

Number 67 – 03rd May 2023

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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Civil society observers find most registration normal but 20% of posts with problems

The consortium Mais Integridade ("More integrity") is the only civil society observation of the registration process, with 68 observers distributed across all provinces. In the first week it visited 474 registration posts in 27 municipalities, which is 11% of the 4,292 posts nationally.

"The majority of the visits by the observation teams found a large affluence of citizens and an orderly environment, although the slowness of attendance caused disturbances of order, including cases of interruption of operations, in about 5% of the visited posts", said Mais Integridade in its report. "In 10% of visits a poor mastery of the equipment was observed. The main weaknesses were the operation of the computer - 58% of the cases, and capturing fingerprints - 29% of the cases. These weaknesses contributed greatly to the slowness of the service."

Other important points made by the observers included:

"Of the total number of brigade members found during visits to census posts, 60% were women, 81% were young (between 18 and 35 years old), and 1.3% were people with disabilities."

"Frelimo had party monitors in at least 81% of visited posts, Renamo in 73%, and MDM in 49%. A fourth party had monitors in some posts in some municipalities of Nampula and Zambezia. At the level of party agents present during observer visits, only 30% were women."

"The observation teams noted that most (90%) of the posts visited were in basic working order, although around 10% were considered too small and vulnerable to bad weather. The observation teams found that a significant percentage (16%) of the registration posts visited were not accessible to persons with disabilities."

The consortium cites serious problems obtaining observer credentials. Only four provinces had issued credentials by the time registration started. The final province to issue credentials was Nampula, on 27 April, a week after the start of registration. Other late issuers were Gaza, Sofala and Cabo Delgado on 25 April and Maputo province 24 April.

The Electoral Consortium "More Integrity" is composed by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CEJP) of the Catholic Church, the Centre for Public Integrity (CIP), the Nucleus of Women's Associations of Zambezia (NAFEZA), Solidarity Mozambique (SoldMoz), the Civil Society Learning and Capacity Building Centre (CESC), the Mozambican Chapter of the Institute for Social Communication in Southern Africa (MISA Mozambique) and the Forum of Mozambican Associations of People with Disabilities (FAMOD).

After Guruè, now it happens in Chiure

STAE Director caught red-handed printing voter cards at dead of night

On Tuesday night (2 Mbay), monitors from opposition parties caught red-handed the district director of STAE in Chiure, in Cabo Delgado province, and his assistant, in the act of printing voter cards, without any deputy director or opposition monitors being present. This is the second case of this nature, in which managers of the electoral administration bodies have ordered the printing of cards in the middle of the night. They allege that these are cards from registration brigades where the machines broke down.

The district director and his assistant were caught by the monitors of the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), at around 18.50 on Tuesday at the head office of the district STAE. There were several brigade members in two rooms printing cards.

The STAE director ignored the order given last week by the central STAE directorate that the registration must take place in the established registration posts within the time envisaged (08.00 to 16.00). It did not envisage scenarios in which cards are printed without the presence of the political parties.


The first occasion was in Guruè, in Zambézia, last week, when the chairperson of the District Elections Commission was found, at about 20.00, in the local STAE warehouse, with about ten brigade members, printing voter cards.

Other news on the registration

By 3 May, voter registration had still not begun in the Quirambo municipal neighbourhood, on the island of Ibo, in Cabo Delgado. In the Quirambo neighbourhood, more than 40% of the population is displaced.

In Balama, the OJM district secretary ordered the collection of voter card numbers, which is a recurrent practice in election periods. “Comrades, let us not wait in the shade of the banana tree, waiting for the parties to give us data. The OJM should have its own data base of our young people in the party who have registered ...We should collect codified card numbers. At the end of the 45 days of registration, the secretariat should know the total number of young people in the district, how many have registered, and those who have not registered ...”

In Matola, about 200 voters registered by Brigade 178, which operates in the Tsalala neighbourhood, near the Malhampsene market, have not had their voter cards since yesterday because of problems with the printer. The same is happening in some posts in all the districts where the registration is taking place. In some districts, such as Angoche, they have even waited a week for the cards.

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