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End of the story: Grachane chosen by Frelimo for post of assistant director of STAE

The Frelimo Party has chosen José Grachane for the post of assistant general director of STAE. The note on his appointment entered the office of the CNE chairperson yesterday, and today he will be presented at a plenary session.

José Grachane replaces, with immediate effect, Agostinho Leviaque who had occupied the position for a long time. Agostinho Leviaque was regarded as weak in defending the interests of the party, particularly in the conflict over the election of the new director of the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat - STAE ([see Bulletin no. 2](#)).

Grachane is seen by Frelimo as “a strong man” to “control the situation” in STAE and serve as a counterbalance to Loló Correia. Grachane systematically undermined Correia’s election and taking of office, through an appeal to the Maputo City Administrative Tribunal ([see details in Bulletin No. 3](#)).


Frelimo wanted Helena Garrine in the post of general director of STAE, but in the vote Loló Correia won, chosen by the jury as the candidate who met all the requirements ([see Bulletin No. 1](#)). Garrine’s defeat did not please Frelimo supporters, and they told José Grachane, the third classified on the list, to appeal to the CNE chairperson, Dom Carlos Matsinhe, alleging that he had not been submitted to a professional interview, as established in the law (see the [link of the appeal](#)). The CNE rejected the appeal on the grounds that it “lacked any legal basis” ([Bulletin No. 6](#)).

José Grachane then appealed to the Maputo City Administrative Tribunal, but he did not receive a favourable response ([see Bulletin No 7](#)). Until his new appointment, Grachane had another appeal under way in the Administrative Tribunal, contesting the ruling of the Maputo City Administrative Tribunal.

The appointment of José Grachane closes a saga which had interesting episodes and was the final card that Frelimo had up its sleeve to place a counter-weight in STAE, by sacrificing Agostinho Lavieque.

The removal, with immediate effect, of Agostinho Lavieque is a strong sign that Frelimo is sending to those of its members who do not line up with the party’s official position

STAE consists of a general director recruited by public tender (Loló Correia) and two deputy directors appointed by the country’s two main political parties, Frelimo (José Grachane, as from today) and Renamo (Estevão Fernando).

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