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Most registration posted opened on time, but worked very slowly

The vast majority of polling stations opened on time, on the first day of voter registration. But voter registration, very slow due to poor mastery of the machines by the voter registration brigades.

While for some it takes between 5 and 10 minutes, for most of the brigades registration took from 15 to as much as 45 minutes per voter.

In Chimoio, at Amilcar Cabral Primary School, the Secretary of State and the Governor of Manica province were registered by a special brigade, known as the "shock brigade", whose function is to intervene in situations of breakdowns or anomalies. Registration took 10 minutes for the Secretary of State and five minutes for the governor. Once the registration of officers was over, the special brigade left and was replaced by the local team. This brigade lacked experience handling of the machines. The duration of registration was extended from five minutes to 15 minutes for each voter.

Some brigades were paralyzed until 9 o'clock due to the breakdown of the machines. The EPC 1 de Junho, Matola-Rio, the brigade were still waiting a 9 am for the technicians to repair them. Similar problems were reported by our correspondents in many municipalities. There were some problems of breakdown of machines and their printers. In some cases, the machines were not recognising the fingerprints of the brigade members.

And there were protocol problems, as important people must register first. At the Technical School in Xai Xai, the registration post opened on time but did not register voters for two hours as they waited for the President of the Municipal Council to register first.

In Zambezia, the post at Maganja da Costa General Secondary School opened on time. But the start of registration was delayed by 20 minutes because the administrator, who was supposed to be the first voter to register, forgot his ID card. He had to wait until the person sent to collect the ID card arrived.

Overall, most the registration posts opened on time and functioned, but with problems. Staff with experience from previous elections knew how to use the equipment, but new staff did not, causing

such long delays that many people stopped queuing and went home.

Delayed credentials block reporting

Many journalists and observers have not been issued credentials and cannot report on voter registration, which opened today. The civil society observer consortium "More Integrity" has observers in 27 municipalities, but only those in 10 have been issued observer credentials. Similarly CIP Election Bulletin has 200 correspondents spread across all 65 municipalities, but fewer than half have been issued credentials.


Only Zambézia, Tete, Manica, Inhambane and Niassa have issued credentials. In some places journalists and observers without credentials have been given access informally, but in many places they have been barred.



Credentials are emitted by provincial elections commissions, which informally blame the very late purchases of material to print and make the plastic coated credentials with clips.

This is turn is blamed on the central government cash crisis; many bills are not being paid and money has been released to the National Elections Commission very slowly.

With the very late start, provincial elections commissions are producing credentials for party officials and party poll monitors first, and have not yet reached journalists and observers who are at the bottom of the list.

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