

2019 General Elections - 1

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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Lack of money means untrained election officials

There is not enough money for the 15 October national elections, and the National Elections Commission (CNE) has been forced to open the majority of district elections commissions and technical secretariats (STAEs) without training, said CNE spokesperson Paulo Cuinica at a press conference in Maputo Thursday morning.

The budget for elections is \$240 mn, of which CNE has only 44%, and donors have not been forthcoming with the rest of the funding.

There are now 156 cities and districts in Mozambique. Municipal elections and registration took place last year in 53 municipalities and their districts, so those CDEs and STAEs are already operational. But 103 are being established now, so that the registration can be carried out in March and April. Of these, only 40 are being trained, Cuinica said.

CNE admits lack of information.

The CNE today admitted it has a communications problem, both internally and with the public. But instead of taking action, it announced that it will write a communications strategy.

The lack of transparency of the CNE and STAE has become notorious. Decisions are taken in secret by national and district elections commissions and are often not made public or explained. In some cases, results have been changed in secret without any statement.

Registration starts 1 April

Electoral registration will begin in the entire country on 1 April and continue until 15 May. In Mozambique, voters must register anew every five years. In 53 districts many people registered last year and need not register again, but in the other 103 districts this will be the only registration for national elections in October.

There will be 7,500 registration posts, and people will vote in the same place that they register, usually a school. There will be 5,300 registration brigades with 16,000 members.

Registration outside Mozambique will be 16 April to 15 May.

The CNE also presented a full electoral calendar, available on <http://bit.ly/EINacCron>:

+ Registration totals and the number of parliament seats per province and provincial assembly seats per district will be published by 7 June.

+The electoral campaign is from 31 August to 12 October - 45 days.

+Voting is on 15 October.
+ Results will be presented by the CNE by 30 October.

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There are two archives of historic elections data, at IESE on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/eleicoes-resultados/> and at London School of Economics on <http://bit.ly/MozEIData> The LSE archive now has detailed 2013 and 2014 results, by polling station.

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