

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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### **Violating the law**

## **Some brigades demand residence credential**

Some registration teams in Matola and in northern Mozambique are demanding letters from neighbourhood secretaries attesting to would-be voters residence in the city.

Such a demand is illegal and registration brigades were given no instructions to ask for any such letter, Lucas José, spokesman for STAE (Election Technical Secretariat, Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral), said yesterday.

The law says that people registering needs only present an identification with a photo – identity card, passport, driving licence, etc. Those with no photo ID need only be identified by two already-registered voters or by a community leader.

The demand for an attestation by the neighbourhood secretary is controversial, because in some areas neighbourhood secretaries are seen as Frelimo party officials and not municipal officials. But there is also a real fear that parties will try to register supporters from outside the city as voters.

## **Registration continues to face technical problems**

Registration Sunday and Monday continued to be dogged by technical problems – equipment breakdown, lack of ink to print voter's cards, and closed registration posts. In many places, few people tried to register.

In other places registration went smoothly with some registration posts emitting dozens of voter's cards. But there were problems across the country.

In Nampula city, many registration posts closed Monday due to computer faults.

There were widespread reports of lack of ink to print cards, for example in Metangula, Guruè, Matola, Nampula, and Namaacha. In EPC Muchenga in Lichinga, registration stopped half way

through the first day, Saturday, when the ink ran out, and had not resumed by Monday morning.

The quality of staff training has been highly variable. In some places cards are being issued in 5 minutes, but in others such as Nacala Porto it was taking 30 minutes or more, and large queues were building up. When our correspondent visited Mocone secondary school in Quelimane at mid-morning Monday, the brigade had succeeded in registering only 4 people that day and the queue was growing restless.

There were also widespread reports of lack of electricity and no computer batteries. But in some places teams have been given small generators.

## **Mayor could not register as Quelimane problems continued Monday**

Quelimane mayor Manuel de Araújo was unable to register to vote Monday morning at Escola Primária de Coalane because the registration system was not working. It was an example of the serious problems that continued into the third day of registration Monday.

In Cololo, Sangravera, and Sinacura in the suburbs of the city, registration posts closed Sunday and did not open Monday. Quelimane STAE operations director Abdul Rajab said in some places the wrong kind of ink or toner had been supplied. In Sinacura there was no electricity and STAE was finding a generator.

Quelimane has 22 registration posts, and most have problems. STAE says it is not an equipment problem, but rather lack of training, technical capacity, and experience of the registration brigade members.

## **No registration yet in 10 new municipalities**

The very late approval of 10 new municipalities means no plans were made for them. So far registration is taking place only in the 43 existing municipalities and STAE does not yet know when it will start in the other 10.

But STAE spokesman Lucas José said there would be a registration in the 10 and that voting in all 53 would occur on schedule on 20 November.

The 10 new municipalities are small and the estimated extra cost is just 500,000 Mt (\$16,000).

## **MDM names CDE member under 25**

MDM's candidate for the Gurué district election commission (CDE) was rejected because he was under the age of 25, as required by law.

MDM's Zambézia elections director, Joaquim Waeque Maloa, admits the error, but now accuses the provincial elections commission (CPE) of bad faith by delaying its acceptance of the proposed substitution. Zambézia CPE president Emílio Mpanga denies this, saying MDM was late in submitting the name, but that the CPE has approved the appointment of Walton Roberto and is only waiting for confirmation by the CNE at national level.

CPEs and CDEs have 11 members - 5 civil society, 3 Frelimo, 2 Renamo, and 1 MDM. Renamo is boycotting and has not named any commission members.

MDM (Mozambique Democratic Movement, Movimento Democrático de Moçambique) is the smaller opposition party, with 8 seats in parliament (Assembleia da República, AR).

## Frelimo or civil society?

The selection of civil society members of the CPEs and CDEs continues to be controversial, with accusations that some "civil society" nominees have strong Frelimo links.

Daniel Ramos was nominated to the Zambézia CPE by the National Teachers Organisation (Organização Nacional dos Professores, ONP) and was elected president of the CPE. But local sources say he was district administrator of Moma and was a member of the Frelimo Provincial Committee.

In Zambézia Constância Constâncio was named to the CPE even though he is a Frelimo member of the Quelimane municipal assembly, which the law says is incompatible with the CPE post, as well as being on the Frelimo provincial commission. He was proposed by the Friends of Namacurra (Associação dos Naturais e Amigos do distrito de Namacurra), and eventually resigned from the CPE.

Two "civil society" candidates for Massinga CDE were Cartino Xavier Zunguze, former district secretary of the Frelimo youth wing, OJM (Organização da Juventude Moçambicana), and Carlos Januário Bié, former district director of education services.

In Niassa Calisto Mussa was named president of the CPE. He is director of the Provincial Distance Learning Centre. Unusually, he was nominated by two small NGOs: ESTAMOS – Organização Comunitária and ANAM – Associação dos Naturais e Amigos de Mecanhela.

Many civil society nominations were made through the Electoral Observatory. But a significant number of civil society people named to elections commissions came not from the Observatory but from groups whose leaders are seen as close to Frelimo: ONP, Organização dos Trabalhadores de Moçambique-Central Sindical (OTM-CS), and faith associations.

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