

2014 National Elections

Mozambique political process bulletin

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\$2.3 mn in state funds for party campaigns

70 million Meticaís (\$2.3 million) of state funds will be allocated to parties and candidates. The money will be divided into three parts: Presidential candidates, national parliament lists, and provincial assembly lists. The distribution of the money will be decided only when the lists are approved and the National Elections Commission (CNE) knows how many candidates there are. This was announced Monday by the CME spokesperson, Paulo Cuínica.

Each candidate for President will receive the same amount of money. For parliament and provincial assemblies, it will be in proportion to the number of people on the candidates lists. This follows a change in the electoral law agreed with Renamo last year; in 2009 money was also given to parties in proportion to the number of members they had in the national parliament, but this was seen to benefit Frelimo and has been stopped.

The money will be split into three parts (tranches): 50%, 25%, 25%. The first 50% will be distributed immediately and the beneficiaries must justify their expenditure every 10 days. The second and third tranches of 25% each are only handed out after the previous expenditure has been accounted for - with original receipts.

Money can be used for electoral publicity, including t-shirts, hats, flags, posters, pamphlets, etc. It can also be used for travel for the campaign.

But the money cannot be used for salaries, food for candidates and party supporters, buying or rehabilitating means of transport and buildings, or for computers, sound equipment, and office furniture and equipment.

Presidential candidates are approved by the Constitutional Council. Parliament lists are approved by the CNE. Registered political parties and coalitions can propose candidates lists for both the national parliament (Assembleia da República, AR) and provincial assemblies, and citizen's lists can propose candidates for provincial assemblies. In the Mozambican list system, for the AR there are lists for each

province, and for provincial assemblies there are lists for each district.

The regulations were approved by the CNE on 9 July. (Deliberação n.º58/CNE/2014 de 9 de Julho). They also require that each presidential candidate and party have a bank account for money to be transferred.

All parties must submit final accounts within 60 days of the proclamation of results. The CNE then has 60 days to audit the accounts and publish them. Any irregularities are notified to the party agent (mandatario) who has 15 days to correct them. If accounts are not submitted, the matter is passed to the attorney general's office for prosecution.

Comment: Public finance of parties in elections has continued since the first election in 1994, and there has been little discussion of this because the parties all agree it is necessary. The criteria for distributing funds is largely set by law.

But the CNE has consistently failed to publish the party accounts, as has always been required by law. In February, the Constitutional Council pointed out that by failing to publish these accounts, it makes other of the CNE's actions illegal. (Acórdão n.º5/CC/2014 de 26 de Fevereiro).

Will the CNE in this election carry out its legal responsibility to publish accounts - and refer to the attorney general those parties and candidates that do not furnish their accounts? *tr*

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

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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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