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# 2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS

## MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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**Number 5 - 10 January 2018**

Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública (Public Integrity Centre),  
Rua Fernão Melo e Castro, nº 124, Maputo. [eleicoes@cipmoz.org](mailto:eleicoes@cipmoz.org) <http://www.cipmoz.org:9000/elects2018>

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## Nampula register mess forces CNE president to intervene

**S**loppiness and secrecy by the electoral authorities led to protests by the Renamo and MDM about Nampula by-election register books and polling stations.

The CNE president Sheik Abdul Carimo Sau had to fly to Nampula and yesterday decided to clean up the mess by using 2014 documents.

Because there has been no new registration, the 24 January by-election should be carried out using the register books and polling stations used in the 2014 national election. At the root of the problem is the failure of the National Elections Commission (CNE) and electoral secretariat (STAE) to publish the detailed results of the 2014 elections, down to polling station level, which would define the polling stations, how many people were registered for the polling station, etc.

Various documents were issued by the CNE and STAE in 2014 - lists of polling stations and register books, and copies of the register books given to parties. In December the Nampula Provincial Elections Commission (CPE, Comissão Provincial de Eleições de Nampula) tried to produce new documents for this election. Parties said they contained major errors, and were not the same as 2014.

Renamo and MDM made formal protests last

week. The CNE responded quickly. A team of CNE chair Sheik Abdul Carimo Sau, Renamo vice-president Meque Brás, and spokesman and civil society representative Paulo Cuinica went to Nampula and started work Monday 8 January.

Yesterday the CNE team decided to return to the 2014 lists and scrap the lists issued last month, and this appears to be acceptable to both Renamo and MDM.

There were 295,582 voters registered in Nampula city in 2014.

### Sorting out the lists

There are at least four lists, which should all correspond but apparently do not. The four lists are:

- + Polling stations lists for 2014 and 2018, which should be the same and contain the numbers of the register books, and

- + The electoral registers for 2014 and 2018 which should be the same, and the voters number includes the register book number, so voters can be linked to polling stations. So all four lists should correspond.

Voting in Nampula city is mostly in schools (plus a few sports and cultural centres). Each polling station is in a classroom and can have up to 800 voters. Usually each polling station has one register book, but some have several register books with small numbers of registered voters. The

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Elections newsletters are distributed on the "Mozambique News Reports and Clippings" mailing list.

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table shows the 2014 polling station list for 3 February school, which has 10 polling stations - 8 have 700-800 voters each, as one would expect. The penultimate polling station has five register

books but only 266 voters. So this 3 February school polling centre has 10 polling stations (each in a separate classroom) and 14 register books (although register 03000101 seems to be in twice).

## From Nampula City 2014 Polling centre list

Polling Centre	Register Book(s)	Registered voters
Escola 3 de Fevereiro	03000101	741
	03000102	800
	03000103	800
	03000104	800
	03000105	800
	03000106	800
	03000107	702
	03000111	800
	03000101/85/ 0110/0109/03000108	266
	03000112	556

The parties' task has been made more difficult by a lack of information. Both Renamo and MDM point out that the 2014 list contains the polling centre, then a list of polling stations with register book numbers, and the number of registered voters. They say the list given to them in December 2017 contains only the polling centre and register book numbers, but neither the number of polling stations nor the number of registered voters. Also, some of the computer files of the register could not be opened.

The confusion is greatest at Napala primary school. The Renamo complaint alleges that in 2014 there were only 8 register books and now it has 24

- 16 more. Yet MDM alleges that it has 12 register books less. How can one see the addition of 16 register books and the other the removal of 12?

Renamo appears to be looking at the actual registration lists, which appear for 2014 not to correspond to the list of polling stations. Napala primary school in 2014 had 13 polling stations and 24 register books, and the register book numbers listed by Renamo as new in 2017 are actually on the 2014 list. The polling station list was released before the 2014 elections. Because no detailed results from 2014 have been published, it is impossible to check how many of the polling stations actually operated on voting day in 2014.

# First day of campaign: no violence but some illegality

**T**he first day of the Nampula by-election campaign yesterday was marked by calm and peaceful coexistence among members and sympathizers of political parties.

On several occasions there were crossings of caravans accompanying candidates from different parties, but no disorder or vandalism was noted.

Renamo and MDM parades met at Nampula secondary school and Frelimo and Renamo parades met at Feira Dominical, in both cases without incident. Similarly supporters of AMUSI candidate Mário Albino came across supporters of MDM candidate Carlos Saíde near Padaria Nampula, which is close to the MDM headquarters, but there were no problems.

## Illegalities

But the first day of the campaign did see violations of the electoral law. A car of the provincial education department was seen driving around the city covered in Frelimo posters.

Posters and pamphlets are not supposed to be displayed on public or religious buildings, but the wall of the archbishop's residence was plastered with MDM and Frelimo pamphlets. And posters were noted at Escola Secundária de Nampula, Instituto Industrial 1º de Maio, Hospital Central de Nampula, and even the main cathedral.

## Promises

The candidates were out making their promises for actions if elected.

Filomena Mutoropa of the Humanitarian Party of Mozambique (PAHUMO) is a member of the Nampula city assembly. She said she is concerned to create an environment of peace, harmony and coexistence among citizens of different political orientations.

Mário Albino Muquissince of the citizens' list United Movement for Integral Salvation Action (AMUSI) said he would fill the potholes in the roads and improve public transport.

Both stood for mayor in 2013; Mutoropa won 4% of the vote and Albino 1%.

Frelimo candidate Amisse Cololo, a lecturer at the Catholic University, wants to improve water supply, create employment opportunities and build a favourable environment for entrepreneurship.

Carlos Saíde, MDM candidate, is a member of the municipal assembly and is vereador (local minister or senior councilor) for town planning. He promised to clean the city of Nampula immediately and to open more access roads.

Paulo Vahanle, a teacher and Renamo member of the national parliament, said that the salvation of Nampula "is only in the hands of a candidate coming from Renamo."

The person elected will only manage the municipality until the inauguration of the president-elect in the 5th municipal elections scheduled for October 10. Thus they will only have 11 months, most of which will be spent campaigning for re-election for a full term.