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## MDM offices vandalised in Xai-Xai

All posters and elections material, as well as office equipment, were taken from the Xai Xai headquarters of the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM) on Saturday night (23 to 24 September). The vandals broke open the bars on one of the windows. Taking election campaign material indicates that this was an act of political sabotage, because if it was a simple robbery, the thieves would have only taken office equipment. ([video of the vandalised office](#)).

## CNE head asks parties not to use “drunken youths”

In an exhortation yesterday (25 September), the chairperson of the National Elections Commission (CNE), Bishop Carlos Matsinhe, urged the political parties, coalitions of parties, and independent groups of citizens competing in the municipal elections to refrain “from using as their instruments drunken youths or those who have consumed hallucinogenic drugs”, and to avoid using children in election campaign rallies and parades. The election campaign begins today (Tuesday 26 September).

The competitors should take into consideration the general principles and duties concerning the campaign and election propaganda, expressed in the electoral law, as well as in the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Political Parties, Coalitions, and Independent Groups of Citizens, in order to undertake an electoral process that is free, fair, peaceful, orderly and credible, to prevent conflicts and violence, and to ensure the credibility and acceptability of the election results.


## “Mais Integridade” consortium begins observation of the election campaign

With 1,479 observers stationed in 36 municipalities, and 200 correspondents in all 65 of the country’s municipalities, the “Mais Integridade” (“More Integrity”) electoral consortium on Tuesday, 26 September 2023, is beginning its observation of the election campaign for the Sixth Municipal Elections. In addition to the campaign, which will run until 8 October, the Consortium will also observe the voting and the count, until the declaration of the results by the Constitutional Council.

Set up in 2022, the “More Integrity” electoral consortium consists of the CEJP, CIP, NAFEZA, SoldMoz, CESC, MISA-Mozambique and FAMOD. Its goal is to contribute to the transparency and integrity of the 2023-2024 electoral cycle, assessing in an objective and unbiased fashion how it unfolds, by producing public and credible information and analyses about the various phases of the process, encouraging the participation of citizens, and helping to reduce electoral tensions.

Particular attention will be paid to the content and strategies adopted by the political parties, coalitions of parties, groups of citizens, and their respective mayoral candidates in publicising their election manifestos, the accessibility of campaign sites to people with disabilities, the participation of women and young people, access to information, the exercise of the freedoms of expression and of the press, and coverage by the mass media, among other variables associated with the areas of activity of the member organisations of the Consortium.

On voting day, the observers will pay particular attention to the level of preparation and the functioning of the brigades set up at the polling stations, compliance with the opening hours of the polling stations, the availability and functioning of the equipment and material, and the efficiency of the procedures, among others. All the observers have been duly trained to perform these tasks. Preceding this crucial phase in the elections, the “More Integrity” Electoral Consortium provided further training for its provincial coordinators and municipal supervisors who, in turn, replicated these training sessions for the observers in each of the municipalities.

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