

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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Only 3 presidential candidates accepted Constitutional Council rejects 8

Only the candidates of the three main parties will stand for president. None of the 8 independent and small party candidates were able to provide the required 10,000 nomination signatures. One candidate, Miguel Rafael Simbine Mabote of the Workers Party (PT), came very close, with 9,796 signatures. Raúl Manuel Domingos came next with 8,150 valid signatures.

The Constitutional Council (CC) in its 5 August decision was harshly critical of several candidates who submitted signatures which were manifestly false, either because they were written in numerical order and obviously simply copied out of registration lists, or where many signatures were clearly in the same handwriting. Nomination signatures must be signed in the presence of a notary and the CC points out that notaries had approved signatures which were "flagrantly falsified." It noted that this practice had been criticised by the CC when signatures were rejected before the 2009 presidential election.

Parties were allowed to submit up to 20,000 signatures, and the three main parties submitted more than 19,000 each. The CC immediately excluded signatures which were not notarised.

The CC did two computerised checks on the nomination signatures. First it checked that the registration numbers were possible numbers, and more than 20,000 signatures were rejected for invalid numbers. Even Frelimo had this problem; 2,732 signatures with invalid or incorrect numbers were rejected. Second, voters can only sign the nomination papers for one candidate, and nomination papers were checked to exclude those who signed more than once. Nomination papers were considered in the order submitted, and the first time a voter signed was accepted.

For Miguel Mabote, for example, 2,247 signatures were not notarised, 1,587 voters had signed his nomination papers twice, 503 had signed other candidate's nomination papers, and 585 had invalid or incorrect voters' numbers - just enough to push him under 10,000.

The Constitutional Council has published detailed tables on its website:

<http://cconstitucional.org.mz/Eleicoes-2014>. These are annexes to Acórdão 9/CC/2014 de 5 de Agosto.

Under the revised electoral law, the 8 candidates were all given an extra week to find new signatures and submit them. Three did not bother: Caetano Sabile, Eduardo Pintane and Manuel Carlos Dias dos Santos Pinto Júnior. João Pedro Massango, Jacob Neves Salomão Sibindy,

Cornélio Quivela, Miguel Rafael Simbine Mabote and Raúl Manuel Domingos submitted extra signatures, but they were not enough.

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/> Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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