigrants are of Tanzanian nationality numbering 2061, followed by Malawians with 302 and Ethiopians 199.

Tete: Eleven illegal immigrants from Malawi killed in road accident in Tete

Police in Tete have confirmed twelve deaths in an accident involving a minibus in the district of Tsangano. Eleven lost their lives at the scene and the other from severe injuries in hospital later. Of the dead, only one, the driver, was Mozambican. The minibus, carrying nineteen people, three Mozambicans and the remaining Malawians, had crossed the border of Angónia district en route for South Africa. Seven of the surviving passengers, five Malawan and two Mozambican were seriously injured.

Tete: Mozambique deports 88 Malawians

Authorities in Mozambican Tete province have deported 88 Malawian nationals who were on their way to South Africa, Malawi immigration officials have confirmed. The Malawian nationals were traveling to South Africa without any traveling document. They say details of those who trafficked them remain unclear since the alleged traffickers have already been detained in Mozambique on human trafficking charges.

Nampula: Government says cholera outbreak in Mema is “under control”, shares data on other epidemics

The Mozambican Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday, 10 October, that an outbreak of cholera in Mema district, on the coast of the northern province of Nampula, is now under control. Lorna Gujral, the head of the epidemiology department in the Health Ministry, said that between August and the first week of October, 109 cases of cholera had been diagnosed in Mema, one of whom had died. But Gujral considers the situation as under control. She said Nampula province has sufficient stocks of serum and other material for treatment, as well as water purifying chemicals to distribute among the communities to ensure that they are drinking clean water.

Looking back over the entire year since early January, Gujral said there had been cholera outbreaks in Nampula, Tete and Maputo city and province. In total, there had been 2,131 cases and five deaths. As for other diarrheal diseases, from the start of the year until 9 October, 492,152 cases had been notified, with 198 deaths. This is a decline on the figures for all of 2016, when there had been 591,693 cases and 306 deaths.

As for malaria, between 1 January and 9 October there were 5,023,829 notified cases, and 984 deaths. The statistics for all of 2016 are 5,861,416 notified malaria cases and 1,230 deaths. Gujral reported that about 13 million mosquito nets have been distributed in northern and central Mozambique this year under a mass bed net distribution campaign. This campaign has not yet been extended to the southern provinces.

Nampula: Mozambican police fires tear gas, rubber bullets at people protesting the murder of Nampula Mayor

Police used rubber bullets and tear gas against protesters in Nampula on 5 October, after authorities had banned “illegal demonstrations” over the killing of Nampula Mayor Mahamadou Amurane the day prior. “We have witnessed an attempted illegal march, with protesters burning tires on the streets,” PRM spokesman Inácio
Dina told a press conference in Maputo, “but this manifestation was cancelled by the police because it was illegal”. Mahamadou Amurane was shot by a stranger in a pharmacy on the ground floor of his private residence in Nampula. Dozens of people demonstrated near public buildings, with posters demanding justice after the death of the mayor.

**Gaza: Indefinite teacher strike in Xai-Xai could spread nationwide**

A teachers’ strike began in the city of Xai-Xai as a result of the non-payment of overtime in a dispute dating back to 2015. The strike is affecting thousands of students in Gaza. More than 7,200 teachers have not received overtime pay in Gaza province. The strike has the potential to spread throughout the province and could affect thousands of students, some of whom have final exams in November. But strong-arm tactics between teachers and the provincial government persist, with teachers warning that they will not go back to work until the arrears are paid. The provincial government owes teachers 131 million meticais (equivalent to more than US$2 million) for overtime and second shifts from 2015 to 2017.

**Maputo: Police free human-trafficking victims**

The Mozambican police announced the release of 41 women who were victims of human trafficking imprisoned in a house in Matola, Maputo province. The police spokesman, Inácio Dina, said that the victims from Mozambique were imprisoned to wait for their passports so that they could travel to South Africa. “We identified a leader of the operation who acted as the owner of South African companies,” he said without clarifying whether the alleged perpetrator has been detained or not. Since the beginning of this year, the Attorney General’s Office of Mozambique has reported 11 cases of human trafficking, the majority related to labor exploitation.

**Security**

**Cabo Delgado: Nineteen killed in attacks by a home-grown Islamic militant group in Cabo Delgado**

Four policemen have been killed in a string of attacks on police stations in Mocimboa da Praia, a small town in northern Mozambique, by a group of hooded, armed men who attacked in the early hours of Thursday, 5 October 2017. 15 of the gunmen were however killed as police responded. Reports suggest that gunmen, started shooting indiscriminately in different parts of the town, leaving civilians and police officers dead. As a result of the attack, Mocimboa da Praia was paralyzed, with many of its population fleeing the village to avoid the bloodshed. State institutions were closed in the subsequent days whilst authorities attempted to restore order. More than 50 people have been arrested since the attack, and more arrests are likely.

Despite civilian casualties, the police appear to have been the main target of the attackers. There are no reports of attacks directed at other state or private institutions.

Last year a complaint had been lodged stating that the Somali-Islamic terrorist group, Al-Shabaab, was already operating in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, where it conducted mobilization activities and spread propaganda on the mandatory use of the burqa by all Muslim women.

The complaint was made public in June in the city of Pemba by a delegation of the Mozambican Islamic Council in Cabo Delgado, during Eid-Ul-Fitr celebrations. It named Pemba and the districts of Mocimboa da Praia and Chiûre, as points where the group was carrying out its activities. Nevertheless, this recent attack appears to have been conducted by a home-grown extremist group with no ties to al-Shabaab.

The governor of the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, Celmira da Silva, has described the attackers against the town of Mocimboa da Praia as Islamist militants, characterizing the situation as “extremely frightening”. He added that “We need to understand the origin of these groups, who they are, what their motives are, and where they came from.” Residents of Mocimboa da Praia however told journalists they had repeatedly warned the authorities of the presence of an Islamist group in the district. The independent daily newspaper O Pais quoted local residents calling the group by the name “Al-Shabaab”. The name
Local residents claim the mayor of Mocimboa da Praia, Fernando Neves, was also aware of the “Al-Shabaab” group long before the attack. Asked by ‘O Pais’ why no measures had been taken, he said that when the government identified some foreigners in the group who were calling the authority of the Mozambican state into question, they were repatriated to Tanzania. As for borrowing the name of the Somali terrorist organization, there are reports that the group also goes by the name “Swahili-Sunah” or “Al-Sunah”.

A security source suggests that the roots of this group lie in the scholarships offered to Mozambicans to study at religious schools in Saudi Arabia and Sudan. The koranic schools where they studied in these countries are under the influence of wahabbism, an ultra-conservative brand of Islam tied to the Saudi sphere of influence.

Lake Malawi: Mozambique border guards clash with Malawi agents over fishing rights
Border guards on the Mozambican side of Lake Malawi chased away a group of their Malawian counterparts on 5 October, after the Malawians allegedly invaded a camp of Mozambican fishermen and fired shots in the air. The Mozambican guards eventually caught up with the Malawians, who explained that they were pursuing the fishermen for having violated Malawi’s waters. The police said the Mozambican authorities are talking with the Malawians about the matter. The lake border between Malawi and Mozambique is not in dispute – unlike that between Malawi and Tanzania, which is being mediated by former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano.

Criminlity

Maputo: Former Manhica mayor charged with misuse of corrupt practices
Alberto Chicuamba, the former president of the Municipal Council of the town of Manhiça in Maputo province, has been charged by the Public Ministry with having misused public funds for his own purposes during his time in office, from 2003 to 2013. The indictment also points to the involvement of some other municipal officials, who are also being charged in the district court. According to Maputo provincial chief prosecutor Evelina Gomane, Chicuamba has not yet been arrested.

Nampula: Police officers charged of extortion in Nampula
More than 10 police officers have been charged with extortion in Mozambique’s northern Nampula province in September alone. Police recognize the problem and claim to be addressing it. Police corruption has however increased in Mozambique recently, particularly in Nampula, say motorists who claim to be the major victims on the province’s roads. Many of them are professional drivers transporting people and goods on both short and long distance routes.

In September alone, at least 10 traffic and criminal investigation police officers were prosecuted for extortion, some of them caught red-handed. Criminal and disciplinary processes are presently underway.

Nampula police spokesman Zacarias Nacute recognized the involvement of its agents in corruption, and asks motorists to report officers involved. Speaking to Germany’s DW, Nacute says “The police are exemplary and very forceful in the face of indiscipline and all individuals who are indicted in criminal acts, after their involvement being proven, are held criminally and disciplinarily accountable. We need to maintain integrity in the performance of the police force.”

Gaza: Police find three burnt bodies in Chizavane
Mozambican police found the bodies of three men in the bush in Chizavane, Manjacaze district, Gaza province, on Friday, 6 October. They are presumed to have been killed by a mob elsewhere, then brought and burned in Chizava, according to police spokesman Edgar Juvane. The victims are from the neighboring districts of Xai-Xai and Chidenguene. Police suspect they had attempted to steal some cattle but were caught by members of the public.
Maputo: Three suspects arrested in connection to mayor Amurane’s murder, two released
Mozambique police have progressed swiftly in the murder investigation of Mahamadou Amurane. At least three people have been detained, two of whom were with the deceased at the time of the incident. A source claimed that two of those arrested were simply witnesses helping the police with their enquiries but, in view of their statements, suspicions had arisen about them and they were now being treated as suspects. The relatives of the two detained are outraged with this outcome, saying they were initially identified as witnesses but had now been accused of involvement in the death of their friend, the president of the municipality. A third detainee is someone allegedly linked to MDM party. The two men held by police in Nampula since Tuesday have since been released.

Nampula: Police arrested over murder of civilian man
A police officer, working as a member of the Rapid Intervention Unit (UIR) has been arrested in the murder case of an unarmed youth who died in Nampula on 28 September 28. The victim was allegedly shot dead by the UIR agent in the Aeroporto neighborhood, where the youth was picking green mangoes near the UIR barracks. In addition to the gunshot wound, the body of the deceased showed bruises, suggesting he had been subjected to ill-treatment.

Niassa: One-year-old albino boy kidnapped in Maico, Niassa
A one-year-old albino boy was abducted by strangers last week from the village of Maico, Mecanhelas district, Niassa, on 10 October. The abduction happened in the night, as the child was sleeping next to his mother on the balcony of their home. Mozambican police said they detained an individual who had harbored the kidnappers in connection with the incident. Cases of albino abduction are frequent in Mecanhelas because the region borders Malawi.

Niassa: Police admit killing four in Mandimba riots in Niassa
The Mozambican police on Tuesday, 3 October, admitted that four people died the previous day when police opened fire on rioters in the town of Mandimba, in the northern province of Niassa. Spokesperson for the General Command of the police, Inacio Dina, claimed the police did not intend to kill the rioters, but were obliged to open fire to prevent them from attacking the district police command and seizing the firearms stored there. His statements contradict those of the Niassa Provincial Police command however, which initially claimed that no-one had died. In addition to the deaths, seven demonstrators were injured, four of them seriously. The angry crowd set fire to the house of the district police commander, and in the clashes two police cars, seven motor-cycles and 12 bicycles were destroyed. The crowd had marched to the district police command to demand an explanation for a murder the previous day, of a man who made his living out of informal currency trading. His family claimed that the police were involved in the murder.

Economy
Maputo: Car insurance premiums set to rise under new rules
New regulations require car insurance policies to be prepared to pay out a minimum of 3 million meticais, up from the current 300,000 meticais requirement [from around US$4.887 to US$48.874 at current exchange rates], meaning a likely rise in insurance premiums. The 300,000 meticical requirement was instituted in 2005 and has not kept up with inflation. The new regulation has yet to be published by the ministry of economy and finance. Coupled with the higher import tax on older cars, it is getting more and more expensive to own and run a private car for the average Mozambican consumer.
Maputo: Public transport company lays off 140 workers in Matola

The Matola Municipal Public Transport Company (ETM) in Maputo province, has laid off 140 workers. The company requires 30 million meticais (US$488K or EUR 418K) to pay compensations. ETM administrator, Eliado Jossias, says the carrier was reducing the workforce to 147 workers as part of a cost containment plan.

Maputo: Audit firm Kroll under attack by companies implicated in Mozambique’s debt default

Three state-owned Mozambican companies, whose government-guaranteed debts led the gas-rich nation to default have criticized an audit by Kroll that questioned their actions in the scandal. The companies queried two key findings by Kroll, including that more than $500 million of debt remains unexplained, and said the entire maritime security project that the loans funded “was public from day one,” according to a letter from their lawyers, Alexandre Chivale & Associados, addressed to Attorney General Beatriz da Consolação Buchili. The letter, seen by Bloomberg, was verified by the law firm. Mozambique’s government last year admitted to the International Monetary Fund that it had agreed to about $1.4 billion of loans it previously did not disclose, prompting the Washington-based lender to halt financing to the country. A group of 14 donors followed suit.

The $500 million that Kroll said was unexplained was officially moved to the defense budget and approved by parliament, raising questions about why Kroll believed there was a discrepancy, as stated in the 18 August letter. Kroll hired a specialist to value the fishing boats, patrol vessels and aircraft the loans funded, who found that they may have been overpriced by about $700 million. Privinvest, the contractor that supplied the equipment, said it charged similar amounts to other clients.

It is “strange that the specialist has evaluated sophisticated systems in so short a time,” said the lawyers. “Likewise, Kroll only presents an assessment that does not include intangible assets, such as the transfer of technology and intellectual property.”

Maputo: Mozambique’s debt to increase by another billion dollars amid worsening deficit

The Mozambican government will run a $1.26 billion deficit next year. With continuing reports of the government not paying its bills, it hopes to borrow $300 million more domestically and $700 million more externally. It hopes the foreign aid of $340 million will more than fill the remaining gap. Meanwhile, the government formally admitted that the debt in 2016 was 102% of GDP. The government plan and budget were approved at a special Council of Ministers meeting on 21 September, brought forward to avoid the FRELIMO Congress, which was taking place at the same time. The full documents will be submitted to parliament — and only basic details released.

Inflation is expected to fall from 15.5% this year to 11.9% next year, and GNP growth should rise to 5.3% in 2018.

Council of Ministers spokesperson, Ana Comoana, said that expectations of donor support were based on donors statements that have been “unanimous in recognizing what has been the great worth of the government of Mozambique.”

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Economics and Finance finally released the 2016 debt figures, which showed a substantial increase in debt in 2016. Debt jumped to 102% of GDP compared to 73% in 2015. This was partly due to the devaluation of the metical, but also due to major new loans – $600 million from abroad and MT 19 billion ($260 million) domestically.

Maputo: Prices resume upward increases

After three months of successive falls, prices in Maputo are on the rise again, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE). Food and other prices rose 0.04% in August compared to July. The housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels sectors played a major role, contributing approximately 0.11 percentage points (pp). Worth noting are the increase in prices of electricity (21.3%), gasoline (1.0%), coconut (4.7%), perfumes (2.4%), gas oil (3.0%) and men’s pants (2.2%), contributing to the total monthly inflation of around 0.29 percentage points.

In terms of accumulated inflation per product, the highlight is the rise in the prices of bread, gasoline,
restaurants meals, charcoal, chicken, beer and mobile phones, which together contributed 3.73 percentage points.

**Zambezia: Beef shortage in Quelimane**

Quelimane, the capital of Zambezia province has been experiencing a shortage of beef for three weeks now, the president of the local abattoir association has announced. Quelimane’s abattoirs are virtually idle for lack of animals, and the shortage could lead to an increase in prices by suppliers. A rise of 20 meticais ($0.33) from 150 meticais ($2.48) to 170 meticais ($2.6) per kilo is expected. Official figures released during the visit by President Filipe Nyusi to the province in September indicated that Zambezia had 43,000 cattle heads. The beef shortage is linked to the drought that affected the province at the beginning of the year, when farmers lost much of their livestock.

**OIL & GAS FOCUS:**

**Zambezi Delta seismic study launched**

Work to collect 3D seismic data in the Zambezi Delta in central Mozambique will start in mid-October, under an agreement between the National Petroleum Institute (INP) and the French Compagnie Generale de Geophysique (CGG). The seismic study will cover an area of 40,000 square kilometers, and CGG has already mobilized a ship which is expected to start registering the seismic data in the next few days. The data will allow greater knowledge of the hydrocarbon potential of the Zambezi Delta, providing oil and gas companies with the information required to pursue their activities.

This work arises from the second public tender for the acquisition of geophysical and geological data, launched by the INP in 2016. It will provide the INP with a better geological view of the region which will be used in future licensing of oil and gas operators. It will also guarantee the transfer of technical knowledge to the INP and other Mozambican institutions.
**Political/Security:**

Mozambique’s political outlook calls for stability with the FRELIMO ruling party maintaining the leadership of President Nyusi at the top of the party. The renewal of Nyusi’s leadership of FRELIMO signals the broad acceptance of the President’s road map for peace and reconciliation with the RENAMO opposition group, paving the way for a sustained peace and a final resolution to the Mozambican conflict.

While the political environment is showing signs of a stabilizing outlook, the emergence of a home-grown Islamic militant group in the north of the country adds a new level of uncertainty as to the risk profile of the country. It is still too early to assess the past fortnight’s events in Cabo Delgado, but a first analysis suggests that the incident may be isolated and not sustainable, considering the demographic profile of the northern population, and lack of support to the militants from the general public. The military and the police are also expected to crackdown on any remaining militants. However, there is the potential of a worsening environment.

Another case of concern is the ongoing attacks against Mozambique’s third biggest party, MDM. The murder of the Nampula mayor and attacks on MDM sites in other regions are a cause for concern that opposition parties remain the targets of politicians and lobby groups who may benefit more from an unstable Mozambique.

**Social/Human:**

Mozambique is entering the unstable rainy season period. Already, emergency agencies are bracing for heavy rains, floods and other difficult weather conditions that will likely lead to population displacements, death and destruction.

In this context, the province of Maputo may be one of the most affected regions, and government readiness is not yet guaranteed, considering the lack of resources and the hesitation of foreign donors to engage their own resources.

Meanwhile, the population is confronted with a continued rise in the prices of commodities and services, which could worsen living conditions going forward.

**Economy:**

Despite authorities expecting a decline in inflation, Mozambican households and business are witnessing price increases in the wider economy.

The country relies on the prospects of oil and gas exploration to boost its revenues, but with oil prices still low, revenues are not likely to increase as desired.
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<td>Heroes’ Day</td>
<td>Holiday to honor the soldiers who died in the Mozambican War of Independence against Portugal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 May 2018</td>
<td>Worker’s Day</td>
<td>Labor day—Widespread business closures.</td>
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Constellis is a leading provider of risk management, protective security, crisis management and enabling support services to governments, international organizations and major corporations across the globe. We specialize in serving the energy, construction, extractives, critical infrastructure, development and national security sectors—assisting our clients in understanding risk and in conducting their operations safely and securely, no matter their location. Constellis takes pride in our strict adherence to an exacting code of ethics and rigorous focus on standards and compliance—reinforcing the pioneering role we play in fostering stability, efficiency and sustainable economic development.

Representing client interests around the world, we maintain operations in more than 25 countries as well as a global network of strategic and local partners. Connected via our state-of-the-art operations command and control centres, we provide a rapid response capability spanning North America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Constellis is headquartered in just outside Washington, D.C. in the United States, and possesses regional offices in the UAE, UK, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria and Kenya. The core values underpinning our operating philosophy are the provision of international best practices while conducting all activities with respect for people, cultures and traditions; to uphold the principles of integrity, reliability and trust; to build capacity through knowledge transfer and to strengthen and empower local economies and communities.

Ultimately, our commitment is to prioritize local talent and local suppliers and to develop a profound understanding of the societal, legislative and operational situation ‘on the ground’. This affords us and our clients a unique freedom of movement and enables us to create safe and secure environments in a discrete and sustainable manner.

For more information about Constellis, please visit our website at: www.constellis.com
Constellis’ intelligence analysts and security consultants produce bespoke political and security reports, threat assessments and security risk assessments to inform decisions and to protect people and assets across Mozambique and Africa.

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