

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga News editor: Fatima Mimbire Reporter: Anchieta Maquitela

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Beira STAE claims refused documents 'probably' false

Identification documents refused by registration brigades were "probably" false, claimed the Sofala STAE director, Celso Chimoio, in a press conference today in Beira.

People registering to vote can identify themselves with old style identity cards, *cédulas pessoais*, and birth certificates. It was reported here and elsewhere that such documents were being refused by registration teams in Beira.

Chimoio said in the first three weeks of registration, 31 false documents had been presented in Beira and Dondo. "There has been a lot of noise with citizens claiming that STAE was not accepting *cédulas* and birth certificates, but these people were probably showing false documents."

He said the counterfeit documents had improper stamps, which were below the information, rather than on top of the information as is normal. Chimoio added that most false documents had been offered by young people from Zambézia who were trying - unsuccessfully - to register in Sofala.

But Chimoio also said that STAE had verified that neighbourhood secretaries were giving declarations to citizens to help them register, even though this is not called for in the law and these are not documents which can be accepted by registration brigades.

But MDM calls for vigilance: MDM (Mozambique Democratic Movement, Movimento Democrático de Moçambique) in meetings in Manga and Munhava in Beira called for vigilance to guard against any irregularities by STAE or the police. The appeal, by head of mobilization Geraldo Carvalho, follows reports to registration brigades refusing to accept valid identify documents.

Maxixe: Brigades given only half pay threaten strike

Registration brigade members in Maxixe (Inhambane) are threatening to stop work because they are only being paid half of what they were promised. They say they were promised 3,600 meticaís (\$120) but have been paid only 1,834.50 (\$61) and have been told there is no money for the other half. They say that half does not even cover their expenses, including food and going long

distances to their registration posts.

Local STAE director Horácio Djambalo confirmed to our correspondent that there was no money to pay the other half. He added that if the brigade members wanted to stop work, they could, because there are other trained people waiting to take their places.

With long queues

Would-be voters given tickets to mark their place

In Alto Molócuè (Zambézia), so many people are queuing to register that they are being given numbered tickets to mark their place and told to come back the next day. The idea came from the registration brigades who wanted to avoid people waiting for hours in queues.

People who have registered complained about long delays, and the poor quality of the new voter's cards with out-of-focus photos. By Monday, 3,044 voters had been registered.

Nampula refuses to register press group

Journalists based in Nampula city who went as a group to register at EPC do Parque Popular were refused on the grounds that to register all at the same time, they needed a letter or credential from the Nampula provincial STAE. Nampula STAE chief of operations Jacinto António refused comment.

Registration starts tomorrow in 10 new municipalities

Registration begins Thursday 20 June in the 10 newly created municipalities and continues until 23 July. The new municipalities are 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 new 10 in brief

Sussundenga expects to register 29,000 voters at three registration posts. Provincial STAE director says everything is in place.

Nhamatanda will start civic education tomorrow, at the same time as registration. Normally civic education, to encourage people to register, starts earlier. There will be 12 people in the registration teams and 15 civic education agents. Nhamatanda district election commission is headed by Andre Machatine, proposed by the teachers organisation (Organização Nacional dos Professores, ONP). The other four civil society members are Alegria Langa (ONP), Herrmenigildo Mundadere (ANEMO), Domingos Mines and Adelina Jambo (both Igreja Assembleia da Nova Aliança de Moçambique). Frelimo named Miguel Chindeiro, Mecânico Jane and Tomé Alferes. MDM named Luís Paia. Renamo continues to boycott.

Nhamayábué has established its STAE, headed by Victorino Constantino Barra, and with seven staff selected from a public competition.

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CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública, Rua Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (ex-Pereira do Lago), 354, r/c (CP 3266) Maputo www.cip.org.mz cip@cip.org.mz Tel: +258 21 492 335, 823 016 391, 843 890 584

AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians with Africa, Rua Licenciado Coutinho 77 (CP 2648) Maputo
awepa@awepa.org.mz Tel: +258 21 418 603, 21 418 608, 21 418 626

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