

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Voting materials in all provinces

By Wednesday 13 November all voting materials were already out in the provinces, Felisberto Naife, director-general of the Secretariado Técnico da Administração Eleitoral (STAE), told a press conference. And municipal STAE's were already building temporary structures for polling stations in places where there are not enough school classrooms.

Training of polling station staff was set to finish Sunday 17 November. A total of 25,000 people were being trained, of whom 21,460 would be selected to staff 4,292 polling stations in 53 municipalities on voting day Wednesday 20 November.

Polling station staff are being trained that they must accept protests and complaints from parties and others, and these must be submitted to the electoral commissions - independent of their own opinion of the validity of the protest. A special form has been created for protests.

Staff members were also reminded about the need for impartiality and not engaging in ballot box stuffing and spoiling opposition ballot papers.

Confrontations in Dondo, Susendenga

Campaigning in Dondo (Sofala) has been marked by sporadic violence. On Monday a punch up injured four MDM and two Frelimo. Four MDM members have been arrested in the confrontations. Frelimo candidate for mayor Castigo Chiutar says the confrontations are the fault of MDM because it brought campaigners from nearby Beira.

In Sussendenga (Manica), MDM accuses Frelimo youth of blocking its parades and destroying campaign material, including t-shirts, capulanas, posters, and bags. One young man was arrested after an MDM complaint.

And more use of state cars

In Nampula Frelimo was using city council cars, including a Toyota Land Cruiser, AAA 261 CA, covered in Frelimo pamphlets. This was raised with STAE head Felisberto Naife, who said that any complaints about misuse of state cars had to be raised at local level.

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