

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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

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

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By rejected valid documents, brigades turning away would-be voters

Would-be voters are being turned away by registration brigades in various parts of the country, when brigades claim documents being presented cannot be used, even though the law and STAE says the documents are valid.

Documents being refused by brigades which should be accepted include old style identity cards, voter's registration cards from previous elections, birth certificates, and a less used identity book called a Cedula Pessoal, as well as other kinds of identity documents that do not have an expiry date.

The registration law specifically allows birth certificates and the Cedula Pessoal, as well as any other commonly used identity card with a photo - which STAE (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, Election Technical Secretariat), stresses includes voter registration cards from previous elections.

In other places brigades are demanding letters from the neighbourhood secretary attesting to residence, and STAE last week said this was not permitted.

Felizberto Naife, Director-general of STAE, admits there is a problem with old identity cards. The new identity card number has more digits than the old one, which means that the computer will not accept the old identity card number and thus will not issue a new voters card. "We are trying to solve this as quickly as possible," he told Noticias in an interview published today.

Problems continue in Nampula

Equipment problems continue to dog registration in Nampula city, and various registration posts were forced to close yesterday.

For example, in registration post 42 in Napipine, the computer was repeating numbers, and our correspondent saw the numbers 03004201437 and 03004201401 given to more than one person.

In registration post 2 at Parque Popular primary school and post 32 at Cavalaria e de Carrupeia, the computer refused to print. When the print command was pressed, the computer automatically restarted.

These problems continue despite the delivery of new printers.

And fingerprint problems in Chimoio

Chimoio continues to have registration equipment problems, particularly with the fingerprint readers. Our correspondent in Chimoio said that the equipment at the Eduardo Mondlane school only worked for three days. Not only were there problems with the printer ink, but the computer would not recognise fingerprints, only giving a green screen.

In Barrio 5 FEPOM, the computer lasted 4 days, but the fingerprint reader kept overheating, meaning the system had to be turned off for an hour after it was used for an hour.

Seven of the 14 printers have been replaced. While waiting for new printers, STAE is carefully taking the toner out of one set of cartridges and putting it into compatible cartridges.

So far Chimoio has registered 8,234 people, of 141,020 expected.

\$18 mn for equipment

Registration kits have cost \$18 million and were supplied by the Mozambican firm Artes Graficas, part of Academica, and the South African company Lithotech, which won the tender.

Reporting on the contract, O Pais said that 1700 kits containing a computer, camera, fingerprint reader, and printer were to be delivered this year, and another 2500 next year for the full national registration. (This year registration is only in the municipalities which will vote on 20 November.)

Election laws on our website

The official web page of CNE and STAE has not been updated in recent months. Therefore we have posted the electoral calendar and election laws on our website: bit.ly/MocEI13.

150,000 registered

At least 150,000 voters have been registered so far STAE director-general Naife told Noticias in an interview published today. He estimates 30% have been registered since the installation of new printers.

The goal is to register 3.5 million people in the 43 municipalities by 23 July. There are 660 registration posts.

Barue registers 1600

Barue, Manica, with only four registration posts, has already registered 1,658 voters, from a target of 11,349 voters, reported local STAE director Simao Xavier Maduco.

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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

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