

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

Number LE-17 1 July 2013



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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública and AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa
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Registration remains slow; Nampula, Zambézia lowest

Voter registration rates appear to be falling, and half way through the two-month registration period, only one-third of potential voters have signed up. Registration is over 50% only in the Frelimo strongholds of Gaza, Inhambane, and Tete. In Nampula and Zambézia, where the opposition would be expected to do well, registration is only 25%.

Tables are at the bottom of this newsletter.

COMMENT: Could this be the Renamo boycott? Renamo is not mobilising its supporters to register, while saying elections will not take place. Frelimo, however, is pushing its supporters to register. MDM's chances may depend on a push to register its backers. *jh*

AR says election law change possible

A special session of parliament in August will "open space for an immediate revision of the electoral law", the standing committee of parliament announced on Sunday. The government news agency AIM on Sunday said that the special session is seen as a chance to work with Renamo and safeguard peace.

Double & false registrations found

Increasing numbers of people attempting to register twice or with false documents are being discovered, according to Felizberto Naife, Director-general of STAE (Electoral Administration Secretariat; Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral). However he stresses this is often without fraudulent intent.

Most cases of double registration are occurring because people have lost their voter's card and go to another registration post and simply try to register again, said Naife. In fact, they

are supposed to go back to where they registered, and just ask for a new card.

The other issue is people using false documents to register. Again, Naife stresses that voters do not need documents to register - they simply need to be identified by two other voters already registered at that post.

Both parties caught importing voters

Both main parties have been caught trying to register voters who do not live in the municipality, and there have been arrests in several cities.

In **Dondo** 12 people were arrested trying to register at Escola Secundária de Dondo. They were from Chinamacondo, an area outside Dondo, and were caught by a Movimento Democrático de Moçambique (MDM) party delegate, who says they are Frelimo supporters. They were arrested, formally charged, and released until their trial.

In **Matangula** 7 people were caught trying to register at Escola Primária de Muchenga. They were said to be from Mepoche and Chia neighbourhoods, beyond the city boundaries. They said they were staying at the house of the MDM representative in Matangula, identified only as Rita.

STAE promises more people & equipment

Additional staff, computers, printers and toner will be sent to registration posts with high turnout, according to STAE director Felisberto Naife. He also reported that more inspectors will be sent out to ensure that registration brigades are operating during the whole day.

Giving up waiting in Dondo

In Dondo as in other places, people are arriving at the registration post before it opens to mark their place in the queue with a stone, and then returning later to join the queue. But at Escola Secundária do Dondo in Consito and Escola Primária Completa 25 de Setembro in Mafarinha, even that is not enough. People return, only to find long queues still ahead of them, and simply give up, reports our correspondent.

Taking down numbers

Frelimo and MDM are accusing each other of collecting voter's card numbers of civil servants. MDM accuses Frelimo of taking registration card numbers of state employees, municipal council workers, and Frelimo party staff. Frelimo accuses MDM of taking numbers of health and education workers.

COMMENT: There is no indication that this is illegal, as the full list will be posted. Both parties appear to want to confirm that their own supporters are registering. *jh*

Zambézia election commissions filled

Vacancies in district elections commission in Gúruè and Alto Molocué have been filled by the Provincial Elections Commission, two months after district commissions began work.

In Gúruè, Walton Anatol Roberto Sobrinho Naquere was named to replace Sazia Júlio Milato as MDM representative, after Sazia had been rejected because he was under 25 years old.

In Alto Molocué, the civil society representative nominated by the Electoral Observatory (Observatório Eleitor), Inácio Augusto Cristovão Tanhíua, was said to have moved out of the municipality, and was replaced by Malita Manuel Macolo.

Registration remains slow

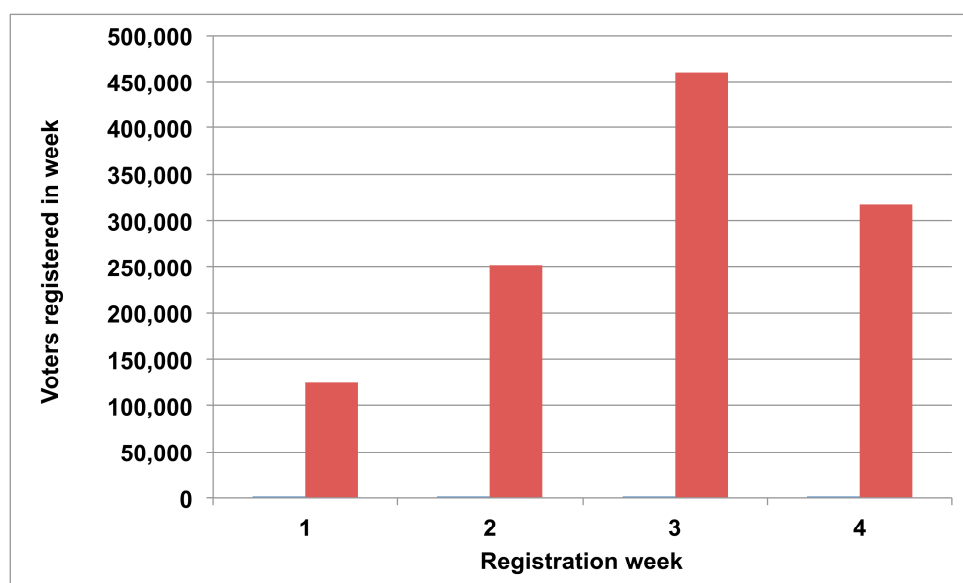
Half way through the registration process, only one-third of expected voters have registered. The data shows the low registration levels in the first two weeks caused by computer and printer problems, relatively high registration in the third week, falling off significantly in the fourth week.

Registration is 60 days, 25 May to 23 July. Up to 24 June is exactly at the halfway point (which is 30 days - 4 weeks and 2 days). At that point, 1,244,529 voters had been registered, of 3,490,925 expected – 35.7%.

In only three provinces, the Frelimo strongholds of Gaza, Inhambane and Tete, have more than half of voters been registered. By contrast, in Nampula and Zambézia, where the opposition is expected to do well, only one quarter of voters have been registered.

Based on data released by STAE, we calculate registration in the first four weeks as:

week 1 124,087
week 2 252,417
week 3 459,721
week 4 317,570
(week 4 is based on STAE figures which suggest 408,304 registered in the 9 days before 25 June).



Data released by STAE for the first 30 days of registration, by province, for the old 43 municipalities:

	Registered	Expected	%
Maputo City	280,628	716,996	39.1%
Maputo Prov	168,129	551,891	30.5%
Gaza	86,915	158,933	54.7%
Inhambane	74,004	147,180	50.3%
Sofala	123,474	326,147	37.9%
Manica	86,608	190,942	45.4%
Tete	71,739	131,185	54.7%
Zambézia	95,620	376,685	25.4%
Nampula	140,449	553,410	25.4%
Niassa	53,162	157,120	33.8%
Cabo Delgado	63,801	185,077	34.5%
TOTAL	1,244,529	3,490,925	35.7%

Registration in the 10 new municipalities only started on 20 June, but already 22% of potential voters have been registered, 22,569 of 98,906 expected.

Municipality	Province	Registered	Expected	%
Boane	Maputo	5,106	15,752	32.4%
Quissico	Inhambane	1,876	4,784	39.2%
Nhamatanda	Sofala	2,250	12,646	17.8%
Sussundenga	Manica	1,837	9,869	18.6%
Nhamayabue	Tete	2,917	4,623	63.1%
Maganja da Costa	Zambézia	1,640	7,581	21.6%
Malema	Nampula	797	10,649	7.5%
Chiure	Cabo Delgado	4,912	23,923	20.5%
Mandimba	Niassa	1,254	9,079	13.8%
TOTAL		22,589	98,906	22.8%

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Published by CIP and AWEPA

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Academic citations: Cite as "2013 Local Elections, Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Maputo"