

Number 56 – 20 April 2023 - pm

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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Census equipment did not arrive or did not work across the country

The first day of the census was marked by machine breakdowns in many registration posts. In some districts, some registration posts did not open due to the late arrival of the equipment and/or breakdowns. We estimate that one-third of registration posts were affected by missing or broken equipment or by poor training in the use of the computers and printers.

In Niassa, in Lago district, until midday only five out of 34 registration posts were working (in Metangula village). In Marrupa, also in Niassa, the registration posts of Mucuaiaia 1 have not yet started operating, because the equipment has not yet been sent due to the impassability of the access road. The local administration and electoral management structures guaranteed that they will create mechanisms to place the equipment as soon as possible.

Also in Niassa, four brigades assigned to the locality of Iataria-Chamba, in Micanhelas, have not yet left due to the bad road. In Epc de Bandeze, about 60 kms from the town of Metangula, the computers did not start. The brigade members took advantage of the time to catch the sun.

At the registration centre of Josina Machel Basic School, the census started late, not because of equipment breakdown, but because the machine had been taken to Cuamba General Secondary School to register the district administrator.

In Nampula city, in Mpuecha EPC, the census process was interrupted. The machine broke down and there was a huge queue. Also in Nampula city, in Muthita EPC, the process started but it was very slow. By 1 pm less than a dozen voters had been registered, and by 2 pm no one had received their card. Also, the printer is broken, so the brigades are just entering the data into the computer and directing the voters to collect their cards the next day, tomorrow 21st.

Also in Nampula city, at EPC Cerâmica, the card printing process stopped because of a power cut. They were only entering the data in the computer.

In Angoche Secondary School, Nampula, at around 11:15am there was agitation from elderly women due to the length of time it took for a single person to get a voter card.

In EPC of Namathera, the political party inspectors created agitation at the venue due to the fact that the census takers were not wearing brigade identification t-shirts. As a result, the process started very late.

In Beira, Sofala province, the brigades from Matacune EPC and Samora Machel Secondary School did not start. Initially there were difficulties in starting the machines. Then the printer was not printing the voter cards. At 1pm, people were told to return home because there was no technician to repair it.

In Marracuene, Maputo province, more specifically in Timutanine, until 12 noon there was no material or brigades, only two inspectors were waiting for the representative of the district to give satisfaction.

In Fusca Primary School, the brigades were totally paralysed due to equipment breakdown. At 11am would-be voters decided to abandon the post because there were no technicians. In Guava district, also in Marracuene, registration only started at 1pm due to machinery breakdown.


In Marracuene the voter registration brigade located in Nhongonhane EPC had registered only two voters by up to 10am. As a result, the few voters waiting in line eventually left the site.

In Maputo city, the voter registration station at Zedequias Manganhela Secondary School, in 25 de Junho neighbourhood, was not functioning in the early hours due to the lack of electricity in the gymnasium where the brigades operated.

In Gaza, in Bilene district, a technical problem in the equipment meant that not a single voter was registered until midday. The STAE technical team was requested to solve the problem, but by the time of writing, it had not been possible.

Our correspondents reported several cases of brigades that only opened from 11 am. This was the case, for example, in Chókwè district, where the team at EPC Chilembene only opened at 11 am due to an operational problem in the equipment. The EPC brigades of the 7th district of Hókwè, EPC of Inchovane and EPC of Malhazine were not operational until 12 noon due to problems in the machines.

In Manhiça district, administrative post of Xinavane, Maputo, at Santa Rita Community School, the process started very late (around 11 am) due to the lack of a three-input adapter to connect the machine to the school's power socket.

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