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## Three Beira MDM leaders released as judge rules police had no reason for arrests

Three MDM leaders were released today in Beira after a judge said there was no legal basis for their arrests Tuesday. According to a report on the independent television station STV, the judge today (Friday 29 September) said he had been surprised to find the case waiting for him when he arrived at the courtroom. Judge Tome Valente, of the first criminal section in the Beira, complained he had known nothing about the arrests previously.

The three men were accused of illegally detaining a member of the Frelimo on Tuesday, after they caught him red-handed collecting voter cards in the Beira neighbourhood of Manga. Voter cards are personal property that cannot be passed on to anybody else. The voter card is the primary means by which voters identify themselves at the polling stations. But instead of arresting the Frelimo member for improperly collecting voters cards, the police detailed MDM Sofala provincial political delegate Marcelino Manhasso, Beira city delegate Picardo Sola, and MDM Beira Youth League head Fernando Augusto.

MDM President, Lutero Simango, denounced the detention of the MDM members during a Wednesday press conference in Beira.

Meanwhile in Chiure, Cabo Delgado, five MDM members have been detained for flyposting, 12 minute before the official midnight start of the campaign, Monday night. After midnight during the campaign, putting up campaign posters is allowed.

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## Frelimo changes number plates to hide state vehicles

The government vehicle belonging to the District Secretariat of Homoine, Inhambane, on Wednesday displayed a red government number plate EAA 093 MP. But Thursday 28 September was circulating with a new black and white number plate with the same number, and was being used for Frelimo political party activities, according to the investigation by our correspondents. It was parked in front of the Frelimo Party office, in Chimoio, Manica.

This appears to be an attempt to conceal the use of a state vehicle for a Frelimo political campaign, which violates the electoral law.

The photos below show the number plate of the vehicle on Wednesday (right) and number plate of the same vehicle on Thursday (left). Signs of damage (circled) confirm that it is the same vehicle



In Vilankulo, Inhambane, our correspondents report that Frelimo is also using state vehicles, belonging to the District Planning and Infrastructure Services, without the red number plates. Other vehicles have their number plates covered by Frelimo posters (below).



In Beira, the head of the Frelimo list, Stella Zeca, is using a state vehicle for her campaign, It is the protocol vehicle that she used when she was Secretary of State for Sofala.



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## The only surgeon in Nhamayabué is in the campaign, and students have been abandoned in Alto Molócuè

In the town of Nhamayabué, capital of Mutarara district, in Tete province, the only surgeon there is also director of the Frelimo Party campaign. According to our correspondents, since the campaign began, Paulo Mujui has devoted his time to the activities of his party.

Also in that municipality, teachers who teach classes with impending exams have abandoned their pupils to their fate, and spend most of the day on campaign activities. Staff from the district administration and the district services have also been mobilised for the campaign.

In the town of Alto Molócuè, the Alto Molocue General Secondary School, and the Complete Primary School have no classes because of the absence of the teachers. The pupils say that since the election campaign began the teachers have not appeared in the schools. They fear that the worst is yet to come since the election campaign is far from over. The pupils say that other teachers are opting to leave them work, but without duly accompanying it. (Photo below)



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## MDM has not yet begun its campaign in Alto Molócuè

Our correspondents in Alto Molócuè, in Zambézia, say that the doors of the local MDM office remain shut, and the MDM has not yet participated in any part of the election campaign. In the streets, no MDM posters can be seen, no marches and no meetings.

In conversation, some members of the MDM say they are waiting for instructions to begin their election campaign, and promise to go into action as soon as the conditions have been created.

The head of the MDM list for this year's municipal elections is Gil da Cruz. He also ran in the 2013 elections, but in the 2018 elections he was replaced by André Txetxema who ran as head of the list and became the MDM's sole member in the Municipal Assembly.

During the meetings of the Municipal Assembly, it was André Txetxema who denied Frelimo a majority in the approval of the documents debated in the Assembly – until he suffered an assault which almost cost him his life. Txetxema was brutally attacked by unknown assailants shortly before the third attempt to approve the municipal budget. Had the budget been rejected, that would have provoked new elections and the dissolution of the Municipal Council.

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## **Frelimo and Renamo not allowing campaign observation in Maputo province**

In Matola, the observers from the Mais Integridade (More Integrity) civil society consortium are facing difficulties in access to information about the agendas of the election campaign of the political parties, particularly Frelimo and Renamo.

On Wednesday (27 September), the observers went to the Maputo provincial headquarters of Frelimo, but the secretary rejected the observers' credentials, and said they were not allowed to observe the activities of the party.

For its part, Renamo, through its campaign delegates, initially provided observers with information about the routes of the party's motorcades. But as from Thursday morning (28 September), the Renamo campaign delegates began giving wrong information. For example, they told the observers that the Renamo campaign activities in Maputo would close at 12.00. However, the observers discovered that, by around 14,00, various Renamo campaign activities were continuing, for example in Liberdade and Malhampsene neighbourhoods.

The Renamo campaign delegates called observers "spies", they have failed to answer phone calls, and they have given false information about their campaign. Recently, they gave wrong information about the route that the party's mayoral candidate for Matola would follow, so that the observers would not be able to follow.

The other parties competing in Maputo province, New Democracy and the MDM, have maintained an attitude of openness towards the observers.

But In Guruè, Zambézia, New Democracy and Renamo are not allowing observers to follow the campaign activities.

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## **Signs of political intolerance in Manjacaze?**

Political intolerance and neglect for the rules of the election campaign were noted yesterday (27 September), the second day of the election campaign, in Mandlakazi. Renamo visited the 25th September neighbourhood to flypost its propaganda material, and to ask for votes door to door. But in the middle of the neighbourhood, it faced Frelimo members who were carrying out their own propaganda.

The two groups confronted each other with offensive songs. The PRM, which was accompanying Frelimo, advised Renamo to go somewhere else, alleging that its presence there was illegal, because Renamo did not formally notify the police that it would be there. For its part, Renamo, after taking advice, withdrew.

Renamo accuses the police of providing the chart of its activities to the Frelimo Party shock groups. In Chókwè, Renamo on Thursday (28 September) denounced the same situation.

In Massinga, in Inhambane province, the MDM also accused the PRM of providing the routes of its motorcades to the Frelimo Party shock groups.


## Good behaviour almost everywhere

On the third day of the election campaign, our correspondents report a scenario of calm in nearly all 65 municipalities. There has been no serious violence

In the town of Nhamatanda, the motorcades of Frelimo and Renamo (the latter boosted by the presence of Renamo leader Ossufo Momade) crossed paths on the same street. The Frelimo motorcade stopped its march, and gave way to the Renamo motorcade. Afterwards, Frelimo continued its march, There were no provocations, or signs of any violence. It was an example of what an election campaign should be.

## In short

- In Morrumbala, Zambézia province, some Frelimo members and sympathisers charged money to join the motorcade, and some people then abandoned the march.
- In Gondola, in Manica, a Frelimo member on a motor-cycle, ran over two members of Renamo, and they were both taken to the district hospital.
- In Dondo, on the third day, members of the MDM are complaining of a shortage of material for the election campaign.
- In the south, on Wednesday and Thursday, the campaign was limited by heavy rains. In many places, it was only possible to campaign door to door.

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