

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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High turnout over 2/3 in some places and below 1/3 in others

Turnout in local elections ranged from 29% in Malema up to 70% in Nhamayabue. Chibuto, Manjacaze, and Dondo had participation over 67%. (Tables in the attached pdf give high and low turnouts.)

Maputo had a participation of 50.3%, slightly up on the 46.6% of 2008. Turnout in Matola was 38%, compared to 40% five years ago. In Beira, 58% of registered voters cast their ballots, compared to 56% in the previous municipal election.

Municipalities with turnout over 60%

Municipality	Mayoral vote	% of registered voters
Nhamayabue	5 239	70%
Dondo	21 792	68%
Chibuto	17 924	67%
Chokwé	19 406	67%
Mandlakazi	7 265	67%
Bilene	3 910	66%
Macia	12 159	65%
Namaacha	5.253	62%
Maganja da Costa	7 446	61%
Metangula	4 495	61%
Xai-Xai	37 467	60%

Fonte: CNE

Municipalities with low turnout

Municipality	Mayoral vote	% of registered voters
Malema	4 356	29%
Monapo	10 776	32%
Montepuez	15 390	34%
Ribaué	6 604	35%
Nacala-Porto	31 322	35%
Lichinga	27 584	38%
Gondola	8 579	38%
Matola	146 797	38%
Cuamba	13 118	39%
Maxixe	20 517	39%

Questions about Marromeu and Dondo

Final results raise questions about tampering with the ballots in Marromeu and Dondo. Normally in cities, fewer than 3% of ballot papers are declared invalid (nulo) at the polling station, and usually 10% to 15% of those are accepted as valid in Maputo.

Marromeu is very unusual in that 13% of votes were called invalid at the polling station and fewer than 1% were changed in Maputo. That is highly suggestive of ballot tampering, particularly of polling station staff illegally invalidating ballot papers for the opposition by adding a second mark for another candidate. And in watching the requalification of ballots for other polling stations, the *Bulletin* did see examples of an ink line drawn across ballot papers.

Dondo, where staff were caught ballot box stuffing in the first local elections in 1998, had one of the highest turnouts and the second highest rate of invalid ballot papers, of over 7%. Both must be seen as suspicious.

In Beira, the issue was the opposite. There were 5% of ballot papers ruled invalid – high but not impossible – but of those, 20% were considered valid in Maputo.

Municipalities with high levels of invalid votes

Municipality	Total votes (mayor)	Invalid votes (mayor)	Requalified votes	Total votes (municipal assembly)	Invalid votes	Requalified votes
Beira	112 787	5 745 (5.0%)	1069 (18.6%)	111 926	5 765 (5.0%)	1259 (21%)
Dondo	20 063	1 456 (7.2%)	17 (1.2%)	20 022	1 520 (7.5%)	41 (2.7%)
Marromeu	8 760	1 119 (12.8%)	7 (0.6%)	8 581	1 285 (14.9%)	10 (0.7%)

CNE makes unexplained changes in three cities

The results released by the CNE have unexplained changes for three cities, Angoche, Ribaué and Beira. In Angoche the number of votes for the winning Frelimo candidate for mayor was increased by 18% compared to results announced by the district election commission, while in Beira the result for MDM mayoral candidate was increased by 4% - more than 3000 votes. And in Ribaué the Frelimo presidential candidate lost 7% of their votes. The CNE has given no explanation for the changes.

Difference in votes reported by the district and national election commissions for the winning candidate for mayor

Municipality	District total	CNE total before requalification	Requalified as valid	CDE-CNE difference	% of difference
Angoche	10 742	12 736	21	1 973	18%
Ribaué	4 883	4 450	16	- 349	-7%
Beira	75 439	79 450	871	3 140	4%

Fontes: CDEs e CNE

MDM submits protest to Constitutional Council - but keeps it secret

The MDM this morning submitted its formal protest to the CNE for submission to the Constitutional Council. It is contesting what is says are various irregularities in the voting and counting in nine municipalities, as well as the detention of some of its party delegates. MDM has declined to give us copies of its original rejected protest to the CNE, or its new complaint to the new Constitutional Council, so we cannot provide details or comment.

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