

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Candidate submission closes as CNE speeds processing

Submission of candidates for the 20 November municipal elections closed on Friday. Each candidate must present five documents, which means more than 10,000 sheets of paper were submitted. As promised, the National Elections Commission (CNE) followed a new procedure and checked to see that all documents were submitted, and had enough staff to do so – in sharp contrast to the chaos in 2009. The next step, which begins today and ends on 23 September, is to actually verify the submitted documents.

Eleven political parties and six citizen's groups submitted candidates. Two parties did not. And one small party which submitted only at the last minute could not stand in two cities because some candidates were rejected for lack of documents.

On Wednesday Frelimo submitted 20 boxes of documents and plans to stand in all 53 municipalities.

AIM reports that the opposition Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM) deposited its nomination papers on Tuesday in 21 bags and boxes. Verification took from shortly before midday until after midnight. Problems were detected with the MDM paperwork from Gaza, where criminal record certificates were missing, and in Matola, where MDM had not provided enough supplementary candidates for the municipal assembly. This was corrected by Friday, and MDM is standing in all 53 municipalities.

The head of the MDM parliamentary group, Lutero Simango, told AIM that the MDM had taken copies of every document it was submitting. "We've learned from 2009", he said, when MDM delivered its documents without taking copies; when the CNE disqualified the MDM lists for nine of the 13 constituencies due to missing documents, the MDM was unable to prove its claim that it had delivered all the necessary papers.

The full list of parties and citizens groups is in the attached pdf version of this newsletter.

Problems for small parties

Two parties which had registered with the CNE did not submit any candidates, Partido Nacional de Moçambique (PANAMO) and Associação dos Transportadores Rodoviários de Gaza (ASTROGAZA). ASTROGAZA informed the CNE that it was not submitting candidates, and has

filed a protest with the CNE.

Four of the small parties submitted documents at the very last minute on Friday and had some problems. PPLM (Partido para o Progresso Liberal de Moçambique) party agent Alberto Nguilaze said they had intended to stand in five municipalities, but were only able to submit full lists in Maputo, Matola and Boane. He admitted that they had not checked the documents carefully enough before submitting.

Parties and citizens' groups, and municipalities where they are standing

Party	Municipalities
MDM, Movimento Democrático de Moçambique	all 53
Frelimo	all 53
PAHUMO, Partido Humanitário de Moçambique	Pemba, Nampula and Montepuez
PT, Partido Trabalhista	
PIMO, Partido Independente de Moçambique	Gondola
Os VERDES	Maputo e Matola
PDD, Partido Para a Paz Democracia e Desenvolvimento	Maputo, Matola, Boane, Beira, Nhamatanda, Marromeu, Chimoio, Quelimane and Milange
PPLM, Partido para o Progresso Liberal de Moçambique	Maputo, Matola and Boane
PARENA, Partido de Reconciliação Nacional	
MPD, Movimento Patriótico para a Democracia	
PEC-MP, Partido Ecologista Movimento da Terra	
Citizens' groups	Municipalities
ALIMO, Aliança Independente de Moçambique	Maputo city
SINFORTECNICA, Associação Jovens Técnicos Portadores de Deficiência de Moçambique	Maputo city
JPC, Juntos Pela Cidade	Maputo city
ANATURMA, Associação dos Amigos Naturais da Manhiça	Manhiça
Associação Artesanal UIUIPI	Pemba
ASSEMONA, Associação para a Educação Moral e Cívica de Exploração dos Recursos Minerais	Nampula, Nacala-Porto, Monapo, Ribaue and Angoche

Constitutional Council rejects challenge to CNE – but only on technical grounds

The Constitutional Council (CC) has rejected two challenges to the legitimacy of the National Elections Commission (CNE). Renamo and the Oposição de Mãos Dadas (Linked Hands Opposition) claim that the CNE cannot legitimately function because Renamo never took up its two seats on the 13 member commission. The CC rejection was on procedural grounds and the CC did not rule on the substance of the objections.

The CC is the highest court in two areas, elections and constitutionality, but each has very different procedures. Electoral challenges are open to parties and other participants in elections, and because of the need for rapid decisions, the deadlines are very tight.

Constitutional issues can only be raised by the President, parliament, the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General, or the Ombuds. In addition, a group of at least 2,000 citizens can present a petition to the CC requesting a ruling. But political groups have no special access.

To avoid this problem, Oposição de Mãos Dadas and Renamo decided to challenge a particular CNE ruling on the grounds that the CNE was not legitimately constituted to make the decision. Mãos Dadas challenged Deliberação nº 26/CNE/2013 of 17 July. But the law says any such challenge must be submitted first to the CNE within 3 working days; 20 July was a Saturday, so the deadline was Monday 22 July. The CC points out that the protest was only submitted on 6 August, much too late. It also notes that Oposição de Mãos Dadas submitted no documentation to say who they were, and that they had standing to make an electoral protest. Renamo's protest was against a 23 May decision, and was also submitted outside the permitted time.

At least one of the two is now expected to submit a petition with 2000 signatures, which they should have done initially, to force the substance of the issue to be considered by the CC.

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