

## **Mozambique Chronology 01- 30 April 2002**

ITEM N0 02/04/01 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - DROUGHT

Drought in southern and central Mozambique has wiped out 56,150 hectares of crops this year, affecting at least 41,500 households (over 200,000 people), according to figures from the Agriculture Ministry. The figures were presented to representatives of foreign embassies and humanitarian agencies in Maputo on Monday, at a meeting chaired by Foreign Minister Leonardo Simao. Simao admitted that different sets of figures are being given by district administrators and by ministry technical teams. The local administrators, he said, were using "different criteria of vulnerability, and want to help everyone". But the technical teams looked at "who really needs aid", and came up with lower figures. Simao also criticised some of the mozambican media for publishing unchecked claims about deaths from hunger.

From: Government briefs diplomats on drought/AIM/01 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/02 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - WATER COMPANY - NEW PARTNER

"Aguas de Moçambique", the private consortium managing water supply in Maputo and six other Mozambican cities, is looking for a new partner, following the withdrawal in December of the French company Saur Internacional. Saur Internacional was the leading company in the consortium, holding 38.5 per cent of the shares. The reasons for its withdrawal have not been made public. Cited in Tuesday's issue of the daily paper "Noticias", Mario Correia, chairperson of the board of directors of "Aguas de Portugal", now the consortium's majority shareholder, said the consortium was negotiating with the Mozambican government and with the World Bank to ensure the entry of a new partner that would acquire the Saur Internacional position. "Aguas de Mocambique" signed a contract with the Mozambican government for the management of the water supply systems in Maputo, Matola, Beira, Dondo, Quelimane, Nampula and Pemba.

From: "Aguas de Moçambique" seeks new partner /AIM/02 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/02 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - AGRICULTURE - EU FUNDS

The European Commission has disbursed five million euros (about 4.4 million US dollars) intended to support the 2002 budget of Mozambique's National Agricultural Development Programme (PROAGRI). According to an Agriculture Ministry press release received by AIM on Tuesday, the money has been granted under the Commission's Food Security Programme. And in light of a memorandum of understanding signed by the Mozambican government and the European Commission in December 2001, the latter has also pledged to disburse a further five million euros to finance PROAGRI in 2003. Since 2000 to date, the European Commission has disbursed 15 million euros to PROAGRI through the state budget.

From: European Commission supports Proagri /AIM/02 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/04 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - ECONOMIC GROWTH

The final figure for Mozambique's economic growth rate in 2001 is 13.9 per cent, according to figures presented by Finance Minister Luisa Diogo at a Thursday press briefing. Only one per cent of this growth is accounted for by the first year of full production of the first phase of the MOZAL aluminium smelter, on the outskirts of Maputo. According to Diogo the growth in Mozambique's GDP, excluding MOZAL, was 12.9 per cent. These are rather different from the preliminary figures given by Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi to the country's parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, on 17 December. Then the overnment estimated that economic growth in 2001 would be 14.8 per cent - but that MOZAL would account for almost a third of this. Mocumbi estimated economic growth without MOZAL at 10.2 per cent. When looked at in terms of production, there was substantial growth in most sectors. Agriculture grew by 10.4 per cent, manufacturing industry by 16.9 per cent, construction by 17.8 per cent, mining by 11.8 per cent, and transport and communications by a spectacular 44.9 per cent.

From: Final figures for 2001 economic growth/AIM/04 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/04 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - ANGOLA - CEASE-FIRE

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, in his capacity as Chairman of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, has hailed the signing on Thursday in Luanda of a cease-fire between the Angolan government and the UNITA rebels. In a Thursday press release, Chissano said the agreement opens new perspectives for Angolans "so that, in peace, they can dedicate all their energies and knowledge to national reconstruction and to the development of their country and the region". "This agreement bears unequivocal testimony to the unwavering will of the people of Angola to reconcile with one another and to live in peace and harmony", says the release, adding that it meant an important contribution to peace and stability in Southern Africa, "a fundamental condition for the success of our development and regional integration projects".

From: Chissano praises Angola cease-fire/AIM/04 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/05 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - COURT - PAPER'S EDITOR

A court has interfered in one of Mozambique's independent weekly papers and ordered the removal from the premises of its editor. Police officers, accompanied by an official of the Maputo City Court, visited the offices of the paper, "Demos", on Thursday afternoon, and ordered the editor, Cassimo Ginabay, to leave the premises. Ginabay, who began his career as a reporter at AIM in the 1980s, was also ordered to turn over all Demos documentation to the "founder members" of the ownership body, Coopartes Editorial. The ruling from the court orders Ginabay to "abstain from disturbing the normal exercise of the company's activities". However, the company has precisely one activity - publishing a weekly paper. The paper has remained in existence largely because of the work done by Ginabay, who rescued it from a disastrous financial situation in 1997. By expelling Ginabay from the premises the court endangers the company's "normal activities".

From: Maputo Court removes paper's editor/AIM/05 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/05 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE), the electoral branch of the Mozambican civil service, is working on a survey of the places where voter registration sites will be located for the updating of the electoral register, in anticipation of the 2003 municipal elections and the 2004 parliamentary and presidential elections. However, interviewed in Friday's issue of the daily paper "Noticias", STAE general director Antonio Carrasco expressed concern over the fact that the Assembly of the Republic, the Mozambican parliament, has not yet passed amendments to the electoral law. He warned that failure to amend the electoral legislation will affect the quality and credibility of STAE's work. He recalled that, according to the current law, the electoral registers should be updated every year. However, there have been no changes to the register since 1999.

From: STAE prepares to update electoral register/AIM/05 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/09 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - FORMER MIGRANTS - PAYMENT

The Mozambican government has decided to repay the social insurance money that was deducted from the wages of Mozambican citizens who once worked in the now defunct German Democratic Republic (GDR). Announcing the decision at a Maputo press conference on Tuesday, Labour Minister Mario Sevene said that the total amount to be paid to the 11,252 former migrants who have registered with the government is the equivalent of 7.5 million US dollars. The first 20 per cent (1.5 million dollars) will be paid in the second half of this year, 40 per cent will be paid in 2003, and the remaining 40 per cent in 2004. Mozambican migrants returned en masse in 1990 as the German socialist state collapsed. Since then organisations claiming to represent the returnees have sporadically claimed that the government still owes them money. Over the last few months there have been repeated demonstrations outside the Labour Ministry, and occasionally outside the Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, organised by the "Forum of Returnees from the ex-GDR". Among their main demands has been the return of the social insurance payments.

From: Government agrees to pay former migrants/AIM/09 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/10 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - SADC - BORDER PROCEDURES

Bureaucratic procedures on the borders and lack of observance of agreed protocols between governments have been blamed for the poor flow of investment between member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), reports Wednesday's issue of the daily paper "Diario de Mocambique". This point of view was aired by the participants at a conference on international investment and business relations, that preceded the opening on Tuesday of the Mozex-2002 Trade Fair in the central port city of Beira. The participants from Mozambique and Zimbabwe also complained that their governments are doing little to facilitate business. They noted that when agreements are signed between governments, all details about business procedures "seem very clean and clear, but their implementation then systematically fails". Some of them spoke of the fees for importing and exporting charged by transport operators, notably state-owned ones, which they described as "arbitrary". So far governments had failed to intervene against such allegedly exorbitant charges.

From: Border procedures hinder investments within SADC/AIM/10 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/11 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - LIMPOPO NATIONAL PARK

The Mozambican Tourism Ministry is studying the feasibility of reintroducing 1,280 head of different species of wildlife into the Limpopo National Park, in the southern province of Gaza, as a means to render it more profitable in terms of tourism. Among the animals to be imported are 200 wildebeest, 300 zebras, 80 giraffes, 600 impalas and 50 warthogs. The Mozambican park is one of the three components of the Greater Limpopo transborder park, along with the Kruger Park, in South Africa, and Gonazero, in Zimbabwe. The international park is expected to be opened in August. The Limpopo Park manager, Gilberto Vicente, told AIM that the restocking plan is part of the Mozambican government's efforts to try and replace the losses caused by the uncontrolled slaughter of wildlife since independence in 1975, until 1999, when studies began for the integration of the area into the transborder park. He said that the new animals may possibly be acquired in South Africa.

From: Mozambique to restock Limpopo National Park/AIM/11 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/13 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - MALAWI - TOBACCO

The Malawian government on Saturday imposed a surcharge of 10 per cent on all foreign tobacco entering the country, a move regarded as a serious blow by Mozambican tobacco producers. The measure was adopted a day after the Malawian authorities closed the frontier post of Chiponde to Mozambican tobacco. Chiponde is on the other side of the border from Mandimba, in the northern Mozambican province of Niassa, and has been used by the company Joao Ferreira dos Santos and other tobacco producers as the route to export their tobacco into Malawi. Mozambican tobacco is processed in Malawi prior to export, because Mozambique itself has no tobacco processing factories. Apparently the border post was reopened on Saturday, but by early afternoon, according to a spokesperson for Joao Ferreira dos Santos, no trucks carrying Mozambican tobacco had crossed.

From: Malawi slams surcharge on Mozambican tobacco/AIM/13 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/14 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - CHINA - MILITARY AGREEMENT

The Mozambican Defence Ministry is working with the Chinese military authorities to design new forms of cooperation, particularly in military training and logistics. The Chinese and Mozambican governments signed in Maputo on Sunday a protocol to govern Chinese aid to the Mozambican Defence Force (FADM). The signing ceremony was a high point in the visit of a Chinese military delegation headed by the deputy chief of staff of the Chinese armed forces, General Kui Fulin. Interviewed by AIM, Defence Minister Tobias Dai praised the role played by China in the struggle for Mozambican independence, and said the presence of the Chinese delegation "marks the continuity in the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples." "This is a renewal of the traditional and historic friendship that has always existed between the two countries and their armed forces", Dai stressed. "We have a duty to keep alive this friendship that was won with blood and sacrifice. Today we are independent, and to a large extent that is due to the friendship and solidarity of the Chinese people".

From: Military agreement with China/AIM/14 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/16 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - CPLP - MILITARY THINK-TANK

Mozambique has been chosen to be home to the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) military think-tank, the Strategic Analysis Centre (CAE). The idea of creating the think-tank seemed to be cast in stone at a two-day meeting of the Chiefs-of-Staff of the community's members states which ended on Tuesday in Maputo, and it is aimed at harmonising CPLP strategic military thinking. Domingos Salazar, the chairman of the CAE Installation Committee, told AIM that the centre will start its tasks proper in 2003, and "will be devoted to research, studies and exchange of strategic thinking for the seven countries in defence matters". The Installation Committee is currently working on all the details related to the centre. Because Portugal, the former colonial power, and Brazil have their own military think-tanks, it is more than likely that the centre will mostly benefit the five Portuguese speaking African countries - Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe. Salazar thought that this would be the first group of African countries to have such a centre.

From: Mozambique to house CPLP military think-tank/AIM/16 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/17 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - TOBACCO SECTOR - RETALIATION

Mozambican tobacco producers are asking the government to retaliate against the decision of the Malawian authorities to charge a 10 per cent surtax on unprocessed Mozambican tobacco that enters Malawi. The Malawian customs service announced this decision on Thursday, plus the closing of the Calomue border post to Mozambican tobacco, which caught the Mozambican producers unawares, at the height of the marketing and export campaign. "The Mozambican government should charge a surtax of 10 per cent, or even more, on fuel imports to Malawi through Mozambican territory, so that they can feel the pain of what they have done to us", said Teresa Nhacuinica, of the management of the Tabacos de Tete (Tete Tobacco) company. She said, however, that Mozambique "should not impose a complete halt on rail traffic to Malawi, at least at this stage, because that would create a dramatic situation, but just charge the surtax on fuel to see if the Malawians would opt for more expensive alternatives". (Malawi imports its fuel from Mozambican ports: the railway to the northern Mozambican port of Nacala offers Malawi easily its cheapest and quickest route to the sea.)

From: Mozambican tobacco sector wants retaliation/AIM/17 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/17 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - HIV/AIDS

Almost 65,000 people over the age of 15 will die of AIDS this year in Mozambique, according to the deputy national director of health, Avertino Barreto. Speaking at a seminar on public health in Beira, which brought together district administrators and mayors from across the central provinces, Barreto said that over half of the deaths are expected to occur in the central region. The statistical projections are that there will be 39,900 AIDS deaths in central Mozambique (Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambezia provinces), 13,500 in the south (Maputo city, and Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane provinces), and 4,200 in the north (Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado provinces). The estimates for 2001 are that there were 45,000 deaths from AIDS - 33,400 in the centre of the country, 9,600 in the south and 2,500 in the north. There are thought to be 60,000 orphans who have lost their mothers to AIDS - 43,000 of these orphans are in the central region, 12,200 in the south, and 4,000 in the north. The current AIDS situation in Mozambique was "serious", said Barreto, and would worsen unless "we take action now". The health ministry's guesstimate is that new infections with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, are running at a rate of 500 a day.

From: Almost 60,000 mozambicans will die of AIDS this year/AIM/17 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/18 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - BANKRUPT BREWERY

The management of the "Laurentina" brewery in Maputo, as expected, declared bankruptcy on Wednesday, but shocked its workforce by telling them that they will only receive 45 days wages in compensation, regardless of how long they have worked at the factory. The workers believe they are covered by clauses in the Mozambican labour law which state that whenever the retrenchment of a worker is by the decision of the employer, he should be given three months notice and paid compensation of three months wages for

every two years of service. Furthermore, the spokesperson for the company's trade union committee, Luis Gonzaga, told AIM that the employers want to compensate only the permanent workers, sending the casual workers away empty handed, alleging that they have no collective agreement with this group of workers. Gonzaga said that the trade union committee is planning to enter into negotiations with the employers to force them to abide by the law. "We have already set up a negotiating team to have the compensation paid according to our law", he said, adding that if this fails the trade union will hire a lawyer to defend the workers' rights.

From: Bankrupt brewery gives workers miserly compensation/AIM/18 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/19 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - USE OF CONDOMS

The great majority of young Mozambicans have not only heard of the lethal disease AIDS, but are well aware that use of condoms can prevent infection - nonetheless over three quarters of them did not use a condom in their most recent sexual encounter. These are among the findings of a national inquiry undertaken by the Mozambican Statistics Institute (INE) into the reproductive health and sexual behaviour of people aged between 15 and 24. The sample used consisted of 5,342 women and 5,150 men, distributed across the country. 79.1 per cent of the women and 82.2 per cent of the men had heard of AIDS. In urban areas, the level of knowledge was considerably higher: 86.4 per cent of urban women and 92.1 per cent of urban men knew of the disease. The overwhelming majority of both sexes knew that AIDS can be transmitted sexually, and, among those who had heard of the disease, 84.7 per cent of the men and 69.2 per cent of the women knew that transmission can be avoided by always using condoms. Asked how to avoid AIDS, only a few gave answers that were downright wrong: 2.3 per cent of women and 2.9 per cent of men thought that there were pills that could be taken to avoid AIDS. 0.9 per cent of women and two per cent of men thought the solution was "not to have relations with homosexuals", while 0.7 per cent of women and 1.8 per cent of men believed that giving blood led to AIDS.

From: Mozambicans know about condoms - but don't use them/AIM/19 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/20 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - PALESTINE - MOSLEM MARCH

Hundreds of moslems marched through the streets of Maputo on Saturday in solidarity with the people of Palestine, and demanding an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian cities that Israeli troops have re-occupied over the past few weeks. Although a feeling of outrage at Israeli war crimes is widespread in Mozambican society, there were no more than 1,500 people on this march - the small turnout was no doubt related to the sectarian way it was organised by the Mozambican Islamic Movement, with no attempt to reach out to non-moslems. Strangely enough, there was a larger attendance at a much more extremist demonstration organised by the Mozambican Islamic movement last October, against the American intervention in Afghanistan. On that march the most prominent slogans were "Long live Osama bin Laden!", and "Long live the Taliban!" This time the marchers carried banners and placards with slogans such as "Human rights - are the Palestinians not human too?", "Take Sharon and Bush to the tribunal in the Hague". And "Why don't those who say they are the liberators of Afghanistan also liberate Palestine?"

From: Moslems march for Palestine/AIM/20 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/21 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - ACTIONS FOR GREATER LIMPOPO PARK

A number of representatives of civil society and of residents of the area of the recently declared Greater Limpopo International Park are to meet in Maputo on Tuesday to discuss management plans for the park's natural resources. This park is a crossborder conservation initiative, encompassing parts of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The meeting, organized by the Mozambican government, is to gather different points of view on various aspects to be taken into account in the management of the park. The manager of the Mozambican side of the park, Gilberto Vicente, explained that such aspects include the demarcation of areas of activities, planning the use of land, and the conservation of biodiversity. The government is to hear local communities on the plan and decide on the species to be introduced into the Mozambican park area, in Gaza province. Following the introduction of 30 elephants in October, the government is planning to introduce, by July, about 1,000 other large mammals, described as "inoffensive", including giraffes, zebras, impalas, warthogs and other species.

From: Mozambique plans actions for Greater Limpopo Park/AIM/21 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/22 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - ZIMBABWEAN FARMERS

Zimbabwean commercial farmers wishing to invest in Mozambique have run into a major obstacle: the Zimbabwean government will not let them take their equipment out of the country. The Zimbabwean Minister of Lands, Joseph Made, told the Zimbabwean "Sunday Mail" newspaper that "all borders across the country have been issued with a directive not to allow any farming equipment to leave the borders". The paper claimed that recently white commercial farmers have been taking tractors and irrigation equipment off land earmarked for acquisition under the government's hotly contested land reform programme. According to the paper, the police seized heavy equipment as it was about to be exported to neighbouring countries, including Mozambique. Made said that "no farmer should be given such (export) permits. In fact such truckloads should be detained. What exactly can we expect from a group of persons who claim to be Zimbabweans when they do this ? Their objective is to destroy the infrastructure in the farms where we have resettled our new farmers."

From: Zimbabwean farmers forbidden from exporting equipment/AIM/22 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/23 - MZ

MALAWI - MOZAMBIKAN TOBACCO

The Malawian government has decided that, as from Wednesday, Mozambican tobacco entering Malawi will no longer be subject to the 10 per cent surtax that was suddenly imposed on 13 April. Citing the permanent secretary in the Malawian Agriculture Ministry, E.S. Malindi, who was speaking to reporters in the western Mozambican province of Tete, Tuesday's issue of the daily paper "Diario de Mocambique" reports that Malawi acknowledges that the measure was "not healthy" and is now assessing the damage done to the Mozambican economy. "We have been to Mandimba, in Niassa province, and to Tete, specifically to Ulongue, in Angonia district, to see what is happening on the border between the two countries", said Malindi. He noted that "Malawi cannot live without Mozambique", taking into account that most of its economy depends on transport routes through Mozambique. "Malawi depends on Mozambique, and it is through this country that Malawian exports and imports flow. The two governments should find mechanisms to overcome this obstacle once and for all", he said, referring to the issue of surtax. Malindi could give no reasons for the imposition of the surtax, but he said that "although the (Malawian) government took this measure, we felt the need to correct the situation quickly, and that is why we are here".

From: Malawi withdraws surtax on Mozambican tobacco/AIM/23 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/23 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - CASHEW PRODUCTION

Mozambican Agriculture Minister Helder Muteia has said that the country should produce about 100,000 tonnes of cashew nuts a year, as from 2004, compared with the 60,000 tonnes harvested of last year. He said that for this purpose, there is ongoing research in the areas of grafting and the introduction of new varieties of cashew trees, resistant to drought. Speaking in Maputo during a meeting of the National Cashew Forum on Monday, Muteia said that action is under way to publicise new technologies to increase the quantity and improve the quality of cashew nuts in the coming years. He stressed that "the tendency, so far, is one of growth. We once averaged between 15 and 20,000 tonnes of cashew nuts a year, we had 60,000 tonnes last year, and we hope to attain 100,000 tonnes a year".

From: Mozambique set to increase cashew production/AIM/23 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/24 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - SUGAR MILLS

Mozambican sugar mills are facing serious difficulties in marketing their sugar locally because of the continuing flood of cheap sugar smuggled in from neighbouring countries, notably Zimbabwe and Malawi. Ian Clark, the managing director of the Mafambisse sugar mill, some 50 kilometres west of the central city of Beira, told AIM that it is urgent to change the current situation which jeopardises the country's sugar industry, and threatens to drive thousands of workers into unemployment. "The presence of smuggled sugar, which is illegally imported without paying any dues to the state coffers, is hampering the sale and distribution of the local product, and puts at risk the jobs of thousands of workers, in addition to the great investment carried out to rehabilitate the national sugar industry", Clark said. Clark thought that only a

concerted, energetic campaign could put paid to smuggling, and thus save the Mozambican sugar industry."Sales have still not reached the desired levels due to illegal imports. It's not only the Mafambisse sugar mill but the entire industry. The other companies also have problems", he said, showing concerns over how to market some 200,000 tonnes of sugar which Mozambique is expected to produce in 2002.

From: Smuggling threatens Mozambican sugar mills/AIM/24 April 2002

ITEM NO 02/04/24 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - MORE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

More children and young people are at school in Mozambique today than ever before in its history, Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi told the Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, on Wednesday. He was speaking at the question and answer session between the government and the Assembly, replying to a question from the Renamo-Electoral Union opposition coalition which asked the government to justify "why so many thousands of children of school age are not at school". Mocumbi said that the "priority and strategic objective" of government education policy was "to ensure universal access to primary education", and the government had been working consistently towards that goal. "Although significant numbers of our school-age population do not yet have places in primary school, we should recognise that the education system has made important advances, which are expressed in the continual reduction in the levels of exclusion from school", added Mocumbi. The ideal of ensuring educational opportunity for the largest possible number of Mozambicans had been uppermost in the government's mind ever since independence in 1975. But it was precisely those who questioned the government's record who were responsible for the disastrous setbacks of the 1980s, when schools were among the main targets of Renamo's war.

From: More children at school than ever before/AIM/24 April 2002

ITEM NO 02/04/24 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - JUSTICE - NO LIGHT ON MURDERS

Mozambican Justice Minister Jose Abudo on Wednesday failed to give any satisfactory response to a question from the parliamentary group of the ruling Frelimo Party as to the current state of the country's most notorious murder cases - the assassinations of journalist Carlos Cardoso, in November 2000, of banker Antonio Siba-Siba Macuacua, in August 2001, and of the mayor of the southern city of Xai-Xai, Faquir Bay, last month. In question time in the Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, Abudo dismissed all three cases in a couple of lines - the Cardoso case was "before the courts", he said, while "preparatory investigations" were still under way in the other two murders. He added that the police had caught the murderers of Bay, who had confessed. Thus Abudo told the deputies much less than they could have learnt from the Mozambican press. In the case of the Faquir Bay murder, a detailed account has been published of the shoot-out in the town of Chibuto, in which the gang involved in the killing and in a subsequent bank robbery were cornered by the police. Two members of the gang died and a third was arrested. There is nothing secret about their names, but Abudo declined to give any details whatsoever. As for the Cardoso case, Abudo failed to explain that lawyers for the six people accused of the murder have appealed against the case going to trial. That appeal was made in September, and has yet to be heard by the Supreme Court.

From: Justice Minister sheds no light on murders/AIM/24 April 2002

ITEM NO 02/04/24 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - CLOSURE OF LAURENTINA

Decrying what it calls monopolistic and oligarchical tendencies, Mozambique's largest trade union federation, the OTM, has deplored last week's closure of the Maputo brewery, "Laurentina". Reports suggest that Laurentina, whose major shareholder was the group Brasseries International Holdings (BIH), a subsidiary of the Castel Group, had for some time been making substantial losses, and the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2001 reflected a virtually bankrupt situation. Laurentina has subsequently been taken over by Cervejas de Mocambique, the country's largest brewery, in which South African Breweries (SAB) is the majority shareholder. SAB therefore now holds a monopoly on beer production in Mozambique. "With the closure of the Laurentina brewery and the concentration of the production of the brand in Cervejas de Mocambique, which henceforth becomes the only brewery in the country, there is a tendency to consolidate financial monopolies and oligarchies", warned the OTM secretary for organisation, Samuel Matsinhe, at a Wednesday press conference, marking the start of a week of activities that will culminate in the traditional May Day parade.

From: OTM attacks closure of Laurentina /AIM/24 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/25 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - DROUGHT - ASSISTANCE

The Mozambican Agriculture Ministry is to invest about 11 million US dollars to assist people affected by drought in the country. Agriculture Minister Helder Muteia said on Wednesday that this money will be used in the development of irrigation schemes, and in the promotion and publicising of genetically modified seeds, resistant to drought, among other things. Muteia said that his institution has already drafted a plan for this purpose. "This is an action that basically includes the production of crops resistant to drought, the protection of livestock, irrigation, as well as aid", he said. Meanwhile, a joint mission, including teams from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), has worked on the ground to assess the real situation of areas affected by the drought. The mission concluded that about 59,000 households (about 300,000 people) are in this situation, and that slightly more than 83,000 hectares of crops have been lost. This compares with a previous assessment made by the Mozambican government several weeks ago, that indicated 41,000 families affected and 56,000 hectares lost. Muteia said that this new data shows that the government must double its efforts to face the situation and work out sustainable programmes.

From: 11 million dollars to mitigate drought effects/AIM/25 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/25 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - MOCUMBI - PRESS FREEDOM

Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi on Thursday pledged that the Mozambican government "will never endanger press freedom", and has no intention of re-introducing a Ministry of Information. He was speaking at the end of a two day question and answer session between the government and the country's parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, during which deputies from the former rebel movement Renamo had accused the government of trying to "control" and "police" the press. Their main evidence for this is the fact that the director of the government press office, Arlindo Lopes, is also the director of the publicly-owned television station, TVM. Lopes has been interim director of TVM since May 2000: he was appointed after what Mocumbi described as "a crisis of management and internal stability" in TVM, which led to the sacking of the previous director, Botelho Moniz. Mocumbi said that Lopes had been appointed "to restore normality in the company, and to take appropriate measures so that this public sector media can fulfil its mission". "The role of the state is to facilitate the democratisation of the media", Mocumbi stressed.

From: Mocumbi pledges respect for press freedom/AIM/25 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/25 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - LAKE NIASSA - JOINT MANAGEMENT

Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania have agreed on the need for joint management of Lake Niassa and of the Shire basin. The three countries all border on the lake, and the Shire river flows out of the lake, through Malawi and Mozambique to the Zambezi. The three governments have set up a sub-committee consisting of their top water officials. This new body arises from a set of recommendations made at a recent regional seminar on the management of Lake Niassa's water resources, held in Malawi. The committee has also been charged with drafting a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the use of water resources, particularly on joint management of Lake Niassa. Within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Malawi is in charge of initiatives to implement the protocol on shared watercourses.

From: Joint management of Lake Niassa/AIM/25 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/27 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - REFUGEES

Mozambique has about 2,000 refugees, hailing mostly from the Great Lakes region, who are currently living outside the refugee centres established by the Mozambican government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Most of these refugees entered the country seeking asylum, but subsequently abandoned the refugee centres and headed for the cities where many have either taken to trade or become involved in shady business deals. Elisabeth Costa, the programme officer of the UNHCR mission in Mozambique, told AIM in the Namibian capital Windhoek that despite this the refugees still enjoy the organisation's legal protection, but do not receive any food aid from the UNHCR. The missing 2,000 are among a total of 5,819 refugees, registered officially as entering Mozambique up until March

2002. 80 per cent of them are from the Great Lakes region. The others come from Somalia, Sudan, and Angola. Surprisingly, some Chinese citizens have also sought sanctuary in the country, said Costa, during a break in a workshop on UNHCR personnel training.

From: 2,000 refugees "lost" throughout the country/AIM/27 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/29 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - GRAIN HARVEST

Mozambican grain production is expected to reach 1.8 million tonnes in this year's harvest, despite the loss of large areas of cultivated land to drought, in some southern and central areas of the country, reports Monday's issue of the daily paper "Noticias". The findings were contained in a report presented to the meeting of a Coordinating Council of the Agriculture Ministry, that took place in Namaacha, on the border with Swaziland, last week. The report said that the expected harvest turns out to be 100,000 tonnes lower than the initial target of 1.9 million tonnes, after the loss of about 83,690 hectares of crops, affecting 59,900 households. Even so, the expected harvest represents a six per cent increase compared with the 2001 harvest, that yielded 1.7 million tonnes of grain. "Despite the negative effects of drought in nearly all the southern, and parts of the central provinces, overall food production has grown", says the report. Gaza, in the south, is the province most affected by drought, where losses are estimated at 31,000 hectares, followed by Inhambane, with 16,000 hectares lost. In Maputo province, 7,630 hectares were lost, and in the central province of Sofala 6,730 hectares. The 2001 production suffered the negative effects of floods, that hit mainly the central region, particularly the Zambezi valley, causing the loss of 79,000 hectares, and affecting 119,400 households.

From: Latest forecasts for grain harvest/AIM/29 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/29 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - CHISSANO - MORAL VALUES

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano on Monday blamed "the decline in moral values" for increased crime and public disorder. Giving his annual state of the nation address to the country's parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, Chissano said "The criminals live amongst us. In some cases, the community knows who the criminals in its neighbourhood are". But family ties proved stronger than social duty. "Some parents protect their children, even though they are criminals", said the President. "Often, when the police detain them, it is the parents and relatives who intervene, covering up the crime they committed, because they frequently derive material benefits from criminal activity". Chissano stressed that the fight against crime was not something to be waged exclusively by the state. "It concerns all of society, and demands a long term vision", he said. The President called on "Each member of society to take up their duties and responsibilities in the struggle against crime. The public should be organised, supported and directed in taking appropriate and legal initiatives for collective self-defence in order to prevent crime and impunity".

From: Chissano attacks falling moral values/AIM/29 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/29 - MZ

#### MOZAMBIQUE - CARDOSO MURDER - APPEAL REJECTED

Mozambique's Supreme Court has confirmed the ruling given last year by a Maputo investigating magistrate that there is sufficient evidence to bring to trial the six men accused of the murder in November 2000 of the country's best-known journalist, Carlos Cardoso, editor of the independent newsheet "Metical", and former director of AIM. A source in the Supreme Court told AIM that on Thursday the court threw out an appeal from the lawyers for the accused, who claimed that the case against their clients was not strong enough to warrant a trial. The appeal was lodged in September, and there has been no explanation as to why it took the Supreme Court so long to rule on it. Those accused of ordering Cardoso's assassination are businessman Ayob Abdul Satar and former bank manager Vicente Ramaya. Those accused of carrying out the killing are Satar's brother, Momade Assife Abdul Satar (who allegedly supplied the gun), Anibal Antonio dos Santos Junior (known as "Anibalzinho"), Manuel Fernandes, and Carlitos Rachid Cassamo. The latter four were also accused of the attempted murder of Cardoso's driver, Carlos Manjate (who was seriously injured, but survived the attack), and of the illegal possession of firearms.

From: Cardoso murder: appeal by alleged killers rejected/AIM/29 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/30 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - DEFORESTATION

Mozambique's National Director of Forestry and Wildlife, Arlito Cuco, said on Monday that coordination is necessary between the suppliers of different sources of energy if Mozambique is to check deforestation caused by the use of woodfuel (firewood and charcoal). He noted that the lack of this coordination may cost the country a very high price, because people will continue resorting to the forests as a low cost source of household energy, particularly in the major cities, such as Maputo, Beira, and Nampula. "The fact that firewood and charcoal are cheap sources of energy for household use leads people to resort to the forests for survival", said Cuco, speaking of government initiatives to safeguard the endangered forests. He explained that coordination between different institutions is one of the few alternatives left to relieve pressure on resources. To illustrate the seriousness of the situation, Cuco recalled that 10 years ago, people would fell trees for firewood in Boane, about 30 kilometres from Maputo, but today they have to travel as far as Catuane, about 80 kilometres away, which means that this resource is becoming ever scarcer. It was thus "urgent" to check the situation. In another example, he said that travelling to Namaacha, on the border with Swaziland, today one can see the town from afar, because all the forest that was there 10 years ago has been destroyed.

From: Coordination necessary to check deforestation/AIM/30 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/30 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Mozambican parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, on Tuesday unanimously voted into law the country's new national anthem. The opposition Renamo-Electoral Union coalition regarded this as a great triumph. Ever since the first multi-party parliament was elected in 1994, Renamo has been obsessed with changing the anthem, largely because the original anthem, adopted at the country's independence in 1975, begins with the words "Viva, viva a Frelimo" (Long live Frelimo). An ad-hoc commission, chaired by Renamo deputy Almeida Tambara, worked on the anthem for seven years, spending large sums of money on public meetings and on a competition to pick a new anthem. But the meetings and competition were miserable flops, and eventually the ad-hoc commission opted for a song that had been written almost two decades ago. In 1983 the country's first president, Samora Machel, asked some of the country's leading poets and musicians to compose possible new anthems. They worked together and drafted several versions, but as the war of destabilisation worsened, Machel and his government had more pressing matters on their minds than a new national anthem. So the lyrics and music gathered dust in a Ministry of Culture desk until somebody reminded the Assembly of their existence, and the ad-hoc commission sought them out. Those Renamo deputies who were making victory signs in the Assembly chamber on Tuesday conveniently forgot that the new anthem, "Patria Amada" (Beloved motherland), was composed at the height of the one-party state, at the explicit instruction of the man they always reviled as "a dictator".

From: New national anthem voted into law/AIM/30 April 2002

ITEM N0 02/04/30 - MZ

MOZAMBIQUE - COMMISSION ON ELECTORAL LAWS

The parliamentary ad-hoc commission reviewing Mozambique's electoral legislation has resumed work, after grinding to a halt in late 2001. The commission's chairman, Alfredo Gamito, of the ruling Frelimo Party, told the country's parliament, the Assembly of the Republic, on Tuesday that the Commission has changed its working methods and drawn up a new timetable. The commission is now committed to depositing draft bills on the National Elections Commission (CNE), on voter registration, and on the procedures for electing local authority bodies, by 19 August. This, in theory, gives the Assembly time to pass the bills into law so that the country's second municipal elections can be held on schedule in mid-2003. Work on the other legislation (dealing with parliamentary and presidential elections) has been postponed. This is not so urgent, since the next general elections are not due until late 2004.

From: Commission on Electoral Laws resumes work/AIM/30 April 2002