

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Ten new municipalities

The Council of Ministers yesterday decided to propose to parliament the creation of ten new municipalities: Boane (Maputo province), Praia do Bilene (Gaza), Quissico (Inhambane), Nhamatanda (Sofala), Sussundenga (Manica), Nhamayábué (Tete), Maganja da Costa (Zambézia), Malema (Nampula), Chiure (Cabo Delgado) and Mandimba (Niassa).

The first 33 municipalities were created in 1997 followed by 10 more in 2008. Municipalities have elected local governments, whereas districts, administrative posts, and localities have appointed governments. The municipalities have about one-third of Mozambique's population.

It is believed that STAE (Secretariado Técnico da Administração Eleitoral, Secretariat for Electoral Administration) has been instructed to carry out registration in these 10 new municipalities, even before their approval by parliament. But it will be a rush to train people and obtain equipment for 10 additional registrations.

President fails to set date for national elections

National elections must be held in the first half of October 2014 and the President must set the date at least 18 months before, which was 15 April 2013. So far, this has not been done.

Registration begins 25 May for local elections 20 November

Elections for mayor (presidente) and municipal assembly will take place in the 43 or perhaps 53 municipalities on 20 November. The official electoral campaign will be 13 days, 5 though 17 November. There will be an entirely new registration, which will take place only in these municipalities 25 May through 23 July.

One aspect of the calendar will be particularly tight. The number of seats in the municipal assembly is dependent on the number of voters. Candidates for mayor must present signatures of 1% of the voters. But the number of voters in a municipality can be published as late as 28 August and candidates lists, documents, and signatures must be submitted just a week later.

So far, the National Elections Commission (CNE) is not using its website (<http://www.stae.org.mz>) to post current electoral material. So the electoral laws and the full calendar as released in hard copy by the CNE are only on the editor's website: tinyurl.com/mozamb

Summary electoral calendar

25 May – 23 July:	Registration
25-28 July:	Display of registration books
Before 6 August:	Registration of parties and citizens groups; deadline for protests about registration.
Before 28 August:	CNE publishes numbers of registered voters (which determines the number of assembly seats and the number of signatures required for candidates for mayor) plus the number and location of each registration book (and thus of each polling station)
Before 6 Sept:	Candidates must submit all required documents.
By 11 Sept;	CNE posts lists of candidates submitted.
24 Sept-3 Oct:	Posting of lists of candidates accepted and rejected.
Before 13 Oct:	Protests by parties over lists.
14-17 Oct:	Posting of definitive lists.
Before 31 Oct:	Parties must name polling station delegates
5-17 Nov (inclusive)	Official electoral campaign
18-19 Nov	No campaigning allowed
5 Nov – 5 Dec	Ban on opinion polls
20 November	Voting (07.00 to 18.00)
21-22 November	Count in municipality.
Before 5 Dec:	CNE announces final results (taking into account reconsideration of spoiled ballot papers - nullos)
Before 7 Dec:	Protests about voting and counting (CNE has 3 days to rule, party has 3 days to appeal to Constitutional Council)
Before 21 Dec:	CNE submits results to Constitutional Council

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