

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Poor start to registration

Many registration posts failed to open Saturday because of late arrival of equipment, and there were widespread reports of equipment failures where posts did open. A woman in Maputo tweeted "Very well treated, but sadly machine did not work. Try again tomorrow!"

Yet in other places registration ran smoothly. Turnout has been mixed with very long queues in a few places, short queues elsewhere, and no one registering in others.

In Marromeu, Milange, Massinga, Pemba, and Manica town posts opened on time and were functioning, with queues of up to 75 people.

Nampula province had particular problems. Equipment did not arrive in Nacala Porto, Monapo and Gurue yesterday and only arrived in some Nampula city posts in the afternoon.

Elsewhere, in Montepuez, Macia, Beira, Moatize and Tete city very few posts – or none at all - had opened by mid-morning.

Inhambane reported many posts closing because of equipment failure.

Maputo city was very variable, with many posts open and functioning, others lacking equipment and failing to open, and some closing due to equipment failures.

Reports from our correspondent in Nampula Saturday morning showed the variability:

- At EPC Parque Popular people were waiting in the queue but machinery had not arrived and the polling station was not open.
- Pavilhão do Ferroviário was open but no one was there to register.
- EPC Limoeiros was open with a queue of 30 people complaining about how slow the process was.
- And 3 de Fevereiro was full of provincial and city election staff – but no would-be voters – as they waited for Governor Cidalia Chauque to register.

Where registration did open, it has been very slow as newly trained people cautiously gain confidence in using the registration computer. Registration requires taking fingerprints and a photo,

and printing out a card which is sealed in plastic. This is proving to be very complicated.

Technical problems with the software also appeared during the day. The system records the data on the document presented by the would-be voter, such as an identify card, but would not accept issue dates of some documents, and there was no way to record at life-time document without an expiry date (as issued to pensioners).

Reports are from our journalists in the municipalities and from @Verdade which has a special live blog (<http://www.verdade.co.mz/live-blogs/eleicoes-autarquicas-2013> and <http://www.verdade.co.mz/destaques/tema-de-fundo>) and a Twitter feed (DemocraciaMZ).

Carimo promises new openness in CNE

In his first public statement as head of the CNE, Abdul Carimo on Friday declared: "it is necessary to impart greater dynamism, opening the doors of the CNE, making it approachable to parties and not being seen as a political adversary because it is overseeing the process."

This is a welcome change, as the previous president, Joao Leopoldo da Costa, was frequently criticised for obsessive secrecy and for being unapproachable.

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