

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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t **Civility in Quelimane - *not even tearing down posters***

In sharp contrast to the past, there is a positive feel about the Quelimane electoral campaign. Parties are not even vandalising posters of other parties, and some walls have posters of more than one party.

When brigades of different parties meet, both sides are polite. A Frelimo march stopped to create a space to allow a motorcycle with MDM people and flag to pass. Indeed, there is a mutual awareness of non-aggression, and parties have not needed to dodge too far away to avoid a collision.

Only the three main parties - Renamo, Frelimo and Mozambique Democratic Movement (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique, MDM), have been obvious on the streets of Qualimane, with a mix of rallies and door-to-door canvassing.

Calm start to campaign

Quelimane is not an exception, and the reports from our more than 100 journalists are that the first week of the campaign for 15 October elections for President, national parliament, and provincial assemblies has passed largely without incident.

Take down improper posters

In Lalaua district, Nampula, the district elections commission met with MDM party representatives to point out that MDM was putting posters in illegal places, and told it to take them down.

Maputo Province, Xinavane district: Frelimo went to the São União Apostólica de Moçambique church to distribute campaign material and ask people to vote for it.

Manica, Barué: MDM put posters on the Munene primary school, the director Félix Mandui complained..

Chipping in to buy fuel

Only Frelimo seems to be fully resourced and campaigning everywhere. In **Mogovolas, Nampula,**

Renamo has no campaign materials and Renamo members are being asked to give 5 MT (15 US cents) each to buy petrol for the car of one of the members to be used by campaigners. In **Chinde, Zambézia, and Maringué, Sofala**, only Frelimo is campaigning because MDM and Renamo do not yet have campaign materials.

Drunken driving causing road accidents in the campaign

In **Barué, Manica**, a campaign car driven by a drunken driver went off the road, killing one Frelimo supporter. The driver has been detailed in Vanduzi police cells. In **Nacala Porto, Nampula**, on Sunday a car driven at high speed in front of the Frelimo headquarters hit a Frelimo supporter, who was hospitalised. Other Frelimo supporters caught the driver and found an empty beer bottle in the car.

Frelimo continues to use government resources

Our journalists report that Frelimo continues to use state facilities in its campaign, in an explicit violation of the electoral law. In **Tete city** the head of the Frelimo central election team, Margarida Talapa, has been staying in a state guest house, "Casa Bawe" on Av. Eduardo Mondlane near the Praça dos Heróis Moçambicanos.

Use of state cars remains the biggest problem. In **Nacala-Porto, Nampula**, the car with the registration, MNE 62-43, allocated to the district permanent secretary, Pedro Pascoal, has been used since the first day of the campaign, driven by various district government drivers..

In **Angónia, Tete**, a district government black Toyota D4D, ADW 889 MP, was driven by the district administrator in the a Frelimo parade on the first day of the campaign. A white Toyota, EAB 478 MP, belonging to the Instituto de Formação de Professores de Angónia was also in the parade.

In **Nhamatanda, Sofala**, Caetano Benedito, director of district economic services, was seen using a government car, AEG 471 MP, in the Frelimo campaign. While in **Muecate, Nampula**, cars in Frelimo parades had their registration numbers covered, probably to prevent us reporting the use of state cars in the campaign.

A few threats, violence & vandalising posters

Although the campaign has been overwhelming peaceful and lawful, there have been a few problems. For example, in **Inharrime, Inhambane**, at Nhacolola market 3km from the centre of town, a Frelimo supporter known locally as "Matsakiza Povo", tried to stop Renamo campaigners from entering the market (photo on the next page) on the grounds that the Frelimo government had built the market and only it could put posters up there.



In **Mecula, Niassa**, an MDM member is being held in the local jail, allegedly for beating a Frelimo member during the campaign in Lugenda locality, Mecula. In **Muecate, Nampula**, MDM members are accused of beating a man trying to pull down MDM posters.

MDM has made a complaint to local electoral authorities saying that in bairro Kanhanda, **Chibuto, Gaza**, a group of 10 members of the Frelimo women's league, OMM, led by Alda Marquele, tried to block an MDM march and destroyed 20 MDM posters. MDM also complained to election officials that in Uahamuza communal village, Xadrique Lhumaio, local Frelimo party secretary, and Fabião Siteo, a community leader, were caught pulling down MDM and Renamo posters.

In **Nhamatanda, Sofala**, a Frelimo member named António Jornal has been arrested for tearing down MDM posters, while in **Mecanhelas, Niassa** an MDM member has been arrested for pulling down Frelimo posters.

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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