

2013 Local Elections

Mozambique political process bulletin

Number LE-47 20 November 2013 11.00

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Candidate left off Nampula city ballot paper

Filomena Mutoropa, the mayoral candidate for the Humanitarian Party, PAHUMO, has been left off the ballot paper in Nampula city. The other candidates, from Frelimo, MDM, and the citizens' list ASSEMONA were included.

The National Elections Commission is meeting now to decide what to do, but the polling in Nampula may have to be postponed until Sunday 1 December.

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Smooth start to voting with initial high turnout

Voting began on time at 7 am across Mozambique and our journalists report sizeable queues at most polling stations, indicating an initial high turnout. Voting is going smoothly, although sometimes slowly.

Very high turnouts with over 100 people in queues for each polling station reported in Ribaué, Gúruè, Lichinga, Maxixe, Chimoio, Gondola, Marrupa, Macia. Bilene, Xai Xai, Nampula, Meuda and Massinga. In some places people have been queuing since 5 am.

But low turnout was noted in a few places such as Montepuez, Chibuto, Angoche, Ulongue. Nhamatanda, and Vilankulo. In Chiure and Moatize our correspondents report high turnout at some polling stations but not at others.

There are only a few reports by our journalists and @Verdade citizen correspondents of polling stations which did not open on time, for example in Pemba, Chibuto, Chokwe and Matola. Two polling stations in Nampula reported problems with the registration books, where numbers did not correctly correspond to names.

Candidates are allowed to vote first, and there have been some complaints, for example in Mocuba, of candidates openly urging voters in the queue to select them. Campaigning near the polling station is illegal.

2 journalists arrested

Journalists Fernando Lima and Antonio Munaita, respectively from Savana and Diario de Zambezia, were held by police in Mocuba for four hours. Lima was wearing a savana t-shirt and both were clearly identified as journalists with press credentials, but they were accused of illegal campaigning on the day before the election, when no official campaigning is allowed. Fernando Lima reports that they were accused by a Frelimo party official and the evidence was articles in the three most recent issues of Savana they had with them.

Our correspondent reports that 2 MDM delegates were not allowed into a polling station in bairro Samora Machel, Chibuto.

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