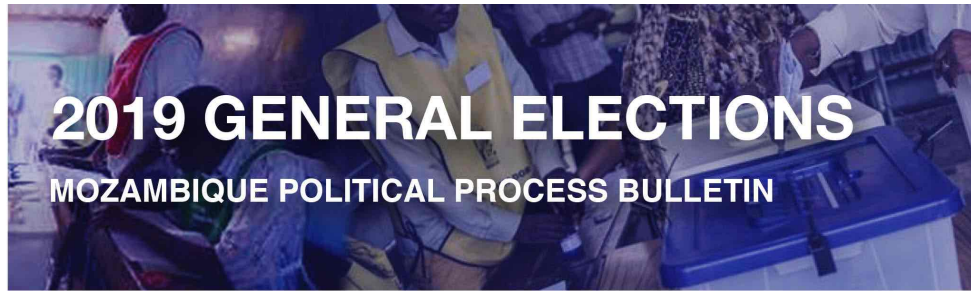




CENTRO DE INTEGRIDADE PÚBLICA
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2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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Number 17-18 - 5 May 2019

Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública (Public Integrity Centre),
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Attacks near Macoma Friday; registration post sacked

Insurgents made several attacks on villages around Macomia, Cabo Delgado, on Friday. At least six people have been killed. One attack was on the village of Nacate, on the main road south from Macomia to Pemba. The registration post was vandalised but the brigade members fled and were not hurt.

Details are still unclear, but there appear to have been several raids around Macomia in which at least 6 people were killed and houses were burned. It is suggested that the insurgents wanted to take food that had just been delivered for Cyclone Kenneth victims by aid agencies. But the raids may also have been a response to the visit to Macomia two days earlier of President Filipe Nyusi, as part of his tour of cyclone hit areas.

Registration problems continue; 9% of posts not open

A survey of registration posts on the May Day holiday (1 May) showed continued problems with equipment. Our correspondents went to 208 registration posts outside the cyclone affected areas. They found 19 (9%) were not open. The main reasons were the continuing ones of the registration kit (mobile ID) or the printer not working or a lack of toner for the printer. Another 10% of posts reported similar problems but were able to continue operating. Some were registering people but not printing the voters cards.

As expected, registration levels are low in districts that had registration last year. But turnout has been high in many areas, with 7% of posts having registered more than 1750 people since 15 April. The highest was 2647 in Lugela, Zambézia.

Turnout has been highest in Nampula, Zambézia, Tete, Manica and Inhambane, where there were queues of 30 to 150 people at 25% of polling stations. The post at EP2 de Nova Mambone, Inhambane, had registered 1848 people and had a queue of 60 when our correspondent

visited Wednesday. At EPC Guro Sede in Manica the brigade had already registered 2454 people and there were 47 in the queue.

The survey also showed the difference in training, with some brigades registering people much more quickly than others. Of two brigades in Vanduzi, Manica, the one at Lore primary school had registered 1430 people since 15 April and had no queue, but the one at Chimuanandimai primary school had only registered 1343 and had 56 people waiting.

Cyclone Kenneth could force registration extension

Registration has been completely stopped in many districts of Cabo Delgado for the past week, including Ibo, Quissanga, Macomia, Mocímboa da Praia, Muidumbe, Palma, Mecufi, and Metuge as well as parts of Pemba. Even where posts have reopened, few people are registering due to the rain and because food and housing are higher priorities. This could lead electoral authorities to extend registration beyond the 30 May deadline.

In the first week Cabo Delgado registered 20,346 people per day; in week two it was 11,566; and in the first three days of last week it was down to 8,359 per day. STAE aims to register 640,000 people in Cabo Delgado, but 200,000 are directly affected by the cyclone and floods, according to the National Disaster Institute (INGC). Of these, about 20,000 are in 38 accommodation centres set up in nine districts and city of Pemba.

As the post-Idai experience of Sofala shows, re-establishing communities' lives to allow post-cyclone registration can take more than a month. This would mean that until 30 May, the last day of

the census, there would still be no conditions to fully register people in places like Ibo, Quissanga, Macomia, Mecufi and even parts of Pemba.

Speaking on STV, STAE spokesman Cláudio Langa admitted the difficulty of registering people in some areas severely affected by the cyclone in Cabo Delgado. Guilherme Mbilana, representing a large group of civil society organizations working on election observation and Borges Nhamire, representing this Bulletin, agreed that extending the census period could be an alternative to Cabo Delgado.

Did 126,000 people register in Gaza in 3 days?

STAE unexpectedly released registration data through 1 May (17 days), which showed a sharp increase in registration over the previous numbers through 28 April (14 days). Comparing the two suggests that 126,000 people registered in Gaza in just three days last week, and 59,000 registered in Zambézia. These had been the two provinces with the lowest registration.

Was the issue simply that election officials were not reporting their numbers, or has something else happened? Rural Gaza has historically been an area of ballot box stuffing in favour of Frelimo, so Frelimo would want as many registered voters as possible. Also, migration to Maputo and Matola will reduce the voting population, so there may be pressure to inflate the list to increase the number of members of parliament.

The prediction of the number of voting age adults is based on last year's census. The registration lasts for 46 days, so the target each day is to register 2.17% of people each day. After 14 days the target is 30.43% and after 17 days is 36.96%. Even with the huge jump, registration is still well below the target - 29.10% compared to the target of 36.96%.

Sofala remains the lowest province, with just 20.83%, because of cyclone Idai. Zambézia is very low, at just 22.87% as is Nampula at 25.93%. This is particularly surprising because our correspondents report long queues at some registration posts. Maputo province (25.69%) and Maputo city (22.27%) are also low. but there was an extensive registration last year, so the total number of registered voters is actually quite high.

Manica has the highest registration rate (42.04%), followed by Gaza with its huge jump to 39.39%, and Cabo Delgado (38.57%) which was largely due to a huge turnout in the first week, before cyclone Kenneth.

In the 2014 Presidential election, Afonso Dhlakama won majorities in two provinces, Sofala (56%) and Zambézia (53%) and had the highest vote in three other provinces, Tete and Nampula with just under 50%, and Manica (48%). Three of those provinces are significantly below average in registration: Sofala (21%), Zambézia (23%), and Nampula (26%). Filipe Nyusi's highest percentages in 2014 were in Gaza (94%), Cabo Delgado (78%), and Inhambane (76%) which are three of the top four provinces for registration this year.

In 2014 Manica had the closest Presidential race of any province - with 48.4% for Dhlakama and 47.8% for Nyusi - and this year it has the highest registration rate.

The full results for the 2014 general elections are available on <http://bit.ly/GenEI-2014>

Based on the census last year, it is estimated that the number of voting age adults in October will be 14 166 318. Last year, 6 824 582 people registered in districts that had municipal elections.

They do not need to register again, which means the target for the current registration campaign is

the remaining 7 341 735 un-registered voting age adults

Registration totals as reported by STAE

Province	Expected 2019	15-28 April 2019		15 April - 1 May		Increase in registration
		Total registered	%	Total registered	%	
Niassa	476 502	111 099	23.32	128 653	27.00	17 554
Cabo Delgado	644 021	223 291	34.67	248 367	38.57	25 076
Nampula	1 702 141	373 483	21.94	441 285	25.93	67 802
Zambézia	1 144 641	202 591	17.70	261 799	22.87	59 208
Tete	785 444	191 289	24.35	224 772	28.62	33 483
Manica	452 402	146 359	32.35	190 171	42.04	43 812
Sofala	521 951	100 106	19.18	108 741	20.83	8 635
Inhambane	478 026	142 928	29.90	166 182	34.76	23 254
Gaza	575.055	100 751	17.52	226 542	39.39	125 791
Maputo Prov	440 901	91 868	20.84	113 251	25.69	21 383
Maputo Cidade	120 655	22 601	18.73	26 876	22.27	4 275
TOTAL	7 341 735	1 706 362	23.24	2 136 657	29.10	430 295

Is low registration in Zambézia due to STAE?

Zambézia has shown high support for the opposition in past elections, yet it has long queues and low registration. It is also the province in which our correspondents have reported the most registration posts with problems.

The biggest problem is the lack of solar panels, generators, or other means to charge the batteries of the registration kit, known as the Mobile ID.

In Quelimane, registration posts in Maquival and Madal have been closed for more than a week because batteries cannot be recharged. STAE told this Bulletin that it this is due to a lack of solar panels.

In Milange district, the post at Ponderane has not functioned since the first day, because batteries cannot be recharged. EPC de Marresso later closed for the same reason. Dozens of would-be voters went home without registering; registration brigade members said they had informed the local STAE but had no response. In Alto Molocué the post at EPC de Nimala has not functioned since the first day, 15 April, because the generator does not work. In Mocuba posts at EPC de Chingoma and Cubeliua have been closed for a week due to lack of generators.

Mobile IDs have broken down, closing the post at EPC de Coalane in Quelimane for all of last week. In Inhassunge at EPC de Iluane in Caocha the mobile ID did not work for a week, but has now been repaired.

In Gurué at EPC Invacula, 18 people were registered on the first day, but none since because of a lack of materials such as forms. Post supervisor David Murupa said STAE has been informed and there is nothing they can do but wait.

Fake news checking: Renamo distorts registration problems

In a press conference on 24 April, Renamo election agent Andre Majibire called for the dismissal of the head of STAE because of the seriousness of the problems with registration. (Majibire was named Renamo Secretary General on 29 April). As we have reported, there have been major problems with registration. But we asked our correspondents across the country to check on Majibire's claims, and many of them were exaggerated.

+ "In Mocuba district with about 40 registration posts, only 18 are functioning, with many problems," Magibire said.

- Mocumba district has 70 posts of which 13 are in Mocuba municipality. Our correspondents could only identify five posts with problems: Chingoma, EPC de Cubeliua, EPC de Viriela, EPC de Raraga and EPC de Ceta.

+ "In Maroeira administrative post, Marávia district, the district administrator is taking voters cards from people who have registered on suspicion that they are foreigners."

- The Bulletin confirmed this. A community leader in Maroeira helped three people to register - which is allowed if the community leader says they

know people and they are local - but in fact they were Zambians. This was reported to STAE by the local population; STAE informed the district administrator who took the cards and referred the incident to the courts.

+ *"In Macanga district in Cassupe and Nhamadende villages in the zone of Ndaula, which is on the border with Malawi, community leaders in coordination with the police are sending away people with 2014 registration cards claiming they are Malawian. In the same district, in the Chizoromondo administrative post, community leaders are turning away people thought to be Renamo members."*

- The Bulletin confirmed that in all posts in Macanga, in coordination with district officials, community leaders are working with registration brigades to identify Malawians who are working as

peasant farmers in Mozambique but who cannot vote. In Cambedzo this was contested by Renamo, and the community leaders were asked to leave. [Formal recognition of community leaders is done by the government, leading to the allegation that most official community leaders are linked to Frelimo.]

+ *A similar claim is made about Zambue administrative post, on the border with Zambia.*

- Our correspondents could find only a single case at EP1 de Zambue, where a Zambian married to a Mozambican tried to register in order to obtain a Mozambican document. [Traditionally it is Renamo which complains that Frelimo is registering foreigners. But there is a real problem that colonial boundaries divided communities, and often are not recognised on the ground.]

Provincial elections commissions delay observer credentials

There is no document or directive that sets out how domestic observers are to obtain credentials. Each province seems to have set up its own system and there are delays. Some observers have had to use credentials emitted by their civil society organisation, but these have not been recognised and at least a dozen observers have been arrested or detained by the police for taking pictures inside registration posts without official credentials - which are not being issued.

CIP submitted its applications for bulletin correspondents to the Gaza Provincial Elections Commission (CPE) on 22 April, and they were received by Atalia Macamo, but 10 days later there has been no response. In Maputo province, the CPE is demanding a photocopy of the person's voters card, which is not in the law, and this province seems to be the only one making the demand.

"In Nampula, observers in almost all districts are prevented from monitoring the voter registration, allegedly because the credentials [issued by the CPE] on A4 paper were not valid ... In Zambézia province, the interpretation of the process was contrary to that made in Nampula on the same subject. In Inhasunge, for example, an observer was detained because he had a badge and not an A4 paper," writes Domingos do Rosario, of the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa in its 29 April newsletter.

<https://www.eisa.org.za/pdf/moz2019review2.pdf>

This problem will not be resolved without a strong statement from the National Elections Commission.

Not just equipment failures

Registration problems are not just electricity and equipment, but in a few cases brigade members and the police assigned to provide security at each post.

In Dondo there has been no registration at EPC 25 de Setembro for a week because the Mobile ID was stolen, along with the data on the 250 people already registered. The brigade says the computer was stolen in the early morning of 25 April, when the police agent was not there. "When the agent returned, there was no equipment at the station," one of the brigade members said. STAE Sofala provincial director Jorge Donquene confirmed this happened and revealed that the material has already been recovered, although the Mobile ID has been damaged. Donquene assured the Bulletin that the agency will allocate a new Mobile ID to the station. However, so far, no equipment has been allocated to that station.

In Nhamatanda district, two brigade members, one of whom was the supervisor, left the post at EPC Chirassicua on Monday morning allegedly to attend a party meeting. A queue of about 70 voters was taken care of by the single remaining brigade member, reports our correspondent.

Free on-line election courses

The Votar Moçambique coalition has launched the first of its MOOCs (Massive On-line Open Course) providing basic training on electoral issues. The courses are free and open to ordinary citizens, political parties, and observers.

The three courses will be on Registration, Observation, and Electoral Conflicts. So far, only the first three modules of the Registration course is on-line, on mobilize.org.mz

Votar Mocambique is a coalition of civil society organisations, including Fundação Mecanismo de Apoio a Sociedade Civil (MASC), Centro de Integridade Pública (CIP), Instituto de Estudos e Sociais e Económicos (IESE), Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil (CESC), Fórum Nacional das Rádios Comunitárias (Forcom) and Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust (WLSA).



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Partners:



EMBAIXADA DA NORUEGA

Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública (Public Integrity Centre),
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Detailed coverage 2019 national elections is again being provided by the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, which has covered all of Mozambique's multi-party elections. We will have a large team of local journalists throughout the country, ensuring that our reports are accurate and verified.

The elections newsletter is also in Portuguese; para subscrever <http://eepurl.com/gnZXPz>

The newsletters covering the 2018 local elections are on <http://bit.ly/LocEI2018>

Newsletters from 2013 local elections and 2014 national elections are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

There are two archives of historic elections data, at IESE on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/eleicoes-resultados/> and at London School of Economics on <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

2019 General Elections is part of the Votar Moçambique programme



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Programa de OP - IESE - FORCOM - MASC - CIP - CESC

Programme financed by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Embaixada da Suíça em Moçambique

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