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Tight calendar in the tender for selection of members of the 12 new Elections Commissions

This week (on 16 January) the public tender was launched for selecting the members of the Elections Commissions of the country's 12 new municipalities. The closing date for the tender is next Monday (23 January).

Civil Society has less than a week to submit nomination papers for candidates to those support bodies in the 12 districts ([see the tender appendix](#)). The tender deadlines are very tight, and could limit the number of candidates from independent civil society organisations. This would facilitate the nomination of candidates and selection of socio-professional bodies such as the ONP and others, which are controlled by the Frelimo Party.

The law states that candidates for membership of the Elections Commissions should be figures of probity, so that they can perform their technical and professional duties with impartiality, independence, objectivity, competence, zeal, honesty, loyalty, neutrality, and dignity.

Although the new municipalities are not districts, the National Elections Commission is setting up District Elections Commissions. The District Elections Commissions each consist of 15 members, of whom nine come from civil society, and the other six from the political parties represented in parliament, namely Frelimo, Renamo and the MDM.

The new district commissions cover the following municipalities: Ibo town, Balama (Cabo Delgado), Insaca town, Mecanhelas district (Niassa), Mossuril (Nampula), Morrumbala (Zambézia), Chitima (Tete), Guro (Manica), Caia (Sofala), Homoine (Inhambane), Massingir (Gaza), Marracuene and Matola-Rio (Maputo province).

Pilot voter registration begins on 1 February

The pilot registration will last for 20 days and will take place in 15 administrative posts in three provinces, namely Maputo, Manica and Nampula. The administrative posts to be covered will be known by next week.


To this end, the configuration of the Mobile ID computers which will be used to introduce data and capture images during the voter registration is scheduled to begin today.

Placing the material in the registration brigades in all the administrative posts to be covered by the pilot registration is scheduled to occur by 31 January ([see calendar appendix](#)).

The voter education campaign will begin on Friday next week, 27 January. The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat should deliver its report on the errors diagnosed during the pilot registration by 25 February. Today is the last day for announcing the date of the voter registration.

The new voter registration date should be announced some time today, according to the new electoral calendar approved last week. Law No. 5/2013 states that the voter registration period must be announced by 60 days prior to its start. This means it should be announced by the end of today, 18 January.

The voter registration will run from 20 April to 3 June this year. It is this information that should be communicated (see the appendix to the electoral calendar).

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