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Registration of Beira women’s association blocked by the Sofala Elections Commission

The Sofala Provincial Elections Commission (CPES) has rejected the registration for the municipal elections of the Nucleus of Sofala Women’s Associations. But, even before that formal decision was taken, there were clear signs that the candidacy would be rejected. First, wrong instructions were given to the association, and when these were complied with, nobody accepted its documents.


The justification given by the CPES for rejecting the candidacy of the association was that the documentation was delivered past the deadline, and for that reason it was not even sent to the Maputo headquarters of the National Elections Commission (CNE). But the association’s registration had suffered blockages organised by the CPES staff.

The CNE rules say that for registration of a citizens list, [a criminal record certificate is only required from the Election Agent](#). (see appended CNE document). But the CPES demanded criminal record certificates from all the candidates, which by law is only required in a month when candidates lists are submitted. The municipal assembly in the city of Beira has 49 seats, so the association was obliged to deal urgently with this number of documents for its registration to be accepted.

Taking into account that each criminal record certificate costs 270 meticaís (\$4) , the association would have paid, in the two days before the deadline expired, more than \$200 - a lot for a community group on short notice. In despair, and unhappy that its candidacy had been blocked, the association managed to present its concern to the Legal Office of the central branch of STAE (Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat). [The reply from the STAE-Central legal office](#) was “there was a misunderstanding by the colleagues in Beira”, because the demand made by the CPES was unnecessary. Immediately, the Legal Office contacted the CPES staff who were blocking reception of the association’s candidacy, and told them to accept the candidacy, in line with the guidance from the CNE. But they were now almost up against the deadline for registration.

After a frantic race against time, the association finally managed to submit the documentation at 15.23 on 14 July, the last day for registration and just seven minutes before the deadline expired. But according to the association’s Election Agent, Micaela Gabriel Marrozuk, when she arrived at the CPES, the person who receives the registration papers was absent. The Election Agent was received by another staff member, who immediately phoned up the colleague responsible for receiving the documents, who gave instructions to leave the documents with the staff member who was present.

The documents were not handed over in time, according to the Election Agent, in a clear intention to block the candidacy of the Nucleus of Sofala Women’s Associations.

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