

Number 19 – 18th December 2022

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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AR and CNE go on holiday with key issues unresolved

Registration will start in April but no date has been set, and confusion about candidates lists continue, as parliament (AR) and the National Elections Commission (CNE) go on holiday. The AR approved law changes Thursday (15 Dec), and CNE announced its responses Friday (16 Dec).

Confusion about candidates lists continues. Under the amended law, parties will have to present lists of candidates 60 days before the 11 October election. The problem is that the number of seats in municipal assemblies is determined by the number of registered voters, but this number may not be published in time. And on Friday in a formal statement, the CNE said it would not publish provisional numbers of mandates.

So parties may have to submit lists not knowing how many candidates they must have. Yet the law always requires that all lists must have enough candidates to fill all seats - number unknown. And each candidate requires a criminal record certificate, which take time to obtain, and two notarised documents. This is particularly hard for small parties and local citizens' lists.

In presenting the proposed law changes to the AR, Justice Minister Helena Kida admitted problems were caused by mistakes in the previous laws. Registration had been set to take place in the rainy season, which was impractical, and one law set the time for submitting candidates as both 120 and 180 days before elections.

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