

# 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.

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## Renamo rejects election results

"Renamo does not recognize these results and demands the cancellation [of the election]. We cannot recognize the results of an election in which there were votes already marked in favour of Frelimo," António Muchanga, spokesman for Renamo president Afonso Dhlakama, told a press conference yesterday. The election is rejected because of the high level of irregularities, including the failure to accredit observers and Renamo party delegates (poll watchers) and Renamo-nominated polling station staff (MMVs).

Muchanga did not say if formal complaints had been made to district courts, and also did not say what action Renamo would take. But Renamo does maintain an armed force which was not demobilised before the election.

Muchanga reported a series of irregularities:

- In Chaudame, Macanga, Tete, the count was not carried out immediately because of the lack of light and the ballot boxes were locked in a warehouse. "Strangely, this morning [Thursday] when the warehouse was opened, it was found that the ballot papers that had been in the ballot boxes had been burned," Muchanga said.
- In polling station 03011001, polling station staff (MMVs) were caught putting extra ballots in the boxes.
- In Tocoeli, Nampula, people voted more than once. A complaint was made but nothing was done.
- In Mussoril, Nampula, and elsewhere, polling stations closed before everyone had voted.
- Voters had been left out of register books in some places. Muchanga said that a new false set of register books had been issued which left out some voters.
- In Maguna, Alto Molocue, Zambézia, some people could not vote because polling stations did not have register books.
- In some places polling station presidents refused to accept Renamo protests.
- In various places people were found with ballot papers already marked for Frelimo. "Who distributed these ballot papers? It is necessary that electoral bodies, first, explain this to us," Muchanga said.

Finally Muchanga cites police action. He said six people had been shot in Sofala - four in Beira and one each in Buzi and Nhamatanda. He also cited the case reported here Wednesday (Bulletin 59) of an MDM supporter in Dondo, Sofala, shot by the police when he claimed he was trying to stop

the introduction of an already stuffed ballot box. "Instead of the police neutralising the person with illegal ballot papers, they shot the whistleblower," Muchanga said.

## Renamo must show proof, says EU

Renamo must show the evidence to justify its claims, EU chief observer Judith Sargentini told a press conference this afternoon. She stressed that it was not for her or the EU to comment on a Mozambican political dispute. But the EU statement says that the electoral laws offer "sufficient framework for democratic elections." And Sargentini added that the laws allow parties to challenge the elections, but they also require proof of irregularities.

### Comment

## Is Renamo denouncing its own people?

All of the STAEs which failed to issue observer, delegate and MMV credentials have a Renamo deputy director and two further staff appointed by Renamo. Each STAE is, in turn, supervised by an election commission with two members nominated by Renamo.

These appointments were agreed in negotiations between government and Renamo in February and quickly approved as law changes by parliament. Government conceded completely and accepted all election law change proposed by Renamo. Two other important changes were made.

- The seven-member polling station staff was to have one member appointed by each of the three main parties, Frelimo, Renamo, and MDM.
- Violations of the electoral law, including ballot box stuffing and the refusal of polling station presidents to accept complaints, were to be dealt with by district courts, and the procedure to make complaints to the courts was simplified.

Thus, where ballot box stuffing has occurred, Renamo should have had both an MMV and a party delegate. Where these credentials were not issued, the local STAE has a Renamo deputy director supervised by an election commission with two Renamo members.

Thus the failure to stop ballot box stuffing is a failure of opposition delegates and MMVs. Where these were not nominated, it is the failure of the party. And where these were not present because credentials were not issued, it was the failure of STAE deputy directors and election commission members from Renamo who were named precisely to watch and prevent such problems occurring.

This does not make irregularities acceptable. But Renamo has always stressed the need for more of its own people in places where they watch the electoral process to prevent cheating. In February, Renamo was allowed to name as many people as it wished. In rejecting the results of this election, Renamo is, in effect, pointing the finger at the people it named to electoral posts to identify and prevent fraud. *jh*

## Child killed by police in Ilha de Moçambique election violence

A 15-year-old boy was shot and killed by the police on voting day, Wednesday, in violence at Jembesse primary school, on the mainland side in Ilha de Moçambique, Nampula. Disturbances started early in the day when Renamo members alleged that there was ballot box stuffing. When the district administrator, district police commander, and mayor were all inside the polling station, demonstrators blocked the road with barriers and by digging trenches, to prevent cars leaving. Eventually police from Nampula intervened, shots were fired, and the young man was killed. The event has been confirmed by our local journalist and by the President of the Human Rights Commission, Custodio Duma.

## EU says orderly vote but unfair campaign

"The general elections were orderly with voters freely exercised their franchise after an unbalanced campaign," said the European Union in its preliminary statement issued this afternoon. The EU and other observer groups no longer use terms like "free and fair", and the EU stresses that with counting still going on it is too early to offer a broader assessment.

On polling day Wednesday, EU observers visited 614 of the more than 17,000 polling stations. It found the conduct of 90% to be good or very good. They found that nearly all polling stations had the polling station staff nominated by the parties - Frelimo 95% of polling stations, Renamo 92%, and MDM 95%. Percentage of party delegates (poll watchers) was somewhat lower: Frelimo 90% of polling stations, Renamo 64% and MDM 66%. (The three main parties have the opportunity to be represented twice in each polling station - with a paid member of staff - MMV - and with a delegate or agent who watches the process.)

There was a problem with credentials in some areas, and EU chief observer Judith Sargentini noted that in some polling stations Frelimo people without credentials gained access to polling stations more easily than others.

The report notes that "violent protests, demonstrations and acts of vandalism left several people injured and led to the destruction of electoral material in the provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, Sofala and Tete."

The CNE was assessed a professional and competent but STAE as too slow.

But the EU is highly critical of the electoral campaign: "During the campaign, Frelimo profited from access to the national governmental administrative structure, mobilizing civil servants to its campaign marches and rallies and eventually using official vehicles, as witnessed by and reported to EU observers, giving the ruling party an unfair advantage over its adversaries and leaving the electoral process far from a level playing field." Also, police were biased in favour of Frelimo.

The EU was highly critical of TVM and *Notícias* but praised Radio Moçambique. On the private media side, STV and O Pais won praise for balance. The law requires balanced coverage by state-owned media - TVM, RM and *Notícias* - during the campaign period. RM was balanced with 41% of air time for Filipe Nyusi, 32% for Daviz Simango, and 27% for Afonso Dhlakama. By contrast TVM gave 64% of its coverage to Nyusi and always opened and closed its election coverage with him; Simango gained 19% of TVM time and Dhlakama 17%. *Notícias* gave 60% of space and the most prominent positions to Nyusi, 23% to Dhlakama, and 17% to Simango.

### More than 264 companies stopped workers voting

At least 264 companies did not give their workers time off to vote Wednesday, in violation of the law, the Ministry of Labour said yesterday. At least 4484 workers were affected. Wednesday was an official holiday, and the law says that in essential sectors, shifts must be rearranged to allow workers time to vote. Reports on social media suggest that the Vale coal mine in Tete was one of the largest companies to refuse to allow workers to vote.

### 43 arrests

There have been 43 arrests in three provinces in connection with the elections, according to AIM, citing police sources: Zambézia 12 (7 in Guruè and 5 in Milange), 21 in Nampula, and 10 in Tete.

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

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