

# 2018 Local Elections - 65

## Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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**Bulletins will now become less frequent. Updates to election results will be made regularly on our website:** <http://bit.ly/LocEI2018>

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## Police removed Marromeu ballot boxes

Police fired gunshots and tear gas during the count on Wednesday night and removed ballot boxes from 10 polling stations in polling centres at 4 October and Julius Nyerere primary schools. They were sent to a police warehouse and returned the next morning by the special operations group (Grupos de Operacoes Especiais, GOE) of the police.

Police gunfire frightened polling station staff, party delegates and observers who fled and it was impossible to monitor the count. In many polling stations results were not posted, as required by law, which meant a parallel count could not be conducted.

The intermediate count by STAE and the district election commission was not in the normal place and was not open to press and observers and the results were simply announced to the press.

"What happened in fact is that the police were called to reinforce the security of the places where the counting of votes took place, because there was already a climate of instability. Renamo members threw stones at the polling stations where the results were not in favour of that party. Then the police were forced to act to restore order and public tranquillity in those places," Sofala police spokesperson Daniel Macuacua.

Our correspondents watched the removal of ballot boxes, and Macuacua confirmed that police had removed them and later returned them for the count. STAE Marromeu director Augusto Sande refused to comment.

Renamo Marromeu party agent Ofelia Mario said police fired the first shots when Renamo supports began to celebrate after initial results showed a Renamo victory.

There has been tension in Marromeu since before the election and Renamo has accused the police of bringing extra police into the town. Police commander Lacerda Rafe confirmed that forestry protection officers had recently arrived.

**Renamo members claim sell out and riot in Montepuez**

Renamo members responded to their loss in Montepuez by attacking their own leaders and accusing them of selling votes to Frelimo, causing tensions in the city this morning. Renamo party agent Assane was seriously injured according to his wife, Celia Sualehe.

A demonstrated started this morning in Praca dos Herois near the Frelimo headquarters and demonstrators vandalised the nearby Frelimo office and the district STAE headquarters. Renamo members were arrested.

Rioting started when the District Elections Commission announced the results, giving 13,641 votes (48%) to Frelimo, 11,577 (41%) to Renamo and 1,162 (4%) to MDM. All the numbers are slightly lower than in the STAE provisional count, but the final result did not change.

## **Monapo finds extra 1300 votes and reverses result to give win to Frelimo**

Monapo district elections commission (CDE) today reversed the results to give victory to Frelimo. Renamo says it has copies of editais, signed at the polling stations, which show it won. It claims that that the CDE refused to accept these results sheets, which in the electoral law are considered official copies. Renamo headquarters was today surrounded by armed police, which Renamo claims is to prevent it showing its copies of the results sheets..

The results published today by CDE give 9,579 votes to Frelimo (43%) and 9,363 votes to Renamo (42%). But parties, journalists, and observers have not been given copies of this supposedly official result, in violation of the electoral law.

Provisional results posted by STAE/CNE yesterday, based on results sheets from 62 of 63 polling stations, showed Renamo with 9,186 votos (49.16%), Frelimo 8,480 (45.38 %), MDM 609 votes (3.26%) and AMUSI 410 (2.19%).

The CDE appears to have found more than 1000 votes which were not on results sheets.

## **Has Frelimo won Matola by 2000 votes?**

Frelimo appears to have won a very tight victory of just 2000 votes in Matola: Frelimo 148,744 (48.15%), Renamo 146,631 (47.46%) and MDM 12,759 (4.13%). This appear to be the results to be released tomorrow morning. The huge Renamo vote will be a shock to Frelimo, and the mayor will face a municipal assembly controlled by the opposition.

But Renamo this morning claimed victory in Matola, saying its parallel count based on results sheets given to polling station delegates, from 92% of polling stations, is Renamo 48.85%, Frelimo 46.86% and MDM 3.92%. STAE informally denied these numbers.

## **Results only trickle in**

As has happened in past elections, STAE stopped posting provisional results the morning after polling day - without posting any of the most contested cities such as Tete and Nampula. But results are continuing to arrive from our correspondents.

A parallel count by Solidariedade gives Renamo victory in **Nampula**: Renamo: 59.32%, Frelimo: 32.77%, MDM: 5.59%.

Renamo victories in **Nacala Porto** and **Quelimane** are confirmed. Nacala: Renamo 55%, Frelimo 40%, MDM 3%, Amusi 2%. Quelimane: Renamo 56%, Frelimo 33%, MDM 4%, MAMO 1%.

Frelimo victory in **Dondo** and **Pemba** confirmed. Dondo: 68% Frelimo, 22% Renamo, 10% MDM. Pemba: Frelimo 54%, Renamo 39%, MDM 6%, Pahumo 1%.

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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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