

# Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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## Frelimo sweep confirmed by preliminary results

Preliminary results confirm the high turnouts and Frelimo's sweep of at least 41 of 43 municipalities. Renamo could hold Nacala, but the result was still too close to call on Thursday evening. Results so far for 31 of the 43 municipalities are in the attached file.

In Beira, Daviz Simango has won a huge victory to be re-elected mayor, with nearly 60% of the vote. But it appears that although Frelimo will be the largest party, it will not have a majority in the city assembly. Simango looked to an independent group, the Group for Reflection and Change (GRM), to nominate him for a second term. It seems that many of his voters, rather than vote for Renamo, instead backed the new and relatively unknown independent Group for Democracy in Beira (GDB), which will now hold the balance of power.

In early evening, with 75% of the vote counted, Simango had 54,449 to 36,698 for Lourenço Bulha (Frelimo) and fewer than 2000 for Manuel Pereira (Renamo). With only 50% of the vote tallied, results for assembly were: Frelimo 29,077, Renamo 24,168, GDB 9,972, PIMO 2,206, and PDD 1,623.

Turnout (of results reported so far) has ranged from 31% in Monapo to a high of 74% in Mocimboa da Praia – a place which has consistently had some of the highest election turnouts because results in the past have been close. Average turnout will be around 50%, well above local and national elections in 2003 and 2004.

For the first time the National Election Commission and STAE have been issuing partial and preliminary results; already 29 have been released. Again this year, Radio Mozambique has been doing its own parallel count which has proved highly accurate. This means results are available much more quickly than in the past.

## Well run election

This election has run smoothly. Polling stations have been well organised. The new register books, which even have photos of the voter, seem to have been largely accurate. Reports of partial results have been an important innovation.

Of course there have been problems. Late opening and then slow running of polling stations led to large queues. Campaigning in polling stations and use of state cars seems to have been more common this year. But even the initial violence, already low by global standards, was quickly curbed. And, so far, we have only received tiny and isolated reports of misconduct and possible fraud – in sharp contrast to national elections in 2004.

In subsequent issues of the Bulletin, we will look more closely at observer reports and details of complaints, and issues may emerge. But, so far, it has been a good election.  
Joseph Hanlon

## Invalid votes to all be reconsidered in Maputo

As in the past, all invalid votes (*nulos*) will be reconsidered here in Maputo by the National Elections Commission (CNE). With the high turnout, the CNE will have to look at more than 200,000 ballot papers. In past elections where the votes were very close, decisions on *nulos* could be important. In 2003, the range of votes *nulos* reclassified as valid ranged from 3% in Gurue to 68% in Monapo.

Next year, in national elections, *nulos* will be reconsidered at district level.

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