

2018 Local Elections - 69

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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Two final tables now available

on <http://bit.ly/LocEI2018>.

Complete intermediate election results - Intermediate results as published by city and district elections commissions

Comparison tables - Comparison of intermediate results as published by city and district elections commissions with provisional counts done by STAE and parallel counts done by media and civil society.

Failure to punish election violence encourages more violence next year, warns Votar Moçambique

"The continuous intimidation of voters and opposition candidates provoked the violence that was reported in several municipalities of the country," said Edson Cortes, director of the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP), publisher of this newsletter and a member of the Votar Moçambique civil society platform.

Votar Moçambique particularly condemned the failure to criticise and respond to improper electoral conduct and violence, saying "there was no public statement from the authorities condemning this type of behaviour. The failure to penalize this type of practice when there will be general elections next year can serve as an incentive for the perpetrators to continue with these acts which tarnish the entire electoral process," Votar Moçambique said in a statement today.

João Pereira, another member of the platform, said that political parties, citizens groups, the National Elections Commission, the attorney general and the constitutional council all had a responsibility to bring to justice those responsible for criminal acts.

Votar Moçambique also argued that the police were not neutral, and have not arrested Frelimo supporters guilty of violence.

Votar Mozambique today issued its declaration of electoral observation and said that the

municipal elections were not free, transparent or fair.

Renamo and MDM protesting in a least 7 cities

Renamo and MDM are making formal protests in at least Moatize, Alto-Molocue, Marromeu, Monapo, Tete, Milange and Chimoio. Some are joint and some are separate. And there is confusion as to whether complaints are submitted to the local or national elections commission or to the local court, which has jurisdiction over electoral issues

The Renamo appeal in Moatize was thrown out today by the local district court on the grounds that it was too late, and in any case should have been submitted first to the district elections commission. In Tete Renamo also appealed to the local court.

MDM and Renamo submitted a joint protest in Matola to the District Elections Commission (CDE).

In Chimoio they are acting separately. Renamo submitted its complaint to the CDE on 12 October alleging ballot box stuffing. MDM said it would submit a complaint today alleging that the results were altered. In Milange, Renamo says it has directly complained to the National Elections Commission.

No parliament action on provincial elections

No legislation on next year's elections nor on provincial decentralisation will be considered by parliament at its session which opens tomorrow, Thursday 18 October, according to the 32-point agenda. The final point on the agenda is amendments to the central government oversight ("tutela administrativa") of municipal governments, which must be rushed through in this session before the newly elected municipal assemblies and mayors take office.

A large legislative package is needed for the provinces. For the elections, it has been agreed that the governor will be the head of list of the largest party in the provincial assembly. But there is no single list - party lists are by district (so that provincial legislators have a genuine local base). So a law must be passed to deal with this, probably by creating an additional province-wide list. But leaving this until next year gives the parties little time to plan.

Also, governors have quite wide and ill-defined powers. By contrast, local government has detailed legislation setting out powers and responsibilities. The late Afonso Dhlakama originally proposed that local government legislation be applied to provinces as well. Government and Frelimo vehemently denied this was possible, but this is surely the format that will be used.

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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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