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2023 municipal elections: STAE and CNE still have no money

STAE and the CNE do not have the money for the voter registration, which begins in 40 days, because the government gave them a dud cheque, without the money to cover it in the bank. The government informed the CNE in late January that six billion meticaís are available for the elections. But it so happens that the amount is in the system virtually (as an accounting sum) but in real terms (sum available) it still does not exist in a form that can be used. The electoral bodies are now facing difficulty in operating the election machinery. And the supplier of equipment has not yet been paid for the materials that have arrived in Maputo.

In February, the government informed the National Elections Commission (CNE) that the overall amount for the elections was available in the system. The CNE then redistributed the amount to the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE), immediately providing the sum of 6 billion meticaís, of which 4 billion is to pay for election equipment from the Lexton/Artes Gráficas consortium. The consortium has imported the equipment for the municipal and general elections of 2023 and 2024 respectively. This is all in the system.

But it so happens that this amount is just in the system and is not available in reality. STAE only found that the money did not really exist when its financial area wanted to use it, because it received a communication from the National Treasury Directorate that the money is only available virtually, and not in real terms – that is, there is no liquidity. Hence, not even the consortium has been paid for the purchase of material. Nor has there been any payment for other expenses inherent to the elections, and which have already been made.

Right now, STAE does not have the resources to operate its electoral machinery. It has no information as to when the money will be made available for election operations. 40 days from now, the voter registration will begin. This means that by then all the electoral material should be in the districts where there are municipalities, and the brigade members who will carry out the registration should be hired. The money only exists in the system, but in reality it does not exist.

The consortium is using its own money for all the operations.


It should be recalled that the electoral bodies, CNE/STAE, at the end of last year submitted a budgetary proposal for 14 billion meticaís for the 2023 municipal elections. The government approved the proposals.

CNE and STAE have not yet received the territorial demarcations of the new municipalities

A few days from the start of voter registration, the Government has not yet sent to the electoral administration and management bodies the territorial demarcations of the 12 new municipalities since these have not yet been approved by the Council of Ministers. This is preventing the electoral bodies and the political parties from better planning their operations.

The territorial demarcations allow the electoral bodies to know the municipal area and to define the number of registration brigades and their members, the number of polling stations and the respective polling station staff necessary for the municipal elections in these new municipalities. Without territorial demarcation, it is not possible to obtain this real data.

Likewise, the political parties cannot know how many polling station monitors they will need nor where to place them to inspect the voter registration due to begin on 20 April, or the voting itself in October.

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