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## Problems in Nampula Registry Office are blocking citizens lists

An alleged problem in the system of the Registry Office for Legal Entities, in Nampula, may prevent groups of citizens from running candidates for the municipal elections in that province. Because of this supposed problem, the registry office is refusing to register names of organisations, or to issue definitive registrations, steps which are imperative for the candidatures of citizens' groups.

This constraint is occurring a few months from the start of the submission of candidatures. Our bulletin knows, from a source linked to the Nampula Registry Office, that the problem has dragged on for five weeks and that "it's only Maputo who can say what is really going on".

The most critical situation is in the municipality of Nacala Port, where a group of citizens has been trying to deal with these documents for a year, but in vain. Because they want to take part in the elections, they had to travel to Nampula city, where they were told to deal with the documentation in Maputo. By creating these limitations, the State runs the risk of infringing on a constitutional right.

The Mozambican Constitution envisages – in article 275, paragraph 4 – that groups of citizens (organised into associations), can run for membership of the municipal assemblies, including for Mayor. But in these coming municipal elections, this may not happen in Nampula province, all because of the alleged problems with the system in the Registry Office for Legal Entities. These problems are hindering the definitive registration of associations, and the registration of the name, which are indispensable documents for the candidatures.


## Other news

The two Ribaue registration posts, at the Ribaue-Sede EPC and Quithele, which were not operational due to the diversion of the machines to clandestine registration, were re-opened on Monday. Our correspondents say a substantial number of voters have turned up at these posts.

The hindrances preventing potential voters from registering are tending to decline in Caia, in Sofala province, after a visit by a provincial supervisory and monitoring brigade formed by members of the political parties.

Finally, after 18 days, voter registration has begun in Quirambo, on Ibo island, in Cabo Delgado.

Cases of breakdowns of computers and of printers are still being reported in various districts. Likewise, the machines are still failing to recognise the faces, and the fingerprints, of some elderly voters.

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