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Registration ends today, Sunday 28 April

93,000 ghosts registered in Inhambane, where STAE also seems to have lied to its own CPE

More than 93,000 "ghost" voters, who do not exist, had already been registered in Inhambane by 20 April, one week for the end of registration today. This is the number of registered voters more than the number of voting age adults in the province. Meanwhile, internal documents show that either the technical secretariat STAE was making gross numerical errors, or was lying to its own provincial election commission about how well it was running registration.

This year, each parliament seat will correspond to approximately 60,000 voters, so already registered ghosts will mean an extra seat for Inhambane in the AR. This is exactly how Gaza gained extra seats five years ago. And we expect many thousands more ghosts have registered this week in Inhambane, although we cannot see them in the queues.

Meanwhile, internal Inhambane STAE documents showed a very strange error during the first five weeks of registration. Their tables list registration by district, and then a total at the bottom. But closer examination shows that the "Total" is not the sum of the district numbers. For example, the report up to 30 March says a total of 186,119 voters had registered. But adding up the 14 districts gives only 152,694. In effect, STAE was telling its bosses in the election commission that it was working hard and registered 33,425 more people in the first two weeks that it actually did. The exaggeration of actual registration continued until 13 April. For the first time, in the 20 April report, the "total" really is the sum of the district registrations.

The table below shows how we calculated the ghosts. It shows the National Statistics Institute (INE) estimate for 2024 voting age adults, and the numbers registered in 2023 and up to 20 April 2024. In all but two districts, more voters have been registered than there are voting age adults. We call these "ghosts" because we cannot see them. Mozambique has high levels of registration, but it is rare to have more than 95% of adults registering. So we consider registrations about 95% of voting-age-adults to be ghosts. And we calculate there are 93,144 ghosts already registered.

Estimate of Inhambane ghost voters						
District	INE adults	Registered				Ghosts >95% INE
		2023	2024 to 20 Apr	Totals	% of INE	
Inhambane	57,679	48,019	11,447	59,466	103.1%	4,816
Funhalouro	25,557		27,461	27,461	107.5%	3,419
Govuro	21,115		23,651	23,651	112.0%	4,023
Homoíne	68,083	49,328	22,646	71,974	105.7%	7,712
Inharrime	67,421		72,348	72,348	107.3%	8,904
Inhassoro	34,723		38,089	38,089	109.7%	5,597
Jangamo	60,992		67,106	67,106	110.0%	10,082
Mabote	29,581		40,202	40,202	135.9%	16,445
Massinga	143,699	105,318	40,290	145,608	101.3%	9,215
Maxixe	91,330	71,512	22,139	93,651	102.5%	7,063
Morrumbene	81,230		79,558	79,558	97.9%	2,340
Panda	25,469		26,074	26,074	102.4%	1,923
Vilankulo	94,787	83,987	9,947	93,934	99.1%	3,851
Zavala	90,707	65,768	31,619	97,387	107.4%	12,041
Total	892,373	423,932	512,578	936,509	104.9%	93,144

Massinga shows how it is done

A close look at Massinga shows how Inhambane is following the Gaza model of 2019. It took four weeks to slowly reach 4,752 new voters per week. Then suddenly in the 5th week Massinga registration jumped to 20,942. That is 4 times as many as in the previous week. The 6th week was lower, but still double the 4th week. Clearly by the end of March, the order went out to register more voters, even if they did not exist. By 20 April Massinga had registered more than all the voting age adults in the district, and still had a week to go.

Massinga district registration							
	1st days	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Un-registered adults before start
Regis- tration	(16-17/03)	(17-23/03)	(24-30/03)	(31/03 - 06/04)	(07-13/04)	(14-20/04)	
Week	592	2,613	2,211	4,752	20,942	9,180	
Total	592	3,205	5,416	10,168	31,110	40,290	38,381

The photo shows a Massinga registration post, which must have a long queue to register so many voters, but who cannot be seen because the voters are ghosts.



Registration of ghost voters in Chókwè

Our correspondents in Chókwè, Gaza, saw non-existent voters being registered in some posts. During their observation rounds, they found typists introducing information into the computer without a single voter registering. Chókwè was the district where many of the 300,000 ghost voters of 2019 were registered.

In the posts at the Canhine EP1 and the Chacuarine EP1, the typists, accompanied by the Frelimo Party monitors, were busy introducing data into the machines, while the other brigade members were standing around talking, and there were no monitors from opposition parties.

The photo below shows no voters in in the queue, so the voters being registered must be a long queue of ghosts which we cannot see.



At Canhine EP1, the typist ignored the presence of observers and continued inputting information, the content of which it was not possible to ascertain. During the hour in which the observers were present at the post, the typist did not stop data input.

At Chacuarine EP1, observers found the typist copying data from the telephone onto the computer. When they saw that observers were present, all the brigade members who were outside, plus the police, came back inside the post. The typist stopped closed the computer. Immediately the supervisor began to make phone calls denouncing the presence of the observers.

In Renamo zones, voters walk 20 km and wait for two days in the hope of being registered

The national head of social affairs of the MDM, pastor Maiba Wache, has denounced the existence of areas where the potential voters are obliged to walk for more than 20 km to register, in Mossurize district, in Nampula province.

This is happening in the zones of the tea plantations of Goi-Goi, Mucheneze and Mpenngo, regions where Renamo is very influential.

In addition to walking for more than 20 Km, people wait in the queues for over two days in the hope of registering. Some opt for bribing the brigade members in order to obtain their voter card. In some areas there are still crowds of potential voters and there is a risk that they will not all be registered.

MDM suggests transferring some brigades from the municipalities to areas where crowds are attending the posts.

In brief

Insurgent attacks force evacuation of registration brigades in Chiure:

Some villages in Chiure district were attacked by insurgents, and STAE evacuated registration brigades. On Tuesday 23 April, at 16.00, insurgents attacked the village of Nantavo, 30 km from Chiure town, where they killed three civilians, and burnt down the houses of all the block chiefs and a school. Earlier in the day, at 06.00, the insurgents entered Micolene village, in Chiure-Velho, where they stayed for part of the day. Last week the brigades at Mazeze were also evacuated to the Chiure district capital.

Staff and students forced to register in Chongoene: There was a crowd of citizens who wanted to register at the Chonguene Complete Primary School B, Gaza, at 15.40 on Thursday (25 April). Our correspondent discovered they were staff of the public administration and students from the Chonguene Secondary School. They said their superiors obliged staff members to present voter cards. And those who did not have cards were forced to go and register. A member of the public administration in Chonguene district said that her chief had excused her from work on Thursday so that she could register “and I should give him the card”. The same was done to the students. They say they are threatened that that they will not be allowed to take the quarterly exams, unless they present a voter card.

Mágoè registers more than its adults: Up until Thursday (25 April) Mágoè district, in Tete province, had registered 104% of the total number of voting age adults. But there are still crowds at some registration brigades. On Thursday, the team of CIP observers in that district observed the registration posts in Dewetewe locality, specifically in the Calue, Chibwe, Nhadandaro and Tchodo neighbourhoods. There are still crowds at the registration posts and each brigade is registering an average of 100 to 170 people a day. There is a risk that the posts will not manage to register all the voters by Sunday.

Two weeks without registering any voters: The supervisor of the voter registration post at the Mucoria EPC, in Mecula district, in Niassa, said that this is the second week in which the post has not registered a single voter. The entire population, 188 voters, has been registered.

MDM monitors are on strike in Niassa: They are not inspecting the current voter registration, election management bodies in the province said. According to our sources, only 2% of the monitors are participating. The reasons are not known. There also appears to be dispute in Gorongosa district. Zambo Alficha, the chair of the Gorongosa District Elections Commission, said on Tuesday (23 April) that 44 MDM monitors were accredited to inspect the voter registration, but so far none of them have appeared at the registration posts.

Local fights mean registration never resumed in Manhiça nor Marrupa: Registration has not yet restarted in the neighbourhoods of Xikwembo and Chibucutso, on the outskirts of Manhiça, Maputo province. The STAE district director, Simone Ripinha, said he is still waiting for authorisation from the district government to mobilise the registration brigade to resume the registration that has been halted since 26 March, due to demonstrations claiming that the Manhica mayor, Luís Munguambe, has not kept his promises. The governor of Maputo province visited Manhiça district last week and announced that, after talks with the community, consensus had been reached that registration would resume on Monday (22 April). But it did not.


And at the voter registration centre at EPC Maputo, in Marrupa, Niassa, no one comes to register, as residents protest the failure of the Niassa National Reserve. Elephants, such as the one in the upper right of the photo, are coming into the local farms, destroying their fields and food during the harvest season



Our correspondents witnessed elephants in a producer's field in the sunlight, devastating his produce. "If the government doesn't resolve this situation, we won't register or vote," the residents threatened.

FICHA TÉCNICA:

ENDEREÇOS:

	<p>Editor: Lázaro Mabunda</p> <p>Advisor: Joseph Hanlon</p> <p>Director: Edson Cortez</p> <p>Translator: Paul Fauvet</p> <p>Sub-editor: Samuel Monjane</p> <p>Layout: Liliana Mangove</p>	<p>Centro de Integridade Pública Bairro da Sommerschild, Rua Fernão Melo e Castro 124, Maputo</p> <p>English: To subscribe: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/</p> <p>Web: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/ Portuguese Web: https://www.cipeleicoes.org/ Facebook: @cipeleicoes Instagram: @cip_eleicoes Tiktok: @cipmoz Telegram: +258 843890584</p>
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