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What led to the choice of the new municipalities?

The 12 new municipalities proposed by the Government are characterized by low levels of revenue collection. The administrative post of Matola-Rio, in Boane, has the highest revenue generation capacity, with the largest population.

The choice of new villages and administrative post headquarters for municipality upgrading of delegations was based on three key indicators: i) capacity to collect own revenues, ii) population density and iii) size of the municipal area. The town of Ibo in Cabo Delgado is the smallest in terms of territorial size (11.7 km²) and the one with the lowest revenue collection capacity, although in terms of population density it is the third (27,086 inhabitants), after Vila de Insaca in Mecanhelas district, with 16,395 inhabitants and Homoine in Inhambane, with 16,747 inhabitants. The town of Caia, in Sofala, is the one with the largest territorial size, 231.8km². There are 38,047 inhabitants.

Among the 12 new municipalities, Morrumbala has the largest population (with 431,729 inhabitants), the third with the least territory and the fourth with the lowest revenue levels (1,848,462MT).

The study concluded that the municipalities of Maputo (Matola-Rio and Marracuene) and Gaza (Massingir) have the highest levels of revenues. Matola-Rio is home to one of the largest industrial parks in Mozambique, Mozal, and is one of the places with the most commercial establishments in Maputo province. The municipality of Marracuene has one of the most important tourist areas in southern Mozambique. Both Matola-Rio and Marracuene are areas inhabited by people who used to live in Maputo city, mainly young people.

The village of Massingir, in Gaza, benefits from the existence of one of the largest wildlife parks in the country, the Limpopo National Park, which is, by excellence, the biggest tourist attraction in the country.

The proposal of the new municipalities should soon be presented to parliament for discussion and approval.

MAP OF THE MAIN INDICATORS OF THE STUDY FOR THE CREATION OF NEW MUNICIPALITIES 2022

Province	Municipality	Revenues (Year 2021)	Population	Area (km ²)	Population density (/km ²)
Cabo Delgado	Vila do Ibo	206.504	27.086	12	2257
	Sede de Balama	910.784	67.518	151	447
Niassa	Vila de Insaca (Mecanhelas)	1.523.982	16.395	56	293
Nampula	Vila de Mossuril	4.432.999	28.378	170	167
Zambézia	Vila de Morrumbala	1.848.462	52.986	76	697
Tete	Vila sede of Chitima Administrative Post	628.758	29.872	151	198
Manica	Sede do Guro	3.588.328	32.444	23	1411
Sofala	Vila de Caia	2.200.266	38.047	232	164
Inhambane	Vila de Homoíne	2.046.505	16.747	161	104
Gaza	Vila de Massingir	14.060.334	16.251	193	84
Maputo Province	Vila de Marracuene	12.766.637	41.684	81	51
	Vila sede of Matola-rio Administrative Post. District of Boane	35.867.291	78.598	106	741

Source: The Ministry of State Administration and Civil Service


Frelimo most likely to win in 7 of the 12 new municipalities, Fierce battles in Mossuril and Guro

Opposition parties are likely to win in only three of the 12 new municipalities: Mecanhelas in Niassa, Morrumbala in Zambezia, and Caia in Sofala. In two municipalities there could be fierce battles between Frelimo and the opposition, namely Mossuril in Nampula and Guro in Manica. In the other seven new municipalities, a Frelimo victory seems likely to happen.

Past electoral data (<http://bit.ly/MozElData>) can only give a limited projection of voting intentions in the new municipalities. Available data refer to districts and not to the new municipalities. In the 2019 elections, according to several election observation reports, the votes for Frelimo candidate Filipe Nyusi were inflated so that he won in all districts. But going back to the 2014 elections, the votes at district level provide some indication of the favoured party, although urban centres sometimes vote differently than rural areas.

In 2014, in the districts of Mecanhelas in Niassa, Morrumbala in Zambezia, and Caia in Sofala, the opposition won two-thirds, or more, of the vote, suggesting that if the trend continues, the opposition could win elections in these new municipalities. In 2014, in Mossuril in Nampula, the opposition won 55% of the vote and in Guro in Manica, it won 47% of the vote. These results suggest that the elections in these municipalities could be highly contested.

Historically, the other seven districts voted in favour of Frelimo. Massingir in Gaza has been highlighted in all previous elections by ballot box stuffing actions, according to election observation reports. In 2014, turnout was officially 90 percent, with 99 percent voting for Filipe Nyusi.

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