

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Unprepared STAE finally creates flying squad

In a de facto admission that it was totally unprepared for the huge number of problems, STAE has finally set up a special team to control all operations and supply of materials to registration brigades. The team will also explain to brigades the range of identity documents which are allowed.

This team is an attempt to prevent the constant problems that have occurred in registration posts, said Felisberto Naife, director of STAE (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, Election Administration Secretariat).

The new team is made up of STAE provincial and national computer technicians and people from the department of registration and voting, to follow the process more closely.

The massive problems, and the need to urgently create a new team, come despite STAE having had three years to prepare for this registration.

Beira still refusing valid documents

Supervisors at some Beira registration posts are still rejecting valid identity documents.

Fátima Amisse, a supervisor at the Airport Primary School, said her registration post would not accept old style identify documents (cédulas and old style identity cards) as identification. She said this was to prevent double registration and also because too many people were using old documents.

And at 3 de Fevereiro primary school in Vila Massane, a supervisor was seen telling people in the queue that people with old identify cards or cédulas could not register unless they had testimonials for recognised leaders or voters. When asked, the supervisor refused to give her name or identify herself.

Some people, particularly older people with old style lifetime identity cards, could not register.

This is occurring despite Beira STAE director Rotalina Wilson issuing an instruction a week ago saying these documents must be accepted.

MDM claims double registration; STAE says impossible

MDM (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique) said last week that in some registration posts in Nacala-Porto people were registering twice, and that this was being facilitated by the registration officials.

MDM has made a formal complaint to the District Elections Commission in Nacala-Porto, and the Commission president Gaspar Luante said they would meet in a special session to consider the evidence presented.

But provincial STAE in Nampula says it is impossible for people to register twice, in part because the registration includes fingerprints.

In brief

High turnout: Registration posts in Nampula city and Nacala Porto are now seeing a high turnout, after people were turned away due to problems in the first week. Our correspondents saw high turnouts in Nampula city at Parque Popular and Limoeiros primary schools, Pavilhão dos Desportos, and Escola Industrial 3 de Fevereiro and in Nacala at primary schools 7 de Abril, Cidade Alta, and 25 de Setembro and at Nacala Secondary School.

More training: Training has started for brigade members for the 10 new municipalities, where registration begins 20 June and will end 23 July, the same day as the 43 old municipalities. In Nhamayabue (Tete), for example, 38 registration brigade members and 15 civic education team members are already being trained.

Correction to Bulletin LE 12: Catandica is in Manica province.

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