

Dumba Nengues **Closed Down**

The Maputo City Council gave illegal traders until the end of the month to get off the streets of the capital and into the officially recognised markets, Maputo's daily *Noticias* announced on 28 June.

The order was designed to end the illegal markets known as *dumba nengues*. It will also end the practice of people, often young children, selling cigarettes, candies, bread and other goods on street corners.

The move to official markets should make it possible to control what is sold. In the *dumba nengues*, there is trafficking in foreign currency, in medicines stolen from the health service, and in goods pilfered from the port and railways.

Hygiene rules, notably ignored by street sellers, can also be enforced in the official markets. And traders in official markets pay fees to the city council, while the illegal traders evade taxes altogether.

There have been sporadic raids by police and militia against the markets in the past, but these have not had the desired effect, and the illegal traders have always returned.

Mozambique file

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