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Festival of irregularities

Monitors abort attempt to register more than 50 members of Frelimo in Matola

A bus of the Matola Municipal Public Transport Company (ETM) was held on Tuesday (9 May) by monitors of the opposition parties, in Matola city, with more than 50 members of Frelimo on board, who had come from the village of Mahoche, in Tenga locality, in the Pessene administrative post, Moamba district, Maputo province. Mahoche is located 30 km from Matola city.

The bus was caught at the Matola C Primary School, when its passengers were trying to register as voters at the same school. Unfortunately for the group, the computer at this post was not working. So they were told to go and register at the registration post in Block 22, the nearest to where they were. All the passengers walked towards the recommended post. The ETM bus waited for them to register, and would then take them back to Mahoche.



The monitors found the movements of so many people strange. They approached the bus passengers and at the same time contacted the police. Realising that they had been discovered, the 50 or so members of Frelimo scattered through the neighbourhood, but the bus was held back by the Renamo monitors.

The MDM Maputo provincial political delegate, Amável Vera Cruz, said she had received a denunciation that a vehicle would set off from the Pessene area loaded with people who would register in Matola. They went to position themselves after the Tchumene bridge and saw the bus drive past. The bus unloaded the first group in Txumene, then a second group in Malhampsene, and the final group in the area of Matola- C. The group that got off in Malhampsene tried to register in the market of the same name, but ended up not doing so, when they found that they had been discovered.

The police arrived later and went to the two Matola C registration posts, but without first ordering the driver to take the bus to the police station. After working at the two posts, the police returned to the station in the company of the Renamo monitors. But Renamo found that the bus and its driver were not at the station, or at the place where the bus had been held. They had fled, which angered the Renamo monitors. “We were indignant, because without the police, we managed to hold the bus and its driver, but when the police arrived, the bus disappeared”, said Mateus Muchacuarhi.

The police opened a notice against the citizens who were going to register. On the same day (9 May), Renamo lodged a complaint with the Matola City branch of STAE, and is waiting for a reply which will be appended to the case it intends to remit to the court.

None of the 50 or so bus passengers managed to register at either of the two posts, but Renamo suspects that they might have gone to other posts, such as the posts at the Teacher Training Centre, LÍngamo, Trevo or even 30 January.

Furthermore, the registration post at the Teacher Training Centre frustrated an attempt to register five people who do not live near those registration posts. It was recommended that the individuals should return to the registration post, accompanied by the neighbourhood secretary.

Some of the individuals intercepted by the opposition monitors confirmed that they had come from Machoche to register ([Video](#)).

Nocturnal registration post discovered in Matola city

Another registration computer and its respective printer were discovered and confiscated on Wednesday (10 May), in São Dâmaso neighbourhood, in Matola municipality, Maputo province.

The equipment was discovered by the Renamo monitors at a house located in block 98, in Chikadjuine, in São Dâmaso neighbourhood, where registration was being undertaken at dead of night.



After a denunciation that registration was going on in that house, the Renamo members mobilised and went to camp out at the place. At 6:40 they intercepted the brigade members and the computer that had been moved from Post 162, which operates near the Chikadjuanine bus stop.


This is one more confirmed case of nocturnal registration and printing of cards. In the first two cases (Guruè and Chiure) only nocturnal printing of cards was confirmed, while in Ribáuè it really was clandestine registration at night.

Other irregularities

In Xai-Xai, the brigade located in the 4th neighbourhood of Fidel Castro, on the boundary with Chongoene district, is registering citizens who do not live in the municipal area. By way of example, a block chief named Luísa Macuacua, who is resident in Chongoene, registered with that brigade, although she does not live in the municipal area. When we tried to understand why, she said she registered on the instructions of the neighbourhood secretary, and all who registered from that area were promised 7,000 meticaís per household, which the Frelimo Party would give them.

In Chókwè, the registration equipment at the Muchakwarine EPC is stored every day at the house of the head of the Machel locality, Arlindo Tivane. Likewise, the machines from the 2nd Neighbourhood School are not kept at the STAE premises, but in a house the address of which we have not yet ascertained.

In Beira city, in Sofala, unknown individuals set fire to houses belonging to a Frelimo monitor (who is also secretary of the Munhava Frelimo zone committee) and to a brigade member from the Amilcar Cabral EPC registration post, in the Macurungo neighbourhood.

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