

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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## Candidates will submit 30,000 documents - most on a single day

An "army" of staff will be mobilised by the National Elections Commission (CNE) to process and verify documents of candidates in municipal elections.

Parties have a month from 7 August to 6 September to present documents. The procedures announced on 22 July require that each page submitted be initialled and stamped in the presence of the party agent (or substitute) and that a summary sheet be compiled and given to the agent.

This is a new procedure which is not set out in the electoral law, and is an attempt to avoid the confusion that occurred in 2009, when folders of documents were accepted without being checked, and parties were only told later if documents were missing. This resulted in some parties being excluded.

But there are a total of 1216 seats in all 53 municipal assemblies. Each party, coalition or citizens' list must submit candidates equal to at the size of the municipal assembly and at least 3 extra (and are allowed to submit a full extra list.)

Each candidate must submit 5 documents: copies of identity card and registration card, a certificate of no criminal record, and two separate letters saying they agree to stand and are eligible to stand.

In 2008, there were on average 4 parties or citizen's lists standing in each municipality. If the same number stand this year, which seems likely, that means the CNE must accept, initial, register and stamp more than 30,000 document pages, and compile two copies of the register showing this has been done.

Parties have a full month to submit their documents, but it is common to leave things until the last minute. Thus most documents will be submitted on the final day, 6 September. Will the CNE be ready to process 20,000 pages in one day?

CNE recognises there will be "many" documents to check, but guarantees that this time it will be prepared, and will avoid what happened in 2009 when some parties complained that documents they submitted were lost by the CNE.

This guarantee was given by Antonio Chipanga, a member of the CNE and head of the legal committee, who held the same positions in 2009. In a briefing of observers from the diplomatic community on 23 October 2009, Chipanga admitted that the CNE was unprepared for the thousands of files which were submitted 29 July that year, and that boxes of files were left scattered around the CNE. He even joked about a “wicked wind” (“vento maligno”) which apparently spread around some papers. The CNE had assumed it could check each submission as it was made and give parties an accurate receipt. In fact there was total chaos and no check was made before giving a receipt. The Constitutional Council in its ruling of 28 September (Acórdão nº 09/CC/2009 de 28 de Setembro) said that accepting the files without checking was a “manifest violation of an essential part of the law”.

Chipanga told the Bulletin that this year the CNE is prepared, and will draw not only on its own staff and members, but also staff and members of Maputo city and province election commissions, to ensure that there is an “army” waiting to process the papers. Drawing on Maputo city and province members and staff is already used by the CNE after elections when it must recheck each of tens of thousands of invalid ballot papers.

## Maputo, Beira lose assembly seats

Maputo, Beira and Cuamba will have fewer members in municipal assemblies than at present, because of a fall in the number of registered voters. The 40 other old municipalities have the same numbers of members, or more, according to the list of seats approved by the CNE yesterday.

Maputo city drops from 67 to 64 seats, Beira 45 to 44, and Cuamba from 31 to 21. Two of the biggest increases are Moatize, Tete, from 13 to 21, and Angoche, Nampula, from 21 to 31.

The registration list approved yesterday includes some minor changes to the registration figures, with an increase of 1408 voters, bringing the total registered of 3,059,794.

## Registered voters and numbers of assembly seats in 2013 and 2008 elections

Province	Municipality	Registered	Seats 2013	Seats 2008
Maputo cidade		614,671		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>614,671</b>	64	<b>67</b>
Maputo província	Matola	386,579	53	50
	Boane	41,889	31	
	Manhiça	31,533	21	17
	Namaacha	8,444	13	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>468,445</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>80</b>
Gaza	Cidade de Xai-Xai	62,305	39	39
	Macia	18,648	13	13
	P.Bilene	5,941	13	
	Chibuto	26,693	17	13
	Chókwe	28,771	17	17
	Mandlakaze	10,841	13	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153,199</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>95</b>
Inhambane	C.Inhambane	36,941	21	21
	Massinga	18,576	13	13
	Maxixe	52,732	31	31
	Quissico	9,147	13	
	Vilanculo	25,270	17	17
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>142,666</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>82</b>

Province	Municipality	Registered	Seats 2013	Seats 2008
Sofala	Beira	205,802	44	45
	Dondo	31,805	21	21
	Gorongosa	14,249	13	13
	Nhamatanda	17,121	13	
	Marromeu	21,083	17	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>290,060</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>89</b>
Manica	C. Chimoio	123,587	40	39
	Catandica	16,327	13	13
	Gondola	22,720	17	13
	Sussundenga	12,351	13	
	Manica	24,740	17	17
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199,725</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>
Tete	Tete	106,713	39	39
	Ulongue	19,224	13	13
	Moatize	30,026	21	13
	Nhamayabue	7,448	13	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163,411</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>65</b>
Zambézia	Quelimane	105,887	39	44
	Alto-Molocue	20,558	17	13
	Gurue	36,672	21	17
	Milange	17,467	13	13
	Maganja da Costa	12,105	13	
	Mocuba	52,681	31	31
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>245,370</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>118</b>
Nampula	C.Nampula	225,152	45	45
	Angoche	42,788	31	21
	I.Moçambique	25,331	17	17
	Monapo	33,642	21	21
	Malema	15,105	13	
	Nacala Porto	90,699	39	39
	Ribaué	18,746	13	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>451,463</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>156</b>
Cabo Delgado	C.Pemba	83,612	39	39
	Mocimboa da Praia	23,313	17	17
	Montepuez	45,910	31	21
	Chiúre	24,900	17	
	Mueda	20,278	17	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,013</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>90</b>
Niassa	C.Lichinga	72,102	39	39
	Cuamba	33,933	21	31
	Metangula	7,317	13	13
	Mandimba	9,695	13	
	Marrupa	9,664	13	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132,771</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,059,794</b>	1216	1113

The number of assembly seats is based on the number of registered voters.

- 13 members for less than 20,000 voters.
- 17 for 20-30,000
- 21 for 30-40,000
- 31 for 40-60,000
- 39 above 60,000

but in larger municipalities, the number of 39 seats is increased by one seat for each additional 20,000 voters above 100,000. (So Matola with 386,579 voters, has 39 seats plus 14 additional seats for 280,000 voters above 100,000, giving 53 seats.)

## **So far, only 2 lists and 2 parties register to stand**

Only two parties and two citizens lists have submitted documents to the CNE to register to participate in the 20 November local election. Parties and coalitions must register in Maputo, but local citizens lists can submit their papers to the provincial election commission. These papers are then considered by the CNE. Deadline for submission is Tuesday 6 August.

So far the CNE has approved one party, Movimento Democrático de Moçambique (MDM), and one citizen's list, Juntos pela Cidade in Maputo. Submitted but not yet approved are one citizens' list, ASSIMUNA in Nampula, and one party, Partido Humanitario de Moçambique (PAHUMO).

## **15 October 2014 for national elections**

As expected, President Armando Guebuza has officially set the date for national elections next year for Wednesday 15 October 2014 within Mozambique and Sunday 12 October 2014 outside the country. Elections will be for President and national parliament, as well as for provincial parliaments everywhere except Maputo city.

## **CNE promises better electoral climate**

The National Elections Commission (CNE) has promised to improve the electoral climate by being more open and transparent and through regular discussions with the political parties. This commitment was made by CNE president Abdul Carimo Monday at a meeting with political parties and the Dutch Institute for the Promotion of Multi-party Democracy.

But Carimo also said that the political parties must be more proactive and intervene more if the electoral process is to be just and transparent.

This was the third meeting with parties, and for their side, the parties said they saw this as a new opening by the CNE. But the parties which have never elected members to parliament also complained about lack of funding.

Dutch ambassador Frederique de Man used the meeting to note the political tension in the country, saying "I find it hard to believe that 21 years after peace was won though huge sacrifice and suffering, the people of Mozambique now feel threatened by a possible return to armed conflict."

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