

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.

Two MDM men released in Nampula; trial delayed

The trial of seven MDM members in Nampula relating to the incidents on 25 September was postponed from today (Monday) until Friday. The two men still being held by police were released on the grounds that they had been held illegally.

The trial was due to begin today in the Nampula city court 2nd section of seven men, two of whom were being held by the police. But when the provincial police failed to present Francisco Adriano in court, the judge and the prosecutor went to the police command. After a meeting of more than an hour, the police agreed to bring Adriano in court.

But since he had not been allowed to see a lawyer since his arrest on 26 September, the judge agreed to postpone the hearing until Friday. The two still being held were then sent to a criminal instruction judge to have their detention regularised, but he released both of them on the grounds that their detention until now was improper.

Meanwhile MDM sources accuse the Criminal Investigation Police (PIC) of a campaign of harassment aimed indirectly at Mahamuno Amurane of MDM, elected mayor of Nampula in December 2013. For the past week PIC has been summoning members of MDM for questioning, including an MDM candidate for parliament and the representative and the mobilising secretary in Nampula city. One person who has been recovering from an accident has been interviewed in hospital and without a lawyer present. Questions tend to be the same, about who ordered young men from MDM to interrupt the ceremony on 25 September with the mock coffin of Frelimo candidate Filipe Nyusi. MDM says PIC is trying to pin the blame on Amurane.

MDM is also concerned that police told the press on 25 September that they had arrested three MDM members, but have consistently refused to identify two of them. MDM says it does not know who they are, and if they are still being held.

MDM has also accused the police of having beaten and whipped some of those arrested.

Printer responsible for stolen ballot papers

The contract with the South Africa company which printed the ballot papers included delivery to provincial capitals, so the company is responsible for resolving problems caused by the theft of the ballot papers in Inchope last week, explained CNE head Abdul Carimo at a press conference Monday.

He explained that the rules set by the National Elections Commission (CNE) were that lorries with ballot papers had to be parked at police stations overnight, but this was not done. As a result, the driver and two police guards are under arrest.

The driver and police were carrying a container of polling station kits, which include ballot papers, to Quelimane. They stopped overnight at the half-way point, the Inchope crossroads in Manica province, on the night of 30 October. When they returned the next morning, they saw the container had been opened and the seal broken, but they continued to Quelimane, where district election officials found that 26 kits for the provincial assembly election had been stolen - 25 for Pebane district and 1 for Namacurra district. The stolen ballot papers have already been found in circulation in Chimoio, Carimo said.

The CNE decided Monday morning to destroy all ballot papers for the provincial assembly in Pebane district and print new ones, with different serial numbers and different colours. There are no problems with those for President and national parliament. With just one kit stolen from Namacurra, it was decided to only replace that provincial assembly kit.

Carimo noted that all containers have a seal which should only be opened on receipt, and that this is the only case in which the seal has been broken in transit.

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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