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Major irregularities make it impossible to know who won in Marromeu, say observers

Serious irregularities in the repeat elections in Marromeu Sunday "do not allow any institution to declare, with any credibility and certainty, which list won", the Mais Integridade civil society observer consortium said this morning (13 December).

"The irregularities included the interruption of the vote count at many polling stations so that the respective presidents could hold 'consultations' among themselves and with representatives of the Frelimo party before finalising the process and filling in the results sheets (*editais*); the departure of presidents from various polling stations with the *editais* without posting them; the excessive number of invalid votes, which is greater than the difference in votes between the two most voted lists; and other irregularities call into question the integrity, transparency and credibility of the process."

For this reason, "Mais Integridade concludes that it is now up to the competent bodies, namely the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and the Constitutional Council (CC), to take the necessary corrective measures".

The consortium notes that of the 41 polling stations, its observers were able to obtain results from 39; in some cases where results were not posted, this meant taking notes of numbers read out by polling stations heads. At the other two tables, 050331-01 and 050331-05 at the 25 June EPC, it was not possible to get the results because "the respective presiding officers expelled the observers from the room just as they were about to start the counting operations. By 3am, the notices had still not been posted, despite the fact that the vote count had finished many hours earlier" (Read the [full statement here](#)).

Police shoot Marromeu man dead during protest

Police shot dead Tito Joao, a seller in the fish market in Marromeu, Sofala, late yesterday afternoon (Tuesday 12 December) during a demonstration held by Renamo to protest against the municipal election results.

During the march police intercepted the Renamo motorcade, which provoked rioting and shots from several firearms. One of the shots hit a seller in the fish market in the head. The young man died instantly on the spot. The bullet fired by the police went right through the young man's head and a

small entry wound and a larger wound where the bullet exited are visible in this [video](#) (which contains graphic and disturbing images of the victim next to his stall.)

In its notice to remove the body, with the number 009/MINT/SERNIC-SFL/2023, the National Criminal Investigation Service (Sernic) did not reveal that the trader from the Fish Market, Tito João, was murdered by a police bullet. The document simply notes "A male human body was found without signs of life". In the same document, SERNIC confirms that he was not a demonstrator, but "a citizen going about his activities of selling fish".

The young man lived in the 7 April neighbourhood, the same Marromeu neighbourhood where the Fish Market is located.

Renamo claims that it won the Sunday election in Marromeu, and on Monday it submitted an appeal to the relevant bodies protesting at the result announced by STAE. Also on Monday, the Renamo mayoral candidate, and Renamo members and supporters took to the streets celebrating and chanting "Renamo has won".

Obvious fraud in Gurue

More than half of the 13 polling stations in Gurue where there was voting Sunday appear to be fraudulent, [Mais Integridade reports](#).

"During the count and partial tabulation, it was noted that in three EPC Nacuecue polling stations, namely 080938-01, 080938-02 and 080938-03, Frelimo obtained a percentage result of between 74% and 78.5%, well above average. Also at polling station 080938-03, where Frelimo got the 78.5% mentioned above, there was an excessively high number of invalid votes - 41, which, according to the observers, were ballot papers marked mostly for ND.

"Other polling stations that also had excessively high numbers of invalid votes - between 16 and 21 - were polling stations 080934-02, 080934-03 and 080934-04, in EPC Chá Moçambique. At one of the two tables at EPC Moneia, 080933-07/080933-06B, Frelimo had 89% of the vote, but there were only 18 voters."

Voter turnout in the repeat election in Guruè was 34%, which means that two thirds of the electorate decided not to vote. The results announced by the consortium and by the district STAE in these 13 polling station give Frelimo a victory with 62.2% against 38.8% for New Democracy. But half of those polling stations showed signs of fraud.

Mais Integridade now has a website: <https://maisintegridade.org/>

(After six months of being down, the Constitutional Council still does not have a website.)

New Democracy on the march in Gurué


While Frelimo paraded to celebrate its victory, the New Democracy (ND) party marched through the streets of Guruè to oppose the result of the repeat municipal election held on Sunday. Both events took place on Monday afternoons (11 December).

New Democracy, whose march was heavily watched by a police contingent, rejected the results announced by the Gurué District Elections Commission, which gave Frelimo a substantial victory.

For New Democracy, "the results were manipulated by STAE". The Sunday elections in Gurué, were characterised by extreme police violence. Several voters were hit by police bullets, or inhaled tear gas. Five citizens were shot, one of whom is still in hospital.

The ND has submitted a second appeal to the Guruè District Court, after the same court had rejected its first appeal.

Renamo has also submitted an appeal to the district court, in which it pointed to countless electoral irregularities and crimes, but its appeal was also immediately rejected.

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