

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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Frelimo complaint leads to improper arrest of 12 in Beira

Twelve people were arrested in Beira Wednesday 5 June and held overnight after being incorrectly accused by Frelimo party delegates of illegally trying to register to vote.

Sofala police spokesman Mateus Mazive said they were arrested after having been denounced by Frelimo party delegates who said they did not live in Beira. They were released the next day, after the police found they had moved to Beira in December of last year.

All 12 came from Maganja da Costa, Zambézia, but live in Beira. The law says that people should register at the registration post nearest to where they live. These 12 were trying to register in Manga and Macuti, some distance from where they lived. They should not have been arrested, but simply directed to another registration post.

The arrest was widely publicised (Radio Moçambique, Noticias, O Pais) but it appears that there has been no reporting of their release, that the allegations against them were false, and that the police accept that they live in Beira.

Dondo arrests: 8 people have been arrested in Dondo after being denounced by Frelimo registration post delegates. The police declined to say if they are still being held. Frelimo claims they are MDM (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique) supporters living in Beira but trying to register in Dondo.

Opposition could win 4 of 10 new municipalities

Of the 10 new municipalities just approved by parliament, one should be easily won by the opposition and three should be close enough to give the opposition a serious chance. Frelimo should easily win the other six.

Four years after the 2009 national elections, STAE (Electoral Technical Secretariat, Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral) has still not published detailed voting figures. But the figures for 2004 are available. They show that in Nhamatanda sede, Sofala, Armando Guebuza received only 20% of the valid vote. And in three other towns – Mandimba sede (Niassa), Nhamayabue (Tete), and Maganja sede (Zambézia) – Guebuza received less than half the valid votes. Thus in all four the opposition should have a good chance.

In the other six, Guebuza won between 68% and 98% of the vote, suggesting Frelimo should win those towns easily.

The table below gives 2004 presidential election results for the 10 new municipalities:

2004

Municipality		Valid votes	Guebuza votes	Guebuza %
Nhamatanda sede	Sofala	16951	3444	20%
Maganja sede	Zambézia	13085	5510	42%
Nhamayabue	Tete	22530	9801	44%
Mandimba sede	Niassa	7773	3671	47%
Sussendenga sede	Mancia	7593	5130	68%
Malema vila	Nampula	3307	2340	71%
Chiure velho	Cabo Delgado	4900	3575	73%
Quissico sede	Inhambane	3600	3159	88%
Boane sede	Maputo	12448	10970	88%
Praia de Bilene	Gaza	2884	2813	98%

STAE clarifies which documents can be used

Due to continued problems of which identification documents can be used for electoral registration, STAE on 3 June issued new instructions to provincial STAEs and registration brigades saying that old voter's registration cards, old identity cards, birth certificates, and birth record documents must all be accepted as adequate identification of anyone who wants to register.

There is an entirely new registration, so people cannot use their old voter's cards to vote, but they can use them to register and obtain new voter's cards.

STAE also noted that the law allows people without documents to be registered if they are identified by people of recognised integrity, and that this includes religious and traditional leaders.

To solve the problem of old style identity cards not being accepted by the computer system because they have fewer numbers than the current ones, the instruction makes the obvious point that they can simply be listed in the "other" section of the form.

- Zambézia Provincial STAE director Regina Joyce noted that before the instruction, they had indeed been refusing to accept old voter's cards, but had been accepting the other documents.

Equipment problems continue in Nampula

Continued problems with lack of electricity and equipment breakdowns are still delaying registration in Nampula city, admits Joaquim Venla, provincial director of STAE. Only 3700 voters have been registered, much less than in many smaller cities. Some registration posts in peripheral areas of Nampula city continue with computer failures, causing frequent closures. For example the

post a primary school Maria da Luz Guebuza has been closed for three days. In some registration posts processing has been very slow, leading to long queues.

More than 200,000 registered

More than 200,000 voters have already been registered, STAE director-general Felizberto Naife said on Friday. It is expected that 3.5 million will register in the 43 old municipalities. (Thus 6% of expected voters have registered.)

Zambézia has registered 18,000 voters of 380,000 expected in five municipalities – 5%. Quelimane has registered 11,500 of 120,000 expected – 10%.

Inhambane city has registered 8007 voters out of 41,505 expected – 20%, one of the highest registration rates reported. There are 4,153 men and only 3,854 women, so civic education brigades are going to target markets to try to persuade more women to register.

Pemba has registered 7,753 of 94,807 voters expected – 8%. Pemba has 10 fixed registration posts and 4 mobile brigades serving 8 registration posts. But our correspondent found that the registration is slow and that there are long queues.

Cuamba has registered 2,500 voters of 56,038 expected at 12 registration points – 6%. Again our correspondent found processing very slow, with some posts taking up to seven minutes for each voter.

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