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## Pilot registration: large crowds continue in Murrupula and Meconta

The pilot registration posts set up in the Murrupula-sede Secondary School and in Meconta-sede, in the districts of the same names, in Nampula, are recording large crowds of potential voters every day.



In Murrupula, the crowds are caused by the slowness of the brigade members. There are only two people registering the voters and, on average, one person is attended every 8 to 10 minutes, which is unlike the other registration posts in six of the nine districts we are monitoring. The average of the other registration posts varies between three and five minutes.

Due to the slowness, in Murrupula, at the end of the day, the voters who did not manage to register are given tickets for the following day.

In Meconta-sede, for example, there is a long queue of about 200 potential voters wanting to register, but attendance is quick, taking between three and five minutes. The machines are continuing to respond well, except last Saturday, when at this brigade one machine suffered a breakdown, between 09.00 and 13.00, but was then repaired.

In Maputo, the registration posts are continuing to record a normal flow. The pilot is just a registration which seeks to train the staff and test the equipment to be used in the voter registration that begins on 20 April. People are not receiving a genuine voter card, and, since these are not municipal districts, they will have to register officially as voters in 2024.

## Election commissions in the 12 new municipalities controlled by Frelimo

The municipal electoral commissions have the same proportion of members as parliament, meaning that Frelimo dominates the commissions in the 12 new municipalities announced yesterday (8 Feb).


The political parties nominate six members (3 for Frelimo, 2 for Renamo and 1 for MDM) and 9 come from civil society. But the political parties have an agreement, not in the law, that in the same proportion, parties can choose people from civil society organisations linked to their party. Thus these commission members are not really representing civil society.

Under this agreement, Frelimo had the right to coopt five or six members of the district commissions from civil society. Most of these candidates were supported by the National Teachers' Organisation (ONP), the Christian Council of Mozambique, and some minor religious groupings. These are organisations that have traditionally been controlled by the Frelimo Party.

In many of the election commissions, Renamo had the right to coopt between two and three members from a civil society organization linked to Renamo. The MDM, as happened in the election of members of the Provincial Commissions, was not able to coopt anybody. This means that the district commissions consist of at least nine members of Frelimo, three appointed and six coopted, five from Renamo (two appointed and three coopted), and just one from the MDM, appointed by the party ([see the list here](#)).

The election and indication of the 15 members of the election commissions has now been concluded, and yesterday the chairpersons of the respective election bodies were elected in the districts with new municipalities. Boane district was not affected, because it already has a District Elections Commission.

The tender for the election of the civil society members was launched on 16 January and ended on 23 January.

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