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Cabo Delgado STAE awards \$4 mn 'urgent' contracts to Frelimo-linked businessmen

Urgent contracts for transport and supplies for the Cabo Delgado registration worth \$4mn were awarded to companies linked to figures close to Frelimo and politically influential businessmen in the province. The awards were made by the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and published on the 20 April 2023 daily *Notícias* (see below).

The Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) researched the contracts and comments "that the awards reflect the same pattern as always. They are mostly to companies whose shareholders have strong links to the Frelimo party."

Omar Rent a Car won the contract to hire 21 4x4s for \$1.4mn, but CIP calculated that it would have cost less - \$1.3mn - to buy new cars rather than hire them. Omar Rent a Car is owned by Omar Omar, who CIP says "is closely linked to the Provincial Director of STAE in Cabo Delgado."

A \$2.5mn helicopter hire contract was awarded to Fly Indico, majority owned by Miguel Ângelo Dos Santos Curado Ribeiro with "connections to the Frelimo party business circuit." And two companies - Rovuma Holdings and Mussiro Investimentos - of the young businessman Bruno Pinheiro, who sits on the Frelimo provincial committee, won three contracts worth \$66,000.

CIP also asks why the contracts were issued as urgent rather than as a public tender, since it has been known for months that there would be electoral registration in Cabo Delgado with its security issues, and a public tender is normally cheaper.

The CIP report, in Portuguese only, is on <https://www.cipmoz.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Negocio-das-Elcoes-1.pdf>



República de Moçambique

Provincia de Cabo Delgado

STAE – Secretariado Técnico Administração Eleitoral
UGEA – Unidade Gestora Executora das Aquisições

ANÚNCIO DE ADJUDICAÇÃO

Nos termos do artigo 66 do Regulamento de Contratação de Empreitada de Obras Públicas, Fornecimento de Bens e Prestação de Serviços, aprovado pelo Decreto nº 79/2022, de 30 de Dezembro, comunica-se a adjudicação do objecto dos concursos abaixo discriminados:

Modalidade	Objecto	Empresa Adjudicada	Valor com IVA
Ajuste Directo nº 1/STAE/UGEA/2023	Fornecimento de refeições durante a formação dos formadores Provinciais de Agentes de Educação Cívica, formação dos formadores de Brigadistas, fornecimento de lanches durante a formação dos Agentes de educação cívica e de brigadistas	PALMA LOGICAL SERVICE	4.894.344,00MT
Ajuste Directo nº 2/STAE/UGEA/2023	Aluguer de um helicóptero para movimentação de brigadas nas zonas de difícil acesso	FLY ÍNDICO	160.900.000,00MT
Concurso Público nº 1/STAE/UGEA/2023	Prestação de Serviços de aluguer de 21 viaturas 4x4	OMAR RENT A CAR	88.225.000,00MT
Concurso Público nº 2/STAE/UGEA/2023	Prestação de Serviços de aluguer de 14 viaturas com capacidade de 3.5t ou mais para o transporte de material de recenseamento eleitoral	ROVUMA HOLDINGS	1.260.000,00MT
Concurso Limitado nº 1/STAE/UGEA/2023	Aquisição de 157 megafones para agentes de educação cívica	MUSSIRO INVESTIMENTOS	1.992.537,88MT
Concurso Limitado nº 2/STAE/UGEA/2023	Aquisição de 157 megafones para agentes de educação cívica	MUSSIRO INVESTIMENTOS	1.092.720,00MT

Pemba, aos 10 /4/2023

O Director Provincial

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Observers still banned in three provinces

Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Gaza have still not issued credentials to civil society observers, which effectively bars them from registration posts. Under pressure from the provincial elections commission, Nampula STAE agreed to start issuing observer badges on Monday (24 Apr).

Frelimo pressures community leaders outside the municipality to register in Morrumbala town

A brigade of the Frelimo party travelled 42km today (Sunday 23 April) to convince community leaders of Sabe, outside the municipal perimeter, to register in the town of Morrumbala, Zambézia, in order to help the party to win the local elections.

According to Neto Beula, head of the zone in the village of Ngomera, the community leaders did not agree with the idea because the distance is long and because it is something new, never seen before. In fact, not all of them have the transport, accommodation and food conditions to do so. They impose these conditions because they will have to arrive at Morrumbala and wait to be attended, since the affluence of the census posts is greater in the town and they fear staying many days due to the long queues.

So, unanimously, all community leaders demanded a transport and accommodation allowance, conditions that the party said it does not have. So each will register at the post closest to their residence, as specified in the law.

Significant improvements in machine breakdowns but delays are still a cause for concern


Almost all registration posts are open, and equipment problems are reduced. Nevertheless, correspondent's reports suggest one-fifth (20%) of posts are still having problems with computers or printers or have a shortage of registration forms or other material. This sometimes means people are registered but their cards are not printed. In Muhalaze, Matola, the printer of Brigada nº133 produces some cards without photos - a common problem.

However, the problem of slowness in attendance due to brigade members lack of mastery of the equipment remains serious, despite three days of experience. In some posts, especially in the centre and north of the country, potential voters end up abandoning the posts or causing disturbances.

Other registration news

Registration only started Saturday, two days after the beginning of the process, in Nihula. Micanhelas, Niassa, because the system software had not been updated. The same scenario occurred in Mutapiri, in Insaca EP. The four brigades deployed in the locality of Iatária-Chamba, left on Friday and registration only started on Saturday.

For people with disabilities 10% of posts are difficult. In particular there is a lack of ramps.

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