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Sneaking out a new electoral calendar

A revised electoral calendar was approved on 8 March by the National Elections Commission (CNE). Although it has been published in the official *Boletim da República*, it was only distributed to the press on Monday (20 March), and the CNE website is off line for reconstruction for many months. The three main parties which are members of the CNE have the calendar, but most civil society, small parties and citizens list do not.

The calendar also make clear that citizens lists, which can play a major role in municipal assemblies, must move quickly, because they must register first with the Ministry of Justice which can take up to two months.

The full calendar is on <https://bit.ly/CIP-El-Cal> and our simplified calendar is below.

Registration and election calendar

Registration

20 April - 3 June - Registration

5-8 June - Register books (one per polling station) are displayed

14 July is a key deadline:

+ Parties, coalitions and citizens list must register with CNE, and must name "mandatários" (official representatives).

(Citizens lists must already be registered with the Ministry of Justice, which must be started two months earlier, by mid-May)

+ The CNE must release the numbers of people registered and location of all polling stations.

(These numbers tell parties how many candidates they must have in each municipality.)

Candidates:

11 August - Parties and citizens lists must submit candidates lists; CNE must publish list of polling stations ("assembleias do voto")

28 August - list of accepted candidates published

Polling stations:

31 August - Frelimo, Renamo and MDM must submit lists of members for polling station staff ("mesas")

9 11 September - official candidates lists and locations of polling stations published again; copies of registration books given to parties and citizens lists

21 September - deadline for submitting names for "delegates" - observers for the candidates in each polling station

Election

26 September - 8 October - Election campaign

26 September - 26 October - no opinion polls can be published

11 October - voting

Protests

11 Oct - protests complaints made to polling station mesas

12-13 October - appeal to district tribunal

16-18 October - appeal Conselho Constitucional

Counting and announcing results

11 Oct - in polling station


12-14 Oct - Intermediate, entire municipality - by STAE and District Elections Commission

14-18 Oct - Province

19-26 Oct - national, CNE, results announced 21-26 October

No set date - validation by Conselho Constitucional

Non-party observation is not included in the calendar

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