

2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

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From today: new printers for all registration teams

All printers to produce voter's cards are being replaced, starting today. At least 750 new printers are being imported from South Africa, STAE director Felisberto Naife told a press conference this morning.

Naife said that the company which won the tender for the registration package was responsible and was bringing in the new printers at its cost. The new printers will use the ink (toner) which has already been imported. The tender was won by the Mozambican company Artes Gráfica, part of Grupo Académica, with the South African company Lithotech.

Registration began Saturday 25 May, but then stopped in many places and failed to even start in others. The STAE director said that there have been relatively few problems with the computers themselves, and that the big problem was the incompatible printers.

Naife also blamed the very rushed process that was caused by the delay in approving a final version of the election law until late February. The tender required 30 days, which left little time for equipment delivery and training. In particular, Naife said there was insufficient time for a pilot census which would have shown any the equipment problems.

He also accepted that many brigade members had little experience with the equipment and started very slowly, but that as they register more people they are becoming faster.

There are currently 769 registration brigades.

On other issues, Naife said:

- the National Elections Commission is meeting today to consider a timetable for registration in the 10 new municipalities. It will require setting up STAE at the municipal level and recruiting and training registration teams.
- Voters are expected to register where they are normally resident, and this may be different from the address on their identity card. Even if it is, the registration brigades cannot demand another document to show residence.
- Students are to register at the same time as everyone else, and STAE Inhambane has reminded registration teams of this, after a Vilankulo team refused to register students.

- This is a total new registration. People with older voter's cards must register again. This year the registration will be only in the 53 municipalities, and next year in the entire country. Any Mozambican who will be 18 on polling day, 20 November, and lives in a municipality, can register.

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