

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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COLLECTIVE ACTION: This newsletter is based on reports from 150 journalists in nearly every district, working together to give the most up to date coverage of the election. We are also working with the Community Radios Forum (FORCOM) and the Human Rights League.

Carimo: violence is "disgraceful"

Violence in Gaza last week was "disgraceful" and party leaders should do more to stop it, CNE president Abdul Carimo said in two statements last week. Frelimo presidential candidate Filipe Nyusi finally responded Friday, calling on Frelimo supporters to show tolerance and saying that violence is the response of the weak, not the strong.

The violence in Gaza was a "disgrace". "This kind of incident stains the entire electoral process. ... These are incidents which should never have happened. This level of violence should never happen again," said the President of the National Elections Commission (Comissão Nacional de Eleições, CNE). He was speaking Wednesday at the opening of a meeting between the CNE, political parties, and police. *O País* noted that Frelimo failed to attend the meeting.

Carimo continued: "We appeal to party leaders to make public appeals to all citizens, not just their supporters and members, to avoid violence".

On Friday Carimo met with diplomats. AIM reports that he told them that the CNE is disappointed "at the level of response from political leaders to our appeals to end violence in the election campaign". He again described the violence as "disgraceful". He noted that the CNE is in contact with all the political parties; he was sure that "the people do not want violence", but politicians had not responded adequately to calls to end violent incidents.

He admitted that the CNE had had not yet set up "conflict prevention panels" it had hoped to establish with representatives of the electoral bodies, of religious and other civil society organisations and of the police.

On Friday there was a partial response from Filipe Nyusi. Speaking in Muanza, Sofala, he called on Frelimo party members not to react to "provocations" and to show tolerance. And in a message that seemed directed at the young men in the Frelimo "shock groups", he said "only those who know that they are weak opt for violence to try and impose themselves against those who will win by the use of reason."

Organised Frelimo group attacked MDM in Chibuto

The attack on MDM supporters in Chibuto Wednesday was of a larger scale and much more organised than the Tuesday violence in Macia, Chokwé, and Xai-Xai, all in Gaza. Up to 300 Frelimo supporters armed with sticks, machetes, stones and bottles arrived in a truck, four pick-up trucks, and three cars at the crossroads of Alto Changani in Chibuto to attack MDM supporters waiting for their presidential candidate Daviz Simango, according to our local correspondents.

Nine people were injured, five Frelimo, three MDM, and one member of the police. One Frelimo member was arrested from tearing MDM pamphlets but has now been released. Our correspondents also accuse the police of being partial, and not defending the MDM from the organised attack.

MDM interrupts official 25 September ceremony

MDM supporters carrying a mock coffin of Frelimo presidential candidate Nyusi and singing anti-Frelimo songs marched into Hero's Square (Praça dos Heróis) in Nampula Thursday during the official ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the start of the independence war and seen as the anniversary of the founding of the armed forces (Forças Armadas de Defesa de Moçambique, FADM).

The entry interrupted the ceremony and also triggered a brawl between Frelimo and MDM supporters, as the Frelimo members tried to pull the pictures of Nyusi off the coffin. The riot police fired tear gas, which ended the ceremony when Nampula governor Cidália Chauque and spectators were forced to flee.

Six people were injured - four MDM, one policeperson, and a child. Three people were arrested on Thursday. But AIM reports today that police illegally arrested seven more of its members Saturday night. According MDM parliamentary candidate Fernando Bismarque, the police arrested the seven in night raids on their homes. He says the police lacked the necessary arrest warrants signed by a judge, and that the law forbids night arrests except when people are caught in the act of committing a crime.

On Friday MDM leader and presidential Candidate Daviz Simango condemned the use of tear gas. Speaking in Maxixe, Inhambane, Simango pointed out that Frelimo members in Chibuto killed a live cockerel in front of MDM members. The MDM symbol is a cockerel, so the symbolism is obvious. He said the prank with the mock coffin was similar to killing the cockerel. In Chibuto, neither police nor MDM reacted.

Nevertheless, the incident does raise questions for MDM. The Nyusi mock coffin was in bad taste and clearly provocative, and Frelimo was likely to react aggressively. And interrupting an important official ceremony on 25 September could disturb some potential MDM voters.

AIM points out the in two other cities with MDM mayors, Quelimane and Beira, both MDM and Frelimo participated in the ceremonies. Both parties distributed leaflets during the ceremonies, but there were no confrontations or interruptions.



The mock coffin after being taken by the police,

Can MPs use their cars in the campaign?

In newsletter 45 under the headline "Renamo also using state cars" we reported members of parliament using their official cars in the campaign in Nacala-Porto. Renamo MP Ivone Soares writes to say that even though the cars retain an official number plate, that MPs actually pay for and own the cars. Thus they are not state cars and can be freely used.

For this Bulletin, the question remains: if a car has an official red registration plate, is it not still a state car and therefore subject to the prohibition on the use of state resources in the campaign? If MPs want to use their cars in the electoral campaign, surely they have to change the registration so that the registration plate is personal and not state?

But Renamo MP Eduardo Namburete writes on Facebook that the ownership of a car can be changed but not the registration plate. The mistake was made by the government in providing the cars with government registrations, and there is nothing that MPs can do about that.

This is Ivone Soares letter:

"Mozambican MPs have rights and responsibilities clearly written in the regulations and the welfare system. We are allowed to purchase a subsidised car for our use; the member of parliament is not lent a car just for official duties. MPs pay the remaining value of the vehicle that the subsidy does not cover. You write that we Renamo deputies are using state vehicles, but that is wrong because they have been sold to us and paid in full.

"I am tired of seeing my car pictured in the press. I paid for that car.

"Thank you, Ivone Soares

Other incidents

Matutuine, Maputo province: A group of women in Frelimo t-shirts interrupted the Renamo campaign and canvassing in Bela Vista market Wednesday morning by chanting and singing, forcing the Renamo campaigners to leave the market.

Bilene, Gaza: A meeting Wednesday morning at the Clube de Bilene at which the Frelimo

campaign head for Gaza, Alberto Vaquina, spoke, paralysed public institutions. District offices, health posts and schools were all closed, and it was claimed that it had been "recommended" to civil servants that they attend.

Mabote, Inhambane: A state car allocated to the District Education service and with the service initials on the side, a white Toyota Hilux registration EAB 459 MP, was seen Thursday morning at the Frelimo headquarters in Mabote, on rua de Benzami, transporting campaign material to Ribve, 150 km away. The car was being driven by Education Director José Chatambwa.

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/> Portuguese Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIP.Eleicoes>
Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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