

# 2014 National Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin



Number NE-47 24 September 2014

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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública e AWEPA, European Parliamentarians for Africa

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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.

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## Daviz Simango entourage attacked Tuesday & Wednesday in Gaza

The MDM election campaign entourage with its presidential candidate Daviz Simango was attacked in Chibuto Wednesday and in Xai-Xai, Chokwé and Macia in Tuesday. All are in Gaza province, which has become a major problem area in this election campaign. MDM hopes to make inroads into what has been the only province without opposition MPs, but where local elections showed growing discontent. And there has been a macho response, that the opposition cannot be allowed to enter.

The attacks were by people carrying Frelimo banners and wearing Frelimo t-shirts, and were directed at stopping the MDM cars. Police largely did not intervene.

Simango and his campaign cars arrived in Chibuto at noon Wednesday. In front to the central market they were stopped by Frelimo supporters, who threw stones and bottles at MDM supporters. The resulting brawl lasted an hour and our correspondents report 9 people injured - 3 MDM, 5 Frelimo and 1 police. Our local journalists report that although there were 10 police accompanying Simango and four local police, they did not intervene. No arrests were made and the police declined to make any comments to our journalists.

### And on Tuesday

Similar violence and attempts to stop Simango were noted in three Gaza cities on Tuesday.

**Macia:** When the Simango entourage arrived they were intercepted by Frelimo supporters armed with stones, sticks and machetes (catanas), resulting in a brawl. The police present did not intervene, and police told AIM that they only saw this as “normal in moments of campaigning”. The violence stopped only when Simango’s personal security guards fired eight rifle shots into the air at about 16.30 and dispersed the crowd. The police blame MDM (see below) and report four injured (2 Frelimo and 2 MDM) of whom two are seriously hurt, and damage to four cars.

**Chokwé:** In Lionde locality and in the town of Chokwé Daviz Simango's cars were attacked and

blocked, and police did not intervene. Police report four people lightly injured and four cars damaged. AIM reports shots fired in the air here as well.

**Xai-Xai:** When Simango arrived at the Limpopo River bridge to cross to Xai-Xai, his party was stopped for two hours, supposedly to check the guns of his guards. During the period, Frelimo supporters attacked the MDM supporters with the presidential candidate. According to AIM, police demanded that Simango's bodyguard be disarmed, and Simango refused. After two hours, the police backed down and Simango and his armed guards were allowed to cross the river and proceed to the house in Xai-Xai where he was due to spend the night.

## Police blame MDM

Gaza police spokesman Jeremias Langa blamed the MDM for the incidents, but he said the police were trying to find the perpetrators of these electoral crimes.

**Macia:** "The responsibility for the skirmish in Macia was the responsibility of MDM. They told the police they were arriving at 10 am and we were there at 8.30 and waiting until 14.00. As no one had told us anything, we left." Simango arrived only after 16.00.

**Xai-Xai:** "It is not true that the police tried to stop the MDM candidate entering Xai-Xai," said Langa. The police heard about the shots fired in Macia and simply wanted to check the legality of the weapons, Langa said.

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## Power and politics remain male, warns new book

39% of the members of the Mozambican parliament are women, which is one of the highest rates in the world. But it has not changed politics, which remains male-dominated and ignores women and women's issues, according to a new book published by WLSA Moçambique. *Eleições Autárquicas de 2013 - Participação e representação de mulheres e homens* is a study of the municipal elections in Beira, Dondo, Manhiça and Maputo by Conceição Osório and Ernesto Macuácuca. (In Portuguese only.)

Of the 53 presidents of the new municipal assemblies, 18 (34%) are women, but only 5 (9%) of mayors are women. All are Frelimo; MDM does not have a female president or mayor in the four cities it controls.

The book notes that women seem unable to influence policies of parties and that parties do not see the need to give a prominent position to women's issues. In the municipal election campaign, "the rights of women and the improvement of their living conditions (for example informal markets, transport, sanitation, and combatting criminality) are never referred to as issues affecting the average women. In the same way, women are not protagonists in the narratives produced during the campaign, and remain simply in supporting roles as singers and dancers, capturing the votes of men who are the only protagonists in the election.

In passing, the book points out that the proposal for the revision of the penal code submitted to parliament last year "was a serious attack on the rights of women and children", which required a major civil society intervention to correct. If the 39% of women in parliament had had any power or influence, this proposal would never have been presented in that form.

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**A detailed report on the 2009 elections is available, in two parts, on**  
<http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-1a> and <http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-2>

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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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**Published by CIP and AWEPA**

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**Academic citations:** Cite as "2014 National Elections, Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Maputo"

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