

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

Number LE-53 23 November 2013 2200



Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga News editor: Fatima Mimbire Reporter: Anchieta Maquitela

Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública and AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa
Material may be freely reprinted. Please cite the *Bulletin*.

web: bit.ly/MozEI13

To subscribe in English: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-en-sub> Para assinar em Português: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-pt-sub>

Second Nampula election annulled – because CPE failed to follow CNE instructions to protect security

As expected, the National Elections Commission (CNE) has annulled the election for the Nampula Municipal Assembly, but for an unexpected reason.

The election for Nampula mayor had already been annulled, because one candidate had been left off the ballot paper. On the evening of voting day, after the polls closed, the CNE ruled that the mayoral election should be annulled and run again. It also ruled that the vote for Municipal Assembly was valid, but that the ballot papers had to be kept and not counted until both sets of ballots were counted together.

The CNE instructed the Nampula Provincial Elections Commission that to ensure the security of the ballot boxes, any movement of ballot boxes must be accompanied by representatives of the political parties. This was not done, and ballot boxes were transported to a warehouse without outside supervision, and parties were only shown the ballot boxes and given keys to the warehouse the next day. Thus there was no guarantee that the ballot boxes had not been tampered with.

Meeting Saturday evening, the CNE ruled it had no choice but to also cancel the municipal assembly election, and run it again. The new election date must be announced by the Council of Ministers on Tuesday, but by law must be Sunday 1 December.

The Nampula municipal assembly ballot papers also had a printing error, and it was assumed CNE would annul the election because of that. But it considered the security question first and ruled on that issue.

This is at least the second time that a provincial election commission has failed to carry out an instruction from the CNE. The Sofala Provincial Elections Commission failed to carry out an instruction last week to issue credentials in Beira to Mozambique's largest independent observer group, the Electoral Observatory.

Printing error in South Africa

Responsibility for the printing errors of the ballot papers for mayor and Municipal Assembly in Nampula rests with the printer in South Africa, CNE spokesman João Beirão said Saturday. He said proofs of the ballot papers were correct and were approved by both the CNE and the parties. After that, some kind of error was made which led to other versions of the ballot papers being printed.

Beirão explained that security measures mean that no one can see the ballot papers until they are actually opened in the polling stations, so the mistakes were not discovered until then. He said that the printer seals the ballot papers in plastic and in such a way that the front of the ballot paper cannot be seen and copied. Thus here is no way to check the ballot paper until the plastic wrap is broken in the polling station.

Lost results sheets in Quelimane

When the results of the Quelimane election were announced on Saturday, STAE admitted it has lost the official results sheets for 39 polling stations for Municipal Assembly and 25 for mayor, so results of those polling stations were not included.

This problem had occurred in previous elections and the election law was changed in 2008 to deal with this. Every party delegate is given a signed copy of the results sheet (edital) after the count, and the law says that the election commission must accept those official copies if the original is lost or damaged. MDM submitted its copies, but the provincial election commission refused to accept them.

Meanwhile in Chimoio, MDM delegate Manuel de Sousa says he will use MDM's copies of the editais to challenge the results. He says his copies of the editais show that MDM won majorities for both mayor and assembly. The law change to give signed copies of the editais to parties was intended precisely to be a check to prevent people from changing or losing the official editais, but this would be first time copies of editais have been used to challenge a result.

Meanwhile there is a video on YouTube of a man who claims to have been a member of a polling station team in Maputo who says he is disgruntled because he has not been paid yet, and is therefore speaking out. He says that the results sheets (editais) which he wrote were changed by Frelimo. MDM won in his polling station, he says, but the results were changed to give Frelimo the victory.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0JKysQTXW8c

Parallel counts confirm some results

Parallel counts have been carried out in about half of municipalities, and confirm some of the controversial results. By law, a copy of the edital (results sheet) is posted outside the polling station as soon as the count is finished, usually posted on a classroom door. This is to allow people to go around polling stations and write down the results. This can be used as a way of checking on the accuracy of the counting process at city, provincial and national level. Parallel counts are most commonly done by parties and observers, and sometimes called a PVT (parallel vote tabulation)

Four controversial results are confirmed by parallel counts:

Milange: Frelimo's narrow victory is confirmed.

Gurué: The one vote difference between the two candidates is confirmed.

Nacala: Frelimo's massive victory with more than 85% of the vote is confirmed.

Ihla de Moçambique: Despite fraud, Frelimo's victory is confirmed. In no polling station did Frelimo have less than 63% of the vote. But there are indications of ballot box stuffing (4 polling stations with turnouts over 88%). There were accusations of multiple voting - people were allowed

to leave without inking their fingers and then vote again at another polling station – and there were 7 polling stations with a vote for Frelimo of 85% or higher.

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga News editor: Fatima Mimbire Reporter: Anchieta Maquitela

Material may be freely reprinted and circulated. Please cite the Bulletin.

Published by CIP and AWEPA

web: bit.ly/MozEI13

CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública, Rua Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (ex-Pereira do Lago), 354, r/c
(CP 3266) Maputo www.cip.org.mz cip@cip.org.mz Tel: +258 21 492 335, 823 016 391, 843 890 584

AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians with Africa, Rua Licenciado Coutinho 77 (CP 2648) Maputo
awepa@awepa.org.mz Tel: +258 21 418 603, 21 418 608, 21 418 626

To subscribe:

In English: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-en-sub>

Para assinar:

Em Português: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-pt-sub>

To unsubscribe: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-en-unsub>

To opt-out from the municipal election bulletin but still receive other Mozambique-related publications, send an email to j.hanlon@open.ac.uk with just "no election" in the subject line.

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