

Mozambican children hang around the outside of the shop, hoping someone will give them a loaf of bread, or a coke, or toothpaste.

This is a very special shop because it accepts only foreign currency for its goods — US dollars

and South African rands. In the mornings, the shop is open to foreigners, expatriates and locals, locals who have somehow managed to find foreign money.

This means the black market or 'candonga' flourishes, despite heavy penalties for those caught.

In the afternoons, the shop is open only to foreigners. The official rate of exchange is 22 meticaïs for a rand. But on the

'candonga', a rand will fetch at least 800. At the fishing boats people don't want foreign cash, they are frightened of being caught. They want cooking oil, coffee, meat, any of the goods they can't get in exchange for fresh fish.

For the majority in Maputo and there are at least a million people in the city and surrounds, life is bleak.