

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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With 5 days of registration left

No registration in Gorongosa, as war resumes

The eight registration brigades in Gorongosa remained paralysed as of this morning (Sunday). The brigades are supposed to be registering voters - including Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama - in rural Gorongosa district in areas of military action. But they remain stranded in Gorongosa town.

Meanwhile Renamo has gone back to war with at least two attacks on convoys on the main north-south road on Saturday. It had reduced its military action over the past two months. Renamo spokesman António Muchanga told this *Bulletin* that the army had intensified its movements in the Gorongosa area recently. This, in turn, is denied by the Ministry of Defence.

Muchanga said the impasse between government and Renamo continues. Government and Renamo agreed on 23 April that the Gorongosa brigades would be sent to registration posts without a police escort, and Muchanga claims that Sofala government Félix Paulo will not allow this.

It does not bode well for registration, concludes Muchanga.

New attacks on N1 convoys

Five civilians were injured in at least two attacks by Renamo on the main north-south N1 road yesterday (Saturday). The first two attacks were at two different places on the 100 km stretch of the N1 between Muxungué and the Save River, where traffic has been moving in military convoys since mid-2013. One attack was at Rio Ripembe and the other near the junction with the road to Machanga. These attacks were confirmed by the Sofala police spokesman Daniel Macuácuá, interviewed by Rádio Moçambique, and last night by various TV stations. @Verdade reported a third attack along the road yesterday afternoon.

The attacks came the day after Muchanga on Friday at a press conference threatened that Renamo would renew its attacks on a national scale because the army was increasing troop numbers in at least six locations in Gorongosa district with the intention of "physically annihilating" Renamo president Afonso Dhlakama. Ministry of Defence spokesman Cristóvão Chume told

Notícias (3 May) that "it is not true that we are concentrating military forces in the Gorongosa area to pursue anyone."

MDM accuses police of obstructing signature collection

Police are arresting MDM members collecting nomination signatures for MDM's presidential candidate Daviz Simango, claimed MDM party agent and MP José Manuel de Sousa. Each candidate for president must have 10,000 notarised signatures of registered voters.

de Sousa cited the case of Inhambane on 14 April when two plainclothes police went to the house of the MDM local delegate, José de Araújo, and confiscated two lists of signatures and 20 voter's cards which he had intended to take to the notary for verification.

He said on 12 April three MDM members were arrested as they went to the notary in Namuno, Cabo Delgado. On 21 April four members were arrested as they collected signatures in Ponta-Gea, Beira.

Signatures must be submitted to the Constitutional Council (CC), but de Sousa told AIM that when he complained to the CC they said that since he was making a complaint against the police, he had to go to the Ministry of Interior. But the CC told AIM that de Sousa should go to the National Elections Commission or the Attorney General.

A detailed report on the 2009 elections is available, in two parts, on
<http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-1a> and <http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-2>

The Portuguese edition of the Bulletin is more detailed, and can be read on <http://www.cip.org.mz/election2013/> Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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