

2013 Local Elections

Mozambique political process bulletin

Number LE-61 5 December 2013

=====
Published by CIP and AWEPA, Maputo, Mozambique
Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)
Material may be freely reprinted. Please cite the Bulletin.
web: bit.ly/MozEI13
=====

CNE confirms results of municipal elections

Frelimo's victory in 50 of 52 municipalities was confirmed this afternoon (Thursday) by the National Elections Commission (CNE). But it also confirmed the impressive showing of the opposition MDM, which won two cities - Quelimane and Beira - and gained more than 40% of the vote in 10 other municipalities, including Maputo and Matola. (MDM also won the rerun election in Nampula, which was not formally announced Thursday.)

Full statistics, including turnout, have not yet been released by the CNE.

The results must now be approved by the Constitutional Council.

All protests rejected

The MDM submitted protests in seven municipalities and ASSEMONA in one, but all were rejected on the narrow technical ground that that they had not first been submitted at the lowest possible level in the electoral hierarchy - the polling station or city election commission. The electoral law had been changed to make this less strict, and MDM will appeal to the constitutional council.

CNE admits electoral administration misconduct

In its report today on the elections, the CNE admits that in some places election authorities were slow to issue credentials to national observers and that this "compromised" the observation of the election. The CNE goes on to "repudiate and condemn actions to obstruct legal rights" by "electoral administration entities" as well as by political parties.

This is a clear admission by the CNE of the validity of at least some of the complaints by opposition parties and observers that they were unfairly treated by election officials.

Quelimane chaos

Confusion and disruption in 10 polling centres in Quelimane, particularly at the end of the day and during the count, was a major issue for the CNE. It says that in at least some places polling station staff were attacked with stones, bottles and plastic bags of sand and could not continue the count, and even had to abandon the ballot boxes.

In the end, the Quelimane city election commission said it had final results sheets (editais) for mayor for 110 polling stations but not for 31 others, and for municipal assembly for 105. MDM said the count had been completed in these polling stations and, as required by law, it had been given official copies of the editais. The electoral law says that in such a situation, the election commission must accept the party editais and use them. But the CNE refused to do so, on the grounds that there was no guarantee that the editais were really legitimate, and thus the CNE just counted the editais submitted by the Quelimane election commission.

The CNE has, however, directed STAE to carry out an investigation. It has also appealed to political parties, observers and journalists to submit their copies of the editais.

Electoral authorities cannot add

The official results issued by the Nampula city electoral commission have an arithmetic error. The votes for the five parties standing for municipal assembly add up to 54,374, but elsewhere on the results sheets the number of valid votes for assembly is given as 54,209.

=====

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, Centro de Integridade Publica and AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa

web: bit.ly/MozEI13

=====

This mailing is the personal responsibility of Joseph Hanlon, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Open University.