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Does Gaza envisage registering 305,000 “ghost voters”?

It seems that the soap opera is being repeated. The National Statistics Institute (INE) forecasts the registration of 517,000 potential voters in Gaza province, but STAE in Gaza projects the registration of 822,000. Once again STAE in Gaza is not using the forecasts issued by the INE, but its own projections that were used in the elections of 2019.

The opposition in Gaza complains that it does not have access to the number of voters registered in Gaza by week. The Deputy Provincial Director of STAE, Jorge Machai, appointed by Renamo says there is great resistance to sharing information about the voter registration in Gaza.

The “CIP Eleições” Bulletin contacted the Gaza STAE provincial director, Mário Cossane, to explain why projections are being used that are different from those issued by the INE, but he refused to comment. He said that, first, he was outside the office with his family, second, that he did not know who was ringing him; and third, that he did not give interviews over the phone. Then he hung up.

The most recent data (to 10 May) show that Gaza province has registered 265,996 voters which is 51.4% of the number of real voters to be registered. But, if the projections of the provincial STAE are used, then by 10 May Gaza had only registered 32.3% of the target.

According to the projections of the provincial STAE, Gaza province expects to register 822,109 votes, which is 305,089 voters more than the INE forecast. Bilene and Massingir districts, with the lowest population density, are the only districts in which the INE projections will be used. The largest constituencies in Gaza will use the STAE projections.

The STAE data show that Chókwè district, the largest constituency in Gaza, has the largest number of potential “ghost” voters: more than 116,000. There follows Chibuto, the second largest constituency with 64,000. Xai-Xai and Manjacaze project registration of 64,000 and 58,000 “ghost” voters respectively.

ORDER	DISTRICT	PROJECTION OF INE	PROJECTION OF PROVINCIAL STAE	Difference
01	Chókwe	128.333	244.848	116.515
02	Xai-Xai	90.912	155.589	64.677
03	Bilene	82.004	82.004	0.0
04	Mandlakaze	73.512	132.221	58.709
05	Chibuto	123.014	188.202	65.188
06	Massingir	19.245	19.245	0.0
Total		517.020	822.109	305.089

The provincial STAE is using the data base from the 2019 elections in which over 300,000 ghost voters were registered.

OJM list used to collect voter cards in Guruè found

This Sunday (21 May) a list was found in Guruè of 56 people who delivered voter cards to members of the OJM in the Gurue municipality, in Zambezia province. So a total of 56 citizens are known to have handed over their voter cards, which is an electoral crime. The OJM is the youth wing of the Frelimo Party.


Collecting voter cards is a practice reported by our correspondents in all the districts where voter registration is taking place. But the CNE said on Friday (19 May) that it had not yet received any complaint from the opposition parties about this phenomenon ([the OJM list](#)).

Court acquits and releases guard arrested on the orders of the Guruè STAE Director

The guard on the gate of Production Unit No. 4 (UP4) was released by court order on Friday (19 May). He had been detained, supposedly on the orders of the Gurue STAE district director, on 22 April. At the time he was accused of preventing potential voters from entering the registration post installed in UP4.

From the facts ascertained, it was concluded that the guard, now at liberty, was taken to the police cells in Gurue, because he had prevented the entry of trucks transporting people from Ile district, supposedly to register in the Gurué municipality in Zambézia.

The court acquitted the guard for insufficient evidence. Civil Society is demanding that those who accused the guard should be held accountable.

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