

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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Gorongosa registration blocked; government blamed

At 10 am this morning, the last day of registration, the eight brigades which are supposed to be registering voters in the armed conflict parts of Gorongosa district are still sitting in Gorongosa district town. Media and Renamo are now blaming the government for breaking an agreement last Wednesday to allow the registration teams to go into Gorongosa district without the presence of the Mozambican police.

Renamo spokesman Antônio Muchanga in told the *Bulletin* this morning that despite the agreement, local government officials are insisting that the brigades be accompanied by the police. And in a heavy statement which underlined Renamo's highly unusual position as both a political party and an armed force, he stressed that police cannot provide protection because Renamo had even attacked police posts. Without Renamo protection, registration brigades are just "cannon fodder" ("carnes de canhão").

CanalMoz this morning quotes the Renamo-nominated vice president of the National Elections Commission (CNE), Meque Braz, to say that the CNE and STAE had made total arrangements for the eight brigades - security, food, and other logistics - and that six cars with computers, toner, solar panels and the registration teams are now sitting in Nhamatanda, waiting. Braz says they have been stopped by "instructions from higher level", allegedly the governor of Sofala, Félix Paulo.

O País this morning says that to the complete surprise of the electoral authorities, the government has gone back on its agreement of last Wednesday.

Today is the last day of registration and Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama must register if he is to stand for president. The CNE met yesterday to consider Renamo's request to extend the registration period, and says it will issue a statement this afternoon at 14.00 local time. *Diário da Zambézia* reports that the CNE has asked the Council of Ministers (meeting this morning) to allow an extension.

There is total confusion around the whole issue. The CNE at a press conference last week said there were 9 registration brigades involved, while our correspondents in Sofala report that there are only 8. There was shooting between Renamo and government forces in the area Thursday and Friday morning, but no reports of any incidents since then.

If a CNE announcement is made, we will report again this afternoon.

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

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