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CNE still does not know how much money it will have for municipal elections

The Government has not yet informed the CNE how much money it will make available for electoral expenditure such as the acquisition of voting material, transport, and hiring polling station staff. This could make planning difficult.

The Government has already made available the budget for current expenditure, such as the payment of wages to the staff of the electoral administration bodies, office rent, water and electricity bills, among other expenses. But the elections have additional costs, namely the printing of ballot papers, transport, the hiring of members of the polling stations, among other services. To date, nobody knows how much money the Government will provide for these costs.

“The Government has not yet informed the National Elections Commission of the election budget (as a whole)”, explained Paulo Cuinica. He added that when they are informed of this budget, the central bodies “will distribute it” to the provinces.

The truth is that the Economic and Social Plan and the State Budget for 2023 do not present the costs of the 2023 municipal elections, except for the running costs of the provincial bodies. By May 2023, the CNE should launch the public tender for acquisition of the voting material.

Explanation for why Manica has a higher budget

The Bulletin had already advanced the explanation, but now it’s official: Manica has a higher operational budget because it is the only province which keeps all the electoral bodies operating outside of the election period.

According to the explanation given by the CNE spokesperson, Paulo Cuinica, in Manica all the district and city elections commissions operate full-time, with permanent staff ([see Bulletin No. 23](#)). “Unfortunately, the district and city STAEs are not yet Beneficiary Management Units (they are still not able to manage their funds), which is why the entire budget of the 12 districts is managed by the Provincial Elections Commission”, including the budget for its own operations.

For this reason, much of the expenditure (85.3 million out of a total of 88.9 million meticaais) is for the staff (wages and remuneration). What is not known is why only Manica has election bodies fully operational in a non-election period, unlike all the other provinces.

Civil society will be represented by the ONP in Mecanhelas

The tight deadlines prevented civil society from submitting nomination papers for seats on the Election Commission of the new municipality of Mecanhelas, in Niassa, and thus facilitated candidates from the ONP, an organization controlled by Frelimo.

The period for nominations opened today, 25 January, in all 12 new municipalities. In Bulletin No. 22 ([see here](#)), we warned that the tight deadlines (from 16 to 23 January 2023) would facilitate candidates from organisations of the Frelimo Party, which is what happened in Mecanhelas.


From what we have learnt, only the National Organisation of Teachers (ONP) managed to submit nomination papers for 20 candidates running for the nine seats reserved for civil society, which means that all the seats will be occupied by the ONP, representing civil society. The political parties represented in parliament only appoint six members: three from Frelimo, two from Renamo and one from the MDM.

Pilot voter registration will cover about 100,000 people

In Manica, the pilot registration will be held in Mossurize, Vanduzi and Macate districts, while the districts covered in Maputo province, will be Matutuíne, Magude and Moamba, and in Nampula, they will be Meconta, Mogovolas and Murrupula.

The registration will cover about 100,000 potential voters, living in the target districts where the equipment to be used in the full voter registration that begins on 20 April will be tested.

For the pilot registration, 500 Mobile ID (registration computer equipment) will be used out of a total of 4,400 available for the April voter registration.

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