

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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Also in this issue: Seats in provincial assemblies, registered parties

Dispute over notarising signatures

Every candidate for President must have 10,000 notarised signatures of proponents. But the method of notarising the signatures has changed, with opposition parties saying the new system works against them. In a comment below, we suggest the change follows a misinterpretation of the law.

The electoral law simply requires "signatures recognised by a notary". The Constitutional Council deals with Presidential candidates, and published a standard form which requires that the notary confirm that they "recognise that the signature is the same as that on the identify card or voters card." (deliberação do n.º1, <http://www.cconstitucional.org.mz/Eleicoes-2014>)

In the past, parties collected the voters cards of the proponents and notaries simply recognised that they were the same signatures as on the forms. But this year the government announced that all 10,000 signatories would have to go to the office and actually sign in the presence of the notary.

This requires much more organising on the part of parties, who now have to get thousands of proponents in person to notaries, instead of just their cards. It is hugely time consuming for the signatories, who must queue for hours. And the notaries objected because they do not have the space and staff to recognise so many signatures individually.

The issue was first raised a month ago when the MDM complained about the new rule. And STV showed long queues waiting outside notary offices.

For Frelimo, with a well-oiled party machine, this has created fewer problems. Last week Filipe Nyusi handed in 20,000 notarised signatures (the maximum allowed - parties always submit more than 10,000 because some are excluded as improper or having signed for more than one candidate). Frelimo spokesperson Damião José told *O País* that "depending on the circumstances we took our supporters to the notary's office or we arranged for an official from the notary's office to come to a place agreed with a group of our proponents."

The Directorate of Notaries and Registrars last week issued a statement saying they did have not the human and technical capacity required, and that they would set up a system outside normal work hours. They asked parties to organise the proponents at locations other than their offices and they would go there and recognise the signatures.

Comment:

Justice Minister Benvinda Levi said last week "that the law is clear and says, rigorously, that the signature must be notarised. And a notarised signature must be done in the presence of the notary, and not simply by saying it is the same as another. The political parties ... know that this is the legal norm. Therefore the Ministry of Justice is not violating any norm."

We disagree. Our reading of the law is that the previous system of recognising signatures is permitted. The Notaries Code (decreto-lei 4/2006, no artigo 153) sets out two ways of recognising signatures. One is signing in the presence of the notary. But the code goes on to say that "if required by law or by request due to special circumstances, signatures can be recognised if the person is known to the notary or can be verified from documents."

The form created by the Constitutional Council (CC) is clearly such a request for special consideration, and states explicitly that it is for comparison of signature with another document, not signing in person. The CC is the highest legal authority and its request should be honoured. **tr**

810 seats in provincial assemblies

The number of seats in provincial assemblies is determined by the number of registered voters in each province. There are 10 provincial assemblies and we calculate that there will be 810 total seats. Maputo city already has a municipal assembly, so it does not have a provincial assembly.

The number of members of provincial assemblies is:

- 50 members if the number of registered voters is less than or equal to 400,000;
- 60 if the number of registered voters is more than 400,000 but less than 500,000;
- 70 if the number of registered voters is more than 500,000 but less than 600,000;
- 80 if the number of registered voters is more than 600,000 but less than 700,000; and
- if the province has more than 700,000 voters, then the number of members is 80 plus one member for each additional 100,000 registered voters.

This gives:

Province	Registered voters	Assembly seats
Maputo Province	746 458	80
Gaza	571 832	70
Inhambane	597 910	70
Sofala	925 903	82
Manica	705 129	80
Tete	940 758	82
Zambézia	1 871 146	91
Nampula	2 090 023	93
Cabo Delgado	939 622	82
Niassa	602 921	80
	9 991 702	810

35 parties and groups registered to participate in 15 October elections

The National Election Commission has accepted 31 political parties, 2 coalitions and 2 citizens' groups to stand in elections. Citizens' groups can only stand for provincial assemblies and not for national parliament. None was rejected.

Pres. = President of Mozambique AR = national parliament, Assembleia da República
PA = provincial assemblies

	Name and abbreviation	Standing for		
		Pres.	AR	PA
1	Partido do Progresso do Povo de Moçambique- PPPM		x	
2	Partido Movimento Nacional para Recuperação da Unidade Moçambicana - MONARUMO		x	x
3	Partido Ecologista Movimento da Terra - PEC-MT		x	x
4	Partido da União para a Reconciliação - PUR		x	
5	Partido Social Liberal e Democrático - SOL		x	x
6	Partido Humanitário de Moçambique - PAHUMO		x	x
7	Partido Movimento Patriótico para a Democracia - MPD		x	x
8	Partido Movimento Democrático de Moçambique - MDM	x	x	x
9	Partido Popular Democrático de Moçambique - PPD		x	x
10	Partido de União para a Mudança - UM		x	x
11	Partido de Renovação Social - PARESO		x	x
12	Partido Resistência Nacional Moçambicana - RENAMO	x	x	x
13	Partido os Verdes de Moçambique - PVM		x	x
14	Partido Trabalhista - PT		x	x
15	Partido Independente de Moçambique - PIMO	x	x	x
16	Partido Frente de Libertação de Moçambique - FRELIMO	x	x	x
17	Partido de Reconciliação Nacional - PARENA		x	x
18	Partido de Solidariedade e Liberdade - PAZS		x	x
19	Partido Social Democrata Independente - PASDI		x	x
20	Partido União dos Democratas de Moçambique - UDM		x	x
21	Partido Nacional de Moçambique - PANAMO		x	x
22	Partido Aliança Independente de Moçambique - ALIMO	x	x	x
23	Partido Nacional de Operários e Camponeses - PANAO		x	x
24	Partido de Liberdade e Desenvolvimento - PLD	x	x	x
25	Partido União Africana para Salvação do Povo de Moçambique - UASP		x	x
26	Partido Movimento da Juventude para Restauração da Democracia - MJRD		x	x
27	Partido Frente Democrática Unida - UDF		x	x
28	Partido de Ampliação Social de Moçambique - PASOMO		x	x
29	Partido Unido de Moçambique da Liberdade Democrática - PUMILD		x	
30	Partido de Reconciliação Democrata Social - PRDS		x	x
31	Coligação de Partidos Políticos União Eleitoral - UE		x	x
32	Partido para a Paz, Democracia e Desenvolvimento/Aliança Democrática - PDD/AD	x	x	x
33	Coligação União Democrática - UD		x	x
34	Grupo de Cidadãos Eleitores Associação Cultural Lhuvuka Arte - ACLA			x
35	Associação Juntos pela Cidade - JPC			x

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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