

2014 National Elections

Mozambique political process bulletin

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PDF version attached

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Final registration reaches 88%

Final registration totals announced Friday show that with the close of registration on 9 May, 7,709,736 potential voters had registered. This is 84.3% of the estimated 9,143,923 people who will be 18 years old by election day on 15 October and were still unregistered.

To this must be added the 3,059,804 voters registered in the municipalities last year, who did not need to register again. Thus 10,697,245 people registered, which is 87.7% of voting age adults. This is below the more than 90% who registered for the 2009 national election. Registration was over 80% in all provinces.

Complete totals are given in the attached pdf version of this newsletter.

Distribution of parliament seats: Nampula gains 4 while Gaza loses 3

In the 250 seat parliament (Assembleia da Republica), two seats are assigned to voters outside Mozambique and the remaining 248 are divided among the 11 provinces in proportion to registered voters. The CNE announced the distribution Friday, and there were some significant changes. Those losing seats were Gaza (-3), Zambezia (-2), Inhambane (-2), and Maputo City (-2). Those gaining were Nampula (+4), Tete (+2), Sofala (+2) and Maputo province (+1).

The CNE also allocated 891 seats in provincial assemblies. The largest provincial parliaments will be Nampula and Zambezia, with 93 and 91 seats respectively, and the smallest will be Gaza and Inhambane with 70 seats each.

The complete table of national seats and changes is in the attached pdf.

CNE gives extra parliament seat

to Sofala instead of Zambezia

The way the election law assigns parliament seats to provinces is mathematically incorrect - and has been in every election law since 1994. The law says that the number of registered voters in Mozambique is to be divided by 248, and then one seat is given to each province for that number of voters. The problem is that the final number of seats assigned that way is rarely 248. This year it is 246.

This problem is well known, and to resolve it, the d'hondt method is used to assign seats to parties after the election, but not to assign seats to provinces before the election. Thus, for each election the CNE must arbitrarily correct the number of seats based on the number of voters.

To get the number up to 248, the CNE gave extra seats to Sofala and Nampula. But if the d'Hondt method had been used, the extra seats would have gone to Zambezia and Nampula.

The arithmetic works this way. Each seat corresponds to 43,134 voters. That gives fractional numbers of seats, which is impossible. Maputo city gets 16.36 seats and Tete gets 21.81 seats. These numbers must be "rounded" to whole numbers, since it is not possible to have one-third of an MP. The agreed rule for "rounding" is if the decimal is .5 or larger, the next whole number is used, and if less than .5, the small whole number is used. So Maputo city gets 16 seats (0.36 is less than 0.5) and Tete 22 (0.81 is more than 0.5). This is what caused the problem. So the CNE said they would assign the two extra seats to the two provinces with the highest decimals less than .5, which turned out to be Sofala, with 21.47 and Nampula with 28.45. This method of assigning the two extra seats was announced by the CNE Friday.

But the election law uses the d'Hondt method for all other calculations, and that system of assigning seats allocates the extra two seats to Zambezia and Nampula.

The comparison table is in the attached pdf.

Comment: In the past, the CNE always made this correction in secret and never explained it. Congratulations to the new more transparent CNE for saying that the change had been made, and explaining how it was done. *jh*

14 political parties already approved to stand

By Friday morning the CNE had approved 14 political parties to stand in the 15 October elections and was reviewing information submitted by five others, including Frelimo, which only submitted its documents on Friday. Renamo and MDM are already OKed. Parties that wish to stand in the elections have until tomorrow, Monday 19 May, to submit their documents, which includes: name, symbol and logo, statutes, certificate of registration with the Justice Ministry, and the identification of a party agent.

Approved parties then must submit their candidates lists between 20 May and 21 July. Each candidate must present a notarised copy of their identify card or birth certificate, evidence of

having registered to vote, a certificate of no criminal record, and a declaration that they want to stand and are eligible.

The 14 parties so far approved are:

1. Partido do Progresso do Povo de Mocambique (PPPM, Progress of Mozambican People) ;
2. Partido Movimento Nacional para a Recuperacao da Unidade Nacional Mocambicana (MONARUMO; National Movement to Rebuild Mozambican National Unity);
3. Partido Ecologista Movimento - Partido da Terra (PEC-MT; Ecologist Movement - Land Party);
4. Partido da Uniao para a Reconciliacao Nacional (PUR; National Reconciliation Union);
5. Partido Social Liberal e Democratico (SOL; Liberal Social and Democratic Party);
6. Partido Humanitario de Mocambique (PAHUMO; Mozambican Humanists);
7. Partido Movimento Patriotico para a Democracia (MPD: Patriotic Movement for Democracy);
8. Partido Movimento Democratico de Mocambique (MDM; Mozambique Democratic Movement);
9. Partido Popular Democratico de Mocambique (PPD; Mozambique Popular Democrats);
10. Partido de Uniao para Mudanca (UM; Union for Change);
11. Partido de Renovacao Social (PARESO; Social Renovation Party)
12. Partido Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana (RENAMO);
13. Partido os Verdes de Mocambique (PVM; Mozambique Greens);
14. Partido Trabalhista (PT; Labour Party).

Five parties have submitted documents and await approval:

Grupo de Cidadãos Eleitores Associação Cultural Lhuvuka Arte (Voters Group of the Cultural Association Lhuvuka Arte);
Partido Independente de Mocambique (PIMO; Mozambique Independent Party);
Coligação de Partidos Políticos Uniao Eleitoral (Electoral Union Coalition);
Coligação para Paz, Democracia e Desenvolvimento/Aliança Democrática (PDD/AD; Coalition for Peace, Democracy and Development and the Democratic Alliance);
Partido Frelimo.

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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/> Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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