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## Does Gaza plan to register 305,000 “ghost voters”?

It seems that the Gaza registration inflation of 2019 is being repeated. The National Statistics Institute (INE) and national STAE say there are 517,000 potential voters in Gaza districts with municipalities. But STAE in Gaza says there are 822,000 voting age adults. Once again STAE in Gaza inflating the numbers.

In the 2019 elections, STAE in Gaza registered 329,430 more voters than there were voting age adults in the province, and 161,641 of these "ghosts" voted, mainly for Frelimo and its presidential candidate Filipe Nyusi. This increased the number of parliament seats for Frelimo by four. Our full report on fraud in the 2019 elections is on <http://bit.ly/MozElStuff>.

The [numbers were released by the Deputy Provincial Director](#) of STAE, Jorge Machai, appointed by Renamo, at a press conference in Xai Xai Tuesday last week (16 May). He says there is great resistance to sharing information about the voter registration in Gaza, and for this reason published internal numbers. Each provincial STAE has a Frelimo-aligned director and deputy directors formally indicated by Frelimo and Renamo.

The “CIP Eleições” Bulletin contacted the Gaza STAE provincial director, Mário Cossane, to explain why projections are being used that are different from those issued by the INE, but he refused to comment. He said that, first, he was outside the office with his family, second, that he did not know who was ringing him; and third, that he did not give interviews over the phone. Then he hung up.

The most recent data (to 10 May) show that Gaza province has registered 265,996 voters which is 51.4% of the number of real voters to be registered. But, if the projections of the provincial STAE are used, then by 10 May Gaza had only registered 32.3% of the target.

According to the estimates of the provincial STAE, Gaza province has 822,109 adults eligible to register, which is 305,089 more than the INE and STAE national count. Bilene and Massingir districts, with the lowest population density, are the only districts in which the INE projections will be used. The largest constituencies in Gaza will use the STAE projections.

The STAE data show that Chókwè district, the largest constituency in Gaza, has the largest number of potential “ghost” voters: more than 116,000. Chibuto is the second largest constituency with 64,000 additional. Xai-Xai and Manjacaze project registration of 64,000 and 58,000 “ghost”

voters respectively. The provincial STAE appears to be using the data base from the 2019 elections.

<b>District</b>	<b>INE &amp; national STAE voting age adults</b>	<b>Provincial STAE voting age adults</b>	<b>Diference</b>
Chókwé	128,333	244,848	116,515
Xai-Xai	90,912	155,589	64,677
Bilene	82,004	82,004	0
Mandlakaze	73,512	132,221	58,709
Chibuto	123,014	188,202	65,188
Massingir	19,245	19,245	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>517,020</b>	<b>822,109</b>	<b>305,089</b>

## Registration after 30 days

### 57% of voters registered by Sunday

5.5 million voters had been registered by Sunday (21 May), which is 57% of the 9.9 million voting age adults eligible to register. The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE) announced this on Monday (22 May), during the conference on the balance of the 30 days of voter registration, organised by the Centre for Public Integrity and by the “Mais Integridade” (“More Integrity”) observer consortium.

From the data presented, Maputo City has already registered 397,000 voters, and Maputo province has registered about 700,000. Gaza has reached 60% of its target and by Sunday it had registered 320,000 voters. The figures for the other provinces were: Inhambane, about 300,000; Manica 480,000; Sofala 509,000; Tete 425,000; Zambézia, 780,000; Nampula, 820,000; Cabo Delgado 500,000; and Niassa about 300,000.

### Will registration be higher than 2018?

According to STAE, if this trend is maintained, the figures from the 2018 registration will be surpassed. But Miguel de Brito, the head of the IDEA International Mission in Mozambique, disagreed with the STAE optimism.

He told the conference that [the pace of registration at national level is slow](#) and has not changed over the three periods analysed in 26 days of registration. The pace of registration remains at 82% and if there is no acceleration, the figure of 88.9% of 2018 will not be reached.

Some provinces are speeding up their registration (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambézia), others are stagnant (Niassa, Tete and Sofala) but others are slowing down (Manica, Inhambane, Gaza, Maputo Province and Maputo City).

Gaza shows the best performance in registration, with levels of higher than expected in the initial days, but now it is at the normal level with a tendency to slow down.

At the same event, the results of the electoral observation by the [Centre for Public Integrity](#) and of the [“More Integrity” civil society observer consortium](#) were presented.

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## *In Beira*

# After delays, voters stay overnight at Beira registration posts

With only a few days before the end of the registration period, in Munhava neighbourhood of Beira, voters are beginning to stay overnight at the voter registration posts, as the photos show. This is intended to ensure that they have a place in the queue to register the following day.

Our correspondents in Beira visited, at around midnight, the posts at the São José da Munhava Secondary School and the Macombe EPC, in the same neighbourhood. Many citizens were sleeping in the queues, as the photographs show.



## **Brigade members wake up and speed up the registration in Beira**

Brigade members seem to have woken from their sleep in Beira. Now they are trying to make up for lost time after a period in which they tried to block opposition voters, on the orders of the STAE district director, who has now been suspended. On Monday (22 May) we visited the registration posts at the Beira Industrial and Commercial Institute, the Muchatazina Secondary School, the Esturro EPC, and Matacuane. We noted there that the registration is proceeding without upsets, with the machines functioning well, and with the desired speed. At the same posts, the voters have arrived before dawn to register

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### **Other registration news**

## **Monitor forced to return money charged to citizens to register**

A Frelimo monitor at the voter registration post in the Pista Velha EPC, in Alto Molócuê, has been forced to return the money he demanded from two citizens for their registration.

The incident happened Friday (19 May), when a mother and her daughter asked the monitor to attend to them, since they had been trying to register for the previous three weeks without success. One of them was pregnant. In response, the monitor asked for 100 meticaís (\$1.50) for the two to register. Since they needed to register, they gave him the money.

This was denounced by a third woman who also wanted to register. When she realised it was possible to register, she also went to speak to the monitor and asked him to facilitate her entry into the post so that she could register. The monitor agreed, but demanded that she pay 50 meticaís. The potential voter offered 20 meticaís, but the monitor rejected this, on the grounds that it was too little.

Revolted, the citizen retaliated. She communicated the case to the secretary of the Frelimo branch in the triangulo area in Muimahi neighbourhood. For her part, the secretary channelled the case to the neighbourhood secretary, who questioned the monitor. First, the monitor denied the accusations, but later he admitted that he had received the money. Then he returned the money to his victims.

## **Frelimo in Manica admits collecting voter cards numbers and says this is a way of mobilising voters**

The first secretary of the Frelimo provincial committee in Manica, Tomás Chitlango, said that collecting the numbers of voter cards by the neighbourhood secretaries is a way found to mobilise the electorate.

“It’s the work of the neighbourhood secretary, as a government official, to mobilise his people to go and register, because, in a democracy, to be voted upon, we need the people to register. Now if the neighbourhood secretary, the head of the post, or the head of the locality, are mobilising, are looking for people who have not yet registered, that’s their responsibility as members of the Frelimo government”, said Chitlango, who advised the opposition not to become agitated by the mobilisation work that Frelimo is undertaking.

“A party that becomes agitated because the neighbourhood secretary is mobilising the people, is forgetting that, to be democratic, we need to mobilise the people, so that they can vote for us”, he concluded, and invited the opposition parties to do the same.

## **Public servants in Namacurra denounce the collection of identity cards for Quelimane**

Some public servants in Namacurra, in Zambézia, accuse the Frelimo Party of obliging them to hand over their identity cards to be taken to Quelimane. The purpose of taking the documents is not known, but it is suspected that these people will be registered as voters in Quelimane.

In Alto Molócuè, our correspondents are reporting cases of members of the Frelimo Party stepping up the collection of voter cards in the neighbourhoods.

## **Mothers lend babies for registration queue jumping**

In Tete city, the brigade members have been instructed not to give mothers carrying babies priority in the queue. According to the supervisors this decision was taken because some women are lending out their babies to other women trying to register. The decision was announced on 21 May by a STAE-Central official, when she visited the posts.

## **Registration post closed to print cards**

At the post in the Eduardo Mondlane EPC, in Angoche, Nampula, there was no registration on 22 May, because the day was reserved for printing voter cards. For a week, the printer did not print cards, because it was out of order. The post just registered voters, but did not give them their cards. Registration will continue when the printing of the cards for all those already registered has finished.

## **Sussundenga has already registered 79% of its voters**

The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE) in Sussundenga, Manica province, announced on Tuesday (23 May) that, in the entire district, 78.6% of the potential electorate of 93,500 has already been registered. This is a very high percentage when compared with many other districts. Sussundenga is one of the strongholds of Frelimo in Manica. Manica is one of the three provinces with the highest percentage of voters registered, after Gaza and Cabo Delgado.

## **Political parties concerned at the lack of interest shown by voters in Massinga**

Frelimo and Renamo are concerned at the lack of interest shown by voters in recent days. Renamo says the causes of the poor attendance at the registration posts are weak mobilisation by the civic educators in the neighbourhoods, and lack of trust in the process because some members of Frelimo are collecting voter cards for obscure purposes.

Armando Maquiquele calls for greater rigour by those in charge of mobilising the public to register.


Massinga is the only district in Inhambane province which has not yet reached 50%.

## **Registration post has not begun to register in Mandimba, Niassa**

The registration post that should operate in the Muita Basic School, ZIP N° 7, 15 km from Mandimba town, has not yet begun to work, when there are only 11 days left before the end of the voter registration period. According to some people in the area, the registration equipment has not yet arrived at the post. Mandimba is a major border post with Malawi on a main road.

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