

Number 47 – 29th March 2023

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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Frelimo wants to force approval of the Electoral Law and Renamo demonstrates in parliament

A Frelimo passed, on Wednesday morning, despite a demonstration by the Renamo parliamentary group, an amendment to the Electoral Law, which reduces from 18 to 14 months the deadline for fixing the date of the general.

Renamo has been demonstrating, inside the parliamentary building, since early on Wednesday against the alleged political orientation of the Frelimo leadership for the unilateral approval of the amended Electoral Law.

According to the Renamo group, Frelimo appeared, in this Wednesday's session, with a bill "identical" to that which Renamo presented in February, which was promptly rejected by Frelimo on the Assembly's Standing Commission.


"We submitted a draft bill here which Frelimo rejected in this House (in February) but unfortunately it was thrown out (by Frelimo). Today, we are facing a bill from one parliamentary group, which once again intends to violate democratic principles. So what are the criteria? The other parliamentary group brings the same bill and it must be debated. In the Frelimo bill, the district elections are not mentioned", said Viana Magalhães, head of the Renamo group.

Renamo says it is facing a risk of a return to dictatorship and accuses Frelimo of considering itself equivalent to the law, the constitution and the parliamentary standing orders.

The idea is to gain more time until the Constitution allows Frelimo to amend it without needing any votes from the opposition. Right now, Frelimo would need three quarters of the deputies which, without any votes from the opposition, would not be possible. But once five years have passed since the previous amendments to the Constitution came into effect (as from 12 June 2023), Frelimo can amend it without opposition votes, using a majority of two thirds and not three quarters of the deputies (see details in [Bulletin 40](#)).

The MDM says that trying to delay the elections is a serious violation of the constitution.

Frelimo, through its spokesperson, Feliz Silva, states that the Renamo demonstration is an exercise in democracy, and that Frelimo is calm. “Our desire was not to amend the Constitution on our own”, said Silva.

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