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## Huge differences in registration speed continues, depending on training and practice

Very slow processing of would-be voters continues to be the Achilles' heel of this registration at some posts in all districts. In Alto Molocue our correspondents report huge differences between registration posts. At EPC Pista Velho (old road school) it took up to half an hour to process each person. Only 20 registration cards were issued yesterday (20 April) and the photo below shows the queue of waiting people:



But in the same town at Primary School Mulutxasse the registration brigade issued 73 cards yesterday - about six minutes per card.

The difference seems to be hands-on training and practice. People who did registration in the elections five years ago know how the computers and card printers work and learned the idiosyncrasies of the system. The arrival of equipment and then training was very late this year, and it shows - new staff have not had enough practice to dominate the system

## Equipment breakdowns still prevalent but reducing

Across the country, our correspondents report a significant reduction in equipment problems compared to yesterday (20/04), with particular improvements in Inhambane and Tete. But problems continue.

Most serious is the inability to print voters cards. The computers have batteries, but the printers do not, and constant power cuts preventing printers from working are reported at some registration posts in almost all districts. In some posts, the machines print for some voters and not for others. Some machines have not been printing since yesterday (20/04). Brigade members register voters and tell them to collect the cards later.

Other malfunctions continue. In Beira, registration posts in São José School and Munhava Central were not open this morning due to equipment problems. With no local solution, they wait for a STAE technician from Maputo.

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## Civil society observation barred, and other registration news

The prohibition of civil society observation continues in three provinces. Observer credentials were issued this afternoon in Maputo city and late yesterday in Maputo Province, but have not yet been issued in Gaza, Nampula and Cabo Delgado. This means that civil society observation is still not allowed in those three provinces.

Turnout at voter registration posts was dramatically reduced today (21 April) in much of northern Mozambique, due to the celebrations of EID-UL-FITRE, the biggest festival of the Islamic religion. In many districts, polling stations were empty in the early hours, but turnout improved throughout the day. The majority of the inhabitants of northern Mozambique are Muslim.

In Chimoio, some citizens are being prohibited from registering because they live in rented houses, even though they are natives of the district. This is clearly incorrect.

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## Explainer


### Why is registration in entire districts?

We are sometimes asked: Why register the whole district now?

On the ground the boundaries of many municipalities are unclear, and people think their neighbourhood is part of the municipality when it is not. People are told to register at their nearest registration post, which is usually a school. When there was no registration post at their school, they went to the nearest school in the town. And in some places parties encouraged their supporters outside the boundary to register inside.

The solution was to register the entire district, and tell people to register at their nearest school as specified in the law. No harm is done by registering this year as the voters card is valid next year for national elections, and most people will register this year. Registration next year can be smaller and less expensive.

Another reason this year is that the boundaries of the 12 new municipalities have still not been approved by the Council of Ministers, so no one including the election authorities know who is in and who is out.

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