

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MOZAMBIQUE



MAIN STORIES

Major Insurgent
Attack on Palma

The Mozambique
Channel: The Next
Security Hotspot

Understanding the
New US Terrorism
Designations in Africa

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some experts say the major insurgent attack on Palma requires international and regional intervention as a decisive response could still stop the insurgency's progression.
- Mozambique's coast is becoming a major new security hotspot in the Indian Ocean.
- The United States' designation of the insurgents as 'ISIS-Mozambique' could signify the internationalisation of the issue but ignores the local root causes of the conflict.
- President Filipe Nyusi has down-played the attack on Palma while making international assistance subject to the preservation of Mozambican sovereignty.
- President Nyusi made various senior appointments in the Mozambican Armed Forces (FADM) in an attempt to manage the insurgency more effectively.
- The leader of the self-proclaimed Renamo Military Junta on 8 April threatened to make the governance of six provinces in central and northern Mozambique impossible if a letter of claims he has sent to the authorities is ignored.
- Armed violence has brought work on Total's liquefaction trains to a complete stop. When it will resume is anybody's guess.
- Mozambique's efforts to remove its liability for part of the Prinvest hidden debt suffered a blow when the United Kingdom's appeals court ruled against the government.
- By 14 April 2021, the country recorded 68 871 positive Covid-19 cases. 59 901 people have recovered while 794 people have died. The total number of tests carried out stood at 498 247.

MOZAMBIQUE



- The contraction of Mozambique's economy in 2020 took an additional 850 000 people below the poverty line.
- The number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) could reach one million by June 2021, while their needs outweigh the available resources.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed concern about Tanzania's refusal to allow Mozambican refugees entry into the country.
- Mozambique may face a period of low economic growth and high inflation, complicating its options regarding economic policy.
- According to Standard Bank, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Mozambique will be 1.6% in 2021, accelerating to 2.9% in 2022, from a contraction of 1.3% in 2020.
- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) plans to deploy a technical mission to Mozambique to "investigate" the insurgency in Cabo Delgado.
- The US started a two-months' Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) programme for Mozambican marines on counterterrorism.
- Russia's ambassador to Mozambique has been making discreet approaches to the Mozambican administration to revive economic and security cooperation.

