



CENTRO DE INTEGRIDADE PÚBLICA
Anticorrupção - Transparência - Integridade



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Number 25 - 21 May 2019

Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública (Public Integrity Centre),
Rua Fernão Melo e Castro, nº 124, Maputo. eleicoes@cipeleicoes.org <https://cipeleicoes.org/eng/>
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Frelimo strongholds will gain 12 parliament seats

More people have registered in Frelimo strongholds of Gaza and Cabo Delgado than there are voting age adults. This could give Frelimo 12 extra seats in parliament (Assembleia da República, AR) - 10 in Gaza and 2 in Cabo Delgado. This will also have an effect in the presidential race in 15 October elections.

Government refusing to register EU observation support agency

Government is refusing to give accreditation to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy and is the channel for European Union support for observation.

It is highly unusual not to accredit an intergovernmental agency with 32 member states. Without accreditation, IDEA cannot have bank accounts, hire staff, etc. Nevertheless, "we are keeping our work ongoing, both for IDEA and the EU electoral observation mission," said EU press officer Simão Maia this afternoon.

It looks increasingly as if some in Frelimo are trying to prevent observation of the registration and election. Accreditation of observers, which should be automatic, has been made very slow and difficult by district elections commissions. And the

Registration levels at 19 May and projections for total registration					
Province	Target 2019	At 19 May, 35 of 46 days		Projection @ 46 days	
		Registered	%	Registered	%
Niassa	476,502	225,581	47%	296,471	62%
Cabo Delgado	644,021	522,628	81%	686,876	107%
Nampula	1,702,140	963,703	57%	1,266,645	74%
Zambézia	1,144,643	829,857	73%	1,090,681	95%
Tete	785,444	436,506	56%	573,648	73%
Manica	452,402	323,915	72%	425,723	94%
Sofala	521,950	262,877	50%	345,465	66%
Inhambane	478,026	272,413	57%	358,047	75%
Gaza	575,055	504,115	88%	662,523	115%
Maputo Prov	440,900	198,717	45%	261,166	59%
Maputo City	120,655	50,035	41%	65,761	55%
TOTAL	7,341,738	4,590,347	63%	6,033,027	82%

Foreign Ministry is now refusing to accredit an intergovernmental body that supports observation.

Registration same as past years

Registration through Sunday was 63% of the target. If registration continues at the same level for

the remaining 10 days, that would mean 82% of the target for this year was met. But 6.8 million people, half of potential voters, were registered last year. We estimate that 6 million will register this year. The combined total of 12.9 million voters is 91% of voting age adults (over 18 on polling day), almost identical to previous years. For the 2014 election 89% registered and in 2009 it was 90%.

Registration continues until 30 May. Our projection assumes that registration in the last 11 days continues at the same rate as in the first 35 days.

The lowest registration (79%) is in Niassa where half of members of the AR elected in 2014 are opposition. Nampula, with an opposition majority, registered only 84%. We predict three provinces will register 85% of voting age adults: Sofala, which has a large opposition majority in 2014, and Inhambane and Maputo province, which had large Frelimo majorities in 2014.

Zambézia, which has an opposition majority and has been beset by problems during registration, has above average registration. Nevertheless we predict it will lose 6 seats.

Combining 2018 and 2019 registration and projecting final totals

Province	Registered 2018	Target 2019	voting age adults	Projected total registration	%
Niassa	368,717	476,502	845,219	665,188	79%
Cabo Delgado	532,731	644,021	1,176,752	1,219,607	104%
Nampula	1,091,772	1,702,140	2,793,912	2,358,417	84%
Zambézia	953,899	1,144,643	2,098,542	2,044,580	97%
Tete	526,239	785,444	1,311,683	1,099,887	84%
Manica	496,877	452,402	949,279	922,600	97%
Sofala	627,234	521,950	1,149,184	972,699	85%
Inhambane	321,427	478,026	799,453	679,474	85%
Gaza	569,282	575,055	1,144,337	1,231,805	108%
Maputo Prov	720,325	440,900	1,161,225	981,491	85%
Maputo City	616,076	120,655	736,731	681,837	93%
TOTAL	6,824,579	7,341,738	14,166,317	12,857,606	91%

Change in parliament seat numbers and 2014 election results

Province	Parliament Seats			2014 Seats by party			
	2014	2019		MDM	Ren.	Frel.	Total
Niassa	14	13	-1	1	6	7	14
Cabo Delgado	22	24	2		3	19	22
Nampula	47	45	-2	3	22	22	47
Zambézia	45	39	-6	5	22	18	45
Tete	22	21	-1	1	10	11	22
Manica	16	18	2		8	8	16
Sofala	21	19	-2	3	10	8	21
Inhambane	14	13	-1		2	12	14
Gaza	14	24	10			14	14
Maputo Prov	17	19	2	2	3	12	17
Maputo City	16	13	-3	2	3	11	16
África	1	1				1	1
Europe	1	1				1	1
Total	250	250		17	89	144	250

To allocate seats, the total number of Mozambican voters is divided by 248, which we predict to be 51,845 voters per seat.

Frelimo boost in Gaza & Cabo Delgado

The number of voting age adults in each province and district was estimated from the 2017 census. Both Gaza (108%) and Cabo Delgado (104%) registered more people than the census said were eligible to vote. These were the two provinces that had the highest Frelimo majorities in 2014. The difference could be significant in a close presidential election. Taken together, the number registered above the 91% average is 300,000 voters, which is 2.7% of the total Mozambican electorate.

In a close race, that could be enough votes to prevent a second round in the presidential race.

In previous elections, rural Gaza has been a centre of ballot box stuffing. In these Frelimo strongholds, Renamo is prevented from having its party representatives (*delegados*) in some polling stations, which then report impossibly high turnouts, over 95%, with everyone voting for Frelimo. This could be combined with the questionably high registration levels to improperly boost the Frelimo vote for President Filipe Nyusi.

STAE actions to speed registration

In the past week, STAE has increased the level of registration to 131,153 voters per day, and this should mean more people being registered in the final days, explained Cláudio Langa, STAE spokesperson. He also said that they have added a second registration computer, known as a Mobile ID, in some posts which have a high turnout.

Opposition accuses Frelimo of sabotage in Sofala

Threats to opposition party observers, registering non-existent people, and intentional equipment faults have marked the registration in Sofala, according to the opposition.

"Many people want to register but cannot because of problems with the computer and lack of printer toner and batteries" said the Renamo spokesperson in the Sofala provincial parliament, Sebastião Mortal. There are particular problems in Búzi, Caia, Marromeu and Gorongosa, he said.

"There are districts with no opposition party observers because of intimidation," said the MDM spokesperson in the provincial assembly, Rosalina Macate.

In Buzi, neighbourhood secretaries in Guara Guara and Inharongue have been instructed to collect voters cards, according to MDM party agent Alexandre Vaz. This was reported to STAE and the police, and the local STAE director, Miguel Chefinha, called on the neighbourhood secretaries to stop the practice.

Hundreds waiting for voters cards

Many registration posts are continuing to register voters even if they cannot print the voter's cards, due to lack of printer toner or the printer not working. In Marracuene, Maputo province, at no cards have been printed at EPC 2 de Fevereiro, in Bobole, since the second week. Five hundred voters are now waiting for their cards.

In Mopeia, Zambézia, at EP2 da Localidade de Calali and EP2 de Gumaliua, there has never been paper to print the cards, so no cards have been issued since the start of registration.




Partners:




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Detailed coverage 2019 national elections is again being provided by the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, which has covered all of Mozambique's multi-party elections. We will have a large team of local journalists throughout the country, ensuring that our reports are accurate and verified.

The elections newsletter is also in Portuguese; para subscrever <http://eepurl.com/gnZXPz>

The newsletters covering the 2018 local elections are on <http://bit.ly/LocEI2018>

Newsletters from 2013 local elections and 2014 national elections are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

There are two archives of historic elections data, at IESE on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/eleicoes-resultados/> and at London School of Economics on <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

2019 General Elections is part of the Votar Moçambique programme



Programme financed by:

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
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Embaixada da Suíça em Moçambique



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