

2014 National Elections

Mozambique political process bulletin

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Election registration opens Thursday

Registration for the 15 October national elections begins Thursday and continues for 15 days. It is estimated that there are 9,144,134 potential voters, in addition to the 3,059,579 who already registered for municipal elections last year and do not need to register again.

In a press conference this morning, the Director-General do STAE (Technical Election Secretariat, Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral), Felisberto Naife, said there would be 4,078 registration brigades and 6,689 registration posts. So far 14,000 registration officials have been trained, with another 12,000 to be hired. In addition, STAE will have 3,500 civic education agents to convince people to register.

For Mozambicans living abroad, there will be a special registration 1-30 March with 72 brigades.

STAE recognises that there will be problems caused both by the military insecurity in some parts of the country, and by the need to carry out the registration during the rainy season. The electoral law set the election for the dry season, in October, and required an electoral register six months before. No one noticed that this forced registration into the rainy season. Heavy rain always cuts off some remote parts of the country, and this year has even been cutting main roads.

Special teams will be sent accommodation centres to register people displaced by war or rain.

Registration teams will be accompanied by police, and by the army in areas where there has been substantial insecurity, such as Homoine district, Inhambane, and Gorongosa district, Sofala.

STAE recognises the problems in the registration last year with printers, toner, and batteries. STAE spokesman Lucas José said all the tests had been done to ensure this does not happen this year, and that all material has now been distributed throughout the country. He notes that this will be the first time that many staff have dealt with this computer system and even after training some may have problems, but there are specialist technical teams in each province to respond to difficulties.

Registration will take place mostly outside municipalities which had elections last year, but there will also be teams there to update the register for those who will be 18 years old on polling day or who have moved. The budget for the entire election of 2.4 billion meticaís (\$80 million) of which 700 million meticaís (\$23 million) is for registration.

Election calendar

National registration: 30 January-14 April

Foreign registration: 1-30 March

Submit candidates: 19 April-21 July

Campaign: 31 August-12 October

No campaigning allowed: 13,14 October

Voting: 15 October

(The full calendar will be posted on our website

<http://www.open.ac.uk/technology/mozambique/2013-local-elections>)

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