

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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## Abdul Carimo Sau or Rabia Valgy likely CNE head

The three civil society members of the National Elections Commission (CNE) were selected Wednesday by parliament (AR). The CNE selects its own president from these three civil society members, and they are likely to select either Abdul Carimo Sau or Rabia Valgy, who jointly headed the AR ballot.

The new CNE will have 13 members: 5 from Frelimo, 2 from Renamo, 1 from the Mozambique Democratic Movement (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique, MDM), a judge, a public prosecutor, and 3 members of civil society.

Civil society groups nominated 24 candidates for the CNE. A parliamentary ad hoc commission (5 Frelimo and 1 MDM) drew up a short list of 14, and parliament then voted for six (3 members and 3 alternates). Renamo did not participate in the vote, which involved 167 Frelimo and 8 MDM. Although the ballot was secret, Frelimo clearly issued voting instructions to its party members in parliament. The results were:

CNE members:

Abdul Carimo Sau, 159 votes

Rabia Valgy, 159 votes

Paulo Cuinica, 155 votes

Alternates

Delfim de Deus, 154 votes

Jeremias Timana, 153 votes

Julio Cunela, 153 votes

Carimo is Executive Director of the Electoral Observatory, the coalition of civil society groups which has done the most consistent monitoring of elections. It includes the main religious denominations (Catholic, Protestant and Moslem) and NGOs such as the Human Rights League. Carimo is also deputy chair of the Islamic Council of Mozambique (CISLAMO). He was proposed by the highly respected Centre for Democracy and Development Studies (Centro de Estudos de Democracia e Desenvolvimento, CEDE).

Valgy and Cuinica are both members of the outgoing CNE. Valgy was nominated by an unknown civil society group, the Struggle Against Poverty Association (Associação Luta Contra a Pobreza). Cuinica has worked for the civil society coalition known as the G-20, and was nominated by the Electoral Observatory.

Deus was proposed by the Mozambique Bar Association. Timana is also a member of the outgoing CNE and General Secretary of CONSILMO, the smaller of Mozambique's two trade union

federations. Cunela was proposed by the Electoral Observatory; he is the Vice-Chancellor of the Higher Institute of Management, Commerce and Finance.

Frelimo clearly opposed the candidacy of former Supreme Court judge João Carlos Trindade, considered by AIM to be "by far the most qualified candidate", and prominent journalist Salomão Moyana.

## Other CNE members

The five Frelimo members of the CNE are:

António Chipanga, a lawyer who has been a CNE member since 2002.

Rodrigues Timba, a lawyer and CNE member since 2007.

António Muacorica, an economist who was a member of two earlier CNEs, in 1999 and 2002.

Abílio da Conceição Dirual, a systems analyst.

Eugénia Chimpene, a lawyer.

MDM named Bernabé Ncomo, a historian and author of a book on Uria Simango, father of MDM head Daviz Simango.

Four members have not been named. The magistrates' council has yet to name a judge, and the prosecutors' council has yet to name a public prosecutor. And Renamo is refusing to name its two members.

## Leopoldo withdraws

Civil society members were included on the elections commissions from 2007 to reduce the party influence and add some impartiality. But the selection of "civil society" representatives has effectively been left in party hands, leading to allegations of the selection of people linked to Frelimo.

The case of the outgoing CNE President João Leopoldo da Costa caused particular controversy. No outgoing CNE President had stood for a second term, but Leopoldo tried to do so, submitting nomination papers from the National Teachers Organisation (Organização Nacional dos Professores, ONP). The parliamentary ad hoc commission initially accepted his application and put him on the short list.

ONP leaders appeared in public to say that the ONP had not supported him and that the candidacy had been promoted improperly by Frelimo members in the ONP. And independent media published a photo of Leopoldo at a Frelimo Congress wearing a Frelimo shirt, and reported his close links to the party. Finally Leopoldo withdrew his candidacy on 10 May.

## Renamo boycott continues

Since last year, Renamo has refused to participate in any of the electoral activities, unless the electoral laws are changed to give it an effective veto over electoral processes. It boycotted municipal by-elections, has refused to name members to national, provincial, and district election commissions, and refused to name members to the ad hoc parliamentary commission doing the civil society short list.

"We are not saying that we are not going to stand in the elections this year. We are saying that we will not allow the voter registration, much less the municipal elections, to take place" according to the Renamo head of mobilization in Beira, Horacio Calavet. (O Pais, 25 March 2013) This was backed up by Renamo Secretary-General Manuel Bissopo, who told Lusa (29 March) "There will not be elections. Renamo will not allow elections. Renamo will not accept any Mozambican moves to prepare the electoral process."

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