

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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## Many registration posts failed to open

### Half closed in Nampula province

Half of the registration posts in Nampula province were not open this morning, Wednesday, five days after the start of registration.

In Nampula city nearly all registration posts had faults with the registration computer or lacked toner to print the voter's cards.

At EPC (primary school) Parque Popular, in the centre of Nampula city, and at EPC 7 de Abril, no one had registered by the end of Tuesday. Many people who tried to register at EPC Parque Popular then went to the post in Malimusse, on rua Sem Medo, only to find a large crowd waiting and no one being registered.

At Escola Industrial e Comercial 3 de Fevereiro, Escola da Textáfria, Napipine and Impuecha in the suburbs, registration posts were closed due to lack of electricity.

In Angoche, Nampula province, registration posts lacked material and by the end of Monday few people had been registered. At Angoche secondary school, many people had given up waiting and had gone home.

### Only one post open in Cuamba

In Cuamba at 10 am this morning, only one registration post was functioning. The other 10 lacked ink to print cards. The only functioning registration post was in the government offices where there was a queue of 35 people.

For the civil education programme to promote registration, the local STAE recruited 20 community leaders. But there have been complaints that nearly all had links to Frelimo. STAE district director Guilherme Xavier said this is simply the way it is in Cuamba - these are the most influential people.

### Most posts closed in Tete city

Most of the 32 registration posts in Tete city remained closed yesterday, mainly due to equipment problems. A trip around the city yesterday showed few registration brigade members at their posts.

## Marrromeu opened yesterday

After three days in which its registration posts failed to open, Morrromeu finally began registration Tuesday afternoon. The wrong ink cartridges had been sent for printing the voter's cards, and on Tuesday technicians arrived from the provincial office of STAE (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, Technical Secretariat for Elections) arrived with the right cartridges. So registration began.

## Journalist detained

Sérgio Fernando, a journalist with the free newspaper and website @Verdade, was detained yesterday afternoon by police in Nampula city as he took pictures of a registration post in Namicopo. He was released three hours later, but said he was hit by the police. Fernando did not have any kind of press card.

But the law imposes no restrictions on photography of registration posts, which means it is permitted for ordinary citizens as well as journalists.

The only restrictions apply in polling stations on voting day, where only journalists, observers and party delegates can take pictures.

## Student problems in Vilankulo

@Verdade reported yesterday that in Vilankulo the registration team was refusing to register students, saying that a separate day would be set aside for student registration. This is totally improper, as the law says that students who will be over 18 on 20 November are allowed to register, and if they are living in a hostel can register in the city with the school and hostel.

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