

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



Number NE-58 15 October 2014 - 17.30

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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública e AWEPA, European Parliamentarians for Africa

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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.

Ballot papers destroyed in Tete

Polling stations in three schools in Tsangano district, Tete, were vandalised and ballot papers burned, allegedly by Renamo members. Voting was cancelled in those polling centres.

Renamo members claim the ballot papers were destroyed because the ballot boxes had been stored in the houses of community leaders and were sent to polling stations already stuffed with votes for Frelimo.

The incidents occurred in primary schools of Chicabula-Diwa, Chiandame and Gumbacere. When the police tried to regain control of Gumbacere school, two people were injured and a gun (AKF) was taken from police and is said to be in the hand of Renamo. Eleven people have been arrested - 5 at Chicabula and 6 at Chiandame.

A similar incident occurred in Tsuende primary school, also in Tsangano district, but close to Malawi and Moatize district.

Renamo is the only party in the elections which maintains an armed force.

Tete bans EU observers

The European Union observer mission has been prohibited from observing in Tete, the head of the EU mission, Judith Sargentini told a press conference today. She said the reason was that the observer credentials did not have a stamp (*carimbo*) from the National Elections Commission (CNE). Paulo Cuinica, CNE spokesman, pointed out that observer credentials do not have stamps and only carry the signature of CNE President Abdul Carimo. But Cuinica complained to AIM that the EU had never notified it about the problem.

Nampula credentials finally issued

Nampula electoral officials finally issued credentials to more than 400 Electoral Observatory people who will conduct the PVT. But credentials were only issued late in the afternoon, and those

assigned to polling stations in remote areas will be unable to reach their assigned polling station.

Voting continues with small queues and some problems

At 13.00, reports from more than 100 correspondents around the country were that most polling stations were functioning normally. Queues were much smaller, typically under 25 voters, but there were a significant number that still had queues of 50 to 100 people.

Polling station opens 7 hours late

A polling station in 12th October primary school in Matacuane, Beira, opened only at 14.30, seven and a half hours late. A polling station in Mungassa primary school, Beira, opened at 13.25, more than six hours late. The reasons for the delay were not reported, but most voters had already gone home and there were few people remaining to vote.

Meanwhile five polling stations at Escola Primária Completa de Mungassa, Beira, one polling station at EPC Massange in Manga-Beira and all of those at Escola Amalcar Cabral in Beira had not opened by mid-afternoon, depriving thousands of people of the right to vote.

Voting starts in Angoche

Voting finally began at Angoche secondary school at 11.00, after the register books were found. The 10 register books had been sent to the Inguri primary school

Were polling stations moved?

Our correspondents have reported a number of cases of polling stations with no voters and voters arriving at a school to find their polling station is not there, even though they had registered at that school. This suggests some polling stations have been moved without informing voters.

In Cuamba, Niassa, two polling stations at EPC de Mutxora and 3 at Escola Secundária de Cuamba had no voters this morning. In Vila Manica the 4th Congress primary school had 7 polling stations with no voters. But at EPC Machava J, voters could not find their at least one polling station, and other examples were reported in the newsletter this morning.

Opposition parties says delegates and polling station agents not accredited - but CNE blames the parties

Renamo and MDM say they have had serious problems getting credentials for their staff members of polling stations (MMVs) and their party delegates in polling stations. Lutero Simango, head of the MDM parliamentary bench, and Antonio Muchanga, spokesman for Renamo presidential candidate Afonso Dhlakama, both say that STAE is not accrediting their people, which means they cannot monitor the election.

Some of the people sent by Renamo for training were not sufficiently literate in Portuguese and dropped out, but Muchanga says new names were submitted and these people have not been given credentials or assigned to polling stations.

Paulo Cuinica, National Elections Commission (CNE) spokesman, blames the parties for turning in

their lists so late. He notes that the law requires party delegate lists to be submitted 20 days before the election, but says that names were still being submitted today, polling day. He said that one reason for the delay in accrediting national observers was that this was stopped to have all staff accrediting party nominees.

Caught with a ballot boxes in Beira

An unidentified person has been arrested in Munhava, Beira after have been caught with six empty ballot boxes. It is said he has claimed to be STAE staff and was distributing material to polling stations. But STAE denies he is their staff.

Other incidents

- In Chanica primary school, Mandimba, Niassa, a person in the queue waiting to vote who began encouraging the queue to vote for Frelimo was attacked by other in the queue. Police had to intervene.
- In Pemba at Cariaco primary school, two polling stations only opened after 13.00
- And in Dondo polling station staff were photographed with bags and backpacks which they are not allowed to have in the polling station.



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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Academic citations: Cite as "2014 National Elections, Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Maputo"
