

2019 General Elections - 77

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

15 October 2019 - 20h00

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Attached: this newsletter in pdf

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Last polling stations still voting at 20h00

Anyone in the queue at 18h00 closing time can still vote. Most polling stations closed on time, but some remained open after 18h00 in all provinces, most notably in Zambezia and Cabo Delgado. In most cases there were only short queues of people who rushed to vote at the last minute, and most closed by 19h00. But in some cases there were queues of up to 75 people waiting at each polling station, and at Nablusa, Nacala Porto, Nampula voting continued until 20h00. At Moma (Nampula) Secondary school voting continued after 20h00.

Numbered tickets were given to the people in the queue in most cases and they then voted. The ticket prevent people from joining the queue after 18h00.

There is a generalised complaint about lack of light for the count, and there have been electricity cuts, notably in Marracuene and Xai-Xai.

Tear Gas and Air Shots to Disperse Voters Staying Behind

Despite the CNE's call for people to leave polling centres after voting, in some places they are heading the opposition party appeals to remains close to the polling centres to monitor the count.

In Nacala-Porto, police are trying to disperse the population that stayed to follow the counting of votes at the São Vicente de Paulo Secondary School, in the neighbourhood of Ontupaia. By 20h00 about 6 shots had been fired into the air. But the population has stayed and set on fire to two tires.

Police used tear gas to dislodge dozens of Renamo supporters seeking to monitor the count at EPC Namaripe in Angoche, Nampula. The confusion began early in the day, when Renamo supporters suspected that polling station presidents had filled out ballot papers that favoured Frelimo. However, the police intervened, which eventually created confusion, and people near the polling centre approached the venue. In the face of voter resistance, police fired 7 shots in the air and used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Three classrooms were set on fire. There was no disappearance of the ballot boxes, our correspondents report.

In Sussundenga district, Manica, police expelled supporters of MDM and Renamo from

around the Munhinga EPC polling centre. The same thing happened in Macossa district.

At Gulamo, Ilha da Mozambique, police fired three shots into the air at about 7 pm to disperse the population wanting to watch the count.

Also in Nampula, in Namacurra district, some Renamo supporters are gathered around Saciana Primary School.

Police expel observers

At the Mocubela factory primary school in Zambezia, the CIP observer was threatened by police and forced to leave the polling station and could not observe the vote count. Voters are now gathering around the school.

In Guro District, Manica, independent observers were expelled from inside the polling stations by the president, at the EPC V Congress.

At Maria da Luz Guebuza primary school in Nampula province, police are preventing observers from taking photos of the posted results sheet (editais)

During the count, many observers are noticing two ballot papers folded up together, which should be impossible because each voter is given only one ballot paper for each election - how could they have folded up two together?

Aggression at polling stations

In Dondo district, the President of polling station 8 was assaulted by an MDM member of the polling station staff who noticed alleged movement of backpacks inside the polling station. The President declined to cooperate, which led to confusion. Police were called in to restore the order.

Also in Mafambisse, two backpacks sealed by two unknown individuals were introduced at EPC Munhonha, around 10am.

A Frelimo member was beaten by Renamo after being found with a knife and a machete inside the polling centre at EPC Eduardo Mondlane, Angoche, Nampula.

In Chimoio, a person was arrested for campaigning for Frelimo during the vote at Eduardo Mondlane Secondary School. Also in Chimoio, a Renamo party delegate (poll watcher) was arrested at the 7 de Abril Secondary School on charges of campaigning during the vote.

6 polling stations in Cabo Delgado did not open due to the ongoing war - 3 in Macomia, 2 in Muidombe, and 1 in Mocimboa da Praia - STAE reported earlier today

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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> The LSE archive now has detailed 2013 and 2014 results, by polling station.

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