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Pilot voter registration: those registered wrongly believe they have voter cards


Voters in the districts monitored by CIP believed that they were receiving genuine voter cards whereas in fact the pilot registration was only intended to test the machines, and the cards the voters received have no use. STAE may not have made it clear that they were only participating in testing the equipment, and that they will still have to register again.

Of the 39 people interviewed by our correspondents, 38 believed that the card they received was a voter card. Just one voter, in Magude, said that the purpose of the pilot registration was to test the machines that will be used for voter registration in April this year, and that the voter card is useless. The 38 interviewees gave answers that showed total lack of knowledge about the objective of the pilot registration.

The most common answers were: a) the registration is to obtain the voter card in order to vote next year; the voter card is to be used in the voting in 2024; and the card is a document that replaces the identity card, among others.

The interviewees came from five of the six districts covered by the Bulletin “Political Process in Mozambique: Elections 2023/2024” of the Centre for Public Integrity, namely Magude and Moamba (Maputo Province) and Meconta, Mogovolas and Murrupula, (Nampula). It was not possible to obtain data from Matutuine, because of the blocking orders given by the Director of the District Elections Commission, precisely in the same week when the interviews were held.

The lack of knowledge could mean that the main message was not very clear for the local voters, and that the STAE civic education campaign may not have been clear about the purpose of the registration. But there is another hypothesis: the organs of electoral administration deliberately did not transmit the real message to avoid disinterest in the pilot registration among the voters, particularly in an agricultural period (rainy season).

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