2013 Local Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga News editor: Fatima Mimbire Reporter: Anchieta Maquitela

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CNE annuls Quelimane ruling on Araújo pictures

A ruling by the Quelimane city election commission that posters with photos of MDC mayor Manuel de Araújo must be be taken down has been annulled by the National Elections Commission (Comissão Nacional de Eleições, CNE) on 14 August.

Pictures of the mayor were included in posters to welcome President Armando Guebuza to Quelimane on a recent visit. Quelimane election commission ruled this was improper campaigning and that the posters should be removed. The decision was controversial because no election commission has ever required Frelimo posters to be removed, and because Araújo is not yet even officially a candidate.

Quelimane municipality appealed, and CNE cancelled the Quelimane decision. CNE spokesman João Beirão said the CNE found no connection between the visit of the President to Quelimane and the 20 November local elections.

Tender for election materials

A tender for all new voting material was launched at the beginning of August by the Election Secretariat (STAE, Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral). STAE spokesman Lucas José said none of the material from past elections could be used because it all had a life of less than five years. For example, the clear plastic voting boxes only last five years.

Coalition excluded

The only coalition initially approved to stand in local elections on 20 November has now been excluded because it did not complete the complex registration process.

The coalition was between Movimento Patriótico para a Democracia (MPD) and Partido Ecologista – Patriotic Movement for Democracy and the Ecologist Party.

Article 20 of the local elections law (7/2013) requires the two parties to submit minutes of the meeting or other evidence that the two parties have agreed the coalition. That was done and the coalition accepted.

But article 162 then requires another step. Before the first day of registration of candidates (7 August), the coalition also has to publish a statement in Boletim da República, which they failed to do - leading to the exclusion of the coalition.

However, to stand as a coalition, the two parties had to be accepted individually, so they can now put forward candidates separately if they wish.

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web: bit.ly/MozEl13 CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública, Rua Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (ex-Pereira do Lago), 354, r/c (CP 3266) Maputo www.cip.org.mz cip@cip.org.mz Tel: +258 21 492 335, 823 016 391, 843 890 584 AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians with Africa, Rua Licenciado Coutinho 77 (CP 2648) Maputo awepa@awepa.org.mz Tel: +258 21 418 603, 21 418 608, 21 418 626

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