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Final blow to the 2018 Agreement with Afonso Dhlakama

Frelimo will amend the constitution between June and August to eliminate district elections

It's decided. As from June, Frelimo will amend the Constitution. On Wednesday of parliament approved the amendment to the Electoral Law, which reduces the deadline for announcing the date of the 2024 general elections from 18 to 14 months before the elections. This has removed all doubts, and confirmed what the CIP Elections Bulletin had already announced: there will be no district elections in 2024.

Up until the beginning of this Wednesday's plenary session of the Assembly of the Republic, the Frelimo proposal was to reduce the deadline for announcing the date of general elections by three months. But on the same day, after the opinion of the Fourth Commission for the second reading of the Frelimo bill, an extra month was added. The 4th Commission remitted the document to the secretariat at 13.37 for appreciation and approval in the second reading.

Frelimo argues that the decision meets the concerns of various segments of Mozambican society – namely politicians, religious organisations, academics, journalists, civil society organisations and other forces, with regard to the opportunity, advantages and disadvantages of holding elections in the districts. These segments, according to Frelimo, argue that the State always follows, in a secure manner, the principle of gradualism. That is, the amendment of Law 8/2013 will allow a broader consultation of various opinions about “the opportunity and pertinence” of holding, or not holding, district elections next year.

The amendment will allow Frelimo to gain time until it is legally possible to change the Constitution without needing support from the opposition. The Constitution can only be amended within five years after the previous amendment came into force with a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the parliament, which would require opposition support because the last amendment was on 12 June 2018 (article 301 of the Constitution of the Republic). After 12 June this year, Frelimo alone can alter the Constitution, by using a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the deputies, without needing opposition support.

Hence, with the reduction in the deadline for fixing the date of the presidential and parliamentary elections, and the elections of the provincial assemblies and the provincial governors, Frelimo wins four months to propose, debate and approve the amendment to the Constitution of the Republic,

which will allow the President of the Republic to fix, without pressure, the date of next year's general elections without district elections.

The CNE had already approved a proposal that the President of the Republic announce, on 8 April this year, the date of 9 October 2024 for holding the general elections. But with the amendment of the Electoral Law, the CNE proposal will become null and void, which means that the CNE will have to wait for the constitutional amendment, as from 13 June this year, to propose a new date for the presidential announcement. It is most likely that the proposal of 9 October will remain the date of the elections. In this case, the CNE should propose to the President that he announce, on 8 August this year, the date of 9 October 2024 as the date of the general elections.

Proposals for territorial demarcation approved by the Maputo Provincial Assembly

Marracuene municipality covers 240 km² and Matola-Rio only 105 km²

The populous localities of Matalane and Bobole, where the two largest breweries (producing the 2M and Heineken brands) are located, lie outside the boundaries of the Marracuene municipality, while Molutana remains outside Matola-Rio.

The proposals were approved Wednesday (29 March) by the Maputo Provincial Assembly, according to information shared by the Marracuene District Administrator, Shafee Sidat.

The initial proposal from the technical staff of the Ministry of State Administration and the Public Service (MAEFP) was that the Marracuene Municipality would cover a municipal area of only 82 km². In this first proposal, the municipality did not include the localities of Michafutene and Macaneta II. The latter is one of Mozambique's main tourist zones. But, after discussions between local stakeholders and the MAEFP technical staff, the Marracuene municipality was extended to cover 240 km². But the local political actors wanted Matalane and Bobole to also form part of the new Marracuene municipality. This would mean the two largest breweries (2M and Heineken) becoming part of the municipality.

The argument of the MAEFP is that extensive municipalities do not contribute to efficient and effective answers to the concerns of citizens. Furthermore, space must be left for the districts.

The proposals, for both Marracuene and Matola-Rio, were approved by the members of the three groups which comprise the Maputo Provincial Assembly (Frelimo, Renamo and the MDM). Thus, if the Council of Ministers does not alter the demarcations approved by the Maputo Provincial Assembly, the new Marracuene municipality will consist of the following neighbourhoods ("bairros"):

Marracuene town locality:

Neighbourhoods:
Marracuene district capital
Micanhine
Massinga
Mapulango
29 September
Pussulane
Zintava Mutanhana
Fafitine.

Michafutene locality:

Neighbourhoods:
Habel Jafar
Guava, Mateque
Cumbeza
Ricatla
Agostinho Neto
Mali
Mumemo 1
Mumemo 4 October
Mumemo 15 August
Macaneta II locality

For its part, with 105 km², the new Matola-Rio municipality will occupy only a small, isolated territory, between the Matola and Boane municipalities. This is a territory located between the bridges of Matola-Rio (the boundary of the Matola municipality) and of Campoane.


Matola-Rio is an industrial free zone. The Beluluane Industrial Park is located here. It has Mozal, the largest aluminium smelter, as its symbol.

The following neighbourhoods, all of them in the Matola Rio Sede locality, will form part of the Matola-Rio municipal zone:

Matola-Rio
Djonasse-sede
Djonasse A
Djonasse-Samora Machel
Djonasse-Josina Machel
Chinonanquila A, B, D, E and F
Beluluane
Djuba-sede
Djuba B.

After approval of the proposals, the Provincial Assembly should produce a resolution that will be submitted to the Council of Ministers and to the Assembly of the Republic.

FICHA TÉCNICA:	ENDEREÇOS:
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