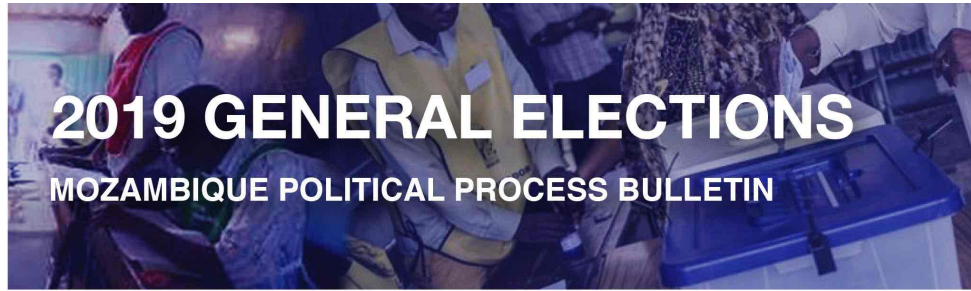




CENTRO DE INTEGRIDADE PÚBLICA
Anticorrupção - Transparência - Integridade



2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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Registration rate falling with only 4 days to go

Registration ends Thursday 30 May, and with only four days to go, the registration rate is falling. At that rate, only 80% of the target will be registered this year.

In the first 39 days (up to and including 23 May) 5,060,801, 68,93% of the target of 7.341.739 voters, according to the election technical secretariat (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, STAE) Friday. But the registration rate is falling. In the first 39 days the rate was 131,153 voters per day, but in the most recent four days, it was down to 117,614 per day. At that lower rate, the final registration will only be 80% of target.

Gaza (91%), Cabo Delgado (89%), Zambézia (82%) have the highest registration rates and Maputo city (47%), Niassa (51%) and Sofala (56%) the lowest. Nampula (63%), Tete (61%), Inhambane (63%) and Maputo Province (51%) are also below average.

The very high registration rates in the Frelimo strongholds of Gaza and Cabo Delgado suggest they could gain 12 additional parliamentary seats.

All brigades working, but not all posts open

"All 5096 registration brigades are working" said STAE in its Friday statement. But this does not mean that all registration posts have opened,

News from other observers

ADS: Fraud behind Gaza high registration

Gaza has the highest registration levels but it is based on registering children and foreigners, according to observers from ADS (Development and Society Association, Associação

notably in Cabo Delgado, which has been hit by an insurgency and Cyclone Kenneth. Of the registration brigades, 2000 are mobile, serving more than one registration post. So the brigades may be working, even though some posts have never opened or are not functioning, our correspondents report.

Registration has not yet started in Megoanhane village in **Chiúre**, Cabo Delgado, because it is impossible to cross the Nipuiti river to reach the village. Because of heavy rain from Kenneth, the river is still flooded. The mobile brigade sent to that village was evacuated before the cyclone, local STAE director Belito Daudó told our correspondent. He added that he still hoped to get a mobile brigade across the river.

Also in Chiúre, brigades based in Muetero and Halaca villages are working but have been unable to register voters since Wednesday because they have run out of fuel for their generators.

On the other hand, the mobile brigade in Savanuni, also in Chiúre, has only registered 21 voters and no one has come to register for the past five days.

Desenvolvimento e Sociedade), part of the civil society observation platform. ADS published copies of documents, including children's identity cards altered to make them older, and voters cards from Zimbabweans who had registered in the border town of Chicualacuala.

ADS says that these people are registered using the system for people with no identity documents, in which an official community leader or a neighbourhood secretary goes to the registration brigade and identifies the person as a known resident who is a Mozambican of voting age. Thus the children and foreigners are brought by these local officials, who say they have no identification documents, but qualify.

<http://www.adsmoz.org/eleicoes/index.php/regiao-sul/71-zimbabweanos-recenseiam-se-em-chicualacuala>

Gaza is overwhelmingly Frelimo, so its local officials also are. In past elections, there has been significant ballot box stuffing in Gaza. Inflated registration will could make it easier to inflate the Frelimo vote for President as well as increasing Frelimo seats in parliament.

Sala da Paz: 5 Gurué electoral registers lost

Gurué is a heavily contested municipality in Zambézia, and 5 register books with 4,000 voters from the 2018 election at EPC Contap have been lost, according to Fernanda Lobato, spokesperson for Sala da Paz (Peace Room). Registrations from last year's municipal elections are valid this year,

[And from our correspondents](#)

Frelimo forcing special teachers registration

Our correspondents have confirmed audios circulating on social media that Frelimo in some areas is forcing civil servants to register at a specific place and then hand in their voters cards to party officials. Teachers are generally forced to register at the school where they teach, rather than near their home as specified in the electoral law. They then have to put their card number of a list and sign it.

The Bulletin has confirmed this across **Milange**, Zambézia. The secretary of the Frelimo party cell in Eduardo Mondlane neighbourhood, Isménia Ginove, confirmed this: "We are collecting the cards to give to the party committee with the card number and name of the civil servant."

People who have already registered are required to register again at the assigned registration post.

In some places, teachers must take a photo of their card and send it to the school head on Whatsapp.

In **Nicoadala** at EPC de Licuar and in **Namacura** at EPC Domela, teachers confirm they must hand in their voters cards to the school head.

In **Inhassunge**, teachers at Escola Secundaria de Inhassunge have been told they must register at Escola Eduardo Mondlane and not at their own school or near their home. The school directorate

but people on the lost register books may not realise they have to register again this year, Lobato said.

She also said that many registration posts across the country are closed - some since the first day of registration - supposedly due to technical problems including lack of electricity or registration materials. The worst problems are in Sofala (Nhamatada and Búzi), Nampula (Mogovolas), and Zambézia (Quelimane, Gurué and Ile).

The Sala da Paz 23 May report is on <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NKPuACiqcQXMvB0dOQW5WVts9ur6oe3g/view>

EISA calls for independent audit

Because of the level of distrust and the "innumerable problems" reported by observers at a time STAE reports good operations, EISA has called for an extension of registration and an independent audit to give credibility to the process. But it adds that an extension is pointless if the problems are not resolved first.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NKPuACiqcQXMvB0dOQW5WVts9ur6oe3g/view>

explained that teachers are supposed to live near their school so they are registering where they are supposed to live.

In Muxúngue, **Chibabava**, teachers, workers in education, and members of the riot police (Unidade da Intervenção Rápida, UIR) must hand in their cards at their workplace. Voting age students a 1 de Maio and Bispo Handerson primary schools have been order to hand in their voters cards to the school.

Many voters without cards

Constant equipment failures, particularly of printers, have left thousands of people registered but without their voter's cards - which they are supposed to pick up later. But registration closes on Thursday. Our correspondents report piles of cards waiting to be collected. In some places local

leaders are actually going house to house to hand out cards. It is estimated that 10% of registration posts have had problems with printers.

Although people can vote without their card, it is more difficult, because the number on the card gives the polling station identification and position on the voters roll.

In **Murrumbala** (Zambézia) Renamo in Ngomera is telling voters that the failure to issue cards is part of the sabotage strategy of Frelimo to stop voting, in a zone in which most people support Renamo. At the post at EPC de Sabe which covers Raposo and Ngomera, the printer has been broken for two weeks.

In **Ile** (Zambézia) voters in Massoco confronted the brigade because cards were not being printed. That brought the problem to the knowledge of local STAE director Roberto Armando, who said he order the printer fixed.

Our correspondents also report:

Marracuene (Maputo p) EPC 16 de Junho in Kumbeza, 103 cards await collection. At EP2 de Bozale, 31 cards were waiting and district STAE issued mobile phone credit for the brigade to try to find the voters. Marracuene district STAE director Brígida Malate said "we will work with neighbourhood secretaries to try to locate the card holders." Similar problems are reported in Limpopo (Gaza) and Inhassoro (Inhambane).

Morrumbala (Zambézia) EPC de Sabe has not been able to print cards for the past two weeks.

In **Búzi** (Sofala) at Cherimonio, Inhamuchindo and Inhanjou primary schools cards are not being printed due to lack of toner. The post in **Angónia** (Tete) at EPC de Cherimonio also lacks toner.

And other problems:

Police in Lalaua (Nampula) are letting people jump the queue at EPC de Lúrio for 50-100 meticais (\$0.80-1.60). In Mozzuril (Nampula) the police person guarding one post was drunk and disturbed the registration.

500 resettled families in Chimbondo, Tete city, who were forced to move after the 8 March Revubwe river floods, are supposed to register at the nearest schools Nyafuta and Alberto Vaquina. But many cannot because they lost their documents in the flood.

People are being forced to register in Morrumbene (Inhambane). Because of initial low turnout, Frelimo has instructed community leaders to go door to door demanding voters cards.

The brigade at EPC de Ehiline, Rapale has been **insulting people** who come to register.

Renamo threatens a protest march if registration is not extended beyond Thursday in Nampula, Fernando Lavieque, Renamo political

commission member and a Nampula resident, told the on-line Nampula journal Ikweli.

<https://www.ikweli.co.mz/2019/05/22/renamo-vai-manifestar-se-para-forcar-prorrogação-do-recenseamento-eleitoral-em-nampula/>

Fake News: exhortation in name of Chinde district

Circulating on social media last week was a statement, supposedly emitted by the Chinde district government, which says "Because of poor adherence of potential voters to district voter registration posts, the Government informs the entire population that a patrol will be instituted which will demand voter registration cards from all citizens of voting age. In this context the Government encourages everyone to carry their card whenever they are out." But the bulletin has confirmed the document is false.

The unsigned document was supposedly issued by the district government and carried a reception stamp from the local community radio. Radio delegate Chico Sair said that such a document had never been received and the stamp was false; the radio had been damaged by the cyclone and security was not good, so someone could have accessed the stamp. District Permanent Secretary Eugénio Gocinho also confirmed the document was false.

Comment

Blocking independent observation?

Independent electoral observation was of decisive importance in carrying out parallel counts and exposing corruption and the theft of the elections in 4 municipalities last year. This year, Frelimo appears to be trying to block observation, or at least to make it as difficult as possible. The recent revelation that the Foreign Ministry has refused to accredit International IDEA, the EU observer support body, underlines the problem.

Problems began with the re-run of part of the municipal election in Marromeu last year. Journalists and observers were attacked and prevented for watching the counts in polling stations. This year provincial elections commissions are putting many obstacles in the way of observers trying to register.

The domestic observer platform which includes six civil society organisations with three observers in each district has protested about the detention of its observers, the refusal to issue credentials, illegal demands for documents, and what seems as intentional confusion about the format of the credential.

CIP, which is the publisher of this Bulletin which has three observers in each district, has also faced difficulties. With just 10 days to go before the end of registrations, Zambézia, Sofala, and Cabo Delgado were still refusing to issue credentials. Gaza finally issued credentials two weeks before the end of registration, but some districts refused to accept credentials issued at provincial level.

In Guijá, a STAE representative said that "no observer can talk to the district elections

commission or go to a registration post without first talking to the STAE director." Even after that brigades in some areas said they were under orders not to speak to observers.


In Funhalouro and Mabote (Inhambane) brigade members said they had orders from above not to speak to observers.

Is Frelimo trying to make sure no one is watching?



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EMBAIXADA DA NORUEGA

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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>

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