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Frelimo and Renamo divided and both delay choice til May

Frelimo has delayed until May its special Central Committee to choose its presidential candidate. There are major divisions within the party, no short list and no obvious front-runner. Legal action by Venâncio Mondlane forced Renamo head Ossufo Momade to agree a party congress on 15-16 May to choose a candidate.

Momade is seen as a weak leader, but he controls the party machine.. He is challenged by Mondlane, who gained the most votes to be mayor of Maputo but was denied victory by the Constitutional Council, and Elias Dhlakama, the brother of former party leader Afonso Dhlakama. Mondlane is seen as younger, more electable, and not linked to the 1980s war. Dhlakama has support of some former guerrillas.

Ossufo Momade said for the first time Wednesday, in an interview on CIPCast, that he will run again for the presidency of Renamo for another five years (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSrHRbxcSEU>). He says next May's congress will prove that he still enjoys the support of Renamo members and that the "parrots" - a clear reference to Venâncio Mondlane and Elias Dhlakama - are wrong.

[Here we go again:](#)

No press credentials and Frelimo priority

Electoral authorities are repeating the misconduct of last's year municipal elections, registering Frelimo voters first the then when they get to opposition voters waiting in the queue, the registration machine "breaks down". And CIP correspondents have been denied press credentials in four provinces. And as in last year's registration, the fraud is brazen and done in public.

Zambézia CPE illegally refuses accreditation and returns forms to CIP

The Zambézia Provincial Elections Commission (CPE) on Tuesday (26 March) returned to CIP all the paperwork concerning the accreditation of its correspondents, alleging that the request must specify the districts in which they will work. This is blatantly illegal.

The law is clear: “For observation, the credential should mention the electoral constituency in which the observer will undertake their activity of election observation” (article 253, of Law 8/2023, of 27 February, altered by Law 2/2019, of 31 May). These are general elections and the parliamentary constituency is the province, not the district.

CIP has not yet been accredited in Niassa, Zambézia, Nampula and Maputo provinces. It has been partly accredited in Maputo city, and fully accredited in the remaining provinces (Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete and Cabo Delgado).

In Maputo city and province the accreditation process has already lasted for almost a month. In Nampula it has been under way for about 3 weeks.

The model of the CIP letter, send with names of our correspondents to all CPEs, has resulted in the issuing of credentials. Zambézia is the only one to make the illegal demand that CIP should specify the districts. Three are simply not responding.

The decision by the Zambézia CPE may be deliberate, in order to delay still further the accreditation of observers and journalists.

During the municipal elections in Zambézia, CIP faced the same difficulties, and credentials were only issued in the final days of the voter registration. In last year's municipal elections, Zambézia was one of the provinces where electoral fraud was committed in broad daylight. History is repeating itself with the same actors.

Frelimo priority

Identity documents from Frelimo members in the neighbourhood of Mulevala-sede EPCs, Zambézia, are being collected by neighbourhood secretaries, and placed as priorities in the registration posts. Brigade members first register those voters documents are in their hands, relegating the other voters to last place. The priority given to Frelimo members and sympathisers tires the potentially opposition supporters, who then abandon the queue.

MDM monitors in Búzi district, Sofala, say brigade members in the 36 registration posts, in coordination with the neighbourhood secretaries and the village heads, are prioritising members of Frelimo in the registration. The Frelimo voters are accompanied to the registration posts by the village secretaries so that they do not wait in the queues.

Orders to block registration of opposition voters

The director ZIP number 09, of Derre in Namuno, Cabo Delgado, received calls from the district STAE instructing him to inform the Frelimo monitor stationed at the Zunguza registration post to “remain attentive and block the registration of voters belonging to

Renamo”. As we have ascertained, the instruction was “whenever a member of Renamo comes to register his name should be put in a notebook and at the end the list, and should be shared with the top Frelimo body in the district”.

The same information also notes that the Derre STAE is aware that 40 members of Renamo are at the future Zunguza EPC post waiting for the mobile brigade to register. The mobile brigade, coming from the Namuno EPC, will operate on Monday.

The MDM adds that the strategy is that, in the first weeks of registration, only the Frelimo members should be registered, leaving everyone else until later. It is suspected that many citizens, particularly members of the opposition, may not be able to register, because by this time there will be breakdowns of the Mobile-IDs.

Many registration posts have reopened in Maputo

Our correspondents report that many of the registration posts that were not working in the city and province of Maputo Monday due to torrential rains had reopened on Wednesday. In Maputo city, the information was confirmed by STAE Central. According to STAE spokesperson Regina Matsinhe, there are eight brigades that have not yet reopened in Maputo.

Many brigades are still operating in flooded areas, which to a certain extent may be contributing to the low voter turnout.

In a few districts registration continued despite the rain. In Matutuine, one of the districts where registration is still under way, the post at the Ponta de Ouro EPC, suffered a malfunction of the machines and more than 30 voters were obliged to go home.

Zambézia records greater voter turnout

Our correspondents in several Zambézia districts report lengthy queues of potential voters at the registration posts visited.

Yesterday (26 March) there was a high turnout in the districts of Lugela, Mulevala, Inhassunge, Derre and Maganja da Costa. At the registration posts visited, there were dozens of potential voters in the queues waiting their turn to register.

Zambézia is the province which, like Nampula, used to record the largest number of machine breakdowns and slowness in attending to voters. But today (26 March) the posts visited were attending to voters rapidly, and no cases were reported of voters giving up. The only case of slowness was reported at the Molumbo EPC.

Typist stabbed to death in Gilé

The police on 26 March reported the fatal stabbing of a typist at voter registration post no. 259, located in the Napote EP1, in Muiane locality, in the Alto Ligonha administrative post, in Gilé district.

The police say the murder happened at 00:02 on 25 March, about 100 metres from the voter registration post. A policeperson stationed to protect the registration post heard the victim calling for help. The victim only said that he had been stabbed. He was immediately taken to the Muiane health centre, where he died of his injuries.

The police say the killing was not linked to questions of the registration. It is suspected that there were motives of passion. The brigade supervisor told the police that at the victim received a meal the evening before from a friend had told her sister to bring the food.

95 more reports from our correspondents

Gaza

There was a delay in opening the post at Mussavene EP 1 B, in **Chibuto**, due to the late arrival of the STAE agents to hand over the machines.

There was a poor turnout at all the posts visited in the districts of Gaza province. Today (26 March) our correspondents report a considerable flow of voters only at the **Chongoene-sede** registration post, and at the **Mabalane secondary school**.

In Javanhane, in the **Guijá** district, the machines have stopped working since Sunday and at the Lusaka Accord post the machines have ribbon problems.

In Nhampunguane, in the Guijá district, the printing machine has broken down and won't print cards.

In the Muchabwe EPC brigade, in Macia, Bilene district, there was a breakdown in the image capture machine.

The machines at EPC Samora Machel and Chicumbane Secondary School, in the **Limpopo** district, have solar panel and printer problems, respectively.

Inhambane

At the 29 de Setembro secondary school in the town of **Maxixe**, machines broke down.

At Doane Secondary School, in **Govuro**, there were problems with the printing of report cards.

At the Cumbane EPC, in the **Jangamo** district, we reported problems with the printing. At the Jana EPC in Jangamo, the brigade members complain about the lack of electricity, as they rely on solar panels to work and the rain makes it difficult to do so.

At the 3rd February EPC, in **Morrumbene district**, the registration has been paralysed since Sunday (24 March). The machines are not working for lack of charge. STAE collected them at 17.00 last Saturday and has not yet returned them. At the Morrumbene EDP, registration was slow because of electrical power oscillations. The solar panels do not recharge properly because the sky is overcast.

At the 3rd February EPC in Quenhane, in **Homoine district**, there was a problem with the printer.

Manica

The Renamo provincial political delegate in **Manica**, Monteiro Chigona, regards the balance of the voter registration in the first ten days as positive, but laments the poor turnout of potential voters in Machaze and Mossurize districts.

The lack of allowances for the brigade members could cause difficulties for the work in **Manica** in the coming days. The brigade members are considering abandoning the registration posts and going to look for food, particularly in the areas that border Zimbabwe, namely Nhachigo, Nhauroa, Caereze and Nhakadzodzo.

Even with showers, there was a reasonable turnout of voters at the Gungunhana Primary School, in **Mossurize**.

The registration post at the Maxara EP1, in **Macate district**, opened with a slight delay because of difficulties of the solar panel feeding power to the mobile. There was light rain. At the EPC Chinete post in Macate, there are problems with the solar panel, which is not powering the mobile due to the rain in the early hours of the 26th.

On Wednesday, our correspondents visited the post in EPC - Cafumpe, in **Gondola**, and there was only one member of staff, the typist.

Flooding and huge queues in **Tambara**, Manica, led to confusion. Those who received tickets the following day ended up arriving late and wanted priority treatment, which infuriated those already in the queues.

The temperature is creating problems at the Guro Secondary School census centre in the **Guro** district.

At the Mombedzi1 EPC census centre in **Vanduzi**, there are also difficulties with attendance due to the load. The solar panels are not powering the mobile phones properly.

The Janaque EPC voter registration centre, brigade no. 22, in the town of Nhambonda, administrative post of Amatongas, 40km from the town of **Gondola**, didn't open today because of rain. According to the supervisor, the mobile was not in operation last Friday. From the first day until today, only 45 voters were registered.

Sofala

Monitors from the three parties at the two EPC voter registration centres in Xavier de Goê, **Chemba**, were not present. They first prioritised agricultural activities in the early hours. At Inhaminga Secondary School in **Cheringoma**, the monitors from the three main parties were also absent. The brigade at Inhaminga Secondary School in Cheringoma is working without printing the enrolment forms. The machine is broken.

It was only yesterday, at around 1pm, that the District STAE in **Maríngué** sent a maintenance and repair technician from Mobiles to solve the problem of the PVC printer that is printing voter cards.

At the Inhamichindo EPC in the **Buzi** district, they are unable to issue receipts, only cards.

At the registration office located at the Dampa EPC, Nhamapaza, in the **Maríngué** district, the printed cards are of poor quality. The voter's face is invisible. The brigadiers are unable to diagnose the cause. As a solution, they are registering voters and recording them on a laptop and then printing them out on A4 paper.

The registration post of Sossoto, in **Chemba**, is very busy, but the slowness of service is noticeable. It has had a new printer since last week, since the old one broke down.

At the Thumba census centre, 13 km from the village of **Cheringoma**, there is a problem with the mobile phone battery. The battery discharges every five minutes because the panel is unable to power it due to the rain in the district.

At Sebastião Marcos Mabote School, in **Nhamatanda**, there are voters waiting to register, most of whom have lost voter registration cards or have misspelt their names. But because of the temperature, the solar panels aren't able to power the machines.

At the Caia EPC, in the village of **Caia**, the post opened at 11am because of the rain. The panel is unable to produce energy to power the mobile ID. The same happened at EPC Tchetcha, the administrative post in Sena, in the district of Caia.

In **Chibabava district**, voter registration has been affected by rain and by small malfunctions of the mobiles, which obliged the brigade members to work slowly, as they wait for the technical staff to check the mobile.

At the Dimba EPC, in **Cheringoma district**, registration had not begun until early afternoon because the machines malfunctioned. Potential voters had been demonstrating at the post since 04.00 in the morning. At the Chirimadze post, also in Cheringoma district, rain limited the registration. The brigade only began to operate at about 15.00.

At the **Búzi-sede EPC**, many potential voters abandoned the queue because of the slow attendance. On 26 March the post was attending to voters who received tickets the day before. But they were not distributing tickets today, and were not issuing voter cards for technical reasons.

At the Burra registration post, **in Búzi**, in the early hours there were problems with the charge for the computer battery, but these were later solved. At the Chandimba EPC, **in Búzi**, registration was limited because of the battery which did not have enough charge and the panel did not recharge because of the lack of sunlight. The same situation occurred at the **Caia EPC**.

Because of the rain falling since 25 March in some parts of Nhamatanda district, there was a poor turnout at the posts in the Metuchira Secondary School, the Metuchira Empresa EPC and the Julius Nyerere EPC.

The rain is also affecting voter registration in several posts in **Gorongosa, Cheringoma and Dondo districts**.

In **Nhamatanda municipality**, of the seven posts installed, only four are operational. The others are not working due to the lack of charge in the batteries and the fact that the panels cannot recharge due to the lack of sunlight. These posts are at the Heróis Moçambicanos Basic School, the Kura EP1 and the Marcos Mabote EP1. The solar panels are not feeding the mobile-IDs, because of the rains falling moderately in some parts of the district.

Tete

In Tete province, there is a huge queue at the Lumadzi EPC, in **Chiuta district**. The printer has broken down, and no cards are being printed.

The lack of cards meant that registration stopped for some time at the Magumbo post, in the Ntengo wa Mbalame locality, in **Tsangano district**. The brigade at this post only worked until 13:20.

At the Banga registration post, in the locality of the same name, in **Tsangano district**, there is a good flow of potential voters. The problem is that the mobiles sometimes do not work due to the lack of charge in the batteries.

The voter registration brigades in the municipal area of Nhamayabue, in the **Mutarara** district, continue to register a low influx of new voters. On average, 8 new voters are registered per day. Outside the municipality, for example, the EPC of Toque, in the administrative post of Charre, had already registered 603 voters by 26 March.

At the Limbuni census centre, in the Chiandame locality of **Tsangano**, work started late, at around 10am, due to a lack of charge in the mobiles.

In the district of **Mágoè** there was a greater turnout of voters. At the Mphende and Mucumbura registration centres, the average is 120 voters a day. At the Ntofo registration

post, we noticed that it took too long to attend to each voter due to the constant freezing of computers at the Ntofo registration post and the duplication of cards at the Chiguma registration post.

Zambezia

At the Muhuwa Comprehensive Primary School, in the Sugue area, in the town of Nipiode, 42 kilometres from the **Ile** District headquarters, there are always machine breakdowns, which aggravates voters.

The Abicene Registration Post, in the town of Chilomo, Chire Administrative Post, 147 kilometres from the district seat of **Morrumbala**, has not been able to register since 21 March due to a fault with the mobile. The mobile does not accept charging with solar panels. The Bolde Census Office, in Morrumbala, has been unable to print cards since the 22nd of this month. The district STAE is already aware of this.

At the registration centre located at the Sampene Primary School in **Quelimane**, the printer has been damaged for three days, making it impossible for potential voters to get their cards.

At the voter registration office at EPC Filipe Samuel Magaia, 8 kilometres from the town of **Chinde**, no cards are being printed due to a faulty printer.

The Ebide voter registration office, located on the grounds of Mudederereia Primary School, 20 kilometres from the **Lugela** District headquarters, has not been printing cards for days due to a malfunctioning mobile phone. Some voters don't accept the offer to pick up cards the next day, so they leave the office and look for another one nearby.

The PVC card printer at EPC Iacota in **Namacurra** stopped working last Thursday. It was only doing enrolment. When it was repaired Wednesday, it was printing duplicate cards. Voters at this station have been unable to register for five days.

At EPC Muhuwa, in the Sugue area, Nipiode locality, in **Ile**, in addition to technical problems, there are slowdowns, leading voters to abandon the post.

In the registration post at the Macunapane EPC, in Missiaci locality, **Mulumbo district**, there has been no registration since 22 March, due to a machine malfunction.

In the Centro EPC, in **Mocubela district**, 10 km from the district capital, registration has not even begun, 11 days after the official start. Locally, there is no information as to when it might start. Not even the teachers at the school have this information. Nonetheless, it is said that the registration may begin this week.

At the post set up in the Aeroporto Expansão Primary School, in **Quelimane city**, the machine malfunctioned this afternoon which paralysed the activities. At the same post, one of the brigade members said that yesterday and today (25-26 March) potential voters from Ilalane village attempted to register, but were refused since Ilalane belongs, not to **Quelimane city**, but to **Nicoadala district**.

At the Namita EPC, in **Mocuba**, there has been no registration since the machine has broken down. And there was no sign that it might be repaired later today.

The printer at the post in the Nhagadzi EPC, in Sabe locality, 45 km from **Morrumbala town**, has been out of order since last Thursday (21 March). The case has been reported to STAE.

At the Gonhane EPC, in **Inhassunge**, the work remains slow. Voters leave their documents at the post and return the following day to register.

There are also reports of slow attendance at the post in Baixo **Lugela**, in Lugela district.

Nampula

The Mucuegera registration post is 8 km from Namapa town, in **Eráti district**. The brigade members complain that the machine has been out of order since 25 March, which forced the work to stop.

At the post in the Namina "A", Régulo Canhaua EPC, 42 km from **Mecuburi town**, the machine has been out of order since yesterday. The brigade is waiting for a STAE technician to repair it.

At the 4th October registration post, in **Liupo district**, the mobile has malfunctioned. It has not printed cards since early this morning (26 March).

Voters are not going to the post installed at the Muteua EP1, in **Mogovolas** district, because it too is not issuing cards.

The mobile-IDs allocated to the post at the 4th Congress Primary School and Muzuane EPC, both in **Nacala-Porto**, are out of order. The post at the Cidade-Alta EPC, in **Nacala-Port**, stopped its activities at 09.00 on 26 March due to a breakdown of the printer.

The post at Marrupeio, in **Mogovolas**, has problems of a lack of rolls for printing voter cards.

Slow attendance is disheartening potential voters at the registration post in the Nampaco EPC, in **Nampula city**.

Even with problems of power cuts since last Sunday, the registration at brigade 343, installed in the **Larde-sede EPC**, in Larde district, is proceeding smoothly.

The turnout of potential voters is increasing at the **Nacala Secondary School**. Most of them are students. When asked why it is only now that they are going to the registration posts, they replied that previously they did not have the information.

Cabo Delgado

Registration is pressing ahead at the post in the 30 July School in **Mocímboa da Praia**. But there are interruptions due to technical problems with the equipment.

The machine breakdowns, in almost all the brigades, are upsetting the political parties. At registration post 03, in the Muaria EPC, in **Mecufi**, the brigade went for three days without being able to print voter cards.

Our correspondents report printer breakdowns throughout **Mecufi district**. In the registration post in the 5th Congress village, in **Nangade**, the printer has been out of order for 4 days.

At the post in the Nicani EPC, in **Namuno district**, registration is slow due to problems with the equipment.

Nangade district is facing serious problems with oscillation of the electric current, which is affecting the registration.

Potential voters in neighbourhood 25, in **Metuge**, complain of the late opening of the registration post.

The Monapo brigade, in the Mavala administrative post, in **Balama district**, has managed to reach its destination, but has not yet started to work because of the heavy rains falling in that place

Only six registration brigades have been able to reach the Mazeze administrative post. There are also reports that brigades have left for the Namogelia administrative post, in **Chiúre**.

Voters have accused the brigade members at the EP2 Secondary School in **Ancuabe**, of only prioritising their acquaintances.

Niassa

The registration post in the Filipe Samuel Magaia Basic School, in **Mandimba**, has not registered any voters since the start. The machine is out of order and some voters are giving up.

At the post in the **Marrupa Secondary School**, the mobile has problems and the registration was partly interrupted.

At the EB Josina Machel post, in **Cuamba city**, there has been no registration for five days due to malfunctions of the mobiles


At the E.S. General station in **Cuamba**, work has been suspended for three days due to a printer breakdown.

At the Nangar post in **Metarica**, the census is slow due to the lack of electricity. The panel is not recharging properly.

The Mecomera voter registration centre, in **Mecanhelas**, experienced a delay in the start of registration due to a lack of charge in the mobile phone.

The Samora Moisés Machel Secondary School registration centre in **Mandimba** failed to register 27 March voters due to equipment breakdown.

The Nvoquiua census centre in **Mecanhelas** continues to have problems with several undocumented readers without witnesses

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