

2019 General Elections - 95

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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Constitutional Council secretly changes results *again*

The Constitutional Council (CC) secretly changed the elections results for a second time last week, apparently in response to this Bulletin (issue 94, 5 Jan) pointing out that the official results left out the diaspora vote for parliament (Assembleia da Republica, AR). A third error remains uncorrected.

The CC's ruling (acordao 25) has a 14-page section highlighting the importance of transparency. But this apparently does not apply to the CC itself. No announcement has been made of either change to the results, and more seriously, there is nothing in the ruling that says it has been changed - all three versions are called "Acordao no. 25/CC/2019, de 22 de Dezembro" with no indication of any change. The first changes are to the tables on page 31 of the ruling, and the second changes on page 32.

We have published all three versions. The 23 December original is on <http://bit.ly/CCAc25-Orig>. The first 2 January secretly changed version is on <http://bit.ly/CCAc25-Corr-1>. The second 6 January secretly changed version is on <http://bit.ly/CCAc25-Corr-2>

We apologise to the CC for failing to point out one other error which still needs to be corrected. In the table "Eleicao dos Membros das Assembleias Provinciais" on page 486 and 487 (3 and 4 pages from the end) the row "votos na urna" (votes in ballot box) is wrong, because it does not include invalid votes (nullos).

The two secretly corrected errors come from the CC simply copying copied and pasting the National Elections Commission (CNE) ruling, and did not correct the CNE's error which we pointed out in Bulletin 87 (27 Oct <http://bit.ly/EIBull87>). The CNE had including the registration in the diaspora (Africa and Europe) but not their votes. When the CC published its results, we noted the error (issue 93, 23 December) in the presidential vote, taking 131,623 votes from Filipe Nyusi, and the CC only corrected that. The diaspora has one AR seat for Europe and one for Africa, and we noted the identical error in the parliamentary vote (issue 94, 5 Jan), which took 128,226 votes from Frelimo. This has now been secretly corrected.

The CC Acordao 25 has a 448 page annex of tables, and includes the presidential and AR votes of the diaspora, which seems to have been ignored when the CNE numbers were copied into the ruling itself. But there is an error in the penultimate table.

Comment: Even the Constitutional Council cannot publish correct vote totals and then changes them in secret - twice. The National Elections Commission can and does change results in secret. How can Mozambican voters have any confidence in the accuracy of the published vote totals? *jh*

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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.