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## Deadlines for requests for accreditation of monitors have expired, but the CNE will continue to receive them, even beyond the deadline

Legally, the deadline for presenting requests for accreditation of monitors to observe the voter registration expired yesterday (21/03), but the political parties can still request accreditation, even beyond the deadline envisaged by the law.

In the meeting with political parties held on Monday (20/03), the representative of the MDM again presented concern at the lack of territorial demarcation of the boundaries of the new municipalities, which is preventing the political parties from defining the number of monitors to be accredited. As a solution, the National Elections Commission (CNE) decided to continue receiving requests for accreditation for the political party monitors, without observing the legal deadlines laid down in the law. This process will run simultaneously with the accreditation of monitors by the CNE's local support bodies in the districts and cities, which should end three days (16 April) before the start of voter registration (20 April).

In the Ministry of State Administration and the Public Service, the demarcation of the municipal boundaries was approved more than a month ago. This will reach the Council of Ministers after the opinion of the provincial assemblies of the provinces where the municipalities are located. There are no specific deadlines, but it is expected that the demarcations will be approved, at the latest, by the first week of April.

According to the law, the political parties and coalitions of political parties should present the requests for the accreditation of their monitors to the CNE's local support bodies "up to 30 days before the start of the voter registration". The deadline for the political parties, coalitions of parties and citizens' groups to present their accreditation requests was 21 March. However, the Government has not yet approved the territorial boundaries of the 12 new municipalities. We have learnt that this process is stuck in the Provincial Assemblies which should issue an opinion about the territorial boundaries of the new municipalities in their provinces.

## Pilot registration did not reach 50% of the voters envisaged

In the south of the country, only 25% of the potential voters were registered during the 20 days of registration. Manica managed to surpass 50%. In Nampula the figure was 48%.

The results of the pilot registration could be a warning that in the south more persistent work is needed to mobilise the public to register. The reasons for this lack of interest in the south of the country are not officially known, but the electoral administration bodies point to the conflict between humans and wildlife as one of the causes for the low turnout in Matutuine, Maputo province, given the proximity of the registration posts to the Maputo Reserve. The rains were also indicated as an obstacle to the registration in Moamba and Magude districts, also in Maputo province.


But the pilot registration is only intended to train staff, and is not a real registration. Many people believed they were receiving voter cards when they were not. Hence, there may have been little support in areas where people understood that this was not real registration.

In terms of numbers, in the three southern districts, 8,267 voters were registered, which is 25% of the 33,000 voters expected to register.

While in the south, turnout was very poor, the same cannot be said of the centre and north. In the three districts of Manica, in the centre of the country, turnout reached 54%. That is, 17,852 voters were registered out of a total of 33,000 forecast. In the north, in Nampula province, turnout reached 48% of voters, which is 15,758 voters out of a total of 33,000 expected to register.

Overall, the number of voters registered in the pilot registration was 41%. That is, only 41,877 voters registered out of the 99,000 forecast.

Rain was the greatest problem in the three provinces, because not only did it hinder potential voters from going to the registration posts, but it also disturbed the work of the voter education agents, not allowing them to reach members of the public to raise their awareness.

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