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57% of voters registered by Sunday



The Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (STAE) announced this Monday (22 May), during the conference on the balance of the 30 days of voter registration, that up until Sunday (21 May) 5.5 million voters had been registered, which is 57% of the universe of 9.9 million voters who are expected to register.

The conference, organised by the Centre for Public Integrity and by the “Mais Integridade” (“More Integrity”) consortium, sought to assess the 30 days of voter registration.

From the data presented, Maputo City has already registered 397,000 voters, and Maputo province has registered about 700,000. Gaza has reached 60% of its target – that is, by Sunday it had registered 320,000 voters. The figures for the other provinces were: Inhambane, about 300,000; Manica 480,000; Sofala 509,000; Tete 425,000; Zambézia, 780,000; Nampula, 820,000; Cabo Delgado 500,000; and Niassa about 300,000.

According to STAE, if this trend is maintained, the figures from the 2018 registration will be surpassed.

STAE recognised that in the initial weeks, there was no great evolution, but matters improved in the third and fourth weeks.

It will be difficult to reach the target of 100% of voters registered

The head of the IDEA International Mission in Mozambique, Luís de Brito, believes that the pace of registration at national level is slow and has not changed over the three periods analysed in 26 days of registration. Hence, it will be difficult to reach the target of 100%.

According to Luís de Brito, speaking at the conference on the balance of the 30 days of voter registration, organised by CIP, the pace of registration remains at 82% - that is, there has been no acceleration. He raises the hypothesis that, without redoubled efforts, the figure of 88.9% of 2018 will not be reached.

Some provinces are speeding up their registration (Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambézia), others are stagnant (Niassa, Tete and Sofala) and still others are slowing down (Manica, Inhambane, Gaza, Maputo Province and Maputo City).

Gaza shows the best performance in registration, with levels of acceleration higher than the 100% expected in the initial days, but now it is at the normal level of 100%, with a tendency to slow down ([see here](#)).

At the same event, the results of the electoral observation by the Centre for Public Integrity ([see here](#)) and of the “More Integrity” consortium ([see here](#)) were presented.

About 50 people took part in the event in person and several hundred virtually. Several civil society organisations were present, as were representatives of the electoral administration bodies, and of political parties, such as Frelimo, Renamo, MDM, PIMO, the Ecologist Party and New Democracy.

Voters stay overnight at Beira registration posts



With only a few days before the end of the registration period, in Beira city, in Munhava neighbourhood, voters are beginning to stay overnight at the voter registration posts. This decision is intended to ensure that they guarantee a place in the queue to register the following day.

Our correspondents in Beira visited, at around midnight, the posts at the São José da Munhava Secondary School and the Macombe EPC, in the same neighbourhood. Many citizens were sleeping in the queues, as the photographs show.

Brigade members wake up and speed up the registration in Beira

Brigade members seem to have woken from their sleep in the city of Beira. Now they are trying to make up for lost time after a period in which they tried to block opposition voters, on the orders of the STAE district director, who has now been suspended. On Monday (22 May) we visited the registration posts at the Beira Industrial and Commercial Institute, the Muchatazina Secondary School, the Esturro EPC, and Matacuane. We noted there that the registration is proceeding without upsets, with the machines functioning well, and with the desired speed. At the same posts, the voters have arrived before dawn to register.

Public servants in Namacurra denounce the collection of identity cards for Quelimane

Some public servants in Namacurra, in Zambézia, accuse the Frelimo Party of obliging them to hand over their identity cards to be taken to Quelimane. The purpose of taking the documents is not known, but it is suspected that this is one of the new strategies for manipulating the voter registration.


Mothers lend babies for registration purposes

In Tete city, the brigade members have been instructed not to put mothers carrying babies in the queue. According to the supervisors this decision was taken because some women are lending out their babies to other women trying to register. The decision was announced on 21 May by a STAE-Central official, when she visited the posts.

One registration post closed to print cards

At the post in the Eduardo Mondlane EPC, in Angoche, in Nampula province, there was no registration on 22 May, because the day was reserved for printing voter cards. For a week, the printer did not print cards, because it was out of order. The post just registered voters, but did not give them their cards.

Registration will continue when the printing of the cards for all those already registered has finished.

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