

# 2013 Local Elections

## Mozambique political process bulletin

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**Nampula:** Voting continues in Nampula city where a mayoral candidate was left off the ballot paper. The National Elections Commission will only announce a decision on the problem at 16.00.

## Mixed turnout this afternoon

Most polling stations saw high turnouts this morning with long queues continuing until mid-morning, with most people trying to vote in the cooler part of the day. Since then, turnout reports have been very mixed. In Macia, Cuamba, Maxixe, Lichinga, and Ilha de Moçambique there were few people at polling stations this afternoon.

But in Chiúre, Nhamayábue, Xai-Xai, Quissico, Bilene, Ulongué, Alto-Molócue, Marromeu, and Moatize there were still long queues of up to 100 people and complaints that the slow work by polling station staff was causing people to give up and go home.

In the middle were Monapo, Chokwé, Maganja da Costa, Ribaué, Nhamatanda, Pemba; Vilankulo, Gondola, and Gurué which still had queues of 50 or more at midday.

## Multiple voting in Ihla de Moçambique

There are widespread reports of multiple voting in Ihla de Moçambique. Voters are being allowed to leave the polling stations without dipping their fingers in indelible ink, and they then vote in another polling station with another voters card.

There had been complaints from MDM at the time of registration of people being brought in from outside the city to register.

## Observers denied credentials in Beira

Observers of the Electoral Observatory were denied credentials by the city election commission in Beira, and have not been able to monitor elections in this key city. The reason given was that the commission did not have the plastic to produce the credentials. The national elections commission issued an instruction that paper credentials should be issued, but this was ignored by the city elections commission. Finally after polls opened, the district election commission began to slowly issue credentials, but by mid-day only half of the observer team has received them.

## **MDM arrested in Chibuto**

Two MDM party poll watchers were arrested at polling station 9009702 in Bairro Samora Machel, Chibuto, Gaza, accused of having the credentials of other people. They are Blatazar Fernando Wate and João Abel Cossa. Our journalist in Chibuto reports three other MDM party delegates arrested this afternoon.

## **Neighbourhood secretaries interfere**

Our journalist in Chibuto also reports that neighbourhood secretaries, who in this area are largely members of Frelimo, are staying in the school grounds after they vote and taking on a role of polling station staff, for example organising queues. At polling stations 09009803, 69009802 and 09009801, Bairro de Chimundo, the head of the community police, Armando Macuácuca, used his handcuffs to lock the door of the polling station which created confusion. By 10.00 the situation had returned to normal.

## **Soldiers in Quelimane**

At several schools in Quelimane, observers have noted armed soldiers close to schools and in one case sitting directly outside a polling station. The law allows police to be closer, but says the military must stay more than 300 metres away. Also a problem in Quelimane has been understaffed polling stations, with only three or four members instead of five, which slows voting.

## **Names not on register**

At Massinga, 3 people at Escola Secundária da Massinga, and in Quelimane, 2 people at EPC de Quelimane, had voters cards but their name was not in the register and they were not allowed to vote.

**Gorongosa:** Turnout was high in Gorongosa, which is the municipality closest to recent military action. District Administrator Paulo Majakuene said posters had appeared telling people not vote and that Renamo would attack yesterday, 19 November. But there was not attack and people voted early

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## **Mozambique Political Process Bulletin**

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