



CENTRO DE INTEGRIDADE PÚBLICA  
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# 2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS

## MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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## CNE proposes 14 March for Nampula 2nd round

The second round of the by-election for mayor of Nampula should be Wednesday 14 March, the National Elections Commission (CNE, Comissão Nacional de Eleições) has proposed to the Council of Ministers, which must make the final decision. Ministers will probably decide on Tuesday, at their regular meeting.

The election must be held within 30 days of 14 February, the day the Constitutional Council validated the results of the first round of the by-election.

Amisse Cololo of Frelimo and Paulo Vahanle of Renamo will contest the elections; they received the largest number of votes but neither gained more than half. The Frelimo candidate gained 44.51% and the Renamo candidate 40.32%.

The campaign will be 10 days, 3-12 March, with no campaigning permitted on 13 March, the day before voting.

20 March. The earlier date causes less disruption to the electoral calendar but registration would start before the announcement of the Nampula result.

Registration will take place in all districts which have one of the 53 municipalities - more than half the country. A majority of CNE members voted against the obvious proposal to delay registration only in Nampula, so it must be delayed in all 53 districts.

The reason to want the delay at least in Nampula is that to vote in the by-election, a person must have a voters card from the 2013/14 elections, and the new voters card would not be valid for the Nampula by-election election.

## Registration to be delayed

The new registration is supposed to start on 1 March and continue for 60 days (to 28 April), but this overlaps with the Nampula by-election, so the CNE has proposed a delay, starting on either 16 or

## IESE report explains low Nampula turnout

Low turnout in Nampula was due to MDM splits, irrelevant campaign messages, and CNE/STAE disorganization, according to a study by Prof. Salvador Forquilha, director of IESE (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos, Social and Economic Studies Institute) published 13 February.

Based on semi-structured interviews and focus groups in Nampula, the study points to three issues which overlapped to discourage voting:

+ Political context: First, the split in the MDM, with the majority backing mayor Amurane but a

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group linked to the national leadership opposing the mayor, clearly weakened the MDM in the election. Second, "In the context of a visible popularity of the mayor, his murder ended up demotivating an important part of local citizens, not only in relation to politics, but also to an eventual election," Forquilha notes.

+ Election campaign. All parties campaigned on the improving rubbish collection. But Forquilha points out that most voters live in suburban neighbourhoods that do not have any rubbish collection, so voters were not interested. Surveys show that their priorities are roads and water,

which were not made campaign issues. It showed the "limited vision" of the candidates.

+ Election management: "Poor functioning and disorganization of the electoral management bodies had an important role in abstention."

The report "Primeira volta da eleição intercalar de Nampula: de novo, a abstenção ganhou" is on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ideias-98-SForquilha.pdf>

IESE has done extensive research on Mozambican elections, and 30 of its reports are available on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/publicacoes-iese-sistema-eleitoral/>