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Voter cards with several defects

Our correspondents in several districts where voter registration is taking place report that the voter cards, which are being produced through the Mobile ID computers, show a variety of defects.

Some cards emerge with stains and with out-of-focus photographs, without the slightest quality. On voting day, this could lead to disqualifying the voter. Some photos could make it difficult to certify the authenticity of the card.

When voters complain about photographs of poor quality, which could lead to their disqualification at the polling stations, some members of the registration brigades agree to correct them, but others do not.

One brigade member at Chinonaquila, in Matola Rio, in Maputo province, recognized that the first cards printed did indeed carry stains and out-of-focus photos, but he said the problem has now been solved.

There are cases of cards being issued without the signature or fingerprint of the bearer. In Nacala Port, Nampula province, Renamo protested that in many cases voter cards for its members had been issued without fingerprints and signatures of the bearers.

In many cases, the printers print cards without photographs and fingerprints. Often, the process is repeated until the printer succeeds in printing a card with these features, which are essential for certifying the authenticity of the card.

Many of these problems are related with the defective functioning of the printers. In recent days, our correspondents have been reporting many cases of printers that have broken down, or which print cards with defects. Frequently the registration goes ahead without the printers working. The voters are registered, but only on the following day can they return and pick up their cards.

Problems at 1/5 of registration posts

Nearly all registration posts are open, but our correspondents report one-fifth of posts are still have problems with equipment, notably the computers or printers, or have a lack of supplies such as registration forms. This causes registration to stop, sometimes for hours. And in some registration posts people can register but are not given their voter's card because of printer difficulties. Delays in some registration posts have caused long queues which in turn have led to disturbances in the queues.

Other news from our correspondents

In Manica province, the Jécua Primary School complains of financial difficulties in buying pre-paid electricity and is demanding that the local branch of STAE participate in the payment. The school official in charge of finance said he informed STAE about the electricity problem. For his part, the local STAE director, Roberto Luís, said that guaranteeing electrical power is the responsibility of the State and not of the institution which he heads.


At the Cacarue registration post, in the Manica municipality, also in Manica province, the monitor from the MDM said he managed to prevent citizens not resident in the Manica municipality from registering.

Renamo and the MDM, in Milange, Zambézia province, denounced the presence of individuals delaying the registration in the six posts in the municipality, namely at the Milange town EPC, the Joaquim Maquival ESG, 7 April, 25 June, Josina Machel and 3 February-Liaze. The Renamo delegate, Adriano Jone, said there were suspicions that some non-accredited individuals are passing themselves off as monitors, and disorganising the queues, provoking disorder and holding up the process. He complains that recently demobilised Renamo members are not being allowed to register.

For its part, FRELIMO says it is satisfied. It claims that since the start of the registration to the present, the process is taking place in an organised way, and the brigades are now handling the equipment well in comparison with the initial days.

In Caia, in Sofala, one citizen complains that he is being prevented from registering. He was rejected on three consecutive days and today (25 April) he was rejected for the fourth consecutive time.

At the registration post in the Chinonanquila EPC, in Matola-Rio, in Maputo province, a citizen aged between 35 and 40 years has been trying to register for the past three days, without success, because the machine fails to recognise him.

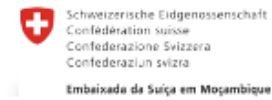
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