

# MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

517 21 January 2021

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## In this issue

+ Cyclone Eloise to hit Beira Saturday morning

+ Total head meets Nyusi

+ Covid-19 cases and deaths doubling every 7 days

+ *Comment: Will this trigger middle class worries?*

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## Cyclone Eloise to hit Beira Saturday morning

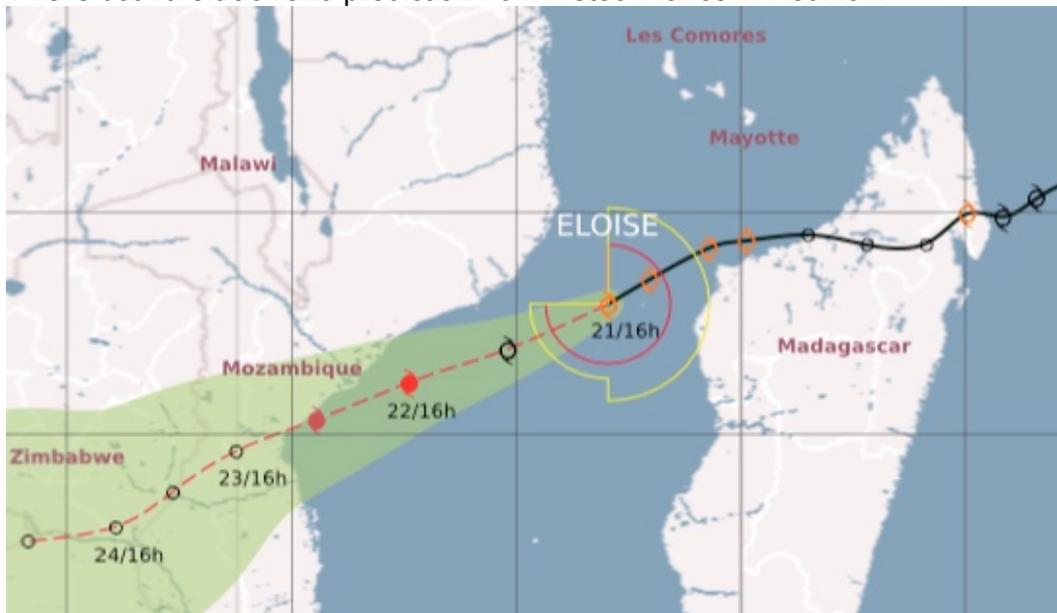
Tropical storm Eloise will become a full cyclone tomorrow (Friday 22 Jan) and hit Beira early Saturday with sustained winds of 110-120 km/h, according to predictions early today. This afternoon the national meteorological office increased its projection of the intensity of the storm, predicting wind up to 150 km/h with gusts up to 170 km/h and rainfall above 200 mm.

The storm passed across the north of Madagascar Tuesday and is picking up water and energy as it moves across the warm Mozambique Channel. Heavy rains could affect the already flooded Buzi and Pungue rivers, both 2 m above flood level this morning, and Buzi town, already cut off by the flooded rivers. Buzi flooding yesterday - before the arrival of Eloise - is shown in a video by Gabriel Chibota on <http://bit.ly/BuziFlood1>

These are predictions. The cyclone had been predicted to make landfall at Vilankulos Friday but has already changed course and has also slowed down, which means an increase in intensity as it picks up energy from the Mozambique channel. Winds up to 60 km/h are predicted to go down the coast as far as Vilankulos. During Friday Eloise could change course and intensity again.

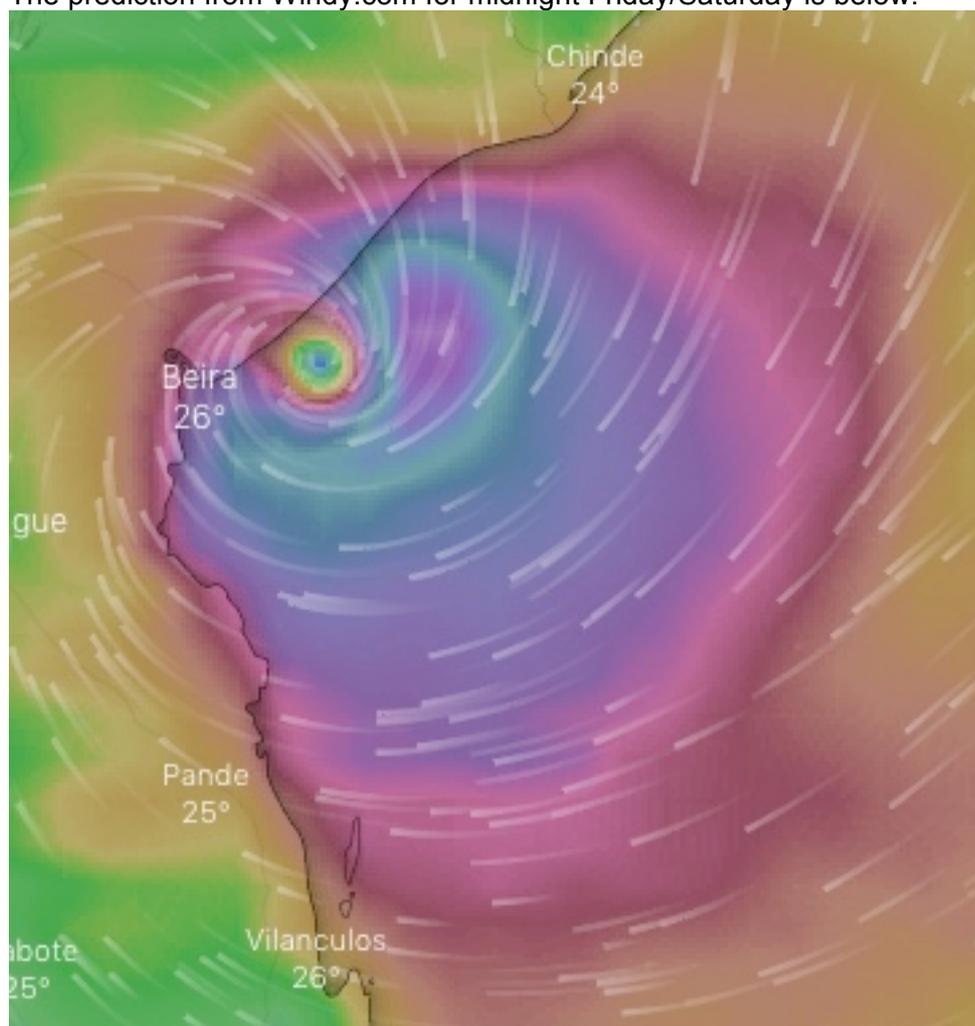
Beira port will be closed from midnight tonight (21/22 Jan) until Sunday morning.

This is both the track and prediction from Meteo France in Reunion.



[http://www.meteo.fr/temps/domtom/La\\_Reunion/webcmrs9.0/anglais/index.html](http://www.meteo.fr/temps/domtom/La_Reunion/webcmrs9.0/anglais/index.html)

The prediction from Windy.com for midnight Friday/Saturday is below.



The strongest winds are east (right) of the eye of the storm, over 130 km/h, and the large blue zone east and south winds are 75-100 km/h. <https://www.windy.com/?2021-01-23-00,-19.738,35.593,7>

The other good predictor/tracker is <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/products/sh1221.gif> with wind speed given in knots (1 knot = 1.85 km/h)

We post the daily river and flood reports *Boletim Hidrológico Nacional* on <http://bit.ly/Moz-flood21> and we have also started posting UN reports there as well, including OCHA Eloise Flash Updates.

## Total head meets Nyusi, who again promises protection

Total chair and CEO Patrick Pouyanné flew in to meet President Filipe Nyusi Monday (18 Jan) to demand better protection for the Afugi gas project. For at least the third time, the presidency announced "it was agreed that a security plan should be established to ensure the smooth implementation of the project." This was what was also agreed between Total and the government on 24 August 2020 and Pouyanné clearly flew to Maputo to tell Nyusi personally that it was not happening.

And the visit had some impact. Two days later at the ceremony to install the new Defence Force Chief of Staff Eugénio Mussa and deputy chief Bertolino Capetine, President Nyusi told them to

"pay special attention to the Afungi peninsula." He said they were named to their posts to impose "sharpness, dynamism and effectiveness" and improved "organisation and combativeness", adding that the military "is not built with improvisations." (*O Pais* 21 Jan)

Three weeks ago when insurgents reached the gates of the gas project on the Afungi peninsula, Total evacuated most of its staff from the site and stopped work.

Total is dependent on government military forces for protection because it does not use armed security companies, according to the company's head of exploration and production for sub-Saharan Africa, Nicolas Terraz. Total does work with several security companies whose guards are unarmed. In August, the company had contracts in Mozambique with the British security consultancy firms Blue Mountain and Control Risks, as well as with the global security companies GardaWorld (Canadian), G4S (British), and the Mozambican Arkhe Risk Solutions. (*Zitamar* 19 Jan)

Total investment in Area 1 including exploration, drilling and building the very expensive gas liquification plants on the Afungi peninsula is estimated at \$23 bn, one of the largest investments in Africa. Area 1, the half of the gas field closest to the Cabo Delgado coast, is operated by Total of France, with a holding of 26.5%. The other members of the consortium are Mitsui of Japan (20%), PTTEP of Thailand (8.5%), the Indian companies ONGC Videsh Rovuma, Beas Rovuma Energy Mozambique and BPRL Ventures Mozambique (10% each) and Mozambique's own National Hydrocarbon Company, ENH (15%) (*AIM* 20 Jan)

**2,533 people have been killed** in the Cabo Delgado civil war since October 2017, according to *Cabo Ligado* (11-17 Jan).

## Covid-19 cases and deaths doubling every 7 days

Covid-19 cases and deaths are doubling every week. These are seven day averages of daily deaths in the week to Wednesday: 6 Jan - 1 death per day; 13 Jan - 4 deaths per day; 20 Jan - 9 deaths per day.

These are average daily new cases in the week to Wednesday: 6 Jan - 169 new cases; 13 Jan - 579; 30 Jan 810.

There were 829 new cases and 12 deaths reported today (Thursday 21 Jan).

### Comment

## Will this trigger middle class worries?

One of Frelimo's essential successes has been to keep the Maputo middle class satisfied, and thus able to ignore the war in Cabo Delgado, greed and poverty. The middle class sends their children to private schools and uses private health facilities, and has cars (even if only second hand imported Japanese ones) and water tanks to cover water rationing, as well as generators in case of electricity cuts - thus able to pump water into the tanks. So the Maputo middle class is not affected by declining quality of education or the increasing water shortages.

But in the past week the number of Covid-19 cases hospitalised in Maputo city has jumped from 120 to 192, with 51 people admitted to hospital in Maputo in the 24 hours to this morning. Both private and public hospitals are now full. Maputo central hospital has to put up tents for Covid-19 patients.

"Have you noticed that elites, including political leaders, are being ravaged by Covid 19? That these elites cannot find beds in private sector clinics? That these clinics are charging astronomical sums in deposits, up front (another deregulated jungle, this one)?," asks Marcelo Mosse, editor of *Carta de Moçambique*.

Will the Maputo middle classes suddenly notice that in a pandemic their health and survival depends on a public sector, which they have allowed to be run down, assuming only the poor would suffer. *jh*

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## **Important external links**

**Covid-19** daily updated data <https://www.facebook.com/miguel.de.brito1> and <https://covid19.ins.gov.mz/documentos-em-pdf/boletins-diarios/>

**Daily flood reports** - <http://bit.ly/Moz-flood21>

**Cyclone trackers**, <https://www.cyclocane.com/> and <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

**Cabo Ligado** weekly report on civil war <http://bit.ly/CaboLigado>

Previous editions of this newsletter: <http://bit.ly/MozNews2021> and [bit.ly/MozNews2020](http://bit.ly/MozNews2020)

**Downloadable books**: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books> Election data: <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

My Mozambique archive: <http://bit.ly/Mozamb>

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## **Cabo Delgado**

Archive with reports, detailed maps, and census data <https://bit.ly/Moz-CDg>

### **Special reports on the war**

Evolution of the war: global vs local. 27 Feb 2020 <http://bit.ly/CDelgadoOrigins>

Religion is shaping Cabo Delgado civil war. 30 April 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoReligion>

Intensifying argument over roots of war. 28 June 2020 <https://bit.ly/Moz-492>

Are the drums of war silencing any hope of peace? 26 July 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-496>

A history of violence presages the insurgency. 13 August 2020 <http://bit.ly/Moz-498>

Military & economic intervention. 3 Sept 2020 <https://bit.ly/CDelgadoIntervene>

### **Mozambique heroin transit trade**

English - LSE - 2018 - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - CIP- 2018 - <http://bit.ly/HeroinaPT>

2001 first article- *Metical* - English and Portuguese <https://bit.ly/MozHeroin2001>

### **Gas for development?**

Gas\_for\_development\_or\_just\_for\_money?\_2015 [bit.ly/MozGasEng](http://bit.ly/MozGasEng)

Gás\_para\_desenvolvimento\_ou\_apenas\_dinheiro?\_2015 [bit.ly/MozGasPt](http://bit.ly/MozGasPt)

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## **Background reading**

### **Special reports**

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: [bit.ly/MozPoverty](http://bit.ly/MozPoverty)

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

### **\$2bn secret debt - in English**

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

### **In Portuguese:**

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) [bit.ly/MozAR-debt](http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt)

**2018 Constitution** - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

**Election study collaboration:** We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

**Nine books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free:** <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014) is on <https://bit.ly/Chickens-Beer>  
Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)  
Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)  
Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000 (2001)  
Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)  
Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996)  
Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)  
Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)  
Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986) <available shortly>

**These are still available for sale:**

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)  
Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)  
Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)  
Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)  
Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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**Mozambique media websites, English:**

Club of Mozambique (free): <http://clubofmozambique.com/>  
Zitamar (paywall): <http://zitamar.com/>

**Mozambique media websites, Portuguese** (all with partial paywall):

Notícias: [www.jornalnoticias.co.mz](http://www.jornalnoticias.co.mz)  
O País: [www.opais.co.mz](http://www.opais.co.mz)  
@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>  
Carta de Moçambique <https://cartamz.com>

**Mozambique think tanks and pressure groups, Portuguese:**

Centro de Integridade Pública: CIP <https://cipmoz.org/>  
Observatório do Meio Rural: OMR <https://omrmz.org/>  
Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos: IESE <https://www.iese.ac.mz/>  
Centro Para Democracia e Desenvolvimento CDD <https://cddmoz.org/> (some CDD in English)  
Fórum de Monitoria do Orçamento - FMO (the main group following the \$2 bn secret debt - now run by CDD) <http://www.fmo.org.mz>

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