

Municipal Elections 4 - 28 September 2022

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and Joseph Hanlon j.hanlon@open.ac.uk. To subscribe : <https://bit.ly/Moz-sub>

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Better prepared opposition delegates highlighted by journalists in Angola

Angolan opposition party delegates were much better trained than their equivalent in Mozambique - and it made a difference - concluded Mozambique journalists who reported on the 24 August election there. In sharp contrast to Mozambique, Angolan party delegates in polling stations knew how to watch and what to look for, and Unita complaints were well prepared and submitted on time.

In Mozambique, each party has the right to a delegate in the polling station (assembleia de voto) during the voting and during the counting process. But in past elections, delegates of Renamo and smaller opposition parties had little or no training and had little idea how to watch and what type of improper actions they were looking for. Renamo delegates have signed as correct final results sheets (editais) which were manifestly false - for example claiming 100% turnout when it was clear to everyone that few people had voted.

Similarly, opposition complaints are often poorly written and incorrect, and submitted too late.

Can the Mozambican opposition follow the Unita example, and select delegates early and provide serious training? *jh*

Who is who in a politicised CNE

The National Elections Commission (CNE) took office in 2020. Its president is Bishop Carlos Matsinhe, head of the Anglican church of Mozambique. Vice Presidents are Carlos Cauio of Frelimo and Fernando Mazanga of Renamo. The next more important person on the CNE is the head of the Electoral Operations Committee and that post was controversially filled in May when Frelimo named Mario Ernesto, the retired head of operations at STAE.

Ernesto replaces Abílio da Conceição Lino Guilherme Diruai, who died on 8 April. That post is held by a Frelimo CNE member. Ernesto had been in the second more important post in STAE for more than a decade. STAE is supposed to be neutral, but was sometimes accused by the opposition of being biased toward Frelimo. Some will take his appointment by Frelimo to a top CNE role as confirmation of the earlier accusations and of his senior standing in the party. Ernesto is also a deputy commissioner in the police reserves. (Noticias 13 May)

Renamo has always demanded a politicised CNE, saying that no one is neutral in Mozambique. The CNE has 17 members, of whom 10 are nominated by parliamentary parties, based on the representation in the 2010-2014 parliament, which gives 5 Frelimo, 4 Renamo and 1 MDM. There are also 7 members nominated by civil society but chosen by the party members of the CNE, and thus usually reflecting the same party mix. Currently there are 3 sympathetic to Frelimo, 2 sympathetic to Renamo, and 2 floating. There is also a nominee of government, who can speak and is relator of a committee, but cannot vote.

The President of the CNE is always civil society sympathetic to Frelimo.

The full table of CNE members is on the next page.

To cite for academic purposes, treat as a blog or a newspaper. Normal citation format would be: "Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Elections 2023-24, Municipal Elections, number XXX", DATE, bit.ly/Mozamb, accessed XXX.

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Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>
Election newsletters from 2013 to the present are on <https://bit.ly/Moz-Elections>

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Members of the National Elections Commission (CNE)

Carlos Simão Matsinhe	New 2020	President	Civil Society
Carlos Alberto Cauio	New 2020	Vice-President	Frelimo
Fernando António Mazanga	Continues	Vice-President	Renamo
Paulo Isac Arsénio Manuel Cuinica	Continues	Spokesperson (and Rapporteur CRIE)	Civil Society
Organisation & Electoral Operations Commission			
Mário Ernesto	New 2022	Co-ordinator	Frelimo
Abílio Baessa da Fonseca	New 2020	Deputy Co-ordinator	Renamo
Barnabé Ngauze Lucas Ncomo	Continues	2nd Deputy Co-ordinator	MDM
António Focas Mauvilo	New 2020	Rapporteur	Frelimo
Legal & Deontological Commission			
Rodrigues Timba	Continues	Co-ordinator	Frelimo
Alberto José Sabe	New 2020	Deputy Co-ordinator	Renamo
Eugénia Fernando Jorge Fafetine Chimpene	Continues	Rapporteur	Frelimo
Training & Civic Education Commission			
Rui Manuel Cherene	New 2020	Co-ordinator	Civil Society
Daud Dauto Ussene Ibramogy	New 2020	Rapporteur	Civil Society
Administration & Finances Commission			
Alice Banze	New 2020	Co-ordinator	Civil Society
Zauria Amisse Agy Amisse Abdula		Rapporteur	Government (with no vote).
Internal & External Relations Commission (CRIE)			
Maria Anastácia da Costa Xavier	New 2020	Co-ordinator	Renamo
No specific post			
Apolinário João	Continues		Civil Society
Salomão Azael Moyana	Continues		Civil Society

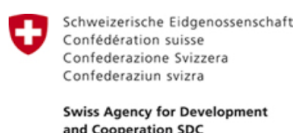
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Centro de Integridade Pública
Bairro da Sommerschild, Rua Fernão Melo e Castro
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