

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

Number LE-49 20 November 2013 23.00



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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública and AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa
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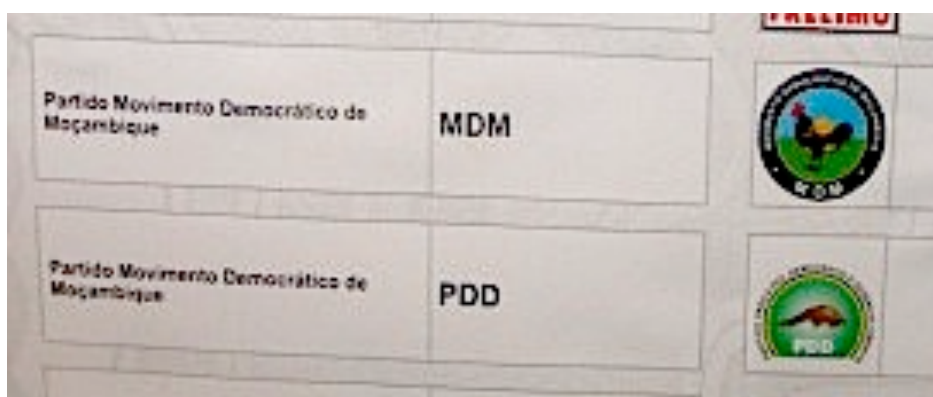
Nampula mayoral vote annulled; new vote 1 Dec *but that was not the only ballot paper mistake*

Nampula city will have a new election for mayor on Sunday 1 December; the election today has been annulled because the candidate of the Humanitarian Party, PAHUMO, Filomena Mutoropa, was left off the ballot paper. The decision was taken this evening by the National Elections Commission (CNE) in Maputo, after voting had ended and counting started. Counting was then suspended.

The CNE ruled that the voting for municipal assembly was valid, but the ballots must be put aside and saved, because the law requires both counts to take place at the same time. Only the vote for mayor will be run again.

However, there was also an error on the Nampula city ballot paper for municipal assembly, which the CNE has not yet considered. The name of one party appeared a second time in place of the correct name of another party.

On the assembly ballot paper the Mozambique Democratic Movement Party, "Partido Movimento Democrático de Moçambique" appears correctly with its initial MDM and symbol. Next comes PDD and its symbol, but instead of the name Party for Peace, Democracy and Development, "Partido para a Paz e Democracia e Desenvolvimento", the name "Partido Movimento Democrático de Moçambique" appears again. (See photos)





Calm day with high initial turnout, but few afternoon voters

Polling day was calm nearly everywhere, but the close of voting was marked by arrests of MDM party poll watchers, and there were confrontations with the police. In Angoche tear gas was fired, and in Quelimane there were shots in the air.

Turnout was high everywhere at the start in the cooler part of the day. By the end of the morning, however, the polling stations were largely empty. There were few people voting in the afternoon in Gurué, Alto-Molócuè, Cuamba, Cumba, Macia, Manhiça, Chimoio, Manica, Catandica, Sussundenga, Ilha de Moçambique, Pemba, Mocímboa da Praia, Moatize, Tete, Nhamayabué, Quissico, Vilankulo, Maxixe, and Nampula.

But in a few places, including Bilene, Mandimba, Quelimane, Manjacaze, and Marromeu, there were still queues as the end of the day and a few polling stations had to remain open

after the closing hour of 18.00, to allow everyone in the queue to vote.

Close of voting marked by arrests and shots

There close of polling stations and start of the counting was marked by confusion and demonstrations in Quelimane (Zambézia) and Angoche (Nampula).

In Angoche the riot police (Força de Intervenção Rápida, FIR) fired tear gas at the primary school of Farlahi, which had been a problem polling centre during the day. At one point a voter was caught trying to put several ballot papers for Frelimo into the ballot box. The voter was arrested, but quickly released, according to @Verdade. A poll watcher for the citizens' list ASSEMONA was injured by the gas.

In Quelimane people began to gather around schools at the end of the voting, saying they were trying to prevent extra ballots or ballot boxes being brought into the schools. People going into the polling stations for the count, including observers, were searched for ballot papers. There were confrontations with the police and shots were fired into the air at the primary school at Incidua, and the mood was tense.

Detention of MDM poll watchers

Nhamatanda: Six MDM delegates (poll watchers) were arrested, allegedly for failing to follow instructions of the polling station staff, at 1500 at Escola Heróis Moçambicanos.

Also in Nhamatanda, 500 people at polling station Jossias Tongoras could not vote because they could not find their names on the register..

Macia: Just 15 minutes before the close of voting, six MDM delegates were arrested, allegedly for having false credentials. Thus they could not watch the count.

Chibuto: Six MDM delegates, Elias Neves, Eugénio Macondzo, João Cossa, Ibrahim Massotas, Viriato Matusse and another identified only as Baltazar, were arrested during the day. These detentions created a climate of fear..

Gurué: Ten people invaded a polling station in Moneia, according to the District Director of STAE, Manuel António. All were arrested. Similarly, at 1615 in polling station 04009504 in Gurué secondary school, individuals without credentials arrived and demanded to monitor the voting. They refused to leave on request of the polling station staff and were finally evicted by the police.

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Academic citations: Cite as "2013 Local Elections, Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Maputo"
